

“National Education Policy-2020: Poverty Alleviation opportunity and challenges in India”

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• Abstract:

At present, the Indian economy is facing many challenges in the 21st century Poverty is one of them. In This ResearchPaper summaries the Current Situation of Poverty in India andRole of National Education Policy in Poverty Alleviation, Causes of poverty. Poverty can be defined as a phenomenon on which a section of the Society is unable to fulfil even its basic necessities of life.

India is the second largest populous country and one of the largest economies in the world. But only a small percentage of the Indian population has benefited this impressive growth so far, as the majority of people in India are still living in abject poverty because mostly people are illiterate and unemployment.

Education plays a vital role in the development of the poorest sections of the society whether in rural or urban areas. Nowadays, education and poverty are inextricably linked. Better education increases individual and family income and helps break the cycle of poverty, but the paradox is that children from families below the poverty line are less likely to go to school to earn the income needed by poor families to break the cycle of poverty.

Before we examine different efforts aimed at poverty alleviation, we should try to understand Poverty Issues and New education Policy in India. This particular Research Paper presents on concept of Poverty, New Education Policy, Education Budget, figures of Indian poverty, causes of poverty and Measures of poverty Alleviation.

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- **Keyword:**

Poverty line, Education, Absolute Poverty, Relative Poverty, Health, HDI, New Education Policy, MHRD, NEP

- **Introduction:**

Prime Minister Shri. NarendraModiji said on the 75th Independence Day that when poor children will become professionals after studying in their mother tongue as envisaged under the NEP, only then will justice be done to their abilities. Now we are 74 years of Independence in India, today we are the fastest growing Economy of the world. But this growth is not shared throughout the society, the development will be failed. Poverty continues to remain a serious problem in India, with its consequent toll on human welfare in the form of poor health, low levels of education and a poor quality of life. The epidemic of Covid-19 has hampered the poverty alleviation program. Poverty has an impact on economic growth and low economic growth has an impact on poverty. Out of the total population living in the rural parts of India, 25.7% is living below the poverty line whereas in the urban areas, the situation is a bit better with 13.7% of the population living below the poverty line.

- **Objectives of the study:**

The following are the objectives of the study:

1. The First objective of the research paper is to study the concepts of Poverty.
2. The Second objective of the research paper is to highlight New Education Policy.
3. The Third objective of the research paper is to study Role of National Education Policy in Poverty Alleviation

- **Research Methodology:**

This paper is prepared through done with help of the information from secondary data sources that are from various websites, journals, Research articles, newspapers and magazines, Books related to Poverty and New Education Policy.

- **Definition of Poverty:**

Poverty is a complex phenomenon, with multiple dimensions, which cannot be captured by a single definition applicable to all societies and regions at all times.

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“Poverty is a condition in which a person lacks the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living.”

World Bank has defined poverty as: “Poverty is hunger. Poverty is lack of shelter. Poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor. **Poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read.** Poverty is not having a job, is fear for the future, living one day at a time. Poverty is losing a child to illness brought about by unclean water. Poverty is powerlessness, lack of representation and freedom.”

A. Determinants of Poverty:

A Researcher identified some major determinants of poverty.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Lack of income | 2. Landlessness |
| 3. Lack of livelihood sources | 4. Inadequacy of infrastructure |
| 5. Unemployment | 6. Lack of housing |
| 7. Ill-health | 8. Illiteracy |
| 9. Lack of food | 10. Lack of Advanced Technology |

B. Causes of Poverty in India:-

1. High population growth rate:

High population growth rate is one of major reasons of poverty in India. Illiteracy, poor health care facilities and lack of access to financial resources and high population growth affects the per capita income and makes per capita income even lower.

2. Increasing prices :-

Ever increasing prices of even basic commodities is reason of poverty. Caste system and unequal distribution of income and resources is another reason of poverty in India.

3. Climatic factors:-

Natural calamities such as frequent floods, disasters, earthquake and cyclone cause heavy damage to agriculture. Agriculture is stated to be the major occupation of

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the rural people; downfall of agriculture and lack of production will certainly be the major cause of poverty for them.

4. Low Productivity:-

There is relationship between real income and poverty, increase in real income leads to the reduction in poverty. In the agricultural sector, even today the traditional cultivation techniques are being employed by the farmers, leading to low productivity and hence resulting in poverty.

5. Unequal Distribution:-

Unequal distribution of land and other assets, land and other forms of assets constitute the main source of income of the rural people. The size wise distribution of operational holdings is vested in the hands of few farmers; therefore the other farmers suffer from poverty to a major extent.

6. Poor Village Industries:-

Village industries are poor in their comparison in terms of quality and productivity, as a result village industries are closing down, in this way, and individuals employed are losing their jobs and suffering from the conditions of poverty.

7. Immobility of Labour:-

If they are offered a job with higher wages, they are not willing to leave their homes and travel to another place to earn their living and take their conditions as they are.

