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The National Education Policy of India - A Study

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Abstract: ***Education gives us knowledge of the world around us. It develops in us a perspective of looking at life. It is the most important element in the evolution of the nation. Without education, one will not explore new ideas. It means one will not able to develop the world because without ideas there is no creativity and without creativity, there is no development of the nation. An educated person is aware of his personal as well as social responsibilities. Proper education teaches a person to think beyond his personal interests and also provides him the ability to give something back to the society. The Ministry of Human Resource Development formed a Committee chaired by Dr. K. Kasturirangan for preparing the National Education Policy. The Committee was constituted in June 2017. The Committee submitted its report on May 31, 2019. The aim of the policy is to prepare the children of India with 21st century skills. The policy is founded on the three pillars of Research, Innovation, and Quality, with the objective of developing India into a knowledge super power.***

Keywords: The NEP 2020 Charaka Susruta, Aryabhata, Bhaskaracharya, Chanakya, Madhava, Patanjali, Panini Thiruvalluvar.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. "Knowledge is the food for man because in absence of knowledge man cannot grow his food."

The first thing that strikes in our minds when we think about education is gaining knowledge. Education is a tool which provides people with knowledge, skill, technique, and information, enables them to know their rights and duties toward their family, society as well as the nation.

It expands vision and outlook to see the world. It develops the capabilities to fight against injustice, violence, corruption and many other bad elements in the society.

Education gives us knowledge of the world around us. It develops in us a perspective of looking at life. It is the most important element in the evolution of the nation. Without education, one will not explore new ideas. It means one will not able to develop the world because without ideas there is no creativity and without creativity, there is no development of the nation.

B. Importance of Education in Our Society

Education is an important aspect that plays a huge role in the modern, industrialized world. People need a good education to be able to survive in this competitive world. Modern society is based on people who have high living standards and knowledge which allows them to implement better solutions to their problems.

C. Features of Education

1) *Removing Poverty:* Education helps in removing poverty as if a person is educated, he can get a good job and fulfill all the basic needs & requirement of his family.
2) *Safety and Security Against Crime:* If a person is well-educated, he will not be fooled by anyone easily. An educated person is less prone to involve in domestic violence & other social evils. They enjoy healthy relationships in life. This means people are less susceptible to being cheated or becoming a victim of violence.
3) *Prevention of Wars and Terrorism:* To lead a safe & secure life, one needs to understand the value of education in our daily life. One needs to take an active part in various educational activities. These types of productive activities provide knowledge to live a better life.
4) *Commerce and Trade:* A good education doesn't simply mean going to school or college & getting a degree. Trade & commerce of the country will also be flourished easily if its citizens are well-educated. Education helps to become self-dependent and build great confidence among them to accomplish difficult tasks. On getting an education, their standard of life gets improved.
5) *Law and Order:* Education enables the process of the Nation's Fast Development. If you have a good education, you can serve your country well. It develops a good political ideology.

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6) *Women Empowerment:* Education also helps in empowering women. Certain old customs like Not Remarrying Widows, Sati Pratha, Child Marriage, Dowry System etc. can be demolished with the power of education. Women, if educated, can raise voice against the injustice done to her. This will bring a lot of development in society as well as in the nation. In short, Right to Freedom of speech & expression can be used in the right way if all women will become educated.
7) *Upliftment of Economically Weaker Sections of Society:* Education is the most important ingredient to change the world. Due to lack of education, many illiterate people suffer the hardships of discrimination, untouchability & injustices prevailing in the society but with the advancement of a good education. If all the people will be educated; this ultimately leads to the upliftment of economically weaker sections of society.
8) *Communications:* The relation between education & communication is apparent. Good education helps to communicate better with other people. It also improves our communication skills such as speech, body language etc. A person who is educated feels confident within him to confront or give a speech in front of a large public or can held a meeting or seminar. Writing emails, letters, typing messages, reading magazines & newspapers or even using a Smartphone can never be possible without getting a basic education.

II. ROLE OF EDUCATION IN SOCIETY

Education is the social institution through which society provides its members with important knowledge, including basic facts, job skills, and cultural norms values.
One of the most important benefits of education is that it improves personal lives and helps the society to run smoothly. By providing education, poverty can be removed and every person can provide their contribution to developing the country.

