

NEP 2020: mapping towards the holistic development of Indian youth

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Abstract

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) made a landmark reform by releasing the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) instigated on 29 July 2020, outlines the vision of India's new education system. The policy intends to create a future where the child is at the heart of research-based, individualised learning. Under the NEP 2020, the focus areas of the reforms seek to cultivate '21st-century skills' among students, including critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity and digital literacy. This paper highlights on various innovative initiatives taken by it and its impact.

Keywords: NEP2020, national education policy, innovative, critical thinking, skill based education

Introduction

Education is the fundamental driver of holistic development of the nation. The economic, social, cultural, scientific gradient of India will be achieved through universal access of the quality education through which talents and resources can be optimally utilized and turned into the growth of the nation. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) made a landmark reform by releasing the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) instigated on 29 July 2020, outlines the vision of India's new education system.

Five pillars of NEP 2020

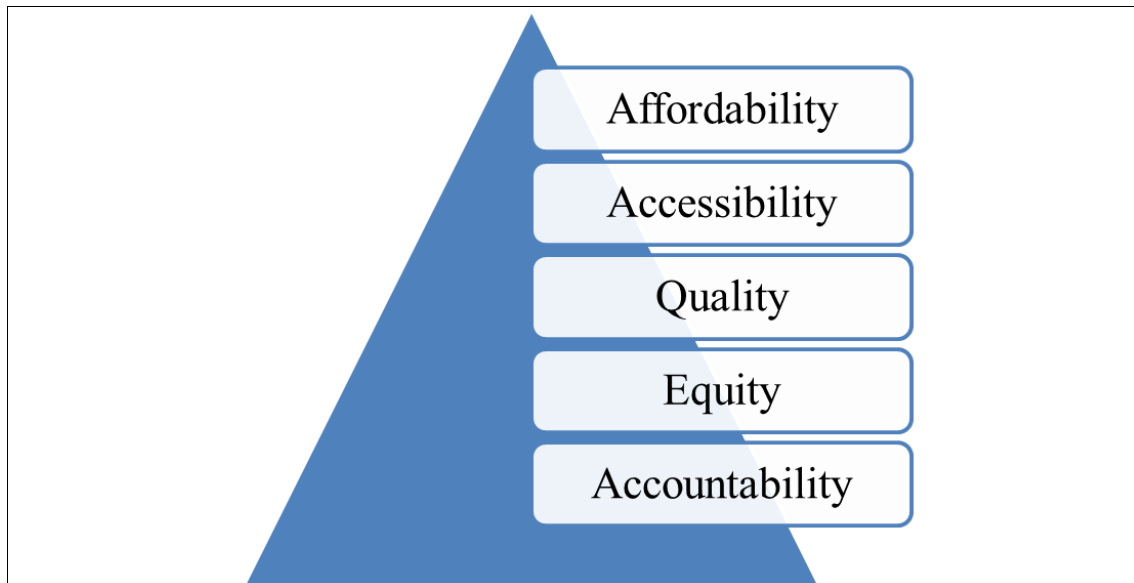


Fig 1

The objective of this reformation of the Indian education system is “No child will be left behind”. It is projected for filling the gaps in the present education system. It has been made to meet the needs of demand for knowledge in society and to acquire new skills consistently. The NEP is a product of an extensive exercise that strives to achieve a 100 per cent Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) by 2030. The policy intends to create a future where the child is at the heart of research-based, individualised learning. Under the NEP 2020, the focus areas of the reforms seek to cultivate '21st-century skills' among students, including critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity and digital literacy.

Highlights of the new education policy

- 5 + 3 + 3 + 4 education system i.e. Foundation, Preparatory, Middle & Secondary respectively.

- Teaching of Mother tongue up to class 5 at least.
- College entrance tests SAT-Like will be conducted by National Testing Agency twice a year.
- A 4-Year multi-disciplinary bachelor's program.
- Mid-term drop-out students will be able to complete the degree after a break.
- Entry to Foreign colleges in India, and Indian universities will become global.

