

NEP SAARTHI

Student Ambassador for Academic Reforms in Transforming Higher Education in India

1. Introduction:

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to transform the education system in India by focusing on quality, equity and access. The implementation of the NEP 2020 is led by the cohesiveness and synergy across various Regulatory authorities/ councils, Union and State Governments, and Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). University Grants Commission (UGC), to implement NEP 2020, calls for collective contribution and commitment from all key stakeholders, such as Vice Chancellors/ Directors/ Principals of Universities/ Institutions and Colleges and, most importantly, students. Students are the centre of these transformative reforms, so it is equally crucial that they are involved in implementing NEP 2020.

To enhance students' participation and make them aware of the various reforms of the higher education system, UGC notified the SAARTHI Guidelines in May 2023. Thereafter, the names of SAARTHIs and HEIs have been notified so that they can carry out activities as mentioned in the guidelines. Based on the experience gained, in supersession of earlier guidelines, these guidelines are being revised and notified to make the SAARTHI initiative more productive and impactful.

2. Objectives:

- i. To create awareness and promote the initiatives of NEP 2020 among students on campus.
- ii. To encourage and motivate students to actively participate in implementing the NEP 2020 initiatives.
- iii. To establish a feedback mechanism for the UGC to understand the impact of NEP 2020 initiatives on students and address their concerns, if any.

3. SAARTHI Nomination Process:

- i. UGC will seek nominations from the Head of the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).
- ii. The HEIs will nominate the NEP SAARTHIs as per the procedure laid down in these guidelines.
- iii. HEIs may conduct written tests followed by interviews related to NEP to standardise and make the nomination process transparent.
- iv. The nominated students are expected to have an outstanding personality, good communication skills, organisational capabilities for conducting programmes, creativity, a sense of responsibility, and team leadership skills.
- v. The nominations based on the merits shall be accepted by UGC only based on the process defined in iii & iv and compliance with the guidelines.
- vi. UGC will notify the list of such NEP SAARTHIs on its website, which will also be communicated to the SAARTHIs and the concerned HEIs.
- vii. The nominations submission window will remain open throughout the year. UGC will announce the list of new SAARTHIs Half yearly; January-June; July-December.

4. SAARTHI Nomination Criteria

i. Based on the total no. of enrolled students

Sr. No.	No. of Students in the HEIs	Permissible Nominations
1	≤ 2500	3
2	$>2500 \text{ and } \leq 5000$	6
3	$>5000 \text{ and } \leq 10,000$	9
4	$>10,000$	12

- ii. HEIs may nominate the SAARTHIs from different levels of programmes in any combination given below:

Sr. No.	Programme	Nominations from
1	3 – Year UG Programme	3 rd , 4 th , 5 th Semester of Study
2	4 – Year UG Programme	3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th Semester of Study
3	Post-Graduation	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Semester of Study
4	Ph.D.	1 st Year from the date of registration

5. Responsibilities of HEIs

- i. Nominate SAARTHIs as per the criteria and process mentioned in these Guidelines.
- ii. Notify a single point of contact (faculty in charge/any other senior officer) for the SAARTHIs in the HEIs for the smooth conduct of their activities.
- iii. Provide complete support to NEP SAARTHIs to discharge their responsibilities.
- iv. NEP SAARTHIs may be involved in various HEI activities that are relevant and appropriate.
- v. Provide financial assistance to the SAARTHIs for conducting the activities on NEP 2020.
- vi. Provide financial assistance to the SAARTHIs for participating in UGC-organized events.

6. Roles and Responsibilities of NEP SAARTHI:

- i. Work as an ambassador to promote NEP 2020.
- ii. Conduct awareness drives about the various initiatives of NEP 2020 every semester in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).
- iii. To organise the activities (debates, discussions, competitions, quizzes, and Nukkad natakas) as per the UGC NEP SAARTHIs activity Calendar and other activities as asked by the UGC from time to time.

- iv. Disseminate information regarding NEP 2020 through Posters, Social Media campaigns, other media, and NEP helpdesk in the HEI events.
- v. Establish meaningful dialogue among students, faculty members, and administrators of the HEIs.
- vi. Prepare brief notes on each NEP initiative for display on campus and submit them online to the UGC.
- vii. Attend relevant online programmes organized by the UGC.
- viii. Collect feedback from students to improve the implementation of NEP 2020 in the prescribed format.

7. Monitoring of the SAARTHI activities

Activities undertaken by the SAARTHIs will be monitored regularly by the in-charge from the HEI and UGC. If a SAARTHI does not carry out the assigned activities, his/her nomination may be revoked by the UGC in consultation with the HEIs concerned.

8. Recognition of SAARTHI

At the end of 1 year, a certificate of participation as SAARTHI will be awarded by the HEI, subject to satisfactory performance.
