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## Utilization of National Education Policy 2020

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### Abstract

The Government of India's New Education Policy (NEP 2020) was a welcome change and welcome news in the midst of all the negativity surrounding the world as a result of the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Many people were taken aback by the announcement of NEP 2020. Many education professionals did not see the changes proposed by NEP 2020 coming. Though education policy has had an equal impact on school and college education, this article focuses on NEP 2020 and its impact on higher education. This paper also discusses the key features of NEP and how they affect the current educational system.

### Introduction

It has scope for massive transformational reforms in school and higher education. It is the first education policy of the 21st century and will replace the 34-year-old 1986 National Policy on Education. It is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. School and college education has been made more holistic, multidisciplinary, in tune with the needs of the 21st century in India. Ensuring Universal Access to Schooling at All Levels, the National Education Policy 2020 emphasizes ensuring universal access to schooling at all levels from pre-school to secondary. Infrastructural support and innovative learning centers to mainstream out-of-school children, students, and their level of study. Facilitate multiple avenues of learning, including tracking, formal and informal learning methods, counsellors with schools or this objective will be achieved through open education, vocational courses, adult literacy, and life enrichment programs for classes 3, 5, and 8 through a combination of well-trained social workers, NIOS, and open schools in the state. About 2 crore out-of-school children are to be mainstreamed under the National Education Policy 2020.

### **Early childhood care and education with a new curriculum and educational framework**

With an emphasis on early childhood care and education, the 10 2 school

curriculum framework will now be replaced by a 5 3 3 4 curriculum framework for ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, 14-18 respectively. This will bring the 3-6 years under the school curriculum which has not been covered till now; this age group worldwide is considered very important for the development of the child's mental structure. In the new system, there will be 12 years of school with three years of Anganwadi/pre-school classes. NCERT will develop a National Curriculum and Educational Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education for children up to 8 years of age. ECCE will be delivered through extensive and robust institutions including Anganwadi and pre-schools. The ECCE curriculum will have trained teachers and Anganwadi workers. ECCE will be planned and implemented by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and Ministry of Tribal Development.

### **Achieving basic literacy and numeracy education**

Recognizing that basic literacy and numeracy are prerequisites for education, the National Education Policy 2020 has called for the establishment of a National Mission on Basic Literacy and Numeracy by the MHRD. States have prepared an implementation plan to achieve universal basic literacy and numeracy in all primary schools. A national

book promotion policy will be designed in the country.

### **Improvement of the school curriculum and teaching methods**

The school curriculum and teaching methods will aim to reduce the curriculum and focus more on experiential learning to enhance key 21st-century skills, essential learning, and clinical thinking. Students' flexibility and choice of subjects will increase. There will be no rigid division between arts and sciences, curricular and extracurricular activities, and professional and academic disciplines. Vocational education in schools will start from the 6th grade and will include internships. A new and comprehensive National School Education Syllabus -NCFSE 2020-21 will be developed by NCERT.

### **Multilingualism and Language Strength**

The policy emphasizes that mother tongue / vernacular/regional language should be the medium of instruction at least up to 5th standard and preferably 8th and beyond. Students at all levels of school and higher education will be given an option of Sanskrit along with the three-language formula. Other classical languages and literature of India will also be available as options. Students will participate in a fun project/activity on 'Languages of India' for classes 6-8 under the 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' initiative. Various foreign language options will also be offered at the secondary level. Indian Sign Language (ISL) will be standardized across the country and national and state curriculum materials will be developed for use by students with disabilities. No language will be imposed on any student.

### **Assessment Improvement**

NEP 2020 envisions a shift from summative assessment to regular and formative assessment that is more competency-based, encourages learning and development, and tests higher-level skills such as analysis, clinical thought processes and conceptual clarity. In class 3rd, 5th and 8th all students will give school examination which will be conducted through proper system. The Board of Education (Board) examinations for Classes 10 and 12 will continue but will be restructured with the objective of holistic development. A new National Assessment Center will be set up as a benchmarking body for PARAKH (Performance Appraisal, Review, and

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### **Equitable and Inclusive Education**

NEP 2020 aims to ensure that no child is deprived of the opportunity to learn and excel because of circumstances at birth or other backgrounds. Special emphasis will be given to socially and economically disadvantaged groups (SEDGs) including gender, socio-cultural and geographical identity, and disability. These include gender inclusion funds and the establishment of special education zones for disadvantaged regions and groups. Children with disabilities shall be able to participate fully in the regular school education process from the pre-primary stage to higher education with the help of training, resource centers, accommodation facilities, assistive devices, appropriate technology-based tools, and other assistive devices tailored to their needs. Every state/district will be encouraged to establish "Bal Bhavans" as a special day-time boarding school to participate in arts-related, career-related, and sports-related activities. Free school infrastructure can be used as social consciousness center.

### **Strong Teacher Recruitment and Career Paths**

The recruitment of teachers will be done through an efficient transparent process. Promotion will be based on merit including multi-source regular performance evaluations and available advancement paths to becoming an educational administrator or teacher. The National Council for Teacher Education will develop

the National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) by 2022 in consultation with NCERT, SCERT, teachers, and expert organizations at various levels and regions.

### **Standard-Setting and Accreditation for School Education**

NEP 2020 envisages a clear, independent mechanism for policy formulation, regulation, implementation, and education. States/UTs shall establish an independent State School Standards Authority (SSSA). Transparent public self-disclosure of all basic regulatory information as determined by SSSN will be used primarily for public reputation and accountability. SCERT will develop the School Quality Assessment and Accreditation Framework (SQAAP) in consultation with all stakeholders.

