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NEP 2020: A FRAMEWORK FOR REFORMING EDUCATION SYSTEM

The National Education Policy 2020 empowers students with the core benefits of a modern education system—flexibility, employability, innovation, and empowerment



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The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a transformative blueprint aimed at making Indian education more flexible, inclusive, skill-oriented, and aligned with global standards. It places students at the centre of academic reform and prepares them for the dynamic demands of the 21st-century knowledge economy. However, when institutions or states fail to implement NEP-2020 in its true spirit, it is the students who suffer the most. The consequences are not just academic—they are deeply personal, professional, and national.

One of NEP's most pro-

gressive features is the Multiple Entry and Exit (ME-ME) system. This enables students to exit academic programmes after completion of one, two, or three years with an appropriate certificate, diploma, or degree, and return later to complete the programme. This flexibility helps students navigate unforeseen challenges—personal, financial, or health-related—without losing their academic progress. More importantly, it fosters a culture of risk-taking, which is crucial for entrepreneurship. Students can explore ideas, engage in startups, or pursue internships without the fear of being penalised academically.

NEP also promotes the creation of co-working spaces,



incubation centres, and innovation hubs in educational institutions. These platforms offer students the environment and mentorship necessary to convert ideas into real ventures. States and institutions that have not adopted NEP deny students this opportunity to interact with industry, build startups, and become job creators rather than job seekers.

A major loss for students in non-implementing institutions is the ineligibility or limited access to government-supported initiatives such as internships, apprenticeships, innovation fellowships, and startup seed funding schemes. Many of these opportunities are being routed through NEP-aligned frameworks, where students are expected to have academ-



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ic exposure to skills, project-based learning, and credit-linked experiences. Without aligning institutional practices to NEP, students miss out on these crucial government-sponsored platforms for career-building and enterprise development.

NEP further emphasises academic flexibility, allowing students to pursue multidisciplinary education and shift between streams such as science, humanities, and commerce based on their interests and evolving aspirations. Institutions that still follow rigid subject boundaries fail to nurture curiosity and stifle the intellectual development of their students.

The integration of skills and vocational training, along with mandatory internships and apprenticeships, ensures that students graduate with real-world experience. NEP makes it possible for these components to be embedded in the academic curriculum. Without this, students are left with theoretical knowledge dis-

needed from industry needs, leading to poor employability. Additionally, NEP's sup-

port for regional language education and early exposure to research and innovation helps students from diverse backgrounds participate fully in higher education and contribute to new knowledge creation. Ignoring these provisions risks widening inequality and leaving students unprepared for global competition.

In conclusion, non-implementation of NEP-2020 deprives students of the core benefits of a modern education system—flexibility, employability, innovation, and empowerment. It limits their access to government resources, industry collaboration, and global opportunities. To secure the future of India's youth and to build a self-reliant and innovative nation, full and sincere implementation of NEP-2020 is not just desirable—it is imperative.

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