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NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL POLICY (NEP 2020) - REFORMS IN SCHOOL EDUCATION

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Abstract

The National educational policy (NEP 2020) is Government initiative to reform the Indian education system. The NEP 2020 aims to create an inclusive and equitable Education system that provides learning for all. The NEP 2020 recommends reducing the curriculum load in each subject to focus on core essential content. The NEP calls for organizing schools into complexes or clusters to ensure the availability of resources. It also calls for a shift in the curricular structure, with a 5+3+3+4. NEP 2020 is the first education policy of the 21st century and replaces the thirty-four-years-old National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986. Built on the foundational pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability, this policy is aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and aims to transform India into a vibrant knowledge society and global knowledge superpower by making both school and college education more holistic, flexible, multidisciplinary, suited to 21st century needs and aimed at bringing out the unique capabilities of each student. National Education Policy 2020 has been announced on 29.07.2020. The National Education Policy 2020 proposes various reforms in school education as well as higher education including technical education.

Key words: Equitable Education, Sustainable Development, Global knowledge

Introduction

Education plays a strong role in building the nation, education decides the future of the nation, the destiny of its people. Education is a public service, access to quality education must be considered a basic right of every child. The Govt of India introduced new National Educational Policy 2020 and replaced the National policy on Education 1986 which was 34 years old. The NEP 2020 aims ensure equal opportunities of quality education and promote lifelong learning for all to achieve sustainable development goal 2030 adopted in 2015 as well as bring out the unique potentialities of students by making education more holistic and multi-dimensional.

Meaning and concept of school Education

Education is the procedure of extricating learning or accumulation of knowledge, values, skills, habits, beliefs and moral development of student or teacher. It is derived from the country or the particular places cultural legacy and its channelled from one generation other generation. The right for the education is acknowledged as a legit right for everyone living on the earth by few governments United Nations.

Schools are organised spaces purposed for teaching and learning. The classrooms where teachers teach and students learn are of central importance. Classrooms may be specialized for certain subjects, such as laboratory classrooms.

In school education, the National Education Policy stress on core values and Principles that education must develop not only cognitive skills, that is both foundational skills of literacy and numeracy and higher-order skills such as critical things and problem solving. The basic concept of schools is to provide structured environments for learning and education.

Importance of school education

Education lays the basic foundation to build a bright future. The children of today will be citizens of tomorrow. School education is the beginning of basic education, which is important in life of every child. School education helps every student discover their unique interests and passions. In a way school education paves a way for student to create their career path and ladder to create a successful future. At the level of School education children begin to learn and develop social and communication skills, integrity, creativity, hobbies critical thinking as well as problem solving skills. School



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education allows children to acquire basic knowledge of various subjects such as literature, mathematics, science, arts, history etc.

At schools children learn sociable practices like friendship empathy, participation which are important in adulthood. Thus school education plays an important role in creating a successful future of child as well as shaping the future any nation.

NEP 2020 and School Education

Due to the advancement in Science technology the world is changing rapidly to meet these rapid changes of 21st Century NEP 2020 made several recommendations for reforms of in school education. The following are some of the key recommendations-

- Encouraging the children to adopt a Scientific mind set from early age instead of rote learning.
- Pedagogical and curricular structure of school education with 5 + 3 + 3 + 4 design corresponding to the ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14 and 14-18 years respectively.
- Highest priority to achieve universal foundational literacy and numeracy in primary schools by 2020-25
- Ensuring Universal Access at All Levels of schooling from pre-primary school to Grade 12;
- Ensuring quality early childhood care and education for all children between 3-6 years
- Introducing New Curricular and Pedagogical Structure (5+3+3+4)
- No hard separations between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra - curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams
- Filling up of teacher post as per pupil-to teacher ration immediately, especially in disadvantaged areas and areas with low literacy rates.
- Equal emphasis on all subjects-mathematics, science, social, languages, arts and sports with integration of academic and vocational streams in schools.
- Teachers to adopt bilingual teaching approach.
- Preparation of bilingual text books and teaching learning material with good quality for science and maths.
- Reducing curriculum content to the core essentials of each subject.
- Mother language/local/regional/language as medium of instruction at least until grade-5 preferable till grade -8 beyond.
- Bagless days should be encouraged throughout year.
- The progress card should be a holistic.
- The credibility of government schools should re- established.

Reforms in School Education

The National Education policy 2020 includes a number of reforms to school education including

Curriculum

The NEP replaces the 10+2 structure with a 5+3+3+4. The new model includes foundational stage ages 3-7, with three years pre-school or anganawadi and two years of primary school. Preparatory stage: ages 8-10, with classes 3-5. Middle stage: ages 11-13, with classes 6-8. Secondary stage: ages 14-18, with classes 9-12.

Assessment

The NEP 2020 includes new assessment patterns for all stages of school education it also includes a plan to reduce the burden of exams.



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Technology

The NEP 2020 emphasizes the use of digital tools for blended learning. School or encouraged to invest in infrastructure and ensure that teachers and students are adopt at using technology

Teacher training:

The NEP 2020 includes continues professional development (CPD) for teachers

Inclusive Education

The NEP 2020 includes support for students with special talents and disabilities. It also includes Special education Zones for disadvantaged categories.

Vocational education

The NEP 2020 reimagines vocational education.

The National Educational Policy 2020 brings fourth key highlights and transformative changes that aim to shape the future of Education of India. It emphasizes holistic education, early child hood care, flexible assessments, skill development, integration of technology, teacher training and higher education reforms.

Impact of NEP 2020 on School Education

Viable methods will be explored to support teachers in the mission of attaining universal foundational literacy and numeracy.

To achieve the right results in the fields of physical and motor development, cognitive development, socio-emotional-moral development, cultural/artistic development of communication, and early language.

Redesigned of Curriculum frame works and transactions mechanisms will ensure the children learning should holistic.

In all stages experimental learning will be adopted, including hands-on learning, arts integrated and sports-integrated education, story-telling based pedagogy, among others. Students will begiven increased flexibility and choice of subjects to study, particularly in secondary school-including subjects in physical education, the arts and crafts and vocational skill, so they can design their own paths of study and life plans.

It will give to children a logical framework for makings ethical decisions, enabling children to embrace moral/ethical values in conducting one's life.

Suggestions

The Government should make proper and similar guidelines for both public and private schools for providing education in mother / regional language until 5th or 8th grades and necessary actions should be taken for the implementation to attain Sustainable Development Goals2030.

By embracing digital technologies, enhancing infrastructure, investing in teacher training, and promoting inclusive education, these reforms are not merely increments but signify a fundamental shift towards a more equitable, accessible, and quality driven education system.

the structure of school curriculum to incorporate early childhood care and education.



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Increasing gross enrolment in higher education to 50% by 2035.

Curtailing dropouts for ensuring universal access to education.

Conclusion: The New Education Policy (NEP 2020) is an excellent policy since it intends to make the school education comprehensive and adoptable in order to meet the demands of the 21st century and 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)

NEP 2020 presage a new era in the Indian education system, focusing on holistic development, multidisciplinary learning, technology integration, teacher empowerment, and assessment reforms. It has set the vision for a fundamental change in how education is delivered, opening up new opportunities for education sector stakeholders while ensuring that every school-aged child in India has access to and is provided with an equitable and high-quality education.

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