

# THE EDUCATION POLICY 2020 – A BOON FOR THE STUDENTS

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**Abstract :** A well-defined education policy is an essential part of the country. A good education policy helps to develop a country. Because, if the education system is strong in a country then economic and social growth will progress effectively. Different countries have different policies for education. NEP 2020 has the target to achieve 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio in school education. On 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020, the national education policy 2020 was approved by the Union Cabinet of India with some amazing changes from the school level to the college level. After 34 years the New Education Policy 2020 has replaced the previous National Policy on Education (1986). NEP (2020) is the total transformation of the education system to match up to this challenging creative world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. One of the most important objectives of this policy is to identify and foster the capabilities of each child. This article is to overview the opportunity and challenges made for children by NEP-2020.

**Keywords:** NEP-2020, Indian Education, Education System, Changes, Transformation, ICT.

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

Education means not only giving knowledge to a student for cognitive development but also the all-around development of a child. This new education policy 2020 emphasizes higher-order cognitive development like critical thinking and problem-solving. <sup>i</sup> If we discuss the education system during ancient times, the main aim of education was not only acquiring knowledge but the preparation for life and complete self-realization. Indian education system changed according to time and situation. From the Gurukul system of education to till now recent ICT education, we have seen huge changes in our education system. <sup>ii</sup> The first NEP was formulated by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1968, And again the <sup>iii</sup> second education policy after 20 years was implemented by Rajiv Gandhi government in 1986. The recent <sup>iv</sup> national education policy (NEP-2020) was formulated by our present Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A committee under the former cabinet secretary T.S.R Subramanian declared the negotiation process for the New Education Policy in January 2015. Based on the committee report in 2017, the NEP draft was submitted its report on 2019 by a panel guided by former chief ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization) Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan. The draft was later announced by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). It was not a one-day decision by committee members. The opinion has been taken by collecting great educational ideas through several public consultations (institutions, organizations, and individuals from different cultures and societies). The committee has evaluated all the present educational issues of our country. Each member of the committee brought their unique ideas for the development of this policy by keeping in mind our culture and society. This policy put up the foundational pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, and Accountability. The cabinet has sanctioned the renaming of the Ministry of Human Resource Development to the “Ministry of Education”. This policy is in line with the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development and aims to reconstruct India into a vibrant knowledge society by making our education system more flexible and multidisciplinary. This policy made huge changes to the development of our education system.

### 1.1. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The main objective of this paper is to study the quality and changes of the new education policy 2020 announced by the government of India in the recent past .

#### Methods of study:

The present study is a review paper prepared mainly based on secondary sources of data collected from Internet website, periodical, journals, text books and news paper.

## Discussions:

By 2030 the target is 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio(GER) in school education and to put forward two crore out-of-school children pull back into the mainstream along an open schooling system. The NEP-2020 shifted the 10+2 structure and introduced the 5+3+3+4 structure. In this new structure of the curriculum, early childhood education will be a part of formal education. The purpose of this education is to update all aspects of the education structure and create a new system to develop the latent qualities and capabilities of each student. The Right of Education eligibility window increased from 6-14 to 3-18 years with the purpose of 100% of children enrolment in the school to be ready by 2030. The policy also gives importance to the Universalization of ECCE with the investment of proper infrastructure and a child-friendly environment in ECCE. It also emphasizes the continuous professional development of ECCE teachers and Anganwadi workers.

## 2. SCHOOL EDUCATION UNDER NEP:

Restructuring the 10+2 curricular and pedagogical structure to 5+3+3+4. 3 years in Anganwadi or pre school and 12 years in school education. This system allows more uniform and inclusive alteration from preschool to higher education. Class 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> board exams will take twice a year on a competency base rather than memorized facts.

### Foundational Stage:

The foundational stage has included 3 to 8 years of children and this stage is fixed for 5 years. Children will spend 3 years in preschool or Anganwadi education and 2 years in primary school (class-1,2). Children will get education through activity-based learning through the play-way method of learning. The age group of 3 to 6 years children were not included in the previous education policy of the 10+2 structure but the new education policy has included the 3 to 6 age-group of children in the 5+3+3+4 structure. Up to the first 6 years for children will be aimed at promoting healthy brain development and growth. The main focus is the language development of students.

