

National Educational Policy 2020: Pros and Cons

All you need to know from the expert Sridhar Samu, Senior Associate Professor of Marketing Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai.



The National Educational Policy 2020 is a bold attempt by the Central government to change how education is imparted from KG to University. Lots of details have already been reported in the press, and so this article will focus on three major benefits/drawbacks of the NEP in UG and Masters Education area.

Pros of NEP

Entry/exit

One of the biggest changes is the ability to leave college at different points in time. This will not only allow students to decide how much to study but also allow them to decide when to study. For example, a student may need to start working after 4 semesters, but have the right and

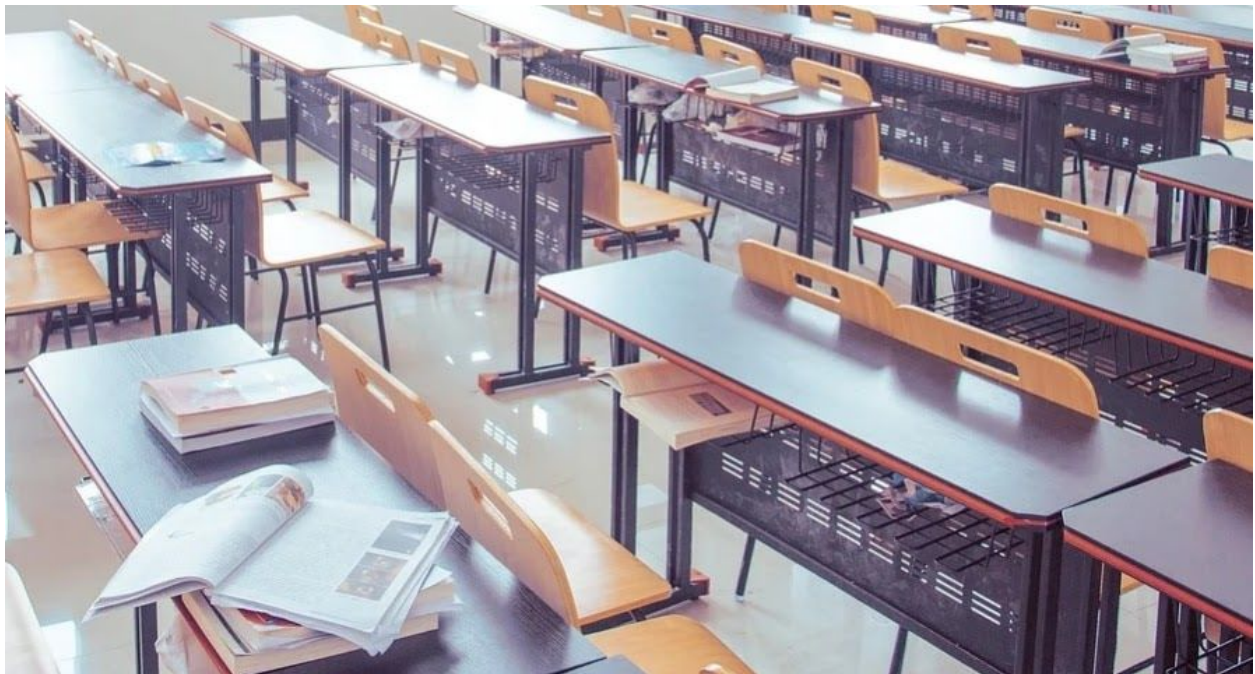
ability to go back at a later time to complete their education and graduate with a 4-year degree. This fits in well with continuous and adult learning where people learn throughout their life. This will also allow students to always be learning what is current and in demand in the market place.

Broad-based education

The NEP offers students the ability to have a broad-based education through multidisciplinary institutions. Why is this important? What we have seen so far is that students in India tend to focus on their subject matter at an early age, whether it is engineering or medicine or law. They miss out on exposure to other aspects of life like humanities and music and arts. There is a general consensus among educators that student learning with multidisciplinary learning leads to higher-order thinking abilities and more in-depth learning.

Learning how to learn

Students need to move away from learning by rote to learning how to learn. They should be able to understand the process of learning and how to integrate different viewpoints and to craft their responses depending on the changing environment and inputs. This requires students to develop their thinking process and to deal with uncertainty, which reflects the real world.



Cons of NEP

Need for dynamic system

In a constantly changing world, the institutions and the curriculum and the teaching process has to become dynamic in order to keep with developments. This is not at all easy to manage as some of the changes may not be known in advance. The use of technology and AI and machine learning tools can potentially be used to make predictions about what to expect in the future. While the NEP mentions the need to be ready for change, not enough emphasis has been placed on how this will happen.

Matching job opportunities

While educators would like students to learn for the pure pleasure of learning, the reality is that a large number of students focus on education with the endpoint of getting a well-paying job. In order for this to happen smoothly, job opportunities during each of the exit points need to be planned well in advance so that students can have a focused approach as they make decisions about when to exit the college system.

Tailored to individual needs

In these days of individualized medicines based on genetics is the rage of the town, can we also consider allowing individualized learning opportunities? While the NEP does allow some amount of individualization, much more needs to be done to make this happen for students. The courses also need to be adaptable for students to learn at their own pace instead of having to keep up with the rest of the class. While this is a difficult scenario, it is important for us to keep this objective in mind and to work towards it.

So, how should youngsters plan their future? While there are some unknowns, it is clear that the future looks good. Students will be better prepared before they reach college, will have opportunities to explore their passions and interests, and learn to study in a better manner. At the same time, they need to be careful of changes as the environment changes and also need to be alert to new career opportunities opening up. All in all, the NEP seems like a good deal.

You can read the original article at this link:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/featureophilia/story/national-educational-policy-2020-pros-and-cons-1714394-2020-08-25>

