

## **“Impact of National Education Policy 2020 on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)”**

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### **Abstract**

“The destiny of India is being shaped in her classroom” – Education Commission (1964-66).

In light of the above quotation of Education Commission 1964-66 it has been pointed out that transformation of India depends only on education. The holistic development of society as well as nation depends on quality education which imparted to citizen by their nation. Therefore, sustainable development of India is depends on all round development of nation i.e. technological development, quality health service, good communication system, well transport, high per capita income, infrastructure development, pollution free environment, maintain well democratic values in the nation and transform citizen to well and good human resource. But those are possible if nation provide good quality education in all stage. Not only that foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) is most important as because foundational stage is the base for every children. This stage also known as early childhood stage or pre-school stage. In that stage child care i.e. proper nutrition, food, immunization, and education i.e. create concept on alphabet, colour, shape, mother language, values, norms and relationship etc. are most important. Therefore, NEP 2020 focuses on early childhood care and education for holistic development of children. Therefore, NEP 2020 recommended and suggested various activities, norms and methods for early childhood care and education. This policy highlights that ECCE is the preoperational stage. For this reason this policy adopted several steps i.e. no examination should be conducted before class III, no formal education should be given to pre-school children. Early children can learn life skills on the basis of play way method. Therefore, this policy welcomes revolution and India must be lead in the world as knowledge super power.

**Keywords:** ECCE, NEP 2020, Holistic Development, FLN, Knowledge Superpower etc.

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**Introduction:**

Education is the most powerful instrument to modify all aspects of human life i.e. modification of behaviour, skills, values, ethics, belief system, culture, society and nation. “Education is the process of cultivating completeness in human being” - Bhagavad Gita. Therefore, education is the only thing by which India can transform as a knowledge super power. The main slogan of Education commission 1964-66 has become true i.e. the destiny of India is being shaped in her classroom. Thus, classroom should be as like as powerhouse by whom India should be transferred knowledge super power. Not only that citizen of India should be achieved full potentiality. As a result our people can be developed as quality human resource and also grow the economy of the society as well as the nation. Therefore, quality development in all dimensions of our society and nation can be possible through quality education. For this purpose NEP 2020 has an important agenda for sustainable development by 2030.

Therefore, NEP 2020 has suggested several recommendations to develop our education system in all stages of education. The structure of school education should be change from 10 + 2 to 5 + 3 + 3 + 4. More importance has given to foundation state i.e. 5 (five) years preparational stages. In these stage pre-schools children should prepare themselves by play way learning method. No examination should be conducted in foundational stage. Further, in early childhood care and education stage children learn mother language, create concept on alphabets, number, shapes, and colour etc. Evolution should be 360 degree and holistic development of early child care and education is the main motto of education of foundational stage.

Therefore, all pre-school institute i.e. Anganwadi institute also marge with primary school. All stages of school should be renovated or redesigned with modern technology i.e. more ICT should be used form pre-school to higher educational institutions. Especially foundational stage of education should be adopted machine learning and artificialintelligence (AI) should be used in teaching learning. Energized books and materials also used in school teaching learning. Medium of instruction for the students of foundation stage should be mother language. NEP 2020 also highest importance on pedagogy. It should be as per student's needs, no root method should be applied and instead of root method classroom learning should be linked with practical life. Therefore, more experiential, scientific, technology

base and life skill holistic developmental education should be provided. Thus, curriculum should be designed as activities based, experience oriented, holistic developmental oriented, integrated several subjects and knowledge, enquiry based, discovery oriented, vocational based, student centric, flexible, value oriented, humanistic and must be enjoyable. Further, NEP 2020 also recommended sports, games, crafts, arts, cultures, rituals etc. also included into the curriculum. As a result, these new scientific, ethical, logical and technology based curriculum and education fulfil the needs and demands of our learners. Further, it create empowerment, jobs, entrepreneurship, functional literacy, economic growth, and overall fulfil the sustainable developmental goal and transform India to highest quality education by 2040. These, highest quality of education should be provided from early childhood care and education to higher education.

### **Significance of the study:**

This study has very much need and significance. Because, this study investigate and analyse the impact of National Education Policy 2020 on Early Childhood Care and Education. Further, this study also analyse the recommendations of NEP 2020 for foundational education, curriculum, pedagogy of ECCE, educational infrastructure, medium of instruction, structure of education, source of funds, ICT, books, and methodology of teaching and learning, training of teachers etc. Whereas, this policy also provide suggestions which will be helpful for development of early childhood care and education.

