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NEP 2020 POLICY: A BETTER APPROACH THAN 1950

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Abstract

The change in government's behavior towards education is a change in the right direction. From May 1950 to 2020 it's evident. However, the goals that it has taken would take some years to show the desirable effects. This article talks about the role of government in the educational field through the limited perspective of NEP. And also, about the policy of selective upgrade that it pursued before and how it affected the current education and particularly law. Author also talks about other ways to push for strengthening the legal system and rules of the Bar Council of India that are not being taken seriously.

1. Introduction

After the independence the financial situation of the nation was under huge stress. So, our political leaders had to make decisions with limited resources under their command. It was necessary during that time to increase the output of the nation. That's why the government followed the policy of essential selective upgrade using the limited funds. But this approach targeted only a minor section of students.

2. Selective Upgrade

In the QS World University Rankings under top 10 universities of United States the specialized field expert universities are only 2, MIT and Caltech. The other 8 positions are given to Traditional multidisciplinary universities.¹⁰⁹⁶ When we look at the data of India in the QS Rankings under top 10 positions, 8 positions are attained by specialized field expert universities in which 7 are IITs and one IIS. Only 2 are traditional universities.¹⁰⁹⁷

This is the result of selective upgrades. In United States traditional universities are as strong as those 2 specialized ones. In India the situation is different. Even in its own ranking called NIRF,

only one traditional University is at number 10 in the top 10 of overall category. There are 23 IITs, government allotted Rs 10,324 crores¹⁰⁹⁸ in the financial year 2024-2025 for them and there are 56 Central Universities they received Rs 15,928 crores in the financial year 2024-2025 It's better than the previous year's Rs 11,298 crores.¹⁰⁹⁹

Central Universities are more but they receive less grants in comparison to the IITs. According to Subhas Sarkar, Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, in the year 2022-2023 a total of 25,237 students graduated from the 23 IITs.¹¹⁰⁰ Meanwhile in the Delhi University every year there are 71,000 seats available for the admission (including the DU colleges), the last year admittance number was 61,500.¹¹⁰¹ Most probably the graduate per year number of only this University is higher than the all IITs combined.

If we leave grants alone and take the whole budget of DU for the year 2024-2025 it's 1717 crores¹¹⁰² while the budget of IIT Delhi of the

¹⁰⁹⁶ <https://www.topuniversities.com/world-university-rankings?countries=us>

¹⁰⁹⁷ <https://www.topuniversities.com/world-university-rankings?countries=in>

¹⁰⁹⁸ https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Institutes_of_Technology

¹⁰⁹⁹ <https://bestcolleges.indiatoday.in/news-detail/union-budget-2024-25-spending-on-education#:~:text=FUNDING%20PRIORITIES&text=On%20the%20the r%20hand%2C%20grants,the%20financial%20year%202024%2D25.>

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¹¹⁰¹ <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/du-fills-up-87-seats-in-first-round-of-ug-admission/articleshow/102508403.cms?from=mdr>

¹¹⁰² <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/education/news/delhi-universitys-executive-council-passes-budget-of-rs-1717-45-cr-for-developmental->

same year is 1,307 crores.¹¹⁰³ So, the money being spent on the development of the IIT Delhi students is way more than the students of Delhi University. Due to this fact, the total number of students in IIT Delhi is 11,770¹¹⁰⁴ and in DU it reaches around 132,435 regular students.¹¹⁰⁵

In the New Education Policy, it's mentioned in the introduction page 3, paragraph second: to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong opportunities for all" by 2030.¹¹⁰⁶ Inclusive and equitable quality education will only occur when the equal spendings will occur on the students of normal government institutions and premier specialized government institutions.

Although the goal to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education was set in 2015. Its detailed and complete mention was only detailed in 2020 as the new education policy. The system that started in 1950¹¹⁰⁷. After the establishment of IIT-KHARAGPUR was later inducted into other IITs and afterwards to other fields. Such as medical here too the financial offerings and specialized perception of the earlier system was inducted with the establishment of AIMS. But in the field of business management and law. Only the specialized perception was taken because now these institutions run on a self-financed model through high fees.

3 Effects on Law

Although the NLUs were created for the betterment of legal education in India. Surprisingly, this need, the countries like UK, Canada, United States and even China, didn't feel. Due to the NLUs self sustaining model and very less support from the Indian government. Their fees is so high, if we take the average

household income of the year 2022-2023 (3.6 lakhs)¹¹⁰⁸ And compare it with the fees of NLUs UG programmes it ranges from 1-3 lakh per annum.¹¹⁰⁹ It's not feasible for an average household to send their child to NLUs, unless taking a loan. Same is the case with top private law universities.

