

# Inclusive Education in NEP 2020

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## Abstract

*Inclusive education is a foundational component of the National Education Policy (NEP), which seeks to revolutionize the Indian education system. This summary provides an overview of inclusive education as outlined within the NEP framework. The NEP prioritizes ensuring fair access to high-quality education for all individuals, regardless of their background or abilities, thereby nurturing a varied and inclusive learning environment. It advocates for a transition from a segregated to an integrated approach, accommodating students with disabilities, diverse learning styles, and varying cultural backgrounds. The NEP acknowledges the significance of specialized educators and support structures in facilitating the comprehensive development of each student. This abstract underscores the NEP's dedication to fostering inclusivity and diversity, fostering a more equitable and cohesive education system in India.*

**Keywords:** Inclusive Education, National Education Policy, Quality Education.

## Introduction

Education is a tool for human resource development and education. Sustainable Development, National Development Framework. It extends beyond mere education. Inclusive education embodies an approach to learning that respects and addresses the varied needs and capacities of every student, irrespective of their backgrounds, disabilities, or distinctions. Its goal is to foster an inclusive and nurturing learning atmosphere where each individual can actively engage, learn, and flourish. Inclusive education promotes equality, respect, and the idea that diversity enriches the educational experience for everyone involved.

## Inclusive Education

The NEP prioritizes fair access to quality education for all, fostering an inclusive environment that accommodates diverse backgrounds and abilities. It advocates for an integrated approach, recognizing the importance of specialized educators and support systems in facilitating holistic student development, thereby promoting inclusivity and diversity in the Indian education system. Inclusive education is not exclusive to certain children; rather, it

involves innovative approaches to make schools environments where all children can participate. This may entail teachers learning new teaching methods or adapting their lessons to engage all students. Ultimately, inclusive education reflects the belief that all children should be valued and accepted throughout their lives.

### **The Goals and Objectives of Inclusive Education**

- Foster an inclusive environment where all individuals are welcomed and embraced, and where challenges and triumphs are shared collectively.
- Enhance human dignity and challenge societal stereotypes by promoting equality and respect for each individual.
- Provide disabled students with the chance to fully participate in school interactions and gain a realistic understanding of the diverse and competitive nature of society, considering both their capabilities and limitations.
- Create abundant opportunities for students to cultivate self-esteem, which is essential for leading a dignified and fulfilling life.

### **Concept of Inclusive Education**

Integrated or inclusive education, a recent trend in education, diverges from past practices of institutionalization, separation, or segregation for children with special needs. Rather than creating separate institutions or special schools, inclusive education advocates for enrolling all children in the same school. This approach requires schools to undergo changes to accommodate all students, ensuring they have the opportunity to participate in the same classroom as their peers, regardless of differences, and receive the best possible exposure to the curriculum.

### **Significance of Inclusive Education**

Inclusive education provides numerous benefits: fostering a sense of community and preparing children for life within it, enhancing learning opportunities by motivating children with diverse abilities, elevating expectations for all students, allowing children to pursue personal goals alongside peers of the same age, promoting parental involvement, nurturing a culture of respect and acceptance, and facilitating the development of friendships among all children, fostering personal growth.

### **Review of Related Literature**

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has had a revolutionary effect on India's educational system, according to research by A Tripathi et al. (2023), which focuses on special education and inclusion. This study takes a look at the elements of NEP 2020 that pertain to these topics, demonstrating how it can change the country's educational system such that it is more inclusive, equitable, and excels.

Focusing on efforts within NEP-2020, Dr. Arthi Bhatnagar et al. (2022) explore inclusive education as an essential component in attaining societal inclusion. Equity, equal access, dignity, effective communication, and cultural acceptability are some of the key points in their article that detail measures to remove obstacles to education for everyone. Along with government measures for inclusivity and the empowerment of teachers to create inclusive classrooms, they suggest implementing the "6 E's of the 5R's" - Access, Ownership, Responsibility, Relationship, and Respect - to meet the needs of various learners. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a 21st-century effort to meet India's developmental needs, as pointed out by Konkee Devi (2022). In line with Sustainable Development Goal 4, the strategy suggests a complete overhaul

of the educational system, encompassing regulation and administration. The text highlights the significance of ensuring that all students, irrespective of their background or skills, have access to a high-quality education. For a developing nation like India, inclusive education is not an advantage but a need, according to Navita Malik et al. (2020). In order to guarantee that children from diverse backgrounds and abilities have the right to attend formal education, their article covers numerous government initiatives, including the RPWD Act 2016. In order to promote development, these policies stress the significance of inclusive education.

### **National Policy on Education (1986, 1992)**

The aim is to integrate physically and mentally handicapped individuals as equal members of the community, preparing them for normal growth and equipping them to face life confidently. Measures include integrating education for children with mild handicaps with their peers, providing special schools with hostels, implementing comprehensive vocational training programs for disabled individuals, revising teacher training programs to address challenges in teaching children with disabilities, and actively supporting voluntary initiatives promoting education for individuals with disabilities.

### **Recommendations of Ramamurthy Committee, 1991**

The Government of India established the Ramamurthy committee to provide feedback on the stipulations outlined in the National Policy on Education (NPE) and Programme Of Action (POA). Among the specific observations mentioned in the NPE 1986 were directives regarding individuals with disabilities. The NPE promoted a policy of integrating both physically and mentally handicapped individuals with the wider community, treating them as equal partners.

### **National Education Policy 2020**

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in India has significant implications for inclusive education, aiming to transform the education system and make it more equitable and inclusive for all students, including those from historically marginalized, disadvantaged, and underrepresented backgrounds.

### **Inclusive Education in NEP 2020**

It was in NEP 2020 that the idea of inclusive education was initially proposed, highlighting how crucial it is today. The 2020 National Education Policy (NEP) stresses the need of creating a welcoming school climate for all students. Infrastructure upgrades and curricular revisions that include lessons on nonviolence, diversity appreciation, inclusiveness, fairness, gender equality, human rights, gender equality, nonviolence, and respect for diversity all contribute to this goal.

### **Impacts of NEP 2020 on Inclusive Education**

NEP 2020 underscores the importance of fostering an inclusive educational framework and culture within the school system, involving infrastructure enhancements and curriculum adaptations to integrate themes centered around fundamental human values. It aims to universalize access to school education and proposes the establishment of Special Education Zones for disadvantaged groups. Additionally, NEP 2020 introduces a Gender Inclusion fund to ensure equal opportunities for all students and emphasizes the integration of inclusion and equity into teacher education. Sensitization efforts and curriculum reforms will create an inclusive school environment, while the policy ambitiously aims for a 100% Gross Enrollment Ratio in school education by 2030. Furthermore, the incorporation of local or regional languages as the medium of instruction removes language barriers for students.

## Conclusion

In 2020, the importance of inclusive education became increasingly apparent. Embracing diversity and cultivating an inclusive learning environment not only advances equity but also enhances the educational journey for everyone involved. As we adapt to a swiftly evolving world, inclusion guarantees that every student, irrespective of their background or abilities, can access learning, flourish, and play a role in fostering a more compassionate and empathetic society.

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