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## Indian languages, arts and culture in education

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### Abstract

The National Education Policy of 2020 created quite a stir when the Union Cabinet of India approved it in July 2020. It aims to focus on implementing Indian languages and the inclusion of art, culture and cultural history into the regular syllabus of the national educational system. The policy also looks forward to integrating the Sanskrit language as a compulsory one. The B.Ed programs will promote the teachers to teach bilingually in various educational institutions so that no child falls behind in receiving education for the language barrier. It will also focus on Cultural and multilingual awareness among children. The NEP looks forward to creating a positive effect on education in India and create an atmosphere conducive for people where they are proud of their language and culture. The following article aims to discuss the goals and objectives of NEP in detail so that it becomes clear for everyone.

**Keywords:** Indian Languages, Art and Culture, Educational Policy

### Introduction

The National Education Policy of 2020 was approved by the Union Cabinet on 29 July 2020. The new educational policy replaces the last policy dating back to 1986. The reformations brought about by the new policy expected to transform the current system and practices in education by 2030. The procedure is a comprehensive one which includes terms from elementary to higher education and also for vocational training. The policy covers four primary portions, namely school education, higher education, vocational training and online education along with promotion of Indian languages.

There happens to be a focus on the implementation of Indian languages and inclusion of art, culture and cultural history into the regular syllabus of the national educational system. The necessity of introducing art and culture in the education system is that it creates in young minds, a sense of oneness and belonging. Developing a strong identity and oneness with the artistic and cultural repertoire of the country will lead to developing a sense of pride in the individual and the nation. There is also an emphasis on the introduction of native Indian languages in the national educational system.

### Incorporation of Indian Languages in Education

The NEP 2020 also integrates Sanskrit as a compulsory language in the regular curriculum and does not keep it as a restricted single-stream subject, opted only as 3rd language in school or as a single-stream subject at the higher educational level. It has been suggested that Sanskrit will be made a compulsory language of learning in all educational institutions along with other subjects. Bilingual programs are introduced into the policy. Both Hindi/English and the native language will be used as the medium of teaching and training in institutes. The B.Ed programs will be promoting the teachers to teach bilingually in various educational institutions so that no child falls behind in receiving education for the barrier of language. The introduction of bilingualism is also keeping in mind the diversity in the population of the country and their lingual dissimilarity. An Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation is also planned to be set up, which will translate most study materials into many native languages in India and help in increasing the knowledge pool of the country. It is also expected to increase multilingual subject experts. Multilingual education is the primary stepping stone of language-based teaching. It is also essential to incorporate Indian languages in the current educational system because many native/local languages are on the brink of extinction. The incorporation of these languages in the mainstream educational system will also ensure that these languages do not wither away with time and that more people pick up the language. Therefore native Indian languages are seen to play an essential role in the Educational Policy of 2020.

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**Importance**

There are a few specific importance of including native Indian Languages in the educational curriculum:

- Syntax and structure of language help determine the entire cultural epoch of the origin of the language.
- Culture cannot get fully appreciated without knowing the original language. Be it music, film or other arts. Culture of a community also gets encased in their language.
- There is an urgent need of saving endangered languages (197 Indian languages have been declared 'endangered' by UNESCO) by archiving them and creating more artistic or literary works in those languages.

The translation is necessary to keep the vibrancy and literary works of many languages alive.

**Incorporation of Art and Culture in Education**

India is a tea-trove of diversity in art and culture. The preservation of the richness of Indian culture is critical so that young minds can understand the importance of the cultural identity of the nation. When incorporated in the curriculum of the institutions, it automatically becomes a part of the knowledge pool in the school or college-goers. It instills a sense of oneness and pride in them. Cultural awareness is one of the primary competencies that need to develop among children for creating a sense of identity in them. Knowing one's cultural history helps create and boost self-esteem in a child. Therefore the National Educational Policy 2020 has kept in implemented various schemes and plans to incorporate training and knowledge about local art and culture.

Local artisans, artists and skills will be promoted at every level of the educational system, according to the NEP. Music, Art and Craft will be more emphasized as subjects from the elementary school level of education. Local artists and experts will be hired as teachers teaching the local art. Many indigenous art forms are dying out due to lack of performers or artisans in the local area. Leading the local art might interest one of the local children to take up the art and bring it forward on the national or international platform. It will also lead to better livelihood of the local artists, and there is a chance that they might get absorbed into the mainstream educational system. There will also be more flexibility in the courses offered. Incorporation of fine arts or music into the curriculum from the secondary or higher secondary level, the students will be more flexible in choosing between pursuing fine arts or academics. There can be customized syllabus for the students.

**Importance**

There are a few specific importances that can be mapped with the introduction of art and culture in the educational curriculum of India:

- Teaching techniques that incorporate art are visually more appealing and can be retained to a great extent.
- The development of motor skills, language skills and other cognitive skills can be catalyzed by art instructions.
- Integrating art into the general curriculum makes the entire course design a more attractive and engaging one.
- Perspective, balance, layout etc. can be learned well through artistic mediums and applied in academics or any sphere of life per se.

- The study of art catalyzes critical thinking.
- Learning art and culture will increase one's self-esteem and help build tolerance for other art and culture globally.
- Creative and unique problem-solving skills are found in people who study art.
- Cultural studies will also give an individual a better insight into the social and political scenario of the current times.

**Conclusion**

It can therefore be concluded that the inclusion of Indian languages, art and culture in the educational curriculum of the country was a critical decision that should have been implemented earlier with more enthusiasm. It is expected to create positive rippling effects in both urban and rural education and create a bandwagon of young minds proud of their language, art and culture and in turn, proud of their nation. If implemented correctly, the new system of education is the ray of hope for a brighter future of the country.

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