Even though loan is easily provided for these institutions, taking it limits the career options of NLUs' middle class graduates, plus the placement is only good at top 7 NLUs. The other options for a person desiring to study law is, Central Universities and some State Universities. Whose per year fees is very affordable. For 5 year law it's comparatively low around 50k a year and for 3 year it's very low around 15k a year.¹¹¹⁰

In the selective upgrade section we talked about that IITs got two things: Specialized perception and financial support (still the fees of IITs, high these days but even their last, IIT, Bhilai provides around 83 percent placement for the year 2022-2023).¹¹¹¹ But in the case of law, Central Universities got financed education and NLUs got specialized perception. So A distinction of legal education came between them. If you want a good job after law, choose high fees, top NLUs or top private law schools. Otherwise if you want to do litigation it doesn't matter from where you did. Because of specialized perception companies and law firms will choose NLUs and for affordable education or for litigation, the average middle class student will choose traditional multidisciplinary universities.

IITs and IIMs have surely increased the prestige of India. But the prestige of America still lies with the traditional way of providing studies. Inducting the two components of selective upgrade has created the distinction in the field

works/articleshow/108340542.cms#:~:text=The%20Delhi%20University%207s%20Executive%20Council,the%20financial%20year%202024%2D25.

¹¹⁰³ https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/IIT_Delhi

¹¹⁰⁴ <https://www.nirfindia.org/nirfpdfcdn/2023/pdf/Overall/IR-O-I-1074.pdf>

¹¹⁰⁵ <https://www.du.ac.in/index.php?page=academics-2>

¹¹⁰⁶ https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rc=tj&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKewiTlbKIkL2HAXWUUGcHHQRMD5UQFnoECA4QAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.education.gov.in%2Fsites%2Fupload_files%2Fmhrd%2Ffiles%2FNEP_Final_English_0.pdf&usg=AOvVaw2VOhw52WTOK6owxeeFXyay&opi=89978449

¹¹⁰⁷ https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Institutes_of_Technology

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¹¹⁰⁹ <https://www.shiksha.com/law/articles/nlu-fees-structure-blogId-31829>

¹¹¹⁰ From the fees of DU, BHU, JMI, AMU, Central University of South Bihar.

¹¹¹¹ https://www.iitbhilai.ac.in/index.php?pid=PlacementReport2022_2023

of law. The government however has a plan in the NEP 2020.

Chapter 10 page no 34: It is mentioned about the foundational level of government's current thinking that is to end the fragmentation of higher education by transforming institutions into large multidisciplinary universities. In the next paragraph it is mentioned of the urgency for this need and about the traditional ancient Indian universities who were the part of large discipline level study.

The current approach that the government adopted is welcoming and is corrective to the earlier policy that started in 1950. Nowadays 8 IITs out of 23 started offering MBA programs for the post graduate students.¹¹¹² It's also a welcoming move. Although the NEP 2020 focuses on the (holistic and multidisciplinary education), even a whole chapter is mentioned on these terms, but here also a new form of distinction should not arrive in the government institutions. (The distinction between premium priced and normal public priced.)

Worthy education should not be a luxury to afford, it should be a necessity to attain for the development of common minds of the nation. The government should use its best intentions and best decisions in the upliftment of traditional universities at the par with specialized ones. For that matter NEP 2020 provided the best platform for guidance.

4. Other ways that the government should use to strengthen the legal system.

Legal field is the essential organ of the government that affects many things in the nation. A strong and well trained officers of the legal field would ensure that it would stay healthy. The current problem of the system is that some legal institutions lack the will to initiate the prescribed practical teaching procedures. Even if they have the will some students won't participate in those events because of the leniency of these institutes.

If, for the health of the citizens a MBBS student has to do typically a year long internship for practical knowledge. If for the financial health of the company a CA student has to do a 3 year long Articleship for practical knowledge. Then there should be long internship requirements for law students. Although there is around 4 months internship for 5 year law and for 3 years law around 3 months internship prescription according to Bar Council of India rule number 25 of the legal education.¹¹¹³ But still many students don't do internships because they are not forced by their institutes.

Bar Council of India should occasionally check whether the law colleges are following the prescribed practical approaches. If not they should be punished financially for the non fulfillment of the legal education rules. Because the health of the legal field is equally important. The second thing it should do is to increase the internship period and it should be mandatory. The desirable period should be a year long, to induce qualitative empirical knowledge.

5. Conclusion

The government should have earlier focused on its pre-built traditional institutions and should not have left out the Central Universities while it was busy building the specialized institutions. The government should have stopped at only IITs. Rather than making new NLUs it should have strengthened the quality standards of the traditional government institutions. The NEP 2020 is desirable where it will provide equal and quality education to all by 2030. There will also be a hope that one day traditional universities will find their place in equivalence with the current specialized institutions.

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