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## National Education Policy 2020: A Potential Revolution in Indian Education

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### ABSTRACT

India's education system has seen a continuous evolution, with each phase marked by distinct socio-economic and cultural influences. The introduction of the new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 represents a significant turning point, aiming to revitalize education in India by adopting a more holistic and flexible learning environment that prepares students for the challenges of the 21st century. With a renewed focus on early childhood care and education, the policy seeks to address historical disparities and provide all students with the tools they need to thrive in an increasingly complex global landscape. NEP 2020's potential to revolutionize education in the country lies in its holistic, inclusive, and forward-thinking approach. By tackling key challenges, embracing technology, and promoting a flexible and learner-centric education system, NEP aims to prepare the nation's youth to excel in the global ecclesiastical landscape.

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### Introduction:

The historical development of education in India has seen a continuous evolution, with each phase marked by distinct socio-economic and cultural influences. The introduction of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 represents a significant turning point, aiming to transform India's education system into a more holistic and flexible learning environment that prepares students for the challenges of the 21st century.

The key provisions of NEP 2020 include a shift from the traditional 10+2 structure to a 5+3+3+4 format. This new structure, which spans early childhood (ages 3-8), preparatory (ages 8-11), middle (ages 11-14), and secondary (ages 14-18) stages, aims to provide a more balanced and comprehensive education to students. The policy also emphasizes the importance of early childhood care and education (ECCE) by integrating it into the formal schooling system. This approach recognizes the critical period of development during a child's formative years and seeks to provide age-appropriate, culturally relevant learning experiences through play-based and activity-based methods.

The implementation strategy for ECCE under NEP 2020 involves training programs for educators, establishing Anganwadi-cum-Pre-school Centers, and developing culturally relevant curriculum frameworks. These initiatives aim to ensure universal access to quality ECCE facilities, particularly in rural and underprivileged areas. The long-term impact of investing in ECCE is expected to be significant, as it lays a strong foundation for lifelong learning and contributes to socio-economic development and national progress.

In summary, NEP 2020 represents a transformative policy initiative that aims to revitalize India's education system by adopting a more holistic and flexible approach. With a renewed focus on early childhood care and education, the policy seeks to address historical disparities and provide all students with the tools they need to thrive in an increasingly complex global landscape.

### **Curriculum and Teaching Methods: Focusing on the whole student, critical thinking, and real-life learning.**

The new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is all about making education more well-rounded, thoughtful, and relevant. It emphasizes three main areas: holistic development, critical thinking, and experiential learning. Here's a rundown of what that means:

1. **Holistic Development:** NEP 2020 wants schools to focus on developing students as whole people, not just bookworms. This means paying attention to their creativity, problem-solving skills, communication, teamwork, and emotional intelligence. The idea is to create well-rounded, adaptable individuals who can tackle whatever life throws at them.
2. **Critical Thinking:** The policy encourages schools to teach students how to think critically. This means helping them analyze information, solve problems, and make smart decisions. Instead of memorizing facts, students will learn to really understand concepts.

3. **Experiential Learning:** NEP 2020 promotes learning by doing. This means incorporating hands-on activities, experiments, projects, and other real-life experiences into the curriculum. The idea is to make learning more engaging, relevant, and fun.

The policy also aims to give students more choices when it comes to what they study. They'll be able to choose from a wider range of subjects and courses, based on their interests and strengths. And, it emphasizes the importance of vocational education, making sure that students have the skills they need to succeed in a variety of careers.

Overall, NEP 2020 is a big step forward for education in India. It takes a fresh approach to teaching and learning, focusing on the whole child and preparing them for the complex world they'll inherit.

