



## National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and Present Education System of India

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### Abstract

*This research paper is an attempt to study the impact of National Education Policy 2020 on Indian education system. National Education Policy 2020 which is a comprehensive approach has been prepared by eminent experts and educationists under the chairmanship of former Chairman of Indian Space Research Organization Dr. K. Kasturiranganon May 2019 and approved by cabinet of India on 29 July 2020. This policy is the first education policy of the 21st century and before this, two education policies were brought in the year 1968 and 1986. Secondary data used in this investigation. The analysis of the previous research will serve as the foundation for the conclusion. National Education Policy 2020 aims to meet the needs of the country's development by removing the shortcomings in the current education system. In this education policy, special attention has been given to encouraging creative thinking, logical decision making and innovation in students. The National Education Policy provides a structured profile that gives guidance towards educational development covering all levels from school education to college education. National Education Policy 2020 is an education system that will directly contribute to making India a global knowledge superpower by providing high quality education. This policy has given special attention to issues such as access, equity, quality and accountability. However, there are many gaps in the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 which need to be addressed in a realistic way. The reforms proposed by this policy will be implemented through the efforts of the central and state governments. Overall, this policy will ensure the all-round development of the child. In the end, NEP 2020 is a critical step in reviving the Indian education system and preparing the next generation of students for opportunities and challenges.*

**Keywords:-**NEP 2020, Education, India etc.

### Introduction

An interesting new chapter in Indian education has begun with the adoption of National Education Policy 2020. This policy aims to introduce reformist changes in Indian education. English was the foundation of the 1986 education policy. Although some changes were made to it in 1992, the English language is still the primary focus. It is currently believed that there are some shortcomings in the 1986 education policy, which



is the reason why a youngster is learning things but isn't being able to use those things to get a job. Thus, it was necessary to introduce the new National Education Policy 2020 in order to address these problems. The New National Education Policy 2020 is the first education policy of the twenty-first century that concentrates on the national development objective. Every person's creative potential should be developed, according to this policy. This policy's foundation is the idea that education should foster a person's social, moral, and emotional development in addition to their literacy, logical thinking, and cognitive skills. There are numerous issues with the Indian education system today, including content, uniformity, and access. The existing educational system is struggling with issues including high dropout rates, poor quality, and rote learning, despite advancements at the elementary school level. NEP 2020 is an all-encompassing strategy that encourages adaptability, inclusivity, and relevance in education. Therefore, the focus of the Indian education system is shifting from being on teachers to being on students, from information to being on knowledge, from marks to being on skills, from examinations to being on experiments, from learning to being on research, and from choice to being on competency. In the current context, the function and significance of education cannot be understated. When we contrast the pre- and post-independence eras, we can see the growth and progress. This is the third amendment to the education policy, and it comes from the Indian government, which is changing education in the country after 34 years. The upcoming National Education Policy 2020 will include a number of reforms that could potentially impact all parties' involved. NEP 2020 places a strong emphasis on the development of students' curiosity, cooperation, and teamwork in early childhood education. The same is the aim of the outdated educational system. The emphasis of higher education institutions is on interdisciplinary and cross-functional learning methods. The new policy calls for increasing the GDP budget's allotment to education in an attempt to level the playing field between public and private education systems and to construct the necessary infrastructure to support higher enrolment rates. It aims to increase the scope of education for kids in all age groups by expanding RTE and putting a focus on open school initiatives and distance learning plans.

Various steps will be implemented to guarantee the establishment of ideal learning settings that are stimulating and encouraging, allowing every student to achieve their full potential. All academic institutions and their staff members will possess the independence to experiment with curriculum, pedagogy, and evaluation methods while adhering to a comprehensive set of higher education qualifications that guarantee uniformity amongst programmes, institutions, online learning environments, and conventional "in-class" formats. Higher education institutions will switch to a criterion-based grading system that evaluates student performance in accordance with each program's learning objectives. They will also abandon high-stakes exams in favour of more ongoing, thorough review.



NEP 2020 is a necessary effort to help in the all -round development of our society and the entire country. However, the success of this policy will depend on its implementation. If this work is done successfully then this new education system will take India at par with the leading countries of the world.

### **School Education**

The National Education Policy 2020 aims to ensure universal access at all levels of school education from pre-primary to class 12.

#### **Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE) –**

The National Education Policy 2020 emphasizes the importance of early childhood education to ensure quality early childhood care and education for all children between 3 to 6 years by 2025. Children aged 3 to 6 year will be included in the current education system of Anganwadi/pre-school and children aged 5 to 6 years will be included in school education system with play way method and curriculum designed by NCERT. The National Curriculum Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education for children up to 8 years of age will be developed by NCERT.

