

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020

*Varsha Rani Sharma **Gurpreet Kaur

*Department of Economics, D.A.V. College for Girls, Yamuna Nagar

ABSTRACT

A well defined education system plays a vital role in development and growth of a country. In every education policy futuristic approach is very essential part. India with the leadership of its current Prime Minister and team of experts from varied back grounds has developed and planned a new education policy 2020. The new educational policy is an innovative and futuristic policy with both positive and negative aspects. NEP framed with the objective to provide a quality school education and higher education to everyone with an expectation of holistic & research oriented progress. This paper initially depicts an overview of NEP 2020, comparison with previous education policy and strength & weakness of the policy.

Key Words: NEP 2020, Strategies, Indian education system, Comparison, Holistic, Multi-disciplinary.

INTRODUCTION

The salient feature of the ancient education system of India made it globally renowned. The Gurukul system of imparting education is very well known to all of us with the change in time in the Indian education system same changes have been observed after post-independence. The first education policy after independence was formed in 1968 then later on in 1986 with small amendment in 1992, since then we all are following the same education pattern of same education policy for the last 34 years.

After 34 years, a new education policy has been proposed by the Indian Government in the year 2020. After starting from Gurukul System of education to the British influenced education system, we have seen many changes and modification in education system.

Being the first education policy of the 21st century, National education policy (NEP- 2020), India has a challenge to lift the country by the following developmental imperatives according to the 4th goal of UN sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aims to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality off education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all." Through National education policy (NEP-2020) India aims to achieve this goal at least by 2040.

The new education policy (NEP-2020) expects a new set of regulations to make the education pedagogy more experimental, discovery oriented, inquiry driven, learner centered, analysis-based, flexible, enjoyable and futuristic so that educated future generation can support in economic growth of the country, scientific advancement, cultural preservation, social justice and equality and in national integration.

OBJECTIVE

This paper has focus on following objectives.

- To prepare an overview of NEP-2020.
- To distinguish the strengths & weaknesses of the Policy.

NEP 2020

The National Education Policy of India 2020 was approved by the Union Cabinet of India on 29 July 2020, NEP 2020.

NEP 2020 replaces the previous National policy on education, 1986.

PROCESS

The consultation process for the new education policy started in January 2015 by framing a committee under Former Cabinet Secretary. T.S.R. Subramanian. Based on the committee report, in June 2017, the draft NEP was submitted Chief Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan, this draft of NEP was later released by Ministry of Human Resource Development. In making of this draft number of consultation have been followed by MHRD, "Over two lakh suggestions from 2.5 lakh gram panchayats, 6,600 blocks, 6,000 urban local bodies (ULBs), 676 districts were received.

VISION OF NEP 2020

National education policy 2020 envisions an India centric education system that contributes directly to transforming our nation sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society by providing high quality education to all.

OBJECTIVES OF NEW EDUCATION POLICY 2020

1) **School Education:** - The current '10 + 2' structure covering ages 6 to 18 to be replaced by a new pedagogical and curricular structure to ages 3-18 class 10 and 12 board exams will be conducted as usual, but the exams will be made easier by allowing students to take exams twice a year. Mother languages regional language to be the medium of instruction at least upto Class 5 & preferably till Class 8.

Report cards will be 360 - degree holistic progress card sheet will give a comprehensive report on skills & capabilities instead of just marks and grades.

Midday meal scheme to be extended to include breakfasts

2) **Higher Education:** -

Holistic & multi-discrepancy education in an VG program with multiplex but caption where the bachelor's degree can be as 4 years.

Phil (Master o Philosophy) courses to be discontinued.

PG programs can be 1 as 2 years.

The national testing agency will conduct entrance examination for admissions to universities across the country, apart from the JEE main & NEET.

3) **Teacher Education:** -

By 2023, the minimum qualification fro teacher will be 4 year integrated B.Ed degree.

Emphasis on strengthening & transparency of the teacher requirement process.

NCTE reframe national professional standards fees teachers (NPST) 2022

4) **Other major objectives:** -

Establishment of NE commission

Establishment of SEZs to improul education among underrepresented groups in disadvantages regions.

