

# National Education Policy 2020

100% GER in School by 2030 and 50% GER in Higher Education by 2035. This is almost doubling the current GER in 10 to 15 years. **Is this too ambitious or a target we need to achieve to be recognized as a respectable World Power?**

**Challenges truly are opportunities in disguise** and NEP 2020 is no different. It has its own set of challenges, few of them can surely be seen as opportunities and for the remaining few, we will find answers as we proceed along our journey...!!!

Challenges	Opportunities
~50 new schools every week for 10 years and ~1 new University every week for 15 years	Multiple infrastructure projects expected to provide opportunities in construction industry
Recruiting ~50 principals, 200-300 teachers every week for 15 years	Encouraging more candidates to prefer and pursue teaching as a career
“Not-for-Profit” entry barrier for private capital in education sector and high capital expenditure requirements for setting up higher education	Opportunity for international universities and PE/VC Funds as 100% FDI allowed in education sector, incl. construction of Institutes
Equipping teachers with technology and education methodology as current teaching methodology / teacher’s quality a concern	Indian universities partnering with foreign universities, college, technical institutes for course Content, expertise, technology
Providing low cost quality education to children and youth in remote areas	Opportunities in the space of eLearning & Vocational & Distance Learning

6% of GDP spending on Education is a substantial jump from current level of ~4%, even if it happens over next few years. Government is targeting to achieve in next 10-15 years what the nation achieved in last 70 years.

While the policy spells out the quantitative aspects clearly with set goals, the qualitative aspect of such an ambitious policy of imparting education to such a huge population is a major challenge. Quantity without quality won’t serve the larger purpose and hence difficult to sustain.

Current focus on healthcare and economic recovery (due to Covid) is bound to lower the execution speed. An implementation effort of this volume will require continued assessment and flexibility to make changes if needed. This should be one of the key jobs of National Education Technology Forum (NETF).

To make this policy successful, we need continued Centre-State coordination and successive governments must carry the initiatives forward and keep improving on it. The proposed NEP 2020 indeed is ambitious. While the aspiration is desirable and much needed, implementation challenges are unavoidable. Society / NGOs have to work hand-in-hand with both Central and State Governments and the Private Sector to make it a success.

**Even at current Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) of 27% in Higher Education, unemployment and underemployment continues to be a major concern in India. Will India be able to gainfully employ additional ~50 million youth? Will economic opportunities go hand in hand with increase in higher education level? This is a separate topic of discussion for time to come.**