



ADULT EDUCATION FOR NATION DEVELOPMENT UNDER NEP 2020; A CRITICAL STUDY

Bikram Tikader

Department of Education, University of Kalyani, Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal-741235, India

ABSTRACT

This report critically examines the significance of adult education for national development under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in India. It highlights the key goals of NEP 2020, the major components of adult education, the challenges in implementation, and recommendations to enhance its effectiveness. By focusing on skill development, economic growth, social empowerment, health and well-being, lifelong learning, and social cohesion, adult education plays a vital role in building a prosperous and inclusive society. However, several critical issues such as access and equity, infrastructure and resources, awareness and outreach, curriculum development, training and professional development, evaluation and assessment, coordination and collaboration, and funding and sustainability need to be addressed to ensure the successful implementation of adult education programs. This report provides insights into the importance and challenges of adult education and offers recommendations for strengthening its impact on national development.

KEYWORDS: *New Education Policy, Adult Education, Digital India, Community, Literacy.*

INTRODUCTION

The connection between adult education and national development cannot be overemphasised. The reason being, adult education is regarded as an important instrument of change and development. It is the formal, informal and non-formal system of education that is based on the needs of adults and provide empowerment opportunities in all spheres, i.e. social, political, economic, and cultural. In other words, adults are well-equipped, so they are able to lead to progression. In developed countries, the rate of literacy is high as compared to underdeveloped countries. When acquiring an understanding of the role of adult education in national development, it is vital to pay attention towards various aspects, these are, free and democratic society, just egalitarian society, united, strong and self-reliant nations, great and dynamic economy, opportunities for citizens, economic progress, even distribution of income, racial harmony and maintenance of law and order (Cavalevu, n.d.). These aspects can be achieved, when individuals are educated and aware. When they are educated, they would not only put into practice the measures that are necessary to promote their well-being, but also would implement practices that are necessary to promote welfare and goodwill of the community (Saad, 2017). This implies that not only social development, but it also aimed to create awareness among people about various policies, law, rights and duties of the government and people for successive implementation of the strategy of redistributive justice. The NEP 2020 has been drafted to integrate lucrative output in the education system in India. Especially various impediments arising due to online banking and transactions frauds and deplorable activities makes it indispensable to spread awareness, literacy and basic skills to each member of a society.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- ✓ To understand the role of NEP 2020 in promoting Adult education for Nation Development.
- ✓ To understand the curriculum framework for adult education for Nation Development.
- ✓ Analyzing various platforms imperative to foster growth and development of Adult Education .
- ✓ Analyzing various platforms imperative to foster growth and development of Nation .
- ✓ To understand the role of Adult education for Nation Development.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS OF THE STUDY

- What are the the role of NEP 2020 in promoting Adult education for Nation Development ?
- What are the curriculum framework for adult education for Nation Development.
- What are the various platforms imperative to foster growth and development of Adult Education ?
- What are the various platforms imperative to foster growth and development of Nation ?



- What are the role of Adult education for Nation Development ?

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

- The methodology of the paper is qualitative in nature. Researchers analyzed the data qualitatively.
- In-depth research of reliable and valid sources of information and Sources used in this study Of adult education in NEP 2020 from various magazines, websites and articles.

FINDINGS OF THIS STUDY

✓ OBJECTIVES: 1 To understand the role of NEP 2020 in promoting Adult education for Nation Development.

According to the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), adult education plays a crucial role in the development of a nation. NEP 2020 recognizes the significance of lifetime learning and aims to provide education opportunities to all individuals, regardless of age.