### **Language Policy: Embracing diversity and flexibility.**

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recognizes the importance of language diversity and promotes flexibility in language choice. Key points include:

1. **Use your mom's language!:** The policy emphasizes using the mother tongue or local language as the medium of instruction until at least Grade 5. This helps students understand better and do better in school. And guess what? They'll still learn English or another modern Indian language too!
2. **Three's a charm:** The NEP suggests a three-language formula. This means kids will learn their mother tongue, a regional language, and English or another modern Indian language. This helps with both regional pride and national unity.
3. **More choices:** The policy allows for even more language choices beyond the three-language formula, based on the preferences of states, regions, and students. This flexibility means that everyone can learn in a language they're comfortable with.
4. **Love all languages:** The NEP encourages the promotion and preservation of all Indian languages, both classical and modern. This is done through various programs and initiatives within the education system.
5. **Give classical languages some love:** There's a special focus on preserving, developing, and promoting classical languages and literature.

The bottom line is that the NEP 2020 wants to create an inclusive environment where students can learn in a language they're comfortable with and feel proud of their cultural heritage. This language policy aims to foster multilingualism, respect linguistic diversity, and provide students with the flexibility they need to excel in their learning journey.

### **Technology Integration: Using tech for teaching, learning, and assessment.**

Under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, technology integration is a big deal across the board. It's all about using tech to make education better and more accessible. Here's a rundown of how they're doing it:

1. **Digital Infrastructure:** The policy says schools and higher ed institutions need to step up their game when it comes to having the right tech. That means high-speed internet, digital devices for everyone, and enough digital content to go around.
2. **Digital Pedagogy:** They're encouraging teachers to use tech in new and innovative ways, like flipped classrooms, blended learning, and using simulations and virtual labs for hands-on learning. Educators are also being asked to use multimedia resources, educational apps, and online platforms to make learning more engaging.
3. **Online and Hybrid Learning:** NEP 2020 knows that not everyone can be in class all the time, so they're pushing for more online learning platforms. That way, kids in remote areas or those who can't get to school can still access quality education. They're also into MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses), online degree programs, and digital libraries to give everyone more options.
4. **Assessment and Evaluation:** Tech is helping with this too. Computer-based testing, online quizzes, automated grading systems, and data analytics are being used to track student progress and give personalized feedback.
5. **Teacher Training:** Teachers need to be up to speed on using all this tech, so the policy says they should get training in digital literacy and using educational technologies effectively. Continuous professional development programs help teachers stay on top of digital pedagogy and new teaching methods.

6. Open Educational Resources (OER): The policy wants people to share and use high-quality educational resources, so they're promoting the creation, sharing, and use of OER. OER platforms and repositories help educators work together and customize learning resources for different students' needs.

Overall, NEP 2020 is all about using technology to improve education and make it more accessible to everyone in India. They're trying to transform the way education is delivered by using digital tools and resources smartly across the education ecosystem.

### **Higher Education Reforms: Bringing universities together, studying lots of different stuff, and focusing on research.**

The new National Education Policy (NEP) from 2020 has some big changes planned for higher education in India. The goal is to make it more integrated, multidisciplinary, and research-focused. Here's what you need to know:

#### 1. Bringing universities together:

Right now, Indian universities are all over the place, with lots of different ones offering the same programs. NEP 2020 wants to change that by having bigger, more specialized universities called "Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities" (or MERUs for short). These universities will offer a wider range of programs and encourage students to study across different fields.

#### 2. Studying lots of different stuff:

The new policy emphasizes the importance of studying a mix of different subjects. It wants universities to offer courses that combine different fields, like humanities and sciences, engineering and humanities, and so on. This way, students can get a more well-rounded education and learn from each other.

#### 3. Emphasis on research and innovation:

NEP 2020 really wants Indian universities to focus on research and innovation. To do this, it's creating a more supportive environment for research and encouraging universities to set up things like research clusters, incubation centers, and technology parks to help students and faculty come up with new ideas and start businesses.

#### 4. Making sure research is top-notch:

The policy is setting up a new National Research Foundation (NRF) to fund and promote research in all fields, with a special focus on projects that bring together different disciplines. This way, Indian universities can compete on the global stage and come up with solutions to the world's biggest problems.

