

# National Education Policy 2020: Impact on Higher Education based on Theoretical Analysis

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**Abstract:** 2020 has been a remarkable year for nations all across the world. Aside from COVID-19, one of the major developments in India was the creation of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The budget for education should be increased to 6% of GDP, as several committees have suggested time and again. This has raised concerns among scholars. The purpose of this document is to list the issues and priorities for NEP 2020. With both good and negative features, NEP-2020 is a creative and future concept aimed at providing everyone with access to high-quality education at all levels and with an expectation of comprehensive and research-based progress. This paper first provides an overview of NEP-2020, highlighting its advantages and disadvantages for higher education and research, evaluating the policy's implementation recommendations, and identifying and analyzing potential general implementation strategies based on focus group discussions. Numerous forward-thinking recommendations are also included in the paper regarding topics such as creating high-quality universities and colleges, institutional consolidation and restructuring, a more comprehensive and multidisciplinary education, the best possible learning environment and student support, changing the higher education regulatory framework, the use and integration of technology, and online and digital learning. Lastly, a few suggestions are offered for successfully implementing NEP2020 despite a number of obstacles.

**Keywords:** research and innovation focus, Indian higher education policy, implementation strategies, Indian higher education system.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Governments design their educational institutions to advance farther (Rizvi & Lingard, 2009). The National Policy on Education (NPE), developed by the Government of India (GOI), aims to integrate common/ordinary people into the mainstream and to advance education across all economic strata. This policy covers a wider range of education, from literacy instruction in primary schools to higher education in universities with a concentration on specialization. In both environments, that is, the rural and urban ones. The GOI proposed and distributed the first NPE in 1968; the second policy followed in 1986; and the current Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, unveiled the third significant reformative policy in 2020 (Govt. of India, 2020). According to the fourth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of the United Nations, which aims to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all," India's National Educational Policy (NEP-2020) has the challenge and goal of elevating the nation as a developed country by supporting developmental imperatives in 2030.

### Historical Background of National Education Policy

India has implemented numerous changes in the form of statutes, plans of action, curriculum frameworks, and education policies.

### First National Education Policy on Education(1968)

The government, headed by Smt. Indira Nehru Gandhi, endorsed the Kothari Commission's recommendations and unveiled the first national education strategy. The following were some of the policy's highlights. Three language formulas—Hindi, English, and the local tongue—are used in educational activities. Recommendation: in accordance with the Indian Constitution, all children up to the age of 14 should get compulsory education, costing 6% of the country's income.

### **National Education Policy 1986**

Under the leadership of Shri. Rajiv Gandhi, the government implemented this strategy, which has as its key features the prioritization of civil rights, particularly for girls. Child-centered primary education, Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Scheduled Castes (SC) Utilizing Operation Blackboard to improve education in primary schools

### **National Education Policy 1992 (Modification)**

This was a revised version of the 1986 policy, spearheaded by the P. V. Narasimha Rao government. Among its many highlights were the goals of universal child enrollment and retention, reducing rural-urban disparities, and establishing a common entrance exam for entry to technical and professional programs nationwide.

### **Highlights of National Education Policy**

#### **School Education In NEP2020**

- The NEP suggests achieving 100% gross enrolment ratio in school education over the same time period, as well as universalizing early childhood care and education (ECCE) for children ages 3 to 18 by 2030. Measuring learning outcomes and assessments is stressed in addition to the primary focus on ECCE. The following are the main components suggested for education in schools:

- For kids under the age of eight, the National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Childhood Care and Education (NCFECCE). The new 5+3+3+4 year curriculum and pedagogical framework has a solid foundation in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) starting at age 3. instruction up to Class 5 in the mother tongue or a local or regional language, at the very least. English will be an elective till Class 8.

Board exams are given in Classes 10 and 12, and school exams in Classes 3, 5, and 8. the Curriculum's reduction to its essential ideas. To serve as a standards-setting organization for all accredited school boards, a National Assessment Center called PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) will be established.

Bagless Days in Schools.

- The "Gender-Inclusion Fund," which aims to give transgender kids as well as other girls an equal and high-quality education. 'Modular exams' are one type of board exam used to assess knowledge application. Class 6 will mark the introduction of vocational programs.

#### **Higher Education in NEP 2020**

By 2035, reach a 50% gross enrollment ratio. There are three types of universities: autonomous degree-granting colleges, research-intensive colleges, and teaching-intensive colleges. Undergraduate degree programs have several departure choices and a duration of three or four years. A certificate in a particular discipline after one year, a diploma after two, a bachelor's degree after three years, and a four-year multidisciplinary bachelor's program are the exit possibilities.

Students can choose from a variety of multidisciplinary majors and degree programs, such as combining fashion design and physics. Academic credit backs facilitate credit transfers. There will be the establishment of Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs). Internationalization of education refers to granting admission to institutions abroad as well as college and student mobility. Greater autonomy for faculty and the institution. Higher education institutes (HEIs) are governed by independent boards with separate administrative and academic domains. Fixing fees for public and private institutions

By 2040, every HEI must be interdisciplinary. An essential component of higher education is professional education. The Upper Education Commission of India (HECI) would be the sole regulator, and it will apply the same rules to all types of institutions—private and public. To be built is the Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation (IITI). All Indian languages, including classical, tribal, and endangered languages, would be preserved and promoted through concerted effort. The National Research Foundation (NRF) is established, and national institutes for Prakrit, Pali, and Persian are established.

