

New Education Policy in India

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Abstract:

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Introduction:

Vision. The vision of the National Education Policy is: National Education Policy 2020 envisions an India-centric education system that contributes directly to transforming our nation sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society by providing high-quality education to all.

The aim of the new policy is the universalization of education from pre-school to secondary level with 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030. - Through the open schooling system, the NEP 2020 will bring 2 crores out of school children back into the mainstream Vision. The vision of the National Education Policy is: National Education Policy 2020 envisions an India-centric education system that contributes directly to transforming our nation sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society by providing high-quality education to all.

New Education Policy in India:

The major aim of introducing and implementing the NEP is to enhance the quality of education equally for all and moving in the direction of strengthening India as a global superpower.

The NEP was drafted by a panel led by the former head of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Kasturirangan and presented to Union Minister for Human Resources Development Ramesh Pokhriyal when he took office in 2019.

1. Single Regulations For All Levels Of School Education:

NEP focuses on providing universal access to education at all level from pre-school to higher education. This will include:

- Tracking the students and their learning levels.

- Bringing back the dropouts to the mainstream through innovative education centers.
- Infrastructure support.
- Introducing counselors and trained social workers to schools
- Facilitate multiple learning paths that involve formal and non-formal education modes.
- Grade 3, 5 and 8 will be provided open learning and open public schools through NIOS.
- Equivalent secondary education programs in grades 10 and 12
- Introduction of vocational courses in the school curriculum.

The above aims will be accomplished with the help of adult-literacy and life-enrichment programs.

2. **New Curriculum For Early Childhood Care And Education:**

NEP will be replacing the 10+2 curriculum structure with a 5+3+3+4 structure. The new system has proposed 12 years of school education with 3 years of pre-schooling/Anganwadi. 3-6 years of age is globally recognized as the crucial age for the mental development of the child. Keeping this in mind the new curriculum structure has been formulated which will be corresponding to 3-8, 8-11, 11-14 and 14-18 years of age, respectively. The key points are:

- National Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education (NCPFECCE) will be created by NCERT for children up to 8 years old.
- Strengthened educational systems like Anganwadis and Kindergartens will focus on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE).
- Anganwadi workers and kindergarten teachers will be trained in ECCE pedagogy and programs.
- Ministries of Human Resource Development, Health and Family Welfare (HFW), Women and Child Development (WCD) and Tribal Affairs will collectively administer the ECCE.

3. **Pivot On Base Literacy:**

According to the NEP, MHRD will set up a National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy. By 2025, States will prepare and implement a program to attain foundational literacy and numeracy for students till class 3 in all primary schools. Another step proposed in this direction is the formulation of a National Book Promotion Policy.

4. **Changes In School Curriculum and Pedagogy:**

The School curriculum and pedagogy will be reformed, keeping in mind the overall development of students. The new curriculum will include equipping the students with

- 21st Century key skills.
- Enhance essential learning, practical and critical thinking and experiential thinking.
- Reduction in previous curriculum content.
- More flexibility in choosing the subjects.
- No distinguishing between science, commerce and maths.
- Co-curricular activities and vocational activities and academic streams will be regarded as the same.
- Vocational education will include internships and will be imparted from class 6th onwards.
- NCFSE 2020-21 (National Curricular Framework For School Education) will be created by NCERT.

5. **Promoting Regional/Local Language:**

NEP proposes promotion of regional languages by making it the medium of instruction till 5th or 8th class. Sanskrit will be an optional third language subject at all levels of the school. Other than

Sanskrit, other languages will also be available as optional subjects. Secondary level education will include teaching of other foreign languages as well. ISL (Indian Sign Language) will be made standard across the country and teaching material for students with hearing impairments will be developed for national and state schools.

6. Assessment Reforms:

The NEP proposes regular and formative assessments, replacing the summative assessment. The new assessment system is more competency-based. This will enhance the student's development and learning skills. The main aim is to increase the analytical, critical and conceptual thinking of the student. All students will take 3rd, 5th and 8th-year exams which will be taken by the competent authority. 10th and 12th classes will still appear for the board exams but the pattern will be restructured aiming at the integrated development of the child. A new National Assessment Center, PARAKH (Performance, Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) will be established as a standard-setting body.

7. Equitable and Inclusive Education:

The education policy will focus on promoting equality among all. Special attention will be given to the SEDG (Socially and Economically Disadvantaged) group. SEDG includes gender, geographical, cultural and social disabilities. This norm of the policy will work on

- Gender Inclusion Fund
- Disadvantaged regions will have special education zones.
- Disabled students will be allowed for regular schooling with the help of teachers specialized for disabled students.
- Training, accommodations, appropriate technology, etc will be provided to disabled students taking up regular schooling.
- States/districts are advised to set up day-boarding schools – “Bal Bhavans” for participation in extra activities that will be career and play related.