National Assessment Centre - 'PARAKH' will asses the students.

Grades inclusion find, for impressions & providing education for female & tross grades children

Increasing the education expenditure framed current 4.6% to 6% of the GDP at the earliest objectives.

5) **Professional Education:** -

Healthcare education system must be integrated in such a way that all students of medical education must have a basic understanding of Ayurvedic Yoga and naturopathy, there must be greater emphasis on preventive healthcare and community medicine in all forms of healthcare education.

HEIS will be encouraged to prepare professionals in agriculture and veterinary sciences through programs integrated with general education.

Technical education should be offered with multi-disciplinary education institutions and should focus on opportunities the engage deeply with other disciplines.

6) **Private Education:** -

All private universities are eligible for graded autonomy based on their accreditation status.

National Research Foundation will treat all private HEIS on par with public HEIS for granting research funds which is based only on the merit of the proposals.

Comparison between NEP 2020 v/s NEP 1986

Sl.	Previous NEP 1986	New Education Policy 2020
1)	The role of education is the all round development of students	Objective is to provide multi-disciplinary & interdisciplinary liberal education
2)	Common education structure of 10 (5 + 3 + 2) + 2 + 3 + 2 is followed	Common education structure of 5 + 3 + 3 + 4 + 4 + 1 is suggested
3)	The first preliminary education starts at 6th years of a child as primary school level	The first preliminary education starts at 3rd year of a child as a foundation stage
4)	Two years higher secondary level and two years pre university level were separately considered and both had	Four years secondary education stage is designated by clubbing two years higher secondary level and two years pre-university levels. Exams are suggested at the

	board exams	school level except for board level exams at 10th and 12th
5)	Two years higher secondary level, students choose specialization areas and subjects like science subjects or commerce subject or arts subjects	Four years secondary education stage contains common subjects and elective subjects. Choice is based on liberal education policy
6)	All undergraduate and post graduate admissions are based on the entrance exam conducted at the college level or state level except NIT & Medical college	All undergraduate & post graduate admissions of public HEIS are based on National Testing Agency scores conducted by the National level
7)	Undergraduate programme are for three to four years	Undergraduate programmes are of four years with a previous to exit after one year with a diploma, after two years with an advanced diploma after three years with a pass degree, and after four years with project based degree
8)	Post graduate education is of two years with specialization	Post graduate education is of one or two years with more specialization & research focus
9)	Most of the colleges in HEIS are affiliated to state universities in curriculum and evaluation	All HEIS including colleges are autonomous and there will be no affiliated colleges to state universities and autonomy in deciding curriculum and evaluation
10)	Teaching learning method focuses on class room training and fieldwork	Teaching learning method mainly focuses on class room, training, fieldwork and research projects
11)	Students have the freedom to choose subjects across their area of study	Students have the freedom to choose subject outside and across their area of study
12)	In the higher education system the expert student faculty ratio is 20:1	In higher education system the expert student faculty ratio 30:1
13)	A one year research degree leading to M.Phil in any subject is offered to provide preliminary experience to do research	A one year research degree leading the M.Phil in any subject is discontinued due to the research that students are exposed to preliminary research in their UG & PG courses
14)	Suggestion for improving physical library facility including books & journals	Suggestion for improving online library membership including online books & online journals
15)	No foreign universities are allowed to function directly in India	About 100 top ranked foreign universities will be allowed to function in India to compete with Indian universities

ADVANTAGES / STRENGTH

- 1) The Government aims to make schooling available to everyone with the help of NEP 2020
- 2) Approximately two crore school students will be able to come back to the educational institutions through this new approach
- 3) According to National Education Policy 2020, the 5 + 3 + 3 + 4 structure will replace the existing 10 + 2 structure
- 4) Education Ministry is to set up a national mission on foundational literacy & numeracy in new education policy 2020
- 5) NEP 2020 is the formation of the national book promotion policy in India
- 6) Parakh National Policy is to be set up by the Government.
- 7) By the year 2030, it will be mandatory to have at least a four year B Ed. degree for joining the occupation of teaching.
- 8) For making the students prepared for future pandemic situations, online academic will be promoted on a larger scale.