### Preparatory:

The preparatory stage is for 3 years and the age group of 8 to 11 years of children, up to 5<sup>th</sup> class has been included. Interactive classroom with activity-based learning and focus on discovery learning. The main aim is to strengthen numerical skills, language development, and improvement of classroom relationships. Teaching up to 5<sup>th</sup> standard to be in the mother tongue. No language will be a force on any student.

### Middle Stage:

The period for the middle stage has been fixed for 3 years. The 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> classes have been included. Coding will be started in the 6<sup>th</sup> standard. The Subject-based curriculum will be taught by experiential learning, withdrawing from the rote learning method in mathematics, science, arts, social science, and humanities. Children will get the opportunity to get vocational testing and vocational internship.

### Secondary Stage:

Critical thinking, flexibility, multi-disciplinary study, and student choice-based subject have been focused on here. Students will be able to choose their topic according to their talent and interest.

## 3. OPPORTUNITIES RELATED TO HIGHER EDUCATION:

The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) will be raised to 50% by 2035. About 3.5 crore seats will be added in higher education. An undergraduate can be 3 or 4 years of education with multiple exit options during their UG program and relevant certificate at different stages will be available. For example, if a student wants to exit just after 1 year for some reason, he can be available to get a certificate. If he exits after 2 years, he will be awarded an advanced diploma after successful completion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. After 3<sup>rd</sup> year of UG completion will get a bachelor's degree. 4<sup>th</sup> year of completion will be a great opportunity by getting an award for Bachelors of Research. Academic Bank of Credits to be set to transfer credits for admission to other institutions. A multidisciplinary education and research university interchangeable to IITs and IIMs will be set through a general entrance test conducted by National Testing Agency. There will be no strict separation between academic streams. M.Phil courses will be discontinued. An apex body will be created as National Research Foundation for building research capacity in higher education. Every college is looking forward to developing into either an autonomous degree-grant college or a constituent college of a university.

## 4. TRANSFORMING CURRICULAR AND PEDAGOGICAL STRUCTURE:

Figure.1 is an attempt to express the transformation between the previous education structure and the new education structure.

