

## **Exploring the Influence of NEP-2020 on Experiential Learning for Language Proficiency and Holistic Development of the Professional Students**

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**Abstract**

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in India marks a significant shift in the education landscape, with a strong emphasis on holistic development and experiential learning. This research article explores how the NEP-2020's provisions for experiential learning are influencing the personality development of professional students. Through surveys and interviews with students, educators, and experts, this study reveals the transformative potential of experiential learning in shaping well-rounded professionals. Higher education plays a pivotal role in shaping the personalities of students, preparing them not only for careers but also for life. This research article delves into the profound impact of experiential learning in higher education on students' language proficiency and personality development. It explores how experiential learning fosters personal growth, enhances language skills, soft skills, and cultivates well-rounded individuals ready to face the challenges of the real world.

**Keywords:** NEP2020 – Experiential learning – Impact – Language learning and teaching – Personal growth – Holistic development.

**Introduction**

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a comprehensive and transformative educational framework introduced by the government of India. Its impact on professional and personal growth can be substantial. Here are some inputs on how NEP-2020 can contribute to these aspects:

**1. Holistic Education:** NEP-2020 emphasizes holistic development, including cognitive, social, emotional, and ethical growth. This approach nurtures individuals not only in their professional capacities but also as well-rounded individuals with strong personal values and social skills.

**2. Multidisciplinary Learning:** The policy encourages students to explore various disciplines and subjects, promoting a broad knowledge base. This enables individuals to develop a diverse set of skills and perspectives, beneficial for both personal and professional growth.

**3. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving:** NEP-2020 emphasizes critical thinking and problem-solving skills. These skills are not only valuable in professional settings but also in personal life, as they empower individuals to make informed decisions and tackle challenges effectively.

**4. Flexible and Interdisciplinary Education:** The NEP allows for flexibility in course choices and encourages interdisciplinary studies. This approach enables students to tailor their education to their interests and passions, which can lead to a more satisfying and personally fulfilling educational experience.

**5. Promotion of Life Skills:** NEP-2020 promotes the development of essential life skills, including communication, collaboration, and adaptability. These skills are not only crucial for career success but also for personal development and relationships.

**6. Research and Innovation:** The policy emphasizes research and innovation, fostering a culture of inquiry and creativity. These qualities are not only valuable in professional contexts but can also lead to personal growth by expanding one's intellectual horizons.

**7. Global Exposure:** NEP-2020 encourages internationalization of education, allowing students to gain exposure to global perspectives. This can broaden their worldview and contribute to personal growth by promoting cultural awareness and openness.

**8. Entrepreneurship and Leadership:** The policy supports entrepreneurship and leadership development, which are essential for both professional success and personal empowerment.

**9. Teacher Training and Quality Education:** NEP-2020 places significant emphasis on teacher training and quality education. Well-trained educators can have a profound impact on students' personal and professional growth by providing guidance, mentorship, and a conducive learning environment.

The National Education Policy 2020 is designed to not only enhance professional skills and knowledge but also to nurture personal growth, character development, and a broader perspective on life. It aims to create well-rounded individuals equipped to thrive in both their careers and personal lives.

**The Need of the Day:** Proficiency in the English language is not only essential within the school curriculum, but also holds significant importance in professional education, particularly in the realm of technical education in India. English serves as the language that grants access to a vast repository of knowledge, making it a vital tool for communication and learning in an increasingly interconnected world. Technical education encompasses a wide range of degree and diploma programs spanning fields such as engineering, technology, management, architecture, town planning, pharmacy, hotel management, and catering technology. These disciplines play a pivotal role in India's overall development, generating a growing demand for well-qualified professionals in these sectors. To meet these demands and foster innovation and research, there is a call for closer collaboration between industry and higher education institutions. Furthermore, as technology continues to blur the lines between technical education and other disciplines, there is a renewed focus on offering technical education within multidisciplinary institutions and programs, encouraging a deeper engagement with various fields of study.

The focus will also be in preparing Professionals (whether they belong to rural or urban) in cutting-edge areas that are fast gaining prominences, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), 3-D machining, big data analysis, and machine learning, in addition to genomic studies, biotechnology, nanotechnology, neuroscience, with important applications to health, environment, and sustainable living that will be woven into undergraduate education for enhancing the employability of the youth.

Historically, the language problem was more pronounced in North Indian educational institutes, where the medium of instruction was Hindi or other vernacular languages, allowing

students to communicate in Hindi. In contrast, South Indian state schools faced a different challenge. Students in South India typically studied in various vernacular languages and did not prioritize learning Hindi. Instead, they focused on gaining proficiency in English.