A. Education Helps in Creation of a better society.

An educated person is more likely to develop better moral and ethical values as compared to an uneducated person. Lack of education creates problems like superstition, domestic violence, poor health, and poor living standards.
Education brings equal opportunity for both men and women and educated people will be able to create a better society. Without a good education, a better society can't be formed.

B. Education act as Back Bone of a Society.

Education is an integral part of human society. Its importance in life can't be ignored as lack of education gives birth to numerous social problems like poor health, internal conflict, poor living standards and many more. It helps people to find a better solution to their problems.
Education lets people realize the true value of contribution and help become the backbone of the society.

C. Education encourages Innovation and Creativity.

Education *means* innovation. Innovation and creativity can only occur when people are skilled enough to know how to operate with different technologies. Educated people always find a solution to their problems with the help of better techniques.

D. Education Can Create Better Human Beings.

Education is the most powerful weapon which we can use to change the perspective of the world. An educated person knows how to deal with different types of problems. Through the right education, a person can develop good moral values. It helps us to become a good human being.

E. Education Gives Ability to Read & Write.

"A man without education is like a building without foundation."
Education helps a person to be able to read and write. Most of the information is communicated by writing. A man who has this ability to read is called a literate.
He can read books, newspapers, signs, and symbols. It also helps to read signboards in the street, at shops, bus, train and air stations. It also helps them in their day to day activities like banking, shopping, money transaction and many more.
Without primary education, one has to depend on others for all the above basic needs.

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F. Understanding the Responsibilities

As a social being, it is our responsibility to give something back to the society and make it a better place for the next generation. An uneducated man can't be fully aware of his responsibilities.

An educated person is aware of his personal as well as social responsibilities. Proper education teaches a person to think beyond his personal interests and also provides him the ability to give something back to the society.

G. Make This World A Better Place To Live In

Without educated people, this world can't become a better place. That is why proper education is needed to turn this world into a better place. Hence, we can conclude that for the evolution of a country, there is a need for education.

H. National Education Policy Of India – Background

The Ministry of Human Resource Development formed a Committee chaired by Dr K. Kasturirangan for preparing the National Education Policy. The Committee was constituted in June 2017. The Committee submitted its report on May 31, 2019.

The National Policy on Education covers elementary and university education in urban as well as rural India.

1) The very first policy for education was promulgated in 1968 with the second one following in 1986.
2) The first NPE was based on the recommendations of the Education Commission (1964-66). This policy sought to have a 'radical restructuring' of India's educational system and equalizing opportunities for education for all, to accomplish national integration and better economic and cultural development.
3) The NPE also called for realizing compulsory education for every child until the age of fourteen, as mentioned in the Indian Constitution.
4) It also aimed at providing enhanced training and improving teachers' qualifications.
a) NEP 2020 is the 21st Century's first education policy in India.
b) The development of the creative potential of each student is emphasized in the National Education Policy 2020.
c) The NEP 2020 mentioned the ancient scholars like Charaka and Susruta, Aryabhata, Bhaskaracharya, Chanakya, Madhava, Patanjali, Panini and Thiruvalluvar.
d) The principles of National Education Policy 2020 as mentioned by the government are:

- Flexibility
- No hard separations between subjects, curricular and extra-curricular activities
- Multi-disciplinary education
- Conceptual understanding
- Critical thinking
- Ethical Values
- Teachers as the heart of the learning process
- The strong public education system

I. New Education Policy 2020

The New Education Policy was released under the Government of India's Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) on 30 July 2020. With the motto of Educate Encourage Enlighten, this is the first education policy to be released in the last 34 years in India.

The aim of the policy is to prepare the children of India with 21st century skills. The policy is founded on the three pillars of Research, Innovation, and Quality, with the objective of developing India into a knowledge super power.

J. Union Budget highlights

Union Budget 2021: Central University to be set up in Leh

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech stated that a central university will be set up in Leh to ensure proper higher education access. It was mentioned as part of the New Education policy initiative.

She has also announced funds of Rs.50, 000 crore for National Research Foundation and Rs.40 crore for Ekalavya schools.

