

Challenges in the Implementation of the New National Education Policy 2020: A Perspective**Dr. Charandas Y. Kamble**Associate Professor,
Government College of Education, Ratnagiri**Introduction**

The strength, future, and prosperity of any nation are closely tied to the quality of its education system. A well-organized and progressive education framework plays a crucial role in ensuring national growth and stability. However, if the education system fails to adapt to evolving needs and societal changes, a country may struggle to keep pace with global advancements.

For more than three decades, India's education system remained largely unchanged, resulting in stagnation. Acknowledging this, the government introduced the **New National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** to bring much-needed reforms. The policy was developed through extensive deliberation and planning, and its announcement was met with anticipation and optimism.

Despite the extensive effort invested in shaping this policy, its practical implementation poses a significant challenge. While it holds the potential to transform education in India, its success will ultimately depend on effective execution at the grassroots level.

School Education

In the existing education system, early childhood education for children aged 3 to 6 years is provided through Anganwadi, Balwadi, nursery, and kindergarten programs. While Anganwadi and Balwadi, operating under government schemes, primarily emphasize nutrition over education, private nurseries and kindergartens function mainly as educational institutions. However, these private setups were not previously included in formal education policies in a structured manner.

This inconsistency has led to significant variations in the quality, cost, and facilities of pre-primary education. To address this issue, the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** introduced a **5+3+3+4** structure, formally integrating early

childhood education into the school system. This shift aims to create a more standardized and structured approach, ensuring uniformity and improved learning experiences for young learners.

Administration

Currently, the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is in charge of technical education, while the University Grants Commission (UGC) is in charge of regulating higher education. Furthermore, several professional education organizations oversee their particular domains, guaranteeing adherence to quality standards, accreditation procedures, curriculum guidelines, and examination standards. In order to simplify governance, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 provides a reorganized regulatory framework.

It suggests creating a single organization called the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) to regulate all universities, with the exception of those that deal with medicine and law. This commission will function through four specialized branches:

1. **National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC)** – Responsible for institutional regulation.
2. **General Education Council (GEC)** – Maintains academic standards and quality assurance.
3. **Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC)** – Manages financial planning and funding allocation.
4. **National Accreditation Council (NAC)** – Focuses on evaluation and accreditation to uphold educational excellence.

By integrating these regulatory functions, the policy aims to enhance efficiency, transparency, and accountability in higher education governance.

Examinations

Under the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Class 10 and Class 12 board examinations will

continue; however, significant changes have been introduced to reduce academic stress. Instead of a single high-stakes exam at the end of the year, students will have the flexibility to take two exams annually or opt for modular assessments at different intervals. This shift aims to move away from rote learning and promote a skill-based evaluation system.

The policy prioritizes assessing students' competencies rather than solely focusing on marks. Additionally, self-assessment will be encouraged, allowing students to reflect on their progress and learning outcomes.

Board of Entrance Examination

Currently, admissions to non-professional courses primarily depend on Class 10 and Class 12 board exam results, leading to increased pressure on students. To address this, the NEP suggests a standardized entrance test for admissions to all higher education programs, excluding professional courses.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) will conduct these entrance exams, ensuring a transparent and uniform admission process. This new system aims to streamline college admissions while reducing the overwhelming reliance on board exam performance.

No Separate Universities for Faculties

India currently has specialized universities catering to specific fields such as law, engineering, management, and agriculture. However, the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 promotes an interdisciplinary approach in higher education, allowing students to explore multiple subjects beyond their core specialization.

Under this new framework, students will have the flexibility to study diverse subjects alongside their primary field. For instance, an engineering student may opt for courses in management or humanities, ensuring a more holistic educational experience.

The policy eliminates the need for single-discipline universities and encourages all institutions to adopt a multidisciplinary structure. This shift is designed to enhance learning opportunities and broaden academic exposure.

Furthermore, universities will now be classified into three categories:

- 1. Research Universities** – Focused on advanced research and innovation.

- 2. Teaching-Learning Universities** – Primarily dedicated to teaching and learning.

- 3. Vocational Institutions** – Specializing in skill-based and professional training.

This restructuring aims to dismantle rigid academic barriers, providing students with a flexible and inclusive learning environment that aligns with global education standards.

Teaching Degree Mandatory:

A Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) degree will be a compulsory requirement for individuals aspiring to become teachers. This applies not only to regular school teaching but also to pre-primary and special education institutions, where only B.Ed.-qualified candidates will be eligible for teaching roles.

To attract talented students to the teaching profession, subject-specific bridge courses will be introduced for those planning to pursue B.Ed. programs.

Additionally, significant changes will be made to the B.Ed. program structure:

- 1.** The new B.Ed. program will be a four-year integrated course.
- 2.** Students will have the option to enrol in B.Ed. immediately after Class 12.
- 3.** Those who have not completed the integrated B.Ed. program must undergo a one-year teacher training course before becoming eligible to teach.

These reforms aim to improve teacher qualifications, ensuring that only well-trained professionals enter the education sector, ultimately enhancing the overall quality of teaching and learning.

