National Education Policy 2020

The National Education Policy 2020, or NEP 2020, was approved by the Union Cabinet of India on the 29th of July 2020 and replaces the previous National Policy on Education from 1986. It seeks to "ensure an equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all". This policy is to be implemented in 2030 and aims at transforming India's education system by 2040. The NEP 2020 was issued by the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Government of India.

With the new directive, the Indian Government intends to promote India's success in a globalised World Community. The renewal of the education system aims at creating a more socially equitable, inclusive and diverse society in which citizens act in an engaged and contributing manner and see themselves as global citizens. It was further introduced to achieve economic growth, scientific advancement, national integration and cultural preservation.

Fundamental principles and goals of the NEP 2020:

Achieving Foundational Literacy and Numeracy by all students by Grade 3

- To ensure all students are school ready a 3-month play-based "school preparation course" will take place for all Grade 1 students
- The education infrastructure will be further developed so that all students have access to safe and engaging school education at all levels from pre-primary school to Grade 12
- Students, as well as their learning levels, will be carefully tracked in order to ensure that they are enrolled in and attending school, and have suitable opportunities to catch up and re-enter school in case they have fallen behind or dropped out.

No hard separations between the arts and the sciences (reduction of hierarchies among different areas of learning)
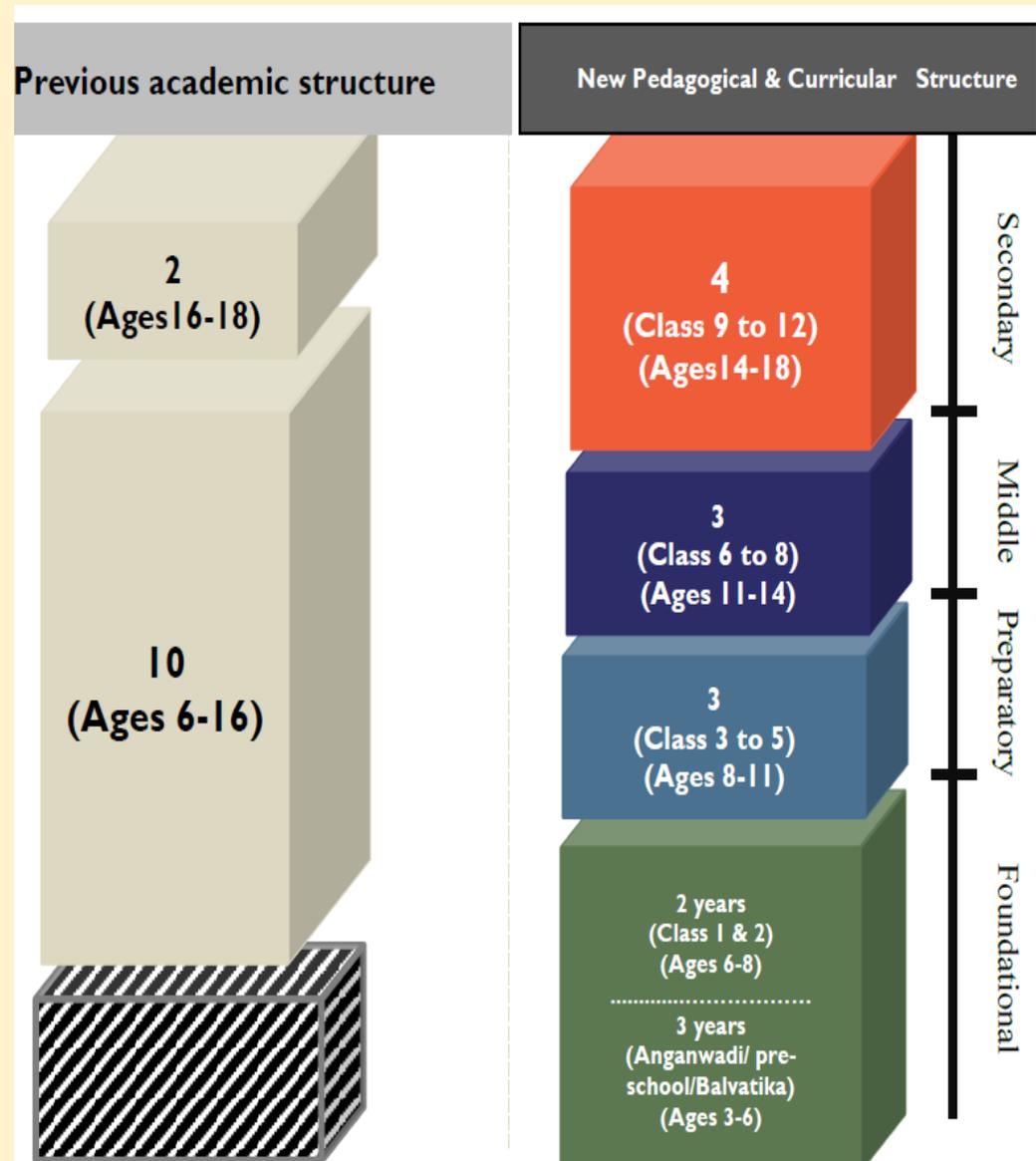
- Students will be empowered through flexibility in their course choices, depending on their paths of study and life plans – physical education, the arts and crafts and vocational skills will be equated to sciences
- Project-based Clubs and Circles will be supported (e.g., Science Circles, Music Circles, Chess Circles, Poetry Circles, Language Circles and Sport Circles)

