

National Education Policy 2020: Ensures Universal Access to School Education

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ABSTRACT

Education is a lifelong process. School education is the foundation of any nation's education. The policy of education is very important for the smooth running of the education system of any nation. In independent India, the first National Education Policy came in 1968 and the second National Education Policy came in 1986. National Education Policy 2020 has been approved on 29th July 2020 after a long gap of 34 years. The announcement of NEP -2020 was purely unexpected by many. The changes that NEP -2020 has recommended were something that many educationists never saw coming. NEP- 2020 ensures universal access to school education at school level. Though the education policy has impacted school and college education equally but the present paper mainly focuses on the impact of NEP -2020 on school education. It further outlines the salient features of NEP and analysis how they affect the existing education system.

Keywords: National Education Policy 2020, NEP-2020, School Education, Education System.

Introduction

Education is an essential part of human life. The all-round development of a person's personality takes place through formal, informal and non-formal forms of education. Quality school education is essential for the progress of any nation. Universal access to education is essential for India's sustainable progress, social justice, scientific progress, equality, national integration, preservation of culture and economic development. It is that medium of education through which world peace can be wished by developing the talent and resources of the country. NEP 2020 Third National Education Policy of independent India. Before this, the NEP 1968 and National Education Policy 1986 have come in India. In such a situation, the hopes of the whole country are on the NEP 2020. Essential requirements for India's development are to be fulfilled through NEP 2020. This policy will improve and reorganize the dimensions of the entire education according to the need of the 21st century while preserving the cultural values of the country. The policy emphasizes the development of high level logical and problem-solving abilities along with basic abilities such as literacy and numeracy.

Through the NEP 2020, emphasis will be laid

on the development of creative abilities of every person. The policy emphasizes the development of high level logical and problem-solving abilities along with basic abilities such as literacy and numeracy. The school structure of the previous education policies 10+ 2 is changed and the system of 5+3+3+4 has been adopted. On the basis of this structure, activity-based education will be arranged for the children from the age of 3 years. Efforts are being made to bring children into the mainstream of education from the age of 3 years at Anganwadi centres through ECCE.

Salient Features Of Nep 2020 And Its Impact On School Education

The aim of new NEP is to re-shape the system of school education. The education content will focus on key-concepts, ideas, applications and problem-solving angles. The National Education will bring positive and long-lasting impact on the system of school education of the country.

1. ECCE: The Foundation of Learning

The maximum development of a child's brain occurs by the age of 6 years. Due to malnutrition, the brain development and physical growth of most of

the children are not fully developed. Millions of children in India do not have access to quality early care and education. Therefore, through Early Childhood Care and Education, it can be reached to all the children of the country. The infrastructure of Anganwadi centres for public access will be transformed and trained Anganwadi workers and teachers will be empowered for ECCE. Every child will be transferred to an elementary education or Bal Vatika before the age of 5 years. Play-based education will be arranged for the cognitive, affective and functional development of every child. Teachers will be trained for early childhood care and education from the developed curriculum by the NCERT.

2. Foundation of learning Literacy and Numeracy

When India became independent in the year 1947, its literacy rate was 12%. According to Census 2011, India's literacy rate is recorded at 74%. Despite various education commissions, education policies, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Right to Education Act, 2009, India is not fulfilling the target of 100% literacy. The goal of National Education Policy 2020 is to provide quality education to all with 100% enrolment. It is known from various surveys that children are facing serious learning problems. Crores of primary school students lack even basic literacy and numeracy. The ability to read and write numbers and perform some basic operations is important for further education. Basic literacy and numeracy for all children will become a national campaign. The top priority of the education system will be basic literacy and numeracy in primary schools by 2025. By filling the vacant posts of teachers, the student teacher ratio will be 30:1 and in socio-economically disadvantaged areas this ratio will be less than 25:1. The emphasis will be on 'learning to learn' by removing the ability of 'rote learning' in children. When children are malnourished, they are unable to learn. Therefore, by focusing on the nutrition of children, they are strengthened physically and mentally. For this, the Mid Day Meal Scheme will be linked to Anganwadi centres.

In NEP 2020, major change has been made in syllabus and teaching methodology to ensure students to develop cognitive skills, scientific skills, logical and technical thinking skills amongst others. The growth

of these skills will prepare students for future jobs.

3. Mitigating Dropout Rates and Ensuring Universal Access to Education at All Levels

The primary goal of the school education system is to ensure 100% enrolment of children. Progress has been made in achieving enrolment of almost all children in the country through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Right to Education Act 2009. But the non-availability of children in school remains a serious problem. 90.9 % Gross Enrolment Ratio of class 6 to 8 has been recorded.