8. Lack of Employment Opportunities:-

Lack of employment opportunities, unemployment leads to major poverty, because of lack of employment opportunities, people are either unemployed or underemployed, small and marginal farmers and landless agricultural labourer's constitute unemployed and underemployed population.

9. Caste System:-

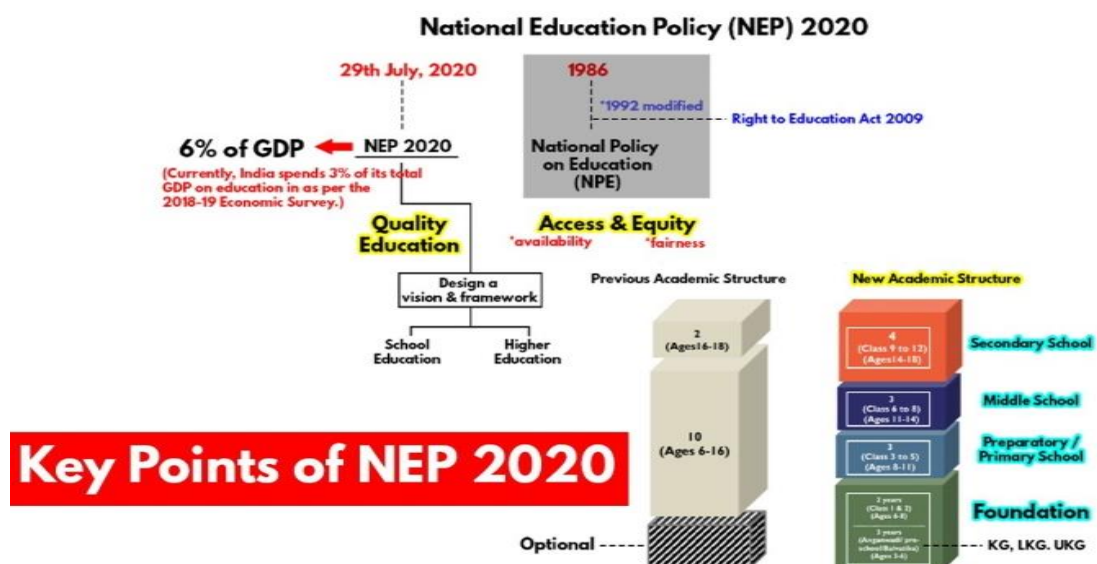
The caste system, caste system in India has always been responsible for rural poverty. The subordination of the low caste people by the high caste people has caused the poverty of the former. The caste system in some areas was so rigid that it did not allow the low caste people to render their participation in economic development.

10. Joint family system:-

In the joint family system some of the members of the family take undue advantage of living in a joint family by depending upon the income of others. They become idlers and their normal life routine just consists of eating, sleeping and begetting children; in this manner there are few earning members and the family becomes large, hence resulting in poverty.

The Indian Government to use this opportunity to use expansionary fiscal Policy and Redirect both Public and Private Investment towards the creation of Infrastructure and the Provision of Basic needs. It is only with such a determined effort that any future growth will actually deliver poverty Reduction.

C. Features of National Education Policy:-



The New National Education Policy is nothing short of revolutionary in the education system in India. After our education policy monotonously followed the same norms for 34 years, the Ministry of Education (formerly known as MHRD) did some serious amendments in it on 29 July 2020. This New National Education Policy was recently approved by the Indian government in 2023. Major Reforms in Education Policy There will be no substantial distinction between arts, science, academic, vocational, curricular, and subjects of extracurricular streams. There are some other major changes which are made under the education system of India such are given below:-

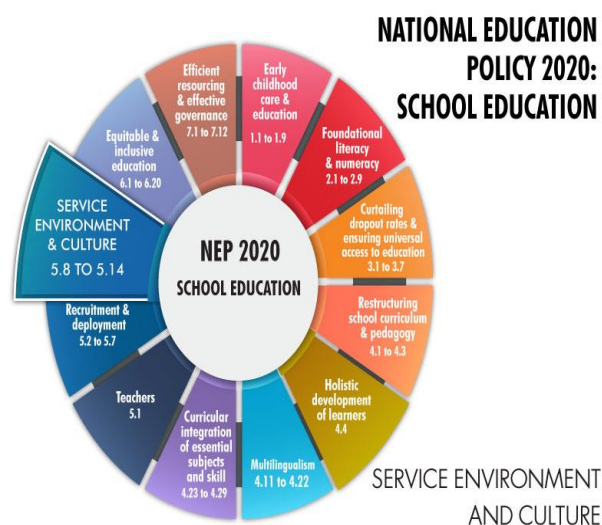
1. The prime minister of India will head the National Education Commission

2. Academic Bank of credit (ABC) will be made to provide help in education by utilizing credit

3. The National Research Foundation will improve research and innovation

4. The preference will be given to the representative group in disadvantaged region by creating a special education zone

5. A new platform will be created to facilitate the exchange of ideas to improve learning on a platform of National Education Technology.



