

## National Education Policy Latest Survey (2023)

**\*Dr. Aanchal Meena**

### ABSTRACT

When the NEP was launched in 2023, its motto was Educate, Encourage and Enlighten. The government's purpose to launch this policy was to develop 21st-century skills in the students of India. The amendments in NEP from the previous education policy strive for Research, Innovation, and Quality. For the seamless implementation of this education policy, the government is willing to give big funds. In 2021, Nirmala Sitaraman said that funds of Rs. 50,000 crores will be given to the National Research Foundation, and Rs. 40 crore to Ekalavya Schools. The New Education Policy 2023 is all about transforming our existing education system. It's a revolutionary approach that aims to bring in modern teaching methods, embrace the power of technology, and promote learning based on practical [skills](#). The ultimate goal is to make education available for everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances. There's a special focus on supporting marginalized communities and creating a more inclusive and fair educational environment.

The New Education Policy brings a strong focus on developing 21st-century skills like creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving. It also suggests the creation of innovative institutions like digital universities and the use of technology to enhance student learning.

One major change brought about by the policy is the shift from the traditional 10+2 education structure to a more flexible and comprehensive 5+3+3+4 system. The aim behind this new system is to prioritize essential skills, critical thinking, and life skills in education for students at all levels.

### INTRODUCTION

The New Education Policy aims to provide quality and equitable education to all children in India. Some of the key highlights of the policy are as follows:

- The policy focuses on providing quality and affordable education to all children in the age group of 3–18 years.
- It focuses on holistic and multidisciplinary education instead of rote learning.
- Students will no longer be graded on how well they remember information from books, but on how well they can use what they know to solve problems in the real world.
- It emphasizes that the three-language formula will be followed in schools, focusing on the regional language, Hindi, and English.

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- To make it easier for students to learn regional languages, instruction in the first five grades will be taught in those languages instead of English.
- The school curriculum has been changed to teach more fundamental ideas and skills.
- The policy is primarily concerned with how to use technology to make education more accessible and useful.[1,2,3]
- It envisages a system where there is no distinction between rural and urban areas, and all children have access to quality education.
- The policy proposes several measures to improve the quality of teaching, including mandatory teacher eligibility tests, teacher professional development programs, and teacher education programs at the elementary, secondary, and tertiary levels.
- The policy also focuses on giving students vocational and technical education, ensuring they are better prepared for the workforce when they leave school.
- A National Higher Education Regulatory Council will be established under the policy to oversee the regulation of higher education institutions.
- The policy seeks to provide greater autonomy to higher education institutions and promote academic mobility. Consequently, both public and private universities will be governed by the same regulations.
- A new 5+3+3+4 education structure will be introduced by this policy, moving away from the current 10+2 system.
- It aims to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education to 50% by 2035.
- The government has announced that a single regulator will govern all higher education institutes (HEIs), except Medical and Law Colleges. HEIs will now have to answer to a new body, the Office for Students.
- The Master's degree (MPhil) course will no longer be required.[4,5,6]

### NEP 2023 Major Reforms

The following is the list of all the Major Reforms in Education Policy according to the NEP 2023.

- There will be no substantial distinction between arts, science, academic, vocational, curricular, and subjects of extracurricular streams.
- There will be extra emphasis on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy.
- Substitution of 10+2 structure with a 5+3+3+4 model.
- No imposition of State Language on Students studying in any State.
- Permission of taking Board Exams two times for the students.
- The government will spend 6% of the Country's GDP on Education instead of 1.7%.
- The Gender Inclusion fund will be fully established.

