PROSPECTS OF INDIA TOWARDS ECONOMIC INTEGRITY OF G20: CURRENT LANDSCAPES AND FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

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Preface

The global economic landscape is continuously evolving, and within this complex framework, the Group of Twenty (G20) plays a crucial role as a leading forum for international economic cooperation. As the world's major economies navigate through the intricacies of globalization, economic integration, and policy harmonization, the G20's influence permeates various aspects of national and international economic policies. India, as a key member of the G20, has been at the forefront of many of these discussions, advocating for policies that not only benefit its own economy but also contribute to global economic stability.

This edited book, *Prospects of India towards Economic Integrity of G20: Current Landscapes and Future Possibilities*, comprises 28 insightful chapters contributed by distinguished scholars from various parts of India. These papers span a diverse range of sub-themes, including but not limited to economic reform, trade policies, sustainable development, technological advancements, and financial inclusivity. Each paper provides a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities that India faces within the G20 framework, reflecting a multifaceted approach to understanding India's economic strategies and aspirations.

The idea for this book was conceived with the recognition of the need for a comprehensive analysis that reflects on India's past engagements in the G20, assesses the current economic strategies, and envisages future prospects. It aims to offer a scholarly dialogue on how India can enhance its economic integrity while contributing positively to global economic governance. The contributors to this volume include scholars from think tanks, and academics, each bringing their expert knowledge and research into the discussions.

HARNESSING DIGITAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES: INDIA'S PLACE IN THE G20 HEALTH INNOVATION AND RESILIENCE CONVERSATIONS

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ABSTRACT

The present research is an effort to investigate and elucidate India's significant contributions and leadership within the G20 framework regarding digital health innovation and resilience. Through an exploration of India's experiences, best practices, and lessons learned, the article aims to provide valuable insights into the adoption, utilization, and impact of digital health technologies in India and their implications for global health governance. By analyzing India's participation in G20 discussions on health innovation, the research seeks to identify opportunities for collaboration, policy alignment, and knowledge exchange to accelerate the adoption and scale-up of digital health solutions worldwide. Ultimately, the article endeavors to contribute to the advancement of sustainable healthcare development and the improvement of health outcomes on a global scale. It explores India's pivotal role in shaping global health agendas through its contributions within the G20 framework. With a focus on digital health technologies, the research examines India's experiences, best practices, and lessons learned in adopting and leveraging digital solutions to enhance healthcare delivery and resilience. By analyzing India's participation in G20 discussions on health innovation, the study assesses the implications of India's role for global health governance, policy formulation, and international collaboration. The findings underscore the transformative potential of digital health technologies in addressing healthcare disparities, improving access to quality healthcare services, and promoting health equity, while emphasizing the importance of coordinated efforts and collaborative approaches to drive innovation and resilience in the healthcare sector. Ultimately, the research aims to provide valuable insights and recommendations for policymakers, healthcare practitioners, and stakeholders to accelerate the adoption and scale-up of digital health solutions, fostering sustainable healthcare development and improving health outcomes worldwide.

Keywords: *Digital health technologies, India, G20, health innovation, health resilience, global health governance, policy formulation, international collaboration, healthcare delivery, health equity.*

A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL INCLUSION AND GENDER EQUALITY WITH REFERENCE TO NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020

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ABSTRACT

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in India marks a transformative shift in the education landscape, emphasizing social inclusion and gender equality. This comprehensive analysis explores key provisions, revealing the NEP's commitment to equitable education, and addressing diverse factors such as socioeconomic status, caste, religion, gender, and geographic location. The policy's focus on bridging educational gaps is underscored, with targeted interventions addressing historical disadvantages. Multilingualism is promoted to foster cultural inclusivity, empowering students from varied linguistic backgrounds. Gender equality is prioritized, ensuring girls' access to education and breaking stereotypes in STEM fields through targeted initiatives. In school education, the NEP introduces early childhood care and advocates for flexible learning environments, ensuring inclusivity. Transitioning to higher education, the policy emphasizes affirmative action and supports reservations for disadvantaged groups. A gender-sensitive curriculum challenges traditional norms, creating a supportive higher education environment. Teacher training incorporates sensitization programs, equipping educators to create bias-free classrooms. Continuous professional development ensures teachers adapt to evolving pedagogies. Challenges in implementation, infrastructure, and societal mindsets are acknowledged, emphasizing the need for sustained commitment. The NEP 2020 serves as a visionary blueprint for an inclusive, equitable education system, requiring collective efforts for effective implementation and societal change.

Keywords: NEP-2020, ECCE, Social inclusion, Gender-Sensitive Curriculum and gender equality.

TOP OF FORM

Introduction: The National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020 represents a significant milestone in the evolution of the Indian education system. Geared towards reshaping education to meet the demands of the 21st century, the NEP 2020 places a robust emphasis on fostering social inclusion and gender equality. This article examines the key provisions of the NEP 2020 that address these crucial aspects, exploring their implications for creating an inclusive and equitable educational environment.