Here are some key points highlighting the importance of adult education for nation development according to NEP 2020:

- **Inclusive Development:** NEP 2020 emphasizes inclusive and equitable education, ensuring that individuals of all ages have access to learning opportunities. By providing adult education, the policy aims to empower adults from all walks of life and enable their active participation in the development of the nation.
- **Skill Development:** The policy recognizes the need to enhance the skills and knowledge of individuals throughout their lives. Adult education programs focus on developing new skills or upgrading existing ones, enabling adults to adapt to the changing requirements of the job market. This, in turn, contributes to the economic growth of the nation.
- **Human Resource Development:** Adult education is crucial for the overall development of human resources in a nation. By providing opportunities for adults to enhance their knowledge and expertise, NEP 2020 aims to create a highly skilled workforce. A well-educated adult population can contribute to various sectors, including industry, research, innovation, and entrepreneurship, driving overall national development.
- **Active Citizenship:** Adult education promotes active citizenship by fostering critical thinking, democratic values, and social responsibility. By equipping adults with the necessary knowledge and skills, it enables them to engage actively in civic and social activities, participate in decision-making processes, and contribute to the well-being of the society and the nation.
- **Bridging the Education Gap:** Adult education helps address the education gap among individuals who were unable to complete their formal education in their earlier years. It offers a second chance for those who may have missed out on educational opportunities due to various reasons. Bridging this gap through adult education ensures that everyone has access to lifelong learning, promoting educational equity and social inclusivity.

Overall, adult education holds immense potential for nation development according to NEP 2020. By investing in adult education programs, a nation can harness the potential of its adult population, enhance their skills and knowledge, and create a more prosperous and inclusive society.

✓ OBJECTIVES: 2 To understand the curriculum framework for adult education for Nation Development .

The New Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) in India recognizes the importance of adult education in contributing to national development. The curriculum framework for adult education under NEP 2020 plays a crucial role in equipping adults with the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary for personal and professional development.

The goals of adult education in the NEP 2020 include:

- **Universal Access:** NEP 2020 aims to provide universal access to adult education, ensuring that all adults, including those in marginalized and disadvantaged communities, have the opportunity to engage in lifelong learning.
- **Functional Literacy:** The policy seeks to promote functional literacy among adults, enabling them to acquire basic reading, writing, and numeracy skills. This helps adults effectively participate in various aspects of life, such as employment, civic engagement, and personal development.
- **Lifelong Learning:** NEP 2020 recognizes the importance of lifelong learning and aims to create opportunities for adults to enhance their knowledge, skills, and competencies throughout their lives. It encourages adults to engage in continuous learning to adapt to changing societal and economic demands.
- **Vocational Skills Development:** The policy highlights the need to provide adults with vocational skills training and development opportunities. It seeks to equip them with relevant skills that enhance employability, entrepreneurship, and economic self-sufficiency.



- **Digital Literacy:** NEP 2020 recognizes the importance of digital literacy in today's digital age. It aims to ensure that adults have access to digital skills training and focuses on enabling them to use technology effectively, access information, and participate in the digital economy.
- **Personal Development:** The policy emphasizes personal development through adult education. It aims to empower adults to pursue their passions, interests, and personal goals, promoting holistic development and self-fulfillment.
- **Inclusive Education:** NEP 2020 promotes inclusive education by addressing the specific learning needs and barriers faced by adults with disabilities, women, minorities, and other marginalized groups. It aims to provide equal opportunities for all adults to access and benefit from adult education programs.

The curriculum framework for adult education provides a guiding document that outlines the key principles, goals, and content areas for adult education programs. It includes elements such as goals and objectives, a competency-based approach, flexible pathways, relevant content areas, pedagogical approaches, assessment and evaluation guidelines, and support services for adult learners.

By implementing the curriculum framework for adult education, India can ensure that adults have access to quality education and opportunities for personal and professional growth. This, in turn, contributes to national development by creating a skilled workforce, reducing poverty and inequality, promoting active citizenship, improving health and well-being, fostering social integration and cohesion, and cultivating a culture of lifelong learning.

In conclusion, the curriculum framework for adult education under the New Education Policy 2020 aims to fulfill the diverse learning needs of adults, promoting their personal, social, and economic well-being, and ultimately contributing to the overall development of the nation.

