

Multidisciplinary Approach in Education: NPE-2020

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Multidisciplinary education is a form of educational strategy that brings together multiple disciplines to create a holistic learning experience. It is designed to foster an understanding of the interconnectedness of various fields and how they can be integrated for better problem-solving. Multidisciplinary education, if implemented in schools and colleges, allows students to gain a deeper understanding of the subject matter through the lens of different disciplines. This approach encourages creative thinking, critical analysis, collaboration, and communication skills. The NEP 2020 emphasizes the need to incorporate this educational approach into the curriculum from an early age. By giving students exposure to multiple disciplines, we can help them understand their chosen field better and also develop an appreciation for diverse knowledge systems. This will enable them to become more well-rounded citizens and prepare them for the future.

A multidisciplinary curriculum means studying the same topic from the viewpoint of more than one discipline. It is also called cross-disciplinary which indicates the aim to cross boundaries between disciplines. Multidisciplinary approach is a method of curriculum integration that highlights the diverse perspectives that different disciplines can bring to illustrate a theme, subject or issue. In a multidisciplinary curriculum, multiple disciplines are used to study the same topic. A multidisciplinary approach in education is a way of learning which gives a major focus on diverse perspectives and different disciplines of learning to illustrate a theme, concept, or any issue. It is the one in which the same concept is learned through multiple viewpoints of more than one discipline. It helps the students to gain perspectives and knowledge in different ways.

NEP 2020, India focus points in Multidisciplinary Education Affiliated colleges impart education limited to few disciplines, and many a times single discipline. Affiliating system leads to postgraduate – undergraduate divide and discourages multidisciplinary. From the point of governance and quality affiliating system is not favored by various commissions and committees (Government of India, 2005, and Yashpal, 2009). NEP 2020 suggests the abolition of large affiliating system of higher education. NEP 2020 notes that “Moving to large multidisciplinary universities and HEI clusters is thus the highest recommendation of this policy regarding the structure of higher education” (Ministry of Education, 2020, p. 34). Three typologies are suggested in a move to restructuring higher education. Research intensive multidisciplinary university, teaching intensive multidisciplinary university and years many private initiatives are noteworthy in designing courses in public policy for teaching and promoting research and evaluation of government schemes and programmers. Thus, it may be noted that interdisciplinary is being practiced in India with a view to find solutions to various social problems which disciplinary education could not adequately discuss in a holistic way. While some of the initiatives by UGC

and lead institutions are noteworthy, in recent years many state universities and colleges are teaching applied courses with multidisciplinary focus. Demand for courses with multidisciplinary focus is growing as knowledge is applied to solving problems in society. Yash Pal Committee Report underscores the importance of multidisciplinary education. The report notes "there is a need to expose students, especially at the undergraduate level, to various disciplines" (Yash Pal 2009, p. 21) Interdisciplinary is a fundamental operating assumption for the modern university management, and faculty. National Education Policy 2020 is an important policy document that provides the vision of the government for modernizing education in India. Multidisciplinary education is of utmost priority in achieving modernization. Towards achieving multidisciplinary education.

NEP 2020 makes the following recommendations:

1) Institutional Restructuring:

Presently universities impart postgraduate education (second degree) in university departments and affiliate large number of colleges, majority of them impart first degree undergraduate education. National Education Policy 2020 is an important policy document that provides the vision of the government for modernizing education in India. Multidisciplinary Approach in Higher Education: An Action in relation to India's National Education Policy 2020. Autonomous degree granting multidisciplinary institution. NEP 2020 further notes that Model public universities for holistic and multidisciplinary education, at par with IITs, IIMs, etc., called MERUs (Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities) will be set up. They will help set the highest standards for multidisciplinary education across India.

2) Curriculum Restructuring:

NEP 2020 notes that "Multidisciplinary education shall be, in the long term, the approach of all undergraduate program including those in professional, technical, and vocational disciplines" (ibid p.36). Policy recommends that there will be further integration of science, vocational subjects and skill with the arts and humanities. In order to achieve above, imaginative and flexible curricular structure shall be promoted with creative combinations of disciplines for study. Besides the increasing possibility of multiple entry and exit points shall create conditions for lifelong learning. This will create a good connect of university with the labor market.

3) High Quality Teaching and Research:-

Multidisciplinary universities and colleges shall promote multidisciplinary research at graduate level, masters and doctoral education. It will facilitate quality teaching achieving holistic education and specialized education. Teaching pedagogy will have an increased emphasis on communication, discussion, debate, research, and opportunities for cross disciplinary and interdisciplinary thinking. There is a vast claim of multidisciplinary education in NEP 2020. It will stimulate higher education environment. It will promote holistic education.

4) Encourage community engagement.-

It will lead to value-based education. It will promote global citizenship education. Multidisciplinary shall be oriented towards solving the problems of society. However, the question arises: at the practical level, what shall be the implementation strategies? The state funding, incentive system and motivation of teachers shall remain some of the challenging issues in achieving large scale multidisciplinary education.

