

# National Education Policy 2020: Opportunities and Challenges

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“Education is passport to future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”  
- Malcolm X

## ABSTRACT

Education is the most powerful tool which can shape the destiny of an individual as well as the whole nation. Education is a process, which draws from within. Each child is born with some innate tendencies, capacities and inherent powers. Education draws these powers out and develops them to the full. Education is process of development. India's young population is an asset for the country and will be its largest advantage in overcoming future problems. Through actions like establishing better standards for schools and colleges as well as continuous and standardized assessment tools, National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to strengthen elementary education, improve secondary and tertiary education, develop skills among youth, and enable effective tracking of learning outcomes. The NEP 2020 paves for numerous significant changes in the Indian education system. The new education policy of India called National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a comprehensive policy document that seeks to reform the education system in India by introducing several significant changes in the approach to education at all levels. The policy is based on the principle of equity, quality, and access, and aims to transform the education system in India into a more inclusive, holistic, and multidisciplinary one. The new NEP 2023 is anticipated to put a strong emphasis on several important issues, such as expanding educational opportunities, raising educational standards, and encouraging diversity and inclusion. It is also anticipated to give priority to integrating vocational and skill-based training into the educational system as well as the use of technology in education. The policy strives to ensure that all children in India have the opportunity to receive a high-quality education that equips them for the challenges of the 21st century by focusing on access, quality, equity, and inclusiveness. New Education Policy 2020 and 2023 are clearly a much-needed step in the right direction. The needs of the hour having framed forward looking policies are its seamless execution. Done right these can offer the overhaul that the Indian Education Sector requires.

**Keywords:** National Education Policy, Multidisciplinary Education, Curriculum, Technology Integration, Innovation

## INTRODUCTION

Education is the most powerful tool which can shape the destiny of an individual as well as the whole nation. If we look at the reasons responsible for demarcating the boundaries between developed and underdeveloped nations, education emerges as the single most vital factor spinning the wheel of progress in the developed nations. It has been established that an educated citizen not only improve the economic and social status of the nation but political scenario also. Education in its general sense is a form of learning in which the knowledge, skills, and habits of a group of people are transferred from one generation to the next through teaching, training or research. Education frequently takes place under the guidance of others, but may also be autodidactic. Any experience that has a formative effect on the way one thinks, feels, or acts may be considered educational. The Latin word ‘Education’ means to train. ‘E’ means from inside and ‘Duco’ means as to draw out, to lead out or to bring up. By combining the two, education comes to mean to draw from within. Education is a process, which draws from within. Each child is born with some innate tendencies, capacities and inherent powers. Education draws these powers out and develops them to the full. Latin words ‘Educare’, ‘Educere’ mean to bring up, to lead out and to develop, etc. in this way, the word education means to develop the inborn qualities of a child to the full. Thus, education is process of development.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Abdul Jabbar Haque, “The Law Relating to Right to Education in India: A Pedagogical Approach”, Indian Bar Review, Vol. 45(3) 2018, p. 106

India's young population is an asset for the country and will be its largest advantage in overcoming future problems. Through actions like establishing better standards for schools and colleges as well as continuous and standardized assessment tools, National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to strengthen elementary education, improve secondary and tertiary education, develop skills among youth, and enable effective tracking of learning outcomes. In short, the NEP 2020 emphasizes the holistic development of students in academic and non-academic areas.

The National Policy on Education was framed in 1986. The policy underwent revisions in 1992. Since then, a number of adjustments have been made, necessitating a revision of the Policy. The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986, which had been in place for 34 years, was replaced with the NEP 2020, the first education policy of the twenty-first century. This policy, which is based on the fundamental pillars of **Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, and Accountability**, is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and seeks to transform India into a thriving knowledge society and a global knowledge superpower. By enhancing both school and college education and making it more holistic, flexible, multidisciplinary, and appropriate for the needs of the 21st century, NEP is focused on bringing out each student's individual talents. The National Education Policy (NEP 2020) also aspires to offer students across the nation an equitable and inclusive learning environment. It focuses on making education accessible to everyone and elevating Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs). The new education policy that has been established in the Indian educational system emphasizes the importance of pedagogical approaches that foster students' overall development through hands-on learning. The fundamental goal of NEP is to incorporate a competence-based learning method where students are mentored to effectively develop their skills and talent. The NEP 2020 is in accordance with the UN's fourth Sustainable Goal which focuses on making education accessible to every child.<sup>2</sup>

