



An Overview of National Education Policy, 2020 : Objectives, Principles & Vision

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ABSTRACT

Although, it is the first education policy of the 21st century and will replace the 34-year-old National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986. Built on the foundational pillars of easy access, equity, quality, affordability and accountability for all, this new education policy is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and aims to make school and college education more holistic, resilient to the needs of the 21st century. To transform India into a vibrant knowledge society and a global superpower of knowledge and to bring out the unique abilities inherent in every student. The Union Cabinet has approved the National Policy on Education 2020, paving the way for transformational reforms in the school and higher education systems in the country. The paper mainly contented to objectives, principles and vision of New National Education Policy, 2020 and its various amending things.

Keywords: Education Policy, National Education Policy 2020, Objectives, Principles, Features, and Vision of National Education Policy 2020.

Introduction

Though, the education is the basic requirement for realizing human potential, promoting an equitable and development of society and national development. Providing universal access to quality education is the key to India's sustainable progress and economic development in terms of social justice and equality, scientific advancement, national integration and cultural preservation on the global stage. Universal higher-level education is the proper medium through which the best development and promotion of the rich talent and resources of the country can be done for the betterment of the individual, society, nation and the world. In the next decade, India will be the country with the youngest population of the world and the future of India will depend on providing these youth with high quality educational opportunities. Hence, recently a new National Education Policy was initiated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi which has been prepared in consultation with everyone. With the introduction of this, a wide discussion has started on education in the country. In relation to education, Gandhiji meant the all-round and best development of body, mind and soul of child and man. Similarly, Swami Vivekananda said that education is the expression of the inherent perfection of man. In the midst of all these discussions, we will see that what were the shortcomings left in the education policy of 1986, to overcome which there was a need to bring a new national education policy. Also, will this new National Education Policy be able to fulfill the objectives that Mahatma Gandhi and Swami Vivekananda dreamed of? First of all, it is necessary to consider what is 'education'. The literal meaning of education is the action of learning and teaching, but if we look at its broader meaning, then education is a continuous social process in any society, which has a purpose and through which the development of the inner powers and behavior of man is refined. By increasing knowledge and skills through education, man is made a capable citizen. Significantly, with the announcement of the New Education Policy 2020, the name of the Ministry of Human Resources has been changed to Ministry of Education. This policy expects transformational reforms in school and higher education in the country. Hence, under its objectives, a target of 100% GER in school education as well as universalization of education from pre-school to secondary level has been set by the year.

What is education policy?

Perhaps, a policy who relates to education or study, called education policy. This policy is made to provide proper education to the children. Education policy is made by the central government and under the education policy, the pattern of the education system is prepared. The pattern of that education system is implemented in the whole country. That's why it is called education policy. Education policy was first formulated in India in 1968. After that the New Education Policy, 1986 was brought by amending it. If we see then we find till now the education policy of India has been amended thrice. Recently, the Central Government has prepared the New Education Policy, 2020 by amending the education policy.¹

What is New Education Policy 2020?

