

INITIATIVE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION IN NEP 2020: MOVING AWAY FROM ROTE LEARNING TO COMPETENCY-BASED LEARNING

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Abstract

NEP 2020 envisions a flexible, inclusive, and deeply learner-centric schooling system. In this schooling system, learning is no longer based on textbooks, marks, or memorization. Learning experiences are enhanced by actively based learning. India has rich civilized Heritage. This heritage is guided by the principles of equity, NEP 2020 aims closely with 'Sustainable Development Goal 4' ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all. Learning should start early, make a powerful base and continue for life. In Indian Education must move beyond traditional rote learning to competency-based learning. NEP 2020 provides pedagogical strategies such as creative storytelling project-based learning Innovation labs. NEP2020 is a great initiative by Indian Govt for moving into competency learning. The Indian government's key school initiatives under the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP2020) focus on 100% enrollment by 2030. Aiming for this, govt initiate the following programmes : NIPUN BHARAT for fundamental learning, holistic curriculum, DIKSHA, APAAR ID for digital integration PM SHRI schools (New school model) multilingual education, skill development and improved infrastructure, learner-centric education system, early childhood care (Balvatikas for early childhood), NISHTHA for teacher training. But this policy also has several challenges. Teachers' readiness curricular changes deficiency in infrastructure, restructuring assessment and digital literacy are the major changes to be included for competency-based learning for making this effective and in accordance with India. The movement from a rote based learning system to a competency-based system requires to be driven through a movement in both teaching and learning.

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This paper explains the paradigm shift from rote learning to competency-based learning through the NEP 2020.

Keywords: Learner centric schooling system, NEP 2020 sustainable development goal 4, competency-based learning, NIPUN BHARAT, holistic curriculum, DIKSHA, APAAR id, PM-SHREE schools, Multilingual, skill development, early childhood care, BALVATIKAS, NISHTHA.

Introduction: -

In recent years India has witnessed a paradigm shift in learning—from conventional rote learning to a competency-based learning. This transformation seeks not just to produce technically competent learners but also creative problem solvers. Competency-based learning—built foundations in logic, problem solving, and technical literacy. The National Education policy 2020 (NEP) acts as an accelerant for this shift, Aadhar Shiksha lab, National Avishkar Purushkar, Vikshit Bharat buildathon, Inspire Award for innovations help scale this approach and extend its reach beyond cities to rural and marginalized learners.

Importance of Competency Based Learning In India:

Holistic Development through NEP 2020 in competency-based learning, education is woven into core subjects enriching learning by making abstract concepts tangible and engaging. Indian schools are adopting computers, T.V., labs, and projectors for digital media, AI generated work and virtual reality. The Indian Govt. Supports active learning through flagship programs like Atal Thinking Labs (ATL) under Atal innovation Mission providing infrastructure & resources for creative learning, Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan, skill India, Viksit Bharat Abhiyan.

Initiatives of School Education Under National Education Policy 2020: -

PM Shree Scheme: It aims to provide high quality education in an inclusive, joyful, and equitable environment. It is a scheme by central government launched in September 2022 for development of more than 14500 Schools across the country. Rs.630 crore has been allocated under the PM Shree Initiative.

NIPUN Bharat Mission: NIPUN (proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy) ensures the Universal acquisition of fundamental literacy and numeracy, so that

every student acquires competencies in reading, writing and numeracy by the end of class 3 by 2026-27.

PM e-VIDHYA: It aims to promote online education and digital learning. It provides various e-learning platforms, for example DIKSHA, e-books, and e-content.

NCF FS and Jadui Pitara: It is for the age group of 3 to 8 years. It includes play-based learning teaching materials.

NISHTHA: It is a program for teachers and school principals for capacity building. Full form of NISHTHA is National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement.

NDEAR: - National Digital Educating Architecture (NDEAR) is an architectural blueprint, that lays down a set of guiding principles and building blocks to enable digital technology-based applications pertaining to education.

Increased budget for Education: - Both the Central government and State Governments will allocate a combined 6% of GDP to education. The MOE has witnessed a budget of Rs.1,12,899 crore in 2023-24, indicating a 13.68% increment from 2020-21.

Vidya-Pravesh: - Guidelines for Three Month Play-based School Preparation Module.

New Curricular Structure: - 5+3+3+4 covers ages 3-18; 5 years of foundational stage (pre-School to grade-2) 3 preparatory (Grade 3-5), 3 module (grade 5-8) and 4 secondary stages (Grade 9-12).

Pedagogical & Curriculum Reforms- It prioritized crucial thinking, experimental learning, and conceptual understanding.

Language Reforms- It promotes mother tongue as the medium of instruction until grade 5 along with the three-language formula.

Assessment Reforms- There is a paradigm shift from summative to regular, formative, and competency-based assessments (using PARAKH). Report cards will be holistic, 360-degree reports.

Competency based curriculum- Curriculum is now flexible. There are no separations between Art/ science academic vocational and curricular/ extracurricular activities.

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Gender Inclusive Education- It includes special education zones for disadvantages of regions and technology driven learning to reduce discrimination. The policy aims for holistic development rather than just academic numbers aiming to make education most flexible.

Impact of Nep 2020 on School Education- NEP 2020 has brought about significant changes in school education, making the system more efficient and learner friendly.

Changes in Pedagogy- 5+3+3+4 approach expanding to 5 (foundational) + 3 (preparatory) + 3 (middle) + 4 (secondary) to facilitate a wider approach to learning.

No Out of School By 2030- It aims to ensure that every child from the age of 3 to 18 has access to quality education either through public or private schools. Access to quality education either through public or private more than 3.22 crore out of school children into the official education system.

Fewer dropouts- Special education groups a gender inclusion fund and improved access to open and distance learning options are expected to reduce dropouts.

Shift from rote learning to competency-based learning- NEP 2020 advocates for a shift from a rote of learning to a more activity based, experimental based learning methodology, to facilitate a more individualized, student-Centre mode of education.

Future skills- It ensures that students learn higher order cognitive, 21st century, skills mathematical & computational thinking and critical thinking.

Formative Assessment- It encourages a shift from annual exams to formative assessments. This assessment to be informative for teachers and students.

Communication- Learn Qach is a system where schools can send automated notifications and updates to parents regarding attendance, assignments, exams, and other important information through the parent portal and mobile app.

Conclusion

National education policy 2020 is a remarkable step in the history of Indian education system. It defines the need for 21st century education.

The policy is not only related to quality education but also related to moral social intellectual and conceptual development of students; its effective implementation is necessary for achieving the main goal of competency-based learning. It should be implemented with sincerity. At the ground level means at the school level, it is mandatory to apply all the provisions of policies not only at early childhood level but also at higher classes. For acquiring this goal, it is essential there should be a coordination between Central Government and state government for providing budget, role of teachers and technical infrastructure. Society should also have a positive attitude and awareness to nep 2020. Students' teachers' parents and policy makers should work together. Overall nep 2020 is a strong foundation towards competency-based learning instead of road learning

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