



## **NEP-2020 and Person with Disabilities (Divyangjan)**

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### **Abstract**

National Education Policy-2020 ensures the availability of education for all. This includes provisions for wheelchair ramps, accessible restrooms, sign language interpretation services, and accessible websites. Policies may aim to ensure that persons with disabilities Divyangjan have access to quality education tailored to their needs. This can include funding for special education programs, provision of assistive technologies, and support for inclusive education in mainstream schools and public spaces, transportation, information, and communication technologies are accessible to persons with disabilities (Divyanjan). The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in India has several provisions and policies aimed at improving the educational outcomes for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The NEP 2020 seeks to make education more inclusive and accessible, ensuring that students with disabilities have equal opportunities to succeed. The policy and schemes are aimed at ensuring the rights, inclusion, and empowerment of persons with disabilities in India. However, implementation challenges and gaps still exist, and continuous efforts are needed to address them effectively.

**Keyword:** *NEP2020, Person with Disabilities, Inclusion, UDL, Participation, Policy.*



## **Introduction**

NEP 2020 advocates for the adoption of the Universal Design of Learning, which involves developing flexible learning environments that can accommodate individual learning differences. The policy emphasizes creating barrier-free access to education at all levels for PwDs. This includes physical accessibility of school buildings, classrooms, and other facilities, as well as access to learning materials and technologies. This includes personalized and adaptive instructional methods, and the use of assistive devices and technologies. Government policies for persons with disabilities vary from country to country, but there are some common themes and initiatives aimed at promoting their rights, inclusion, and access to services. Many countries have laws that protect the rights of persons with disabilities Divyangjan. These laws often prohibit discrimination in employment, education, housing, and public services based on disability. Examples include the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in the United States and the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) in the United Kingdom.

World Bank estimates that 15% of the world's population is affected by one disability or another. Exclusion of disabled persons from the labour market leads to an annual loss of approximately 3-7% of the GDP. According to Census 2011, India is home to 26.8 million people with disabilities and that is a huge underestimation. India has signed and ratified the UNCRPD in 2007, the process of enacting a new legislation in place of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 (PWD Act, 1995) began in 2010 to make it compliant with the UNCRPD. After series of consultation meetings and drafting process, Rights of person with disabilities ACT, 2016 was enacted by Rajya Sabha on 14 December 2016 and by the Loksabha on 17 December 2016.

## **Main Provisions in NEP 2020**

The policy provides an expanded and updated definition of disability, covering various physical, sensory, intellectual, and mental health impairments. It recognizes all categories of disabilities, including conditions such as blindness, low vision, hearing



impairment, loco-motor disability, intellectual disability, mental illness, and multiple disabilities.

The National Education Policy underscores the importance of early identification and intervention for children with disabilities. It calls for screening children at a young age to detect disabilities and provide early support through ECCE programs. The policy promotes the training and deployment of special educators at the foundational and elementary stages to support children with disabilities. These educators will be skilled in dealing with different types of disabilities. NEP 2020 mandates the inclusion of disability awareness and inclusive education strategies in teacher education programs. All teachers are to be trained to handle diverse classrooms, including students with disabilities. Teachers will receive continuous professional development opportunities to stay updated on best practices for inclusive education. The policy encourages the development and use of assistive technologies to aid the learning of students with disabilities. This includes digital tools, software, and devices that can help in overcoming various learning challenges.

The NEP 2020 also calls for greater support in higher education through scholarships, accommodations, and assistive technologies. Universities and colleges are to ensure that their campuses are fully accessible to students with disabilities, both in terms of physical infrastructure and digital resources. The policy advocates for the establishment of counselling and support centres in schools and higher education institutions to provide psychological, emotional, and academic support to students with disabilities. NEP 2020 encourages the creation of peer support networks to help students with disabilities integrate better into the educational environment. The policy highlights the importance of collaborating with NGOs, community organizations, and other stakeholders who work in the field of disability to support inclusive education. NEP 2020 recognizes the crucial role of parents and caregivers in the education of children with disabilities and calls for their active involvement in the educational process.



