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## National Education Policy 2020: Teacher Responsibilities

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### Abstract

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 of India aims to transform the educational landscape by improving the existing system, fostering skill development, flexibility, accessibility, and inclusiveness. This paper explores the crucial role of teachers in the successful implementation of the NEP 2020. The policy introduces significant changes to the education structure, such as a new 5+3+3+4 framework, vocational courses from grade 6, and a credit system allowing multiple entry and exit points. Teachers are essential in explaining these changes to students and parents, ensuring quality education, and providing personalized learning experiences. Their responsibilities include designing a comprehensive and flexible curriculum, addressing students' individual capabilities, promoting innovation and technology in teaching, and assisting students in selecting subjects and maximizing educational benefits. The NEP 2020 emphasizes employment and self-employment opportunities for students, and teachers must work with parents to develop a personalized approach for each student's development. By fulfilling these roles and responsibilities, teachers can contribute to the transformation of education in India and help achieve the policy's goals of enhancing students' skills and making education more flexible and accessible. The successful implementation of the NEP 2020 relies heavily on the involvement and dedication of teachers in shaping the future of education in India.

**Keywords-** Vocational courses, Credit system, Multiple entry and exit points, Implementation of NEP 2020

### Introduction

Education plays a vital role in shaping human development across all aspects of life. It not only contributes to the individual's growth but also drives the economic, psychological, social, cultural, and spiritual

advancement of an entire nation. Education is a process through which knowledge is shared from one person to another, and just as food is essential for physical growth, education is vital for social development. It represents the complete realization of human potential. The advancement of individuals, society, and nations is best achieved through education.

The world is experiencing rapid changes, and India is no exception. Throughout history, there has been reflection on the national education system of India, and in today's time, the country's fast-paced development toward democratic socialism has impacted all sectors, including education. In the dynamic race of change, it became evident that education had not contributed as much to national development as it should have. As a result, there was a call for change and innovation in the education system, leading to the announcement of the National Education Policy (NEP) of India on July 29, 2020. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 heralds a significant shift in the educational landscape of India, focusing on fostering holistic development, critical thinking, and a learner-centered approach. A key aspect of the policy is the reform of the curriculum and the role of teachers in shaping the future of education.

Key features of the new education policy include:

- The 10+2 board structure is replaced with a new 5+3+3+4 framework.
- The new structure includes:
  - o Pre-school: Up to age 5
  - o Middle school: Grades 6–8
  - o High school: Grades 8–11
  - o Graduation: Starting at age 12
- All degree programs will be 4 years.
- Vocational courses will be introduced starting from grade 6.
- Students in grades 8-11 will be allowed to choose subjects.
- Graduation courses will have both major and minor options.
- A single governing body will oversee all higher education.
- UGC and AICTE will merge.
- Government, private, open, and deemed universities will follow the same grading and rules.
- A new board for teacher training will be set up, with uniform standards across the country.
- Accreditation will be given to colleges based on ratings, with certain autonomy granted.
- A learning program will be developed to assist parents in teaching children up to age 3 and preschool-age children (3-6 years).
- There will be multiple entry and exit points in courses, and a credit system will allow students to pause their studies and return later.

- All school exams will be conducted in semesters, twice a year.
- The syllabus will focus on core knowledge.
- Greater emphasis will be placed on practical knowledge and its application.
- Students completing different durations of study will receive certificates:
  - o 1 year: Basic Certificate
  - o 2 years: Diploma Certificate
  - o Full course: Degree Certificate
- All graduation courses will be governed by a single authority, with capped numbers for each course.

### **Teachers' Responsibilities under NEP 2020**

Under NEP 2020, teachers are at the forefront of transforming education. Their responsibilities go beyond traditional teaching to becoming facilitators of learning, guiding students through the journey of self-discovery, creativity, and intellectual growth. Some of the key responsibilities for teachers include:

**1. Holistic Development of Students:** Teachers are expected to nurture the overall growth of students by focusing on cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development. This involves designing learning experiences that cater to diverse needs, abilities, and learning styles, and promoting skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration. They are to create an inclusive and supportive environment, helping students to develop a range of skills such as life skills, communication, and emotional intelligence, which are essential for the 21st century.

**2. Facilitator of Learning:** Teachers are no longer just sources of knowledge but facilitators who guide students through a process of inquiry-based learning. They encourage critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity in students, shifting from rote learning to active, hands-on engagement with content.

**3. Adopting Constructivist Pedagogy:** NEP 2020 emphasizes learner-centered education, where teachers play the role of facilitators. Teachers are encouraged to adopt a constructivist approach, guiding students to construct their knowledge through active engagement and hands-on learning. This includes inquiry-based learning, project work, and experiential activities that foster a deeper understanding of concepts.

**4. Continuous Professional Development:** Teachers are expected to constantly update their skills and knowledge to stay relevant in an evolving educational environment. NEP 2020 emphasizes the importance of continuous professional development (CPD) through training, workshops, and peer learning. Teachers are also encouraged to engage

with new teaching technologies and resources to enhance their teaching methods. The NEP emphasizes the importance of teachers' ongoing learning. Teachers are expected to engage in continuous professional development (CPD) to stay updated with the latest educational practices, teaching methodologies, and developments in their field of expertise.

**5. Promoting Inclusivity and Equity:** Teachers must ensure that the learning environment is inclusive, addressing the needs of marginalized and underrepresented groups, including children with disabilities, rural students, and economically disadvantaged learners. NEP 2020 advocates for creating an equitable classroom where every student receives the support and encouragement they need to thrive.