#### 5. Ensuring quality:

NEP 2020 is also working on improving how higher education is regulated and accredited. It's setting up a new National Higher Education Regulatory Authority (NHERA) to keep an eye on things and make sure universities are meeting the standards we need. The accreditation process will be overhauled to focus more on improving quality and less on just making sure everyone is following the rules.

#### 6. Making sure teachers are up-to-date:

The policy recognizes that teachers are key to providing a good education. It encourages teachers to keep learning and improving their skills through training and professional development programs. This way, they can stay on top of their fields and teach students the latest and greatest stuff.

### **Evaluation of NEP 2020's Potential Impact:**

The new National Education Policy (NEP) is supposed to make some big changes in India's education system. There are a few good things about it that could be really helpful.

1. **Less rote learning:** The policy wants to get rid of the whole "memorize everything" approach and focus more on understanding concepts. This is a good idea because it'll help students think more critically and creatively.
2. **More creativity and innovation:** NEP 2020 encourages students to be more creative and innovative by promoting project-based learning and multidisciplinary approaches. This is important because it'll help them develop skills that are valuable in the real world.
3. **Better vocational education:** The policy recognizes that not everyone wants to go to college, so it's trying to improve vocational education by making it more integrated into mainstream education. This is good news for students who want to learn skills that can help them get jobs.
4. **Better learning outcomes:** NEP 2020 aims to improve learning outcomes by focusing on foundational literacy and numeracy, making sure everyone has access to quality education, and using continuous

assessment and remedial measures. This should help close the gap between students who are doing well and those who aren't.

5. More flexibility and choice: The policy gives students more flexibility and choice in what they study, allowing them to follow their interests and aptitudes. It also has a system called the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), which lets students accumulate credits and learn at their own pace.

6. Emphasis on research and critical thinking: NEP 2020 wants to improve research-oriented education and critical thinking skills across all levels of education. This is important because it'll help students become better problem-solvers and thinkers.

7. More inclusivity and equity: The policy tries to make education more inclusive and equitable by addressing disparities in access to education, particularly for marginalized and disadvantaged groups. This is important because every child deserves a good education, no matter where they come from.

Overall, the new National Education Policy seems to have some good ideas that could really improve the education system in India. It's focused on holistic development, enhancing employability, promoting innovation, and preparing students for the challenges of the 21st century. Here's hoping it all works out as planned!

### **Challenges: Implementation hurdles, resource allocation, resistance to change, and cultural implications.**

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, while ambitious and aiming to shake things up, faces some major challenges when it comes to putting its ideas into practice all over India:

#### 1. Implementation Hurdles:

There are a bunch of obstacles to making NEP 2020 work the same way in every state and region, with different levels of resources and administrative skills. It's not easy to make sure everyone's on the same page and adapting to local needs.

#### 2. Resource Allocation:

To pull off NEP 2020, there's going to need to be a lot of cash for new infrastructure, teacher training, curriculum updates, and tech upgrades. Making sure there's enough money from both central and state governments is key, but it won't be a walk in the park.

### 3. Resistance to Change:

There may be pushback from different groups, like schools, teachers, administrators, and parents, who aren't super excited about the changes NEP 2020 brings. It can be hard to convince people to try out new teaching methods, assessments, and governance structures.

### 4. Cultural Implications:

The policy puts a big focus on promoting regional languages, local culture, and indigenous knowledge systems. But dealing with different cultural sensitivities and making sure everyone's on board with these changes across India's many languages and cultures is no small task.

### 5. Quality Assurance and Monitoring:

Keeping an eye on things to make sure the quality of education stays high and holding people accountable is important, but it's not always easy to do in practice. Setting up effective monitoring systems and regular evaluations will be key to keeping track of progress and making sure things stay on track.

### 6. Capacity Building and Teacher Training:

The policy says there needs to be more training for teachers and education administrators, but actually scaling up those programs and making sure they're relevant to the new curriculum and teaching methods is harder than it sounds. And let's not forget about addressing existing skill gaps among educators.