Previous Academic  
Structure

1986 Academic Structure

New Pedagogical and Curricular  
Structur

NEP-2020 Structure

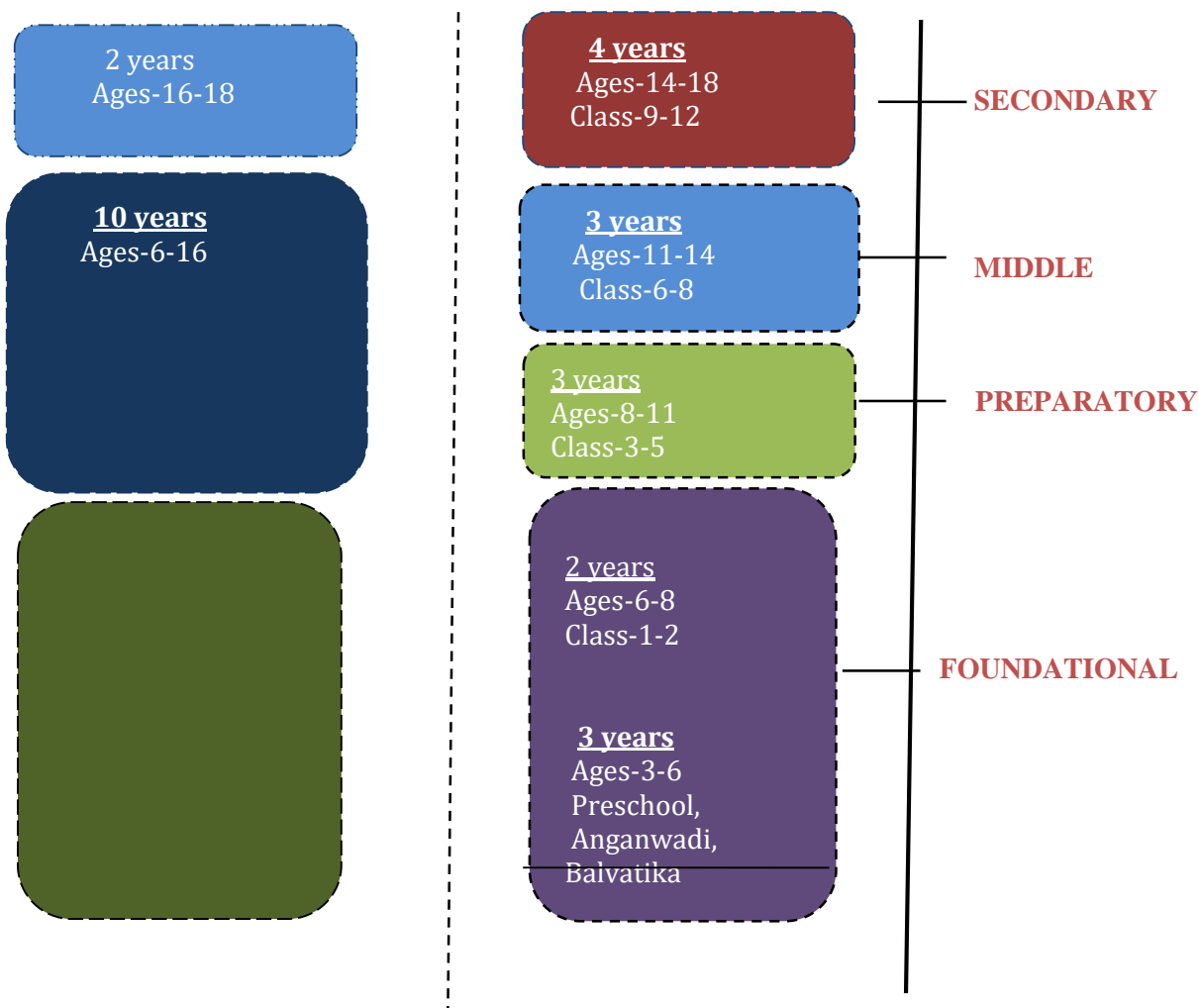


Figure.1

**HECI – A Single Regulatory with 4 Different Functions:  
 HECI-Higher Education Commission of India :**

Figure.2 is to explain Higher Education Commission of India (HECI), which would be set up as a single umbrella body with 4 verticals and all will guide different functions in the higher education system.

| Serial No. | 4 Bodies of HECI   | Responsibilities   |
|------------|--|--|
| 1          | <b>National Higher Education Regulatory Council(NHERC)</b> | For regulation of higher education, NEP has proposed (NHERC). It will work as a single regulator for the higher education sector including teacher education.                |
| 2          | <b>National Accreditation Council(NAC)</b>                 | This body has been made for the accreditation of institutions and the accreditation process will be based on basic norms, public self-report, good governance, and outcomes. |
| 3          | <b>Higher Education Grants Council(HEGC)</b>               | This body will provide funding and financing for higher  |

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|   |  | education based on transparent criteria. HEGC will provide scholarship and developmental funds for focus areas and fill out quality programs in higher education.   |
| 4 | <b>General Education Council (GEC)</b> | The general education council will set expected learning outcomes for academia. A National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF) will be developed by (GEC), and a degree/diploma/certificate will be distributed by NHEQF. It will synchronize with National Skill Qualification Framework(NSQF) for making mastery over the integration of vocational education into higher education. |

Figure.2

**Inclusive Education :**

The main focus of NEP2020 is to make sure that no child loses any opportunity to get an education and no child should be deprived because of the circumstances of birth or background. Special importance will be given to socially and economically Disadvantaged Groups including gender, geographical identities, and disabilities. Children with disability will get full participation in the regular schooling process from the foundational stage to higher education. They can get the full support of educators with cross-disability training, assistive devices, resource centre, technology-based tools, and other need-based support. Every state or district will introduce “Bal Bhavans” as daytime boarding schools.

**Improvement in the Assessment Process:**

NEP has proposed to transfer the current summative assessment system to a regular and formative base of assessment. It will be more comprehensive, competency based, and test high-order skills to promote the self-analysis, critical thinking, problem-solving, and conceptual clarity of students. A new National assessment centre has been established named PARAKH- (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development).

**5. SOME OTHER CHANGES MADE BY NEP-2020:**

- Various foreign languages will also be extended at the secondary level. Indian Sign Language (ISL) will be systemized across the country.
- National and state curriculum material will be established for students with hearing impairment.
- It covers the way foreign universities set up a campus in India.
- Currently India is spending 4.6% of its GDP and NEP 2020 has aim to invest 6% of its GDP.
- Teachers will get an opportunity to develop their ability and self-development for teaching and improving their professions. The best work of teachers will be appreciated and promoted and their salary will be raised according to their best work to motivate all teachers.