Foundation of Social Inclusion in Education: The NEP 2020 recognizes the intricate diversity within India, considering factors such as socioeconomic status, caste, religion, gender, and geographic location. A fundamental principle of the policy is to promote social inclusion by ensuring equitable access to quality education for all.

   (a) **Equity in Education:** The NEP 2020 underscores the imperative to bridge existing gaps in educational opportunities. It advocates for an inclusive education system that caters to the diverse needs of learners, acknowledging historical disadvantages faced by certain social groups and proposing targeted interventions to address these disparities.

   (b) **Multilingualism and Cultural Inclusivity:** In acknowledging India's rich linguistic and cultural tapestry, the NEP 2020 champions a multilingual approach to education. The policy encourages the use of local languages as the medium of instruction in early schooling, aiming to facilitate better understanding and nurture a sense of cultural inclusivity, thereby empowering students from diverse linguistic backgrounds.

GENDER EQUALITY IN EDUCATION

Gender equality stands as a cornerstone of the NEP 2020. The policy recognizes the necessity of addressing gender-based disparities in education, striving to create an environment that ensures equal opportunities for all genders.

   (a) **Access to Education:** The NEP 2020 emphasizes the crucial need to ensure girls have equal access to education at all levels. This involves dismantling barriers that may impede girls' enrollment and participation, including challenging social and cultural norms perpetuating gender-based discrimination.

   (b) **Girls' Participation in STEM Education:** To shatter gender stereotypes and promote inclusivity in STEM fields, the NEP 2020 advocates for targeted initiatives. Special programs and encouragement for girls' participation in STEM subjects aim to ensure equal opportunities for pursuing careers in these fields.

TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGES IN SCHOOL EDUCATION

The NEP 2020 introduces transformative changes in school education to align with social inclusion and gender equality principles.

   (a) **Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE):** Recognizing the formative years' significance, the NEP 2020 underscores the need for a robust foundation through Early Childhood Care and Education. The policy aims to provide quality ECCE for all children, fostering an inclusive learning environment from the outset, regardless of socio-economic background or gender.

   (b) **Flexible Learning Environments:** To accommodate diverse learning styles and needs, the NEP 2020 recommends adopting flexible learning environments. This includes implementing innovative pedagogies, diverse assessment methods, and incorporating technology to cater to the varied needs of students, ensuring that no one is left behind.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND BEYOND

The NEP 2020 extends its commitment to social inclusion and gender equality into higher education, emphasizing the importance of creating an inclusive and diverse academic community.

(a) **Affirmative Action and Reservations:** The policy emphasizes affirmative action to address historical injustices. It supports continued reservations for socially and economically disadvantaged groups, ensuring their representation in higher education institutions. Furthermore, the NEP 2020 encourages innovative measures to identify and support students who may not have had access to quality education in their earlier years.

(b) **Gender-Sensitive Curriculum:** In higher education, the NEP 2020 promotes the development of a gender-sensitive curriculum. This involves including perspectives and contributions of women in various fields, challenging traditional gender roles, and fostering a supportive and empowering environment for all students, regardless of gender.

TEACHER TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Recognizing teachers' pivotal role in shaping an inclusive and equitable education system, the NEP 2020 outlines measures for their training and capacity building.

(a) **Sensitization Programs:** To address issues related to social inclusion and gender sensitivity, the NEP 2020 recommends integrating sensitization programs into teacher training. These programs aim to equip educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to create inclusive classrooms free from biases and discrimination.

(b) **Continuous Professional Development:** The policy emphasizes the importance of continuous professional development for teachers to keep pace with evolving pedagogical practices and societal changes. This includes training on incorporating inclusive teaching methods and strategies that cater to the diverse needs of students.

CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD

While the NEP 2020 lays a robust foundation for promoting social inclusion and gender equality in education, challenges persist. Effective implementation strategies, overcoming societal biases, and sustained commitment are critical aspects that need attention.

(a) **Implementation Challenges:** Translating policy into practice requires effective implementation strategies. Challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, resource constraints, and resistance to change may hinder the successful execution of the NEP 2020's social inclusion and gender equality provisions.

(b) **Changing Societal Mindsets:** Deep-rooted societal norms and prejudices can pose significant challenges to realizing a truly inclusive and gender-equal education system. The NEP 2020 acknowledges the need for a societal shift in mindset and emphasizes the role of education in fostering this change.

CONCLUSION:

The National Education Policy 2020 serves as a visionary document aiming to transform the education landscape in India. By placing a strong emphasis on social inclusion and gender equality, the policy recognizes the diverse needs of learners and strives to create an education system that caters to all. While challenges persist, the NEP 2020 provides a comprehensive framework for building an inclusive and equitable educational environment, laying the foundation for a more just and sustainable society. It is now incumbent upon all stakeholders, including policymakers, educators, and communities, to collaborate and ensure the effective implementation of these principles for the betterment of future generations.

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