✓ **OBJECTIVES:3 Analyzing various platforms imperative to foster growth and development of Adult Education**

In the Indian perspective, there are various platforms that play a crucial role in fostering the growth and development of Adult Education. These platforms are designed to address the unique challenges and requirements of adult learners in India. Let's analyze some of these platforms and their contributions to adult education:

- **New India Literacy Programme (NILP):** The NILP is a notable platform approved by the Indian government for the period FYs 2022-2027. Aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, NILP aims to provide adult education through online platforms. It focuses on imparting foundational literacy and numeracy, critical life skills, vocational skills development, basic education, and continuing education. The program encourages volunteerism by involving students, teachers, Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, and other community volunteers. This comprehensive approach aims to provide adult education to non-literates in the age group of 15 years and above.
- **Skill Development Programs:** Skill development plays a vital role in adult education by enhancing employability and income-earning potential. The Indian government, along with various organizations, offers skill development programs that provide vocational training and technical skills to adults. These programs cover a wide range of sectors, including healthcare, agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, and digital skills. Skill India, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) are some examples of initiatives focusing on skill development for adults.
- **Digitalization and Online Learning Platforms:** The integration of technology in adult education has significantly contributed to its growth and development in India. The government emphasizes digital literacy and provides digital infrastructure in rural areas, bridging the technology divide. Online learning platforms like SWAYAM, SWAYAMPRAKASH, and National Digital Library offer a wide range of courses and resources for adult learners. These platforms provide flexibility in learning, allowing adults to access educational materials at their convenience.
- **Community-based Organizations and NGOs:** Community-based organizations and NGOs play a crucial role in promoting adult education in India. They work closely with local communities, raise awareness about the importance of education, mobilize resources, and provide support systems for adult learners. These organizations conduct adult education programs, vocational training, and awareness campaigns tailored to the specific needs of the community. They also collaborate with government agencies and other stakeholders to create a sustainable framework for adult education.
- **Government Initiatives and Policies:** The Indian government has implemented various initiatives and policies to promote adult education. The National Literacy Mission, Saakshar Bharat Mission, and National Skill Development Mission are some of the prominent initiatives aimed at increasing adult literacy rates and providing skill development opportunities. These initiatives focus on providing financial support, infrastructure, and resources for adult education programs.
- **Accreditation and Certification:** Accreditation and certification play a significant role in ensuring the quality and recognition of adult education programs. Recognized certifications enhance the employability of adult learners and provide a sense of



achievement. The government promotes accreditation and certification programs for adult education to improve credibility and encourage learner participation.

- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Collaboration with corporates and private sector organizations can provide additional resources and opportunities for adult learners. Public-private partnerships facilitate the creation of training programs, job placements, and apprenticeships, enabling adults to acquire relevant skills and find employment. These partnerships leverage the expertise and resources of the private sector to enhance the effectiveness of adult education programs.

Overall, the growth and development of adult education in India rely on a multi-faceted approach involving government initiatives, skill development programs, digital platforms, community involvement, accreditation, and partnerships. These platforms and strategies work together to address the specific challenges faced by adult learners and provide them with the necessary educational opportunities to enhance their knowledge, skills, and socio-economic prospects.

OBJECTIVES:4 Analyzing various platforms imperative to foster growth and development of Nation :

The New Education Policy 2020 in India emphasizes the importance of various platforms to foster the development of the nation. These platforms have been proposed to promote digital learning, enhance access to quality educational resources, empower teachers, and facilitate the use of technology in education. Let's analyze some of these platforms and their contributions:

