

INNOVATIVE EDUCATION AND NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY (NEP) 2020

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Abstract

The current education policy is third in sequence and replaces the NEP 1986. The NEP 2020 provides a concrete path to education in the country. Under NEP 2020, the top universities across the world will be able to start their campuses in the country. Under the NEP 2020, there is an extensive focus on reshaping the curriculum. The board examinations will be reformed and there is much emphasis on the development of critical thinking among the students and offering experiential learning to them. The most important thing is that there will be an emphasis on teaching students all the subjects in their native language. The NEP 2020 addresses the need to create professionals in fields ranging from agriculture to artificial intelligence. India should be prepared for what's to come. The essence of this policy is the introduction of the multi-disciplinary, inter-disciplinary, and trans-disciplinary approaches to humanize the education with an emphasis on humanities related subjects. Now, even a student taking a professional degree can learn some subjects of humanities, this freedom was not available in earlier policies. Besides, this policy has got an emphasis on vocational skills to meet the growing employment needs as also the focus on employability through skilling. The present policy is considering the training of teachers as an important ingredient. The flexibility is offered in the present policy, in education which would take care of high dropout levels through transferable credit banks. The emphasis is given to the mother tongue/ local language at the primary level, would surely minimize the dropouts level and improvise the learning capacities of students at primary level. The most important part of this new policy is the focus on developing better citizens for the country. Furthermore, the NEP 2020 makes ready ahead for some youthful, hopeful understudies to be furnished with the privilege skill set. Its appropriate execution will be the way into its prosperity. It will be carried out till grade V. It is expected to revolutionize the education scenario in the coming future and this will certainly push India's claim towards becoming a superpower in the future.

Keywords: NEP, Innovative Education, Sdg, Accountability



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DISCUSSION : The National Education Policy 2020 is the first education policy of the 21st century and aims to address the many growing developmental imperatives of our country. This Policy proposes the revision and revamping of all aspects of the education structure, including its regulation and governance, to create a new system that is aligned with the aspiration goals of 21st century education, including SDG4, while building upon India's traditions and value systems. The National Education Policy lays particular emphasis on the development of the creative potential of each individual. It is based on the principle that

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education must develop not only cognitive capacities - both the 'foundational capacities' of literacy and numeracy and 'higher-order' cognitive capacities, such as critical thinking and problem solving – but also social, ethical, and emotional capacities and dispositions.

The world is undergoing rapid changes in the knowledge landscape. With various dramatic scientific and technological advances, such as the rise of big data, machine learning, and artificial intelligence, many unskilled jobs worldwide may be taken over by machines, while the need for a skilled workforce, particularly involving mathematics, computer science, and data science, in conjunction with multidisciplinary abilities across the sciences, social sciences, and humanities, are increasingly in greater demand. With climate change, increasing pollution, and depleting natural resources, there is a sizeable shift in how we meet the world's energy, water, food, and sanitation needs, again resulting in the need for new skilled labour, particularly in biology, chemistry, physics, agriculture, climate science, and social science. The growing emergence of epidemics and pandemics will also call for collaborative research in infectious disease management and development of vaccines and the resultant social issues heightens the need for multidisciplinary learning. There is a growing demand for humanities and art, as India moves towards becoming a developed country as well as among the three largest economies in the world.

Education is fundamental for achieving full human potential, developing an equitable and just society, and promoting national development. Providing universal access to quality education is the key to India's continued ascent, and leadership on the global stage in terms of economic growth, social justice and equality, scientific advancement, national integration, and cultural preservation. Universal high-quality education is the best way forward for developing and maximizing our country's rich talents and resources for the good of the individual, the society, the country, and the world. India will have the highest population of young people in the world over the next decade, and our ability to provide high-quality educational opportunities to them will determine the future of our country. The global education development agenda reflected in the Goal 4 (SDG4) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by India in 2015 - seeks to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" by 2030. Such a lofty goal will require the entire education system to be reconfigured to support and foster learning, so that all of the critical targets and goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can be achieved.

The rich heritage of ancient and eternal Indian knowledge and thought has been a guiding light for this Policy. The pursuit of knowledge (*Jnan*), wisdom (*Pragyaa*), and truth (*Satya*) was always considered in Indian thought and philosophy as the highest human goal. The aim of education in ancient India was not just the acquisition of knowledge as preparation for life in this world, or life beyond schooling, but for the complete realization and liberation of the self. World-class institutions of ancient India such as Takshashila, Nalanda, Vikramshila, Vallabhi, set the highest standards of multidisciplinary teaching and research and hosted scholars and students from across backgrounds and countries. The Indian education system produced great scholars such as Charaka, Susruta, Aryabhata, Varahamihira, Bhaskaracharya, Brahmagupta, Chanakya, Chakrapani Datta, Madhava, Panini, Patanjali, Nagarjuna, Gautama, Pingala, Sankardev, Maitreyi, Gargi and Thiruvalluvar, among numerous others, who made seminal contributions to world knowledge in diverse fields such as mathematics, astronomy, metallurgy, medical science and surgery, civil engineering, architecture, shipbuilding and navigation, yoga, fine arts, chess, and more. Indian culture and philosophy have had a strong influence on the world. These rich legacies to world heritage must not only be nurtured and preserved for posterity but also researched, enhanced, and put to new uses through our education system.

