

Report of the Panel Discussion on Implementation of NEP 2020

Venue: Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University
VC Conference Hall, 4th Floor, Block-A
KKHSOU City Campus, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022

Date:
12th April, 2022
Time:
10.30 A.M.



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Organised

By

Centre for Internal Quality Assurance

(CIQA)

in collaboration with NEP Cell, KKHSOU

A panel discussion was organized on “*Implementation of NEP 2020*” by the NEP Cell of the University at VC Conference Hall of KKHSOU City Campus, Khanapara, Guwahati-22 on 12th April, 2022 from 10.30 A.M. to 1.30 P.M. The participants of the Panel discussion were all the NEP Cell members of the University and four invited experts from Gauhati University and Cotton University. Prof Madhurjya P. Bora, Director, IQAC Gauhati University, Prof. Dulumoni Goswami, Gauhati University, Prof. Eeshankur Saikia, Gauhati University and Dr. Eeshan Kalita, Cotton University were the external experts who have been actively involved in the NEP 2020 implementation in their respective universities.

The main purposes of the Panel discussion were as below:

- (i) to discuss on the implementation of the following NEP-2020 based UGC initiatives in the University to improve accessibility, equity, quality affordability and accountability and thereby bringing about transformative reforms in the University as well as the higher education sector:
 - Regulations on Academic Bank of Credits to promote flexibility and facilitate student mobility
 - Guidelines on Multiple Entry and Exit in the Academic Programmes of Higher Education institutions
 - Multidisciplinary Approach, Modular Approach, CBCS, Skill Development and Research and Innovation
 - Guidelines for Apprenticeship/internship embedded degree programme as part of the curriculum of general degree programme.

- Regulations on ODL and Online Education to expand access and increase GER
 - Regulations on Credit Framework for online courses through SWAYAM, 2021 for recognition and integration of credits - increasing the credit limit from 20 per cent to 40 per cent.
 - Guidelines for internationalization of Higher Education
 - Alumni Connect at University Level to engage with Alumni (of foreign origins and Indians living abroad)
- (ii) The second purpose of the Panel discussion is to exchange of ideas, experiences and strategies for implementation of aforesaid NEP-2020 based UGC initiatives which are being undertaken by the respective Universities and would accordingly prepare an Action Plan for the University to implement the said UGC initiatives.

The proceedings began with the felicitation of the guests and welcome address by Dr. Pranab Saikia, Director (i/c), CIQA and the Convenor of the NEP Cell of the University. He stated that ODL no longer remained only the prerogative of the open universities; it has become an integral part of all types or modes of education. As such, a collaborative effort to redesign the ODL in the current context of education seamlessly is the call of the day.

The Honourable Vice Chancellor (i/c) Prof. Nripendra Narayan Sarma inaugurated the panel discussion and he pointed out the intricacies involved in the implementation of NEP-2020 for Open Universities in the context of programme pre-approval system as envisaged in the University Grants Commission (Open

and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020. For absence of specific guidelines from the Distance Education Bureau of UGC for Open Universities to implement the NEP 2020, there has been some confusion among the stakeholders of Open Universities. Having presented various issues related to NEP 2020, the Honourable VC (i/c) urged the participants to find the ways out to proceed ahead for implementation of NEP-2020 in a concerted and collaborative effort.

As per the design of the Panel discussion, experts from Gauhati University presented their views and experiences on the topics under discussion. At the very outset, Prof Madhurjya P. Bora, Director, IQAC Gauhati University presented his views on Academic Bank of Credits and he informed the audience that his university has been working on it. Prof. Dulumoni Goswami, Gauhati University stressed on the importance of redesign the UG and PG programme restructure by the Universities in the context of NEP 2020 implementation. He pointed out the contradiction in nomenclature i.e. Liberal Arts as stated in NEP 2020 documents and as defined in the qualification frameworks which were found not similar. He perceived challenges in designing the UG certificate level course, bridge course and to develop industrial linkages. Further, Prof. Goswami explained how multiple entry and exit systems would be affected by the problem of credit transfer until unless there is full participation of all institutions in the Academic Bank of Credits.

Prof. Eeshankur Saikia of Gauhati University presented the Gauhati University's proposed UG and PG programme structure as per NEP 2020. He explained how traditional barriers which barred in seamless integration among the academic departments/disciplines have been erased by creation of cluster of

departments/disciplines, how to integrate the languages in the new course design and how and where ability enhancement/skill courses are placed by giving proper justification.

Dr. Eeshan Kalita of Cotton University described how Cotton University initiated its journey for change immediately after the release of draft NEP 2020 in 2019. He informed the audience that his university has registered in SWAYAM Local Chapters. He further stated that to avoid repetition, academic departments have made efforts to provide the same knowledge in an integrated manner. They have judiciously decided which course should be given at which level, i.e. skill course is provided at the very 1st year of UG level keeping in view the employability aspects of the students. They have formed the ABC Committee and also have developed the Credit Assessment Mechanism to facilitate lateral entry. Dr. Kalita informed that CU has already completed the task of transforming the existing course into LOCF.

After the external expert's presentation an extensive open discussion was held among the participants and the members of KKHSOU NEP Cell presented their issues and concerns that have been faced or would be facing in implementation of NEP 2020. A thorough discussion was held on each presented issue and some useful suggestions came out of the discussion. Some important such suggestions/points are as below:

1. KKHSOU has a basket of skill/ability enhancement courses in place in the existing UG programmes which needs to be re-mapped as per NEP 2020 requirements.
2. Provision should be there for the learners to transfer from one basket to another in UG programmes
3. Language and culture course to be continued as per NEP 2020 priority

4. KKHSOU should go for CBCS compatible UG and PG programmes restructure to meet the NEP 2020 requirement.
5. Lateral entry system should be restricted to only the learner of the own university till the ABC is made fully functional
6. Creation of a Common Platform among the Universities of Assam for content creation, industry partnership, skill development and reach some strategic consensus in implementation and operation of NEP-2020
7. Identification of potential local/state level industry partners to introduce internship/apprenticeship enabled general degree programme.
8. Redesign the structure and function of LSCs of KKHSOU in view of implementation of NEP 2020.

The panel discussion ended with the vote of thanks offered by Dr. Pranab Saikia, Director (i/c), CIQA and the Convenor of the NEP Cell of the University.

Some Photographs of the Event:



