

Comparison: NEP 2020 and NEP 1986

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ABSTRACT

Innovative education policy is essential for a country at the academic level because education leads to economic and social progress. Different countries endorse numerous education systems by adopting various stages during their life cycle at the school and college levels to make them effective. The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), which was approved by the Union Cabinet of India on July 29, 2020, outlines the concept of India's new education system. The new policy rebuilds the previous National Policy on Education from 1986. The policy is a comprehensive framework for elementary education, higher education, and vocational education training in rural and urban India. The policy aims to transform India's education system by 2021. Shortly after the release of the policy, the government clarified that no one will be forced to study any language and that the medium of instruction will not be shifted from English to any regional language. The language policy in NEP is a broad guideline and advisory in nature and it is up to the states, institutions, and schools to decide on the implementation. Education in India is a concurrent list subject. Himachal Pradesh has become the first state to implement the New Education Policy 2020. The national education policy should be implemented in all schools in India by 2022.

Keywords: *National Education Policy 2020, NEP-2020, Overview & critical Analysis, Implementation Strategies.*

What is education policy? The set of rules, regulations, and policies, as well as the principles made by the government for our education system, are called education policies. There are many forms in India where education policy occurs for various purposes, e.g., kindergarten, 12th grade, colleges, universities, and post-graduation. Education policies are part of the beginning of growth, as is the education of children, not just children, but every human's part of life. Education policy is beneficial for both the teaching and learning parts. Each university, college, school, competitive exam or training, and educational policy all play a pivotal role. Without it, institutions will be devoid of structure and functions. In India, the primary policy on education was announced in 1968 under the government of Indira Gandhi. This national policy of education in 1968 was also called "radical restructuring." The main agenda of this policy is equality. This policy stated that there should be compulsory education for all children up to the age of fourteen. This policy focuses

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Received: August 16, 2022; Revision Received: August 20, 2022; Accepted: August 24, 2022

Comparison: NEP 2020 and NEP 1986

on the three languages: English, Hindi, and the official state language. This policy also encourages the ancient language called Sanskrit.

In 1986, the New National Policy of Education was introduced under the governance of Rajiv Gandhi. The 1986 national education policy called for "special emphasis on removing disparities and equalising educational opportunities." This policy focuses not on children but on women's scheduled tribes and scheduled castes. Expansion of more scholarships, senior education, and recruiting more jobs from SCs are the main agendas of these policies. In 1992, under the P.V. Narasimha Rao government, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh adopted a new education policy in 2005, which was based on the "Common Minimum Program." This policy focuses on the entrance examinations like JEE and AIEEE, SLEEVE for state-level institutions, etc. This focuses on the professional standard of the education system. "Education is the most powerful weapon that can be used to change the world" (Mandela, n.d.)

Across the world, India became the 135th country to make the right to education a fundamental right for every child. The right to education act came into force on April 1, 2010. According to the right to education act, all children should be required to attend school. After that, under the Modi government, in 2019, the Ministry of Human Resources Development released the draught of the new education policy for 2019. This draught focuses on enhancing learning skills, thinking skills, and experimental skills. The NEP 2019 is based on analysis-based learning. The Union cabinet approved the new national education policy on July 29, 2020, which is also called NEP 2020, after making several changes to the drafts. The NEP 2020 is a major revamp of the educational framework. This policy focuses on the changes from school to college.

Certain lessons can be drawn from Finland, which has the best education system in the world. One may question how they created the best education system. They followed the simple logic of keeping it sensibly simple by looking at the all-around development of the children. In the entire Western world, they have the shortest school days and school years, which suggests they go to school less but still do better. They also do away with standardised tests, which are more concerned with passing the test than with making a student learn. Homework is nearly obsolete for them, so students do not have to spend long hours doing it after a long day of class or work. This offers them more time to grow freely as kids, to be youngsters, and to enjoy life fully and truly, thereby offering them more avenues to learn. Too much school and college learning and its extension to the home only curtail learning.