## **EVOLUTION OF NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY**

**'Education'** plays a significant and remedial role in improving and balancing the country's socio-economic framework. The education system in India dates back to ancient times where children were taught in Gurukuls. The Guru used to teach as per the interest of the child, subjects varying from Sanskrit to the Holy Scriptures and from Mathematics to Metaphysics. At that time, the Guru-Shishya system was the only means of education in India. The Indian education system was enhanced with the emergence of universities such as Nalanda, Takshashila, Manassa, Ujjain, and Vikramshila. The Uttar Pradesh Board of High School and Intermediate Education was the first Board established in India in 1921. Then, the Board of High School and Intermediate Education, Rajputana, was set up in 1929. Eventually, in 1952, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), a national level education board was introduced in India.

In 1961, the Government of Jawaharlal Nehru formed the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), as an autonomous organization to formulate and implement education policies. However, the urgency for an education policy was first felt in 1964 when Congress MP Siddheshwar Prasad criticized the then government for lacking a vision and philosophy for education. Subsequently, based on the recommendations of the Kothari Commission (1964–1966), the Government of PM Indira Gandhi announced the first National Policy on Education (NPE) in 1968. The Policy was prepared to improve the quality of education in the country and provide education to all the citizens.

### **National Policy on Education 1968**

- Proposed equal educational opportunities
- Free and compulsory education for all children till the age of 14
- Specialized qualification of teachers
- Three-language formula in secondary education, English, Hindi and regional language
- Increasing education spending to 6% of the national income
- Uniform education structure: 10+2 pattern

### **National Policy on Education 1986**

- High emphasis on the removal of disparities and equalize educational opportunity

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<sup>2</sup> Teachmint, "NEP 2020- A Comprehensive Guide", retrieved from <https://blog.teachmint.com/nep-2020/>, visited on September 10, 2023 at 10:35 a.m.

- “Child-centered Approach” in primary education
- “Operation Blackboard” to improve primary schools nationwide
- Creation of the “rural university” model
- Budget allocated to be 6% of GDP

The 1986 NPE was revised in 1992 by the Government of PM PV Narsimha Rao. The Programme of Action (PoA) 1992 has called for a common entrance examination across India for admission to professional and technical programs. In 2005, Former PM Manmohan Singh adopted a new policy based on the “Common Minimum Programme” of his United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government. After the 1986 NPE, significant socio-economic changes have taken place in India, emphasizing the need for the education sector to gear itself towards the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In a bid to prepare a new National Education Policy (NEP), the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) released the Draft New Education Policy (DNEP) in 2019, followed by several public consultations. In July 2020, the Union Cabinet of India has approved the third National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), replacing the previous NPE 1986.<sup>3</sup>

### **OBJECTIVES AND REFORMS OF NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY (NEP) 2020**

The NEP 2020 paves for numerous significant changes in the Indian education system. The changes and objectives of NEP 2020 are as follows:

#### **1) School Education**

- The current ‘10+2’ structure covering ages 6-18 to be replaced by a new Pedagogical and Curricular Structure of ‘5+3+3+4’ corresponding to ages 3-18
- Instead of annual examinations every year, students will now only attend exams in Class 3, 5 and 8
- Class 10 and 12 Board Exams will be conducted as usual, but the exams will be made easier by allowing students to take exams twice a year. The exam will have two parts, Objective and Descriptive
- Universal standards of learning and regulations in public and private schools
- Vocational Education and coding will be introduced from Class 6
- Mother tongue or regional language to be the medium of instruction at least up to Class 5 and preferably till Class 8
- Report cards will be a 360-degree Holistic Progress Card that will give a comprehensive report on skills and capabilities instead of just marks and grades
- Focus on the curriculum to core concepts
- Universalization of education from Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE) to Secondary Level
- Achieving 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030
- New National Curriculum Framework for Early Childhood Educator (ECE), schools, teachers and adult students
- Open Schooling System to bring two crores ‘Out of School Children’ back into the mainstream
- Deployment of counselors and social workers to improve student’s mental health
- Midday Meal Scheme to be extended to include breakfasts