- **National Education Technology Forum (NETF):** The establishment of NETF aims to facilitate the free exchange of ideas, resources, and best practices in the field of educational technology. This platform promotes innovation, collaboration, and the adoption of technology-enabled teaching and learning methods. By bringing together educators, policymakers, and experts, NETF plays a crucial role in leveraging technology for the improvement of education and ultimately contributes to the overall development of the nation.
- **DIKSHA:** DIKSHA is a national digital infrastructure designed to provide e-content and resources for school education. It offers a wide range of learning materials and interactive modules, accessible to teachers, students, and parents. DIKSHA promotes access to quality education, especially in remote areas, and enhances the teaching and learning experience. The platform empowers teachers with digital tools and resources, enabling them to deliver effective and engaging lessons. By fostering the use of technology in education, DIKSHA contributes to the development of a digitally literate nation.
- **Online Teacher Training Modules:** The New Education Policy 2020 recognizes the need for online training modules to enhance the digital skills of teachers and improve their teaching methodologies. These modules provide teachers with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively integrate technology into their classrooms. By empowering teachers with digital competencies, online teacher training programs contribute to enhancing the quality of education and ensuring that students receive a well-rounded learning experience.
- **National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER):** NROER is an online platform that offers a wide array of open educational resources for teachers, students, and parents. This repository includes textbooks, videos, audio resources, and interactive learning materials. NROER promotes the use of open educational resources, which are freely accessible to everyone. It enhances access to high-quality educational materials, supports self-paced learning, and empowers teachers with additional resources to deliver engaging and effective lessons. The platform also contributes to reducing the cost burden of educational resources, making education more accessible to all segments of society.
- **E-Pathshala:** E-Pathshala is a digital platform that provides access to e-books and digital textbooks developed by various organizations. It covers a wide range of subjects and is available in multiple languages. E-Pathshala promotes digital learning and ensures that students have access to textbooks and learning materials, regardless of their geographical location. By reducing reliance on physical textbooks, this platform enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of the education system. E-Pathshala, therefore, contributes to the development of a knowledge-based society.
- **Virtual Labs:** The New Education Policy 2020 proposes the development of virtual labs to provide access to laboratory experiments for students, particularly those in remote areas. These virtual labs create a simulated laboratory environment, allowing students to perform experiments and gain practical knowledge in science and other subjects. By bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, virtual labs contribute to the development of scientific and analytical skills among students. This platform ensures that every student, regardless of their location, has an equal opportunity to engage in practical learning experiences.
- **National Academic Depository (NAD):** NAD is a digital repository for academic records, such as degrees, certificates, and mark sheets. It provides a secure and reliable platform for online verification of academic credentials. NAD simplifies the process of verifying educational qualifications, reduces paperwork, and ensures the authenticity and integrity of academic records. By streamlining the verification process, NAD contributes to building a transparent and credible education system.



These platforms mentioned in the New Education Policy 2020 play a crucial role in fostering the development of the nation by promoting digital learning, enhancing access to quality educational resources, empowering teachers, and leveraging technology for the improvement of education. They contribute to the creation of a knowledge-driven society and prepare students for the challenges of the future.

✓ **OBJECTIVES:5 To understand the role of Adult education for Nation Development.**

Adult education plays a crucial role in contributing to the overall development of a nation, and the New Education Policy 2020 recognizes its significance. The policy aims to address the needs and aspirations of adult learners by providing them with opportunities for lifelong learning and skill development. Here's how adult education contributes to national development in the context of the New Education Policy 2020:

- **Economic Development:** Adult education enables individuals to acquire new skills and knowledge, enhancing their employability and productivity. By upgrading their skills and improving their professional competence, adults can contribute to the economic growth of the nation. The policy emphasizes vocational training and entrepreneurship skills, empowering adults to enter new fields, change professions, or start their own businesses.
- **Social Development:** Adult education promotes social inclusion and empowerment by providing equal opportunities for individuals from all backgrounds and communities. It helps marginalized groups, immigrants, and disadvantaged communities to integrate into society, overcome barriers, and improve their quality of life. By fostering social cohesion and cultural exchange, adult education contributes to building inclusive and harmonious communities.
- **Health and Well-being:** Adult education programs often include health and wellness components, educating individuals about nutrition, disease prevention, mental health, and healthy lifestyles. By improving the health literacy of adults, adult education indirectly contributes to reducing healthcare costs, increasing productivity, and promoting a healthier society. Healthier individuals contribute to the well-being of families, communities, and the nation as a whole.
- **Civic Engagement:** Adult education encourages active citizenship and civic engagement. By providing knowledge and skills related to social, political, and environmental issues, adult education empowers individuals to participate in community projects, social initiatives, and democratic processes. Informed and engaged citizens are more likely to contribute to nation-building, advocate for positive change, and promote social justice.
- **Lifelong Learning Culture:** The New Education Policy 2020 promotes a culture of lifelong learning, emphasizing the importance of continuous personal and professional development. Adult education plays a vital role in fostering this culture by encouraging adults to acquire new knowledge, skills, and competencies throughout their lives. A nation with a strong culture of lifelong learning remains adaptable, innovative, and resilient in the face of changing economic and societal dynamics.