➤ School Education

Instead of exams being held every academic year, school students will only attend three exams, in classes 2, 5, and 8.

This policy aims at reducing the curriculum load of students and allowing them to be more “inter-disciplinary” and “multi-lingual”. Coding will introduce in class 6 and experiential learning will be adopted. The Midday Meal Scheme will extend to include breakfasts. More focus will be given to students’ health, particularly mental health, through the deployment of counsellors and social workers.

➤ Higher Education

- It proposes a 4-year multi-disciplinary bachelor’s degree in an undergraduate program with multiple exit options. These will include professional and vocational areas and will implement as follows-
- A certificate after completing 1 year of study
- A diploma after completing 2 years of study



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- A Bachelor's degree after completion of a 3-year programme
- A 4-year multidisciplinary Bachelor's degree (the preferred option)

D. NEP Major Outcomes:-

Some of the major outcomes of this policy are as follows: –

1. Mother tongue or regional language will be used as a medium of instruction for teaching the students.
2. Counselling will be given to the parents for the early childhood care.
3. Qualitative education will be provided to the students also Qualitative opportunities in the field of higher education will be provided to the individuals.
4. With the adoption of modern technology, education will reach to a higher one.
5. After studying analytical based subjects, students will be able to think critically and logically after participating in the discussion session organized by the school authorities.
6. Children with special needs will be given same facilities as the normal student's access and Promotion will be based on the merit-based test.
7. After the set-up of Digital Library, students will be able to access digital form of books online. With the set-up of virtual labs, students of science & technology will get experimental knowledge at their phase of under graduation studies.

E. Opportunity and challenges National Education Policy in Poverty Alleviation in India:-

Some of the major Opportunity and challenges in Poverty Alleviation in India of this policy are as follows

1. Education is recognized as one of the most important determinants of economic development. Education increases labour productivity in both urban and rural areas, and the economic return on investment in education is generally high. If the new education policy is strictly implemented, with increased level of education, economic output increases, poverty decreases, thus developing the entire region leading to overall development of the nation.
2. New education policies hold the key to increasing economic efficiency and social cohesion by raising worker income and efficiency and bringing the poor above the poverty line.

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3. The New Education Policy provides a foundation for poverty alleviation and economic development through technical and vocational education. This is the foundation on which the economic and social welfare of citizens rests.
4. Inclusion of poor students in this new education policy can increase the overall productivity and intellectual flexibility of the labour force, enabling countries to remain competitive in a global market characterized by changing technology and production methods.
5. The Constitution of India has given every citizen the right to live with dignity. The country is taking several measures to ensure this fundamental right. Apart from food, shelter and clothing, education is one of the primary needs in modern life. Prominent among them are the universalization of compulsory and free primary education to all children of school age through the New Education Policy.
6. Education is a powerful tool to reduce poverty and unemployment, improve health and nutrition, and achieve sustainable development. This goal can be achieved through a new education policy.
7. The returns from education are not only financial but also social. Education changes thinking, behaviour and attitude, increases awareness, develops personality for the development of the country and welfare of the people. For this, it is necessary to provide good and free of cost education to the poor.
8. The mid-day meal program has improved enrolment in schools. But many children are deprived of primary education due to social and economic factors such as child marriage, poverty and forced labour. Also lack of facilities in government schools, especially for girls, is another obstacle. Although the SarvaShikshaAbhiyan has helped improve infrastructure, it has not done enough to meet the expectations of the poor, if this is done through a new education policy, poverty can be eradicated.

New National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a means to “fight poverty” as it encourages teaching in mother tongue and meets the needs of the 21st century. “When our poor daughters and sons will become professionals after studying in their mother tongue then only justice will be done to their abilities. I consider NEP a means to fight against poverty.”

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F. Conclusion:

In this Covid-19 pandemic struck India when it recorded its lowest economic growth in over a decade. The slowing economy had disproportionately impacted the rural areas, where the country's majority of consumers and poor reside. Many families living in the world's poorest countries must meet their basic needs with an income of less than \$1.90 a day. Nearly 10 percent of the world's population lives in this type of extreme poverty. According to the Global Hunger Index Report 2018 by the International Food Research Institute, India ranks 103 in the Global Hunger Index (GHI). Though there is no shortage of food production in India, our nation still has 35.8% of children under five in the underweight category. India is working hard to become a superpower in 2020, but such statistics are worrisome, as our nation still lags behind in improving GHI. At the same time, India seems to have achieved commendable success towards poverty eradication, because it is no longer the country with the largest number of poor people. There is a strong relationship between Poverty and Inequality, Unemployment, Hunger and Malnutrition. Ignoring negative aspects, Positive aspects can be taken into consideration in order to improve the Economy of our country.

Education is indispensable to economic development and poverty eradication. No economic development is possible without education. A balanced education system promotes not only economic development, but productivity, and generates individual income per capita. Its influence is noticeable at the micro level of an individual family whose combination makes up the nation.

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