#### **2) Higher Education**

- Holistic **and** Multi-disciplinary education in an undergraduate program with multiple exit options where the bachelor’s degree can be 3 or 4 years
- Phil. (Master of Philosophy) courses to be discontinued
- PG programs can be 1 or 2 years
- The National Testing Agency will conduct entrance examinations for admissions to universities across the country, apart from the JEE Main and NEET
- Establishment of Academic Bank of Credits to facilitate Transfer of Credits
- Setting up Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs) as models of best multi-disciplinary education of global standards

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<sup>3</sup> Indian Era, “National Education Policy (NEP) 2020: Overview, Reforms, Objectives”, retrieved from <https://www.indianera.com/editors-pick/national-education-policy-nep-2020-overview-reforms-objectives/>, visited on Sept. 10, 2023 t 11:10 a.m.

- Establishment of National Research Foundation, an apex body for fostering a strong research culture and building research capacity across higher education
- Establishment of Higher Education Council of India (HECI) to regulate higher education by preparing the same set of regulations, accreditation and academic standards for private and public institutions. The HECI will have four independent verticals, namely-
- National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for the regulation of higher education, except medical and legal education
- General Education Council (GEC) for setting standards
- Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for funding and financing of colleges and universities
- National Accreditation Council (NAC) for accreditation
- The HECI will replace the existing National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the University Grants Commission (UGC)
- Phasing out the 'Affiliation System' at university level over a period of 15 years
- Increasing Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education from the current 26.3% to 50% by 2035
- Adding 3.5 crore seats in higher education

### **3) Teacher Education**

- By 2023, the minimum qualification for teachers will be 4-year integrated B.Ed. degree
- Emphasis on strengthening and transparency of the teacher recruitment process
- NCTE to formulate a new and comprehensive National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE) 2021
- NCTE to frame National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) 2022

### **4) Other Major Objectives**

- Establishment of National Education Commission
- Establishment of Special Education Zones (SEZs) to improve education among underrepresented groups in disadvantaged regions
- Gender Inclusion Fund, for improving and providing education for female and transgender children
- Establishment of National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), a platform to facilitate the free exchange of ideas on technology usage in education
- National Assessment Centre- 'PARAKH' will assess the students
- Establishment of new language institutions such as the Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation and the National Institute or Institutes for Pali, Persian and Prakrit
- Establishment of National Mission for Mentoring, National Book Promotion Policy, National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy
- Increasing the education expenditure from the current 4.6% to 6% of the GDP at the earliest
- Massive usage of technology in education planning, teaching, learning and assessment<sup>4</sup>

### **SALIENT FEATURES OF NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020**

The new education policy of India called National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a comprehensive policy document that seeks to reform the education system in India by introducing several significant changes in the approach to education at all levels. The policy is based on the principle of equity, quality, and access, and aims to transform the education system in India into a more inclusive, holistic, and multidisciplinary one.

Here are some of the key features of the new National Education Policy of India:

#### **Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education**

The NEP 2020 aims to provide holistic and multidisciplinary education to students, which means they will have access to a diverse range of subjects, including art, music, and sports, along with their academic curriculum. This approach will enable students to develop their creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, which are essential for their overall development. The policy recognizes the importance of the development of all aspects of a student's personality,

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<sup>4</sup> Indian Era, "National Education Policy (NEP) 2020: Overview, Reforms, Objectives", retrieved from <https://www.indianera.com/editors-pick/national-education-policy-nep-2020-overview-reforms-objectives/>, visited on Sept. 10, 2023 at 11:15 a.m.

including cognitive, emotional, and social development, and proposes to integrate extracurricular activities into the curriculum to promote holistic development.

### **New School Structure**

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 proposes a new 5+3+3+4 structure of school education in India which will replace the previous 10+2 system. The structure will have four stages: Foundational Stage (ages 3-8), Preparatory Stage (grades 3-5), Middle Stage (grades 6-8), and Secondary Stage (grades 9-12). The focus of each stage will be on developing foundational literacy and numeracy skills, higher-order thinking skills, subject-specific knowledge and skills, and vocational education.