The teacher must be at the centre of the fundamental reforms in the education system. The new education policy must help re-establish teachers, at all levels, as the most respected and essential members of our society, because they truly shape our next generation of citizens. It must do everything to empower teachers and help them to do their job as effectively as possible. The new education policy must help recruit the very best and brightest to enter the teaching profession at all levels, by ensuring livelihood, respect, dignity, and autonomy, while also instilling in the system basic methods of quality control and accountability.

The new education policy must provide to all students, irrespective of their place of residence, a quality education system, with particular focus on historically marginalized, disadvantaged, and underrepresented groups. Education is a great leveler and is the best tool for achieving economic and social mobility, inclusion, and equality. Initiatives must be in place to ensure that all students from such groups, despite inherent obstacles, are provided various targeted opportunities to enter and excel in the educational system.

The implementation of previous policies on education has focused largely on issues of access and equity. The unfinished agenda of the National Policy on Education 1986, modified in 1992 (NPE 1986/92), is appropriately dealt with in this Policy. A major development since

the last Policy of 1986/92 has been the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 which laid down legal underpinnings for achieving universal elementary education. The fundamental principles that will guide both the education system at large, as well as the individual institutions within it are:

- **Recognizing, identifying, and fostering the unique capabilities of each student**, by sensitizing teachers as well as parents to promote each student's holistic development in both academic and non-academic spheres;
- **According the highest priority to achieving Foundational Literacy and Numeracy** by all students by Grade 3;
- **Flexibility**, so that learners have the ability to choose their learning trajectories and programmes, and thereby choose their own paths in life according to their talents and interests;
- **No hard separations** between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams, etc. in order to eliminate harmful hierarchies among, and silos between different areas of learning;
- Multi disciplinary and a **holistic education** across the sciences, social sciences, arts, humanities, and sports for a multidisciplinary world in order to ensure the unity and integrity of all knowledge;
- **Emphasis on conceptual understanding** rather than rote learning and learning-for-exams;
- **Creativity and critical thinking** to encourage logical decision-making and innovation;
- **Ethics and human & Constitutional values** like empathy, respect for others, cleanliness, courtesy, democratic spirit, spirit of service, respect for public property, scientific temper, liberty, responsibility, pluralism, equality, and justice;
- **Promoting multilingualism and the power of language** in teaching and learning;
- **Life skills** such as communication, cooperation, teamwork, and resilience;
- **Focus on regular formative assessment for learning** rather than the summative assessment that encourages today's 'coaching culture';
- **Extensive use of technology** in teaching and learning, removing language barriers, increasing access for *Divyang* students, and educational planning and management;
- **Respect for diversity and respect for the local context** in all curriculum, pedagogy, and policy, always keeping in mind that education is a concurrent subject;
- **Full equity and inclusion** as the cornerstone of all educational decisions to ensure that all students are able to thrive in the education system;

- **Synergy in curriculum across all levels of education** from early childhood care and education to school education to higher education;
- **Teachers and faculty as the heart of the learning process** – their recruitment, continuous professional development, positive working environments and service conditions;
- A **'light but tight' regulatory framework** to ensure **integrity, transparency, and resource efficiency** of the educational system through audit and public disclosure while encouraging innovation and out-of-the-box ideas through **autonomy, good governance, and empowerment**;
- **Outstanding research** as a corequisite for outstanding education and development;
- continuous review of progress based on sustained research and regular assessment by educational experts;
- **Education is a public service**; access to quality education must be considered a basic right of every child;
- **Substantial investment in a strong, vibrant public education system** as well as the encouragement and facilitation of true philanthropic private and community participation.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

This policy envisages that the extant 10+2 structure in school education will be modified with a new pedagogical and curricular restructuring of 5+3+3+4 covering ages 3-18 as shown in the representative figure and elaborated in detail later under Chapter 4.

Currently, children in the age group of 3-6 are not covered in the 10+2 structure as Class 1 begins at age 6. In the new 5+3+3+4 structure, a strong base of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) from age 3 is also included, which is aimed at promoting better overall learning, development, and well-being.

A National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education (NCPFECCE) for children up to the age of 8 will be developed by NCERT in two parts, namely, a sub-framework for 0-3 year-olds, and a sub-framework for 3-8 year-olds, aligned with the above guidelines, the latest research on ECCE, and national and international best practices. In particular, the numerous rich local traditions of India developed over millennia in ECCE involving art, stories, poetry, games, songs, and more, will also be suitably incorporated. The framework will serve as a guide both for parents and for early childhood care and education institutions.

