

5th Anniversary of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

Activity Report

Report: 5th Anniversary of NEP 2020

Following Points are discussed in this session

Five years ago, NEP 2020 was introduced with the core objective of making India a "global knowledge superpower." It replaced the 34-year-old education policy and brought with it a wave of revolutionary changes. The policy is built on the five foundational pillars of **Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, and Accountability**.

What have we achieved in these five years?

- **A Shift in Structure and Focus:** The most visible change is the move from the rigid 10+2 system to the more flexible **5+3+3+4 curricular structure**. This new model, which includes a foundational stage for children aged 3-8, has put a much-needed emphasis on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). This is a crucial step in ensuring our children get a strong start, with a focus on play-based and activity-based learning.
- **Multidisciplinary and Holistic Education:** The NEP 2020 has dismantled the rigid boundaries between arts, sciences, and vocational streams. Students can now pursue their passions and build a curriculum that is tailored to their interests. For instance, a student can now study physics alongside fashion design, fostering a new generation of creative and critical thinkers.
- **Assessment Reforms:** The policy aims to move away from rote learning and towards a competency-based education system. The introduction of **PARAKH** (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) is a significant step towards this. Board exams are being redesigned to test core concepts and critical thinking, with students even getting the option to appear for exams twice a year.
- **Emphasis on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy:** Through the **NIPUN Bharat Mission**, the policy has made foundational literacy and numeracy a national priority. Data from various assessments, such as the ASER 2024 and PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024, show a significant improvement in these fundamental skills, proving that our efforts are bearing fruit.
- **Higher Education Transformation:** In higher education, the introduction of the **Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)** and the **National Credit Framework (NCrF)** has brought unprecedented flexibility. Students now have multiple entry and exit options, allowing them to earn certificates, diplomas, or degrees at different stages of their academic journey. We have also seen the establishment of new institutions and the expansion of online and distance learning, increasing the Gross Enrollment Ratio.

However, the journey is far from over.

We must also acknowledge the challenges that lie ahead. The implementation of NEP 2020 is a massive, ongoing task. We need to address the persistent **digital divide**, especially in rural areas where access to reliable internet and devices is still a challenge. We must also continue to invest heavily in **teacher training**, ensuring our educators are equipped with the skills and knowledge to implement the new pedagogical methods. Funding remains a critical issue, and we must strive to meet the policy's recommendation of allocating 6% of GDP to education.

As we look to the future, the vision of NEP 2020 is clear: to create an education system that is deeply rooted in the Indian ethos while also being globally relevant. The policy is not just about changing what we teach, but how we teach, and how our students learn. It is about nurturing a generation of responsible, compassionate, and skilled individuals who can contribute to a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047.

Let us commit ourselves to this vision. Let us continue to work together—as policymakers, educators, parents, and students—to overcome the challenges and build an education system that truly empowers every child in India to reach their full potential.



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