

# National Education Policy-2020 and new norms for NAAC, UGC and AICTE

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## **Abstract:-**

Recently, Ministry of Human Resource Development of Government of India unveiled the new policy on education, NEP-2020. Union Cabinet approved the National Education Policy 2020, thus ushering in a new era of school and higher education in India. One of the key changes which NEP will implement is the setting up of a 'single overarching umbrella body for the entire higher education', Higher Education Commission of India (HECI). Under HECI Vertical 1: National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) Vertical 2: National Accreditation Council (NAC), Vertical 3: Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC), Vertical 4: General Education Council (GEC) will work for quality status and excellence in higher learning in India.

## **Keywords:-**

NEP-2020, NAAC, UGC, AICTE

## I. INTRODUCTION

Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister, India stated that “Till date, we've been focusing on 'What to Think' in our education policy. In the NEP, we are focusing on How to Think. Reciprocating the vision of Mr. Prime Minister, The National Education Policy 2020 is exactly what it takes to bring a massive change in the traditional educational system.

Recently Union Cabinet, Government of India announced its new Education policy. When we look back ancient India had a very rich and well-established system of spreading knowledge and imparting education for centuries. There were at least 15 centers of higher education in existence in historical India such as, Takshashila, Nalanda, Vikramasila and Mithila. On the constant constant attack of barbaric invaders they completely destroyed. However, the rich culture of teachings and traditions persisted under “Gurukul” system.

Under the British rule, the new era of establishment of universities with fully English dominance came into existence which creating the generations of bureaucrats and clerical workforce, who would unhesitatingly and loyally serve their masters.

Remarkable, well defined and futuristic education policy is essential for a country at school and higher levels due to the reason that education leads to economic and social progress.

After the independence, commissions and committees were worked on education policy. Recently, Ministry of Human Resource Development of Government of India unveiled the new policy on education, which is based on the recommendations by an expert committee chaired by Dr. Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan, Former chairman of the ISRO. National Education Policy 2020 (NEP2020) and it was approved by the Union Cabinet, Government of India on Wednesday, 29 July 2020 and it outlines the vision of India's new educational system.

National Education Policy 2020 has touched all the arenas of education sector and aims at delivering state-of-the-art education to empower, educators, faculty, and students ultimately – the nation!

The curriculum must include games, sports and fitness, culture and values, basic arts, crafts, humanities, languages, literature, in addition to science and mathematics, to develop all aspects and capabilities of learners; and make education more useful, well-rounded, and fulfilling to the learner. Education system enable learners to be ethical, rational, compassionate and caring, and build character, and prepare them for gainful, fulfilling employment.

The NEP has brought one of the major transformations that is the introduction of a single authoring body that would take care of all the aspects of higher education –HECI or the Higher Education Commission of India. You can say that it is a master key or a one-stop solution for all the needs of higher education institutions! HECI will function through faceless intervention through technology and

will have powers to penalize Higher Education Institutes not following norms and standards. Higher education institutions which are owned by public or private, will be governed by the same norms for academic standards, regulation and accreditation.

Under the single overarching umbrella of HECI, there will be various verticals that would look after funding for institutions, accreditation, and academics. The highly renowned autonomous body like National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), A Statutory body, University Grants Commission (UGC), and the board of technical framework, All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) will no longer be in existence and will be swiftly replaced by these new entities.

We look at the main responsibilities of the verticals under HECI...

### **Vertical 1: National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC)**

NHERC has to work in a helpful manner and providing assistance for the reforms progress. It is single point regulator for higher education sector. It will eliminate the duplication and disjunction of regulatory efforts by the many regulatory agencies that exist at the present time. The statutory body, University Grant Commission was established in 1956, the Government of India through an Act of Parliament for the regulation, determination coordination and maintenance of standards of higher education in India. Until now, the UGC was majorly involved in the functioning of higher education institutions.

National Institute of Teachers Education (NCTE) was conducting the teacher training & education department, and AICTE was established in 1945 as a national level apex body for technical education. AICTE was assigned to engineering and technical institutes.

To upgrade and ease the traditional educational pattern, the National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC), the first vertical of HECI will now be the single focal point of contact and address all the concerns related to these categories, primarily for regulation,. However, there's an exception - NHERC will not be responsible for law & medical education.

According to new NEP the first vertical of HECI will be the National Higher Education Regulatory Council. NHERC will function as a common, single point nozzle for the higher education sector including teacher education but excluding medical and law education. Up till now, UGC was controlling regulating higher education, NCTE was responsible for regulating teacher training and education and AICTE regulating technical and engineering education.

Though there will be a single body, there will be distinct and independent entities which will each assume separate functions of accreditation, funding, and academic standard setting. These bodies will replace autonomous bodies like UGC, AICTE, and NAAC. Functioning of HECI and all its verticals will be definitely transparent. NEP also stressed to reduce human interface by use of technology to ensure efficiency and transparency in their work.

### **Vertical 2: National Accreditation Council (NAC)**

Accreditation by NAAC helps in acquiring reputation of the HEIs and most importantly signifies the quality status of education. That is why most of the institutions pay full attention to getting accredited. The second vertical of HECI will be the National Accreditation Council (NAC), the second authoring body under the HECI will replace most prestigious autonomous body NAAC. The University Grants Commission (UGC) established the NAAC in 1994; The NAAC is a Educational Quality Assurance Council in India. The prime objective of NAAC is to Assess and Accredite institutions of higher education with an objective of helping them to work continuously to improve the quality status and excellence of higher education.

NAAC perform the duty of accreditation institutions based on its merits and quality parameters of HEI would be accredited successfully. Some of the major parameters it will strictly scrutinize include- basic norms of the institution, public self-disclosure, good governance, and most importantly the student learning outcomes ratio.

### **Vertical 3: Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC)**

The third vertical under HECI is Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC). It will facilitate financing & funding to genuinely deserving institutions maintaining transparency to ensure fair practices. It is quite clear that the funding processes require a major overhaul if the quality of higher education is to improve. Recently, great concern has been expressed regarding financing for imparting better quality higher education and conducting updated and advanced research. Funding and financing are vital for institutions to work smoothly and for better outcomes. HEGC will be controlled and regulated the disbursement of scholarships and

developmental funds for establishing new focus areas and expanding quality learning, offerings at HEIs across disciplines. This third vertical will be Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) which will facilitate funding and financing of higher education based on transparent criteria.

#### **Vertical 4: General Education Council (GEC)**

The fourth vertical under HECI will be GEC. To persuade best student learning outcomes via best educational delivery- General Education Council (GEC), the fourth vertical will take the charge.

For various institutions, it will form a thoughtful criterion and decide the expected learning outcomes. It will frame expected student learning outcomes for higher education programmers, also called 'graduate attributes'. Along with that, the General Education Council will also be responsible for creating - National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF). The primary agenda is to make the work processes highly effective, transparent, and hassle-free.

All the verticals will be work independently, NHERC for Regulation, NAC for Accreditation, HEGC for Funding, and GEC Academic Standard Setting and above all autonomous body HECI itself. Extensive use of technology for transparency.

#### **Professional Standard Setting Bodies**

Various professional councils will act as the PSSB which is enlisted as National Council for Vocational Education & Training (NCVET), Veterinary Council of India (VCI), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), Council of Architecture (CoA), Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR).

By use of technology, HECI will focus on to ensure efficiency and transparency of work, and These Government entities are also encouraging institutions to switch to automation and use of technology in education for seamless online-teaching experience.

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