Key points in NPE 2020 regarding school education

- The 10+2 structure has been updated to 5+3+3+4, a new pedagogical and curricular structure to include the pre-primary years. It is a good departure, as this was ignored in education policy documents and referred to in an informal sense.
- NCERT will concentrate on the progress of a new curricular and pedagogical structure for ECCE. The policy has also delved deeply into the development and

Comparison: NEP 2020 and NEP 1986

training of Anganwadi trainers through short-term and long-term programs. A positive thrust towards the formalisation of ECCE structure and delivery.

- Priority should be given to achieving foundational numeracy and literacy by third grade 3. The Ministry of Education (MoE) will strengthen this and run it in mission mode through a separate national mission.
- A separate national book policy to develop libraries around the country and instil a love of reading in children. Public libraries in India are scarce. If this could be strengthened through public education policy, it would be a tremendous plus mid-day meal to see an upgrade in the nutrition component; wherever possible, local alternatives are to be provided. Eggs are still a contentious policy issue; the policy plays it safe by steering clear to avoid any unnecessary argument.
- Design programs and interventions to satisfy the issue of dropouts in conjunction with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- For some reason, the section on medium of instruction has received a lot of undue attention. However, the section remains flexible to avoid all sorts of controversy. Half-baked understanding and market pushes towards English and paternal perceptions of "quality" could have led to this flexibility. Furthermore, the policy does not push, force, or prefer one language over another and encourages learning multiple languages.
- It also recommends teaching foreign languages at the secondary level: Korean, Japanese, Thai, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian.
- Policy inserts a new term called (socio-economically disadvantaged groups). This has not been used as a social category in technical documents to date. Though later sections highlight categories such as caste, tribe, disability, and transgender people and have passing references to the term "minority," Technical criticism aside, policy envisages ample initiatives to be targeted at these groups to increase enrolment and retention. By 2030, education from preschool to secondary school will account for 100% of total school enrolment.

Implementation of NEP 2020

As we all know, in 1968, National Education Policy was impeded because of a shortage of funds. And today also it is exceptionally difficult to implement the new education policy 2020 immediately. For implementation, the government needs adequate funds. The New Education Policy 2020 is a new stage of education. The government set a target to implement the entire policy by 2040 because NEP 2020 is vast and needs ethical guidelines to follow. As we all know education is a concurrent subject i.e., for both State and Centre governments to make laws on it and the reforms can only be implemented with the decision combined taken by both the government (state and central). However, the government needs a proper plan for implementation and a specific body such as the HRD Ministry, NCERT, and all the educational bodies in India implantation.

Comparison: NEP 2020 and NEP 1986

Challenges in Implementation

The challenges that might be faced by our country for the success of the new policy in India might include-

- We require opening new universities every week for 15 years to complete the goal of doubling the gross enrolment ratio in higher education by 2035. And accordingly, it is a heroic task for India to open universities every week.
- It is extremely difficult to make education accessible for every child. In India, there are more than two crore children who are currently not in school, and for that, we need to set up around fifty schools a week for 15 years to accomplish the target of educating all children in India.
- As we all know because of covid, the big challenge for the government is funding. To build up schools, and universities and appoint facilities and teachers for children, we need more funding.
- We require creating a large pool of trained as well as more educated and capable teachers.
- It is an enormous challenge for our country to make things work online because there are so many people who do not have an idea about the internet.

Comparison: NEP 2020 and NEP 1986

NEP 1986 focuses on women empowerment, adult literacy, and early childhood care whereas NEP 2020 focuses on the children's practical knowledge. There is a broad difference between both the policies are-