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K. Key Highlights of the NEP

Of the many changes formulated by the NEP, the key changes are:

1) Public spending on education by states and the Center has been increased to 6% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
2) The Ministry of Human Resource Development has been renamed as the Ministry of Education
3) There will be no rigid separation between arts and science, academic and vocational, curricular and extracurricular streams
4) Education of gifted children will be looked into
5) Establishment of a Gender Inclusion fund

III. NEW PEDAGOGY AND CURRICULUM FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION

Universalisation of Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE) will be implemented. The existing educational structure of 10 + 2 years has been redesigned to 3+2+3+3+4 years, which will be as follows:

A. Foundational Stage: This will be for a total of 5 years

1) 3 years at an Anganwadi / Balvatika / preschool/playschool for children in the age group of 3 to 6 years with multi-level play and activity-based learning
2) 2 years in class 1 and 2 for children in the age group of 6 to 8 with multi-level play and activity-based learning

B. Preparatory Stage: This will for a total of 3 years

1) For classes 3 through 5
2) For children in the age group of 8 to 11 years
3) Activity-based and interactive classroom learning

C. Middle Stage: This will be for a total of 3 years

1) For classes 6 through 8
2) For children in the age group of 11 to 14 years
3) Experiential learning in science, mathematics, social sciences, arts, and humanities

D. Secondary Stage: This will be for a total of 4 years

1) For classes 9 through 12
2) For children in the age group 14 to 18 years
3) Multidisciplinary study, student's choice of subjects, critical thinking

E. Languages

The following are the key points of the language policy in school education:

1) No language will be imposed on any state
2) Up to class 5 and preferably till class 8, the mother tongue will the medium of instruction as far as possible in both private and public schools
3) There will be a 3-language system with languages chosen by the states, regions, and students
4) Of the 3 languages, 2 should be native languages of India
5) Sanskrit will be offered at all levels of school and higher education
6) Other classical languages will be made available, mostly as online modules
7) Foreign languages will be offered from the secondary level onwards

F. Board Exams

The following are the key highlights for class 10 and class 12 board exams:

1) Board exams will be redesigned to test core competencies rather than memorization of facts
2) They will be redesigned to be easier for students
3) Students will be permitted to take the exams twice
4) There may be modular or semester-wise board exams
5) There may be exams for different levels of difficulty

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6) Objective and descriptive type questions may have different exams
7) A modular model, rather than just one board, may be in place by the year 2023

G. School Education

In school education, the following are the key features:

1) By the year 2030, universalisation of education will be implemented from age 3 to class 10
2) Key assessments will be conducted at classes 3, 5, and 8
3) Students can choose subjects, especially in secondary school, which would include arts and crafts, vocational skills, and physical education
4) By the year 2025, the National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy will ensure that basic skills are imbibed by the class 3 level
5) From class 6, coding and vocational skills training will be integrated into the curriculum
6) Indian knowledge, values, and culture, including indigenous and tribal knowledge, will be integrated into the curriculum
7) There will be a new accreditation framework for schools
8) There will be an independent authority for the regulation of both private and public schools

H. Undergraduate Education

In undergraduate education, the following are the key changes:

1) Undergraduate degrees will have a duration of 4 years
2) Undergraduate degrees will be multi-disciplinary, holistic, and flexible
3) There will be multiple exit options with appropriate certifications at each exit point such as:
a) Certificate after completing 1 year in a vocational or professional field
b) Diploma after 2 years
c) Bachelor's degree after 3 years
4) Students completing the 4-year degree program can obtain a degree with research if the research subject is within the area of study

I. Higher Education

The following are the key points in the higher education category:

1) Postgraduate programs will have a duration of 1 to 2 years
2) There will be no M.Phil. programmes
3) In 15 years, the college affiliation system will be gradually phased out
4) Every college will develop into either a constituent college of a university or into an autonomous degree-granting institution
5) There will be a new umbrella regulatory body for all higher education courses except for legal and medical courses
6) An Academic Bank of Credit will be established to facilitate smoother transfer between institutions
7) All standalone technical universities, legal universities, agricultural universities, and health science universities will become multi-disciplinary institutions.

