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The new education policy 2020: Online and digital learning

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Abstract
Up until now, the majority of classroom instruction consisted of students taking notes, teachers writing on the chalkboard to clarify topics, and students reading textbooks. However, the incorporation of internet and other digital approaches into education is receiving a lot of attention under the new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. For people of all demographics, digital education is an entertaining way to study. Because of its built-in audio-visual elements, which promote cognitive development in the developing mind and increase students' awareness, interest in the subject matter, enthusiasm, and sense of involvement, it is proving to be an especially effective medium for children's learning. As a result, individuals typically pick up knowledge more quickly than with conventional approaches. In the context of our everyday lives and surroundings, the "Infotainment" blend—a mix of information and entertainment—integrated into digital learning makes the educational process even more useful and captivating.

Keywords: Online and other digital methodologies, education, national education policy 2020

Introduction

The utilization of PowerPoint presentations, video presentations, online courses, e-learning-based online training, and other digital approaches in teaching-learning process is becoming increasingly important. As a result, instruction in the classroom is becoming more interactive. Technology is more than just viewing animated films or playing online games; its advantages are contingent upon how kids, parents, and educators use it to improve the quality of education. A more impactful learning experience and more student engagement are made possible when technology is used for educational reasons. There should be three different levels of instruction for children: Basic, Challenger, and Accelerator. They should be encouraged to use the internet as a tool for learning rather than just playing games. These days, children can learn a wide range of subjects on their own thanks to internet resources. They must keep developing their knowledge, comprehension, and abilities while being on the lookout for possible dangers on the internet. Children can learn to use technology appropriately to engage with their environment through digital literacy. Additionally, it can provide them with new information that is useful to them. There are also a lot of online contests that are great places for kids to learn; they may take part in these competitions and get important insights. Higher motor skills, decision-making ability, visual learning, cultural awareness, higher educational quality, and an exploratory spirit are just a few of the many advantages of digital education that significantly alter a child's life. When all of these components come together, learning becomes genuinely participatory. Children learn more about the digital world while participating in internet-based programs, which empowers them to develop and invent. Children today have grown up in a technologically advanced culture and are accustomed to using the internet from an early age. It is our duty as parents to teach children about the benefits and drawbacks of the internet, establish safe online practices, and provide them with guidance on how to safely traverse the digital world. Children may now master a wide range of courses at their own pace thanks to the abundance of online tutorials. Furthermore, children are finding that learning to code is a genuinely magical technical tool. Today's students are adept at using the internet to conduct research, finding pertinent texts, videos, podcasts, and presentations on any topic they want to learn. The internet should be incorporated into classrooms so that instructors and students can easily and affordably access a multitude of teaching and learning resources. Learning is a social activity at its core. Therefore, we should encourage children to learn in a safe atmosphere rather than prohibiting them from connecting with internet networks. Today, digital education plays a crucial role in our daily lives. We must provide our schools and teachers with the internet resources they need if we are to successfully adopt digital learning.

Digital and Online Learning and Teachers

The difficulties presented by technology are acknowledged in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. This approach places a strong emphasis on maximizing the advantages of digital and online learning while concurrently reducing its disadvantages. It mandates that educators who are currently working in traditional classrooms must receive the necessary training to improve their professional skills and become proficient online and digital educators. They will be more equipped to succeed as teachers in both traditional and digital learning environments thanks to this professional development.

Suggestions for NEP 2020's Online and Digital Education

Pilot Research in Online Learning

Pilot studies and large-scale research initiatives will be carried out by appropriate organizations, including the NITF, CIET, NIOS, IGNOU, IITs, and NITs. The purpose of these studies is to assess the advantages of incorporating online learning into the curriculum while reducing its drawbacks. Additionally, they will look into related subjects like pupils' familiarity with digital gadgets and content type preferences. These pilot studies' results will be disseminated and used to support further development.

Infrastructure for Digitalization
An open, interoperable, and dynamic public digital infrastructure must be established within the education sector in order to accommodate India's large geographic area, intrinsic diversity, complexity, and the affordability of devices. Many platforms and point solutions should be able to use this architecture. In the face of swift technological changes, such a strategy will guarantee that technology-based solutions stay relevant and do not become outdated.