#### **New Curriculum and Academic Structure–**

10+2 structure of school curriculum to be replaced by 5+3+3+4 curriculum structure, with corresponds to the age of 3-8, 8-11, 11-14 and 14 to 18 years. The new education system will consist of 12 years of schooling including 3 years of pre-schooling. The new education system will cover four stages.

**Foundation Stage** :-The foundation stage is divided into two parts, 3 years in Anganwadi/Preschool and 2 years in primary school, classes 1 and 2. This phase will focus on teaching and developing language skills through play-based or activity based methods.

**Preparatory Stage** :-Grade 3 to 5 will include children aged 8 to 12 years. In this stage the focus will be on language development and numerical skills. The teaching and learning methodology will be play and activity-based with classroom interaction and discovery.

**Middle Stage** :-Grade 6 to 8 will include children aged 11 to 14 years. In this phase focus will be on learning objectives.

**Secondary Stage** :-Grade 9 to 12 will include children aged 14 to 18. In this stage the concepts will be covered in more depth.

#### **Features of NEP 2020 at School Education.**

- Ensuring universal access at all levels of school education from pre-primary school to class 12.
- No strict separation between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams.
- Establishment of National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy.
- Establishment of a new National Assessment Centre, Parakh.



- Emphasis on equity based and inclusive education.
- Emphasis on a separate gender inclusion fund and special education sector for disadvantaged areas and groups.
- Strong and transparent processes for teacher recruitment and merit-based performance.
- Establishment of State School Standards Authority.
- Inclusion of vocational education in the school education system.
- Keeping in mind the goal of overall development of students, changes will be made in the examinations of class 10 and class 12. This may include improvements like semester or multiple choice questions etc. in the future.
- Vocational education will be included in the educational curriculum from class 6 itself and the provision of internship will also be provided in it.
- NEP-2020 emphasizes on adopting mother tongue/local or regional language as the medium of instruction till Class 5 and the policy suggests giving preference to mother tongue for instruction from Class 8 onwards.

### Features of NEP 2020 for Higher Education

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 introduces several transformative measures aimed at improving and modernizing higher education in India. Below are the key features of NEP 2020 for higher education:

#### 1. Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education

- Encourages multidisciplinary education by breaking silos between streams such as arts, science, and commerce.
- Introduces a flexible curriculum with a combination of majors and minors, fostering creativity and critical thinking.
- Promotes a liberal education model akin to global institutions.

#### 2. Multiple Entry and Exit Options

- Students can enter and exit degree programs at different stages:
- Certificate after 1 year.
- Diploma after 2 years.
- Bachelor's degree after 3 years.
- Bachelor's with Research after 4 years.
- Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) will digitally store credits, enabling flexibility in learning pathways.

#### 3. Institutional Restructuring

- Institutions to be restructured into three types:
- Research-intensive Universities.
- Teaching-intensive Universities.
- Autonomous Degree-granting Colleges.



- Aimed at creating large, multidisciplinary institutions with student strength over 3,000.

#### **4. Increased Focus on Research**

- Establishment of the National Research Foundation (NRF) to foster a strong research culture and fund research initiatives across disciplines.

#### **5. Regulatory Reform**

- Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) to act as a single overarching regulatory body, replacing multiple regulatory bodies like UGC and AICTE.
- HECI to have four independent verticals:
- National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC): Regulation.
- General Education Council (GEC): Academic standards.
- Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC): Financing.
- National Accreditation Council (NAC): Accreditation.

#### **6. Promotion of Indian Languages**

- Emphasis on teaching in regional languages and the inclusion of Indian languages in higher education institutions.
- Creation of an Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation (IITI) to promote multilingualism.

#### **7. Internationalization of Education**

- Facilitates the entry of top global universities into India and promotes Indian universities to set up campuses abroad.
- Encourages collaboration between Indian and foreign institutions for student and faculty exchange programs.

#### **8. Skill Development and Employability**

- Focus on vocational education by integrating skill development programs with academic curricula.
- Partnerships with industries for internships and practical exposure.

#### **9. Equity and Inclusion**

- Special Education Zones (SEZs) and Gender Inclusion Funds to support underprivileged and marginalized sections.
- Increased scholarships and financial support to economically disadvantaged students.

#### **10. Technology Integration**

- Emphasizes the use of technology in teaching, learning, and governance through initiatives like virtual labs, online education platforms, and AI-driven tools.
- Establishment of a National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) to enhance digital learning.

#### **11. Autonomy for Institutions**

- Institutions will be granted graded autonomy based on accreditation levels, fostering better governance and innovation.



## 12. Focus on Teacher Education

- All teacher education programs to move into multidisciplinary institutions by 2030.
- A 4-year integrated B.Ed. program to become the minimum qualification for school teachers.

## 13. Increasing Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER)

- Aims to increase the GER in higher education to 50% by 2035, from around 26% in 2018.