Emphasis on understanding instead of memorizing

- The students will be "learning how to learn"
- The curriculum content will be reduced to enhance critical thinking and a more holistic learning with focus on key concepts, ideas and problem-solving.
- To increase deeper and more experiential learning there will be more interactive, creative and collaborative activities for students.

Teaching life skills such as communication, cooperation, teamwork and resilience, as well as evidence-based thinking, creativity, health knowledge, digital literacy, gender sensitivity, environmental awareness and ethical reasoning

The structure of the school education system will be changed:

Previous academic structure	New Pedagogical & Curricular Structure	
2 (Ages 16-18)	4 (Class 9 to 12) (Ages 14-18)	Secondary
10 (Ages 6-16)	3 (Class 6 to 8) (Ages 11-14)	Middle
	3 (Class 3 to 5) (Ages 8-11)	Preparatory
	2 years (Class 1 & 2) (Ages 6-8) .... 3 years (Anganwadi/ pre-school/Balvatika) (Ages 3-6)	Foundational

Respect for diversity

- Measures such as targeted scholarships, to incentivize parents to send their children to school, and providing bicycles for transport, as well as one-on-one teachers and tutors and open schooling will be significantly strengthened to further increase the participation of SEDGs in the schooling system.
- A "Gender-Inclusion Fund" will be created.
- Free Boarding facilities will be built in school locations where students may come from far, and particularly for students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds – with suitable arrangements for the safety of all children, especially girls.
- The school curriculum will include, early on, material on human values, such as respect for all persons, empathy, tolerance, gender equality and non-violence.

Synergy in curriculum across all levels of education from early childhood care to higher education

A rootedness and pride in India and its rich, diverse, ancient and modern culture and knowledge systems, as well as traditions

- "Knowledge of India" will be a core part of the curriculum, and include knowledge from ancient India and its contribution to modern India
- Visits to places and monuments of historical, cultural and tourist importance will take place.
- Bilingual teaching will be encouraged, so that the local language shall continue to be taught as a language wherever possible
- Sanskrit Courses will be offered at all levels of school and higher education

New Recruitment and Deployment rules for more motivated and empowered teachers

Professional Education

- Professional education will be an integral part of the overall higher education system and thus be included in multidisciplinary education

Online and Digital Education

- Various educational software (including Learning Games and Virtual Reality) will be developed and made available for students and teachers at all levels, as well as online teaching platforms
- The digital infrastructure will be expanded, but equally existing mass media, like television and radio will be used for education to address the digital divide
- Teachers will receive training to be effective online educators
- Online education has to be and will be blended with experimental and activity-based learning
- Awareness will be raised, regarding issues of privacy, laws and standards for data protection

Adult Education and Lifelong Learning

- To achieve a 100% literacy in the Indian population the adult literacy programmes of NGOs and communities will be strengthened and financially supported by the Indian Government
- Classes will also be given in schools, after school hours and on weekends, or in public libraries
- A new adult education curriculum framework will be implemented, and it will include the following types of programmes:
  a) Foundational literacy and numeracy
  b) Critical life skills (including financial and digital literacy)
  c) Vocational skills development (aiming at obtaining local employment)
  d) Basic education
  e) Continuing education
- The adult courses will be held with different teaching-learning methods and materials than those designed for children
- Libraries will be strengthened and extended to provide opportunities for adults to read