



NEP 2020 – ‘A Road Map to Atmanirbhar Bharat’

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Introduction

"Change is a constant thing". Yes! As humans, we enjoy 'change' to unwind from routine jobs. When we hear the word policy, we want to know what year it is or what the new policy is about. After 34 years, education policy was updated, and we are hearing about and understanding the impact of NEP 2020. The draft was completed on May 31, 2022, for accreditation and assessment in the Higher Education Sector in India. This means that it took two years after the new policy was declared to establish and codify rules. Before the NEP 2020 strategy was drafted, COVID-19 had already changed the mode of education from offline to virtual and hybrid formats. The world has already accepted the transformation, which affects not only schooling but many other sectors of life. By maintaining a safe distance and communicating remotely, we were able to overcome the hurdles and achieve our intended purpose.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 led to a massive transformation in education through "an education system rooted in Indian ethos that contributes directly to transforming India, that is Bharat, sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society, by providing high-quality education to all, thereby making India a global knowledge superpower."

The NEP 2020 is based on five guiding pillars:

- access,
- equity,
- quality,
- affordability,
- and accountability.

NEP will help prepare the youth to face the various national and global issues of today and the future. In school education, the National Education Policy 2020 emphasizes the core values as well as the principle that education must develop not only cognitive skills, that is, both 'foundational skills' of literacy and numeracy and 'higher-order' skills such as critical thinking and problem-solving, but also social and emotional skills, also referred to as soft skills'. This also includes the skills of understanding, feelings, perseverance, grit, teamwork, leadership, and communication. The Policy targets and aspires to generalize pre-primary education, with a particular emphasis on achieving basic literacy/numeracy in elementary school as well as after by 2025.

It recommends a slew of changes at all levels of school education aimed at ensuring school quality, transforming the curriculum, including pedagogy, with a 5+3+3+4 design for children aged 3 to 18, reforming the existing exams and evaluation system, strengthening the training of educators, and transforming the education regulatory



system. It aims to boost public investment in education, improve the use of technology, and place more emphasis on vocational and adult education, among other things. It advises that the curriculum burden in each topic be reduced to its 'core necessary' content, allowing for holistic, discussion, and analysis-based learning.

It also suggests revising and overhauling all parts of the education structure, including school regulation and governance, to establish a new system that is linked with the lofty objectives of 21st-century education while also reflecting India's tradition, culture, and value system. Technology will be incorporated into education through a variety of existing and proposed projects, including energized textbooks, high-quality e-content for teacher and learner capacity building, question databases based on outcomes for learning, and more. The strategy also acknowledges that creating primary schools in every settlement across the country has contributed to increased access to education. However, it has resulted in the formation of relatively small schools (with a small number of students), making it operationally difficult to allocate teachers and crucial physical resources. As a result, the Policy suggests that many public schools be combined to establish school complexes or any other innovative grouping system to ensure effective governance. The policy has emphasized quality education at all levels of schooling. Comprehensive education is not solely life-changing, but also mind- and character-building, which has a positive impact on citizenship. Empowered learners not only assist the country's expanding developmental imperatives, but they also help to create a society that is fair and equal.

Innovations in NEP 2020

When it comes to the Indian government's push for more research and innovation, students are shifting from package culture to patent culture. The government took several measures and endeavors to ensure the continuity of education throughout the tough times of COVID-19, providing education through online and digital mediums such as SwayamPrabha, E Pathshala, and DIKSHA. Mandarin Portal was launched to assist students with 24/7 counseling services. Board exams and competitive exams (JEE and NEET) were completed.

There are some of the major innovations in NEP as follows:

- a) Top Indian Universities will be encouraged to operate in foreign countries and vice-versa.
- b) The classroom will have the latest technology (projectors, Wi-Fi, computers, CCTV, etc.).
- c) Faculty incentives system will be made according to their research and academic performance.
- d) Persons with high-impact research contributions will be promoted fast.
- e) The API policy will clearly be defined in the Institutional development plan.
- f) Strengthening Vocational education (VE) to reach at least 50% of the student population.
- g) The employability of youths should be increased by various programs.
- h) Creation of Virtual Labs along with SWAYAM and Diksha to support MOOC education.
- i) Focus is on the building of digital infrastructure, digital content, and capacity building to keep pace with tech-generation expectations.
- j) Stress should be given to new research, publications, and patents. etc.

