



## The Spirit Of The National Education Policy–2020

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**"To understand life is to understand ourselves, and that is both the beginning and the end of education."**

**Krishnamurti**

ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
	<p>Indian education system is the oldest education systems in the world. But unfortunately, it couldn't cope with the major changes of the changing times and technological advancement. Education is fundamental for the development of human beings to reach their full potential and make them responsible citizens for society. Providing universal access to quality education is very essential for the development of a nation. India will be the highest populated country of youth in the world in the next decade, so it is very essential for the whole education system to provide that kind of education to our youth so that they may be the strong pillars of the country.</p> <p>It is very essential for our children that they should not learn only but they should learn how to learn. In this paper the author has highlighted the spirit of National Education Policy–2020 and hurdles in its implementation.</p> <p><b>Key Words:</b> Holistic development, global citizen, universal access, critical thinking, life skills etc.</p>

Education is fundamental for the development of human beings to reach their full potential and make them responsible citizens for society. Providing universal access to quality education is very essential for the development of a nation. India will be the highest populated country of youth in the world in the next decade, so it is very essential for the whole education system to provide that kind of education to our youth so that they may be the strong pillars of the country. The whole world is undergoing change as far as knowledge is concerned. There is a rise of artificial intelligence, data science, computer science etc. Many unskilled jobs may be taken over by machines. Increasing population, meager resources and high demand are the possible challenges in future. It is very essential for our children that they should not learn only but they should learn how to learn.

The purpose of education is not to provide information only, it must build characters. It must develop all round personality.

**As Mahatma Gandhi said, " By education I mean all round development of body, mind and spirit."**

Education must enable learners to be skilled, rational, compassionate and caring. Education must prepare them for gaining, fulfilling employment.

Every individual has a creative potential that must be developed.

**As Swami Vivekananda said, " Education means that process by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, and intellect is sharpened, as a result of which one can stand on one's own feet".**

Swami Vivekananda always believed that the development of a nation is not possible without real education. Education must develop not only cognitive capacities but the foundational capacities of literacy and numeracy and higher order cognitive capacities such as critical thinking and problem solving but also social ethical and emotional capacities. The highest human goals in Indian thought and philosophy, the knowledge, wisdom and

truth as far as India is concerned. Because in ancient India the aim of education was not to acquire knowledge for preparation of life. It was for the complete realisation and liberation of the self.

Let's have a look on the fundamental principles in this policy that will guide both the education system at large as well as the individual Institutions within it. The main principles of this policy are as follows: –

1. Recognising, identifying and fostering the unique capabilities of each student by sensitizing teachers as well as parents to promote each students' holistic development in both academic and non-academic spheres.
2. According to the highest priority to achieving foundational literacy and numeracy by all students by grade three.
3. Flexibility to choose their learning trajectories and programs and thereby choose their own paths in life according to their talents and interests.
4. No hard separations between arts and sciences, between curricular and extracurricular activities, between vocational and academic streams etc. in order to eliminate harmful hierarchies among and silos between different areas of learning.
5. Multi-disciplinary and holistic education across the sciences, social sciences, arts, humanities and sports for a multidisciplinary world in order to ensure the unity and integrity of all knowledge.

### **The Vision of This Policy**

The purpose of this policy is to provide an education system that may directly contribute to transform India. For this have a look on the vision of this policy: –

1. An education system that contributes to an equitable and vibrant knowledge society by providing high quality education to all.
2. Develop a deep sense of respect towards the fundamental rights, duties, and constitutional values, bonding with one's country and conscious awareness of one's role and responsibilities in a changing world.

### **Part I - School Education**

- Early childhood care and education: the foundation of learning.
- Foundational literacy and numeracy: An urgent and necessary prerequisite to learning.
- Curtailing dropout rates and ensuring universal access to education at all levels.
- Curriculum and pedagogy in schools learning should be holistic, integrated, enjoyable, and engaging.
- National textbooks with local content and flavors: Content will be less and flexibility of school curriculum will be increased. Emphasis will be on constructive rather than rote learning.
- Career management and progression (CMP): Those teachers who are doing outstanding work must be recognised and promoted and their salary must be hiked.
- For professional standards for teachers, a common guiding set up national professional standards for teacher, NPS will be developed by 2022 by the NCTE.
- Efficient resourcing and effective governance through school complexes or clusters.

### **Part II – Higher Education**

- Quality Universities and colleges.
  - Institutional restructuring and consolidation towards a more holistic and multidisciplinary education.
  - Optimal learning environment and support for students
  - Motivated energized and capable faculty.
  - Equity and inclusion in higher education.
- “In today's increasingly complex system, education systems are making considerable efforts to ensure that government structures facilitate effective planning, implementation and delivery of education policies.” (OECD 2019b, p.44).

### **Part III – Other Key Areas of Focus**

- Professional education
- Adult education and lifelong learning
- Promotion of Indian languages and cultures
- Technology use and integration
- Online and digital education ensuring equitable use of Technology

### Part IV – Making It Happen

- They will have skills and values and they will act as a truly global citizen.
- They will have respect for every section of the society.
- Their minds will be full of creativity and thinking will be critical so that they will have decision making power and capacity to innovate.
- They will learn experientially.
- Our society will be full of knowledge that will take our nation to a great height in the whole world.
- Our citizens will be full of enthusiasm and they will have ideal character.
- There will be equity and access for all sections of society.

In the year 2020, the new education policy is making vision to develop a deep sense of respect towards the fundamental rights and duties. It is an alarming signal that previous policies have not met their desired outcomes through education. Since 1948, several policies came into existence.

What were the reasons behind, we couldn't achieve those very basic qualities, however several recommendations given by previous policies since 1948? Now it is the high time to introspect ourselves so that we could materialise the objectives mentioned in this national education policy 2020. I am afraid if proper attention will not be there the objectives of this education policy may also not come true like previous policies. Strong political will and collective efforts of all will turn the tide. Let's start with full zeal and enthusiasm to fulfil all objectives of this policy with honesty and sincere efforts only then we will be able to make headway in this regard and India will achieve her previous status "*Jagadguru*" again. Let's hope for the better society.

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