



## Review Article

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# National Education Policy 2024: A Comprehensive Perspective

Prof. Punam Kumari

CIL/SLL&CS, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi – 110067

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**Abstract:** The National Education Policy (NEP) 2024 represents a paradigm shift in India's educational framework, building on the foundational reforms of NEP 2020 and aiming to establish a learner-centric, inclusive, and future-ready education system. This policy envisions an integrated approach to learning that spans from early childhood education to higher education and lifelong learning. It emphasizes universal access, equity, quality, and global competitiveness, while remaining deeply rooted in India's cultural and intellectual heritage. NEP 2024 introduces a restructured school system through the 5+3+3+4 model and proposes significant reforms in curriculum, pedagogy, assessment, and teacher training. Holistic development, experiential learning, multilingual education, competency-based assessments, and multidisciplinary pathways are cornerstones of the new approach. The policy recognizes the transformative role of educators and prioritizes continuous professional development and mentoring. Technology integration, digital literacy, and flexible learning modalities are central to achieving equitable access, particularly in underserved and remote regions. The policy also fosters internationalization, research excellence, and employability through vocational education and modular degrees supported by the Academic Bank of Credit. Governance reforms include the establishment of regulatory bodies like the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI), the State School Standards Authority (SSSA), and the National School Standards Authority (NSSA) to ensure accountability and quality assurance. While the policy faces challenges in implementation—such as infrastructural constraints, financial needs, and institutional resistance—it also presents a unique opportunity to harness India's demographic dividend by empowering youth with relevant skills, values, and global perspectives. If implemented effectively, NEP 2024 has the potential to transform India into a vibrant knowledge society and a global education leader.

**Keywords:** NEP 2024, education reform, inclusive learning, digital literacy, interdisciplinary education, competency-based assessment, demographic dividend, teacher empowerment, lifelong learning, India

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## INTRODUCTION

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2024 represents a monumental transformation in India's approach to education (Upadhyay & Malik, 2024). It builds on the foundational reforms of NEP 2020, expanding its reach and deepening its impact across the nation. With a clear emphasis on inclusivity, accessibility, and quality, the policy envisions an educational system that nurtures the intellectual, emotional, social, and ethical development of every learner. NEP 2024 is a forward-looking policy, designed to prepare students for the challenges of a rapidly evolving global landscape, while staying rooted in India's rich cultural and philosophical heritage (Aithal & Srinivasan, 2024).

At its core, the policy aims to dismantle barriers to education and ensure that high-quality learning opportunities are available to all, regardless of socio-economic background, geographic location, or personal circumstance. It strives to eliminate educational disparities and provide a level playing field for historically disadvantaged and marginalized communities. Through a broad and inclusive educational vision, NEP 2024 seeks to elevate India into a global hub of knowledge and innovation.

## A Vision for Inclusive Development

NEP 2024 is deeply aligned with the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4), which aims for inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all by 2030. The policy acknowledges the seismic shifts occurring in the global knowledge landscape, driven by rapid advancements in science and technology, artificial intelligence, data science, environmental challenges, and socio-economic transformations. To address these developments, NEP 2024 encourages interdisciplinary education and cross-sectoral skill development. Fields such as climate science, computational sciences, biotechnology, and social entrepreneurship are emphasized, along with the development of emotional intelligence, ethical reasoning, and social responsibility (Krishna et al., 2024). This ensures that students are not only academically competent but also socially conscious and globally aware.

This inclusive vision extends to improving the educational outcomes of girls, children from tribal communities, the differently-abled, and other historically excluded groups. Special incentives, flexible schooling, residential facilities, and community outreach programs are encouraged to ensure that every child, regardless of circumstance, has an equal opportunity to learn and thrive.

### **Holistic and Experiential Learning**

A major tenet of NEP 2024 is the transformation from content-heavy instruction to holistic and experiential learning. The curriculum is restructured to focus on core concepts and foundational skills, while also nurturing creativity, collaboration, communication, and curiosity. Students are encouraged to engage in hands-on activities, project-based learning, and inquiry-driven exploration. The policy advocates for a multidisciplinary approach, allowing students to explore diverse fields such as arts, science, sports, and vocational education without rigid separations (Mishra, 2024). This flexible framework empowers learners to discover their passions and design their own educational journeys. The emphasis on ethical education and character development aims to produce responsible and empathetic citizens who are prepared to contribute meaningfully to society.

