

## NEW EDUCATION POLICY 2020 – AN EDUCATIONAL REFORM, AMIDST EVEN AND ODD

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### Abstract:

Government of India has announced National Education Policy 2020 on 29.07.2020. This National Policy on education has proposes various reforms in school education as well as higher education including technical education. Various action points and activities for implementation in school education as well as higher education are mentioned in the National Education Policy 2020. Education is a fundamental human right which determines the economic and social progress of any country. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a comprehensive framework for the development of education in the country. The main aim of NEP 2020 is to transform the Indian education system by making it more inclusive, holistic, and flexible. The present study aims at to acknowledge about the main features of NEP2020, its role and how it's different than the old education policy.

**Key words:** NEP, holistic, inclusive, holistic, inclusive

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### Introduction:

The National Education Policy 2020 is a comprehensive framework with all new features to enhance the existing education policy for the development of overall education system in India. It has been announced by government of India on 29.07.2020 .It ensures Universal Access at All Levels of schooling from pre-primary school to Grade 12 .Ensuring quality early childhood care and education for all children between 3-6 years. New Curricular and Pedagogical Structure (5+3+3+4) has been formulated. More emphasis on promoting multilingualism and Indian languages has been given. Equitable and inclusive education format has been given more importance - Special emphasis given on socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs).Formulated to set up Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs). Assessment reforms includes Board Exams on up to two occasions during any given school year, one main examination and one for improvement, if desired .Teacher Education - 4-year integrated stage-specific, subject- specific Bachelor of Education. This new education policy aims for a massive transformation in education field. At the same time it has to face great challenges in restructuring of school curriculum and successful implementation of the policy at each level of education.

**Aims and Objectives:** The main aim behind the above study is to understand the important features and the need of this policy to be formulated by government of India. The national education policy 1986 was recommended almost 36 years back .Due to fast growing world and global economy, it has become need of the

hour to change the preexisting education policy. Education plays an important role to fulfill this desired goal and bridge the gap between ancient and modern world. The above study aims to understand the Holistic and Multidisciplinary Approach of education its flexibility in Course Structure. The need of giving more emphasis on mother tongue. The objective is to understand the need for redesigning of assessment structure. It also aims to understand the need to integrate technology.

### **Key Features of NEP (2020):**

The national policy of education 2020 has been formulated for the holistic development of students as well as the whole education system at each level of education. The salient features of NEP2020 to achieve its targeted goal includes-

**Overall development of students-** The NEP 2020 aims to develop an education system that fosters the overall development of students, including cognitive, social, emotional, physical and technological development.

**Inclusive and equitable access-** The main aim of policy is to ensure equitable access to education for all, regardless of gender, religion, caste, or socio-economic status. It focuses on providing quality education to marginalized communities and divyang children.

**Desired stream flexibility-** The NEP 2020 allows students to choose their courses and subjects according to their interests and aptitudes. It also allows to promote multiple entry and exit points in education, making it possible for students to pursue their studies at their own pace.

**Good quality Education:** The NEP2020 aims to ensure that all students receive a quality international standard of education. It not only focusses on improving the quality of teachers but also formulating curriculum and suitable infrastructure and colleges.

**Skill development education-** The NEP 2020 emphasizes the need for vocational education to students with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in the current job market. It directs to integrate vocational education into mainstream education, so that students have the opportunity to choose from a range of vocational courses. It has emphasis on Mother Tongue and redesigning of Assessment Structure. It focuses on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Teacher Training and Professional Development, Integration of Technology, ensuring Universal Access at All Levels of schooling from pre-primary school to Grade 12, quality early childhood care and education for all children between 3-6 years. New Curricular and Pedagogical Structure (5+3+3+4) has been recommended. There is no hard separations between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams. More emphasis on promoting multilingualism and Indian languages has been given. The medium of instruction till Grade 8 and beyond, will be the home language or mother tongue or local language or regional language. Board Exams will be on up to two occasions during any given school year, one main examination and one for improvement. To set up of a new National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development). Special emphasis given on socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs). A transparent processes for recruitment of teachers and merit based performance being recommended. To set up of State School Standards Authority (SSSA), Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs), National

Research Foundation (NRF) for better education. Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education with multiple entry or exit options are given to students. Expansion of open and distance learning to increase Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is added. Education to become internationalized. Teacher Education - 4-year integrated stage-specific, subject- specific Bachelor of Education is recommended. The National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) is established to provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning, and administration. Education to bring overall focus on quality education is given, including e-books, e-learning materials, and online courses. The policy recognizes the importance of teacher training and aims to improve the quality of teacher education in the country. It focuses on providing teachers with the necessary skills and knowledge to teach in a diverse and inclusive classroom.