Challenges in Implementing the New National Education Policy

The New National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 presents a promising framework aimed at transforming India's education system. Its provisions focus on fostering an equitable and inclusive society, making it a progressive step toward educational reform. However, the true challenge lies in its effective execution.

While the policy structure is well-designed, its success depends on practical implementation at the grassroots level. Every major reform comes with obstacles, and overcoming these is essential for NEP 2020 to achieve its goals. Ensuring a smooth

transition will require careful planning, strategic execution, and continuous monitoring to bring about the envisioned educational transformation.

Key Challenges in Implementing the New Education Policy

The New National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 presents a transformative vision for India's education system. However, researchers have identified several challenges that may hinder its effective implementation. Given the vast and diverse nature of India's education sector, rolling out these reforms nationwide is a complex and demanding task.

Major Challenges:

1. With over 5 lakh schools, 25 crore pupils, and 89 lakh instructors, India has one of the biggest education systems in the world. It is extremely difficult to implement structural improvements across such a vast network; careful planning and coordination are necessary.
2. There are more than 1,000 universities, 39,931 colleges, 10,725 freestanding institutions, and 3.74 crore students engaged in higher education in India, according to the AISHE 2019 report. Implementing this new educational policy across the state, as well as at the district and taluka levels, will be a highly challenging task. Establishing a sense of shared responsibility and ownership among various stakeholders in a state with such diversity, including at the district and taluka levels, will be a major challenge for the education department. Ensuring a standardized and seamless implementation of NEP across universities, colleges, and institutions while considering regional variations is a significant challenge.
3. India's linguistic, regional, and infrastructural diversity makes policy implementation even more complex. Ensuring uniform accountability and collaboration among stakeholders at the national, state, district, and local levels will require strong governance and coordination mechanisms. Successfully addressing these challenges is crucial for realizing the full potential of NEP 2020 and driving meaningful educational transformation across the country.

4. To drive the large-scale reforms proposed in the New National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, effective coordination between the Ministry of Education (both central and state) and other regulatory bodies is currently insufficient. Large-Scale Education Infrastructure.
5. To transition from traditional education to skill-based learning and critical thinking, a shift in mindset is essential not only for policymakers and administrators but also for teachers, students, and parents.
6. For the successful implementation of large-scale initiatives, thousands of schools and colleges need to be expanded and upgraded. In short, significant structural and systemic changes will be required at the ministerial and institutional levels.
7. The policy document of the New National Education Policy (NEP) outlines a comprehensive and inclusive transformation of the regulatory framework, which is a promising step. However, its effective implementation is crucial for achieving the desired outcomes.
8. The successful implementation of this policy will depend on collaboration between the central and state governments. While the policy draft was developed with inputs from the central government, state governments, and various stakeholders, its execution will largely rely on active cooperation from the states.
9. Some states have chosen not to implement the New National Education Policy (NEP). If more states adopt a similar stance, it could lead to increased policy conflicts. The future of NEP will depend on how the central government addresses these challenges and ensures smooth coordination among all stakeholders.
10. The role of the private sector will be crucial in the implementation of this policy. Nearly 70% of higher education institutions in India are privately managed, and around 60-70% of students pursue higher education in private institutions. The contribution of private institutions in terms of financial resources and innovation cannot be overlooked.
11. For the successful implementation of this policy, securing the contribution of private institutions is essential. Recognizing them as key

stakeholders and acknowledging their role will be a crucial aspect of this process.

12. The most crucial aspect is that the successful implementation of various initiatives under this policy will require substantial financial resources over the next decade. In this regard, the policy strongly recommends increasing public expenditure on education to at least 6% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
13. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic crisis, the government prioritized increased spending on healthcare, leading to a reduction in education expenditure. There is no doubt about this fact. However, the government currently lacks a clear plan on how to increase funding for education in the coming years.

Conclusion

The New National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 serves as a guiding document for India's education system. It aims to address various educational challenges, structural inequalities, and the need to prepare students for the future by adopting modern approaches. Additionally, the policy seeks to tackle several long-standing issues in the education system, making its implementation highly ambitious and complex.

The success of this policy will depend on its effective execution, which includes bringing quality education to India's vast population and creating new employment opportunities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, quick decisions and adaptability played a crucial role in managing the crisis. Similar strategic planning and efficiency are required for the successful execution of NEP 2020. While some states have already implemented the policy, others are still in the process of adopting its framework. However, a long road still lies ahead.

One of the biggest challenges will be ensuring active participation from stakeholders at various levels, including state, district, and taluka administrations, as well as private institutions. Moreover, infrastructure, financial resources, and innovative thinking will be essential to overcome existing challenges. Additionally, gaining public support across different states will be a difficult task.

Ultimately, the success of NEP 2020 will depend on a cooperative governance system, where

states and the central government work together. While this policy offers hope for the transformation of India's education system, its true impact will only be realized through effective implementation.

A well-designed policy can only bring results when implemented efficiently. Without proper execution, NEP 2020 risks remaining just a vision on paper rather than becoming a real driver of change in the education system.

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