### **Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)**

The National Education Policy 2020 recognizes the importance of early childhood care and education (ECCE) and proposes to provide universal access to high-quality ECCE for all children up to the age of 6 years by 2030. The policy also aims to develop a flexible, multi-level, and play-based curriculum for ECCE. The policy proposes to establish a National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education to ensure that the curriculum is developmentally appropriate and promotes the overall development of children.

### **Emphasis on Vocational Education**

The NEP 2020 gives significant emphasis to vocational education, which aims to provide students with practical skills and knowledge that will help them in their future careers. The policy proposes to integrate vocational education into mainstream education and to provide multiple entries and exit points for students to acquire vocational skills. The policy recognizes the importance of vocational education in promoting employability and entrepreneurship and proposes to establish a National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) to provide recognition of vocational skills and qualifications.

### **Technology in Education**

The National Education Policy 2020 recognizes the importance of technology in education and proposes to leverage it to improve the quality of education. The policy aims to provide equitable access to digital infrastructure and connectivity to all schools and to promote the use of technology in teaching and learning. The policy proposes to establish a National Education Technology Forum to provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and best practices in the use of technology in education.

### **Flexible Curriculum and Assessment**

The National Education Policy 2020 proposes a flexible and multidisciplinary curriculum, which will allow students to choose their subjects according to their interests and aptitude. The policy also aims to reduce the emphasis on rote learning and introduce a competency-based assessment system that will assess students' practical skills and knowledge. The new policy recognizes the need for a flexible and multidisciplinary curriculum that is in sync with the changing needs of the economy and society and proposes to formulate a new and comprehensive National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) in all regional languages to ensure that the curriculum is relevant and up-to-date.

### **Teacher Training and Professional Development**

The NEP 2020 recognizes the importance of teacher training and proposes to provide teachers with continuous professional development opportunities to upgrade their skills and knowledge. The policy also aims to attract the best talent into the teaching profession and to ensure that teachers are trained to deliver a holistic and multidisciplinary education to students.

### **Increased Public Investment in Education**

The National Education Policy 2020 proposes to increase public investment in education to 6% of the GDP, which will help improve education quality and increase access to education for all. The policy also aims to encourage public-private partnerships in the education sector to leverage private sector resources and expertise.

## **OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**

**Curricular Material:** Early childhood education will be included as a component of formal education under the NEP's plans to implement a transition from the 10 + 2 building model to the 5+3+3+4 model. In addition, NEP 2020 places an



emphasis on paring down the amount of material covered in the curriculum in order to make room for critical thinking and, as a result, develop the 21st century skills that are included in that material. As a result, the educational program as a whole as well as the methods of instruction need to be revised in order to accomplish these objectives.

Rewriting the curriculum so that it is in accordance with the National Curriculum Framework is one of the obstacles that must be overcome in order to properly execute these changes. In addition, educators need to reevaluate the reading content criteria and make appropriate changes to the textbooks.

#### **Teaching and Training:**

This plan is meant to alter the educational system. To ensure a seamless transition to the new education system, however, schools and the appropriate authorities must train instructors and have an understanding of the demands of teaching in order for the curriculum to be successful. In addition, they should move away from reading as a teacher-centered activity and toward reading as a student-centered activity to help young people build social, cognitive, and decision-making abilities. The report estimates that by the year 2030, more than 250 million Indian children would have attended kindergarten through grade twelve. We'll need roughly 7 million educators to handle the surge in student enrollment. It would be difficult to implement strategies for experiential learning and mind-focused teaching in India, where teachers receive one of the lowest salaries in the country. Implementing NEP 2020 will be difficult unless the compensation review for teachers is reconsidered.