8. Changes in The Process Of Teacher's Recruitment:

Teachers will now be recruited with more transparent processes and promotions will be merit-based. The Common National Professional Standards (NPST) will be created by NCTE by 2022, in deliberation with NCERT, teachers and expert organizations and SCERT at all levels and regions.

9. Standard Setting And Accreditation Program:

The new education policy, 2020 provides clear and distinct systems for university policy, regulation, operations and formulation. States/UTs will create an Independent Public School Standards Authority (SSSA). A new body called the School Quality Assessment and Accreditation Framework (SQAAF) will be created by SCERT for public accountability and oversight. This will promote transparent public self-disclosure.

Changes introduced in higher education

1. 50% Increase In GER:

The NEP aims at increasing the current GER (Gross Enrolment Ratio) from 26.3% to 50 by 2035. According to the NEP it is being speculated that 3.5 crore new seats will be added for higher education.

2. Overall Multidisciplinary Education:

The policy provides for a holistic, multidisciplinary and broad-based undergraduate education with flexible study plans, more options in choosing the subjects, including and focusing more on vocational education and more flexibility to enter and exit the course with authorized certification. Undergraduates will now have the option to choose the number of years as per their requirement ranging from 1-4 years with appropriate certification. For example, certificate after 1 year, advanced diploma after 2 years, license after 3 years and research license after 4 years.

3. Regulations:

The Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will be established as a single and comprehensive coordinating body for all higher education, except for medical and legal education. HECI will have four independent verticals:

- The National Council for the Regulation of Higher Education (NHERC) for regulation.
- The General Council of Education (GEC) for standardization.
- The Council for Higher Education Grants (HEGC) for funding.
- The National Accreditation Council (NAC) for accreditation.

HECI will operate through faceless intervention through technology and will have the power to penalize higher education institutions that do not conform to norms and standards.

4. Institutional Architecture:

Defining a university will allow for the creation of a variety of institutions ranging from research-intensive universities to education-intensive universities and independent degree-granting colleges. University membership should be phased out in 15 years and a progressive mechanism should be put in place to grant progressive autonomy to universities. Over time, each university is expected to become an independent degree-granting university or a college that constitutes a university.

5. Teacher Training:

NCTE will formulate a new comprehensive national educational framework for teacher training, NCFTE 2021, in consultation with NCERT. As per the policy of the new education system, by 2030, a teacher will require a minimum of B.Ed degree of 4 years for teaching in any institution. Continued action will be taken against lower quality Autonomous Teacher Training Institutions (TEIs).

6. Open and Distance Learning:

Open and distance learning will have a vital role in increasing the GER. Measures will be taken such as online courses and digital repositories, research funding, improvement of student services, recognition of MOOCs on the basis of credits, etc. to ensure that it is keeping up with the standards of imparting the highest quality of classroom programs.

7. Online education and digital education:

A comprehensive set of recommendations is provided in NEP, for the promotion of online education in the wake of the recent outbreak of pandemics to ensure the availability of quality alternative education modes anytime and anywhere.

MHRD will create a special unit focusing only on the building of digital content and infrastructure to ensure the futuristic goal of e-education is met for higher education and schools.

8. Vocational Education:

All types of occupational education and training will be a fundamental part of the higher education

system, to strengthen the base of the students for different professions. An internship of 10 days in a year will also be provided to the students in local vocations according to the area or region. Autonomous technical universities, universities of health sciences, legal and agricultural universities, etc. they aim to become multidisciplinary institutions.

9. **Financial Education:**

The NEP aims at increasing the current GDP to 6% higher at the earliest. AND for this both the state and center government will work together and promote the increase of public investment in the education sector.

These were all the changes in detail that were proposed and introduced in the New Education Policy 2020.

Implementation:

In early August 2021, Karnataka became the first state to issue an order with regard to implementing NEP.^[70]

On 26 th August 2021, Madhya Pradesh implemented NEP 2020.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the National Education Policy-2020 will be implemented in phases by 2022.^[71]

The Telangana State government has decided to implement the newly announced National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) in the State.^[72]

Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray directs to appoint experts' committee for implementation of new education policy.^[73]

Andhra Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has directed officials of the Education Department to implement the National Education Policy 2020 in letter and spirit across the State.^[74]

Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra said that NEP 2020 will be implemented in phased manner.^[75]

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that NEP 2020 will be implemented from 1 April 2022.^[76]

Conclusion:

Built on the foundational pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability, this policy is aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and aims to transform India into a vibrant knowledge society and global knowledge superpower by making both school and college education more holistic.

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