### 7. Digital Divide and Access to Technology:

While NEP 2020 encourages using technology in education, there's still a big digital divide between rural and urban areas when it comes to access to digital resources and internet connectivity. Bridging this gap is important so that all students can benefit from technological advancements.

### 8. Policy Coordination and Collaboration:

Making sure everyone's working together - from government departments to educational institutions, private sector partners, and civil society organizations - is crucial for successfully implementing NEP 2020. Building strong collaborations and partnerships can be tough, but it's absolutely essential for making sure changes stick.



## **Comparative Analysis: Lessons from other countries' education reforms.**

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in India is not alone in trying to improve education. Other countries have also made changes over the years, and we can learn a lot from them. Here are some key lessons and insights from around the world:

1. **Focus on the whole student:** Many countries like Finland and Singapore have shifted away from just focusing on test scores and rote learning. Instead, they emphasize things like play-based learning, creativity, and social-emotional development in early childhood education. Finland, for instance, has become famous for its focus on play and outdoor learning.
2. **Take a multidisciplinary approach:** Countries like Canada and the United States have encouraged students to explore a variety of subjects and interests. They often do this through liberal arts programs and offering flexible course options across different disciplines. This approach helps students develop well-rounded skills and interests.
3. **Invest in research and innovation:** South Korea and Germany are two countries that have made research and innovation a top priority in education. They provide funding and support for researchers and partner with industry to make sure their work has real-world impact.
4. **Embrace inclusion and equity:** Brazil and South Africa are two countries that have made significant efforts to improve access to education for underserved communities. They've focused on reducing disparities in educational outcomes and making sure every student has the resources they need to succeed.
5. **Invest in teacher development:** Countries like Finland and Japan have invested heavily in teacher training and professional development. They understand that teachers are the key to providing quality education, so they make sure they have the support and resources they need to do their jobs well.
6. **Embrace technology:** Estonia and Singapore are often cited as examples of countries that have successfully integrated technology into their education systems. They've used digital platforms, online assessments, and personalized learning tools to improve access, quality, and efficiency in education.

In short, NEP 2020 draws on lessons from other countries' education reforms by emphasizing holistic development, multidisciplinary learning, research and innovation, inclusion, teacher support, and digital

integration. By learning from their successes and failures, we can make sure India's education system continues to evolve and adapt to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

### **Case Studies and Examples:**

Instead of just listing out the examples, let me share a few interesting stories about how different states in India are already implementing some pretty cool stuff in line with NEP 2020.

1. Kerala State's AksharaKeralam Program: This initiative is all about teaching kids to read and write at a really young age. They focus on foundational literacy and numeracy for primary school students, which is exactly what NEP 2020 is pushing for. It's really inspiring to see how they've made learning fun and engaging for kids there.

2. Gujarat's School Merger Program: In Gujarat, they've been working on merging small schools to create bigger, better ones with more resources. This idea aligns with NEP 2020's vision of having bigger, more efficient schools. It's been a bit of a challenge, but they've made some real progress and it's starting to pay off.

3. Odisha's Multilingual Education Approach: Odisha is one of the states that has embraced using local languages as the medium of instruction in early grades. They believe that this will help students learn better and improve their overall outcomes. It's really cool how they've managed to make education more inclusive and accessible for everyone.

4. Telangana's Digital Learning Initiatives: Telangana has been at the forefront of using technology in education. They have this program called "Mana TV" which broadcasts educational content to students all over the state. They've also worked on improving digital infrastructure in schools, which is in line with NEP 2020's focus on tech integration.

5. Rajasthan's Vocational Education Programs: Rajasthan has been really innovative with their vocational education programs. They've introduced them in secondary schools to help students develop skills that are relevant to local industries and job markets. This is something that NEP 2020 strongly promotes as well, so it's great to see states taking the lead in this area.

These are just a few examples of the amazing work that's already being done in different parts of India. As NEP 2020 continues to roll out and more states adopt its policies, we can expect to see even more

exciting initiatives and case studies emerge. It's really inspiring to see how committed everyone is to improving education in our country.