5) Multidisciplinary Teaching and Research:-

Interdisciplinary research based teaching is a novel way to engage students to think rather than understand existing body of knowledge (RibéreauGayon and David d'Arcy, 2018). Interdisciplinary teaching and research requires a team that gathers information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, and/or theories from two or more disciplines. Its purpose is to solve problems whose solutions are beyond the scope of a single discipline or area of research practice. Interdisciplinary teaching and research is more productive than multidisciplinary teaching and research as former leads to the integration and fusion of knowledge whereas the latter may not (Young, 1995). It would be interesting to look at the Indian scenario for the promotion of multidisciplinary teaching and research. Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) promotes research in social sciences under two categories of research projects. First, Major and Minor Research Projects and secondly Research Programs, formerly known as Research Projects Responsive and Research Projects Sponsored respectively. Among other objectives of research program, disciplinary research as well as collaborative, multidisciplinary research activities.

That's why in today's hyper-competitive world, limitless learning, a unique educational system that promotes a multi-disciplinary approach to help students follow their passion is vital. Although the **National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020)** has asked institutions to pay attention to it, stakeholders are still in a dilemma about its advantages & disadvantages.

The Challenges of Implementing a Multidisciplinary Approach in Education

As India looks to usher in a new era of education with the National Education Policy 2020, one of its central tenets is the implementation of a multidisciplinary approach. But what is multidisciplinary education? Essentially, a multidisciplinary approach in education requires significant changes in the way curriculum is designed and taught.

- Schools need to equip themselves with experienced staff who are capable of delivering such an approach and ensure they have the necessary resources.
- Additionally, there needs to be greater collaboration between different departments and institutions to ensure successful implementation.
- Lastly, many school systems lack the infrastructure and support needed to successfully integrate multidisciplinary learning.

In order to make multidisciplinary education a success, it is essential that we focus on improving the quality of instruction and making sure students are engaged with their studies. Students

should be given the freedom to explore different topics, develop critical thinking skills and gain a deeper understanding of how different subjects interact with each other. With the right support and resources, multidisciplinary education can revolutionize the Indian education system and provide students with the tools they need to thrive in the modern world.

Advantages of Multidisciplinary Approach in Education:-

- 1) This method is student friendly. Here each and every student will get ample opportunity to choose his or her subject from the divergent areas. It also provides scope to choose or left any subject during the entire course period;
- 2) This method is teacher friendly. It provides a platform for pragmatic and flexible teaching-learning experiences. It allows students to understand the power of new concepts and ideas. By choosing from their own requirements they actually trigger pragmatic way of life. This opens the door of pragmatism and realistic ideas and thoughts in the mind of the students.
- 3) This approach helps students to utilize their mind powers and make correct decisions. It helps to grow integration and adaptation of divergent thoughts among them and enrich them through critical thinking.
- 4) The multidisciplinary approach in education provides more holistic understanding of the world and enhances the student's personality and character building process. The rare and necessary social values and ethics will be adopted by the students through this method of teaching.
- 5) This method emphasizes the importance of collaboration and integration of knowledge and information. It helps to create twenty-first century individual by incorporating and integrating new ideas and concepts.
- 6) This approach is very much relevant in present day global system and enhances the scope of employability and jobs for students within the country and in abroad. This method helps student to work as managerial way and enhances the managerial and corporate skills and techniques. They can easily synthesize different ideas and thoughts collected from different sources;
- 7) Students learn different skills of evaluation and assessment through this approach. By studying different logical methods and approaches, students can easily choose their desired subjects. This, it enhances logical thinking and analyzing power in them.

Disadvantages of Multidisciplinary Approach in Education:-

- 1) Students get distracted from the ultimate learning goal in multi-disciplinary mode of education as there is a chance of loss of hope and desire having presence of various subjects and disciplines.
- 2) Teacher needs to enrich with various skills and instructional experiences to deliver in front of the students and hence expertise knowledge and experience is very much needed to acquaint with this approach of teaching. It is very difficult to get expert and skilled teachers at all level of education.

- 3) This approach is followed in foreign universities and academic institutions where there is abundant scope for faculty improvement and orientation. These institutions have well equipped with infrastructural facilities to adjust with the teaching-learning process. The same environment is not visible in most of the regions of India and particularly in the state of Tripura;
- 4) There is a necessity to mass aware and to grow consensus about this approach among the stakeholders of teacher education programme.

Conclusion:-

Multidisciplinary education is a concept that has been embraced by the Indian government through the new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. This approach to learning looks at how different disciplines can interact and overlap with each other to create a comprehensive understanding of a subject. A multidisciplinary approach in education is often seen as the ideal way to tackle complex problems and will be essential for India's continued success in the global economy. With the NEP 2020, India is well positioned to build on its current educational system and move towards a more multidisciplinary approach. Teach mint helps schools envision a future where their students are equipped with 21st-century skills. With our advanced, learning age ment system. You can improve the teaching-learning experience. Our offerings like education era. Admission management system, fee management system, and others conveniently digitize tional institutions.

It can be concluded that the all-round development of the individual is impossible in existing system of education. For citing examples of ancient gurukul system of education, we can say that multidisciplinary education and teacher education in particular is the need of an hour. It is impossible for the central or state governments to take all necessary measures for the interlocution and success of this method but the active involvement of all stake holders are needed very much. As suggested by the NEP-2020, there is an urgent necessity to start integrated teacher education programme throughout the country and to convert all academic institutions and places into the multidisciplinary centers for education.

References:-

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