Professional education is increasingly being encouraged to improve language skills, aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP) that places a strong emphasis on language development as an integral component of holistic development. This recognition reflects the growing importance of language proficiency, especially in English, to equip professionals for success in an increasingly globalized and multicultural world.

The NEP promotes holistic development, including language skills. In English language classes, experiential learning can be integrated through activities such as drama, debates, or storytelling. These engaging activities not only foster linguistic competence but also instil confidence, nurture creativity, and enhance effective communication. Such approaches contribute significantly to the well-rounded development of students, underscoring the idea that language development can be effectively achieved through these innovative and experiential methods

The National Education Policy (NEP) advocates holistic development, encompassing language proficiency. Within English language classes, experiential learning can be seamlessly incorporated through activities like drama, debates, and storytelling. These dynamic and interactive exercises serve to not only cultivate linguistic skills but also to instill self-assurance, foster creativity, and improve the art of effective communication. Such innovative approaches play a vital role in nurturing well-rounded students, emphasizing that language development can be successfully attained through these hands-on and experiential methods.

In line with developing reading habits, NEP 2020 focuses on early literacy, with an emphasis on foundational skills. It promotes a shift from rote learning to competency-based learning, encouraging educators to incorporate a variety of reading materials, including literature, poetry, and informational texts. The aim is to instil a lifelong love for reading by making the process enjoyable and relevant to students' interests.

Regarding the role of textbooks, NEP 2020 advocates for a reduction in curriculum content to allow for a deeper understanding of concepts. Textbooks are expected to be updated regularly, incorporating current knowledge and diverse perspectives. The emphasis is on creating textbooks that are not only informative but also engaging, with a focus on fostering critical thinking and analytical skills among students. The NEP 2020 accentuates a comprehensive approach to language education, focusing on the four essential language skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing (LSRW), along with a strong foundation in grammar and vocabulary. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 promotes holistic development for professional students in several ways:

- **Multidisciplinary Education:** NEP-2020 encourages a multidisciplinary approach to education. It allows professional students to pursue a broad range of subjects and disciplines in addition to their core professional courses. This exposure to diverse knowledge areas fosters holistic development by nurturing their intellectual curiosity and critical thinking skills. Experiential language learning can be integrated with other subjects. For instance, students could engage in a historical re-enactment or science presentation in English. This multidisciplinary approach aligns with the NEP's focus on integrating subjects and fostering a broader understanding of language's role in different contexts.
- **Foundational Learning:** The policy emphasizes building a strong foundation in language, mathematics, and other essential subjects. These foundational skills are not only important for professional success but also contribute to cognitive development and problem-solving abilities, enhancing the holistic growth of students.
- **Life Skills:** NEP-2020 places significant emphasis on imparting life skills, including communication, critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity. These skills are essential for professional students and are valuable for personal development as well.
- **Experiential Learning:** The policy encourages experiential learning, internships, and practical exposure as part of the curriculum. This hands-on experience not only enhances professional skills but also promotes personal development by instilling real-world problem-solving and adaptability.

Experiential learning is an educational approach that emphasizes learning through direct experiences and active engagement with the subject matter. This method can significantly contribute to students' growth and development in several ways:

- 1. Active Engagement:** Experiential learning encourages students to actively engage with the learning process. This active involvement allows them to explore, experiment, and make their own discoveries, fostering a deeper understanding of the material.
- 2. Real-World Application:** Experiential learning often involves real-world scenarios or practical tasks that relate to the subject matter. This connection to the real world helps students see the practical relevance of what they are learning and how it applies to their lives.
- 3. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving:** Experiential learning challenges students to think critically and solve problems on their own. When faced with hands-on tasks or real-life situations, they must apply their knowledge and analytical skills to find solutions.
- 4. Enhanced Retention:** Learning by doing is often more memorable than passive learning methods. Experiential learning can lead to better retention of knowledge because students are actively involved in the learning process, making the information more meaningful and easier to recall.
- 5. Self-Reflection:** After engaging in experiential activities, students are often encouraged to reflect on their experiences. This self-reflection helps them identify their strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement, fostering personal growth and self-awareness.
- 6. Collaboration and Communication:** Many experiential learning activities involve group work and collaboration. Students learn how to work effectively with others, communicate ideas, and resolve conflicts, which are essential life skills.
- 7. Emotional Intelligence:** Experiential learning can tap into students' emotional responses and help them understand and manage their emotions. This emotional intelligence is valuable for personal growth, social interactions, and decision-making.

