



Importance And Concept of National Education Policy 2020

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ARTICLE INFO ABSTRACT

The National Education Policy 2020 represents a new era in education in India, marked by significant changes and objectives. It aims to prepare the country for the challenges of the year 2030 and beyond. This policy is not just about competence but is envisioned as a comprehensive development of society. The primary goal is to dedicate the nation to quality education, with a focus on making our future education policy the most powerful. It seeks to transform education into a global paradigm, reaching from the grassroots to the global level. The policy emphasizes the importance of education in human life, focusing on knowledge, science, technology, and innovation across all mediums. It is designed to be creative, quality-driven, and legally sound.

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In India, the New Education Policy 2020 is considered a significant step in the country's education system. It was announced by the Government of India on July 29, 2020. Following the National Education Policy introduced in 1986, this is a major shift in India's education policy. The new education policy is based on the report of the committee headed by Dr. Kasturirangan, a renowned space scientist.

First and foremost, it is essential to reflect on the importance of education. Education is a valuable asset that enhances human life, with the primary purpose of learning and teaching. However, if we look at its broader meaning, education is a continuous social process with a specific objective, aimed at developing human internal abilities and refining behavior. Education enriches knowledge and abilities, making a person a competent citizen.

The objective of the New Education Policy is to develop the educational sector and elevate India to the status of a global power. Through new education policies, the aim is to transform the entire nation. It is my duty to provide the appropriate level of education. In India, children need to be aware of the quality of education along with technical and creativity, which is worth improving. **"Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first education minister of India, envisioned a uniform educational system across the country, along with strong central government control. The central government has developed proposals to modernize India's education system, including the University Education Commission (1948–1949), the Secondary Education Commission (1952–1953), and the Kothari Commission (1964–66). Based on the report and recommendations of the Kothari Commission (1964–1966), the government of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi announced the first national education policy in 1968, which called for the "reorganization of the existing pattern" and proposed equal educational opportunities for all. It has been advocated to ensure education for all children up to the age of 14 years for national integration and more cultural and economic development policy."**

In fact, education is of great importance in our India, which every child should acquire, but the system remains the same. This lethargy could not educate all children today. Today, the education policy is providing new educational options, which can be developed as a reflection of society, as well as the development of the entire nation along with the individual. The final education policy was brought in India in 1986 and 10+2+3 education system was implemented across the country. After almost 34 years, the new education policy was brought in the 21st century, where the globalisation and information technology revolution is in front of us, where all the needs of humanity can be met. This education policy determines the vision to provide quality education to all,

a just and living knowledge society developed. **“The process of globalization in the 1990s brought about radical changes in the needs of individuals, society and the nation, which the education policy of 1986 was unable to fulfill. The rate of illiteracy continued to rise, and rural areas remained neglected. Problems related to the structure and curriculum of schools and colleges can still be seen today. In 2014, the Narendra Modi government had a major challenge and need for a national education policy, which was seen in June 2017 by the former ISRO chief. “It was constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. K. Kasturirangan, which is functioning successfully with good intentions.”**

In reality, the committee presented the draft of the National Education Policy in May 2019. Subsequently, Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', adopted a comprehensive democratic policy and sought opinions from people of all sections across the country regarding the education policy. This effort was a successful endeavor under the supervision of Prime Minister Modi ji, which is based on the idea of 'collective effort, inclusive development, and mutual trust'. The education policy is crucial as it is based on global perspectives in the 21st century and will be beneficial for the entire world by adopting new objectives and welfare-oriented assistance.

The 'National Education Policy 2020' is seen as a powerful tool to achieve social justice and quality education in a comprehensive manner. It is the first step towards ensuring quality, integrity, and ethical education, removing various social and economic barriers. Mahatma Gandhi's inspiration has always been there: **“That education which does not purify the mind, does not create a sense of responsibility, and does not give courage and self-reliance, no matter how much knowledge it imparts, is not true education.”**

In fact, Gandhiji emphasized the importance of education and considered it a connection between humans. In reality, Gandhiji realized early in his life that education is the foundation of social, political, economic, and moral progress. The new inclusive education policy 2020 has various benchmarks for education, which reflect Gandhiji's ideals and aspirations for holistic development. **“Education is not merely a means to earn a living but is the development of the physical, mental, and spiritual powers inherent in man.”**⁴ These thoughts were expressed by Mahatma Gandhi when he wrote, **“That knowledge is true knowledge which liberates, i.e., the one that gives freedom. Kaka Kalelkar analyzes Gandhi ji's interpretation, stating that a person is bound by ignorance. He is a slave to his natural tendencies and is caught in circumstances. As a result, his soul is suppressed. True education liberates him from these bonds.”**

