



# NEW EDUCATION POLICY: AN OVERVIEW

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**Abstract-** Education is very important, especially during uncertain times. The Indian government has created a new plan called the **National Education Policy 2020** to improve the education system and make it better. The plan focuses on creating good quality universities and colleges that offer different kinds of education. In this paper, we have studied the plan and suggested some changes to make it even better. We also looked at how universities should follow this plan and made recommendations on how to improve the education system across the country.

**Keywords-** New Education Policy, Higher Education, HEL's, NEP, Indian

## Introduction-

The universe is governed by the eternal and unchanging principle of change, which manifests differently from moment to moment. No society remains immune to the forces of change, as it is an inherent aspect of society itself. Indian society is no exception, as evidenced by the historical record of numerous social, economic, political, and other transformations that have occurred from ancient times to the present day.

There are two primary types of change: those that occur naturally and those that are brought about by human agency. Natural changes are beyond our control, but through human initiative, individuals strive to innovate and effect changes in both personal and societal spheres. If a society wishes to achieve progress and development, it must first reform its education policy. The state of education within a given country reflects the government's priorities and level of investment in this crucial area.

## Why New Education Policy-

In recent years, India has fallen behind in the global rankings of universities offering high-quality education. It was expected that the government and the education system as a whole would take concrete steps to improve this situation. In line with the country's development objectives, the Indian government decided to overhaul its education policy after a gap of 34 years. In 2017, the Central Government formed a committee under the leadership of **Dr. K.K. Kasturirangan** to draft a new education policy. This committee came up with the National Education Policy 2019.

As **Dr. K.K. Kasturirangan** states that -

*"We have tried to create a policy that will change the educational landscape in our understanding so that we can prepare the youth to face the current and future challenges. It has been a journey in which every member has taken a personal and collectively, we have tried to cover different dimensions of the broader educational landscape of our country. This policy is all based on the guiding objectives like access, capacity, quality, affordability, and accountability. From pre-primary to higher education, we have taken this field Seen in an uninterrupted continuity as well as encompassing other areas connected to the broader landscape"*

### Here are some points about the need for a New Education Policy 2020:

- 1 To address the changing educational landscape:** The world is changing rapidly, and so is the educational landscape. New technologies, teaching methods, and learning styles are emerging, and it is essential to have an education policy that is responsive to these changes.
- 2 To promote equity and access:** Despite progress in recent years, India's education system still faces challenges related to equity and access. A new education policy could help address these challenges by providing more opportunities for marginalized communities and underprivileged students.
- 3 To improve the quality of education:** India's education system has been criticized for its emphasis on rote learning and a lack of critical thinking. A new education policy could focus on improving the quality of education by promoting innovative teaching methods and encouraging student-centered learning.
- 4 To align with global standards:** In an increasingly interconnected world, it is important for India's education system to align with global standards. A new education policy could help achieve this by promoting international collaborations, creating more opportunities for study abroad, and integrating global perspectives into the curriculum.
- 5 To prepare students for the future:** The world of work is changing rapidly, and students need to be prepared for jobs that may not even exist yet. A new education policy could focus on developing skills that are relevant for the future, such as problem-solving, creativity, and adaptability.

The New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a comprehensive policy framework aimed at transforming the education sector in India. The policy was approved by the Union Cabinet on July 29, 2020, and replaces the previous National Policy on Education, which was last revised in 1992.

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** gave the opening speech at the "**Conclave on Transformational Reforms in Higher Education**" held in accordance with the **National Education Policy (NEP)**. This event was organized by the **Human Resource Development Ministry and the University Grants Commission**. The NEP, which has replaced the 34-year-old National Policy on Education, was approved by the cabinet during a meeting chaired by PM Modi. Its purpose is to enable transformational reforms in the school and higher education systems. In his opening speech he states that-

*"Till date, we've been focusing on 'What to Think' in our education policy. In the NEP, we're focusing on 'How to Think'. There is an avalanche of information in this digital era, and thus, we've tried to filter out what's not needed. How can our youth think critically and innovate unless we ensure a purpose in the education system... "National Education Policy will set the foundation for 21st century India. We've given extra impetus to this national policy for ensuring that it makes Indians more empowered and easily attractive to opportunities. We're moving to an era where an individual will not be stuck to a single profession all his life. Thus, he will continuously need to re-skill and up-skill himself.*

