



National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

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This article is based on “**A long road: On National Education Policy 2020**” which was published in The Hindu on 31/07/2020. It talks about the significance of National Education policy 2020.

Recently, the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** was announced by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (soon to be called the Ministry of Education). The policy is aimed at transforming the Indian education system to meet the needs of the 21st Century.

The new policy seeks rectification of poor literacy and numeracy outcomes associated with primary schools, reduction in dropout levels in middle and secondary schools and adoption of the multi-disciplinary approach in the higher education system.

Apart from this, the policy also focuses on early childhood care, restructuring curriculum and pedagogy; reforming assessments and exams, and investing in teacher training and broad-basing their appraisal.

Though the NEP 2020 seeks to bring a holistic change in the education system of India, its success depends on the will and way in which it will be implemented.

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES IS NOW **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

FOR SCHOOLS

From 10+2 to 5+3+3+4: Current 10+2 structure in which policy covered schooling from Class 1 to 10 (age 6-16) and then Class 11-12 (age 16-18) gives way to 5 years of foundational education, 3 of preparatory, 3 of middle & 4 years of secondary schooling



Multi-Stream: Flexibility to choose subjects across streams; all subjects to be offered at two levels of proficiency

Diluted Board: Board exams to test only core competencies; could become modular (object and subjective) and will be offered twice a year

Multilingual: 3-language policy to continue with preference for local language medium of instruction till class 8



Bag-Less Days: School students to have 10 bag-less days in a year during which they are exposed to a vocation of choice (i.e. informal internship)



FOR COLLEGES

SAT-Like College Test: National Testing Agency to conduct common college entrance exam twice a year



4-Year Bachelor: 4-year multi-disciplinary bachelor's programme to be preferred; mid-term dropouts to be given credit with option to complete degree after a break



No Affiliation: Over next 15 years colleges will be given graded autonomy to give degrees, affiliation with universities to end, so would deemed university status

Fee Cap: Proposal to cap fee charged by private institutions of higher learning



Going Global: Top-rated global universities to be facilitated to come to India, top Indian institutions to be encouraged to go global

Significance of National Education Policy 2020

- **Recognising Importance of Formative years:** In adopting a **5+3+3+4 model for school education starting at age 3**, the policy recognises the primacy of the formative years from ages 3 to 8 in shaping the child's future.
- **Departure from Silos Mentality:** Another key aspect of school education in the new policy is the breaking of the strict division of arts, commerce and science streams in high school.

This can lay the foundation for a multi-disciplinary approach in high education.

- **The Confluence of Education and Skills:** Another laudable aspect of the scheme is the introduction of vocational courses with an internship. This may nudge the vulnerable sections of society to send their children to school.

Also, it would help in realisation of the goal of **Skill India Mission**.

- **Making Education More Inclusive:** The NEP proposes the extension of the Right to Education (RTE) to all children up to the age of 18.

Further, the policy seeks to leverage the huge potential of online pedagogy and learning methodologies for increasing gross enrolment in higher education.

- **Light But Tight Oversight:** According to the policy, in spite of periodic inspection, transparency, maintaining quality standards and a favourable public perception will become a 24X7 pursuit for the institutions, leading to all-round improvement in their standard.

The policy also seeks to establish a super-regulator for education which will be responsible for standards-setting, funding, accreditation and regulation of higher education India.

- **Allowing Foreign Universities:** The document states universities from among the top 100 in the world will be able to set up campuses in India.
This will lead to an infusion of international perspective and innovation, which will make the Indian education system more efficient and competitive.
- **Ending Hindi vs English Debate:** Most crucially, NEP, once and for all, buries the strident Hindi versus English language debate; instead, it emphasises on making mother tongue, local language or the regional language the medium of instruction at least till Grade 5, which is considered the best medium of teaching.

Issues Related to NEP 2020

- **Knowledge-Jobs Mismatch:** There is a persistent mismatch between the knowledge & skills imparted and the jobs available. This has been one of the main challenges that have affected the Indian education system since Independence.
NEP 2020 failed to check this, as it is silent on education related to emerging technological fields like artificial intelligence, cyberspace, nanotech, etc.
- **The Requirement of Enormous Resources.** An ambitious target of public spending at 6% of GDP has been set. Mobilising financial resources will be a big challenge, given the low tax-to-GDP ratio and competing claims on the national exchequer of healthcare, national security and other key sectors.

Way Forward

- **Need For Cooperative Federalism:** Since education is a concurrent subject (both the Centre and the state governments can make laws on it), the reforms proposed can only be implemented collaboratively by the Centre and the states.
Thus, the Centre has the giant task of building a consensus on the many ambitious plans.
- **Strive Towards Universalisation of Education:** There is a need for the creation of 'inclusion funds' to help socially and educationally disadvantaged children pursue education.
Also, there is a need to set up a regulatory process that can check profiteering from education in the form of unaccounted donations.
- **Bridging Digital Divide:** If technology is a force-multiplier, with unequal access it can also expand the gap between the haves and have nots.
Thus, the state needs to address the striking disparities in access to digital tools for universalization of education.
- **Interministerial Coordination:** There is an emphasis on vocational training, but to make it effective, there has to be close coordination between the education, skills and labour ministry.

Conclusion

The new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, is a good policy as it aims at making the education system holistic, flexible, multidisciplinary, aligned to the needs of the 21st century and the **2030 Sustainable Development Goals**. The intent of policy seems to be ideal in many ways but it is the implementation where lies the key to success.

Drishti Mains Question

Discuss the salient features of National Education policy 2020 and how can it bring holistic changes in the Indian education system?



Watch Video At:

<https://youtu.be/oD-Kn4Z9CYM>

This editorial is based on **“Why the anti-defection law has failed to deliver”** which was published in The Hindustan Times on July 30th, 2020. Now watch this on our Youtube channel.