



Webinar
On
**Flexible Learning Pathways: Challenges and Opportunities for
Higher Education in India**

Friday 20 November 2020 | 15:30 - 17:30 hrs (IST)

**Jointly Organized
by
Centre for Policy Research in Higher Education (CPRHE)
National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi
and
International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), UNESCO, Paris**

November, 2020

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Flexible Learning Pathways: Challenges and Opportunities for Higher Education in India

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The Centre for Policy Research in Higher Education (CPRHE) of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi and the International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), UNESCO, Paris are jointly hosting a webinar on “*Flexible Learning Pathways: Challenges and Opportunities for Higher Education in India*” on November 20, 2020. The webinar will bring together national and international academics, educationists and policy makers.

Background

Higher education in India reached a stage of massification in this century. It has a current GER of 26.3% and the National Education Policy 2020 recommends to increase GER to 50% by 2035. The massive expansion and massification of the sector is primarily due to the proliferation of providers, modes of delivery and flexibility of learning pathways. Flexible learning pathways could play a major transformative role in making learning more accessible and more flexible for India’s young population. There is a huge interest that steers changes towards bringing flexibility in learning pathways in India that stems from the national policy.

The Centre for Policy Research in Higher Education (CPRHE/NIEPA) initiated and completed a research study as part of and within the framework of UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP’s) multi-country research project on Flexible Learning Pathways (FLP) in Higher Education an essential component of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 in the Education Agenda 2030. The findings of the study form an important input to the deliberations of the webinar.

This study examines flexible learning pathways in India in-depth and makes recommendations for policy makers at the national level and at the institutional level. The empirical evidence of the study was generated from a documentary and statistical analysis and interviews conducted with decision-makers at the national level and from two of the case study institutions namely IIT Delhi and Bharathiar University, Coimbatore.

In India, in addition to the brick and mortar system the Flexible Learning Pathways available are Open and Distance Learning, Choice Based Credit System, and Study Webs of Active–Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM). There are also branch transfers available across engineering disciplines and availability of part time Masters and PhD Programs. The National Education Policy 2020 is a major step in the direction of more flexibility and will introduce multiple exit options for students.

Objectives of the webinar

The major objectives of the proposed webinar are:

1. Discuss existing flexible learning pathways in higher education in India within the context of international experience
2. Share institutional experiences and discuss their applicability for other Indian HEIs
3. Provide a platform to share strategies for improving pathways for flexible learning

SPEAKERS



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