#### **The key features of the NEP 2020 include:**

- **School Education:** The policy aims to universalize primary education and to ensure that every child has access to quality education. It emphasizes the importance of early childhood care and education, and the need to reform the existing school curriculum and assessment systems.
- **Higher Education:** The NEP 2020 aims to increase the gross enrollment ratio in higher education from 26% to 50% by 2035. It proposes several reforms to improve the quality of higher education, including the establishment of a single regulator for higher education, the creation of a credit-based system for degree programs, and the introduction of multidisciplinary education.
- **Language:** The policy emphasizes the importance of multilingualism and proposes the teaching of at least two languages, including a regional language, from the primary level.
- **Technology:** The NEP 2020 recognizes the importance of technology in education and proposes the integration of technology into the teaching-learning process. It also emphasizes the need for digital infrastructure in schools and colleges.
- **Teacher Education:** The policy proposes several reforms to improve the quality of teacher education, including the establishment of a National Mission for Mentoring, the introduction of a four-year integrated B.Ed. program, and the creation of a National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education.

The NEP 2020 is a bold and ambitious policy framework aimed at transforming the education sector in India. Its success will depend on the effective implementation of its various proposals and reforms.

### Phases in New Education Policy 2020:

The new education policy has undergone a major overhaul, with the old 10 + 2 formula being completely abolished. The new policy adopts a 5 + 3 + 3 + 4 formula, which comprises of three years of pre-primary education and twelve years of schooling. This new pattern is now mandatory for both government and non-government institutions to follow.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has proposed several reforms in the Indian education system. The policy envisions significant changes in the education sector and aims to provide universal access to education for all children in the country.

Here are the phases in the implementation of the New Education Policy 2020:

- **Foundational Stage:** The first phase of the NEP implementation is the foundational stage, which aims to provide a strong base for learning to children from the age of 3 to 8 years. The focus will be on developing cognitive, social, emotional, and physical skills in children.
- **Preparatory Stage:** The second phase is the preparatory stage, which is for children aged 8 to 11 years. In this stage, children will learn foundational skills in languages, mathematics, science, social sciences, and arts.
- **Middle Stage:** The third phase is the middle stage, which is for children aged 11 to 14 years. In this stage, children will learn a comprehensive curriculum that includes mathematics, science, social sciences, arts, and sports.
- **Secondary Stage:** The fourth phase is the secondary stage, which is for children aged 14 to 18 years. In this stage, children will have the option to choose a subject of their interest and specialization. The curriculum will also include vocational skills and internships.
- **Higher Education:** The fifth phase is higher education, which aims to provide multidisciplinary and flexible education. The focus will be on providing students with an opportunity to choose from a wide range of courses and specializations.
- **Continuous Professional Development:** The final phase is continuous professional development, which aims to provide teachers and faculty members with opportunities to enhance their skills and knowledge.

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020: aims to provide quality education to all children in the country and prepare them for the challenges of the 21st century. The policy focuses on developing critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills among students.

## Higher Education of Commission (HECI)

The National Education Policy 2020 proposes the creation of a Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) to replace the existing regulatory bodies such as the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). The HECI will have four bodies under its purview:

- 1 **The National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC):** This body will be responsible for regulating higher education institutions and ensuring their quality and standards.
- 2 **The National Accreditation Council (NAC):** This body will accredit higher education institutions based on their quality and standards.
- 3 **The Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC):** This body will provide funding to higher education institutions and promote research and innovation.
- 4 **The General Education Council (GEC):** This body will be responsible for setting academic standards and developing curricula for higher education institutions.

These four bodies under the HECI will work together to ensure that the higher education system in India is of high quality and meets the needs of the country. They will work towards promoting innovation, research, and entrepreneurship among students and institutions, and will strive to create a more equitable and accessible higher education system in the country.