The New Education Policy 2020 recognizes the importance of adult education and includes initiatives to address the specific needs of adult learners. It emphasizes the establishment of Adult Education Centers (AECs) in every district, provision of vocational education and skill training, recognition of prior learning, and integration of technology-enabled learning. These initiatives provide opportunities for adults to enhance their education, skills, and employability. By investing in adult education, nations can unlock the potential of their adult population, leading to sustainable development, social progress, and a better future for all citizens.

CONCLUSION

Adult education plays a critical role in the overall development of a nation, and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recognizes its significance by including key provisions to promote adult learning and skill development. By addressing the challenges and implementing the recommendations outlined in the NEP 2020, countries can harness the potential of adult education to achieve economic development, poverty alleviation, social development, improved health outcomes, and the cultivation of a lifelong learning culture.

Through adult education, individuals are empowered with the necessary skills and knowledge to contribute to the economic growth of the nation. By enhancing their employability, adults can find stable employment, start businesses, and contribute to various sectors of the economy. This leads to increased productivity and overall economic development.

Moreover, adult education helps individuals break the cycle of poverty. By acquiring new skills and knowledge, adults can improve their employment prospects and earning potential, enabling them to support themselves and their families. This reduces dependency on social welfare programs and contributes to poverty alleviation and the improvement of living standards.

Social development is another significant impact of adult education on the nation. It promotes social inclusion and empowerment by providing opportunities for individuals to acquire life skills, critical thinking abilities, and a deeper understanding of social issues.



Informed and engaged adult learners are better equipped to actively participate in community activities, democratic processes, and advocate for social justice, leading to social cohesion and development.

Furthermore, adult education contributes to the overall health and well-being of individuals and communities. By empowering adults with knowledge about health-related issues, preventive measures, and healthy lifestyles, adult education promotes better decision-making regarding well-being. This results in improved health outcomes, reduced healthcare costs, and a healthier population.

Lastly, adult education fosters a culture of lifelong learning, which is essential in today's rapidly changing world. By encouraging individuals to continue their education and skill development throughout their lives, a society that values and supports adult education creates an environment for innovation, personal growth, and resilience.

However, implementing adult education under the NEP 2020 comes with several critical challenges, including access and outreach, low literacy levels, learning opportunities for the disadvantaged, trained facilitators and teachers, recognition of prior learning, funding and resource allocation, awareness and sensitization, and technology integration. To address these challenges, the NEP 2020 recommends universal access to adult education, flexibility in learning pathways, quality and relevance of programs, training and capacity building, synergies with skill development programs, collaboration and convergence, monitoring and evaluation, and financial and resource support.

By implementing these recommendations, countries can build a comprehensive and inclusive adult education system that caters to the diverse learning needs of adults. This will contribute to the overall progress and prosperity of the nation, ensuring sustainable development and empowering individuals to reach their full potential.

REFERENCES

1. Cavalevu, J. (n.d.). *The Role of Education in National Development*. Retrieved September 10, 2019 from <http://www.directions.usp.ac.fj/collect/direct/index/assoc/D769834.dir/doc.pdf>
2. Chapter - One. (n.d.). *Youth is Power of Nation Building: A Conceptual Framework and Issues of Youth in India*. Retrieved September 11, 2019 from http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/50918/6/06_chapter%201.pdf
3. Efemena, E.N., &Ebeye, T.O. (2014). *The Implication of Adult Education for National Development*. *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 19(5), 58-60. Retrieved September 10, 2019 from <http://www.iosrjournals.org/iosr-jhss/papers/Vol19-issue5/Version-2/K019525860.pdf>