J. NIOS and Open State Schools

For the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and Open Schools, the following are the key points:

1) A, B, and C levels can be offered that are equivalent to grades 3, 5, and 8 of the formal schooling systems
2) Secondary school programs can be offered that are equivalent to grades 10 and 12

K. Teacher Education

The following has been proposed for teacher education:

1) The minimum qualification for teaching will be a B.Ed. degree
2) The B.Ed. degree will be a 4-year integrated course

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L. Digital Approaches

Some of the features of the NEP that emphasise on the integration of technology include the following:

1) A National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), an autonomous body, will be established for the exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance the efficiency of the education sector

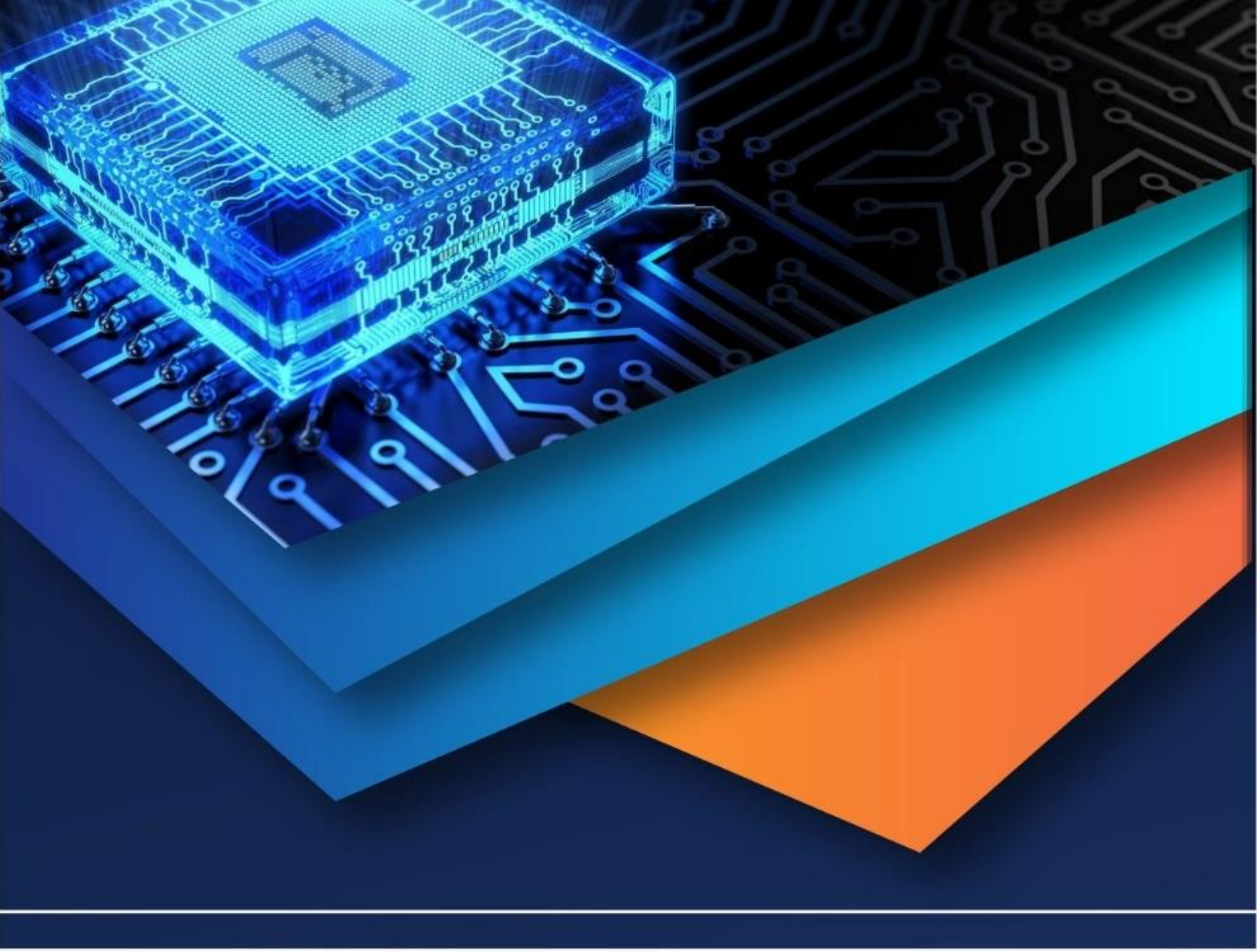
2) A new unit will be established dedicated to creating digital education resources including digital infrastructure, capacity building, and digital content

3) Integration of technology to improve classroom processes will be initiated across all levels

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