All interim efforts taken to make India self-sufficient will fail if a proper and instructive technique is not used to make India skilled. With this goal in mind, the Indian government has announced the National Education Policy - 2020, which aims to Indianize the previously Western-made English-dominated education system and make it fit for meeting local needs through local education (vocal for local), transforming Make in India into Make for



World to better serve humanity by the ethos of Hindu philosophy of 'Vasudheiva Kutumbakam'. The thought of altering India through its education system to bring about holistic transformation in a systematic manner is surely challenging.

Since the colonial, western-oriented educational system in India generated nothing more than ideologues, simply fine-tuning the education framework would not suffice. In truth, the demand for time stems from a clear shift in the overall situation. As a result, the NEP seeks to turn India into a self-sustaining global knowledge economy by establishing a holistic, adaptable, and interdisciplinary education system that meets the challenges of the twenty-first century. A committee was formed in 2019 to design the National Education Policy, with Dr. K. Kasturirangan serving as chairman. On July 29, 2020, the Union Government approved the NEP - 2020 for 'transformational reforms' in the schools and higher education sectors, with promises of access, equity, quality, affordability, and transparency in education by the Sustainable Development Goals - 2030. The National Education Policy (NEP), a crucial pillar of Atma Nirbhara Bharat, aims to restructure India and make it self-sufficient through a comprehensive education system. The NEP, to be sure, emphasizes the ethos of critical thinking, development of skills, problem-solving, and a multidisciplinary approach among students in their curriculum, with the purpose of vocational education to enable students to adapt to the changes that are occurring around them.

The structure

In a nutshell, the NEP's strategy emphasizes interactive and practical classrooms as a policy mandate to raise Indian education to a global standard and instill efficiency in students, allowing them to support themselves. This strategy envisions a job-oriented trans-disciplinary curriculum with a shared concentration on arts, science, management, and humanities, with the ultimate goal of making every individual self-sufficient so that the ideal of self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) can be realized. Indeed, the NEP is a precise, methodological, futuristic, and sustainable strategy that, if well implemented, will pave the road for Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

The NEP laid the groundwork for an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and helped India claim its status as a 'Vishwaguru'. NEP is developed following extensive consultations with all stakeholders, including instructors, students, academicians, parents, and students, among others. NEP is built on strong principles of equity, quality, and availability, which include vocational education beginning in grade 6, progress cards in place of report cards, a 5 3 3 4 structure, a multidisciplinary curriculum with easy entry/exit alternatives, and an educational bank of credit. The NEP can be considered the world's most significant reform.

Numeric facts

If we look at the figures it depicts, in 2021-22, the Department of School Education and Literacy received a budget allocation of ₹54873.66 crore, a ₹2,684.59 crore increase from the previous year. The Department of Higher Education's budget allocation for 2021-22 was ₹38350.65 crore, an increase of ₹5450.65 crore from the previous year's budget.

In 2019-20, 8.19 lakh students received education through IGNOU, compared to 3.98 lakh students in 2013-14. The number of research researchers in higher education in 2019-20 was 2.02 lakh, compared to 1.07 lakh in 2013-14.

India currently has approximately 958 universities and 40,500 higher education institutions. Despite the necessity for diverse higher education in the 21st century, around 35% of small-sized institutions continue to provide only a single program. 20% of colleges are unfeasible since they continue to enroll fewer than 100 students each year, contributing little to an excellent education. Only 4% of colleges may enroll more than 3,000 students each year.



due to their excellent educational facilities. The first NEP was announced in 1968, while the second was announced in 1986. The third NEP was announced in 2020, with the main goal of achieving Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Conclusion

The NEP of India 2020 will be effective because of its creative policies that contribute to improved educational quality. NEP 2020 will reduce corruption in HEIs in all aspects. The most recent national education policy has extensive procedures for controlling and ensuring educational quality. Merit-based admissions, including free cruises and scholarships, are promoted. Restructuring in the Indian education system will begin in the academic year 2021-22. NEP 2020 is designed to achieve all of its objectives by 2030. The Indian education system is transitioning from teacher- to student-centered, from examination to experimental marks, from information to knowledge, from learning to research, and from choice- to competency-centric.

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