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National Education Policy—2020: *Quo Vadis?*

H A Ranganath*

The country has waited over three decades for a policy with curative measures to address the ills prevailing in the ecosystem of Higher Education (HE). The National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020) is the first education policy of the 21st century. It was heartening to see the Hon'ble Prime Minister on a public platform during the conclave on 7th August 2020, announcing the NEP. With great panache and sureness, he demonstrated the commitment of the Government to take forward the recommendations while remaining careful enough to remark and reflect on a few grey areas.

In the past, although higher education reforms have been high on the agenda of many governments, the recommendations of many commissions/committees on education have not been implemented in totality. Now, the question is to take stock of the implementation of the recommendations NEP- 2020 during these four years. The National Education Policy (NEP- 2020) has recommended a reduction in institutional diversity, proposing only three categories of institutions: (1) research, (2) research and teaching, and (3) teaching. Moreover, an overarching body, the National Higher Education Regulatory Authority, will be the only regulator for higher education, including professional education. The important recommendations concerning Higher Education in the NEP are:

- Transforming the regulatory system of higher education— the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) with its four verticals, namely
 - i. National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC),
 - ii. National Accreditation Council (NAC),
 - iii. Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC), and
 - iv. General Education Council (GEC).
- Effective governance and leadership for higher educational institutions through the Board of Governors;
- Introducing HEIs with high-quality multidisciplinary and cross-disciplinary flexible four-year programmes;
- Catalysing quality academic research in all fields through a new National Research Foundation; and
- Using and integrating technology under the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF).

Now, one has to introspect the attempts made to translate the recommendations of NEP-2020. To my knowledge, attempts to

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