Whereas in class 9-10 and class 11-12 the GER is 79.3% and 56.5% respectively. These data suggest that the drop out ratio of children increases rapidly after class 5 and after class 8. According to the house hold survey of NSSO in 2017-18, the number of those children who are out-of-school in the age group of 6 to 17 years is 3.22 crores. Bringing these children back into the mainstream of education is the top priority of the NEP 2020. The main goal of NEP 2020 is to ensure 100% enrolment from preschool to secondary level by 2030 and reduce the dropout ratio in future. The scope of school education with emphasis on socio-economically disadvantaged groups will be widen. Those youth of the country who cannot study regularly in the institute will be connected through Open Distance Learning program of NIOS and States. If all dimensions of NEP 2020 will be applied, the drop out ratio will be decreased, literacy rate will be increased and it will ensure universal access to education at all level.

4. Re-shape school curriculum in a new 5+3+3+4 design

A major change has been made in the structural form of school education through the National Education Policy 2020. The structure of 5+3+3+4 has been implemented in place of 10+2 education system. The focus will be on education for children from 3-8, 8-11, 11-14 and 14 -18 at different stages of development. At this structural level, there will be four stages of education. The first stage will be the foundation stage which will have two parts. In the first part there will be 3 years of Anganwadi or Pre-school and in the second part there will be 2 years of

classes I and II. This stage will be for classes 3 to 5, 8 to 11 years old children. The third stage will be the middle school stage. This stage is for class 6 to 8 children of 11 to 14 years. On the basis of this structural change, instead of keeping the education system for the holistic development of the students, it is towards knowledge and understanding. The aim of education is not just cognitive knowledge but character building and training in the core skills of the 21st century.

The curriculum has been narrowed down to critical thinking, discovery based, discussion based and analysis-based learning. The students will be given options for the choice of subjects at the secondary level. These also include physical education, art, craft and vocational subjects. Medium of instruction at least up to class 5 or up to class 8 will be of Mother tongue/ Local language or regional language keeping in view multilingualism and language strength.

5. Major Changes in Assessment System

Through the National Education Policy 2020, radical changes have been made in the methods of evaluation at the school level. Our education system focuses on Summative Assessment which mainly focuses on the skill of memorizing and remembering. It is to be taken towards formative assessment through the National Education Policy 2020 which is more useful and promotes learning and development in our students. Formative assessment clearly captures students' high level of competencies such as analysis, logical thinking conceptual thinking. The format of the progress card of the students will be given a new look. This progress card will be prepared under the guidance of national assessment centre NCERT and SCERT. This progress card will be a comprehensive 360-degree multidimensional card to assess the cognitive, affective and functional aspects of the students. This progress card will form an important link between home and school. This will include self-assessment, peer assessment, project task, discovery based, performance-based work, role play, etc. The system of evaluation of class 10 and class 12 board exams will be redesigned. Board exams will be made easier. The assessment will be primarily based on abilities and aptitudes, rather than rote them. A new system of annual/semester/ modular board examinations will be

developed. All subject-related assessment can be provided at two levels, starting with mathematics. Board exams can be prepared in two parts. The first part can be of multiple-choice questions and the second part of descriptive questions.

6. Cluster/ complex schools

Access to quality primary education is a fundamental right of every child. According to the Right to Education Act 2009, there was talk of building a primary school at a distance of every 1 kilometre and an upper primary school at a distance of 3 kilometres. Cluster school/School complex has been discussed in the National Education Policy 2020 on the basis of data from various types of surveys. According to U-DICE data 2016-17, 28% of government primary schools and 14.8% of upper primary schools in India have a smaller number of students than 30. The average student per class in classes 1 to 8 is 14, while in many schools the average is only 6. In the year 2016-17, one teacher was appointed in each school and schools were 108017 in numbers. Most of them were primary schools from classes one to five. Due to the presence of such a large number of schools, the availability of human resources and physical resources in all the schools is very complex for that quality learning environment is not available to the children. State governments have to solve such challenges by 2025. A new scheme will be made for cluster schools so that students will get quality education and healthy environment.

7. State Governments

Education is a subject in the Concurrent List. The responsibility of access to education for all lies with the central government as well as the state government. It is the responsibility of the state government to provide proper resources to create an environment of quality learning in schools. For the first time in NEP 2020, it has been said to appoint trained teachers in Anganwadi centres. Along with this, it has been said to improve the teacher-student ratio from class 1 to 12. e vacancies of teachers will be filled through merits. For that there is a requirement of merit-based system for teachers. There will be a clear accountability system for education officials and school leaders. Simultaneously, efforts will be made

by the Central and State Governments to invest in large number of teachers in regional languages and especially in the languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule. Organized various types of trainings for the professional development of teachers. The system of assessment of students will be changed by NCERT, SCERT, Board of Assessment and NACSE similar to NCF 2020-21.