Practical learning is promoted through internships, apprenticeships, and community engagement, especially from middle school onwards. Integration of life skills, financial literacy, environmental education, and digital competencies ensure learners are equipped with tools to face real-world challenges.

### **Emphasis on India's Educational Heritage**

NEP 2024 draws inspiration from India's historical legacy of learning, as exemplified by ancient universities like Nalanda, Takshashila, and Vikramshila. These centers of learning attracted scholars from around the world and were renowned for their multidisciplinary and research-oriented approach. The policy seeks to revive this legacy by promoting inquiry, critical thinking, and academic rigor. By integrating ancient wisdom with modern knowledge systems, NEP 2024 fosters a unique educational philosophy that respects India's civilizational values while embracing global best practices. The contributions of Indian luminaries in diverse fields from Aryabhata in mathematics to Patanjali in yoga serve as exemplars of excellence that contemporary learners can aspire to (Swargiary, 2025).

The use of classical texts, indigenous knowledge systems, traditional crafts, and historical case studies in the curriculum will foster cultural pride and contextual understanding among students. NEP 2024 envisions India's education system as not only forward-looking but also deeply rooted in its civilizational ethos.

### **Empowering Educators**

Recognizing that teachers are the backbone of the education system, NEP 2024 prioritizes their professional development, autonomy, and well-being. A four-year integrated B.Ed. program is introduced to provide comprehensive training in pedagogy, subject knowledge, classroom management, and socio-emotional learning.

The policy also outlines frameworks for continuous professional development (CPD), enabling teachers to update their skills and stay abreast of evolving pedagogical practices (Singh & Kaur, 2024). Teachers are given greater autonomy in curriculum implementation and classroom innovation, ensuring that they can cater to diverse learning needs and foster student engagement.

Moreover, NEP 2024 proposes the establishment of a National Mission for Mentoring (NMM) to recruit outstanding educators and retired faculty to mentor junior teachers. This initiative will help in capacity building and knowledge transfer while instilling a sense of professional solidarity.

### **Equity and Access**

Equity is a cornerstone of NEP 2024. The policy mandates targeted interventions to ensure that every child, regardless of caste, gender, ability, or economic status, has equal access to quality education. Initiatives such as bridge programs, scholarships, inclusive infrastructure, and digital learning tools are proposed to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Special attention is given to regional language promotion, gender sensitivity, and the inclusion of children with disabilities (Kasana & Saxena, 2024). The policy also seeks to address geographic disparities by improving educational facilities in rural and remote areas and by leveraging technology to deliver quality content across diverse contexts.

NEP 2024 also encourages community-based learning, mother tongue instruction in early years, and the creation of gender-neutral and inclusive school environments (Singh et al., 2025). Special education zones, flexible learning options, and peer support systems are promoted to reduce dropout rates and facilitate mainstreaming of vulnerable learners.

### **Restructuring School and Higher Education**

A significant structural change introduced by NEP 2024 is the 5+3+3+4 model, replacing the traditional 10+2 system. This model is aligned with the cognitive and developmental stages of children, spanning foundational, preparatory, middle, and secondary education. Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) is given high importance to ensure a strong learning foundation. In higher education, the policy envisions multidisciplinary institutions offering flexible, modular degree programs (Pal et al., 2025). Multiple entry and exit options, supported by the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC), allow students to pursue education at their own pace. The Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will serve as an overarching regulatory body, streamlining governance and ensuring quality across institutions.

Vocational education and internships are integrated from grade 6 onward, bridging the gap between academic learning and real-world application. This aims to enhance employability and align education with market needs. Students will also receive certificates, diplomas, or degrees based on the number of completed academic credits.

### **Technology Integration and Digital Literacy**

In the digital age, NEP 2024 places a strong emphasis on integrating technology into teaching, learning, and assessment. The policy promotes the use of digital platforms, e-learning modules, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), and adaptive learning technologies to personalize education and enhance student engagement.

The National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) is established to facilitate research, innovation, and exchange of best practices in educational technology (Shankar, 2024). Digital literacy is recognized as a foundational skill, and efforts are made to bridge the digital divide by expanding access to devices, connectivity, and digital resources. Additionally, the policy highlights the use of AI-based educational tools, gamification, and augmented reality in classroom instruction. Mobile-based learning, remote learning hubs, and hybrid learning models are promoted to ensure continuity and accessibility of education in emergencies.

