



Impact of National Education Policy-2020 on Present Education in India

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Abstract:

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, will be increasingly in greater demand. There will be 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.

Keywords: *Knowledge, Dramatic, Technological Advances, Artificial Intelligence, Multidisciplinary Abilities.*

Introduction:

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a transformative policy introduced by the Government of India aiming to overhaul the Indian education system. It replaces the previous policy formulated in 1986 (modified in 1992). NEP 2020 focuses on holistic, flexible, and multidisciplinary education aligned with the needs of the 21st century. 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 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 level 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.

These elements must be incorporated taking into account the local and global needs of the country, and with a respect for and deference to its rich diversity and culture. Instilling knowledge of India and its varied social, cultural, and technological needs, its inimitable artistic, language, and knowledge traditions, and its strong ethics in India's young people is considered critical for purposes of national pride, self-confidence, self-knowledge, cooperation, and integration.

Principles of this Policy:

The purpose of the education system is to develop good human beings capable of rational thought and action, possessing compassion and empathy, courage and resilience, scientific temper and creative imagination, with sound ethical moorings and values. It aims at producing engaged, productive, and contributing citizens for building an equitable, inclusive, and plural society as envisaged by our Constitution. However, at the same time, there must also be seamless integration and coordination across institutions and across all stages of 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;
- Multidisciplinary 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;
- Substantial investment in a strong, vibrant public education system as well as the encouragement and facilitation of true philanthropic private and community participation.

Key Highlights of NEP 2020:

1) School Education Reforms:

- 5+3+3+4 structure replaces the old 10+2 system.
 - ❖ Foundation (3–8 years): Play-based learning
 - ❖ Preparatory (8–11): Focus on language, numeracy
 - ❖ Middle (11–14): Experiential learning
 - ❖ Secondary (14–18): Multidisciplinary study with vocational exposure
- Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE): Universalization for children aged 3–6 years.
- Mother tongue/regional language as medium of instruction till Grade 5 (preferably till Grade 8).
- Board Exams: Shift towards assessing knowledge application, critical thinking, and flexibility in subject choices.

Impact of NEP 2020 on School Education:

NEP 2020 has brought about significant changes in school education, making the system more efficient, effective, and learner-friendly. One of the key impacts of NEP 2020 is on the administrative processes of schools. School administrators and teachers now have access to innovative tools and technologies that are simplifying their tasks and helping them streamline their operations.

For instance, many schools are now adopting integrated Education Resource Planning (ERP) and Learning Management System (LMS) software like LearnQoch, which has been specifically designed for educational Institutions. LearnQoch combines administrative and academics functionalities, making it a one-stop solution for schools to manage various tasks such as admissions, attendance, timetables, examinations, communication with parents, and more.

I. Changed pedagogy:

NEP 2020 proposes a change in the structure of curriculum and pedagogy, with a 5+3+3+4 approach, expanding to 5 (Foundational)+ 3 (preparatory) +3 (middle) +4 (Secondary), to facilitate a more holistic approach to learning.

II. Every child in school by 2030:

NEP 2020 aims to ensure that every child from the age of 3 to 18 has access to quality education, either through public or private schools, by offering alternatives for entry and exit into the educational system, bringing more than 3.22 crore out of school children into the official education system.

III. Fewer dropouts:

NEP 2020 includes measures such in the creation of Special Education Zones, a Gender Inclusion Fund, and improved access to open and distance learning options, which are expected to reduce dropouts among students from socially and economically disadvantaged groups.

IV. Technological advancement in learning:

NEP 2020 advocates for a shift from a rote-learning based system to a more activity-based, experiential learning methodology, incorporating new circular and advancements to facilitate a more individualized, student-centric model of education.

V. Future Skills:

NEP 2020 emphasizes the need for curriculum and methodology reforms to ensure students learn higher-order cognitive skills, 21st century skills, mathematical and computational thinking, and critical thinking skills, among others, to prepare them for future job demands.

VI. Learning & teaching interest:

NEP 2020 encourages a shift from annual exams to a system of formative assessments that enhance the teaching-learning process, ensuring that assessments are not just evaluate but also informative for teachers and students.

VII. Developing competency:

NEP 2020 promotes multiple assessments throughout the year, reducing exam anxiety among students and allowing them to demonstrate their learning in different ways. It also emphasizes demonstrative learning and a low-stakes board test in Grade 10.

VIII. Trained teachers:

NEP 2020 aims to have all teachers professionally educated or certified by 2030, setting uniform professional standards from Anganwadi levels up to secondary school, to improve the quality of teaching in the education system.

2) Higher Education Reforms:

NEP's focus on higher education- Similarly, there are a lot of reforms and new developments which have been introduced by NEP in the higher education sector.

Let's take a look at some of the important ones which are well-poised to create a positive difference in the sector.

I. Single regulatory body for higher education:

The NEP aims to establish Higher Education Commission of India which will be the single regulatory body except for legal and medical education.