#### **Technology:**

The National Education Policy (NEP)2020 highlights the advantages of technology in preparing students for the future. Nevertheless, most schools do not have the proper setup, making it difficult to establish digital infrastructure like digital classrooms, remote professional-based teaching models, and augmented reality/virtual reality technologies to solve gaps in physical education and laboratory equipment. Help promote these resources. In addition, the nationwide rollout of a digital infrastructure can result in lower expenses for schools. In addition, access to the Internet is sometimes severely limited in rural locations, making it difficult to use digital learning resources there. Thus, it is imperative that the government invest in the development of the fundamental infrastructure that will support digital infrastructure in all domains.

#### **Prototype:**

To that end, NEP prioritizes meaningful, learning-focused assessment above speedy evaluation. While making changes to the assessment plan, one must keep in mind that the ultimate goal is to facilitate the ongoing monitoring of learning outcomes. More testing, however, will need that schools and instructors embrace new assessment strategies and curriculum. These strategies call for the incorporation of technology as well as the engagement of both educators and students. A recent study found that 75% of India's 1.5 million schools are operated by the government. The remaining 80% are classified as "private schools," making up around 400,000 institutions. Thus, it is difficult for these institutions to offer a continual evaluation framework.<sup>5</sup>

### **CHALLENGES**

#### **Digital divide:**

The new policy promotes early technology, digital literacy, and coding. Although there is a lot of focus on using technology in teaching, learning, and assessment, building up virtual laboratories, preparing schools, coaching, and setting up conversations, the plan overlooks the digital divide between urban and rural, the lack of sophisticated foundation, and access to gadgets or web. Covid 2019 shows that rural students without mobile phones and internet were unable to attend online courses. Low connection forced some students to drive far from home to attend lessons. Virtual platforms may expose youngsters to hazardous information and hurt them physically.

#### **Opening universities weekly is difficult:**

There are now over a thousand institutions of higher education in India. To achieve one of the policy's declared goals—a doubling of the Gross Ratio Enrollment in Higher Education by 2035—we will need to establish one new institution each week for the next 15 years. The largest difficulty is probably maintaining a weekly rate of opening one university.

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<sup>5</sup>Dr. Ramagya Singh, "Challenges and opportunities of NEP 2020", International Journal of Applied Research, 2023, pp. 17-18.

**Transformation plan prices are also frightening:**

A target of the National Education Policy 2020 is to enroll 2 million out-of-school children by the year 2020. No matter how you slice it, closing 50 schools every week for 15 years is going to be necessary to get there.

**COVID funding is difficult:**

From an encouraging vantage point, this is not an easy task. Spending on education is expected to rise from 4.6% of GDP to 6% of GDP, or over INR 2.5 lakh crores per year, as a result of the National Education Policy 2020. The funds will be put to good use in constructing educational institutions all around the nation, hiring qualified instructors and university faculty, and covering daily running costs like feeding student's breakfast for free. The timing of this policy is particularly challenging, since the economy is already struggling under the weight of Covid-19. Associated shutdowns, very little government tax cuts, and significant financial problems even before Covid.

**Qualified teachers:**

The policy's stated goal, a radical overhaul of the school's curricula, is commendable. Yet we need properly educated and informed educators to implement this program successfully. Substantial mental shifts on the part of educators and parents are often necessary for successful implementation of new curricula.

**Cultural transformation disciplines:**

The 2020 National Education Policy's emphasis on disciplinary education in higher education is a positive development. Departmentalization and institutional isolation are longstanding problems in universities worldwide, but in India in particular. To expand and enhance India's educational opportunities, the country's government has outlined a series of plans in its National Education Policy 2020.<sup>6</sup>

**ADVANTAGES OF POLICY**

Recently many changes have been introduced in the academic system of India starting from the school to college level. New National Education Policy has been approved by the Union Cabinet reflecting all the changes. This newly approved plan talks about major transformational reforms in the Indian academic sector which are appreciated by many. It is being seen as an important step that will revolutionize the Indian Education System by bringing much needed reforms. A few specific benefits of the policy are seen as under:

1. The Government aims to make schooling available to everyone with the help of NEP 2020.
2. Approximately two crore school students will be able to come back to educational institutes through this new approach.
3. According to the national education policy 2020, the 5+3+3+4 structure will replace the existing 10+2 structure. This structure is focused on student's formative years of learning. This 5+3+3+4 structure corresponds to ages from 3 to 8, 8 to 11, 11 to 14 and 14 to 18. 12 years of schooling, 3 years if Anganwadi and pre-schooling are included in this structure.
4. For children up to the age of 8, a National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education will be designed and developed by NCERT.
5. According to the national education policy 2020, the Education Ministry is to set up a National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy. The responsibility for successful implementation for achieving the foundation of numeracy and literacy for all students till class three falls upon the states of India. This implementation is scheduled to be done by 2025.
6. One of the merits of NEP 2020 is the formation of the National Book Promotion Policy in India.
7. Appropriate authorities will conduct the school examinations for grades 3, 5 and 8. The board exams for grades 10 and 12 will continue but the NEP 2020 aims to re-design the structure with holistic development.

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<sup>6</sup> Dr. Ramagya Singh, "Challenges and opportunities of NEP 2020", International Journal of Applied Research, 2023, pp. 17-18.

8. Parakh national education policy is to be set up by the Government.

9. Special daytime boarding school “BalBhavans” to be established in every state/ district in India. This boarding school will be used for participation in activities related to play, career, art.

10. According to the national education policy 2020. An Academic Bank of Credit will be established. The credits earned by the students can be stored and when the final degree gets completed, those can be counted.

11. According to the national education policy 2020, Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities at par with the IITs and IIMs will be set up in the country. These are scheduled to be set up for introducing multidisciplinary academic.

12. The same list of accreditation and regulation rules will be used for guiding both the public and private academic bodies.

13. Phased out college affiliation and autonomy will be granted to colleges.

14. By the year 2030, it will be mandatory to have at least a four year B. Ed degree for joining the occupation of teaching.

15. For making the students prepared for future pandemic situations, online academic will be promoted on a larger scale.<sup>7</sup>

### **DISADVANTAGES OF POLICY**

1. In the National Education Policy 2020, language is a negative factor as there is a problematic teacher to student ratio in India, thus introducing mother languages for each subject in academic institutes is a problem. Sometimes, finding a competent teacher becomes a problem and now another challenge comes with the introduction of the NEP 2020, which is bringing study material in mother languages.

2. According to the national education policy 2020, students willing to complete their graduation have to study for four years while one can easily complete his/ her diploma degree in two years. This might encourage the pupil to leave the course midway.

3. According to the national education policy 2020, students of the private schools will be introduced to English at a much earlier age than the students of the Government schools. The academic syllabus will be taught in the respective regional languages of the Government school students. This is one of the major new education policy drawbacks as this will increase the number of students uncomfortable in communicating in English thus widening the gap between sections of the societies.<sup>8</sup>

### **IMPACT OF NEW EDUCATION POLICY (NEP) 2020**

This national education policy will have a huge impact on billions of people. However, 'Students and Teachers' are the two key categories that will be impacted. So, let's look at how this new education policy will affect kids and teachers.

#### **Impact on Students:**

NEP 2020 will provide students with new learning options. The most significant effect would be a shift in the learning environment and process for pupils. The new education policy will include the following features:

- Increase the emphasis on students' skill development and competency growth.

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<sup>7</sup> Dr. Roshani Singh, “New Education Policy: Advantages & Disadvantages”, retrieved from <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/readersblog/ray-of-thought/new-education-policy-advantages-disadvantages-32468/>, visited on September 12, 2023 at 8:30 p.m.

<sup>8</sup> Dr. Roshani Singh, “New Education Policy: Advantages & Disadvantages”, retrieved from <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/readersblog/ray-of-thought/new-education-policy-advantages-disadvantages-32468/>, visited on September 12, 2023 at 8:30 p.m.



- Develop 21st-century abilities in pupils to prepare them for the future.
- Encourage pupils to pursue both academic and non-academic goals.
- Provide a variety of pre-primary, open, and remote learning possibilities. Students who are learning.
- Provide pupils with access to counselling and other resources.

Students' curiosity and bewilderment will rise as a result of so many expanding opportunities. As a result, it is recommended that individuals seek the advice of experts and professionals when making career selections. The Teacher is the first expert the students encounter. As a result, the Indian government has something to give teachers.

