India’s endeavor to Improve Quality and Access leads to EQUIP

On June 29, 2019, The Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) released a five-year action plan termed the “Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP). EQUIP aims to improve the quality and accessibility of higher education in India and is a manifestation of the Prime Minister’s request to each government ministry to produce a five-year vision plan.

EQUIP will lay out the official implementation plan for the National Education Policy (NEP) which is due to be approved in cabinet after incorporating suggestions from relevant stakeholders. The deadline for suggesting recommendations to the NEP has been extended to 31st July by MHRD Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal. The plan suggests crucial reforms required to improve India’s student enrolment numbers, research and innovation infrastructure and employability outcomes.

The document was crafted by ten committees that focused on key areas including:
1. Strategies for expanding access
2. Global best teaching/learning process
3. Promoting excellence
4. Governance reforms
5. Assessment
6. Accreditation and ranking systems
7. Promotion of research and innovation
8. Employability and entrepreneurship
9. Using technology for better reach and internationalization
10. Financing higher education.

A diverse range of individuals including government administrators, senior academics and industry players lead each committee. Examples include former Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia, Principal Scientific Advisor K Vijay Raghavan, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, former Infosys CEO Kris Gopalakrishnan and Rediff.com founder Ajit Balakrishnan.

The document lays out 50 initiatives focused on these 10 key areas that have the ability to transform the Indian higher education sector. For each initiative, the committees have recommended modalities for implementation, investments and timelines. The proposal will now be taken up for inter-departmental consultations before being taken to the Cabinet for approval.

Dr. B Venkatesh Kumar, National Coordinator for the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) has been chosen as the coordinator for EQUIP. Sannam S4 has closely work with Dr. Kumar on previous RUSA initiatives such as finding International partners to set up Innovation and Entrepreneurship hubs on Indian State Public Universities campuses.

To find out how you can be engaged more with EQUIP, contact us with your ideas:

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