Key Reforms of The NEP 2020

1. a. No hard division among streams like sciences, commerce and Art.
b. No hard separation between curricular and extra-curricular activities
c. between vocational and scholarly education etc. in order to get rid of harmful hierarchies.
2. 4 yearly Secondary Stage multidisciplinary study
3. The Secondary Stage will comprise of four years of multidisciplinary study, with increased flexibility in choice of subjects. Students can include physical education, the arts and crafts, and vocational skills as their subjects so that they can fabricate their own pathway of study and plans for life.
4. NEP dismantles the rigid distinction between arts, commerce, and science. Thanks to the policy, the choice of taking up history with chemistry will now be possible for students. This brings in the much-needed fluidity for students to hone their skills and cognitive abilities.
5. Multilingualism has been given special emphasis in the NEP under 'three-language proficiency'. Children grasp concepts more quickly in the language normally spoken at home
6. Moving away from a marks-oriented assessment to one based on skills and competence will dramatically change the objective of learning.
7. **360-degree Multi-Dimensional Report Cards:** The 360-degree multi-dimensional report cards will detail the capabilities of the learner in multiple domains. With technology as its central tenet, the NEP also highlights the use of AI-based software to help students keep track of their growth through their school years.
8. **Academic Bank of Credits:** The emphasis on multi-disciplinarity and flexibility for the holistic development of learners in higher education institutions (HEIs) is evident from the proposed reforms. From setting up a regulatory body for digital infrastructure development (Higher Education Commission of India) to the creation of an Academic Bank of Credits, technology is at the core of the national policy.
9. **Autonomy to students:** It gives greater autonomy to students to choose their learning pathway and develop skill sets, which are likely to make them job creators, thereby giving rise to the entrepreneurial culture.
10. **Switching of HEIs from degree granting college to Innovation Centre:** The policy endeavors to transform HEIs into centres of innovation and excellence by reducing their administrative burden. By granting graded autonomy and turning HEIs into degree-granting colleges, NEP intends to bring greater transparency and standardisation in the higher education landscape.
11. **Enhancing Professional standards of Educators:** The policy also aims to transform educators by enhancing the professional standards among teachers. The National Education Technology Forum (NETF), for instance, will enable the exchange of ideas on the use of technology for enhanced learning, which will help in bridging the digital divide.
12. **Adoption of experiential learning:** It includes hands-on learning, arts-integrated and sports-integrated education, story-telling-based pedagogy, among others, as standard pedagogy within each subject, and with explorations of relations among different subjects. To close the gap in achievement of learning outcomes, classroom transactions will shift, towards competency-based learning and education.
13. **Learning of Skills and Capacities:** Due to increased flexibility of opting their individual curricula and subjects, skills and capacities should be learned by all students in order to become successful, reliant, innovative and dynamic this rapidly changing world. In addition to proficiency in languages, these skills include: “evidence-based thinking; creativity and innovativeness; sense of aesthetics and art; oral and written communication; health and nutrition; physical education, fitness, wellness, and sports; collaboration and teamwork; problem solving and logical reasoning; vocational exposure and skills; digital literacy, coding, and computational thinking; ethical and moral reasoning; knowledge and practice of human and Constitutional values; gender sensitivity; Fundamental Duties; knowledge of India; environmental awareness including water and resource conservation, sanitation and hygiene; and current affairs and knowledge of critical issues facing local communities, States, the country, and the world.”
14. **Fun course during Grades 6-8:** Hands on training will be offered for vocational crafts like carpentry, electric work, metal work, gardening, pottery making, etc. as planned for local skilling needs. NCERT will design practice-based curriculum for Grades 6-8 while outlining the NCFSE 2020-21. A 10-day bag less period for 6-8 Grades to intern with local vocational experts like artists, carpenters, potters etc. Such internship prospect of vocational subjects learning will be available to Grades 6-12 students.
15. **Practical Exposure:** Children will be given periodic exposure to outside school activities through visits to places/ historical monuments, cultural and tourist importance places, meeting with local artists and craftsmen Various types of enrichment activities involving arts, quizzes, sports, and vocational crafts will also be encouraged.
16. **Holistic Development:** It is essential that an identified set of skills and values will be incorporated at each stage of learning, from pre-school to higher education for holistic development.

17. **Emphasis on research and innovation:** Start-up incubation centers, technology development centers will be set up by HEIs to focus on research. HEIs have to give emphasis on greater industry-academic linkages; and interdisciplinary research including humanities and social sciences research.
18. **Vocational Education and Training:** The National Education Policy 2020 has been crafted to make the country Atmanirbhar Bharat accordingly with the vision of making the youth atmanirbhar through skill-based education.

A remarkable step is taken by the education minister to put emphasis on vocational education by launching vocational subjects and training at school level in the NEP 2020.

Conclusion

The vision to make the youth self-reliant through skill-based education makes the National Education Policy 2020 a revolutionary document. The New Education Policy 2020 has projected some elementary changes in our education system. The policy envisage on youth's holistic development by not only increasing in Gross Enrolment Ratio but put emphasis on skill development to achieve the objectives of Atmanirbhar Bharat, an ambitious mission of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who believes that key factor of the modern education system is imparting of skills.

There is a shift from rote learning to creativity and critical thinking in our society. This will persuade decision making with out-of-the-box thinking and innovative practices. There will undoubtedly be a paradigm shift to Research and Development (R&D) and skill development.

The ineffectiveness of producing an army of unemployed youth through a meticulous process of the examination system has been recognized. vocational courses are under the spotlight to make the employable and self-reliant youth following the skill-based model of education.

That day is not afar while the Indian youth will not be a job-searcher but they will be budding job-provider through the vocational, employable set and entrepreneurial skills imparted to them at their different phases of education and training. The Government is not only laying emphasis on skill-based education but also on skill-based employment opportunities. The emphasis on Skill-based school education will help India achieve vision of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam 'ignited young minds' continuously striving towards perfection.

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