Tools and Platforms for Online Education
A safe, user-friendly, and well-developed suite of assistive tools for tracking students' progress will be made available to teachers through the expansion of existing, appropriate e-learning platforms, like SWAYAM and DIKSHA. The current pandemic has demonstrated how essential capabilities like two-way video and two-way audio interfaces are for conducting online classes.

Content Production, Digital Storage, and Distribution
The development of coursework, educational games, simulations, augmented reality, and virtual reality will all be included in a digital material repository with a transparent public grading system that allows users to assess their quality and responsiveness. Apps and the incorporation of Indian art and culture are examples of appropriate instruments for entertainment-based learning that will be created in several languages with unambiguous operating instructions. Students will receive content via a dependable backup system.

Closing the Digital Gap
Existing mass media, including radio, television, and community radio, will be widely used for telecasting and broadcasting because a significant portion of the population still lacks access to digital media. To accommodate students' evolving demands, these instructional activities will be offered around-the-clock in multiple languages. Content in all Indian languages will receive extra attention, with a focus on making sure that teachers and students can access digital content in their preferred language.

Online Labs
To ensure that every student has equitable access to high-quality, practical experiences, virtual laboratories will be created using already-existing e-learning platforms like Diksha (Swayam) and Swayam Prabha (Swayam Prabha). Teachers and students will receive the proper digital resources from the SEDGG, including tablets with pre-loaded information.

Teacher incentives and training
Instructors will receive learner-centered pedagogy training and be taught how to use online learning platforms and resources to produce high-quality online material. The teacher's role in fostering collaboration between the students and the material will be emphasized.

Exams & Assessments Online
Assessment frameworks, which would include competency design, portfolio rubrics, standardized tests, and assessment analysis, will be determined and implemented by appropriate entities, such as the National School Boards (NABARDs) or the proposed National Assessment Center. With an emphasis on 21st century skills, new assessment techniques utilizing educational technology will be examined.

Learning using a blended model
The value of conventional face-to-face instruction is also fully recognized, even as digital teaching and learning are encouraged. As a result, a variety of successful blended learning methods for various courses will be found for appropriate replication.

Meet requirements
NTTF and other relevant organizations will set standards for pedagogy, technology, and content for online and digital education instruction as research on the subject develops. These standards will aid in the development of e-learning policies by State Boards, educational institutions, campuses, and higher education institutions, among others.

MIRD Initiatives and Digital and Online Learning
Through the DIKSHA platform, Swayam Prabha TV channel, On Air-Shiksha Vani, E-Paths Hala, and TV channel broadcasts, numerous initiatives have been started to assist educators, academics, and students. In addition, 'PRAGYATA' guidelines have been released on digital education.
Additionally, during the COVID-19 pandemic, MHRD has started the Mandapam initiative, which aims to offer psychological support for the mental health and wellbeing of teachers, students, and family members.

State-level Programs for Digital and Online Learning
A number of initiatives have been started by states and union territories to give pupils access to digital education at home. A few of these consist of:

Social Media Platform for SMILE Rajasthan and Education Engagement
Project Home Classes: Jammu education at your doorstep; Chhattisgarh Upgradation Initiative; Bihar Mission Bun Iyaad NCT Delhi Kerala's own educational TV channel; KITE VICTERS E-scholar Portal and Free Online Courses for Teachers; Meghalaya UP Higher Education Digital Library Free online learning materials for teachers and students; Uttar Pradesh; and some States/UTs, including Lakshadweep, Nagaland, and Jammu & Kashmir. In addition, many states have implemented specific programs, such as Delhi's Happiness classes, that emphasize the importance of students' mental wellness.

Currently, online and digital education
The scope of online and digital education is currently expanding. This was demonstrated during COVID-19, when social media platforms like WhatsApp, Google Meet, Zoom, and Microsoft Teams were used for online classes through groups, YouTube channels, and to connect with students while educational institutions were closed.

Summary
The New Education Policy 2020, which was implemented during the COVID-19 epidemic, demonstrates the creative strategies used by the MHRD to guarantee inclusive and accessible education for kids at home and to close the learning gap. The goal of implementing best practices in

education and learning across the nation—specifically, cross-learning, or training in addition to study—will be highlighted in this report. All parties involved in the education sector must work to guarantee that every student has access to high-quality instruction as India's educational system shifts toward blended learning via online and offline means.

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