

# Design Principles for Transformation of Education in National Education Policy

October 12, 2020

## In News

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the National Education Policy 2020, making way for large scale, **transformational reforms in both school and higher education sectors**. This is the first education policy of the 21st century and **replaces the thirty-four year old National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986**.

## Design Principles of the Policy

- The policy aims to transform India into a vibrant knowledge society and global knowledge superpower by **making both school and college education more holistic, flexible and multidisciplinary**.
- **Ensuring Universal Access at all levels of school education**, through following measures:
  - . NEP 2020 emphasizes on ensuring universal access to school education at all levels-pre school to secondary.
  - . Infrastructure support, **innovative education centres** to bring back dropouts into the mainstream.
  - . Tracking of students and their learning levels, facilitating multiple pathways to learning involving both **formal and non-formal education modes**.
  - . Association of counselors or well-trained social workers with schools.
  - . **Open learning** for class 3, 5 and 8 through NIOS and State

Open Schools.

. Secondary education programs equivalent to Grades 10 and 12, vocational courses, **adult literacy and life-enrichment programs.**

- **Early Childhood Care & Education with new curricular and pedagogical structure**

. With emphasis on Early Childhood Care and Education, **the 10+2 structure of school curricula is to be replaced by a 5+3+3+4 curricular structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively.**

. This will bring the hitherto uncovered age group of 3-6 years under school curriculum, which has been recognized globally as the crucial stage for development of mental faculties of a child.

. NCERT will develop a **National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education (NCPFECCE)** for children up to the age of 8.

- **Reforms in school curricula and pedagogy**

. Students will have increased flexibility and choice of subjects. There will be **no rigid separations between arts and sciences, between curricular and extracurricular activities, between vocational and academic streams.**

. Vocational education will start in schools from the 6th grade, and will include internships.

- **Multilingualism and the power of language**

. The policy has **emphasized mother tongue/ local language/ regional language as the medium of instruction at least till Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond.**

. **Sanskrit to be offered at all levels of school** and higher education as an option for students, including in the three-

language formula. Other classical languages and literatures of India also to be available as options.

- **Assessment Reforms**

- . NEP 2020 envisages a **shift from summative assessment to regular and formative assessment**. All students will take school examinations in Grades 3, 5, and 8 which will be conducted by the appropriate authority.

- . Board exams for Grades 10 and 12 will be continued. A new National Assessment Centre, **PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development)**, will be set up as a standard-setting body.

- **Equitable and Inclusive Education**

- . Special emphasis will be given on Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) which include gender, socio-cultural, and geographical identities and disabilities.

- . This includes setting up of a **Gender Inclusion Fund and also Special Education Zones for disadvantaged regions and groups**.

- **Standard setting and accreditation for school education**

- . NEP 2020 envisages clear, **separate systems for policy making, regulation, operations and academic matters**. States/UTs will set up an **independent State School Standards Authority (SSSA)**.

- . Further, schools can be organized into **complexes or clusters which will be the basic unit of governance** and ensure availability of all resources including infrastructure, academic libraries and a strong professional teacher community.

- **Higher Education**

- . The policy envisages broad based, multi-disciplinary, holistic undergraduate education with **flexible curricula**,

**creative combinations of subjects, integration of vocational education and multiple entry and exit points with appropriate certification.**

. An **academic bank of credit** is to be established for digitally storing academic credits earned from different HEIs so that these can be transferred and counted towards the final degree earned.

- **Regulation**

**Higher Education Commission of India (HECI)** will be set up as a single overarching umbrella body for the entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education. HECI to have four independent verticals:

- . **National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for regulation**

- . **General Education Council (GEC ) for standard setting**

- . **Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for funding**

- . **National Accreditation Council ( NAC) for accreditation**

. Affiliation of colleges is to be phased out in 15 years and a **stage-wise mechanism is to be established for granting graded autonomy to colleges.**

- **Teacher Education**

. A new and comprehensive National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education, NCFTE 2021, will be formulated by the NCTE in consultation with NCERT.

. By 2030, the **minimum degree qualification for teaching will be a 4-year integrated B.Ed. degree.**

- **Promotion of Indian languages**

To ensure the preservation, growth, and vibrancy of all Indian

languages, NEP recommends setting an **Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation (IITI), National Institute (or Institutes) for Pali, Persian and Prakrit, strengthening of Sanskrit** and all language departments in HEIs, and use mother tongue/ local language as a medium of instruction in more HEI programmes .