- The Main goal of NEP 1986 is the overall growth of the students and women empowerment whereas NEP 2020 concentrates on providing interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary liberal education to the students.
- In 1986 the structure of the education system was 10 (5+3+3) +2+3+2. And in 2020 the education structure is suggested as 5+3+3+4+4+1.
- In 1986 preliminary education started in the sixth year of a child but in 2020 the first preliminary education starts at the age of 3 years known as the foundation stage.
- In 1986 NEP, all the undergraduate and postgraduate exams were based on the entrance exam except for NIT and medical colleges. And now in NEP 2020 all the admission for PG or UG is based on national testing agency examination clasped by the HEI at the national level.
- Earlier the under-graduation program is for three years or four years and the post-graduation program are of two years with a domain emphasis but now in the new policies the under-graduation program is for four years with the provision to exit after one year with a diploma and re-enter whenever you want to complete a degree and post-graduation will be for one or two years with more focus on specialization and research.
- Earlier in the 1986 Policy, no foreign universities were supposed to proceed directly in India but now in the policies of 2020, the top-ranked foreign universities will be allowed to function in India.

Comparison: NEP 2020 and NEP 1986

- In 1986 Policies, students had a choice-based credit system but now learners have the liberty to choose any subject or any stream for their occupation.
- Earlier, teaching and learning methods focused on classroom training but now there will be more research work, fieldwork, and logical mastery.
- The scheduled ratio of the student-faculty was 20:1 in 1986 in the higher education system but now in 2020 policies, the student-faculty ratio will be 30:1.
- Online distance learning is being permitted by all the universities in the 2020 Policy whereas in 1986 only accredited colleges permitted universities allowed online distance learning.
- Earlier there were no numerous admissions and exit available for the people but now anyone can get into the numerous entrances and exits in the education system which means anyone can complete their education anytime.
- All the aspects of the 1986 policy are available physically but now in 2020 NEP, all the things focus on the online library, online study books, and journals.

Parakh

PAREKH is a government scheme that stands for Performance, Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development. On 11th September, Prime Minister Modi addressed the conclave on “School Education of the 21st Century” and announced the organization of a National Assessment Centre. This assessment centre is to analyze and improve the overall evaluation system. The scheme analyzes higher order skills which include analysis, critical thinking, and conceptual transparency. Now a student will have more practical knowledge and fieldwork than the bookish one. This autonomous institution under the union education minister will set norms for student inspection and evaluation for all school boards across the country, most of which currently follow norms set by the state government.

Criticism of NPE2020

Here is a list of criticisms that have been levelled, or which may be levelled, against the NEP 2020

- The policy is a vision document that fails to be inclusive of the bottom-most strata of society and provides little to no relief to the poor, women, caste, and religious minorities, as it glosses over key concerns of access to education that have long prevailed. There is no comprehensive roadmap and coherent implementation strategy in place to execute this grand vision.
- Several junctures and a commitment to finances essential to execute this plan are not distinguished. Take, for example, the line: “The Centre and the States will work together to increase the public investment in the Education sector to reach 6% of GDP at the earliest.” There is no clear commitment that can hold.
- The NEP 2020 is silent on the RTE Act and universalization of education will not be achieved without legal backing: There is no mechanism to link primary and secondary education with the RTE. This is not compelling on the centre/state legally. As the RTE forum said, in a statement “The final policy talks about the universalization of

Comparison: NEP 2020 and NEP 1986

school education from 3-18 years, without making it a legal right. Hence there is no mandatory mechanism for the union and state governments to make it a reality. Missing the RTE Act, universalization will be difficult.”