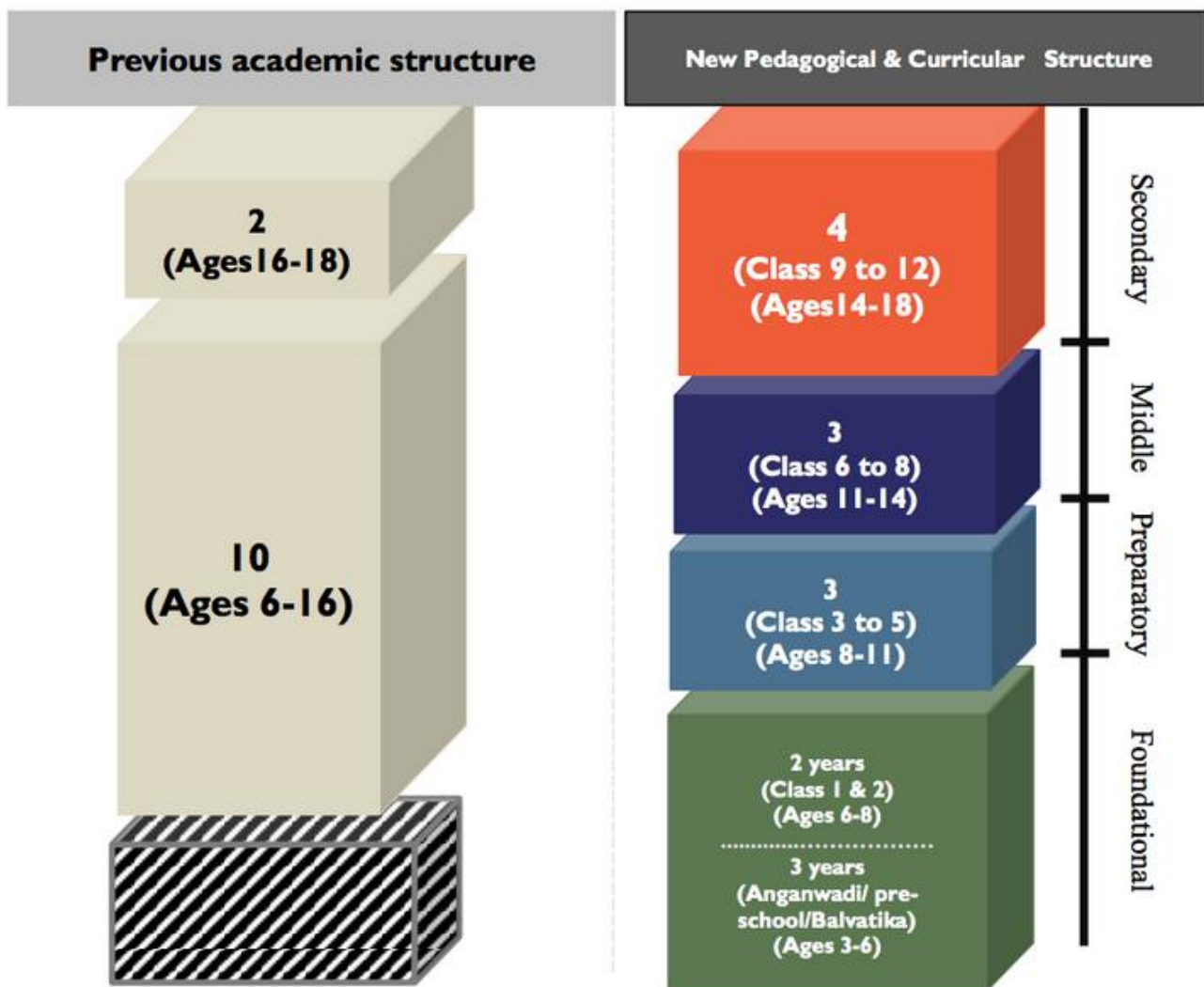
The New Education Policy 2020 is the new education policy of India which is based on 5+3+3+4 pattern. Which has been announced by the

¹New Education Policy 2020 Highlights: School and higher education to see major changes - Hindustan Times

Government of India on 29 July 2020. This is the first new amendment in the education policy of India after the New Education Policy released in 1986. After a total of 34 years in India, New Education Policy 2020 has been prepared by changing the education policy. In that too only the draft education policy has been prepared, it may take many years to implement it. This education policy was made by space scientist K. Based on the report of the committee headed by Kasturirangan.²

However, under the new education policy of 2020, the name of 'Ministry of Human Resource Development' has been changed to only 'Ministry of Education' and the old education policy, children are admitted to school at the age of 6 years. Thus, the changes have been made in that, under the new education policy, children will be admitted to the school only at the age of 3 years. Though, on this, the New Education Policy 2020, pre-primary level education has been included and Pre-primary level education will be given for three years, in which children will be given education in sports and games like in play school. Children will not have to carry a book-copy. With this, children will not have to carry heavy weight of bags.³

Although, the New Education Policy 2020, instead of 10 + 2 programs, 5 + 3 + 3 + 4 programs were included in schools. Education will be provided to the children on this pattern. Now you must be thinking that what is this 5+3+3+4 program. This means that under the New Education Policy 2020, education up to class XII will be given in four stages. Five years of education will come in the foundation stage, followed by three years in the preparatory stage, the second three years in the middle stage and the last four years in the senior secondary stage.⁴



(Figure 1.1 describe the division of classes and age of students)

²Manna, Paul; McGuinn, Patrick (2013). "The Tall Task of Education Governance Reform". *Education Governance for the Twenty-First Century*. Brookings Institution Press. pp. 355-392.