State Achievement and National Achievement Survey will be conducted for the evaluation of the students. A Gender Inclusive Fund will be set up to ensure access to education to women and transgender children. The Directorate of School Education will be responsible for the educational operation of all the schools in the state. All academic matters including academics and curriculum in the state will be under the supervision of SCERT. SCERT will prepare the School Quality Assessment and Accreditation Framework for the benefit of all. In NEP 2020 there will be a provision to build state level child tracing systems and efficient EMIS system. Government will provide more resources for SEDGs.

8. Teachers

Teachers are called nation builders. The teacher must be at the centre of any kind of education system. The respect of teachers will be regained through the National Education Policy 2020. The quality of teacher education, recruitment, posting, service conditions and rights of teachers are not good. Outstanding students will be trained by starting a 4-year integrated B.Ed. programme. After completing B.Ed. degree students will provide definite employment in local areas. Excellent teachers will be encouraged to teach in rural areas. They will have provision of local residence in the school premises or around the school premises and the residential allowances of rural area will be increased. Teacher Eligibility Test will be expanded. Teacher Eligibility Test will also be applicable in basic, elementary, middle and secondary classes. The marks of National Eligibility Test will be included in the teacher recruitment process. As well as teaching demonstration or interview process can be implemented. Physical resources like clean drinking water, toilets, electricity, computer, internet, library, sporting goods etc. will be available in the school to give proper environment to

the teachers. Modern ideas and opportunities for innovation will be provided for the sustainable development of teachers. Each teacher will participate in the CPD program for approximately 50 hours each year. CPD specifically includes basic literacy, numeracy, latest pedagogy, methods of assessment, competency based learning and related pedagogy like experience introspective, play based and story based.

9. Students

There are mainly three points of education, teacher, learner and curriculum. The education system revolves around these three. The student is the centre of any education. In NEP 2020, many provisions are attached for the holistic development of the students. From the foundation stage itself, an environment of positive learning will be provided to the students by trained teachers. This will strengthen the foundation of their education. Students will be provided opportunities to learn their mother tongue, regional language, local language. The efforts of alumni and community will also be encouraged to improve the learning level of the children. The students will be given options for the choice of subjects at the secondary level.

The holistic development and choice of subjects will be the specialty of secondary education every year through NEP 2020. The categories of courses like Arts, Commerce, Science, Business etc. will be abolished. Students should not have to face the brunt of unemployment in future. For this, from class 6 onwards, they will be trained in a variety of skills. Apart from Indian languages, training in many foreign languages will be given to the students. By knowing different types of languages, students will increase their global knowledge by knowing Indian culture as well as world culture.

Students at all levels will be trained in skills such as Artificial Intelligence, Design Thinking, Holistic Help, Global, Citizenship, Education, Environment, Education, Organic Living, Machine Learning, Data, Science, Coding. Apart from this, knowledge of constitutional values, citizenship, skills, fundamental duties, constitutional value links, sensitivity, environment, conservation, health and nutrition, health and sports, creativity skills have also been trained.

Conclusion:

School education is the foundation of any nation's education. The policy of quality school education is very necessary for the economic, social, scientific and political development of the nation. Positive changes have been made in school education through the National Education Policy 2020. NEP 2020 gives a glimpse of the previous education policy 1968, 1986 and other education commissions. There will be a marked change in the curriculum of skill development from class 6 onwards. Although this has been said earlier in Gandhiji's Wardha plan of 1937. The foundation of all round development of children will be laid through ECCE.

Adopted the tendency of 'learning to learn' by removing the tendency of 'rote learning' in children. Despite 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' and 'Right to Education', a large number of children are dropping out of school. In order to connect such children with school, new efforts will be made by NEP 2020. The structural change to 5 + 3 + 3 + 4 will provide learning experiences to students from the age of 3. Continuous and comprehensive evaluation of children will accelerate their development. At Anganwadi level, children will get learning opportunities by trained teachers. The training of these teachers is discussed in NEP 2020. Different types of streams have been abolished at the school level, which will reduce the psychological pressure among the students. In the policy 2020, it has been said to prepare the curriculum by considering the student as the 'centre' of education. The attempt to address the problem of unemployment by promoting skill development in students from class 6 onwards is visible in NEP 2020. If all the dimensions of the National Education Policy 2020 are fully implemented, then definitely a big change will be seen in school education.

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