**Difference Between New and Old Education Policy:**

**Multidisciplinary approach (MD approach):**

The new education policy has a multidisciplinary approach to education .It allows students to choose subjects across streams and encouraging cross-disciplinary learning .In the old education policy every child has to choose science or commerce stream. By subscribing to a particular branch has been eliminated in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

**Early childhood education (ECE):**

The importance of early childhood education has been recognized by new education policy .Education aims to provide universal access to quality early childhood care and education for all children up to the age of 8 years. The old policy did not give much attention to early childhood education.

**Education on vocational subjects:**

The National Education Policy (2020) emphasizes the integration of vocational education into mainstream education thereby promoting skill development and self-sustaining. The old education system was providing lucrative degrees but no skills. The new education policy emphasized to promote literacy to develop the skills and capabilities of the workforce.

**Use of digital technology:**

The NEP 2020 plans to harness the advanced digital technology by including online learning and the creation of a digital infrastructure for education. The old policy 1986 did not consider the use of technology in education as digital technology advancement started in twenty first century.

**Experiential learning:**

The National Education Policy promotes experimental and experiential learning and encouraging to know real-world applications of knowledge. The old policy relied mainly on rote learning and memorization of the various concept.

**Assessment method:** The National Education Policy proposes changes in the assessment system, including a shift towards continuous and comprehensive evaluation, and the introduction of a new National Assessment Centre to assess learning outcomes. The old policy focused primarily on final exams as a measure of student achievement.

### **Medium of instruction:**

The importance received by the regional languages in comparison to the English language is less. UNESCO has declared 197 Indian languages as ‘endangered’, this shows the negligence with the Indian languages. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 plans to eliminate this by encouraging the use of the mother tongue or regional language as a medium of instruction in the early years of education.

### **Indian Education:**

The Indian education system has western perspective and textbooks find little about Indian culture, history, and the Indian knowledge system. National Education Policy 2020 has recognized the need for making the whole system to recognize the heritage of Indian culture.

### **Structure of school:**

The National education policy 2020 proposes a change in the old 10+2 system by a new 5+3+3+4 system where the first five years of education focus on the foundational stage, followed by three years of preparatory education and another three years of middle education. Finally, there are four years of secondary education, with an emphasis on vocational training and multidisciplinary education.

To thrive in today’s highly competitive professional world, education is crucial to enhance a student's skill and potential. With the world’s largest youth population of 365 million, it becomes foremost for India to provide its youth the finest education facilities available. As the Indian education system has been functioning on a traditional approach for more than three decades, it is high time that a major reform comes in play with regards to the country’s education.

### **Proposed Impact of NEP(2020) on Education System:**

The new education policy is also a new hope for the existing Indian education system. The recently introduced National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has proposed to revolutionize the Indian education. It adds new feather to our education system towards international standards. NEP 2020 has been presented as India’s third education policy, replacing NEP 1986. This policy aims at reforming school education by focusing on subject-Flexibility. The foremost impact of NEP 2020 is the availability of school for all children with a new approach. The introduction of pre-primary units at every level of government or private schools, bringing back the school dropouts to education, fund incorporation for underdeveloped areas, homeschooling for people with disabilities etc. The policy focuses more on a holistic development rather than rote learning and scoring Marks. Under NEP 2020, the existing school structure of 10+2 will be changed to 5+3+3+4, focusing children from the age group of 3 to 18 years. The policy aims to lessen the content of the syllabus to only the core essentials. The objective is to concentrate more on the growth of specific skills. NEP 2020 also focuses on the foundation stages of education. Moreover, education will be provided to the child in their mother tongue and gradually to other Indian or foreign languages. Digital literacy will be promoted extensively so that the classroom resources can be available to students all over India. According to the policy, every university should aim to become multidisciplinary by 2040. With this the students can obtain a broader perspective towards problem solving, than the current workforce. The former education policy focused mostly on matters of access and equity. The

new education policy aims to generate productive and engaged students for inclusive society.

### Conclusions

In today's highly competitive professional world, education is very important to enhance a student's skill and potential. With the world's largest youth population of nearly 400 million, it becomes mandatory for India to provide its youth the finest education facilities available. As the Indian education system has been functioning on a traditional approach since NEP1986, it is high time that a major reform comes in play with regards to the country's education system for the global competitive world. There exists certain obstacles on the proper implementation of the national policy 2020 .Perceiving the demand of new education system it has become mandatory for the Indian government to implement the national education policy on priority.

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