³ ibid

⁴ ibid

Objectives of National Education Policy 2020

To achieve the goal of universalization of education from pre-school to secondary level with 100% GER in school education by 2030. Through the National Education Policy 2020, 2 crore children living out of school will be included again in the main stream. The concept of new 5+3+3+4 school curriculum will be introduced with 12 years of schooling and 3 years of Anganwadi/Pre-schooling. Basic ability to read, write and calculate will be emphasized. To try to bridge the gap between academic streams, extra-curricular activities and vocational education in schools.⁵ However, vocational education starts from class 6 with internship. Studied in mother tongue / regional language at least up to 5th standard. Keeping a close eye on the progress of the students by thoroughly revamping the evaluation process with the overall development card. To increase the gross enrollment ratio in higher education to 50% by 2035. 3.5 crore new seats will be added in higher education. There will be variety of subjects in the higher education curriculum. Mid-course enrollment/exit will be permitted with appropriate certification. Academic Bank of Credit will be set up to facilitate transfer of credit.⁶ A National Research Foundation will be set up to promote a sound research culture. Although, easy but strict regulation of higher education, there will be a regulator on four different functions for different functions. Affiliation system will be completed with phased autonomy to colleges in 15 years. Emphasis on use of technology as per need in NEP 2020, setting up of National Education Technology Forum, Gender Inclusion Fund in NEP 2020 and emphasis on setting up of special education sector for disadvantaged areas and groups. The new education policy promotes multilingualism in both school and higher education; National Institute for Pali, Persian and Prakrit, Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation to be set up.⁷

National Education Policy Consultancy Process

The National Education Policy 2020 has been prepared after an unprecedented process of consultations. More than 2 lakh suggestions received from 2.5 lakh gram panchayats, 6,600 blocks, 6,000 ULBs, 676 districts have been covered. This unprecedented collaborative, inclusive and highly participatory consultation process was initiated by MHRD from January 2015.⁸ In May 2016, the committee constituted for 'Development of New Education Policy' submitted its report, headed by Late Shri T.S. R. Subramanian, former cabinet secretary. Based on this, the Ministry prepared some inputs for the National Policy on Education, 2016. In June 2017, a committee was constituted to draft National Education Policy under the chairmanship of eminent scientist, Padma Vibhushan Dr. K. Kasturirangan, which submitted the draft National Education Policy, 2019 to Hon'ble HRD Minister on 31st May, 2019. Draft National Education Policy 2019 was uploaded on the website of MHRD and on 'MyGov Innovate' portal, wherein views/suggestions/comments of stakeholders including common citizens were received.⁹

Basic Principles of National Education Policy 2020

The educational system aims at developing good human beings— capable of rational thought and action, having compassion and empathy, courage and resilience, scientific thinking and creative imagination, moral values and foundation. Its aim is to produce productive people who contribute better to the building of an inclusive, pluralistic society as envisaged by its constitution.¹⁰

A good educational institution is one in which every student is welcomed and cared for, where there is a safe and inspiring learning environment, where all students are provided with a variety of learning experiences and where good infrastructure and suitable resources are available for Achieving all this should be the goal of every educational institution.¹¹ However, at the same time, there is a need for seamless linkage and coordination between different institutions and at every level of education.¹²

The fundamental principles that will guide both the education system at large as well as individual institutions are:

- **Recognize, recognize and strive to develop each child's unique abilities**- sensitize teachers and parents to these abilities so that they pay close attention to the child's all-round development in academic and other abilities.
- **Prioritizing basic literacy and numeracy**— so that all children acquire basic learning skills such as literacy and numeracy by class 3.
- **Flexibility**— so that learners have the ability to choose their learning modalities and programs, and thus choose their own path in life according to their talents and interests.¹³
- **There should be no clear separation between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams, etc.,** so as to remove harmful hierarchies and mutual distances and dissonance between knowledge areas.
- Development of a multidisciplinary and holistic education among sciences, social sciences, arts, humanities and sports for a multidisciplinary world ensuring unity and integrity of all knowledge

⁵Why it's a big problem that so many teachers quit — and what to do about it - The Washington Post

⁶Global Education Monitoring Report Gender Review: Meeting Our Commitments to Gender Equality in Education. Paris, UNESCO