### **Globalization and Internationalization**

NEP 2024 envisions an internationally benchmarked education system that prepares Indian students for global citizenship (Mohanty, 2024). It encourages partnerships with foreign universities, academic exchange programs, and the establishment of international campuses in India. These initiatives aim to enhance research collaboration, knowledge exchange, and cultural integration. The policy also supports the internationalization of curriculum and the inclusion of global perspectives in teaching and learning, ensuring that students are equipped to navigate and contribute to an interconnected world.

Special provisions for attracting international students to Indian universities, standardizing credit transfers, and improving visa facilitation are proposed. International conferences, collaborative research, and multilingual online content will support global academic presence.

### **Assessment Reforms and Competency-Based Education**

Traditional high-stakes examinations are replaced with formative, competency-based assessments that evaluate a broad range of skills, including critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and emotional intelligence. Portfolios, practical projects, peer reviews, and continuous evaluation become integral to the assessment process.

The focus shifts from memorization to mastery, from content reproduction to conceptual understanding. This reform aligns assessments with real-world problem-solving and lifelong learning competencies, enabling students to demonstrate their abilities in meaningful and diverse ways. Board examinations will be held twice a year with optional subject-specific papers, allowing students to improve their performance. Diagnostic tests and feedback systems will help identify learning gaps and offer remedial support.

### **Governance and Accountability**

To ensure effective implementation and quality assurance, NEP 2024 introduces a comprehensive governance structure. The State School Standards Authority (SSSA) and the National School Standards Authority (NSSA) are tasked with setting and monitoring educational standards. A real-time Management Information System (MIS) facilitates data-driven policy decisions, planning, and evaluation. The policy advocates for decentralization, transparency, and community participation in school management (Chano et al., 2025). It promotes ethical leadership and institutional autonomy while ensuring accountability through audits, public disclosure, and performance monitoring.

Public-private partnerships, school development plans, and institutional performance reviews will become standard practices. Emphasis is placed on outcome-based planning and accountability at every level of the education system.

### **Implementation and Challenges**

While the policy is ambitious, its implementation requires overcoming several challenges. These include inadequate infrastructure, resistance to change, shortage of trained educators, and financial constraints. Success depends on coordinated efforts among central and state governments, educational institutions, civil society, and private stakeholders.

Capacity building, stakeholder engagement, and phased rollout strategies are crucial for achieving the policy's objectives (Osamika et al., 2024). Monitoring and feedback mechanisms must be established to track progress and make necessary course corrections. Efforts must be made to ensure that states adopt the NEP recommendations in alignment with local priorities. Financial planning, increased budget allocation (aiming for 6% of GDP), and continuous evaluation are necessary for sustainability.

### **Demographic Dividend and Economic Growth**

India's youthful population presents a demographic advantage that can fuel economic growth if supported by appropriate educational and skill development policies. NEP 2024 aims to harness this potential by equipping the youth with relevant knowledge, entrepreneurial mindset, and employability

skills. Learning from global experiences, such as East Asia's economic transformation, the policy emphasizes the need for comprehensive investments in health, education, and job creation (Işık et al., 2024). A well-educated and skilled workforce can drive innovation, increase productivity, and enhance India's competitiveness in the global economy.

India must act swiftly to reap this demographic dividend. If not addressed effectively, this opportunity may turn into a demographic burden. NEP 2024 serves as a roadmap for converting population growth into human capital development.

## CONCLUSION

The National Education Policy 2024 charts a bold vision for the future of Indian education. It seeks to transform the system into one that is learner-centered, flexible, inclusive, and aligned with global standards. By emphasizing holistic development, interdisciplinary learning, digital readiness, and social responsibility, NEP 2024 prepares students not only for careers but also for meaningful lives as informed, ethical, and engaged citizens.

The successful realization of this vision requires commitment, collaboration, and sustained effort from all stakeholders. If implemented with fidelity and inclusiveness, NEP 2024 has the power to reshape India's educational trajectory and catalyze its emergence as a global knowledge leader in the decades to come.

Ultimately, the policy represents not just an educational reform but a national mission, a vision to empower India through learning, innovation, and inclusive development.

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