### **Definition of important terms:**

**NEP 2020:** NEP 2020 stands for National Education Policy 2020. It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Policy on Education. 1<sup>st</sup> National Education Policy came into force on 1968 and 2<sup>nd</sup> national policy on education was 1986 and after 34 year later the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Education Policy 2020 came into existence. This education policy provides many important recommendations to develop our education system for future India. This policy covers nursery to university stages of education.

**ECCE:** The full form of ECCE is Early Childhood Care and Education. In this study early childhood denotes children who belong to 3 – 6 years of age. Early childhood care means how to child rearing practice during this age group i.e. how to maintain nutrition and food, how to provide good health facilities i.e. immunization, provide iron and folic acid tablets to

maintain good healthy, deworming service, and provide high quality preschool education to prepare for formal education.

**Foundational learning stage:** Foundational learning stage is for children who are come to 3 to 6 years of children. In the present 10+2 system of education they are not counting, but NEP 2020 define that children of Nursery, KG 1, KG 2 or Anganwadi and Class I and Class II should be get foundational learning and this learning should be preparational learning. No examinations should be conducted to this stage. Children should learn through activities and playing.

**Pedagogy:** Pedagogy is the art and science of teaching children's. Pedagogy is also known as teaching and learning methodology for the children whose are basically study in the elementary stages.

**Objectives of the study:**

1. To study the impact of NEP 2020 on ECCE.
2. To study the goals of NEP 2020 on ECCE.
3. To study the recommendations of NEP 2020 on ECCE.
4. To study the structure of education as on NEP 2020.
5. To investigate method of teaching for early childhood students as per NEP 2020.
6. To study the nature of curriculum of foundation stage as on NEP 2020.
7. To study the medium of instruction of foundation stage as on NEP 2020.
8. To study the nature of professional training of teacher of foundation stage as on NEP 2020.
9. To study the roles of teacher for ECCE as on NEP 2020.
10. To study the use of ICT for ECCE as on NEP 2020.

**Methodology of the study:** Descriptive research methods was applied for this study. Because, descriptive research method provide the answer of the specific question what is? (Best and Khan -2006). Therefore, as per nature of this research, descriptive research method was adopted. Relevant data and information was collected from secondary sources i.e. books, journals, websites, articles, educational policies etc.

**Impact of NEP 2020 on ECCE:**

Early Childhood Care and Education is the foundational learning stage, it is the backbone of human development as well as society and nation. 85% of human brain development is

completed in this stage. Whereas, this stages are neglected. Therefore, NEP 2020 given highest importance to this stage. As a result this new educational policy has great impacts on ECCE these are –

- Quality early childhood care and education should be provided as soon as possible and it must be completed within 2030.
- Play way teaching learning should be applied for early childhood care and education.
- Learning should be activity based and rote method should be removed.
- No examination should be organised in this stage.
- Most importance should be given on students' physical and mental health, nutrition, and to ensure mid-day meal, immunisation, time to time health check-up etc.
- NEP 2020 also focused holistic development of early childhood.
- Ensure quality early childhood care and education and completely prepare for Grade I.
- Filled tour should provide for Anganwadis students to introduce natures, environment, society and culture.

#### **Goals of NEP 2020 on ECCE:**

NEP 2020 has several goals to holistic development of children. These are –

- To ensure highest quality universal early childhood care and education.
- To ensure nutritional and food security to the ECCE children of the nation.
- To ensure equity and equality to all section of societies children as per their needs.
- To ensure healthy growth and development.
- To ensure 100 GER (Gross Enrolment Ratio) up to higher secondary level.
- To achieve holistic development of early childhood students in all domains i.e. psycho-physical and motor development, cognitive development, socio-emotional development, values and ethical development, cultural and artistic development, and life skills development and early language, literacy, and numeracy etc.

#### **Recommendations of NEP 2020 on ECCE:**

To sustainable development and modernization of ECCE, NEP 2020 has given important recommendations. These are –

- Socio economically disadvantages areas and district of the country should be given special preference to developed ECCE.

- Early childhood educational institutions or Anganwadis will be modernized and latest technologies will be used for teaching and learning.
- Anganwadis will be co-located with nearby primary schools. Well trained teaching faculties, supporting staffs and worker should be recruited for Anganwadis. School complex should be created and there will be nodal school and under this head or nodal school several primary schools, Anganwadis are included and work co-operatively under the direction of nodal school.

**Structure of school education as on NEP 2020:**

Structure of school education should be 5+3+3+4 instead for 10+2. Therefore, 5 year foundational stage i.e. Nursery, KG 1, and KG2 or Anganwadis, Standard I and Standard II. After foundational stage 3 year denotes Class III, IV and V. than 3 year upper primary i.e. Class VI, VII and VIII. 4 years secondary education i.e. Class IX, X, XI and XII.