## Provisions related to online and digital education, physical education, and linguistic diversity:

The new National Education Policy 2020 has several provisions related to online and digital education, physical education, and linguistic diversity. Here are some of the key provisions:

- **Online and Digital Education:** The policy recognizes the importance of online and digital education in the current age and aims to provide high-quality digital education to students. It proposes the creation of a National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) to facilitate the use of technology in education. The policy also aims to provide digital infrastructure and connectivity to all schools and higher education institutions.
- **Physical Education:** The policy recognizes the importance of physical education and sports in the development of students and aims to provide access to sports facilities and equipment to all students. It also proposes the inclusion of physical education and sports in the school and higher education curricula.
- **Linguistic Diversity:** The policy recognizes the importance of linguistic diversity and aims to promote multilingualism in education. It proposes the inclusion of regional languages in the school and higher education curricula and aims to develop proficiency in at least two languages, including English, for all students.

NEP 2020 aims to provide a more holistic and flexible education system that takes into account the changing needs of students and society. It recognizes the importance of technology, physical education, and linguistic diversity in education and aims to provide equal access and opportunities to all students.

### **Recommendations in New Education Policy:**

The National Education Policy 2020 recommends several changes and reforms to the Indian education system to make it more holistic, flexible, and inclusive. Here are some of the key recommendations:

- **Universal Access:** The policy recommends universal access to education for all children in the country, with a focus on providing quality education to children from disadvantaged and marginalized communities.
- **Early Childhood Care and Education:** The policy recommends a strong focus on early childhood care and education (ECCE) to provide a strong foundation for learning.
- **Multidisciplinary Education:** The policy recommends a multidisciplinary approach to education that encourages students to explore different subjects and fields of study.
- **Flexible Curriculum:** The policy recommends a flexible and modular curriculum that allows students to choose courses and subjects based on their interests and aptitude.
- **Teacher Training and Professional Development:** The policy recommends extensive training and professional development for teachers and faculty members to enhance their skills and knowledge.
- **Use of Technology:** The policy recommends the use of technology to enhance the quality of education and improve access to education for all students.
- **Focus on Research and Innovation:** The policy recommends a focus on research and innovation in education to promote the development of new knowledge and solutions to real-world problems.
- **Provisions for children with disabilities:** The new education policy has made provisions for children with disabilities to ensure their full participation in the education process, with changes made to the educational curriculum from the basic stage to higher education.
- **Funds:** To fund education, the policy emphasizes investing up to 6 percent of GDP in the education sector, which is an increase from the current allocation of 4.43 percent of GDP.
- **Scholarship & Stipends:** In addition, efforts will be made to encourage students from disadvantaged communities, such as SC, ST, OBC, and other specific categories, to pursue education. The policy proposes expanding the National Scholarship Portal to track and support the progress of students receiving stipends.

The new education policy recommends a comprehensive and holistic approach to education that takes into account the changing needs of students and society. It aims to provide quality education to all children in the country and prepare them for the challenges of the 21st century.

## Challenges to implement New Education Policy:

The implementation of any new policy poses several challenges, and the new National Education Policy is no exception. Here are some of the key challenges that may be faced in implementing the policy:

- **Funding:** The policy proposes a significant increase in investment in the education sector, which may be challenging to implement given the current economic situation and competing demands on public resources.
- **Infrastructure:** The policy proposes the development of a robust digital infrastructure and connectivity for all schools and higher education institutions, which may be challenging in remote and rural areas with limited resources.
- **Teacher Training:** The policy emphasizes extensive teacher training and professional development, which may require significant investment in terms of time, resources, and infrastructure.
- **Resistance to Change:** Implementing a new education policy requires significant changes in the existing education system, which may be met with resistance from various stakeholders, including teachers, parents, and students.
- **Coordination and Collaboration:** The policy proposes significant changes to the education system at various levels, which may require coordination and collaboration between different ministries, departments, and institutions.

The successful implementation of the new education policy will require a concerted effort and collaboration between various stakeholders to overcome these challenges and achieve the desired outcomes.

The Central Government has approved the new National Education Policy 2020, aimed at transforming the Indian education system to meet the needs of 21st century India. If implemented successfully, this policy has the potential to place India among the world's leading countries in terms of education.

As per the new education policy, children from the age of 3 to 18 years have been brought under the ambit of the Right to Education Act, 2009. The policy aims to provide higher education to all students and universalize pre-primary education for children aged 3-6 years by 2025. This new education policy has been introduced after a gap of 34 years with the objective of providing a comprehensive and holistic education system to students across the country.

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