

National Education Policy 2020: Vision, Prospects and Constraints

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Abstract

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 represents a major reform initiative aimed at transforming India's education system to meet the needs of the twenty-first century. Replacing the National Policy on Education of 1986, NEP 2020 emphasizes holistic learning, flexibility, multidisciplinary education, equity, and skill development. While the policy outlines a progressive and inclusive vision, its implementation faces significant challenges related to finance, governance, teacher preparedness, digital divide, and linguistic diversity. This paper provides a concise analysis of the key features of NEP 2020 and critically examines the major challenges that hinder its effective implementation. It argues that sustained political will, adequate funding, and cooperative federalism are essential for the success of the policy.

Key words: NEP, Holistic, Equity, Skill, Digital divide.

Introduction

Education is a crucial instrument for social transformation and economic development. In a rapidly globalizing and technology-driven world, India's education system required comprehensive reform. After more than three decades, the Government of India introduced the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, approved on 29 July 2020.¹

NEP 2020 aims to shift the focus of education from rote learning to conceptual understanding, critical thinking, creativity, and experiential learning. The policy seeks to make education inclusive, flexible, and learner-centric. However, given India's vast diversity and structural inequalities, implementing such an ambitious policy remains a major challenge.

Background of NEP 2020

NEP 2020 was formulated based on the recommendations of the Kasturirangan Committee. The policy covers all levels of education, including early childhood care,

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