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NEW EDUCATION POLICY: BIG CHANGES IN SCHOOL AND HIGHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), which was approved by the Union Cabinet of India on 29 July 2020, outlines the vision of India's new education system. The policy is a comprehensive framework for elementary education to higher education as well as vocational training in both rural and urban India. NEP 2020 aims to provide infrastructure support, innovative education centres to bring back dropouts into the mainstream besides tracking of students and their learning levels, facilitating multiple pathways to learning involving both formal and non-formal education modes and association of counsellors or well-trained. This paper discusses the main features of NEP2020 regarding education at various stages.

INTRODUCTION

NEP-2020, is new education policy which will replace the National Policy on Education-1986. it is a companion framework focused on the elementary level education to higher education in country. NEP 2020 aims to make “India a superpower of knowledge around the world”. The Cabinet has also approved the renaming of the Ministry of Human Resource Development to the Ministry of Education. The NEP clarified by the Cabinet is only the third major change in the education framework in India since independence. The vision of National Education Policy is:

The National Education Policy 2020 describes an India-centered education system that directly contributes to transformation of our country to maintain a just and vibrant society by providing quality education to all.

LANGUAGES

The policy raised the importance of indigenous languages, mother tongue and regional languages; medium of instruction up to grade 5 and preferably beyond should be in these languages. *Sanskrit and foreign languages will also be given emphasized.* The policy also states that no language will be imposed on students. Shortly after the policy was released, the government clarified that language policy in NEP is a broad *guideline*; and it is up to the states, institutions and schools to decide on implementation. A more detailed language strategy will be released in the National Curriculum Framework in 2021. it is also noted that there are already institutions that have implemented this language policy 60 years ago such as Sardar Patel Vidyalaya. Both the Education Policy 1986 and Right to Education Act, 2009 also promoted the use of the mother tongue too as a guide to advice.



SCHOOL EDUCATION

The "10 + 2" structure will be replaced by the "5+3+3+4" model. This will be implemented as follows:

Foundational Stage: This is further subdivided into two parts: 3 years of *anganwadi* or preschool, followed by classes 1 and 2 in primary school. It covers children of ages 3-8 years. The focus of studies will be on activity-based learning.

Preparatory Stage: Classes 3 to 5, covering the ages of 8-11 years. Gradually it will introduce subjects like speaking, reading, writing, physical education, languages, art, science and mathematics.

Middle Stage: Children covering ages between 11 and 14 Classes 6 to 8, It will introduce students to the more abstract concepts in subjects of mathematics, sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities.

Secondary Stage: Classes 9 to 12, covering ages 14-19 years. Again it is divided into two parts: classes 9 and 10 covering the first stage while classes 11 and 12 cover the second stage. These 4 years of study is intended to promote multidisciplinary learning, coupled with depth and critical thinking. A wide selection of options of subjects will be provided.

- Instead of taking exams being held every academic year, school students will only attend three exams, in classes 2, 5 and 8.
- Board exams will continue to be held for classes 10 and 12 but will be re-designed. the criteria for this can be established by an assessment team, *PARAKH(Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development)*
- To facilitate them, these exams will be conducted twice a year, offering students up to two attempts. The exam itself will have two parts, namely the objective and the descriptive.
- This policy aims to reduce the curriculum load of students and allow them to be more "inter-disciplinary" and "multi-lingual". Report cards will be "holistic", offering information about the skills of student's.
- The Coding system will be introduced from class 6 and experiential learning will be adopted.

- The Midday Meal Scheme will also include breakfasts. Through the deployment of counselor and social workers focus will be given to students' health, particularly mental health .

HIGHER EDUCATION

1. It proposes a 4-year multi-disciplinary bachelor's degree in an undergraduate programme having multiple exit options. These will include vocational and professional areas and will be implemented as follows:

- A certificate after completing 1 year of study
- A diploma after completing 2 years of study
- A Bachelor's degree after completion of a 3-year programme
- A 4-year multidisciplinary Bachelor's degree (the preferred option)

2. Masters of Philosophy (MPhil) courses are to be discontinued to align degree education with how it is in Western models.

3. A Higher Education Council of India (HECI) will regulate higher education. Council's goal will be to increase gross enrollment ratio. 4 verticals of HECI will be:

- National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC), will regulate higher education, including teacher education excluding medical and legal education.
- National Accreditation Council (NAC), will be "meta-accrediting body".
- For funding and financing of universities and colleges ; Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) will be developed. This will replace the existing the University Grants Commission, National Council for Teacher Education, All India Council for Technical Education and General Education Council (GEC), to frame "graduate attributes", namely the learning outcomes expected. It will also be responsible for framing a National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF). The National Council for Teacher Education will be subject to the GEC, as a professional standard setting body (PSSB).
- Professional councils such as Veterinary Council of India, Council of Architecture, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and National Council for Vocational Education and Training will also be developed.

- The National Testing Agency will now be given the additional responsibility to conduct entrance examinations for admissions to universities nationwide, in addition to the NEET and JEE Main .
- The policy suggests that higher education institutes such as IITs make changes regarding the diversity of learning.
- The policy proposes to *internationalize* education in India. Foreign universities can now set up campuses in India. The fees of both private and public universities will be fixed.

TEACHER EDUCATION

NEP 2020 makes many policy changes when it comes to teachers and teacher education. To become a teacher, a 4-year Bachelor of Education will be the minimum requirement by 2030. The teacher recruitment process will also be strengthened and made transparent. The National Council for Teacher Education will set out a National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education in 2021 and a National Professional Standards for Teachers in 2022. The policy aims to:

1. To ensure that all students at all levels of school education are taught by passionate, motivated, highly qualified, professionally trained, and well equipped teachers.
2. Under NEP 2020, numerous new educational institutes, bodies and concepts have been given legislative permission to be formed. These include:
 - National Education Commission, headed by the Prime Minister of India
 - Academic Bank of Credit, a digital storage of credits earned to help further education through the use of credits for further education
 - National Research Foundation, to improve research and innovation
 - Special Education Zones, to focus on the education of underrepresented group in disadvantaged regions
 - For assisting the nation in the education of female and transgender children Gender Inclusion Fund will be given.

- National Educational Technology Forum, a platform to accelerate exchange of ideas on the use of technology to improve learning

The policy suggests new language institutions such as the Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation and the National Institute/ Institutes for Persian, Pali and Prakrit. Other representative bodies proposed include the National Mission for Mentoring, the National Book Promotion Policy, National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy.

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