

A Study on Early Childhood Mainstream Education: Opportunities and Challenges under NEP 2020

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Abstract: *The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has brought a paradigm shift in the Indian education system, particularly in early childhood education (ECE). This research article critically examines the opportunities and challenges associated with the implementation of mainstream early childhood education under NEP 2020. By analysing policy provisions, implementation strategies, and existing barriers, this study aims to provide insights into how NEP 2020 can enhance the foundational learning experiences of children. The policy highlights the need for teacher training programs to include methods for teaching children with specific disabilities. Currently, less than 40% of schools have ramps, and only about 17% have accessible restrooms, which are major barriers for children with disabilities. NEP 2020 aims to create an inclusive education system where children with disabilities can participate equally in all aspects of schooling.*

This paper explores the provisions of NEP 2020 for Divyangjan emphasizing the importance of barrier-free education to integrate them into mainstream learning. The policy represents a significant step toward creating an inclusive and equitable education system in India. Additionally, the paper explores international best practices in ECE and how India can adopt and adapt global models to strengthen its early learning framework. To assess the impact of NEP 2020 on early childhood education.

Keywords: Early Childhood Education, NEP 2020, Foundational Learning, Mainstream Education, Policy Implementation, Early Learning, Inclusive Education Etc.