- 8. Adaptability and Resilience:** When students face challenges or setbacks during experiential learning, they develop adaptability and resilience. They learn that it's okay to make mistakes and that failure can be a valuable learning experience.
- 9. Motivation and Engagement:** Experiential learning is often more engaging and motivating for students because it allows them to actively participate and take ownership of their learning. This can lead to a greater sense of intrinsic motivation.
- 10. Application of Knowledge:** Experiential learning encourages the application of theoretical knowledge to practical situations. This practical application helps students bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world contexts.
- 11. Career Readiness:** Experiential learning can prepare students for the workforce by equipping them with practical skills, problem-solving abilities, and adaptability, which are highly valued by employers.

Incorporating experiential learning into the curriculum can be achieved through various methods, such as field trips, internships, laboratory work, project-based learning, simulations, and service learning. By engaging students in active and meaningful experiences, experiential learning not only enhances their academic growth but also contributes to their personal and professional development.

**Cultural and Ethical Values:** NEP-2020 promotes the inculcation of cultural and ethical values. Professional students are encouraged to develop a strong sense of ethics and social responsibility, contributing to their personal growth as responsible citizens.

**Physical Education and Well-being:** The policy emphasizes the importance of physical education and holistic well-being. This includes sports and physical activities, which not only promote physical fitness but also mental health and personal development.

**Global Competence:** NEP-2020 aims to prepare students with global competence. This involves not only professional skills but also cultural awareness and the ability to navigate the globalized world effectively.

**Assessment Reforms:** The policy promotes a shift from rote learning to competency-based assessment. This approach focuses on assessing practical skills and a deeper understanding of

subjects, fostering holistic development as students learn to apply their knowledge effectively.

**Flexibility in Education:** NEP-2020 introduces flexibility in the choice of subjects and the curriculum. This allows professional students to tailor their education to their interests and passions, creating a more engaging and personally fulfilling learning experience. **Teacher Training:** The policy recognizes the importance of well-trained educators. Teacher training programs are designed to equip educators with the knowledge and skills to promote holistic development in students.

NEP-2020 promotes holistic development for professional students by encouraging multidisciplinary education, life skills, experiential learning, cultural values, physical well-being, and a global perspective. This comprehensive approach aims to produce well-rounded individuals who are not only professionally competent but also personally and socially responsible.

The following techniques may help students develop their English language skills effectively and feel more confident using English as a lingua franca in educational institutions and face the world with confidence.

1. **Practical Application of Knowledge:** Language learning often involves practical applications, such as writing essays, creating content or presenting information. Experiential learning can include real-life scenarios, such as conducting interviews, writing articles, or participating in a simulated business negotiation, connecting language skills with practical applications.
2. **Critical Thinking and Problem Solving:** Experiential language learning encourages students to think critically and solve language-related problems. For instance, in a debate, students need to analyse arguments, formulate counterarguments, and communicate persuasively. These skills align with the NEP's objective of promoting critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.
3. **Reducing the Burden of Exams:** The NEP aims to reduce the emphasis on high-stakes exams. Experiential language assessments can include tasks like delivering speeches, writing reflective essays, or participating in group projects. These



assessments allow students to showcase their language skills in more practical and authentic ways.

4. **Personalized and Flexible Learning:** In language classes, students can choose activities that align with their interests and language proficiency levels. This personalization accommodates diverse learning styles and preferences, supporting the NEP's vision of personalized and flexible education.
5. **Skill Development:** Experiential language learning fosters a wide range of language skills, including speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Activities like language immersion experiences or language clubs can help students acquire practical language skills, aligning with the NEP's focus on skill development.
6. **Ethical and Moral Values:** Language education can include discussions on ethics and values, such as responsible communication, respectful dialogue, and inclusive language use. Experiential learning opportunities can incorporate these ethical considerations, in line with the NEP's goal of inculcating values and social responsibility through language.

### **Conclusion:**

Experiential learning in English language education aligns harmoniously with the principles and objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020. It serves as a catalyst for fostering holistic development, promoting multidisciplinary learning, stimulating active engagement, facilitating the practical application of language knowledge, nurturing critical thinking skills, and instilling core values among students. This approach vividly illustrates how experiential language learning seamlessly integrates with the NEP's visionary goals of creating a learner-centric and holistic education system in India, one that prepares students not only with linguistic competence but also with the practical, critical, and ethical skills necessary for success in the modern competitive world.

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