

## **NEP 2020: THE GENESIS OF THE NEW EVOLUTIONARY PARADIGMS IN ACADEMIA**



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“If we teach today’s students as we taught yesterday’s, we rob them of tomorrow.” - John Dewey (1859 - 1952)

### **Introduction**

Education has changed in its definition, and it should. It is imperative that what constitutes education must continuously evolve to accept, adapt to and accommodate the needs and requirements of the generation being taught, and be able to convey it in a matter that is most aptly understood by the said generation.

Whilst what was taught twenty or even ten years ago may not be passé but it certainly has matured and evolved by supplanting itself with intricacies that are relevant for this day and age. Similarly, the manner and methodology used in pedagogy has too evolved. It now imbibes in-depth studies on child and adolescent psychology to be an effective and efficient academic instrument.

Without change, adaptation and evolution, survival is not possible. This is because unlike the equation, all other things are never constant; our environment, society, the people in it, their expectations are always changing. And thus we need to also change to as to survive the dynamism whilst also making malleable and flexible the systems that bind us.

Thus, the New Education Policy 2020 defines the New Evolutionary Paradigms of Education. With the introduction of NEP 2020, there is a complete shift from the timeworn orthodox approaches to a brand new holistic methodology in the field of academia. Emphasis is given to Competency-Based Education or CBE, and Competency-Based Assessment.

## **The Old Way**

As educators ourselves, no one understands it more as to how education has changed through the years for the better. The number of opportunities – that are so often taken for granted – which students have today such as: choice of multiple languages to be chosen for career pro, an array of sports activities, a more streamlined curriculum and a diverse range of subjects are all something we, in our day and age did not even dream of having.

Learning an additional language, or engaging in a sport that was not taught as part of the regular curriculum was a luxury only few could afford. And thus, we understand the value of it all.

## **Winds of Change**

It is obvious that with every passing generation, knowledge changes. The old knowledge is either debunked or it is built upon. Thus, what we as educators learned in Grade XII, students these days are learning in Grade X, that too, in a more specialised form.

Not just education, but the modes and methods of education have gradually evolved from using PPTs as merely something one would learn as part of one's computer and IT course at school to using PPTs in everyday classroom sessions.

Who ever thought a day would come wherein one would have to rely solely on online classrooms and learning in the absence of physical classrooms.

## **A Competition Fierce**

“If you do not study hard, you will be left behind in the rat race.” This is something most, if not every child has heard from their parents. And it is true. With the ever-increasing population, dearth of jobs – let alone worthy jobs – unless one does well in what they do, they will be left behind.

One has to be in the forefront to be in demand. But that brings us to another issue. To be in the forefront of studies or our career, one needs to be passionate about it. Regardless of incentive, initiative and interest is lost when one is not in a career of his or her choosing.

## **“Choose a job that you love...”**

“Choose a job that you love and you will never have to work a single day.” Wise is the anonymous man who said this. As parents, especially in India, we are so focused on making our children take up two primary streams: medical or engineering.

Many a times, we do this because we either feel these two streams are the most desired and “prestigious” streams; or we, as parents, are fulfilling our dreams through our children; both of these approaches is incorrect.

What stream was most desired a decade ago, is passé now. Forget every passing generation, with every passing year, akin to technology, new jobs and new avenues are being birthed in the industry.

### **The Hand that Feeds You**

As Thomas Edison said, “I have not failed. I’ve just found ten thousand ways that won’t work.”

We continue to spoon-feed and hand-hold our children (in our own ways) even till adulthood, channeling their destiny to suit our own whim. But we all know, spoon-feeding and spoon-feeding is grossly incorrect after a certain age. Why? Because we make the children dependent rather than independent: independent actors, doers and thinkers.

Unless we allow our children to fail, they will not learn to be independent, and will never understand, appreciate, value and respect success.

### **Pre-NEP 2020**

Before the advent of NEP 2020, the Indian education system underwent several reforms. Most of these reforms were made to ensure ease of access and equity of education

**The National Policy on Education 1986 which was later modified in 1992 (NPE 1986/92):** The prime objective of the National Policy of Education of 1986 and Programme of Action, 1992 was to establish a national system of education implies that all students irrespective of caste; creed, sex, and religion have access to education of a comparable quality.

Another chief improvement since the preceding Policy of 1986/ 92 has been the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 which laid down the legal foundations for attaining universal elementary education.

### **Steps in NEP 2020**

The National Education Policy 2020 envisages an education system that is founded on Indian tenets, and which contributes directly to transforming India sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledgeable society by providing high-quality education to all, and thereby making India a global knowledge superpower.

The Policy envisions that the curriculum and pedagogy of our institutions must develop among the students a deep sense of respect towards the Fundamental Duties and Constitutional values, bonding with one’s country, and a conscious awareness of one’s roles and responsibilities in a changing world.

The vision of the Policy is to instill among the learners a deep-rooted pride in being Indian, not only in thought, but also in spirit, intellect, and deeds, as well as to develop knowledge, skills, values, and dispositions that support responsible commitment to human rights, sustainable development and living, and global well-being, thereby reflecting a truly global citizen

### **From the Realistic Vantage Point**

The National Education Policy 2020 has been founded on principles of our ancient Gurukul System. We are going back to the basics where we focus on value systems; on developing cognitive, affective and psychomotor skills; on bringing about commitment and sincerity in work. The emphasis is on developing minds, just not one, but rather ensuring the education of masses.

When we talk of masses, we talk of people in general; people devoid of caste, creed, gender or religion. This brings us to the area of inclusive education. But what is inclusive education?

The UNICEF defines inclusive education as: “all children in the same classrooms, in the same schools. It means real learning opportunities for groups who have traditionally been excluded – not only children with disabilities, but speakers of minority languages too.

Inclusive systems value the unique contributions students of all backgrounds bring to the classroom and allow diverse groups to grow side by side, to the benefit of all.

This is why NEP 2020 strongly focuses on gender equality with emphasis on educating the girl child; and on tribal education.

In today’s world, knowledge and information isn’t everything. Earlier, it was believed that the more one has of these, the more one walks the path of success. Now, the focus is on skill-sets and the right attitude so that one is prepped to face the outside world.

Speaking of world, education is now globalized, and so it has also become essential to know multiple languages. NEP 2020 emphasises strongly on this: stressing on the need to learn Indian languages as well whilst not neglecting foreign languages.

If one were to read the NEP 2020 dossier, one can see how stress has been laid not just on academics but also on co and extra-curriculars, and on life skills. Activities such as community involvement and support; sharing of resources; SAFAL, PARAKH and holistic report cards; replacing 10+2 with 5+3+3+4; and credit points at the higher levels of education; adult education and lifelong learning and many more such improvements are stated in the NEP 2020 document.

### **In Closing**

These are not mere changes or amendments but are in toto an evolution in education.

The evolution of education is not merely restricted to a revision of texts but involves the holistic reformation of all aspects of academia: teaching methodology, teacher training, student participation, assessments, evaluations and reporting. Providing holistic education requires establishing a complete revamp, renovation and remodeling of the education system itself.

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