DISADVANTAGES / WEAKNESS

- 1) According to the National Education Policy 2020, students will have to complete their graduation have the study for four years while one can easily complete his/her diploma degree in two years this might encourage the pupil to learn the course midway.
- 2) In the National Education Policy 2020 language is a negative factor as there is a problematic teacher to student ratio in India, thus introducing mother language for each subject in academic institutions is a problem. Sometimes, finding a competent teacher becomes a problem and now another challenge comes with the introduction of the NEP 2020, which is bringing study material in mother language.
- 3) According to the National Education Policy 2020 students of the private schools will be introduced to English at a much earlier age than the students of the government schools, the academic syllabus will be taught in the respective regional languages of the government school students. This is one of the major new education policy draw backs as this will increase the number of students uncomfortable in communicating in English this widening the gap between sections of the societies.

Various educational stages to be implemented according to NEP 2020 [1]

S. No.	Educational life-cycle Stage	Features
1	Foundation Stage (Five year duration)	The foundation stage intends to give basic education to children between age 3 to 8 years with play-based and activity-based learning for cognitive, mental and emotional development.
2	Preparatory Stage (Three year duration)	The preparatory stage intends to educate children of 9 to 11 years with activity-based and discovery-based learning by introducing different subjects in a systematic classroom setup along with textbooks to support deeper insights.
3	Middle School education stage (Three year duration)	Middle school education intends to provide a more abstract concept in various subjects through a liberal education model with a focus on experimental learning. There will be two class level exams annually (semester-based system)
4	Secondary education Stage (Four-year duration)	The focus in secondary school education is multidisciplinary subjects with flexible exist options to prepare them for the next level of specialized undergraduate programmes. The pedagogy of courses in this stage will be built with increased depth and flexibility according to student choice. Attention will be given to life aspirations while offering the subject groups. The semester system will be followed in this stage with 5 to 6 subjects in each semester and common board exams will be conducted at the end of 10th and 12th standards.
5	Under-graduation Education Stage (Three to four year duration)	The undergraduate higher education stage consists of four optional exists: a certificate after one year, a diploma after the second year, bachelor's degree after the third year, and an honours degree after the four years with options of major, minors, and research projects.
6	Post-graduation Education Stage (One to two year duration)	The Masters degree is re-defined as (i) One-year duration programme for four years honours bachelor's degree students, (ii) Two-years programme for three years bachelor's degree students, and (iii) five years integrated degree programme for 12th standards pass students. The Masters degree will have a research focus to strengthen competence in a professional domain, specifically on high quality research in the final year to prepare students for the next research degree.
7	Research Stage (Three to Four-year duration)	Though research is an integral part of the final year undergraduate and postgraduate stages, the research scholars at research degree stage can pursue high quality research leading to Ph.D. in any core, multidisciplinary, or interdisciplinary areas for a minimum period of 3 years for full-time and 4 years for part-time, respectively. During Ph.D. they should undergo minimum 8-credit course work in teaching/education/pedagogy related to their chosen Ph.D. subject. No MPhil programme will be offered as a research degree.
8	Lifelong Learning	As lifelong learning is essential for every human being in society, the NEP 2020 also proposes lifelong learning and research to avoid the obsolescence of human beings in society in terms of knowledge, skills, and experience leading to confidence based comfortable life. It is believed that education and research at any stage of life will give further maturity for satisfaction and enlightenment in life.

CONCLUSION

This New National Education Policy in 2020 was most-awaited and long overdue. After the final draft of NEP was submitted to the Human Resource and Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" now the focus needs to shift to its effective and efficient implementation in reality. This policy as expected has a lot of pluses but still needs to be improved. With regular updates in its policies. NEP 2020 may turn out to be the best policy in the field of education and human resource. NEP 2020 is a revolutionary policy. It aims to make the education system holistic, flexible, multidisciplinary, aligned with the needs of the 21st century.

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