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- The government will do extra efforts for providing proper education to the gifted children
- The UG Courses will be for 4 years.
- The minimum qualification to apply for the post the teacher will be a 4-year integrated B.Ed Course.
- There will be an introduction of a Common Entrance Test for admission to HEIs.
- The Master of Philosophy course will no longer be a part of the education system.
- The students will be able to opt for different subjects such as arts, crafts, vocation skills, and physical education in Secondary School.
- The Standards for Board Exams will be set by the body PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development)
- The government will make literature of India and other classical languages part of the syllabus in schools.
- The exams for students will be held only in classes 2nd, 5th, and 8th instead of every academic year.
- School board examinations will continue for 10th and 12th classes, but they will be redesigned to be more holistic and developmental.
- PARAKH, a new national assessment platform, will be introduced to assess students' learning and help them analyze their strengths, weaknesses, gaps, and potential.
- The new system will emphasize the use of local or regional languages and the mother tongue as a medium of education for grades 1 to 5.
- This policy aligns with the Government's intent to focus on local and regional languages.
- Sanskrit will be available as an option for all students under the three-language formula at both high school and college levels.
- Vocational education will be introduced starting from grade 6, also known as middle school. Internships will be incorporated into the vocational education curriculum.
- The policy includes plans to offer Indian literature and other classical languages as options for students.
- Students pursuing degrees in these languages will have the freedom to choose the specific language they wish to study and the topics within that language. This freedom extends to students pursuing degrees in other disciplines such as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
- Higher education will experience increased flexibility in subjects, with multiple entry and exit points available for all students.

- Undergraduate programs can range in duration from three to four years. A one-year certificate will be the minimum duration required, but students can choose alternative routes, such as obtaining a two-year advanced diploma or earning a B. Tech. degree.
- The new system will prioritize students, focusing on teaching only the most important parts of each subject.
- The policy aims to make education more meaningful and less reliant on rote learning. The focus will be on critical thinking, discovery, inquiry, discussion, and teaching. Additionally, the needs of students with exceptional circumstances will be considered.
- The Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) will be established as a digital recognition award for a student's academic performance. ABC can enable universities to verify an institution's credits, or schools can use it to reward or recognize students. It can help keep track of the credits each student has earned over time.
- According to the NEP, learning should be holistic, joyful, stress-free, and a lifelong process.[7,8,9]
- The policy emphasizes critical thinking, exploration, asking questions, engaging in discussions, and teaching based on analysis and comprehensive learning.
- Regulations for higher education will be light but tight.
- The policy emphasizes online learning to ensure that students receive education of the highest standard. The new system will expand e-learning to include online courses, providing flexibility in terms of location and time for students.
- By the end of 2040, the aim is to have all universities become multidisciplinary institutions, with each accommodating 3000 or more students.
- College affiliation will be gradually phased out over the next 15 years.
- By 2030, there should be at least one large multidisciplinary Higher Education Institution (HEI) built in or near every district.
- This approach will help schools become more connected to their communities and provide them with growth opportunities. The goal is to assist in achieving 100% youth and adult literacy.

The most attention-grabbing amendment in the NEP 2023 is the replacement of the 10+2 structure with the 5+3+3+4 structure. The 10+2 has been prevalent in our education system for a very long time. So, a complete change in that system can be a bit perplexing for the students. Below we will try to explain the meaning of the 5+3+3+4 structure and how it is completely distinctive from the old 10+2 structure.