The overarching goal will be to ensure universal access to high-quality ECCE (Early Childhood Care and Education) across the country in a phased manner. Special attention and

priority will be given to districts and locations that are particularly socio-economically disadvantaged. ECCE (Early Childhood Care and Education) shall be delivered through a significantly expanded and strengthened system of early-childhood education institutions consisting of (a) stand-alone Anganwadis; (b) Anganwadis co-located with primary schools; (c) pre-primary schools/sections covering at least age 5 to 6 years co-located with existing primary schools; and (d) stand-alone pre-schools - all of which would recruit workers/teachers specially trained in the curriculum and pedagogy of Early Childhood Care and Education.

For universal access to Early Childhood Care and Education, Anganwadi Centres will be strengthened with high-quality infrastructure, play equipment, and well-trained Anganwadi workers/teachers. Every Anganwadi will have a well-ventilated, well-designed, child-friendly and well-constructed building with an enriched learning environment. Children in Anganwadi Centres shall take activity-filled tours - and meet the teachers and students of their local primary schools, in order to make the transition from Anganwadi Centres to primary schools a smooth one. Anganwadis shall be fully integrated into school complexes/clusters, and Anganwadi children, parents, and teachers will be invited to attend and participate in school/school complex programmes and vice versa.

It is envisaged that prior to the age of 5 every child will move to a “Preparatory Class” or “Balavatika” (that is, before Class 1), which has an ECCE-qualified teacher. The learning in the Preparatory Class shall be based primarily on play-based learning with a focus on developing cognitive, affective, and psychomotor abilities and early literacy and numeracy.

The responsibility for Early Childhood Care and Education curriculum and pedagogy will lie with MHRD to ensure its continuity from pre-primary school through primary school, and to ensure due attention to the foundational aspects of education. The planning and implementation of early childhood care and education curriculum will be carried out jointly by the Ministries of HRD, Women and Child Development (WCD), Health and Family Welfare (HFW), and Tribal Affairs. A special joint task force will be constituted for continuous guidance of the smooth integration of early childhood care and education into school education.

On the curricular side, there will be an increased focus on foundational literacy and numeracy - and generally, on reading, writing, speaking, counting, arithmetic, and mathematical thinking - throughout the preparatory and middle school curriculum, with a robust system of continuous formative/adaptive assessment to track and thereby individualize and ensure each

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student's learning. Specific hours daily - and regular events over the year-on activities involving these subjects will be dedicated to encourage and enthuse students. Teacher education and the early grade curriculum will be redesigned to have a renewed emphasis on foundational literacy and numeracy.

A national repository of high-quality resources on foundational literacy and numeracy is made available on the Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA). Technological interventions to serve as aids to teachers and to help bridge any language barriers that may exist between teachers and students, is being piloted and implemented.

Conclusion : The Foundational Stage of education, consists of five years of flexible, multilevel, play/activity-based learning and the curriculum and pedagogy of Early Childhood Care and Education, as mentioned in para 1.2. The Preparatory Stage will comprise three years of education building on the play, discovery, and activity-based pedagogical and curricular style of the Foundational Stage, and will also begin to incorporate some light text books as well as aspects of more formal but interactive classroom learning, in order to lay a solid groundwork across subjects, including reading, writing, speaking, physical education, art, languages, science, and mathematics. The Middle Stage will comprise three years of education, building on the pedagogical and curricular style of the Preparatory Stage, but with the introduction of subject teachers for learning and discussion of the more abstract concepts in each subject that students will be ready for at this stage across the sciences, mathematics, arts, social sciences, and humanities. Experiential learning within each subject, and explorations of relations among different subjects, is being encouraged and emphasized despite the introduction of more specialized subjects and subject teachers. The key overall thrust of curriculum and pedagogy reform across all stages are moving the education system towards real understanding and towards learning how to learn - and away from the culture of rote learning as is largely present today. The aim of education is not only be cognitive development, but also building character and creating holistic and well-rounded individuals equipped with the key 21st century skills. Ultimately, knowledge is a deep-seated treasure and education helps in its manifestation as the perfection which is already within an individual. All aspects of curriculum and pedagogy are being reoriented and revamped to attain these critical goals. Specific sets of skills and values across domains has been identified for integration and incorporation at each stage of learning, from pre-school to higher education. Curriculum frameworks and transaction mechanisms has been developed for ensuring that these skills and values are imbibed through engaging processes of teaching and

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learning. NCERT will identify these required skill sets and include mechanisms for their transaction in the National Curriculum Framework for early childhood and school education. The NEP 2020 offers an elaborative framework so that there can be development in the educational system of a country. Generally, it takes decades to replace the policy.

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