### **HIGHER EDUCATION**

#### **Increasing GER To 50 Percent By 2035**

NEP 2020 aims to increase the gross enrollment ratio in higher education including vocational education from 26.3 percent (2018) to 50 percent by 2035. 3.5 crore new seats will be created in higher education institutions.

#### **Multidisciplinary Education**

The policy envisages a broad-based, multi-disciplinary, comprehensive graduate education curriculum with flexible curriculum, creative combination of subjects, integration of vocational education and multiple entry and exit stages with appropriate certification. Degree studies can be of 3 or 4 years duration and can have multiple exit options and appropriate certifications. For example, Certificate after 1 year, Advanced Diploma after 2 years, Bachelor Degree after 3 years, and Bachelor with Research after 4 years. An Academic Bank of Credit will be established to digitally store academic achievements from different higher education institutions so that the information can be transferred and counted upon final graduation. Establishment of Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERU)- These IITs, and IIMs will be established as models for world-class best multidisciplinary education in the country. A National Research Foundation will be established, through this apex body, strong research culture and research capacity building in higher education will be promoted.

#### **Regulation**

The Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will be established, the only higher education body concerned with higher education except for medical and legal education. HECI will have 4 separate components- National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for regulation, General Education Council (GEC) for quality control, Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for funding and National Assessment Council (NAC) for assessment. HEIC will conduct technology-assisted intervention (faceless intervention) and HEIC will have powers to penalize higher education institutions that do not comply with rules and norms. Public and private higher education institutions will be governed by the same rules, assessments and academic standards.

#### **Rational Organizational Structure**

Higher education institutions will be transformed into large, well-resourced, vibrant multidisciplinary institutions. It will have high quality teaching, research and community engagement. The definition of a university would encompass multiple institutions that range from research-oriented universities to teaching-oriented universities and autonomous degree-granting colleges. Affiliation of colleges will be phased out over 15 years and colleges will be given graded autonomy through a tier-based system. Over time each college will develop as either an autonomous degree-granting college or a constituent college of the university.

#### **A Motivated, Enthusiastic and Competent Teacher**

NEP recommends a clearly defined, independent, transparent recruitment process for the recruitment of motivated, enthusiastic and capacity building teachers. Curriculum/teaching independence, encouragement of excellence, institutional leadership will be supported. Teachers who do not perform as per the basic norms will be held accountable.

#### **Teacher education and Guiding Campaign**

NCTE will prepare a new and comprehensive National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education, NCFTE 2021 in consultation with NCERT. By 2030, the minimum degree qualification for education is a 4-year integrated B.Ed. Degree will be. Strict action will be taken against

non-regulated educational institutions (TEIs) that compromise quality. A National Mission for Mentoring will be set up with senior/retired teachers who have excelled. It will also have teachers teaching in Indian languages-who will assist university/college teachers as short and long term mentors.

#### **Financial aid to Students and Open and Distance Education**

Efforts will be made to promote the quality of SC, ST, OBC and SEDG students. The progress of scholarship recipients will be tracked by expanding the National Scholarship Portal. Private institutions will also be encouraged to provide scholarships on a large scale. It will be expanded to play a significant role in increasing enrolment. Implementation of measures such as online courses and digital funds, funding for research, improved student services, credit-based accreditation of vast open online courses will be ensured along with high standards of quality in classrooms.

#### **Online Education and Digital Education**

At present, considering the spread of Kovid-19 across the country, alternative education methods have been widely considered while formulating the education policy. Therefore, educational preparedness will be ensured by taking into consideration the recommendations made to promote universal online education and digital education. In the current pandemic period, in-person education is not possible in the traditional way, so alternatives have been explored for quality education. Digital infrastructure for school and higher education classes, departments for creating educational materials and dedicated departments for digital education will be created in the Ministry of Human Resource Development to meet the requirements of e-learning.

#### **Technology in Education**

'National Educational Technology Forum' (NETF) i.e. 'National Educational Technology Forum' will be created as an autonomous organization and through this a platform will be provided for the exchange of ideas. Through this forum, ideas will be exchanged separately on how technology can be used for educational value addition, assessment, planning, and administration. Technology will be integrated into the education program at all levels to improve classroom learning, provide professional

training to teachers, maximize access to educational facilities for the disadvantaged, and streamline educational planning, administration and management.

#### **Spread of Indian Languages**

It will be ensured that all Indian languages are preserved, propagated and in some way revitalized. For this, as per the recommendations given by 'NEP' it was suggested to establish Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation (IITI) i.e. National Institute of Translation and Commentary and National Institute (or Institutes) for Pali, Persian and Prakrit i.e. National Institute for Pali, Persian and Prakrit. Strengthening of Sanskrit and other language departments is recommended. It is also suggested that more mother tongue or local language should be used as medium of instruction in higher education institutions. Internationalization of education can be done through institutional cooperation. It can also be done by considering the exchange of students and teachers. Therefore, the top ranked universities in the world will be allowed admission in our country.

#### **Vocational education, Adult education and Financing of Education**

Vocational education shall be a mandatory and integral part of the higher education system. Those which are Universities of Technology, Universities of Health Sciences, Universities of Law and Agriculture, will now aim to become multi-purpose institutions. The policy aims to achieve 100 percent youth and adult literacy. Central and state governments will work together to increase public investment in the education sector. The aim is that this investment should reach 6 percent of GDP as soon as possible.

#### **Conclusion**

Higher education is an important factor in determining a country's economy, social status, technological adoption, and healthy human behaviour. Improving GER to include every citizen of the country in higher education offerings is the responsibility of the country government's education department. The National Education Policy of India 2020 is working towards this goal by enacting innovative policies to improve quality, attractiveness, affordability, and supply by opening up higher education to the private sector while enforcing strict quality controls in all higher education institutions.

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