

New Education Policy

The National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020 was introduced as a transformative framework aimed at revamping India's education system. Replacing the 34-year-old NEP of 1986, it focused on bridging gaps in quality, equity, and access to education at all levels.

Why a New Education Policy?

- The NEP 2020 aims to make education more inclusive, equitable, and rooted in India's culture while equipping students with 21st-century skills. It outlines a roadmap for universal foundational literacy and numeracy while promoting multilingual learning.
- The policy's cornerstone is the introduction of the 5+3+3+4 education structure, which replaces the traditional 10+2 system and aligns educational stages with the developmental needs of children aged 3 to 18 years.
- In December 2024, a significant change was implemented regarding the detention policy for students in Classes 5 and 8. The 'No Detention Policy' was re-introduced under the Right to Education Act (2009).

Has NEP been a success?

Successes:

- Implementation of the 5+3+3+4 system in various states, which has improved early childhood education.
- Greater flexibility in higher education, offering multiple exit options in undergraduate programs.
- Increased emphasis on multilingual education and the inclusion of regional languages in the curriculum.
- Expansion of digital learning through platforms such as DIKSHA and PM e-Vidya.

Challenges:

- Progress has been slow, particularly in rural and government schools.
- Teacher training and curriculum restructuring efforts are ongoing.
- Budget allocation continues to fall short of the targeted 6% of GDP.

Recommendations:

- Enhance teacher training programs to facilitate smoother implementation.
- Boost funding and infrastructure support for schools, particularly in rural areas.
- Foster industry-academia partnerships to promote skill-based learning.