



Centre for Educational and Social Studies

Bengaluru, India, www.cessedu.org

Highlights of National Education Policy 2020

The Union Cabinet headed by Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the National Education Policy 2020, on July 29, 2020, paving way for transformational reforms in both School Education and Higher education sector in the country. The new policy replaces the 34 years old National Policy on Education (1986), aims to overhaul the country's education system and is aligned with 2030 agenda for sustainable development goals.

Pillars of NEP 2020

With five foundational pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability, the policy aims to transform India into a vibrant knowledge society and global knowledge super power by making both school and higher education more holistic and flexible, suited to 21st century needs.

Major Highlights

School Education

1. Ensuring Universal Access at all levels of school education

- a. NEP 2020 emphasizes on ensuring universal access to school education at all levels- pre-school to secondary.
- b. Open learning for classes 3,5 and 8 through NIOS and State Open Schools, secondary education programs equivalent to Grades 10 and 12
- c. The main aim being to bring back 2 cr. out of school children to the main stream.
- d. Multiple pathways to learning involving both formal and non-formal education modes.
- e. Counselors or well-trained teachers will be associated with schools

2. Early Childhood Care & Education with new Curricular and Pedagogical Structure

- a. A National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education (NCPFECCE) for children up to the age of 8 will be developed by NCERT

- b. The curricular and pedagogical structure of school education will be guided by a 5+3+3+4 design corresponding to the age ranges of 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years, respectively altering the present 10+2 model.
 - c. The anganwadis and pre-schools will have teachers and anganwadi workers, trained in the ECCE pedagogy and curriculum.
 - d. The planning and implementation of ECCE will be carried out jointly by the Ministries of HRD, Women and Child Development (WCD), Health and Family Welfare and Tribal Welfare.
3. **Attaining Foundational Literacy and Numeracy**
- a. A National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy by MHRD.
 - b. States will prepare an implementation plan for attaining universal foundational literacy and numeracy in all the primary schools by 2025.
 - c. The National Book Promotion Policy to be formulated
4. **Reforms in school curricula and pedagogy**
- a. A new and comprehensive **National Curricular Framework for School Education**, NCFSE 2020-21, will be developed by the NCERT which will equip the learners with 21st century skills.
 - b. There will be no rigid separations between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams.
 - c. Vocational education will begin from 6th grade and will include internships
5. **Multilingualism and the power of language**
- a. Atleast till grade 5, teaching should be in mother tongue/regional language/local language, but preferably upto grade 8 and beyond
 - b. Sanskrit should be offered as an option at all levels of school and higher education by including in the three language formula.
 - c. Indian Sign Language (ISL) will be standardized across the country, and National and State curriculum materials to be developed for students with hearing impairment.
 - d. Other classical languages also to be available as optional.
6. **Assessment Reforms**
- a. The policy envisages a shift from summative assessment to regular and formative assessment.

- b. A new National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) will be set up as a standard-setting body
- c. The appropriate authority will conduct exams for grades 3, 5 and 8
- d. Board exams for 10 and 12 will continue
- e. The assessment pattern is redesigned for holistic development of a learner

7. Equitable and Inclusive Education

- a. Gender Inclusion Fund and also Special Education Zones will be set up for disadvantaged regions and groups
- b. Children with disabilities will be encouraged for regular schooling with support of educators with cross disability training, resource centres and accommodations
- c. The disabled children will be provided with appropriate technology tools and other mechanisms to suit their needs
- d. Bal Bhavans will be established across states/districts as a special daytime boarding school to encourage art-career-play-related-activities.
- e. Free school infrastructure to be used as Samajik Chetna Kendras.

8. Robust Teacher Recruitment and Career Path

- a. Teachers will be recruited through robust, transparent processes
- b. A common **National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST)** will be developed by the National Council for Teacher Education by 2022
- c. NCERT, SCERTs, teachers and expert organizations from across levels and regions will be consulted to develop NPST.

9. School Governance

- a. Schools can be organized into complexes or clusters which will be the basic unit of governance.
- b. This will ensure availability of all resources including infrastructure, academic libraries and a strong professional teacher community.

10. Standard-setting and Accreditation for School Education

- a. It envisages clear, separate systems for policy making, regulation, operations and academic matters.
- b. States/UTs will set up independent State School Standards Authority (SSSA).
- c. The SCERT will develop a School Quality Assessment and Accreditation Framework (SQAAF) through consultations with all stakeholders.