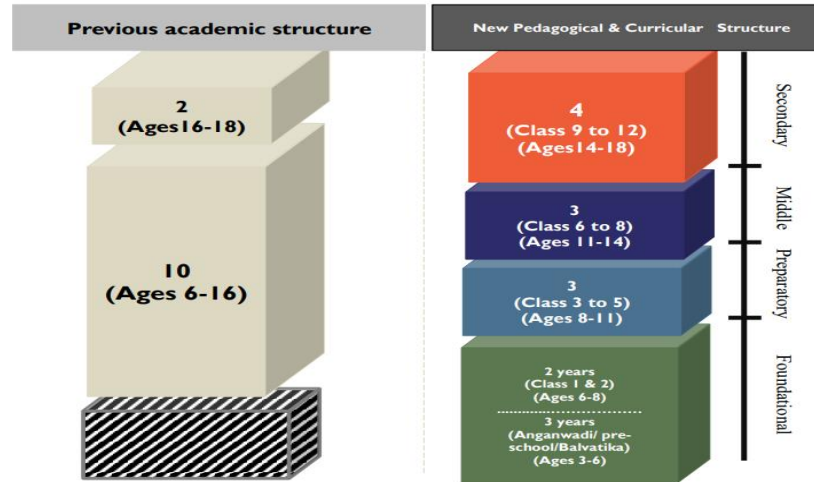
In the new Pedagogical and Circular Structure, the government has subdivided the schooling of students into four parts. These four parts are Secondary, Middle, Preparatory, and Foundational. These four stages of schooling will be crucial parts of educational development in students' school

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lives. The subdivision of these four stages in the schooling of students will be done as follows. [10,11,12]



**5+3+3+4 Structure**

- The first stage of schooling for students is the Foundation Stage. In this, the early grooming of students will be done for 5 years. These 5 years will be 3 years of Anganwadi/ Pre-Primary/ Balvatika and first and second grade.
- The second stage will be the preparatory stage. This schooling stage will last for 3 years as well. Class 3rd, 4th, and 5th will lay the foundation for the middle and secondary stages.
- The third stage of schooling will be the middle school stage. In this from Class 6th to 8th. These three years will prepare the students for the final stage of their school life i.e. Secondary Stage.
- The final stage of schooling life for students will be the secondary stage, in this instead of 2 years, the students will have a complete four years from Class 9th to 12th to complete their secondary education.

	<b>10+2 System</b>	<b>5+3+3+4 System</b>
Structure	Existing Academic Structure	New Academic Structure
Stages	2 Stages	4 Stages
Age Period	6-18 Years	3-18 Years

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	<b>10+2 System</b>	<b>5+3+3+4 System</b>
Time Period	12 School Years	15 Years (12 School Years + 3 Pre-School Years)
Stage Wise	First Stage - Age 6-16 Years (Class 1-10)	Foundational Stage - 3 Years (Pre-School) (Age 3-6) + 2 Years (Class 1 to 2) (Age 6-8) = 5 Years
	Second Stage - Age 16-18 Years (Class 11-12)	Preparatory Stage - 3 Years (Class 3 to 5) (Age 8-11)
		Middle Stage - 3 Years (Class 6 to 8) (Age 11-14)
		Secondary Stage - 4 Years (Class 9 to 12) (Age 14-18)

#### Changes Made in Higher Education Under New National Education Policy

##### 1. 50% Increase In GER

The NEP (New Education Policy) aims to increase the GER (Gross Enrollment Ratio) from 26.3% to 50% by 2035. This policy would require increasing the number of students studying in higher education and expanding the number of university places.

##### 2. Interdisciplinary General Education

The policy provides a comprehensive, interdisciplinary, and broad-based college education with flexible study plans, more choices in choosing subjects, and more flexibility to [leave](#) the course with an accredited degree. It will now be possible for undergrads to choose the number of years they want with the appropriate degree.

The license type is based on how long the user has been using the license. The price per year is decided depending on the length of the license. A three-year license will be free, but a four-year license will be paid for.

##### 3. Regulations or Systems

The Higher Education Commission of India will have a board, an interim committee, an Academic Council, and a technical committee. The Prime Minister of India will chair the Interim Committee. There will be 14 members, seven of whom will be elected by the general public. The Board will be in charge of all government universities. The Interim Committee will be in charge of the day-to-day running of the Board.

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#### 4. Rationalized Institutional Architecture

The NEP 2023 proposes a rationalized institutional architecture for the education system, ensuring that all institutions are aligned with the National Education Goals. Under this architecture, the National Higher Education Regulatory Authority (NHERA) will be in charge of regulating all colleges and universities that offer higher education, except for medical and law schools.

