



Benefits And Drawbacks Of The National Education Policy-2020

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Abstract

In 1986, India's first educational policy was approved and put into effect. On July 29, 2020, India's National Education Policy (NEP) was revised and approved after 34 years. The move marks a significant turning point for India's educational system, which will undoubtedly increase India's appeal as a global destination for higher education. The policy will turn India into a thriving knowledge hub and is founded on the principles of "Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, and Accountability." The current paper provides an outline of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, highlights its key components, and identifies its advantages and disadvantages.

Keywords: Features, advantages, disadvantages, access, equity, quality, affordability, accountability

INTRODUCTION

The vision, goals, and essential requirements for the advancement of the Indian educational system are delineated in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2020, the policy is regarded as historic and has the power to revolutionize the educational sector. The National Education Policy seeks to improve the educational system's flexibility, inclusivity, and student-centeredness by addressing the many issues it faces.

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY OVERVIEW

A significant overhaul of the whole educational system, from Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) to higher education, is what the National Education Policy 2020 aims to achieve. In order to make education more immersive, comprehensive, integrated, character-building, inquiry-driven, discovery-oriented, learner-centered, discussion-based, adaptable, and most importantly, enjoyable, it envisions education as a continuum that is not segmented. It makes it quite obvious that the goal of the educational system is to create decent people who can think and act rationally, have empathy and compassion, courage and fortitude, a scientific temper, and a creative imagination with strong moral principles. It seeks to create involved, productive, and contributing people in order to construct the intended egalitarian, inclusive, and pluralistic society.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE 2020 NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY (NEP)

The National Education strategy (NEP) 2020, India's new education strategy, is a comprehensive document that aims to overhaul the country's educational system by implementing a number of important changes to the way that education is approached at all levels. The goal of the policy is to make India's educational system more accessible, comprehensive, and multidisciplinary. It is founded on the principles of equity, quality, and access. The following are some of the main characteristics of India's new National Education Policy:

Multidisciplinary and Holistic Education

Students will have access to a wide range of topics, including art, music, and athletics, in addition to their academic curriculum, as part of the NEP 2020's goal to give them a comprehensive and interdisciplinary education. Students will be able to hone their critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving abilities using this method, all of which are vital for their general growth. In order to foster holistic development, the policy suggests incorporating extracurricular activities into the curriculum and acknowledges the significance of a student's personality development in all spheres, including social, emotional, and cognitive growth.

A New Framework for Schools

The 10+2 system of education in India will be replaced with a new 5+3+3+4 system proposed by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The four phases of the structure will be Foundational (ages 3–8), Preparatory (grades 3-5), Middle (grades 6–8), and Secondary (grades 9–12). Each stage will emphasize the development of higher-order cognitive abilities, subject-specific knowledge and skills, vocational education, and fundamental literacy and numeracy skills.

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

Early childhood care and education (ECCE) is important, and the National Education Policy 2020 aims to give all children up to age 6 universal access to high-quality ECCE by 2030. A flexible, multi-level, play-based ECCE curriculum is another goal of the strategy. In order to guarantee that the curriculum is developmentally appropriate and supports children's overall development, the policy suggests creating a National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education.

Prioritizing Vocational Training

Vocational education, which seeks to equip students with useful skills and information that can aid them in their future employment, is given a lot of weight in the NEP 2020. The policy suggests giving students several entry and departure points to gain practical skills and integrating vocational education into regular schooling. The strategy suggests creating a National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) to recognize vocational skills and qualifications, acknowledging the value of vocational education in fostering employment and entrepreneurship.

Technology in Education

The National Education Policy 2020 acknowledges the value of technology in education and suggests using it to raise educational standards. The goal of the policy is to encourage the use of technology in teaching and learning while giving all schools fair access to digital infrastructure and connection. In order to facilitate the sharing of best practices and ideas about the use of technology in education, the policy suggests creating a National Education Technology Forum.

Curriculum and Assessment Flexibility

A flexible and diverse curriculum is suggested by the National Education Policy 2020, enabling students to select their courses based on their aptitude and areas of interest. Additionally, the strategy seeks to lessen the focus on memorization and implement a competency-based evaluation system that would evaluate students' knowledge and practical abilities. In order to guarantee that the curriculum is current and relevant, the new policy suggests creating a new and comprehensive National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) in all regional languages. It acknowledges the need for a flexible and multidisciplinary curriculum that is in line with the shifting demands of the economy and society.

Teacher Training and Professional Development

The NEP 2020 acknowledges the value of teacher preparation and suggests giving educators opportunities for ongoing professional development to advance their expertise. Additionally, the strategy

seeks to guarantee that instructors have the necessary training to provide students with a multidisciplinary education and to draw the finest talent to the teaching profession.

Greater Public Funding for Education

In order to improve education quality and expand access to education for everyone, the National Education Policy 2020 suggests raising public investment in education to 6% of GDP. In order to take use of the resources and experience of the private sector, the program also seeks to promote public-private partnerships in the education sector. To sum up, the National Education Policy 2020 is a bold policy declaration that intends to transform the Indian educational system by implementing several significant reforms. The plan aims to provide students with a well-rounded, multidisciplinary education, enhance educational access and quality, and produce a skilled labor force capable of bolstering the country's economic development.

