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Adoption of national education policy 2020 and blended learning in universities of Haryana: Benefits and challenges for students

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Abstract

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a comprehensive policy that aims to transform the education system in India. One of the key features of the NEP 2020 is the promotion of blended learning, which combines traditional face-to-face instruction with online learning. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 promotes blended learning, a mode of learning that combines traditional face-to-face instruction with online learning. This research paper examines the benefits and drawbacks of blended learning and the NEP 2020 for students in Haryana, a state in India that has adopted the NEP and is promoting blended learning in its universities.

Keywords: National education policy 2020, blended learning, benefits and challenges for students

Introduction

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, introduced by the Government of India, aims to revolutionize the education system in India. The policy focuses on making education more inclusive, flexible, and innovative. One of the key elements of the NEP 2020 is the promotion of blended mode of learning. The policy acknowledges that the traditional classroom model is not sufficient to meet the diverse learning needs of students in India, and that a blended approach, which combines online and offline learning, can address these challenges. This paper explores the role of blended mode of learning in the NEP 2020 and its potential impact on the Indian education system.

1. Blended Mode of Learning: Blended learning is a method of teaching that combines online and offline learning. In this approach, students are given access to learning materials and resources online, while also attending traditional classes. This approach allows students to learn at their own pace, as they can access the learning materials anytime and anywhere. Additionally, blended learning can improve the quality of education, as it allows teachers to personalize learning and provide feedback to students in a more effective manner.

Blended learning is a mode of learning that combines traditional face-to-face instruction with online learning. Here are some ways in which blended learning is different from the traditional mode of learning:

- a) **Flexibility:** Blended learning provides flexibility in terms of time, place, and pace of learning. Students can access online materials and participate in online activities at any time and from any place, while also attending in-person classes. In contrast, traditional learning is usually restricted to a fixed schedule and a physical classroom.
- b) **Personalization:** Blended learning allows for personalized learning experiences that cater to the needs and learning styles of individual students. Online learning resources and activities can be customized to suit the needs of individual students, while in-person instruction can provide personalized support and guidance. In contrast, traditional learning usually adopts a one-size-fits-all approach to teaching and learning.
- c) **Interactivity:** Blended learning promotes interactivity and engagement among students and between students and teachers. Online learning resources and activities can be designed to be interactive and engaging, while in-person instruction can facilitate

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discussions and collaborative learning. In contrast, traditional learning often relies on passive forms of learning, such as lectures and note-taking.

- d) **Assessment:** Blended learning allows for a variety of assessment methods, including online quizzes, assignments, and discussions, as well as in-person tests and exams. This allows for a more comprehensive and varied assessment of student learning. In contrast, traditional learning often relies on a limited set of assessment methods, such as written tests and exams.
- e) **Technology:** Blended learning utilizes technology to enhance the learning experience, such as online learning platforms, multimedia resources, and communication tools. This enables students to access a wider range of learning resources and collaborate with others more easily. In contrast, traditional learning may not utilize technology to the same extent.

Blended learning differs from the traditional mode of learning in terms of flexibility, personalization, interactivity, assessment, and technology. Blended learning provides students with a more varied and engaging learning experience, while also catering to their individual needs and learning styles.

2. **The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** is a comprehensive policy that has replaced the old education policy of India, which was introduced in 1986 and modified in 1992. Here are some of the key differences between NEP 2020 and the old education policy:

- a) **Focus on Holistic Development:** NEP 2020 emphasizes the holistic development of students, including their cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development. In contrast, the old education policy focused primarily on cognitive development.
- b) **Flexible Curriculum and Pedagogy:** NEP 2020 promotes a flexible and multidisciplinary curriculum and pedagogy, which allows students to choose their own subjects and learn at their own pace. In contrast, the old education policy prescribed a rigid curriculum and pedagogy, which did not allow for flexibility and personalization.
- c) **Multilingualism:** NEP 2020 recognizes the importance of multilingualism and promotes the use of regional languages in education. In contrast, the old education policy gave little importance to regional languages and emphasized only on English.
- d) **Technology Integration:** NEP 2020 emphasizes the integration of technology in education, with a focus on digital literacy and online learning. In contrast, the old education policy did not give much importance to technology in education.
- e) **Teacher Training and Professional Development:** NEP 2020 recognizes the importance of teacher training and professional development, and proposes various measures to improve the quality of teacher education. In contrast, the old education policy did not give much importance to teacher training and professional development.
- f) **Higher Education:** NEP 2020 proposes significant changes in the higher education system, such as the establishment of multidisciplinary universities, increased autonomy for colleges and universities, and

the introduction of credit transfer and academic bank of credit. In contrast, the old education policy did not propose such significant changes in higher education.

- g) **Vocational Education:** NEP 2020 gives significant importance to vocational education and proposes various measures to improve the quality and relevance of vocational education. In contrast, the old education policy did not give much importance to vocational education.

NEP 2020 is a comprehensive policy that aims to transform the education system in India, with a focus on holistic development, flexibility, multilingualism, technology integration, teacher training, higher education, and vocational education. The old education policy, on the other hand, was more focused on cognitive development and did not address the diverse needs of students in India.