The University Grants Commission (UGC), the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), and the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) will be replaced by the NHERA.

The National Higher Education Regulatory Authority (NHERA) will be in charge of accreditation, quality assurance, and promoting research and innovation. NHERA and the National Accreditation Board (NAB) will work together to make sure that all higher education institutions (HEIs) are accredited.

NHERA will also create quality assurance standards and procedures for all HEIs to follow. Furthermore, by developing policies and programs, NHERA will promote higher education research and innovation.[12,13,14]

#### New Education Policy 2023

The New Education Policy (NEP) 2023 is a comprehensive policy document that aims to bring about comprehensive reforms in the [Indian education](#) system. Some of the key features of the NEP 2023 are as follows:

1. The NEP 2023 focuses on a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to education, which is meant to help students learn how to think critically, be creative, and solve problems.
2. The goal of the policy is to make education more open and available to everyone. This will be done by making more quality education available in regional languages, promoting the use of technology in education, and making higher education institutions more accessible.
3. The goal of the NEP 2023 is to change the education system at all levels, from elementary school to higher education.
4. The policy aims to make the education system better and more accountable by encouraging teachers to keep learning and improve their skills, making the assessment and evaluation system better, and setting up a National Testing Agency to run standard tests.
5. The NEP 2023 emphasizes the need for education to be closely aligned with the needs of the economy and society and aims to promote interdisciplinary and applied learning as well as entrepreneurship and innovation.
6. The goal of the policy is to make education more international and to get more students, teachers, and ideas from other countries.

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7. The NEP 2023 wants to set up a National Education Commission (NEC) to oversee how the policy is carried out and make sure it stays relevant and meets the changing needs of the country.[15,16]

The NEP 2023 aims to bring about comprehensive reforms in the Indian education system to make it more inclusive, holistic, and responsive to the needs of the economy and society.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Significance of 5+3+3+4 Structure**

The Government aims to emphasize more on the cognitive-development stage of the students through the 5+3+3+4 structure. Through this structure, the government will flesh out the schooling stages of students for their benefit. Contrary to the 10+2 structure, the 5+3+3+4 structure will strengthen the base of students from the foundational stage to the secondary stage. This new structure will also help the Right to Education to be fully utilized by the students. Since the structure covers ages from 3 to 18 instead of 6 to 14. Because of this, the students will be supported by the inception of their school life.

In addition to all of this, this structure will be handy in substantially increasing student retention rates. With the implementation of this structure, more students will stay in their respective schools for the entirety of their school life. In short, this new structure will be beneficial for the students in every conceivable way. Moreover, a higher literacy rate with this structure will only work for the betterment of our country's future.

### **Effect of NEP on Teachers**

Not only students will be impacted by the NEP, but it will influence teachers and teaching methods as well. According to NEP 2023, in order to be a teacher in a school you need to possess a B. Ed degree. The eye-catching thing about this is that this B.Ed course must compulsorily be a 4-year integrated course. Because of this policy, only competent teachers will join the schools and this will most definitely help for molding the future of students into the right path.

### **NEP 2023 for UG and Higher Education**

The students who will pursue UG and Higher Education will also be affected by the NEP 2023. According to the policy, the duration of a UG degree will be four years and these degrees will be multi-disciplinary, holistic, and flexible. Moreover, the students will be given multiple chances to opt for an exit from the degree course. For instance, the students will get a certificate for completing a 1-year vocational or professional field course. Whereas, they will get a diploma after 2 years and a Bachelor's degree after 3 years.

For PG courses, the course duration will be limited to 1 to 2 years. Also, the Master of Philosophy programs will no longer be accessible. The most ambitious decision for college-level education in this policy is that the college affiliation system will be fully phased out in the coming 15 years. Moreover,



there will be a new body to supervise all the higher education courses excluding the legal and medical courses.