### **Impact on Teachers:**

According to a KPMG analysis, 13% of secondary school teachers in India are not properly qualified. Teachers not only assist students in achieving academic success, but also in making sound professional selections. As a result, they should arm themselves with cutting-edge teaching techniques. Teachers can enroll in Univariate's 'Teach Online - Tools for a Digital Age' to learn advanced teaching skills and grasp current teaching trends. It is a 6-hour customized course for teachers who want to adapt to newer and more innovative teaching methods. They must now develop their abilities in order to meet the needs of the industry, as well as bridge the gap between industry and skills. They should focus on skill-based rather than concept-based instruction. They should focus on practical aspects by presenting real-life scenarios. They must constantly improve their abilities and knowledge. They need to place a greater emphasis on research in their respective fields.<sup>9</sup>

### **MAJOR EDUCATION INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT**

**Following are some of the recent initiatives taken by the Government of India (GOI)**

- In May 2020, Government launched PM eVIDYA, a program for multi-mode access to digital/online education
- The government allocated INR 59,845 crore for Department of School Education and Literacy in Union Budget 2020-21
- India announced Revitalizing Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) by 2022 with a proposed outlay of INR 3,000 crore
- Under Union Budget 2020-21, the government proposed apprenticeship embedded degree/diploma courses by March 2021 in about 150 higher educational institutions
- Around two crore candidates completed training in 254,897 registered training centers under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA), as of February 2020
- India promoted a new scheme 'Study in India' to attract foreign students to higher educational institutions
- With an outlay of INR 6,655 crore, the government approved Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) and Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) in a bid to boost the Skill India Mission
- The GOI initiated the Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat (EBSB) campaign to increase engagement between states, union territories, central ministries, educational institutions and public
- Introduction of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' program in October 2014
- Introduction of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme in August 2014<sup>10</sup>

### **NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2023**

At the local, state, and federal levels, India has a long and diverse history of putting educational policies into practice. The nation's educational system has seen numerous adjustments and advancements throughout the years intending to ensure that all of its residents have access to high-quality education.

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<sup>9</sup> Mohamed Saif, "A Study on Issues and Challenges of NEP 2020 in Higher Education", retrieved from file:///C:/Users/user/Downloads/MB206220-MOHAMED%20SAIF%20(1).pdf, visited on September 11, 2023 at 4:10 p.m.

<sup>10</sup> Indian Era, "National Education Policy (NEP) 2020: Overview, Reforms, Objectives", retrieved from <https://www.indianera.com/editors-pick/national-education-policy-nep-2020-overview-reforms-objectives/>, visited on Sept. 10, 2023 at 11:20 a.m.

One of every person's fundamental right is the right to education since it enables them to become accountable and useful members of society. It encourages critical thinking, develops abilities and knowledge, and increases a person's sense of social responsibility as they support the national economy and actively engage in civic life. It is essential for fostering both social and personal growth. It is crucial for the continued advancement of our globe and for creating strong communities and democracies. The new NEP 2023 is anticipated to put a strong emphasis on several important issues, such as expanding educational opportunities, raising educational standards, and encouraging diversity and inclusion. It is also anticipated to give priority to integrating vocational and skill-based training into the educational system as well as the use of technology in education.<sup>11</sup>

### **ADVANTAGES OF NEP 2023**

The NEP 2023 has as one of its main objectives expanding access to education for all people. To achieve this, the educational system must be made more accessible, especially to people living in rural and remote places, and it must be made sure that all children have access to high-quality education from an early age. Additionally, the policy is probably going to concentrate on boosting enrolment and lowering dropout rates, especially for ladies and marginalized groups. The NEP 2023 is anticipated to place a strong emphasis on teacher preparation and professional development to raise educational standards. Giving instructors the abilities and information, they require to successfully teaching and support students will be part of this. The importance of teacher-student connection and the use of technology in the classroom is also expected to be emphasized by the policy. The NEP 2023 is probably going to put a lot of effort toward advancing inclusivity and equity in the educational system. Addressing challenges like gender and socioeconomic inequality and ensuring that all students have equitable access to high-quality education will be necessary to achieve this.