**Method of teaching for early childhood students as per NEP 2020:**

Method of teaching is the way or process by which teacher teaches the subject matter or any knowledge to the students. It is the art, skills, and competency of the teacher to provide knowledge to their learners. NEP 2020 suggested several teaching method for early childhood care and education (ECCE) i.e. play way method, indoor-outdoor play, role play, storytelling, activity method or learning by doing, group learning, co-operative learning, inquiry based learning, problem solving method, puzzles, learning with art, craft, drama, logical thinking and problem solving. These methods of teaching should be applied to ECCE institute with a focus on early childhood children's' cognitive, affective and psychomotor development.

**Nature of curriculum of foundation stage as on NEP 2020:**

Curriculum means course of the study for reaching certain goals. Curriculum is the total knowledge which is imparted to the students of all stages of formal education. Formally, it is known as combination of various subjective knowledge, values, morals, ethics and activates. ECCE institute also followed curriculum. But it is different from other stages of education i.e. elementary, secondary, and higher education. Early childhood care and education is the foundational stages of education. Therefore, ECCE institute followed activity based curriculum. In the curriculum of early childhood children's education several innovative ideas and activities should be involved such as indoor and outdoor games, songs, dance,

dramas, art, moral and educational stories, interesting poetry, field tour, etc. During early childhood care and education parents and teachers both are incorporated. Further, local traditions and cultural values should highlight in the curriculum of ECCE.

**Medium of instruction of foundation stage as on NEP 2020:**

Mother language should be the medium of instruction for early childhood care and education. Not only foundational stage, if possible up to class VIII i.e. whole elementary education should be run by mother language. There should be another language which can be learn by the early childhood students i.e. one modern Indian language and international language like English. But main language as a medium of instruction for foundational stage is mother language.

**Nature of professional training of teacher of foundation stage as on NEP 2020:**

Professional training should be required for the teacher of ECCE institute. Time to time orientation programme, seminar, conference, refresher course, and professional teacher training should be organised for Anganwadis teacher or worker. Montessori training and pre-basic training should be mandatory for recruitment of new teacher of Anganwadis and all types of ECCE institute. They are recruited under the teacher recruitment board or authority. Professional teacher training should be given to existing Anganwadis teacher or ECCE institute teachers to improve skills and competency. Minimum 50 hours of training each and every year is mandatory for the teacher. This training should be given by the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET).

**Roles of teacher for ECCE as on NEP 2020:**

Teachers of ECCE institute or Anganwadis has multipurpose roles for holistic development of early childhood students. Teacher always create environment for learning and also act as a role of facilitator. Teacher involve the students various activities i.e. teacher provide projects to their student and this project must student friendly, provide assignments and task, involve students in group activities, co-operative works, applied brain storming, teacher arrange quiz and debate related to children study, arrange educational tour to introduce culture, environment and society. Teacher also arrange time to time PTA (Parents teacher association) to share information regarding early childhood students and all agenda, decision of the meeting should be recorded properly for future purpose.

**Use of ICT for ECCE as on NEP 2020:**

Information and communication technology should be used in all stages of education. NEP 2020 has given special stress on ICT. It is also used in foundation stage of learning. Energized text book should be used in early childhood care and education. Therefore, each and every topic has QR (quick read) code to make education more easy, enjoyable and effective. Satellite channel, Projector, computer, DTH, television, film, social media like YouTube etc. should be used to reach education every corner the country. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and latest technology should be used to make education more interesting, enjoyable and fruitful. Educational app also used to make education comfortable and joyful.

**Conclusion:**

Indian education is entering new era by NEP 2020. It will change the Indian educational system. After observing its recommendations it clear that this National Education Policy makes a bridge between the gap of Indian heritage and modern science and technologies based education. The main goal of NEP 2020 is to make India as a global knowledge super power and Atmanirbhar Bharat by providing quality education to the citizen. Therefore, NEP 2020 touches every stage of education from nursery to university level. Most importance has given to early childhood care and education (ECCE). Because, it is the foundational stage of human beings. The future of society as well as nation depends on this foundational stage. Thus, in the first 5 years of formal education system is preparational stage and in this preparational stage, no pressure should be given to the children for learning. In this stage children learn with playing and other co-curricular activities. No examination should be conducted in the foundational stage. It is scientific and for this reason NEP 2020 given this recommendation to safe our children. Further, one time mid-day meal also introduce to early childhood institute to develop children nutrition and protein. Time to time mental and physical health check-up campaign also conducted by the health worker to maintain holistic development of children. Finally, the study has been concluded by the quotation of Chanakya- "Education is the best friend. An educated person is respected everywhere. Education beats the beauty and the youth".



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