### **NEP 2023 for teaching in Mother Tongue or Regional Language**

One of the most important reforms in NEP is that the students will get to study in their Mother Tongue or regional language till the 5th standard. Additionally, the government has also said that they can increase this limit to the 8th standard as well. By studying in their mother tongue, the students will easily comprehend what teachers are teaching them. Also, the students will get to know more about their language through this policy as well. [14,15,16]

### **National Education Policy 2023 Digital Inclusions**

With the advancement of technology, digital methods of teaching have become a part of schooling recently. Let us have a look at the digital approaches the government will take toward the betterment of education through NEP 2023.

- The Government will establish a NETF (National Educational Technology Forum). This forum will work to elevate digital teaching methods in different schools by providing new and unique ideas related to it.
- In order to develop more resources for digital education, the Government will introduce a new unit that will work across the nation.
- There will be the integration of technology that will enhance the different procedures in the classroom.

### ***Foundational Stage (5 years)***

The foundation stage will cover the first five years of a child's education. In the first 3 years of education, children will be taught in Anganwadi, Balvatika, or [community](#)-based nurseries.

During the other two years of school, they will learn basic skills and knowledge through play-based and activity-based learning on different levels.

### ***Preparatory Stage (3 years)***

The preparatory stage will be from ages 8 to 11 and focus on foundational learning, including developing basic literacy and numeracy skills among students. The preparatory stage will help students develop their understanding of concepts in various subjects.

### ***Middle Stage (3 years)***

The middle stage will be from ages 11 to 14. During the middle stage, students will be expected to develop core academic skills such as [reading](#), writing, and basic language competencies. They will also be expected to develop [life skills](#) such as teamwork, problem-solving, and critical thinking.

**Secondary Stage (4 years)**

The secondary stage will be from ages 14 to 18. During this stage, students will be expected to complete a core curriculum consisting of English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

In addition, they will have the opportunity to choose from a range of electives, including languages, arts, and vocational subjects. The secondary stage aims to provide students with the skills and knowledge they need to prepare for further education or enter the workforce.

**Major Changes Under New National Education Policy**

Under the new National Education Policy, significant changes have been made to the school education system in India. Some of the most notable changes are:

**1. Single Regulations for All Levels of School Education**

The New Education Policy (NEP) of India has a noble goal: to make sure that every student, regardless of their background, has the chance to get an education. The policy recognizes that some students may have been left behind in the past and aims to provide them with better opportunities.

To address the issue of high dropout rates, schools and colleges are exploring different ways to attract and retain students. They understand the importance of offering a variety of learning paths that include both traditional classroom education and alternative methods.[13,15]

**RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS****NEP 2023 Implementation by Different States**

Let us have a look at all of those states that implemented NEP since it was proposed.

- Karnataka became the first state that issued an order related to the implementation of NEP 2022 in 2021.
- Later on 26 August 2021 Madhya Pradesh also decided to implement New National Education Policy.
- Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath assures that the implementation of NEP will be in phases in the state.
- Goa is set to implement NEP in the state in 2023.
- States like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Assam are also making efforts for the implementation of New NEP.
- Meghalaya CM said that it will soon become the first state to fully implement the New National Education Policy.

Under the NEP students in grades 3, 5, and 8 will have the opportunity to attend open learning and open schools without having to pay any fees. This also applies to students in equivalent secondary school grades (10 and 12). Also, the NEP aims to enhance students' employability by introducing vocational courses in their school curriculum. These courses will expose them to new skills and techniques that can help them secure better [job](#) opportunities in the future.

In India, there's an exciting development in the field of education. The New Education Policy (NEP) has brought forth a brand new curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). This curriculum is all about giving children aged 3-6 years the best possible start in life, as it sets the stage for their overall growth and learning.

What makes this new ECCE curriculum special is its focus on providing children with a well-rounded, play-based learning experience. It's not just about textbooks and lectures – it's about engaging children through activities like storytelling, singing, art and craft, games, sports, and even outdoor adventures that connect them with nature.