## 14. Phasing Out of Affiliations

Colleges to gain autonomy and degree-granting status over time, reducing the dependency on affiliating universities. NEP 2020 envisions transforming India's higher education system into a more inclusive, accessible, and globally competitive framework while maintaining its cultural and local ethos.

## Impact of National Education Policy 2020

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is expected to significantly impact India's education system, with transformative changes spanning primary to higher education. Below is a detailed analysis of its impact across various domains:

### 1. Holistic Development of Students

- ✚ The multidisciplinary approach fosters creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.
- ✚ Integration of arts, sciences, and vocational training ensures that students develop well-rounded competencies.
- ✚ Focus on ethics and life skills promotes socially responsible citizens.

### 2. Increased Accessibility and Equity

- ✚ Special Education Zones (SEZs) and scholarships make education accessible to marginalized communities.
- ✚ Emphasis on regional languages bridges the gap for students from rural and non-English-speaking backgrounds.
- ✚ The Gender Inclusion Fund supports girls' education, improving gender parity.

### 3. Boost to Higher Education

- ✚ The establishment of a flexible academic structure with multiple entry and exit options enhances lifelong learning.
- ✚ The Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) provides flexibility, allowing students to transfer credits across institutions.
- ✚ Encourages research and innovation through the National Research Foundation (NRF), enhancing India's global academic standing.

### 4. Improved Quality of Education

- ✚ Overhaul of regulatory bodies (e.g., creation of HECI) ensures consistent academic standards.



- ✚ National Accreditation Council (NAC) incentivizes institutions to maintain high-quality education.
- ✚ Teacher training reforms, such as mandatory 4-year B.Ed. programs, elevate teaching quality.

#### 5. Enhanced Skill Development

- ✚ Integration of vocational education into mainstream curricula prepares students for the workforce.
- ✚ Partnerships with industries for internships and practical training improve employability.
- ✚ Technology-based learning ensures that students acquire digital and AI-related skills.

#### 6. Internationalization of Education

- ✚ Opening India's education sector to foreign universities attracts global talent and resources.
- ✚ Promotes Indian institutions to establish campuses abroad, increasing India's influence on global education.
- ✚ Strengthens academic collaborations, fostering cross-cultural learning and research.

#### 7. Strengthening Research Ecosystem

- ✚ Creation of the National Research Foundation addresses funding and infrastructure gaps in research.
- ✚ Encourages interdisciplinary research across fields, making India a hub for innovation.
- ✚ Promotes collaboration between academia, industry, and government to address societal challenges.

#### 8. Focus on Digital Learning

- ✚ Adoption of digital tools like virtual labs and online learning platforms democratizes access to education.
- ✚ Establishment of the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) modernizes learning methodologies.
- ✚ Online education initiatives reduce the urban-rural digital divide.

#### 9. Improved Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER)

- ✚ Aims to raise the GER to 50% by 2035, enabling more students to access higher education.
- ✚ Multiple entry/exit options and vocational education attract a diverse group of learners.
- ✚ Inclusion of open and distance learning expands opportunities for working professionals.

#### 10. Cultural Preservation and Multilingualism

- ✚ Focus on regional languages in primary and higher education preserves India's linguistic heritage.

- ✚ Encourages the study of classical and modern Indian languages, ensuring cultural continuity.
- ✚ Establishment of translation and interpretation centers (e.g., IITI) promotes multilingual education.

### **11. Economic Growth and Employability**

- ✚ Graduates with multidisciplinary education and practical skills are better suited for dynamic job markets.
- ✚ Vocational and entrepreneurial training creates job creators instead of job seekers.
- ✚ An educated workforce drives innovation and economic development, positioning India as a global leader.

### **12. Autonomy and Accountability of Institutions**

- ✚ Graded autonomy based on accreditation promotes innovation and self-governance.
- ✚ Phasing out of affiliations empowers colleges to design programs suited to their strengths.
- ✚ Improved governance through HECI ensures transparency and reduces bureaucratic delays.

### **13. Inclusive Teacher Development**

- ✚ Better training for teachers ensures effective delivery of reformed curricula.
- ✚ A focus on continuous professional development keeps educators updated on global best practices.
- ✚ Enhances teacher motivation and status, resulting in improved learning outcomes.

### **Conclusion**

Implementation of multilingual education in a diverse country. Bridging the urban-rural digital divide for equitable access. Managing the transition for existing institutions and programs. Elevates India's position in global education rankings. Builds a skilled and employable workforce for a knowledge-based economy. Preserves India's cultural diversity while promoting global competencies. The NEP 2020 has the potential to transform India's education landscape by promoting inclusivity, quality, and innovation. However, effective implementation and collaboration among stakeholders are crucial to realize its full impact.

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