Multilingualism in National Education Policy (NEP) 2020: A Research-Based Analysis

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Abstract: *The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a significant step toward strengthening India's multilingual heritage. This policy promotes linguistic diversity in the education system and recommends the implementation of mother tongue, regional languages, and multilingual education from the foundational stage. According to the policy, the medium of instruction at the primary level should be in the child's mother tongue or regional language, enhancing cognitive abilities and fostering a strong connection with cultural roots.*

Multilingualism is not just limited to language learning but also plays a crucial role in promoting social harmony, cultural identity, and national unity. NEP 2020 advocates the implementation of the three-language formula, allowing students to learn three languages—one being their mother tongue or local language, the second being Hindi or English, and the third being another Indian language. This approach not only helps in language preservation but also prepares students for global opportunities.

However, several challenges exist in implementing this policy, such as the availability of qualified teachers, curriculum development, resource constraints, and differing language policies across states. This research paper provides a detailed analysis of the multilingual education system proposed in NEP 2020, its potential benefits, and the challenges associated with its execution. The success of this policy will depend on adequate resources, teacher training, and effective coordination among states to ensure smooth implementation..

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