**Table-1** Comparison of new education policy and old policy of education

<b>New education policy</b>	<b>Old education policy</b>
School formula: 5+3+3+4	School formula: 10+2
Science students free to choose artssubjects	Science/Arts students mix subjects
Option of taking board exams again to improve	Students can't take more than one board exam
Advises learning in regional language till class 5	Regional language curriculum a choice
4-year undergraduate programme	3-year undergraduate programme
Multiple exit options for students	No exit options for students

**Advantages and disadvantages of new education policy**

- **Modifications to the School System:** To lessen the load of board examinations on children, the 10+2 school system is being replaced with the 5+3+3+4 pattern.
- **More Learning alternatives:** Students in grades 9 through 12 will now have access to multidisciplinary course alternatives, indicating that the different streams will be more permeable and that different topic combinations will be successfully taught.
- **Establishing Education as a Basic Right:** Currently, the government guarantees that children between the ages of 6 and 14 are entitled to compulsory education through the successful implementation of multiple programs, such as "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan". However, it left out a number of kids from the school system. Thus, the revised NEP pledges to provide free education to children from the age of three to eighteen at government-run institutions in order to universalize education.
- **The Possibility of Learning Coding in School:** Including computer science and coding in the curriculum starting in class six is a good first step toward improving the educational process.
- **Emphasis on Critical Thinking:** The purpose of the new board exam system is to foster students' critical thinking, reasoning, and creativity through the thoughtful application of their information, rather than assessing students largely on memorizing and memorization skills.
- **More Inclusive Policy:** The new NEP explores funding availability, as well as the establishment of education zones and gender inclusion grants for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- **Enhancement of Teaching Quality:** By 2030, B.Ed. programs will be required for teachers to complete in order to raise the bar for their education. Additionally, measures will be taken to equip them with the skills necessary to address a variety of issues facing the educational system, such as mentoring and supporting students and providing assistance to students with disabilities.
- **Upgraded Undergraduate Program:** The three-year undergraduate program will be replaced with a four-year program that will allow students to get a degree after three years, a diploma after two years, and a one-year degree after the first year. The fourth year will be focused on research. The students will also have the option to change their course of study; the credits they have earned are transferable and accessible as long as they are actively pursuing an education.
- **Controlling Fees:** NEP implementation will provide a cap on the amount of fees that can be charged, preventing excessive fees from being imposed by private institutions for teaching.
- **Greater Potential for Global Education:** Under the new NEP, international colleges and universities are welcome to set up shop in India. Because it might even lessen the drain, Indians will have greater access to high-quality education in their country, which will make the dream more accessible for more kids.

**Disadvantages of NEP 2020**

**Enforcement of Languages:** The NEP emphasizes the introduction of first language within the primary classes which can be wont to teach the principal subjects, while English are going to be taught at a way later stage.

- **Delay in English Instruction:** According to the NEP, government schools should begin teaching English after class 5, which will be detrimental to students who can only afford to attend institutions administered by the government. Although private schools will continue to introduce English to children from the beginning,

which will be extremely useful for them. The simple fact that almost 30% of Indians can buy smartphones and even fewer still have access to computers seems to be overlooked by the NEP 2020 curriculum.

- The modified Undergraduate Program Terms: This will lead to scholars quitting before finishing their study, which will result in their non-seriousness and a high drop-out rate, because the modified policy allows a student to stop the graduate program and still receive a certification or certificate.

#### **Impact of new education policy 2020 on higher education**

- After one year of study in any discipline or field, including professional and vocational fields, colleges must award a certificate; after two years, a diploma; and after three years, a bachelor's degree. The new strategy is to increase the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) from 26.3 percent (2018) to 50 percent by 2035 in higher education, including vocational training. 35 million additional seats will be added to higher education institutions in order to accommodate this.
- To stimulate and accelerate research and innovation in all academic fields, especially at the university and in grade, the government will establish the National Research Foundation (NRF). College entrance exam akin to the SAT: Twice a year, the National Testing Agency (NTA) will administer a common entrance exam. Graded authority to award degrees will be granted to institutions over the next fifteen years. Universities will no longer be affiliated with these schools, and they will be reclassified as "deemed to be universities."
- The new strategy calls for a cap on the fees that private colleges in the higher education sector charge. It will be easier for prestigious international universities to visit India. In a similar vein, leading Indian universities would be urged to expand internationally. The discontinuation of M. Phil would allow college students with master's degrees to pursue doctorates.
- The NEP suggests establishing an Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation, a National Institute (or Institutes) for Pali, Persian, and Prakrit, and bolstering the Sanskrit and other language departments at universities in order to guarantee the survival of all Indian languages. The goal of the National Education Policy is for the nation to achieve 100% literacy.

## **II. CONCLUSION**

The implementation of NEP 2020 has brought about a number of changes, one of which is the discontinuation of the M. Phil program. While the new education policy has many shortcomings, there are also many benefits, and many people believe that by putting these changes into practice, the Indian academic system will advance.

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