**6. Building a Strong Teacher-Student Relationship:** The policy highlights the importance of fostering a positive, supportive, and empathetic relationship between teachers and students. Teachers should guide students not only academically but also in their personal and emotional development, helping them navigate challenges and build confidence. The role of a teacher in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is multifaceted and central to the overall success of the policy's goals. NEP 2020 envisions a transformative approach to education in India, and teachers are key to implementing these changes effectively.

**7. Personalized Education:** NEP 2020 promotes individualized learning, acknowledging that students learn at different paces and in various ways. Teachers are encouraged to adapt their teaching methods to suit the learning needs of each student, fostering an environment where every child can thrive.

**8. Use of Technology:** Teachers play a pivotal role in incorporating digital tools and technology into the classroom. This aligns with NEP's emphasis on leveraging technology to enhance learning outcomes, making education more accessible, inclusive, and engaging for all students.

**9. Collaborative Leadership:** Teachers are encouraged to take on leadership roles in their schools and communities. They collaborate with peers, students, and parents to shape a more holistic and progressive educational experience.

**10. Encouraging Multidisciplinary Learning:** Teachers are encouraged to facilitate an interdisciplinary approach to learning, where students explore a range of subjects and develop well-rounded knowledge, rather than specializing early in a single field.

### **Curriculum Reform under NEP 2020**

The curriculum reform proposed in NEP 2020 aims to make education more relevant, dynamic, and in tune with the demands of the 21st century. Key changes in the curriculum structure include:

**1. Integration of Skills and Knowledge:** NEP 2020 advocates for a curriculum that balances both foundational knowledge and the

development of essential skills. This includes a greater emphasis on life skills, vocational education, critical thinking, and creativity. The aim is to equip students with practical knowledge that will help them in real-world situations, not just in academics.

**2. Flexibility and Choice:** One of the major reforms in the curriculum is the introduction of greater flexibility, where students can choose from a range of subjects based on their interests and future career aspirations. This will allow for a more personalized learning experience, fostering a passion for lifelong learning.

**3. Multidisciplinary Approach:** NEP 2020 stresses the importance of a multidisciplinary curriculum, where students can learn subjects across different disciplines such as science, arts, humanities, and vocational studies. This approach encourages students to develop a well-rounded perspective and avoid rigid compartmentalization of knowledge.

**4. Focus on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE):** NEP 2020 underscores the importance of early childhood education in laying a strong foundation for lifelong learning. It calls for the integration of ECCE into the formal education system, ensuring that children receive holistic development from an early age.

**5. Use of Technology in Education:** The policy emphasizes the integration of technology in both teaching and learning. It encourages the use of digital tools and platforms to enhance the learning experience, especially in remote areas, and to bridge the gap in educational access and quality.

**6. Assessment Reforms:** NEP 2020 introduces changes in the way assessments are conducted. The focus is shifted from rote memorization and high-stakes exams to continuous, formative assessment that encourages critical thinking, problem-solving, and application of knowledge. Teachers are expected to assess students through projects, presentations, and collaborative work.

Teachers under NEP 2020 are envisioned as change agents who guide and nurture students holistically, fostering an environment of inquiry, inclusivity, and innovation. Their role extends beyond teaching content to shaping the next generation of thinkers, problem-solvers, and responsible citizens. The primary objective of the NEP 2020 is to transform the educational landscape by improving the existing system. The policy aims to foster skill development, flexibility, accessibility, and inclusiveness. Teachers will play a critical role in achieving these goals by guiding students and helping them understand the changes in the system. Implementing the policy presents challenges, but teachers' contributions will be crucial in overcoming them. The role of teachers is significant in implementing the NEP 2020. Teachers will be key to explaining the changes to students and parents, and they will need to



fulfill new responsibilities as outlined in the policy. The NEP emphasizes the importance of quality education, which can only be achieved through teachers' involvement. As Chanakya once said, "Teachers are never ordinary; both disaster and creation go hand in hand in their hands." Teachers are essential in shaping students' futures and can bring about positive change in their lives.

The NEP 2020 also emphasizes employment and self-employment opportunities for students, providing a positive framework for progress. Teachers must ensure that students can access these opportunities and benefit from the policy's provisions. The policy stresses the need for quality education, with teachers being key in identifying and nurturing students' abilities. It is crucial that teachers work with parents to develop a personalized approach for each student's development.

Teachers' roles in the NEP 2020 include:

- Helping design a comprehensive and flexible curriculum that aligns with the policy's goals.
- Addressing students' individual capabilities and resolving issues both inside and outside the classroom.
- Successfully implementing the new curriculum by understanding classroom dynamics.
- Promoting innovation and technology in teaching, making education more effective.
- Recognizing students' interests and capabilities, and providing personalized learning experiences.
- Assisting students in selecting subjects and gaining the skills required for success.
- Making students aware of the opportunities within the new policy to help them maximize their educational benefits.

## Conclusion

The National Education Policy 2020 seeks to improve India's education system and enhance students' skills, making education more flexible and accessible. The policy recognizes that teachers play a vital role in achieving these goals, ensuring that the quality of education is significantly improved. By providing necessary guidance and opportunities, teachers can contribute to the transformation of education in India. The NEP 2020 lays the foundation for a more progressive, inclusive, and flexible education system. Teachers have a crucial role in driving these reforms by embracing new pedagogical approaches, staying updated with professional development, and fostering an environment that nurtures creativity, critical thinking, and overall development. The curriculum reforms aim to equip students with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes needed to thrive in an increasingly complex and interconnected world. Through the active participation of teachers and the implementation of these reforms,

India's education system can move closer to realizing its vision of an equitable and dynamic learning environment for all.

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