Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

“Education is not an injunction, it is an effective and pervasive tool for all-round development of an individual and social transformation.” Examine the New Education Policy, 2020 (NEP, 2020) in light of the above statement.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2020	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Holistic development, multidisciplinary education, foundational literacy and numeracy, experiential learning, vocational education, critical thinking, equity and inclusion, teacher development, implementation challenges

Model Answer

Introduction

Education is not merely the transmission of information; it develops character, capabilities and social responsibility. The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 seeks to transform India's education system through holistic, flexible and inclusive learning.

NEP 2020 as an instrument of individual development

- **Holistic learning:** The 5+3+3+4 curricular structure integrates cognitive, social, emotional and physical development.
- **Critical thinking:** Experiential, inquiry-based and competency-based learning seeks to move beyond rote memorisation.
- **Multidisciplinary education:** Flexibility in subject selection encourages creativity and diverse career pathways.

- **Vocational skills:** Early exposure to vocational education and internships can improve employability.
- **Mother tongue:** Wherever feasible, instruction in the home language at the foundational stage can improve comprehension.

Instrument of social transformation

- **Equity:** Support for disadvantaged groups aims to reduce educational inequalities.
- **Digital learning:** Technology can widen access, provided the digital divide is addressed.
- **Indian knowledge systems:** The policy promotes cultural awareness alongside modern knowledge.
- **Teacher empowerment:** Better training and professional development can improve educational quality.

Challenges

Inadequate funding, uneven infrastructure, teacher shortages, digital inequality and variations in state capacity may hinder implementation.

Conclusion

NEP 2020 recognises education as a means of individual empowerment and social transformation. Its success depends on adequate resources, equitable implementation and continuous evaluation.

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