BENEFITS AND DRAWBACKS OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY-2020

Benefits of National Education Policy 2020

The execution of NEP 2020 will raise spending to about 6% of GDP, which will revitalize the education sector in India, which currently receives barely 3% of the country's budget. To lessen the stress of board exams on children, the present 10+2 school curriculum will be replaced with the 5+3+3+4 schedule. From classes six through eight, there will also be an emphasis on vocational learning. This will allow the children to gain practical skills like carpentry, plumbing, gardening, and pottery, as well as to reflect on their hobbies and gain a greater appreciation and respect for these abilities. Now that multidisciplinary course options are offered to students in grades 9 through 12, the various streams will be more flexible with a wider range of topic combinations. Without rigorous adherence to the streams of Arts, Science, and Commerce, any student will be allowed to follow subjects of their interest, even if they are outside of their main area. For example, a science student may study history, while an art student may research biology. In order to foster critical thinking, reasoning, and creativity in students through the application of their knowledge in real-world situations, the board exam system that primarily assessed students' memorization and rote learning skills will be abolished.

The government currently guarantees that children between the ages of 6 and 14 may get compulsory education, and many initiatives, such as the "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan," have been effectively implemented to achieve this goal. However, it excluded a number of kids from the educational system. At light of this, the revised NEP pledges to provide free education at government-run institutions to all children from the age of three to eighteen. One step in improving the learning process will be the inclusion of computers and coding lessons in the curriculum as early as class 6. Standard entrance tests will be implemented and administered by

the National Testing Agency (NTA) in place of numerous independent entrance exams for college admission. This will improve uniformity and clarity and, in the long run, help students get into the subjects and educational institutions of their choice by eliminating costly and occasionally exploitative entrance exams. The three-year undergraduate program will be replaced by a four-year program that offers the choice of earning a degree after three years, a diploma after two years, and a one-year degree after one year. Research will form the basis for the fourth year. Additionally, students will be able to switch to a different discipline, and their credits will be available for transfer as long as they are pursuing an education. NEP's implementation will limit the amount of fees that can be charged, preventing private institutions from charging excessively for higher education. Even for students who are economically challenged, this measure will increase access to and affordability of education. Foreign universities and other international educational institutions are welcome to establish campuses in India under the new NEP. Indians will have greater access to high-quality education in their country, which will enable more students to pursue their dreams and maybe lessen the brain drain.

In order to provide impoverished pupils with access to education and development, the new NEP explores funding and the establishment of special education zones and gender inclusion funds. Even the establishment of bal bhavans in each state will be a positive step toward helping pupils who live in isolated areas. In order to revive our traditions and foster unity and fraternity from an early age, the Indian culture and ethos will be incorporated into the curriculum so that kids can learn about India's ancient history and beautiful past. By 2030, a four-year B.Ed. program will be required in order to raise the standard of education for teachers and prepare them to address a number of problems in the educational system, such as helping and mentoring students and teaching students with disabilities.

Drawbacks of the NEP 2020

Though several of its provisions have generated concerns and drawn harsh criticism, the National Education Policy 2020 has been hailed for its various ideas, which have been referred to as significant flaws in the policy. While English will be taught considerably later, the NEP places a strong emphasis on the introduction of the mother tongue in the primary grades, which will be utilized to teach the main topics. Unlike other countries with a single mother tongue, like Germany, Russia, Japan, China, France, etc., India is a multilingual country with 22 major languages and countless of dialects. Therefore, translating the foundational themes into these different regional languages (and mother tongues) will be a huge undertaking that calls for a significant investment of time, energy, and qualified personnel. The enforcement of mother tongues and regional languages is perceived as the central government's attempt to impose Hindi on the non-Hindi speaking states, which is another reason why some individuals have been outspoken in their opposition to the NEP. Students who can only afford to attend government-run institutions will suffer as a result of the NEP's suggestion that English instruction in government schools begin after class 5. On the other hand, private schools will continue to implement the practice of teaching English from the very beginning, which

will be very advantageous for their pupils. If English, the global language, had been taught to government schoolchildren at an early age, it would have widened the gap between the various socioeconomic categories and eliminated a number of chances that may have benefited them. Even though it seems sensible and urgent, the NEP 2020's emphasis on e-learning and education digitization appears to ignore the reality that only around 30% of Indians can afford smart phones, and even fewer still have access to computers. Then, because government-run schools lack a robust IT infrastructure, kids from distant areas or socioeconomically disadvantaged families will not be able to adjust to IT-based learning until such a facility is made available as soon as possible. A high dropout rate and lack of seriousness may result from students quitting their studies before finishing their education because the revised policy allows them to leave the graduate program and still receive a certification or diploma.

CONCLUSION

Numerous modifications have been made since the New Education Policy 2020 was introduced. All things considered, the New Education Policy has more advantages than disadvantages and will be very beneficial in addressing India's growing unemployment issue by providing young people with much more advanced, skill-based, employment-oriented professional education based on their needs, preferences, abilities, and competences.

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