⁷ ibid

⁸ ibid

⁹Education policy - Wikipedia

¹⁰Education policy - Wikipedia

¹¹NEP_Final_English_0.pdf (education.gov.in)

¹²National Education Policy 2020 — Vikaspedia

¹³National Education Policy 2020 - What is New Education Policy 2020? (byjus.com)

- Emphasis on conceptual comprehension, not rote method and study only for examination.
- To encourage creativity and logical thinking logical decision making and innovation.
- Ethics, human and constitutional values like empathy, respect for others, cleanliness, courtesy, democratic spirit, spirit of service, respect for public property, scientific thought, liberty, responsibility, pluralism, equality and justice.¹⁴
- Multilingualism and promotion of the power of language in teaching-learning.
- Life skills such as interaction, collaboration, teamwork, and resilience.
- The emphasis on continuous assessment for learning, rather than focusing on year-end exams, is what fuels today's 'coaching culture'.
- **Emphasis on use of technology as much as possible**- in teaching-learning work, in removing language barriers, in making education accessible to children with disabilities and in educational planning and management.¹⁵
- A respect for the diversity of the local context and the local environment in all curricula, pedagogy and policy, always keeping in mind that education is a concurrent subject.
- **Complete equity and inclusion as the cornerstone of all educational decisions, as well as placing education within the reach and affordability of the people**– to ensure that all students can achieve success in the education system.¹⁶
- Coordination of education curricula at all levels from school education to higher education, from early childhood care and education.
- **Recognizing faculty and faculty as the center of the learning process**- excellent systems of their recruitment and preparation, continuous professional development, and positive work environments and service conditions.¹⁷
- A 'lightweight, but effective' regulatory framework to ensure the integrity, transparency, and resource efficiency of the educational system through audits and public disclosure, as well as innovation and out-of-the-box innovation through autonomy, good governance, and empowerment Encouraging box ideas.
- Excellent level of research for quality education and development.
- Continuous review of progress based on continuous research and regular evaluation by academic experts.
- To be bound by Indian roots and pride, and where relevant, to incorporate and draw inspiration from India's rich and diverse ancient and modern culture and knowledge systems and traditions.
- Education is a public service; Access to quality education should be considered as a fundamental right of every child.
- **Substantial investment in a strong, vibrant public education system**– as well as encouraging and facilitating genuine philanthropic private and community partnerships.¹⁸

Vision of National Education Policy 2020

The vision of this National Education is an education system developed from Indian values which will contribute directly to transform India into a vibrant and equitable knowledge society by providing high quality education to all and making India a global knowledge superpower.¹⁹ The policy envisages that the curriculum and pedagogy of our institutions should inculcate among the students an awareness of their fundamental obligations and constitutional values, engagement with the country and the role and responsibilities of a citizen in a changing world. Vision of the policy Students should take pride in being Indian not only in thought but also in behaviour, intelligence and actions, as well as in the knowledge, skills, values and thinking that is committed to human rights, sustainable development and living and global welfare, so that they can become truly global citizens.²⁰

Conclusion

Finally, we say that the New National Education Policy 2020 is a great initiative in our education system from foundation level to higher level and lifelong education, focused on every walk of life. NEP 2020 is geared towards achieving such goals by formulating various innovative policies to improve quality, affordability, attractiveness and increase supply by opening schools and higher education for the government. and private sector. Schooling is the major education base of every country, from where students learn their basic education and obtain permits to enter higher education. These new initiatives will start from the academic session 2021-22 and continue till 2030. Based on this policy, Indian education system is moving from teacher centered to learner centered, especially for all round development, marks centered skill centered, information centered knowledge centered, exam centered too practical centered. NEP 2020 is expected to fulfill their objectives within 2030, by encouraging the active participation of all members of society and students, faculties from different academic fields, using innovative ideas and creating a joyful educational environment.

¹⁴ *ibid*

¹⁵ *ibid*

¹⁶ NEP_Final_English_0.pdf (education.gov.in)

¹⁷ All About the New Education Policy 2020 (Key Highlights) (bankbazaar.com)

¹⁸ *ibid*

¹⁹ NEP_Final_English_0.pdf (education.gov.in)

²⁰ National Education Policy 2020: A way to turn around Indian education? - smilefoundationindia