3. **Benefits of NEP 2020:** The NEP 2020 offers several benefits to students, including:

- a) **Holistic Development:** The NEP 2020 emphasizes the holistic development of students, which includes their cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development.
- b) **Multilingualism:** The NEP 2020 recognizes the importance of multilingualism and promotes the use of regional languages in education.
- c) **Technology Integration:** The NEP 2020 emphasizes the integration of technology in education, which enhances the learning experience and prepares students for the digital age.
- d) **Vocational Education:** The NEP 2020 gives significant importance to vocational education, which equips students with the skills and knowledge needed for the workforce.

4. **Role of Blended Learning in National Education Policy:** The NEP 2020 recognizes the potential of blended learning to improve the quality of education and promote inclusivity. The policy recommends that schools and higher education institutions should adopt blended learning methods, and integrate technology in teaching and learning. The NEP 2020 also proposes the creation of a National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) to facilitate the use of technology in education.

5. **Blended learning can play a significant role in achieving the goals of the NEP 2020.** One of the key objectives of the policy is to promote lifelong learning, and blended learning can help achieve this by providing learners with access to learning materials and resources anytime and anywhere. The NEP 2020 also emphasizes the need to provide education in regional languages, and blended learning can help achieve this by providing content in multiple languages. Additionally, the policy aims to promote critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and blended learning can provide students with opportunities to apply these skills in real-world scenarios.

6. **Number of Universities Upgrading to NEP 2020 and Using Blended Mode:** Several universities in India have already started implementing blended learning methods as per the recommendations of NEP 2020. For instance, Manipal Academy of Higher Education

(MAHE) has introduced a hybrid model of learning, which includes online classes and in-person sessions, for its undergraduate courses. Similarly, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has also adopted a blended learning approach and has started offering online courses to its students. Other universities, such as Amity University and Lovely Professional University, have also started implementing blended learning methods.

According to reports, all the universities in Haryana have adopted the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and are in the process of implementing its provisions. The NEP 2020 emphasizes the importance of integrating technology in education and promoting blended learning as a mode of learning.

Several universities in Haryana have already started implementing blended learning in their courses. For instance, Chaudhary Bansi Lal University in Bhiwani has started offering a blended learning program in Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), where students attend lectures online and come to campus for practical sessions. Similarly, Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology in Hisar has started offering blended learning in several courses, including MBA, MCA, and M.Tech.

Other universities in Haryana, such as Maharishi Dayanand University in Rohtak and Kurukshetra University in Kurukshetra, are also in the process of implementing blended learning in their courses.

According to a report by the Ministry of Education, around 12,000 institutions across India have been granted permission to offer online courses and degrees. The report also states that over 100 universities have already started implementing the recommendations of NEP 2020 and are using blended learning methods to improve the quality of education.

7. **Potential Impact of Blended Learning in Indian Education System:**

The implementation of blended learning in the Indian education system can have several positive outcomes. Firstly, it can improve the quality of education by providing students with access to high-quality learning resources and personalized learning experiences. Secondly, it can improve access to education, especially for students living in remote areas or those with disabilities. Thirdly, it can reduce the cost of education, as it eliminates the need for physical infrastructure and reduces the cost of textbooks and other learning materials. Fourthly, it can help bridge the skill gap and prepare students for the workforce by providing them with practical and relevant skills.

8. **Drawbacks of Blended Learning in Haryana:**

Despite the benefits of blended learning, there are some drawbacks to its implementation in Haryana, including:

- a) **Infrastructure:** Blended learning requires reliable internet connectivity, which is not always available in rural areas of Haryana.
- b) **Access:** Not all students have access to devices and internet connectivity required for blended learning.
- c) **Quality:** The quality of online learning resources and courses may vary, and not all teachers may be equipped to teach online effectively.

- d) **Assessment:** The assessment of online learning can be challenging, as it requires different methods of evaluation than traditional face-to-face instruction.

Whether universities in Haryana should adopt blended learning or not depends on various factors, including the nature of the course, the infrastructure available, and the needs and preferences of the students. Blended learning can offer several benefits, including greater flexibility, personalization, interactivity, and accessibility in learning, as well as a more holistic, multilingual, technology-enabled, and vocational education. However, there are also some challenges to implementing blended learning effectively, including infrastructure, access, quality, and assessment, as discussed in the previous answer.

Conclusion

Blended learning is a powerful tool that can revolutionize the Indian education system. The NEP 2020 recognizes the potential of blended learning to improve the quality of education, promote inclusivity, and prepare students for the future. The implementation of blended learning requires careful planning, investment in technology, and training of teachers. However, if implemented effectively, blended learning can provide students with access to high-quality education and prepare them for the challenges of the 21st century. Universities in Haryana have already started implementing the provisions of the NEP 2020, and several of them have adopted blended learning as a mode of learning. Whether blended learning is suitable for a particular course or institution depends on various factors and requires careful consideration and planning.

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