- The language problem of the NEP does not end here. The NEP indicates the performance of the three-language formula which gives the independence of the state to decide which languages is instructed if two of the three languages taught are native to India. A non-Hindi-speaking state like Tamil Nadu operates by a two-language formula, not recognizing the need to learn another language. That is, a second Indian language like Hindi or Sanskrit will be extremely difficult for students to learn just as learning Tamil will be difficult for individuals from a Hindi-speaking state. It is only rational for DMK President M K Stalin to see the three-language formula as an attempted “imposition” of Hindi and Sanskrit and the NEP as “a glossy coat on the ancient oppressive Manu smriti.”
- It also does not reverberate with why the NEP 2020 has applied so much significance to making Sanskrit—which is not the most practical language to learn—widely available in school and higher education. Sanskrit is not an easy language to understand, improving it is less for children’s development and more for the satisfaction of the RSS.
- The NEP also takes early childhood education (also known as pre-school education for children of ages 3 to 5) under the ambit of formal schooling. However, this will continue to take place at the Anganwadi. The government also states that Anganwadi workers would be given six-month online training. But this supplementary obligation comes without any additional recognition.
- Anganwadi workers, whose work is often seen as an addition to the unpaid care work women are burdened with in society, have been offered better recognition, proper earnings, and suitable work conditions for a long time. An additional commitment such as this, without first dealing with their demands is not just an irrational state mechanism; it is also patriarchal in the sense of how women’s labour is seen as superficial, even in the public auditorium.
- The strongest complaint against the NEP has been that it would lead to the privatization of higher education which is a denial of social justice. The NEP aims to gradually phase out the system of affiliation to a university in 15 years and grant autonomy to colleges which will open the entrances to privatization.
- Kerala’s Higher Education Minister K T Jaleel has explained that the proposal to renovate the educational sector from the affiliation system to the autonomous system in the coming 15 years will adversely impact students’ access to higher educational institutions, especially in villages and other backward areas. He also emphasized that judging government and private educational institutions utilizing the same yardstick will pave way for the entry of corporate and private players into the education sector.
- The government is shying away from its responsibility to provide quality higher education for all, instead allowing foreign universities to enter the country which will indict high tuition and increase the caste and class-based inequalities in education further. Indian National Teachers’ Congress convenor Pankaj Garg has rightly

Comparison: NEP 2020 and NEP 1986

acknowledged this as a foreign direct investment in education by Khushi Agarwal 6Aug (2020).

Suggestions

There is a specific provision for amendments to current educational policy. Considering the educational institution Amendment Act 2016 Odisha, the amendments should be brought for the educational institutions and their provisions of facilities to the students. some recommendations are

- The education institution's license should be renewed every 3 years only after an inquiry made by the concerned department authorities.
- A special online program should be organized for students to complain regarding the educational institution.
- A special ombudsman should be appointed for every district to solve the conflicts that arise regarding the education system and educational institutions.

CONCLUSION

School education is a valuable element in deciding the economy, social status, technology adoption, and healthy human behaviour in every country. Boosting GER to include every citizen of the country in higher education contributions is the responsibility of the education department of the country's government. National Education Policy of India 2020 is marching towards achieving such an objective by making innovative policies to improve the quality, magnificence, and affordability, and expanding the supply by opening higher education for the private sector and at the same time with strict controls to strengthen quality in every higher education institution. By facilitating merit-based admissions with free ships & scholarships, merit & research based continuous performers as professional partners, and merit-based proven leaders in regulating bodies, and stringent monitoring of quality through biennial accreditation based on self-declaration of progress through technology-based monitoring and, NEP-2020 is expected to fulfil its objectives by 2030. All higher education organizations with the current nomenclature of affiliated colleges will expand as multi-disciplinary autonomous colleges with degree-giving power in their name or becomes constituent colleges of their affiliated universities. An unbiased agency National Research Foundation will fund innovative projects in emphasis research areas of basic sciences, applied sciences, and social sciences & humanities. HE system will modify itself as student-centric with the freedom to choose core and allied subjects within a domain and across domains. Faculty members also receive the autonomy to choose curriculum, methodology, pedagogy, and evaluation models within the given policy framework. These modifications will start from the academic year 2021-the twenty-two and will continue until the year 2030 when the first level of adaptation is expected to visible.

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Comparison: NEP 2020 and NEP 1986

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Acknowledgements

The authors profoundly appreciate all the people who have successfully contributed to ensuring this paper in place. Their contributions are acknowledged however their names cannot be mentioned.

Conflict of Interest

The author declared no conflict of interest.

How to cite this article: Rani, K. (2022). Comparison: NEP 2020 and NEP 1986. *International Journal of Social Impact*, 7(3), 21-28. DIP: 18.02.004/20220703, DOI: 10.25215/2455/0703004