

Focus Area within New Education Policy (Column: Active Voice)



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Even though the country has achieved universalisation of primary education, with 100 per cent Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in 2015, quality education in the last decade has been uneven. While the R 2015 revealed that 95 per cent of grade 5 children in India could read a grade 1 text, this number reduced to 42.5 per cent by 2016. With India committed to the Sustainable Development Goal of achieving equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all by 2030, this backward trend is a cause for concern.

Padhe Padhe Bachhe scheme launched in 2014 under theegis of NEA aims to improve the reading and writing skills of children in class 1 and 2. The recently released draft New Education Policy 2019 also talks about foundational literacy and age appropriate pedagogical practices. It not only talks of revamping the current educational structure, but also promotes massive teacher education and professional development reforms. The draft NEP also talks about remedial education, primarily for those who face daily challenges of curriculum delivery.

Despite the new era reforms, the concept of literacy is largely remains ignored. In this concept of literacy is expanding beyond reading writing abilities alone. Literacy is information from multiple sources, deal with meaning in a text and form an independent development of independent reading abilities achieved on a strong foundation of basic skills.

Digital drive

The new education policy will focus on learning. Some features of the policy

An autonomous body, the National Council for Educational Technology Forum, will be created for the exchange of ideas on use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning and administration

A dedicated unit for the purpose of creating digital infrastructure, digital content and building will be set up in the ministry

Integration of technology will be done to improve classroom processes

Learning

A look at the key features of the new education policy.



Public spending on education by States will be raised to 10% of GDP. The Ministry of Human Resource Development will be renamed Ministry of Education. A separate technology unit to develop digital education resources

By 2030, the minimum degree for a person in teaching will be a four-year integrated B.Ed. degree

Editors

Kalpna K Mahajan, Manoj K Saxena, Qazi Mazhar Ali and Ravi K Mahajan



SCHOOL EDUCATION
• Universalisation from age 3 to Class 10 by 2030
• Mission to ensure literacy and numeracy skills by 2025
• Mother tongue as medium of instruction till Class 5 wherever possible
• New curriculum to include 21st century skills like coding and vocational integration from Class 6
• Board exams to be easier, redesigned

HIGHER EDUCATION
• New umbrella regulator for all higher education except medical, legal courses
• Flexible, holistic, multi-disciplinary UG degrees of 3-4 years' duration
• 1 to 2 year PG programmes, no M.Phil
• College affiliation system to be phased out in 15 years

Meritorious students belonging to SC, ST and other socially and economically disadvantaged groups will be given incentives
Private institutions will be encouraged to offer scholarships to their students

State-owned central universities, health science and agricultural universities will aim at becoming multi-disciplinary institutions



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