

## **Role of NEP 2020 in transforming Indian education**

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### **Abstract**

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 represents a important overhaul of India's education framework, aiming to make learning more comprehensive, adaptable, and in tune with the demands of the modern era. Superseding the earlier National Policy on Education from 1986, this policy introduces sweeping reforms that span from early childhood education to the higher education sector. A standout feature of NEP 2020 is its strong focus on foundational literacy and numeracy, considered essential for lifelong learning. The policy also replaces the traditional 10+2 structure with a new 5+3+3+4 model, which better reflects the cognitive stages of student development and formally incorporates preschool education into the mainstream system.

NEP 2020 promotes multilingualism, experiential learning, and competency-based education, moving away from rote memorization. It encourages critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving abilities to empower students with the skills needed to succeed in a dynamic world." knowledge-based economy. The policy also envisions the globalization of education and recommends the creation of multidisciplinary institutions that integrate vocational education at all levels.

In higher education, NEP 2020 focuses on increasing the number of students who enroll in college and making learning more flexible by removing strict boundaries between different subjects. It introduces a four-year undergraduate program with options for students to enter and exit at different stages, along with a system called the Academic Bank of Credits to help them keep track of their progress. The policy also highlights the importance of teacher training, online learning, and using technology to improve the quality and reach of education.

Overall, NEP 2020 aims to build an education system that is fair, inclusive, and connected to Indian values while also preparing students for a global world. If put into action effectively, it could help India become a leading center of knowledge and produce skilled, ethical, and responsible citizens.

**Keywords:** NEP 2020, Education Policy, Multidisciplinary Education, Digital Learning

## **Introduction**

India's higher education system is going through big changes thanks to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. In today's fast-changing world of technology, global connections, and new social and economic realities, the NEP offers a clear and modern plan to update and improve the country's education system.

Moving away from old methods, the NEP promotes student-focused learning that encourages learning across different subjects and overall development. It aims to fix ongoing problems and use new opportunities to move India towards a knowledge-based economy.

The policy stresses the importance of creativity, flexible learning, and critical thinking, helping students succeed in a complex, fast-paced world. It also focuses on making education fair and accessible for all, no matter their background. A major goal is to turn colleges and universities into centers of learning, research, and innovation.

## **Review of Literature**

**Mishra (2024)** examined how NEP 2020 is changing higher education in India. The study explains how the policy addresses old issues while bringing in new ideas to modernize learning, support innovation, and increase access to education. It also looks at the challenges and expected benefits of the policy.

**Kalyani (2020)** studied the impact of NEP 2020 on students, parents, and teachers. It found that students focus on gaining useful knowledge and skills for better job opportunities. Parents play an important role in helping their children choose subjects and also support them financially.

**Wankhade (2021)** highlighted the importance of higher education in improving a country's economy, society, and technology. The study emphasizes that the government must work to increase the number of students attending college by making higher education available to everyone.

## **Overview of NEP 2020**

The National Education Policy 2020 is a major step in changing how education works in India. After more than 30 years, this policy brings a new approach that encourages learning across subjects, creativity, critical thinking, and lifelong learning. It aims to make education more inclusive and focused on students' needs. The NEP prepares India to be a global leader in education and innovation.

## **NEP and Higher Education**

NEP 2020 aims to completely change higher education in India. It encourages learning across different fields, adds new subjects, and gives students more freedom to choose what and how they study.

A major goal is to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in colleges by allowing students to join or leave courses at different stages. The policy also suggests creating institutions like the National Research Foundation and the National Educational Technology Forum. These will help promote research, improve technology in education, and raise the quality of colleges and universities.

### **Key Highlights of NEP for Higher Education**

- Increase the GER in higher education to 50% by 2035.
- Add around 5 crore new college seats.
- Set up a **National Research Foundation (NRF)** to support research in all fields.
- Create a single regulatory body, **Higher Education Commission of India (HECI)**, to simplify rules.
- Start a four-year undergraduate program with multiple exit options and skill-building.
- Launch a **National Educational Technology Forum (NETF)** to improve digital learning.
- Introduce a credit-based degree system to allow students to study different subjects or courses at the same time.
- Establish a **National Academic Credit Bank (NAC-Bank)** to help students transfer and collect credits from different institutions.

### **Features of Higher Education under NEP 2020**

1. **Interdisciplinary Education:** Students can study different subjects together, allowing for a broader education.
2. **Flexible Curriculum and Credit Transfer:** Students can choose subjects they like, and credits can be transferred between courses or colleges.
3. **Research and Innovation:** A stronger focus on research with better funding and facilities through the National Research Foundation.
4. **Vocational Education and Skill Development:** Job-focused training and apprenticeships will be part of regular college courses.



5. **Online Education:** Use of technology and online learning to reach more students, especially in remote areas.
6. **Inclusivity and Equity:** Special attention to students from weaker sections of society to ensure fair access to education.
7. **Internationalization:** Encourage international partnerships and student exchanges through a **National Education Exchange Programme (NEEP)**.
8. **Autonomy and Accountability:** Colleges will have more freedom to manage themselves, but also have to follow clear rules to maintain quality.

#### **Challenges of NEP 2020 in Higher Education**

1. **System Restructuring:** Changing the whole higher education system is difficult and may cause temporary disruptions.
2. **Funding Issues:** New policies need a lot of money for things like new universities, technology, and training. Finding this money is a challenge.
3. **Digital Divide:** Not everyone has internet access, especially in rural areas, which can make online learning difficult for many.
4. **Lack of Trained Faculty:** There is a shortage of well-trained teachers, and training them will take time and effort.
5. **Ensuring Equity:** Changes like the four-year degree program may be harder for students from poor or disadvantaged backgrounds. The policy must be applied in a fair and inclusive way.

#### **Conclusion**

NEP 2020 is a bold and forward-thinking plan to reshape higher education in India. With its focus on flexibility, diverse learning, job skills, equality, and innovation, it hopes to make education more useful and future-ready. But to succeed, the challenges—like lack of funding, digital inequality, teacher shortages, and fairness—must be carefully addressed.

Reaching NEP's goals will require strong leadership, teamwork between the government and educational institutions, and constant feedback from students, teachers, and the public. With consistent effort and thoughtful planning, India can build a modern, inclusive, and world-class higher education system.

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