### **Challenges faced and strategies adopted.**

While there are some promising initiatives in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, several challenges have also arisen in its implementation. Here are some common challenges faced by states and strategies they've adopted to address them:

#### **1. Infrastructure and Resource Constraints:**

**Challenges:** Many states are struggling with inadequate infrastructure, lack of digital resources, and insufficient funding to support the ambitious reforms proposed by NEP 2020.

**Strategies:** States have tried different approaches to overcome these challenges, like partnering up with the private sector, setting aside budget specifically for education reforms, and seeking grants from central government schemes and international organizations.

#### **2. Teacher Training and Capacity Building:**

**Challenges:** Ensuring the successful implementation of NEP 2020 requires a well-trained and motivated teaching workforce. However, there are issues like insufficient qualified trainers, resistance to change among teachers, and the need for continuous professional development.

**Strategies:** States have implemented intensive teacher training programs focusing on new pedagogical methods, technology integration, and subject-specific skills. They've also set up Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) to provide ongoing support and mentoring for educators.

#### **3. Resistance to Change and Stakeholder Engagement:**

**Challenges:** Resistance from various stakeholders, like teachers, school administrators, parents, and community leaders, can hinder the adoption of new policies and practices mandated by NEP 2020.

**Strategies:** States have tried different approaches to address this issue, like conducting awareness campaigns and consultations with stakeholders, involving them in policy formulation and implementation to ensure inclusivity and transparency.

#### **4. Monitoring and Evaluation:**

**Challenges:** Effective monitoring and evaluation are crucial to assess the impact of NEP 2020 reforms and make necessary adjustments. However, there are challenges related to data collection, analysis, and the establishment of reliable assessment frameworks.

**Strategies:** States have implemented robust monitoring and evaluation systems that include regular assessments, feedback mechanisms from teachers and students, using technology for data collection, and collaborating with research institutions to conduct comprehensive studies on policy outcomes.

#### 5. Cultural and Linguistic Diversity:

**Challenges:** India's diverse cultural and linguistic landscape presents challenges in implementing uniform educational reforms across different states and regions. Ensuring inclusivity and respect for regional languages and cultures is essential.

**Strategies:** States have adopted strategies like developing multilingual educational resources, promoting local languages as mediums of instruction, and incorporating indigenous knowledge systems into the curriculum. They've also encouraged cultural exchanges and celebrations to foster a sense of belonging among students from diverse backgrounds.

#### 6. Policy Coordination and Governance:

**Challenges:** Effective coordination among various government departments, educational institutions, and local authorities is crucial for the successful implementation of NEP 2020. However, bureaucratic delays, overlapping responsibilities, and administrative hurdles can impede progress.

**Strategies:** States have established dedicated task forces or committees to oversee policy implementation, streamline decision-making processes, and improve inter-departmental coordination. They've also promoted decentralized governance structures to empower local communities and stakeholders in educational planning and management.

These challenges and strategies highlight the complexities involved in implementing NEP 2020's ambitious reforms. By addressing these challenges proactively and adopting effective strategies, states can pave the way for meaningful improvements in the quality and accessibility of education across India.

**Conclusion:****Summary of findings regarding NEP 2020's potential to really shake up education in India.**

The new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has the potential to make some serious waves in education in India, thanks to its fresh and forward-looking approach. Here's a rundown of what we think the policy could achieve:

1. **Focusing on the whole person:** NEP 2020 really puts an emphasis on developing students as rounded individuals, with a focus on foundational literacy and numeracy, critical thinking, creativity, and social-emotional skills. This approach means kids will come out of school ready to tackle whatever life throws at them.
2. **Getting interdisciplinary:** The policy encourages students to explore a wide range of subjects and disciplines, which not only expands their minds but also prepares them for a variety of careers and future learning opportunities.
3. **Giving kids more choices:** NEP 2020 lets students choose subjects based on their interests and abilities, which means they'll be more engaged and motivated to learn. Plus, the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) lets them easily move between different programs, making education more flexible and personalized.
4. **Embracing technology:** The policy recognizes how important technology is for education, and encourages the use of digital tools and resources in teaching, learning, and assessment. This means online learning platforms, creating your own digital content, and using technology to make education more inclusive.
5. **Getting vocational education right:** NEP 2020 does a good job of bringing vocational education into the mainstream, giving students the chance to learn practical skills and competencies that will help them get jobs. This supports economic growth and employability.
6. **Celebrating diversity:** The policy acknowledges the importance of preserving and promoting regional languages and indigenous knowledge systems. It promotes multilingual education and encourages students to learn about and celebrate India's rich cultural heritage, fostering a sense of unity and inclusion.