The inclusion of underprivileged groups including children with disabilities and people from unrecognized communities is also likely to receive priority under the program. The NEP 2023 places a lot of emphasis on integrating skill-based training and vocational education into the educational system. This would entail giving students the chance to learn useful skills that they can apply in the workplace and ensuring that the educational system is in line with business needs. The policy is also likely to stimulate the creation of fresh and cutting-edge educational technologies and encourage the use of technology in education. Overall, it is anticipated that the NEP 2023 will significantly alter the Indian educational system. The policy strives to ensure that all children in India have the opportunity to receive a high-quality education that equips them for the challenges of the 21st century by focusing on access, quality, equity, and inclusiveness.<sup>12</sup>

### **DISADVANTAGES OF NEP 2023**

Aside from these advantages, The National Education Policy includes several disadvantages that have been noted by educators, decision-makers, and other stakeholders. The NEP's absence of a detailed implementation strategy is one of its biggest flaws. The policy has several challenging aims and objectives, but it doesn't offer a clear plan for how they will be accomplished. Teachers are unsure about how to apply the NEP in their classes and schools as a result of the lack of clarity, which has left them perplexed and uncertain. The NEP's failure to effectively handle the financial issue is another flaw in it. The strategy calls for large investments in the educational system, including the building of new schools, hiring more teachers, and implementing cutting-edge technology and instructional strategies. Many schools and teachers are left straining to make ends meet because the NEP does not outline any specific plans for how these investments will be paid for. The NEP is criticized for emphasizing standardized testing as well. A common entrance exam for higher education is to be implemented, and standardized examinations are to be used to assess both student and teacher performance. Many educators, however, contend that these initiatives do little to advance learning and might even deter both students and teachers from taking chances and experimenting with novel ideas. The policy's emphasis on the significance of ensuring equitable access to education raises another issue because it does not sufficiently describe how this would be accomplished. There are now worries that the NEP won't effectively meet the requirements of underprivileged pupils, including those from rural areas, low-income families, and minority groups. Therefore, the New Education Policy has several flaws that have been pointed out by educators, decision-makers, and

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<sup>11</sup> Jay Kumar Gupta, "Analysis of the New National Education Policy 2023", retrieved from <https://www.eatmy.news/2023/02/analysis-of-new-national-education.html?m=1>, visited on September 12, 2023 at 7:14 p.m

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other stakeholders. These issues include the need for a detailed implementation strategy, insufficient resources, a focus on standardized testing, and a disregard for the needs of underserved populations.<sup>13</sup>

## **CONCLUSION**

The new National policy (NEP)2020 is good policy as it aims at making education system holistic flexible, multidisciplinary, aligned to needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century and 2030 sustainable development goals. The intent of policy seems too ideal in many ways but it is implementation where lies key to success. The NEP 2020 represents a transformative vision for higher education in India aiming to improve access, quality and relevance. However, addressing the challenges mentioned above is crucial for successful implementation of the policy. It requires concerted efforts from government educational institutions and other relevant stakeholders to overcome these challenges and create robust higher education system that prepared student for future.

Although the policy has many worthwhile concepts and objectives, it will need careful design and implementation to get past these obstacles and realize its full potential. Local Indian schools have criticized the NEP for its focus on standardized testing, lack of assistance for underprivileged pupils, and difficulties with feasibility and implementation. Although the program aspires to enhance the educational system and give all students access to a high-quality education, these objections imply that it may not be sufficiently addressing the needs and worries of nearby schools and may not produce the desired results. Ultimately, the success of the NEP 2020 and overcoming higher education challenges will require a collective effort by all stakeholders to prioritize quality education, embrace innovation, and ensure access and equity for all. New Education Policy 2020 and 2023 are clearly a much-needed step in the right direction. The needs of the hour having framed forward looking policies are its seamless execution. Done right these can offer the overhaul that the Indian Education Sector requires. It is rightly said by Nelson Mandela-

*“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”*

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<sup>13</sup> Jay Kumar Gupta, “Analysis of the New National Education Policy 2023”, retrieved from <https://www.eatmy.news/2023/02/analysis-of-new-national-education.html?m=1>, visited on September 12, 2023 at 7:14 p.m.