Research has shown that kids learn better when they're taught in their language. That's why this new curriculum also encourages teaching in the mother tongue or local language. By embracing cultural diversity and linguistic diversity right from the beginning, we can help every child thrive.

The new ECCE curriculum also aims to improve the quality of ECCE centers in the country by setting standards for infrastructure, teacher qualifications, and the ratio of children to teachers. It also emphasizes the importance of involving parents and communities in the education of young children.

The new education policy of 2023 has proposed numerous changes in school education. Some of the major changes are listed below:

- The new policy has eliminated the rigid 10+2 structure of education and replaced it with a new 5+3+3+4 structure.
- The new policy emphasizes the holistic development of students; hence, the curriculum has been redesigned accordingly.
- Strengthened educational systems like Anganwadis and Kindergartens will focus on early childhood education and care.[15,16]
- Anganwadi workers and kindergarten teachers will be trained on how to use curriculum and teaching methods that are best for kids up to age 8.
- The new policy also emphasizes vocational education and skill development.
- Under the new policy, students will be able to choose the classes they want to take and won't have to stick to one stream.
- The policy aims to make education more affordable and accessible to all.

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- NCERT will create a national framework for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for children up to 8 years old.
- Early childhood education will be administered by the Ministries of Human Resource Development, [Health](#) and Family Welfare (HFW), Women and Child Development (WCD), and Tribal Affairs.

### 3. Pivot on Base Literacy

Building a strong foundation in basic literacy and numeracy is a key focus of the NEP (National Education Policy). The NEP acknowledges that these skills are crucial for students to excel in higher education and their future professional [careers](#). It highlights the significance of nurturing proficient reading and writing abilities as they play an important role in lifelong learning and personal development.

The National Education Policy (NEP) puts a strong emphasis on developing basic literacy and numeracy skills. To achieve this, the NEP suggests some effective strategies and initiatives:

1. **Reading and Writing:** It is crucial to focus on reading and writing in the early years of school, particularly in building phonemic awareness and phonics skills.
2. **Multilingualism:** The NEP recognizes the value of multilingualism in India and recommends using the mother tongue or home language as the medium of instruction during early education. This approach ensures that children have a solid foundation in their language while also facilitating the learning of additional languages.
3. **Remedial Education:** To support students who are struggling with fundamental literacy and numeracy skills, remedial education programs should be implemented. These programs ensure that every child receives necessary assistance so that no one gets left behind, giving all students an equal opportunity to succeed.

### 4. Changes in the Process of Teacher Recruitment

The New Education Policy (NEP) 2023 has brought about several changes in the process of teacher recruitment in school education. Some of the key changes that are likely to be implemented include:

1. **Emphasis on Holistic Development:** The NEP 2023 emphasizes the importance of holistic development and teachers' role in nurturing students' overall development. So, the process of hiring teachers will focus on finding people who are smart and have skills like communication, critical thinking, creativity, and emotional intelligence.
2. **National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST):** The NEP 2023 has introduced the NPST, which sets the minimum standards for teachers across the country. The NPST defines teachers' roles, responsibilities, and competencies at different levels of education. The recruitment process will consider these standards while selecting teachers.

3. Greater use of Technology: The NEP 2023 advocates using technology in the recruitment process to make it more efficient and transparent. This could involve using online platforms to advertise vacancies and accept applications as well as using technology to assess candidates' skills and competencies.
4. Changes to teacher training: The NEP 2023 also proposes significant changes to how teachers are trained and prepared for the classroom. This could include the introduction of more rigorous and relevant teacher training programs as well as opportunities for ongoing professional development.
5. Greater Accountability and Evaluation: The NEP 2023 emphasizes the importance of teacher accountability and performance evaluation. As part of the hiring process, there may be a bigger focus on evaluating candidates' skills, abilities, and ability to meet students' needs.[17]

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