1. Increase GER to 50% by 2035

- a. The aim will be to increase the GER in higher education including vocational education from 26.3% (2018) to 50% by 2035.
- b. More 3.5 cr. new seats will be added to higher education institutions

2. Holistic Multidisciplinary Education

- a. A holistic and multidisciplinary undergraduate education will be developed, including those in professional, technical, and vocational disciplines.
- b. Even engineering institutions, such as IITs, will move towards more holistic and multidisciplinary education with more arts and humanities.
- c. UG education can be of 3 or 4 years with multiple exit options and appropriate certification within this period
- d. An Academic Bank of Credit will be established with the curricula of all HEIs having credit-based courses and projects
- e. Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs) will be set up as models of best multidisciplinary education of global standards in the country at par with IITs and IIMs.
- f. **The National Research Foundation** will be created as an apex body for fostering a strong research culture and building research capacity across higher education.

3. Regulation

- a. Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will be set up as a single overarching umbrella body for the entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education under four independent verticals.
- b. HECI will function through faceless intervention through technology, & will have powers to penalise HEIs not conforming to norms and standards
- c. Public and private higher education institutions will be governed by the same set of norms for regulation, accreditation and academic standards.

4. Rationalized Institutional Architecture

- a. Transformation of HEIs into large, well resourced, vibrant multidisciplinary institutions
- b. The institutions under university will range from Research-intensive Universities to Teaching-intensive Universities and Autonomous degree-granting Colleges.
- c. The system of 'affiliated colleges' will be gradually phased out over a period of fifteen years through a system of graded autonomy

5. **Motivated, Energized, and Capable Faculty**

- a. Faculty will be given the freedom to design their own curricular and pedagogical approaches within the approved framework.
- b. HEIs will have clearly defined, independent, and transparent processes and criteria for faculty recruitment.

6. **Teacher Education**

- a. A new and comprehensive **National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education, NCFTE 2021**, will be formulated by the NCTE in consultation with NCERT
- b. By 2030, the minimum degree qualification for teaching will be a 4-year integrated B.Ed. degree

7. **Mentoring Mission**

- a. National Mission for Mentoring will be established with a large pool of outstanding senior/retired faculty
- b. Teachers willing to provide short and long-term professional/mentoring support to university/college teachers will also be included.

8. **Financial support for students**

- a. The National Scholarship Portal will be expanded to support, foster, and track the progress of students receiving scholarships.
- b. Efforts will be made to incentivize the merit of students belonging to SC, ST, OBC, and other SEDGs.
- c. Private HEIs will be encouraged to offer larger numbers of free ships and scholarships to their students.

9. **Open and Distance Learning**

- a. Expansion of ODL resulting in increased GER
- b. To ensure highest quality in-class programmes, measures such as online courses and digital repositories, funding for research, credit-based recognition of MOOC's etc., will be taken.

10. **Online Education and Digital Education:**

- a. a comprehensive set of recommendations to promote 'online education' will be prepared to ensure preparedness, in view of the recent rise in epidemics and pandemics and to ensure quality education with alternative modes

- b. a dedicated team to orchestrate the building of digital infrastructure, digital content and capacity building will be created in MHRD, includes school and higher education

11. Technology in education

- a. A new National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), an autonomous body, will be setup to encourage exchange of ideas regarding technology
- b. Appropriate integration of technology into all levels of education

12. Promotion of Indian languages

- a. NEP recommends setting up an Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation (IITI), National Institute (or Institutes) for Pali, Persian and Prakrit, strengthening of Sanskrit and all language departments in HEIs,
- b. Use of mother tongue/local language as a medium of instruction in more HEI programmes.

13. Internationalization

- a. Institutional collaborations and faculty/student exchanges with high-quality foreign institutions will be facilitated
- b. Entry of top world ranked universities to open campuses in our country

14. Professional Education

- a. All professional education will be an integral part of the higher education system.
- b. Stand-alone agricultural universities, legal universities, health science universities, technical universities, and stand-alone institutions in other fields, shall aim to become multidisciplinary institutions offering holistic and multidisciplinary education.

15. Adult Education

- a. Policy aims to achieve 100% youth and adult literacy.

16. Financing Education

- a. The Centre and the States will work together to increase the public investment in Education sector to reach 6% of GDP at the earliest.

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