

NEW EDUCATION POLICY: BENEFITS AND FEATURES

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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. Along with appreciation, there is also criticism which focuses on the drawbacks of this new education policy.

Following are the Advantaged and Disadvantaged of New Education Policy 2020

Advantages:

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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8. Parakh national education policy is to be set up by the Government.
9. Special daytime boarding school “Bal Bhavans” 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.

Drawbacks:

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.

Implementation:

The new education policy in 2020 came after 30 years and is all set to change the existing academic system of India with the purpose of making it at par with the international standard of academic. The Government of India aims to set up the NEP by the year 2040. Till the targeted year, the key point of the plan is to be implemented one by one. The proposed reform by NEP 2020 will come into effect by the collaboration of the Central and the State Government. Subject wise committees will be set up the GOI with both central and state-level ministries for discussing the implementation strategy.

With the introduction of NEP 2020, many changes have been made and one of those is the discontinuation of the M. Phil course. Even though there are many drawbacks to the new education policy, the merits are more in number. It is believed by many that by implementing these New National Education Policy 2023

When the NEP was launched in 2023, its motto was Educate, Encourage and Enlighten. The government's purpose to launch this policy was to develop 21st-century skills in the students of India. The amendments in NEP from the previous education policy strive for Research, Innovation, and Quality. For the seamless implementation of this education policy, the government is willing to give big funds. In 2021, Nirmala Sitaraman said that funds of Rs. 50,000 crores will be given to the National Research Foundation, and Rs. 40 crore to Ekalavya Schools. More details of NEP 2023 are in the rest of the article. Indian academic system will be taken a step higher.

NEP 2023 Major Reforms

The following is the list of all the Major Reforms in Education Policy according to the NEP 2023.

1. There will be no substantial distinction between arts, science, academic, vocational, curricular, and subjects of extracurricular streams.

2. There will be extra emphasis on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy.
3. Substitution of 10+2 structure with a 5+3+3+4 model.
4. No imposition of State Language on Students studying in any State.
5. Permission of taking Board Exams two times for the students.
6. The government will spend 6% of the Country's GDP on Education instead of 1.7%.
7. The Gender Inclusion fund will be fully established.
8. The government will do extra efforts for providing proper education to the gifted children
9. The UG Courses will be for 4 years.
10. The minimum qualification to apply for the post the teacher will be a 4-year integrated B.Ed Course.
11. There will be an introduction of a Common Entrance Test for admission to HEIs.
12. The Master of Philosophy course will no longer be a part of the education system.
13. The students will be able to opt for different subjects such as arts, crafts, vocation skills, and physical education in Secondary School.
14. The Standards for Board Exams will be set by the body PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development)
15. The government will make literature of India and other classical languages part of the syllabus in schools.
16. The exams for students will be held only in classes 2nd, 5th, and 8th instead of every academic year.

What is NEP 5+3+3+4 Structure?

The most attention-grabbing amendment in the NEP 2023 is the replacement of the 10+2 structure with the 5+3+3+4 structure. The 10+2 has been prevalent in our education system for a very long time. So, a complete change in that system can be a bit perplexing for the students. Below we will try to explain the meaning of the 5+3+3+4 structure and how it is completely distinctive from the old 10+2 structure.

In the new Pedagogical and Circular Structure, the government has subdivided the schooling of students into four parts. These four parts are Secondary, Middle, Preparatory, and Foundational. These four stages of schooling will be crucial parts of educational development in students' school lives. The subdivision of these four stages in the schooling of students will be done as follows 5+3+3+4 Structure

- The first stage of schooling for students is the Foundation Stage. In this, the early grooming of students will be done for 5 years. These 5 years will be 3 years of Anganwadi/ Pre-Primary/ Balvatika and first and second grade.
- The second stage will be the preparatory stage. This schooling stage will last for 3 years as well. Class 3rd, 4th, and 5th will lay the foundation for the middle and secondary stages.
- The third stage of schooling will be the middle school stage. In this from Class 6th to 8th. These three years will prepare the students for the final stage of their school life i.e. Secondary Stage.
- The final stage of schooling life for students will be the secondary stage, in this instead of 2 years, the students will have a complete four years from Class 9th to 12th to complete their secondary education.

Significance of 5+3+3+4 Structure

The Government aims to emphasize more on the cognitive-development stage of the students through the 5+3+3+4 structure. Through this structure, the government will flesh out the schooling stages of students for their benefit. Contrary to the 10+2 structure, the 5+3+3+4 structure will strengthen the base of students from the foundational stage to the secondary stage. This new structure will also help the Right to Education to be fully utilized by the students. Since the structure covers ages from 3 to 18 instead of 6 to 14. Because of this, the students will be supported by the inception of their school life

In addition to all of this, this structure will be handy in substantially increasing student retention rates. With the implementation of this structure, more students will stay in their respective schools for the entirety of their school life. In short, this new structure will be beneficial for the students in every conceivable way. Moreover, a higher literacy rate with this structure will only work for the betterment of our country's future.

Effect of NEP on Teachers

Not only students will be impacted by the NEP, but it will influence teachers and teaching methods as well. According to NEP 2023, in order to be a teacher in a school you need to possess a B. Ed degree. The eye-catching thing about this is that this B.Ed course must compulsorily be a 4-year integrated course. Because of this policy, only competent teachers will join the schools and this will most definitely help for molding the future of students into the right path.

NEP 2023 for UG and Higher Education

The students who will pursue UG and Higher Education will also be affected by the NEP 2023. According to the policy, the duration of a UG degree will be four years and these degrees will be multi-disciplinary, holistic, and flexible. Moreover, the students will be given multiple chances to opt for an exit from the degree course. For instance, the students will get a certificate for completing a 1-year vocational or professional field course. Whereas, they will get a diploma after 2 years and a Bachelor's degree after 3 years.

For PG courses, the course duration will be limited to 1 to 2 years. Also, the Master of Philosophy programs will no longer be accessible. The most ambitious decision for college-level education in this policy is that the college affiliation system will be fully phased out in the coming 15 years. Moreover, there will be a new body to supervise all the higher education courses excluding the legal and medical courses.

NEP 2023 for teaching in Mother Tounge or Regional Language

One of the most important reforms in NEP is that the students will get to study in their Mother Tongue or regional language till the 5th standard. Additionally, the government has also said that they can increase this limit to the 8th standard as well. By studying in their mother tongue, the students will easily comprehend what teachers are teaching them. Also, the students will get to know more about their language through this policy as well.

National Education Policy 2023 Digital Inclusions

With the advancement of technology, digital methods of teaching have become a part of schooling recently. Let us have a look at the digital approaches the government will take toward the betterment of education through NEP 2023.

The Government will establish a NETF (National Educational Technology Forum). This forum will work to elevate digital teaching methods in different schools by providing new and unique ideas related to it.

In order to develop more resources for digital education, the Government will introduce a new unit that will work across the nation.

There will be the integration of technology that will enhance the different procedures in the classroom.

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