II. Multiple entry and exit programme:

There will be multiple entry and exit options for those who wish to leave the course in the middle. Their credits will be transferred through Academic Bank of Credits.

III. Tech- based option for adult learning through apps, TV channels:

Quality technology-based options for adult learning such as apps, online courses/modules, satellite-based TV channels, online books, and ICT-equipped libraries and Adult Education Centres, etc. will be developed.

IV. E-courses to be available in regional languages:

Technology will be part of education planning, teaching, learning, assessment, teacher, school, and student training. The e-content to be available in regional languages, starting with 8 major languages – Kannada, Odia, Bengali among others to join the e-courses available in Hindi and English.

V. Foreign universities to set-up campuses in India:

World's top 100 foreign universities will be facilitated to operate in India through a new law. According to the HRD Ministry document, "such (foreign) universities will be given special dispensation regarding regulatory, governance, and content norms on par with other autonomous institutions of India." Whether you aspire to study at these universities in your home country or study abroad, please remember that an education loan in India can help finance your higher studies independently.

VI. Common entrance exam for all colleges:

The common Entrance exam for all higher education institutes to be held by National Testing Agency (NTA). The exam will be optional.

The National Education Policy is expected to bring positive and long-lasting impact on the higher education system of the country. The fact that foreign universities will be allowed to open campuses in India is a commendable initiative by the government. This will help the students experience the global quality of education in their very own country. The policy of introducing multi-disciplinary institutes will lead to a renewed focus on every field such as arts, humanities and this form of education will help students to learn and grow holistically. Thus, students will be equipped with stronger knowledge base.

The introduction of single common entrance test is another positive step which will reduce the stress of multiple competitive exams and ease off the pressure of preparing for so many of them. It will also ensure a level playing ground for all student applicants going forward. Establishing Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) is definitely a robust idea to store the academic credits that students earn by taking courses from various recognized higher education institutions. A student can earn scores by completing a course and these will be credited to the ABC account. One can then transfer these credits if he/she decides to switch colleges. If a student ever drops out for some reasons, these credits will remain intact which means he/she can come back years later and pick up from where the student had left.

3) Teacher Education & Training:

- Minimum qualification for teachers to be a 4-year integrated B.Ed. degree by 2030.
- Emphasis on continuous professional development, better recruitment, and merit-based promotions.

4) Vocational Education:

- To be integrated from Grade 6 onwards with internships.

5) Technology & Digital Learning.:

- Establishment of the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF).
- Emphasis on online and digital education, especially post-COVID.

Current Impact (As of 2025):

i) Curriculum and Pedagogy Shift:

- Many schools, especially CBSE-affiliated ones, have begun integrating foundational literacy and numeracy goals.
- Toy-based, experiential learning is becoming common in early education.
- Coding, critical thinking, and life skills are being introduced earlier.

ii) Language Policy:

- Several states are promoting mother tongue-based instruction in early grades, though implementation varies due to regional and political concerns.

iii) Higher Education Transformation:

- Universities like IITs and central universities are implementing multidisciplinary undergraduate programs.
- Multiple entry-exit options and ABC system are being piloted in select institutions.
- Push for autonomous colleges and increased research funding has started, but full impact is still evolving.

iv) Teacher Training Improvements:

- The NCERT is revising the National Curriculum Framework (NCF).
- B.Ed. programs are being restructured in line with NEP guidelines.

v) Digital Learning Boost:

- Government platforms like DIKSHA and SWAYAM are growing.
- Schools in rural and remote areas face infrastructure challenges despite digital focus.

Challenges in Implementation:

- State-level adoption is uneven due to differing political will and resources.
- Teacher readiness and training is lagging in some areas.
- Infrastructure limitations in rural and economically backward areas.
- Language policy has faced criticism and political resistance in some regions.

Conclusion:

The NEP 2020 marks a paradigm shift in Indian education, aiming to make it more inclusive, flexible, and future-ready. While the policy's vision is progressive, its true impact depends on robust implementation, sustained funding, and cooperation between the Centre, states, and institutions. The new NEP is focused on increasing the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education space which is currently around 26%. This is much lesser than other countries such as China, Brazil and North American nations. The Indian government needs to introduce stronger policies for educational infrastructure development. It has to promote foreign direct investments (FDI) and open up the External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) route to strengthen the capital pool for the sector. As rightly mentioned by Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman during the 2021-22 Budget speech, the country needs greater inflow of finance to attract talented teachers, build better infrastructures and formalize measures which will enable sourcing ECBs and FDI.

The new National Education Policy looks picture perfect currently. But the key to its success is its implementation within the set deadline. Now, we have to patiently wait and see how things turn out in the future and how we can reap the massive benefits that will be brought into the system with its successful execution. As of now, foundational reforms are underway, but long-term transformation will take time and effort.

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Citation: Mondal. Dr. P. K., (2025) “Impact of National Education Policy-2020 on Present Education in India”, *Bharati International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Development (BIJMRD)*, Vol-3, Issue-07, July-2025.