

# NATIONAL POLICY ON EDUCATION

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The **National Policy on Education** (NPE) is a policy formulated by the Government of India to promote education amongst India's people. The policy covers elementary education to colleges in both rural and urban India. The first NPE was promulgated in 1968 by the government of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and the second by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1986. The government of India has appointed a new committee under K. Kasturirangan to prepare a Draft for the new National Education Policy in 2017.<sup>[1]</sup> All education boards in India like CISCE and CBSE are based on this policy.

## History

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Since the country's independence in 1947, the Indian government sponsored a variety of programmes to address the problems of illiteracy in both rural and urban India. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India's first Minister of Education, envisaged strong central government control over education throughout the country, with a uniform educational system. The Union government established the University Education Commission (1948–1949), the Secondary Education Commission (1952–1953), university Grants Commission and the Kothari Commission (1964–66) to develop proposals to modernise India's education system. The Resolution on Scientific Policy was adopted by the government of Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister. The Nehru government sponsored the development of high-quality scientific education institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology. In 1961, the Union government formed the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) as an autonomous organisation that would advise both the Union and state governments on formulating and implementing education policies.<sup>[2]</sup>

## 2019

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In 2019, the Ministry of Human Resource Development released a Draft New Education Policy 2019, which was followed by a number of public consultations.<sup>[3]</sup> The Draft NEP discusses reducing curriculum content to enhance essential learning, critical thinking and more holistic experiential, discussion-based and analysis-based learning.<sup>[4]</sup> It also talks

about a revision of the curriculum and pedagogical structure from a 10+2 system to a 5+3+3+4 system design in an effort to optimise learning for students based on cognitive development of children.

## **1992**

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The 1986 National Policy on Education was modified in 1992 by the P.V. Narasimha Rao government.<sup>[5]</sup> In 2005, Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh adopted a new policy based on the "Common Minimum Programme" of his United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government.<sup>[6]</sup> Programme of Action (PoA), 1992 under the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 envisaged conduct of a common entrance examination on all India basis for admission to professional and technical programmes in the country. For admission to Engineering and Architecture/Planning programmes, Government of India vide Resolution dated 18 October 2001 has laid down a Three – Exam Scheme (JEE and AIEEE at the National Level and the State Level Engineering Entrance Examinations (SLEEE) for State Level Institutions – with an option to join AIEEE). This takes care of varying admission standards in these programmes and helps in maintenance of professional standards. This also solves problems of overlaps and reduces physical, mental and financial burden on students and their parents due to multiplicity of entrance examinations.

## **1986**

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Having announced that a new policy was in development in January, 1985, the government of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi introduced a new National Policy on Education in May, 1986.<sup>[7]</sup> The new policy called for "special emphasis on the removal of disparities and to equalise educational opportunity," especially for Indian women, Scheduled Tribes (ST) and the Scheduled Caste (SC) communities.<sup>[7]</sup> To achieve such a social integration, the policy called for expanding scholarships, adult education, recruiting more teachers from the SCs, incentives for poor families to send their children to school regularly, development of new institutions and providing housing and services.<sup>[7]</sup> The NPE called for a "child-centred

approach" in primary education, and launched "Operation Blackboard" to improve primary schools nationwide.<sup>[8]</sup> The policy expanded the open university system with the Indira Gandhi National Open University, which had been created in 1985.<sup>[8]</sup> The policy also called for the creation of the "rural university" model, based on the philosophy of Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi, to promote economic and social development at the grassroots level in rural India.<sup>[8]</sup> 1986 education policy expected to spent 6% of GDP on education.

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The National Education Policy of 1986 emphasized scholarships for the poor, adult education, reorientation of the system to promote gender equality, employment of teachers from oppressed groups, and disabled persons. Physical and mental health and areas requiring special attention. Special and also the development of new schools and universities.

All these political initiatives after independence have produced important results in all areas, such as school enrollment, increased spending on education, growth in literacy rates, the universalization of education, etc.

## **1968**

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*Based on the report and recommendations of the Kothari Commission (1964–1966), the government of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi announced the first National Policy on Education in 1968, which called for a "radical restructuring" and equalise educational opportunities in order to achieve national integration and greater cultural and economic development.<sup>[9]</sup> The policy called for fulfilling compulsory education for all children up to the age of 14, as stipulated by the Constitution of India, and the better training and qualification of teachers.<sup>[9]</sup> The policy called for focus on learning of regional languages, outlining the "three language formula" to be implemented in secondary education - the instruction of the English language, the official language of the state where the school was based, and Hindi.<sup>[9]</sup> Language education was seen as essential to reduce the gulf between the intelligentsia and the masses. Although the decision to adopt Hindi as the national*

*language had proven controversial, the policy called for use and learning of Hindi to be encouraged uniformly to promote a common language for all Indians.<sup>[9]</sup> The policy also encouraged the teaching of the ancient Sanskrit language, which was considered an essential part of India's culture and heritage . The NPE of 1968 called for education spending to increase to six percent of the national income.<sup>[10]</sup> As of 2013, the NPE 1968 has moved location on the national website.<sup>[11]</sup>*

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In accordance with the recommendations of this Committee, the 1968 National Education Policy was formulated. The most important development in the improvement of the education sector was national policy. Of education in 1968. Education perspectives have been directed to all sectors of society to achieve the goal of harmony and integration. The use of regional languages in secondary schools was encouraged to establish an effective relationship between teachers and pupils. Excellence was given to Indians as a means of education in schools.

There was a sense that education had the potential to act as a popular tool for social, economic and political change. Educational objectives are rather linked to long-term national aspirations. In addition, the government has established committees to study the development of modern-day education, especially since independence, has come to the conclusion that Indian education requires radical reconstruction, almost a revolution. Goals and deal with the various problems facing the country.

The 1979 National Education Policy Project proposed the development of an education system that not only helps people improve their knowledge but also their academic skills. There has been a paradigm shift in government methodology.

The main aim was to educate students about ethics and ethics so they can develop a good personality and become deserving citizens. It was suggested that a good educational system should be developed to promote constitutional values.

## Related Policies

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Right to Education (RTE) - Article 21-A in the Constitution of India to provide free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right

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- National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL)
- Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) for development of secondary education, launched in 2009.
- Saakshar Bharat (Saakshar Bharat/Adult Education) <sup>[14]</sup> to create a literate society through a variety of teaching learning programmes for non-literate and neo-literate of 15 years and above.
- Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) for development of higher education, launched in 2013.<sup>[15]</sup>
- Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) - overarching programme for the school education to ensure equitable learning outcomes
- Inclusive Education for the Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS)
- District Primary Education Program (DPEP) - launched in 1994 as a major initiative to revitalise the primary education system and to achieve the objective of universalisation of primary education.
- Draft National Policy on Education 2019