**6. ADVANTAGES OF THE POLICY:**

- With the special importance of NEP 2020, our government has planned to make education accessible to everyone.
- By this latest plan of the policy, almost 2 crore school students will come again to their educational institution.

- The transformation of the education system from a 10+2 structure to 5+3+3+4 will be focused on formative years of learning for students.
- 3 years of Anganwadi and Pre-schooling has included 12 years of the schooling process.
- The NEP has given importance to improving the practical knowledge of students rather than rote learning. This will help students to develop their scientific thought.
- Establishment of a foreign campus in India will give a great chance to Indian students for experiencing global discovery of learning and it will enhance value-based education.
- The states of India will be responsible for the complete implementation of the base of literacy and numeracy for all children before they set foot in class 3.
- Appropriate authority will run the exams of Class 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>. NEP plans to redesign the exam system for classes 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> to complete the holistic development of each child.
- NCERT, SCERT, and NCTE will plan to create national professional standards for teachers.
- NCERT will begin National Curricular Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education up to the age of 8.
- PARAKH-(Performance, Assessment Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) will be a new assessment centre that will be a standard-setting body.
- NEP gives importance to setting gender inclusion funds.
- Every state/district will establish Bal Bhavan centre as a dynamic boarding school.
- The NEP-2020 proposed multi-disciplinary Under Graduate Education with flexible curricula and subject integration and multiple entry/exit facility with appropriate certification.

#### **7. DISADVANTAGES:**

- Spending 6% of GDP on education is a big challenge because most of the previous governments had decided to achieve the goal of 6% GDP but they failed.
- As our government has established National Testing Agency to conduct an entrance examination after the 12<sup>th</sup> for entering Higher Education. But students may have different interests in a different field, some students may not be good at studies, and judging students' quality based on exams will create blockages in the way of students' success.
- New Education Policy introduces the English language earlier in private schools but government schools will give the importance of academic syllabus in regional language, government school students will face difficulty in communicating in English.
- Students will be prepared to complete their Graduation in 4 years while a student can easily complete his/her diploma degree in two years. In this situation, students can leave the course midway through 4 years of degree courses.

#### **8. SUGGESTIONS:**

- Starting vocational education on the 6<sup>th</sup> standard is very early for students. They may feel a burden having the extra responsibility of studying which will be a new experience.
- Teacher training must be limited to two years.
- NEP -2020 has proposed, that the medium of instruction is mother tongue up to 5<sup>th</sup> (recommended up to 8<sup>th</sup>). Mother tongue is important for study, it will enhance the understanding and critical thinking power of the concept easily but most of the technologies, scientific collaboration, and higher studies are completely in English. Of the unexpected pandemic of COVID-19, our education system is depending on e-learning. Students will face lots of challenges while learning through technology-based education and communicating with the English language. Children going to school at the age of 3 will be too early, children can deny going every day to the same place at the age of 3. Some children may get interested in going to school but some students can feel burdened, which can affect their mental health.

#### **9. CONCLUSION:**

NEP 2020 is a purpose is to improve and recreate the Indian education system. The education system will start using a constructivist approach to learning and increase the experiential learning approach. NEP 2020 aims to enhance the critical thinking power of children. Enhancement of e-learning is going to improve for competing for the present digital world. National Education Policy is a great innovative policy to achieve quality education. Presently India is using the traditional way of teaching and learning and it is very much important to improve our education system. It would be a big challenge to implement NEP2020 because it has lots of innovative changes like merit-based admissions

with scholarships, research-based performers as faculty members, and quality-based technology monitoring. It is expected to fulfil its objectives by 2030. All higher education institutes which have classified affiliated colleges will enhance as multi-disciplinary autonomous colleges with degree given power in their name. Foreign universities will get the opportunity to start their campus in India and it will not create any blockages to Indian Universities from setting up its campus in abroad. National Research Foundation will give funds for innovative projects in research areas of basic science, applied sciences, social sciences, and humanities. NEP 2020 aims for the total transformation of our traditional education with lots of changes. Proper implementation of this policy will take a step higher in our Indian academic system.

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