"Role of NEP In Boosting Online and Digital Education"

Smt. Pooja S. Khopkar, (MBA, M.Com, SET) Assistant Professor, B.voc Retail Management and IT, Kamala College, Kolhapur (Research student, department of Commerce and Management, Shivaji University, Kolhapur) Mobile No – 9834889080

Abstract –

In the pandemic situation traditional and in-person modes of education are not possible we had a support of online and digital education. we feel that there is a The recent rise in epidemics and pandemics necessitates that we are ready with alternative modes of quality education whenever and wherever. The digital transformation of the economy and society can only succeed with digital education.Whether in school, at university or on the job – the digital transformation that is under way is making IT skills more important every day. Digital media are also creating new opportunities for digital learning. In this regard, the National Education Policy 2020 recognizes the importance of leveraging the advantages of technology while acknowledging its potential risks and dangers. It calls for carefully designed and appropriately scaled pilot studies to determine how the benefits of online/digital education can be reaped while addressing or mitigating the downsides.

Key words – National Education policy (NEP 2020), Online and digital education.

Introduction –

NEP 2020

The foundational principles of NEP 2020 are Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, and Accountability. The Policy believes that the education system should develop good human beings with rational thinking, compassion, empathy, courage, resilience, scientific temper, creative imagination, and ethical values.

The NEP, after a gap of 34 years, has put in place a slew of education reforms in both the higher education and school sector. It intends to bring a systematic reform in the education sector rather than an incremental reform. The NEP 2020 is the first education policy of the 21st century and aims to address our country's current developmental imperatives.

With the imposition of lockdown due to spread of coronavirus all over the country since March, 2020, attending online classes has become the 'new normal' and have taken centre stage in students' life now. This 'new normal' is a transformed concept of education with online learning at the core of this transformation.

Online education allows students to attend classes from any location of their choice while it allows schools to reach out to an extensive network of students, instead of being restricted by geographical boundaries. Students can clarify their doubts through live chats or forums by staying at the comfort and safety of their home.

On the positive note, online learning has made both teachers and students become more technology savvy. Various mobile phone and computer applications and technology based programs have emerged as an alternative platform to regular classroom teaching during lockdown. Both the teacher and the student community were quick enough to acclimatize with computers and smartphones.

While on the other side, as we all understand the geographic and cultural diversity of India, it also suffers due to the existence of a huge economic divide. Access to online education still remains to be a challenge for many due to various issues like power supply, internet connectivity and affordability of necessary devices. A robust and comprehensive strategy is the need of the hour at an institutional level to address these concerns. Online education has emerged as a suitable alternative amidst this chaos caused by the pandemic. It has become more of a necessity rather than an option. Hence the quality enhancement of online teaching–learning is at a very crucial stage.

Given the emergence of digital technologies and the emerging importance of leveraging technology for teaching-learning at all levels from school to higher education, this Policy recommends the following key initiatives:

(a) Pilot studies for online education: Appropriate agencies, such as the NETF, CIET, NIOS, IGNOU, IITs, NITs, etc. will be identified to conduct a series of pilot studies, in parallel, to evaluate the benefits of integrating education with online education while mitigating the downsides and also to study related areas, such as, student device addiction, most preferred formats of e-content, etc. The results of these pilot studies will be publicly communicated and used for continuous improvement.

(b) Digital infrastructure: There is a need to invest in creation of open, interoperable, evolvable, public digital infrastructure in the education sector that can be used by multiple platforms and point solutions, to solve for India's scale, diversity, complexity and device penetration. This will ensure that the technology-based solutions do not become outdated with the rapid advances in technology.

(c) Online teaching platform and tools: Appropriate existing e-learning platforms such as SWAYAM, DIKSHA, will be extended to provide teachers with a structured, user-friendly, rich set of assistive tools for monitoring progress of learners. Tools, such as, two-way video and twoway-audio interface for holding online classes are a real necessity as the present pandemic has shown.

(d) Content creation, digital repository, and dissemination: A digital repository of content including creation of coursework, Learning Games & Simulations, Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality will be developed, with a clear public system for ratings by users on effectiveness and quality. For fun based learning student-appropriate tools like apps, gamification of Indian art and culture, in multiple languages, with clear operating instructions, will also be created. A reliable backup mechanism for disseminating e-content to students will be provided.

(e) Addressing the digital divide: Given the fact that there still persists a substantial section of the population whose digital access is highly limited, the existing mass media, such as television, radio, and community radio will be extensively used for telecast and broadcasts. Such educational programmes will be made available 24/7 in different languages to cater to the varying needs of the student population. A special focus on content in all Indian languages will be emphasized and required; digital content will need to reach the teachers and students in their medium of instruction as far as possible.

(f) Virtual Labs: Existing e-learning platforms such as DIKSHA, SWAYAM and SWAYAMPRABHA will also be leveraged for creating virtual labs so that all students have equal access to quality practical and hands-on experiment-based learning experiences. The possibility of providing adequate access to SEDG students and teachers through suitable digital devices, such as tablets with pre-loaded content, will be considered and developed.

(g) Training and incentives for teachers: Teachers will undergo rigorous training in learner-centric

pedagogy and on how to become high-quality online content creators themselves using online teaching platforms and tools. There will be emphasis on the teacher's role in facilitating active student engagement with the content and with each other.

(h) Online assessment and examinations: Appropriate bodies, such as the proposed National Assessment Centre or PARAKH, School Boards, NTA, and other identified bodies will design and implement assessment frameworks encompassing design of competencies, portfolio, rubrics, standardized assessments, and assessment analytics. Studies will be undertaken to pilot new ways

of assessment using education technologies focusing on 21st century skills.

(i) Blended models of learning: While promoting digital learning and education, the importance of face-to-face in-person learning is fully recognized. Accordingly, different effective models of blended learning will be identified for appropriate replication for different subjects.

(j) Laying down standards: As research on online/digital education emerges, NETF and other appropriate bodies shall set up standards of content, technology, and pedagogy for online/digital teaching-learning. These standards will help to formulate guidelines for e-learning by States, Boards, schools and school complexes, HEIs, etc

The present age is driven by digital technology and whole globe come under the influence of internet and World Wide Web. The internet equipped both the education seeker as well as education provider and laid them together under the virtual roof. Due to which the concept of virtual classroom is already popularized across the globe. Therefore, in the modern era, the role of online technology in providing the education is vital and with its flexible nature the online educational technology has gained popularity. The online education is now more accessible to the less privileged groups in comparison to the centralized classroom education system.