

Vision for a futuristic India through National Education Policy (NEP); Vishwaguru, Atmanirbhar and Innovative

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Abstract: Existent system of education prevailing in the country, goes without saying, has many flaws and inherent challenges which demanded strict reforms and an overhaul. For that to happen, it was unwise to tinker the old systems and put to running state, however, we chose to redraw the lines again from scratch and build new foundations for the country. Education had played, in the history by all accounts, an instrumental role in making countries and strengthening their resolve to become superpowers. So is India's vision to reform the prevailing system of poor education into a world class and systematic mechanism of education which is worthy, employable, driven, scientific, rational and most of all, life transforming.

Keywords: Education, Primary, Secondary, Policy, Growth, Development, National Education Policy (NEP), Comprehensive, Transformative, Overhaul,

Outlook: For any country in the world, its strong base is its strong foundation for a strong future. This cyclical approach has driven India towards its education policy, first in 20th century during Rajiv Years and then in 21st century during Modi years. This is not to say that politicians have drafted the policy document but it's the initiative for a change and a vision, a broad outlook for India, that has driven policy experts and think tanks to make such a transformative policy, National Education Policy (NEP).

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Vision: National Education Policy (NEP) aims to not only accompany global standards, world class infrastructure or hard core scientific terminologies from advanced countries but also instilling a deep rooted pride in being Indian, not only in thought, but also in spirit, intellect and deeds. It is notwithstanding that these aims require a deeper understanding of own's past and glory before being put to modern day practices and for that to materialize, it becomes imperative upon teachers and students or policy makers in the first place to introspect in the history and comprehend the broad bases of cultural marvel that has relevance and an inevitable position in contemporary India.

Distinctive characteristics of NEP, 2020: There are broader motives under NEP 2020 to work which somehow derail traditional patterns and install new profound thoughts.

1. Universalization of Education

The problem of dropouts has costed us a lot in the past. Talent, equality, discrimination, growth and development; all these indicators have dearly pushed us to chagrins of marginalization which now need active thought. Our goal under *universalization of education* is to enhance **Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER)** to 100% from pre-school level to secondary level by 2030. As discussed above, along side GER, there's also renewed focus upon addressing the menace of dropouts that does not involve solely the issues of education but sanitation, drinking water and security which are addressed by another milestone of Government of India, **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Gramin)** and **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Urban)** along with versions of ODF and ODF+.

2. Curriculum and Pedagogical Restructuring

This is, *if we go by standards and transformation*, the most advanced and unique feature of NEP 2020. It recommends modifying the existing **10+2** pedagogical structure to **5+3+3+4**, having a strong base from primary level in the form of **Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)**. We have set ourselves a basic target of achieving **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)** for every student in the age group of 3-8 years.

Not only the numbers showcase the grand vision and collaborative depth we put in the policy but we intend to promote *interdisciplinary perspective academic practice*, thus building institutes like **Multidisciplinary Educational Research University (MERU)**.

3. Effective Governance

As is the norm of issues with other policies in India like, *implementation, regulation, monitoring, checks and balances, lack of access to capital*, NEP 2020 includes setting up a single regulator, **Higher Education Commission of India (HEI)** with 4 verticals for regulation namely **National Higher Education Resource Centre (NHERC)**, **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)**, **Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC)** and **General Education Council (GEC)**, fulfilling the notions of **Resources, Accreditation or Grading, Finance or Grants** and **Regulatory or Monitoring**, respectively.

With this accommodative and integrated approach under NEP 2020, inter-departmental and intra-coordination would be strengthened, thus furthering the cause of collective spirit and shared mottos.

4. Equity and Inclusion

The problem with other education policies is lack of equity and proper inclusion of genuine beneficiaries but NEP 2020 aims in bridging social category gaps in **access, participation** and **learning outcomes** at all levels of education. Not only this, but it also recommends declaring the regions with large populations from the disadvantaged groups as **Special Education Zones (SEZs)**, putting special and unique emphasis on targeted beneficiaries to fulfill the ambit of sustainable, equitable and inclusive policing.

5. Vocational Education

This point may not be at the earlier particulars, however, its importance and vision stands apart because by 2025, 50% of the learners will have exposure to vocational education, as is enunciated under NEP 2020. Along with that by 2040, we aim to have an accommodative and transformative education atmosphere serving the needs of country under strategic ambit.

Other measures: Along with the above stated goals and motives, NEP 2020 will also set up the **National Research Foundation (NRF)** with a special mandate to foster research and innovation. The importance of R&D is invaluable in any scholar's education or any institution's growth towards the **Institute of Eminence (IOE)** tag.

NEP 2020 also will set up a **National Educational Technology Forum (NETF)** to serve as a platform for ideation processes, improve learning and assessment. We have set ourselves a target of raising the level of public expenditure on education to 6% of GDP.

Alongside, we are enabling high performing universities in India to establish campuses in other countries and allowing top 100 universities in the world to establish their campuses in India for cross cutting research seminars and collaborative education training.

The most advanced measure under NEP 2020 is the establishment of **Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation (IITI)** to promote Indian languages, art and culture which will further the spirit of ancient Indian heritage in students, as outlined above under objective of NEP 2020.

Concluding Reference: All the stated measures are worth if supplemented by implementation, regulation, monitoring and timely evaluation. Needless to say, all the objectives under NEP 2020 without the necessary regulations won't carry the same light in consequent years as it does today in shaping the future of Indian education. The push to transform education right from the primary level to higher education level talks about seriousness and depth in the policy to serve the contemporary and futuristic needs of the country.

We have the advanced and most abundant reserves of human capital in the world. If we go by the current standards, this boon would be turned bane in no time and put extreme pressure on civil society and policy makers. If transformed and cumulatively strengthened under NEP 2020, it can work wonders for India as **demographic**

dividend has worked China to the Superpower spot.

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