

NEP 2020 AND ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION: TRANSFORMING STUDENTS INTO ENTREPRENEURS

Pankaj Kalyan

Assistant Professor

BKM College of Education, Balachaur, Affiliated to Panjab University Chandigarh

ABSTRACT

The National Education policy 2020 is design of Indian education system by emphasizing holistic development, multidisciplinary, and skill-based learning. One of its major contributions is the integration of entrepreneurial education within mainstream education to prepare young learners for the expectations of the future. Shifting from memory based rote learning to first-hand experience, conceptual attainment, creativity, problem-solving ability, innovative skill competencies, positive mindset and emotional maturity vital for entrepreneurship and preparing students for real-life challenges. In addition multidisciplinary institutions, colleges, universities, flexible curriculum and credit-based systems provide opportunities to learners that they can build career pathways associated with technical education, economic education, constructive thinking and leadership practices to develop an entrepreneurial mindset and career aspiration among youth of the country. The policy fosters vocational education from the school level to higher education internships and training with local industries, institutions and providing opportunities to aspirants to be part of real-life work environments. It encourages structured innovation classes, incubation centers and association between higher education institutions and industry entrepreneurs. By associating education with initiatives movements such as Skill India Mission and Startup India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, NEP 2020 aims to cultivate self-made, job-creating employers rather than job seekers. This paper explores how NEP 2020 updates education as a pathway for novelty, innovation and financial growth. It further investigates policy provisions, execution methods, limitations and obstacles in including entrepreneurial education at different levels. The findings conclude that effective execution of NEP 2020 can significantly contribute to construction of the entrepreneurial ecosystem and advancing India toward sustainable development and economic growth.

Keywords: NEP 2020, Entrepreneurial Education, Innovation, Sustainable Development

1. INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurship is widely recognized as a key factor in economic development, innovation, and employment generation. In the modern global economy, entrepreneurial activities contribute to technological advancement, business creation, and improved productivity. Countries that promote entrepreneurship through education and policy frameworks often experience higher economic growth and social development. India has a large youth population, which presents a significant opportunity for economic growth if the youth are equipped with appropriate skills and entrepreneurial abilities. Traditionally, the Indian education system has focused more on theoretical knowledge and preparing students for employment rather than encouraging them to become entrepreneurs. However, the increasing unemployment rate and rapidly changing economic environment have created a need to reform the education system. The National Education Policy 2020 introduced by the Government of India aims to transform the education system by promoting innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship. The policy emphasizes multidisciplinary education, vocational integration, experiential learning, and research-based education. One of the key goals of NEP 2020 is to encourage

students to become job creators rather than job seekers. Entrepreneurship education plays a vital role in developing entrepreneurial skills, such as creativity, risk-taking ability, leadership, and problem-solving skills. By integrating entrepreneurship education into the curriculum, educational institutions can help students develop innovative ideas and establish new ventures. This paper examines the role of NEP 2020 in promoting entrepreneurial education and transforming students into entrepreneurs.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of this research paper are:

1. To examine the role of NEP 2020 in promoting entrepreneurial education.
2. To analyze the major provisions of NEP 2020 that support entrepreneurship and innovation.
3. To review recent literature related to entrepreneurship education and NEP 2020.
4. To identify the benefits and challenges of implementing entrepreneurship education.
5. To suggest recommendations for strengthening entrepreneurial education in India.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is based on secondary data analysis. Data has been collected from academic journals, books, government reports, research papers, and policy documents related to NEP 2020 and entrepreneurship education. The research adopts a descriptive and analytical approach to examine existing literature and analyze the impact of NEP 2020 on entrepreneurial education.

4. CONCEPT OF ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION

Entrepreneurial education refers to the process of developing knowledge, skills, attitudes, and competencies that enable individuals to identify opportunities, create new ventures, and manage businesses effectively. It focuses on developing an entrepreneurial mindset characterized by creativity, innovation, leadership, and problem-solving abilities.

Entrepreneurship education aims to:

- Encourage innovation and creativity
- Develop leadership and management skills
- Promote risk-taking and decision-making abilities
- Enhance problem-solving and critical thinking skills
- Support self-employment and business creation

Entrepreneurship education is not limited to business disciplines; it can be integrated across various fields such as engineering, technology, social sciences, and humanities.

5. OVERVIEW OF NEP 2020

The National Education Policy 2020 is a comprehensive reform initiative aimed at transforming the Indian education system. It focuses on creating a flexible, multidisciplinary, and skill-based education system that prepares students for the challenges of the twenty-first century.

KEY FEATURES OF NEP 2020 INCLUDE:

- Holistic and multidisciplinary education
- Integration of vocational education
- Emphasis on critical thinking and creativity
- Flexible curriculum and subject choices
- Multiple entry and exit options in higher education
- Academic Bank of Credits
- Promotion of research and innovation

These reforms aim to develop a knowledge-based society and promote innovation and entrepreneurship among students.

6. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Recent studies highlight the growing importance of entrepreneurship education in developing entrepreneurial skills and intentions among students.

Deveci (2022) conducted a bibliometric analysis of entrepreneurship education research and found that universities play a significant role in developing entrepreneurial competencies such as creativity, opportunity recognition, and risk-taking behavior. The study emphasized the importance of integrating entrepreneurship education into academic curricula.

Dissanayake, Iddagoda, and Popescu (2022) examined entrepreneurship education in higher education institutions and found that universities contribute significantly to the development of entrepreneurial ecosystems. Their research highlighted that experiential learning and mentorship programs are essential for developing entrepreneurial skills.