To ensure quality education, the implementation of education policies is a new initiative, in which the social relevance of education, its quality, improvement, and objectives are socially relevant. The ideas of Gandhi ji in the 21st century have been embedded in the New Education Policy 2020. **“The School Education and Literacy Department is taking rigorous steps to make school education employment-oriented and quality-based. The Department is working to educate youth in various economic sectors and the global market, making them employable and competitive, under the centrally sponsored scheme “Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan” for secondary and higher education.”**

In India, the New Education Policy 2020 has placed great emphasis on both higher and secondary education, which is a lifelong learning policy. Today, we are witnessing a new global education policy that is psychologically making education knowledge-based. The new education system will be beneficial for society.

Objectives of Quality Education

1. To make children aware of their mother tongue (regional language) and their natural and social environment.
2. To educate children about health rules and train them in health-enhancing activities.
3. To encourage children to participate in cultural activities, folk songs, folk dances, etc., and develop cultural tolerance.
4. To develop critical and creative thinking in children.
5. To sensitize children to environmental pollution and develop their scientific temperament.
6. To develop democratic citizenship.
7. To develop entrepreneurial skills.
8. To develop leadership skills.
9. To develop a sense of national discipline among students.
10. To protect and promote democratic values among youth - equality, freedom, fraternity, and justice.
11. To develop the Samagra Shiksha Yojana for school education.
12. To establish the National Education Mission.

To improve the quality of education, our educationists have to follow its tradition. Agreement is given to bring new changes in education and to make it adaptable in every field. **'Along with new curriculum and educational structure, taking care of early childhood and ensuring good education.'** **The Centre has set a target to implement the new education policy by 2030. Since education is a concurrent subject, both state and central governments have the authority, so it is not necessary for state governments to fully agree. Wherever there is a conflicting situation, it has been suggested that both parties should resolve it through mutual consent."**

In fact, the structure of education has remained very strong, scientifically and philosophically. The intellectual recommendations of Gandhi, Aurobindo, Rabindranath Tagore, Yoga Darshan, Nyaya Darshan, Samkhya Darshan, Vedanta Darshan, Jain and Buddhist philosophy, etc., have been the guiding force for the Indian education policy. **'The new education policy 2020-34, which is the global form of the old National Education Policy, is accessible to all, integrated, qualitative, sustainable, and accountable. Built on the foundations of these pillars, this new education policy is in line with the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and is conducive to the needs of the 21st century. By making school and college education flexible, it aims to transform India into a knowledge-based vibrant society and a global superpower, bringing out the unique capabilities of every student.'**

In new statistics, along with the educational structure of the New Education Policy 2020, the importance of mother tongue and regional languages will be given priority in early childhood education. **'Focusing on childhood care and education, the school curriculum will now be implemented with a 5+3+3+4 structure instead of the 10+2 structure, which will be divided into stages: 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years. The new education system is for children aged 11-14 and 14-18 years. It includes bringing children aged 3-6 into the formal schooling system, which is recognized globally as a crucial stage for a child's mental development. The new education system includes three years of Anganwadi, followed by 12 years of formal schooling along with primary schooling.'**

The new education policy gives importance to the future of young officers. The New Education Policy 2020 will be instrumental in building a strong foundation for the future in terms of literacy and numeracy. The policy emphasizes the integration of technology in the curriculum and teaching, along with the inclusion of art and sports. The focus is on providing inclusive and equitable education, which is a new addition to the modern education system.

In reality, the foundation of higher education is laid out in such a way that the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) is to be increased to 50% by 2035, which is a target of NEP 2020. The GER in higher education, including vocational education, is to be increased from 26.3% (2018) to 50% by 2035, so that new seats can be created in higher education institutions. The total enrollment is expected to reach 3.5 crore, which is a new hope for the future. Education should be digital in nature, along with the use of information technology. Mahatma Gandhi had envisioned a strong foundation for the future, along with making Indian education valuable. This can be seen in the form of the New Education Policy 2020.

In conclusion, the New Education Policy 2020 provides new opportunities for education across India, in the form of new values and ideals. Along with new options for education, there is a need to establish a new national education mission in the form of quality basic education. This is a welcome move, as it sets new benchmarks for the future. After 34 years, the New Education Policy 2020 has come to the forefront, which is a blend of Indian philosophy, thought, and new values. The National Education Policy 2020 is a reflection of the country's commitment to realizing Mahatma Gandhi's dreams, and it is a resolve to make India a knowledge-based society in the 21st century, with a bright future.

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