NEP 2020 is promoting inclusion for children with disabilities in society. Inclusion refers to the practice of ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their backgrounds, abilities, or differences, feel valued, respected, and supported within a community or society. In the context of persons with disabilities, inclusion involves creating environments, policies, and attitudes that enable their full participation in all aspects of life, including education, employment, social activities, and public services. Inclusion goes beyond mere physical access; it encompasses the removal of barriers—whether they are physical, social, economic, or attitudinal—that prevent individuals with disabilities from fully participating in society. This may involve providing reasonable accommodations, promoting awareness and understanding, advocating for policy changes, and fostering a culture of acceptance and diversity. Inclusive practices benefit not only persons with disabilities but society as a whole by promoting diversity, equity, and social cohesion. When everyone is included, communities become stronger, more resilient, and more enriched by the contributions of all their members. Achieving inclusion requires collaborative efforts from governments, civil society organizations, businesses, educational institutions, and individuals themselves. By working together to break down barriers and create opportunities for all, we can build a more inclusive and equitable world where everyone has the chance to thrive.

The policy is promoting the employment of persons with disabilities Divyangjan, including incentives for businesses to hire individuals with disabilities Divyangjan, vocational training programs, and subsidies for workplace accommodations. Policies may address the healthcare needs of persons with disabilities Divyangjan, including access to affordable healthcare services, rehabilitation programs, and assistive devices such as wheelchairs, hearing aids, and prosthetics. Governments may provide financial assistance, social services, and support networks for persons with disabilities and their families. This can include disability benefits, personal assistance services, and respite care programs. Governments may support public awareness campaigns and advocacy efforts to promote understanding and acceptance of persons with disabilities Divyangjan, challenge stereotypes, and combat stigma. Many countries



are signatories to international treaties and agreements that uphold the rights of persons with disabilities Divyangjan, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Governments may develop policies to fulfil their obligations under these agreements.

These are several types of government policies are implemented to support persons with disabilities Divyangjan. The specific policies and programs can vary widely depending on factors such as the country's resources, cultural context, and political priorities. The policy mandates reservations for persons with disabilities Divyangjan in educational institutions, government jobs, and certain private sector establishments. It prescribes specific quotas for admission to educational institutions and vacancies in public sector employment for persons with disabilities Divyangjan. NEP 2020 emphasizes the importance of accessibility in the physical environment, transportation, information and communication, and technology. It requires the government and private sector entities to take measures to make their premises, services, and products accessible to pwds.

## **Conclusion**

NEP 2020 supports the creation of digital educational content that is accessible to students with disabilities, including those with visual, hearing, or cognitive impairments. The curriculum will be designed to be flexible and adaptable to meet the needs of students with different types of disabilities. The policy calls for individualized learning plans where necessary. The assessment systems will be redesigned to accommodate students with disabilities, ensuring fair and equitable evaluation methods that consider their specific needs and challenges.

These policies are designed to create a more inclusive education system that recognizes and supports the diverse needs of all learners, including those with disabilities. Government of India generally aim to provide access to education for all citizens, regardless of their disability Divyangta, socio-economic background, ethnicity, gender, or geographic location. They often implement policies and programs to ensure

that education is equitable and inclusive. Governments typically seek to improve the quality of education by setting standards, curriculum guidelines, and assessment frameworks. They may invest in teacher training, school infrastructure, and educational resources to enhance the learning experience. In response to economic and social changes, governments often emphasize the importance of providing education that equips pwds (Divyangjan) with the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed for the modern workforce. This may include promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education, vocational training, and digital literacy. With the rapid pace of technological advancements and globalization, governments recognize the need for innovation and flexibility in education systems. They may support initiatives such as educational technology integration, personalized learning approaches, and interdisciplinary studies to prepare students for the future. Government of India typically establish regulatory frameworks and accountability mechanisms to ensure that schools and educational institutions operate effectively and efficiently. Recognizing that learning is a lifelong process, governments may promote policies and initiatives to encourage continuous education and skill development among people with disabilities (Divyangjan) of all ages.

NEP 2020 is aimed at promoting the full participation, equality, and empowerment of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society and ensuring their rights are protected and upheld. It represents a significant step towards creating a more inclusive and accessible society in India.

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