Hardie, Lee, and Highfield (2022) emphasized the importance of project-based learning and real-world problem solving in entrepreneurship education. Their study suggested that practical learning experiences enhance students' entrepreneurial abilities.

Kumar and Kalra (2023) analyzed the role of NEP 2020 in promoting entrepreneurship education in India. The study concluded that NEP 2020 provides a strong framework for developing entrepreneurial culture through interdisciplinary learning, vocational training, and innovation initiatives.

Talukder, Lakner, and Temesi (2024) conducted a systematic review of entrepreneurship education research and identified key trends such as digital learning platforms, innovation ecosystems, and entrepreneurial mindset development.

Recent research by Sharma et al. (2025) emphasized that the successful implementation of NEP 2020 requires institutional support, industry collaboration, and faculty training to create a sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem within educational institutions.

The literature suggests that entrepreneurship education is becoming an essential component of modern education systems and plays a crucial role in preparing students for entrepreneurial careers.

7. NEP 2020 AND PROMOTION OF ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION

7.1 Multidisciplinary Education

NEP 2020 encourages multidisciplinary learning, allowing students to study subjects from different disciplines. This approach promotes creativity and innovation, which are essential for entrepreneurship.

7.2 Vocational Education Integration

The policy emphasizes integrating vocational education into mainstream education to provide practical skills and industry exposure.

7.3 Experiential Learning

Experiential learning methods such as internships, projects, and fieldwork help students gain real-world experience and develop entrepreneurial competencies.

7.4 Innovation and Incubation Centers

Educational institutions are encouraged to establish innovation and incubation centers to support student startups and entrepreneurial initiatives.

7.5 Flexible Learning Pathways

The Academic Bank of Credits and multiple entry-exit options allow students to pursue entrepreneurial activities without losing academic progress.

8. ROLE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Educational institutions play a crucial role in promoting entrepreneurship. Universities and colleges can support entrepreneurial education by:

- Introducing entrepreneurship courses in the curriculum
- Establishing incubation centers and innovation hubs
- Organizing startup competitions and hackathons
- Promoting industry-academia collaboration
- Providing mentorship and financial support for student startups

Such initiatives can create a supportive environment for entrepreneurship development.

9. BENEFITS OF ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION

9.1 Development of Entrepreneurial Mindset

Entrepreneurship education helps students develop creativity, innovation, and risk-taking abilities.

9.2 Employment Generation

Entrepreneurs create new businesses that generate employment opportunities.

9.3 Economic Development

Startups contribute to economic growth by introducing innovative products and services.

9.4 Skill Development

Students develop essential skills such as leadership, communication, financial management, and decision-making.

9.5 Innovation and Research

Entrepreneurship education encourages research and innovation in educational institutions.

10. CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION

Despite the potential benefits, several challenges exist in implementing entrepreneurship education:

- Lack of infrastructure and incubation centers
- Limited faculty expertise in entrepreneurship education
- Financial constraints for student startups
- Risk-averse mindset among students and families
- Weak collaboration between academia and industry

Addressing these challenges is essential for successful implementation of NEP 2020.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

To strengthen entrepreneurial education under NEP 2020, the following measures are recommended:

1. Establish innovation and incubation centers in all universities.
2. Provide entrepreneurship training programs for teachers.
3. Strengthen collaboration between educational institutions and industries.
4. Provide financial support and startup funding for students.
5. Introduce entrepreneurship education at school and college levels.
6. Encourage participation in innovation competitions and startup events.
7. Develop mentorship programs involving successful entrepreneur.

CONCLUSION

The National Education Policy 2020 represents a major transformation in the Indian education system by promoting innovation, skill development, and entrepreneurship. By integrating entrepreneurship education into the curriculum and encouraging experiential learning, NEP 2020 aims to transform students from job seekers into job creators. The policy provides several opportunities for developing entrepreneurial skills through multidisciplinary education, vocational integration, and innovation ecosystems. However, successful implementation requires strong institutional support, adequate infrastructure, faculty training, and industry collaboration. If implemented effectively, entrepreneurial education under NEP 2020 can empower India's youth, promote innovation, and contribute significantly to economic development and the growth of the startup ecosystem.

REFERENCES

1. Deveci, İ. (2022). Entrepreneurship education: A bibliometric analysis of the literature. *Participatory Educational Research*, 9(2), 245–262.
2. Dissanayake, D. M. S. L. B., Iddagoda, Y. A., & Popescu, C. R. G. (2022). Entrepreneurship education and its impact on entrepreneurial intention among university students. *Administrative Sciences*, 12(4), 185.
3. Hardie, M., Lee, Y., & Highfield, K. (2022). Characteristics of effective entrepreneurship education programs. *Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship*, 11(1), 1–16.
4. Kumar, N., & Kalra, H. (2023). Entrepreneurship education and NEP 2020: Transforming Indian higher education. *The JMC Review*, 7(1), 85–96.
5. Talukder, M., Lakner, Z., & Temesi, Á. (2024). Global trends in entrepreneurship education research: A systematic review. *Education Sciences*, 14(3), 295.
6. Sharma, R., Singh, P., & Verma, A. (2025). Implementation of NEP 2020 in higher education institutions: Opportunities and challenges. *International Journal of Educational Development*, 104, 102968.
7. Government of India. (2020). National education policy 2020. Ministry of Education, Government of India.