

## Important Contribution of the Relevance of Regional Dialect Chhattisgarhi in National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

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### ABSTRACT

Chhattisgarhi language is more relevant to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, especially as a regional dialect or language. Chhattisgarhi is the regional dialect of the chhattisgarh state. Chhattisgarhi can play an important role as one of the languages offered in pre-school education. Developing an educational framework that accurately reflects the depth and diversity of India's linguistic and cultural legacy is the important key. According to the NEP 2020, the mother tongue or regional dialect should be implemented as the primary language of instruction until nursery to V<sup>th</sup> Grade standard. This is the point during which Chhattisgarhi becomes more relevant. The strategy may be helpful in spanning the divide between the

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children's familial and educational scenarios through encouraging the implementation of Chhattisgarhi within educational institutions in the state, increasing the effectiveness and accessibility of education. Increased parental involvement may result from this, which would raise educational standards in the long run. Our perspective has its foundation on the most significant vision, which is that the Chhattisgarhi language should be treated at par with Hindi and English language. In order to provide equitable opportunities for education in their mother tongue or regional dialect for students living in locations where tribes predominate, such as chhattisgarh state.

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## Introduction

India is a country celebrated for its linguistic diversity, with more than 19,500 languages or dialects spoken as per the Census of India 2001. It is absolutely appropriate that the mother tongue is the mother of all languages through which a child achieves his all-round linguistic development. While the official languages Hindi and English play a significant role in governance and education, the myriad of regional languages and dialects are the heartbeat of India's cultural and linguistic fabric. Among these, the Chhattisgarhi language, spoken primarily in the state of chhattisgarh, is an important regional language that is gradually receiving the attention it deserves in the sphere of education, especially in the context of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The policy aims to promote multilingualism and the preservation of India's rich linguistic diversity, highlighting the significance of mother tongues and regional languages in the education system. The relevance of the Chhattisgarhi language in this policy is profound, and its contribution to education can have far-reaching implications for the people of chhattisgarh and beyond. chhattisgarh state is a tribal dominated state of India. Tribal children understand Hindi and English language less but mother-tongue or regional language more. The central government and chhattisgarh state government is constantly making every possible effort to connect all tribal children to the mainstream of innovative and equality education. So that not even a single child remains untouched by standard equality education. That is why efforts are being made to provide education in mother- tongue align with foundation to every single child.

## The Linguistic Landscape of Chhattisgarh

One of the most linguistically diverse state in India's central region is Chhattisgarh. Chhattisgarhi, a dialect of Indo-Aryan, is among the most often spoken languages by more than 16 million people, primarily located in the state of chhattisgarh. Folklore, oral traditions, and cultural manifestations flourish in this language. Furthermore, Hindi language is frequently utilized for governmental & administrative responsibilities. The state's tribal groups also speak a variety of dialects like as Kurukh, Halbi, and Gondi, which reflects Chhattisgarh's varied cultural heritage. But with the implementation of the NEP 2020, regional languages and their key role in education are receiving more attention. The value of teaching in one's home tongue or regional language is emphasized in the NEP 2020, particularly during the foundational stages of school education. Even though millions of people speak Chhattisgarhi, it hasn't always been adequately represented in the traditional education system. This constitutes an important milestone toward acknowledging the importance of these dialects. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 guarantees that learners acquire instruction in the language that they are the most familiar with, which serves as crucial for efficient learning, while additionally preserving the native tongue by encouraging the implementation of Chhattisgarhi in the educational environment.

## The Importance of Education for Learning

Education is the procedure through which we acquire the abilities, knowledge, awareness, and comprehension necessary to recognize, comprehend, and fulfill our responsibilities to our society, family, and country. Therefore, education is the most important for numerous purposes during one's life. That makes education essential for achievement and how it has the ability for offering everybody a positive outlook on society as well as the world around them. We may acquire knowledge and investigate novel ideas with the assistance of higher learning.

*"The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence," - Rabindranath Tagore.*

*"An education which does not teach us to discriminate between good and bad, to assimilate the one and eschew the other, is a misnomer. By education I mean an all-round drawing out of the best in the child and man-body, mind and spirit," - Mahatma Gandhi.*

Through education, people ought to be enabled to evaluate information more seriously and form their own opinions as well as points of view. It may render you smarter and earn you appreciation from others. Education encourages constructive social change. Someone possessing a lot of inspiration may explore and debate a wide range of subjects, including politics, societal issues, and environmental issues. Having knowledge derived from school might assist you in making wise decisions and selecting the best course of action. We can eliminate impoverished circumstances, follow our own interests, overcome challenges, and fortify our commitment to combat injustice with the help of education. It also facilitates the improvement of skills, figuring out solutions, and understanding exchange. Everyone ought to remain able to gain knowledge as an essential human right.

### **The Cultural and Educational Importance of Chhattisgarhi Language**

Language is not just a means of communication; it is also a carrier of culture, tradition, and identity. Chhattisgarhi, with its rich oral traditions and folklore, plays a vital role in preserving the cultural heritage of the region. By integrating Chhattisgarhi into the education system, the NEP 2020 can help preserve and promote this cultural heritage for future generations. The inclusion of Chhattisgarhi in the curriculum can also foster a sense of pride and identity among students. When children are taught in their mother tongue, they are more likely to feel a connection to their roots and develop a deeper understanding of their cultural identity. This is particularly important in a country like India, where the preservation of cultural diversity is crucial for maintaining social harmony. Moreover, teaching in the mother tongue can lead to better learning outcomes. Research has shown that students who receive education in their first language perform better academically than those who are taught in a second or third language. This is because they can grasp concepts more easily and are more likely to participate actively in the learning process. By promoting the use of Chhattisgarhi in schools, the NEP 2020 can help improve the overall quality of education in the state. India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 marks a transformative shift in the country's approach to education. This comprehensive policy framework, which aims to revolutionize the education system, is designed to promote equitable access, improve the quality of education, and integrate a global perspective while staying rooted in India's cultural values.

### **Chhattisgarhi Language in Early Childhood Education**

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recognizes that preschool or kindergarten plays an essential role

in a child's cognitive development and places a strong focus on it. It promotes an early childhood education strategy that is play-and activity-driven and maintains a heavy emphasis on their native tongue. It might prove especially advantageous to use Chhattisgarhi just like the primary tongue of instruction in preschool education within chhattisgarh, since the vast majority of people communicate it. Children acquire best as soon as they have access to extensive linguistic material in a language that they are acquainted with. Early childhood is a crucial time for language development. Teachers may foster an increased recognizing and encouraging educational environment for learners in elementary school by implementing Chhattisgarhi language. Additionally, the relationship that strongly connects between parental household and educational institution of learning may be well enhanced by implementing Chhattisgarhi language in pre-school education. Because they are better able to understand and promote the educational progress of their children, the parents are more probable to be active in the learning process whenever their children are being instructed in the native mother tongue that they personally communicate with at home.

### **Multilingualism and the Role of Chhattisgarhi Language**

NEP 2020 recommends for multilingualism referred to as a fundamental element of the educational framework. It advocates for the learning of three languages (i.e., Hindi, English, and mother tongue or regional language) from the foundational stage (i.e., nursery to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade) of schooling, with the choice of languages being left to the states, regions, and students. This approach not only encourages linguistic diversity but also equips students with the skills they need to navigate a multilingual world. Numerous cognitive benefits of multilingual education include improved memory, problem-solving skills, and creativity. When students learn in multiple languages, they develop a greater capacity for abstract thinking and are better able to transfer knowledge across different contexts. By promoting the use of Chhattisgarhi as part of the multilingual education framework, alongside other languages, the NEP 2020 can help students develop proficiency in their mother tongue while also learning other languages such as Hindi and English.

### **Challenges and the Way Forward**

The effective adoption of regional languages or dialects such as Chhattisgarhi in the field of education is contingent upon addressing a number of problems, despite the fact that the National Education Policy

2020 (NEP 2020) establishes a robust framework to promote their inclusion. The dearth of educational resources in Chhattisgarhi language is one of the major problems. At present, Chhattisgarhi language suffers an acute shortage of proper textbooks, instructional resources, and professional educators. The higher education department, state government and higher educational institutions, universities of chhattisgarh must make investments in the creation of top-notch learning resources in Chhattisgarhi in order to address this. This involves developing teacher training programs and digital learning resources, including textbooks specifically geared toward the requirements of pupils who speak Chhattisgarhi language.

The concept that Chhattisgarhi is a less capable language in comparison to the languages of Hindi and English poses an additional challenge. Considering the belief this knowledge in either English or Hindi will be laying out more prospects for achievement during future endeavors, a lot of parents and children might prefer this approach of learning. A concentrated endeavor is required to address this, highlighting the advantages of mother tongue education and the significance of Chhattisgarhi as a dialect of culture and education. Furthermore, the effective execution of the NEP 2020 would necessitate the collaboration of several beneficiaries, including the state government of chhattisgarh, educational institutions, educators, and community members.

### **Objective: A Path Toward Educational Equity**

Chhattisgarhi language is which is spoken in all the regions of chhattisgarh state. But due to not including it in the “*Eighth Schedule*” by the central government of India, it has not yet got the status of official language, which has been given to the regional dialects of other states. Even today, Hindi & English languages are utilized in official work. For which the “*Chhattisgarh Official Language Commission*” is making tireless efforts to get place in this eighth schedule. The only objective of our opinion is that like all regional languages or dialects, Chhattisgarhi language should also get equal rights, so that linguistic diversity does not become an obstacle in getting equal opportunity in education. Along with this, no child of this state should remain untouched by the regional dialect or language.

### **“Annual Status of Education Report” (ASER) Chhattisgarh 2022**

An estimated 81.7 percent of the Chhattisgarh state's learners aged 6 to 14 were enrolled in government

schools in 2022, corresponding to data provided by ASER (2022) Chhattisgarh. 13.5% of people between their teenage years of 15 and 16 have never gone to school. In grades III–V, 40.1% of children is able to comprehend books at the second-grade level, while 34.4% of pupils in the same grades are capable of subtracting at least one number. While 31.9% of the students in grades VI–VIII are able to do division, 72.9% of pupils in the exact same grades are capable of reading books at the second-grade standard. In the 14–18 age range, 90% of respondents stated they owned a smartphone within their homes, while over 90% stated they could use one. This illustrates how education that utilizes technology may be advantageous. This is beneficial information for e-learning's efficacy. NEP 2020 states that schools employing less than 30 students should terminate. Several learners will be influenced, especially Native students. Although NEP (2020) recommends grouping schools by geography, it is not going to assist students who are indigenous.

## **Conclusion**

It is undeniable that the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is relevant to the Chhattisgarhi language. By encouraging its use in the educational system, the policy can support cultural identity, preserve the regional dialect & language, and enhance student learning consequences. The integration of Chhattisgarhi into the curriculum aligns with the major goals of the NEP 2020, which seeks to create an education system that is inclusive, equitable, and responsive to the needs of all students. However, the successful implementation of this vision will require a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including the state & central government, educational institutions, teachers, and the community. It will require investment in educational resources, teacher training, and awareness campaigns to promote the value of mother tongue education. If these challenges can be addressed, the inclusion of the Chhattisgarhi language in the education system can have far-reaching benefits for the people of chhattisgarh. It can help create a more inclusive and culturally responsive education system that not only promotes academic success but also fosters a sense of pride and identity among educators.

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## **Ethical Statement**



This study does not contain any studies with human or animal subjects performed by any of the authors.

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The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest to this work.

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