7. Getting research and innovation right: NEP 2020 puts a big emphasis on research and innovation, setting up research clusters and encouraging collaboration between educators and other experts. This creates a space for experimentation and entrepreneurship in the education system.

8. Making education more inclusive: The policy aims to make education more inclusive by addressing disparities in access to quality education and providing equal opportunities for all students, including those from marginalized and disadvantaged backgrounds.

9. Supporting teachers to be their best: NEP 2020 recognizes that teachers are crucial to the success of the education system, and it prioritizes their professional development. This means teachers will have access to training and resources to help them improve their teaching practices and keep up with new developments in education.

Overall, NEP 2020's potential to revolutionize education in India lies in its holistic, inclusive, and forward-thinking approach. By tackling key challenges, embracing technology, and promoting a flexible and learner-centric education system, NEP 2020 aims to prepare India's youth to excel in the 21st century global landscape.

### **Recommendations for effective implementation:**

1. Clear Roadmap and Action Plan: Develop a detailed roadmap and action plan for the phased implementation of NEP 2020, outlining specific timelines, responsibilities, and milestones. Ensure alignment with state-specific contexts and resources.

2. Capacity Building and Training: Invest in extensive capacity building programs for teachers, administrators, and educational leaders to familiarize them with NEP 2020's reforms, new pedagogical approaches, and technological integration. Provide continuous professional development opportunities.

3. Infrastructure Development: Prioritize infrastructure development, including digital infrastructure, classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and amenities, to support the implementation of NEP 2020. Utilize public-private partnerships and central/state funding for resource mobilization.

4. Financial Resource Allocation: Allocate adequate financial resources for implementing NEP 2020's reforms. Ensure transparent budgeting processes, prioritize education spending in state budgets, and explore innovative funding mechanisms such as bonds or educational trusts.

5. **Stakeholder Engagement and Awareness:** Engage stakeholders, including teachers, parents, students, community leaders, and local authorities, through consultations, workshops, and awareness campaigns. Foster ownership and support for NEP 2020's reforms to mitigate resistance and ensure inclusivity.
6. **Monitoring and Evaluation Framework:** Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to track progress, assess the impact of reforms, and identify areas needing adjustment. Utilize data analytics, feedback mechanisms, and regular assessments to inform policy decisions.
7. **Policy Coordination and Governance:** Strengthen policy coordination among central and state education departments, regulatory bodies, and implementing agencies. Streamline decision-making processes, clarify roles and responsibilities, and ensure effective communication channels.
8. **Flexibility and Adaptability:** Maintain flexibility in implementing NEP 2020's reforms to accommodate regional diversity, local needs, and evolving educational trends. Allow for piloting initiatives, evaluating outcomes, and making necessary adjustments based on lessons learned.
9. **Public-Private Partnerships (PPP):** Foster partnerships with private sector organizations, NGOs, academic institutions, and international agencies to leverage expertise, resources, and innovative practices in education delivery. Encourage collaboration in curriculum development, teacher training, and technology integration.
10. **Inclusive Education Policies:** Implement inclusive education policies that address disparities based on gender, socioeconomic status, disability, and geographical location. Ensure equitable access to quality education for all students, including those from marginalized and disadvantaged backgrounds.

By following these recommendations and maintaining a commitment to continuous improvement, India can successfully implement NEP 2020 and create a world-class education system that empowers its citizens to thrive in the 21st century global economy.

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