



## Delimiting the Major Features of the National Education Policy 2020, Discuss How It Aims at Transforming the Vision for Education in India.(250 Words / 15 M) (GS-2 Education)

### Approach:

1. Intro – define the objective of NEP 2020.
2. Mention pointwise, the highlighting features of NEP, transforming the vision for Indian education.
3. Conclusion

The **National Education Policy 2020** envisages *reimagining the educational landscape* through **equity, inclusion and excellence** in education. Based on the **pillars of “Accessibility, Equity, Affordability, Accountability”**, NEP aims at transforming India into a vibrant knowledge hub.

### Notable Features:

- With almost **85% brain development of children occurring before the age of 6**, the policy emphasizes **early childhood care** and **education by universal provisioning** and **equipping young children to flourish through a participative educational ecosystem**. Schools are to gradually move towards a **flexible, multilevel, play-based and inquiry-driven learning**.
- It is breaking the shackles by adopting a **curricular framework and classroom pedagogy** based on **5+3+3+4 system**, starting **at the age 3** with **primacy on the formative years in shaping the child’s future**.
- The focus on **instruction in mother tongue** celebrates the **idea of Indianness, globalizing Indian thoughts** and **eulogizing the rich cultural heritage** by bringing them to the classrooms. The policy necessitates the **3-language formula** and its implementation to **promote multilingualism**.
- **Shifting assessment to a diagnostic approach – from content-based assessment to competency-based assessment** that **tests primarily the core competencies** rather than rote learning. **Optimizing learning through testing higher order skills (analysis, critical thinking, conceptual clarity, etc.)**, substituting age-old marks system, will result in **holistic development** of children.
- **Holistic development** is also envisaged through **wide choice of subjects & courses – a new distinguishing feature of secondary school education**. With the idea of child-centric, integrated learning, schools are to **break away from the straitjackets of arts, commerce and science**, and introduce **vocational courses with internships**. The policy envisages **100% Gross Enrolment Ratio in school education by 2030**.
- It **induces scientific temper and evidence-based thinking, a sense of aesthetics**. It also **resonates with the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution** by trying to integrate contemporary subjects like **AI, design thinking, organic living**, etc., in curricular and pedagogical initiatives.



- 
- To ensure **teacher quality across all stages**, the policy envisions **teacher career progression via meritocracy & 360 degree assessment**.
  - For **more equitable & inclusive** education, the NEP has intertwined **gender identities, socio-cultural identities, geographical identities, and socio-economic disabilities** to create a **new social group** called **Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs)**.
  - It aims to provide **infrastructure support, innovative education centers** to **bring back dropouts into the mainstream** by **tracking students & their learning levels**. It will facilitate **multiple learning pathways** involving **formal & informal modes** and association of **counsellors & social workers**.

All these envisioned reforms reflect that India is evolving as a **knowledge-based economy**, that **values equitable, inclusive and high-quality education**, contributing directly to India's long-term transformation.

Legacy IAS Academy