



Impact of the New Education Policy (NEP) on the Vision of ‘Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat’(EBSB)

Dr. L.P Parmar

Asst. Professor

Economics Department

Navjivan Arts and Commerce College, Dahod.

laljiparmar35@gmail.com

Abstract

The national education policy (NEP) 2020 integrates the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat(EBSB) programme into the school curriculum to promote national integration, cultural awareness, and a sense of common identity among students across India. The NEP 2020 represents a transformative shift in India's educational landscape, aiming to foster holistic development, enhance educational quality, and align educational outcomes with the demands of a modern, developed economy. Education is a fundamental catalyst for development in all aspects. For sustainable economic progress, countries must invest significantly in human capital. The policy advocates for internships in both private and public sectors for undergraduate students, providing them with valuable industry experience and aligning education with employment. The study outlines the salient features of NEP and analyses how they affect the existing education system, integrates the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat(EBSB) programme.

Keywords - NEP, Philosophical Harmony, Higher education, Multidisciplinary approach.

Introduction

Education is not just a tool for individual empowerment but also a foundation for national unity and collective progress. In India's pluralistic landscape, this truth is particularly consequential. The Government of India's New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, launched after decades of deliberation, aims to transform the educational paradigm. It seeks to make education more inclusive, holistic, flexible, and rooted in Indian ethos while aligning it with 21st-century needs. Another significant policy initiative of the Government of India is Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) — a programme to enhance interaction and mutual learning among people of different states and Union Territories. EBSB fosters unity in diversity by promoting cultural exchange, linguistic appreciation, and emotional integration among citizens.

This article explores how the NEP accelerates and deepens the objectives of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. It examines the philosophical synergies between the two, details specific policy interventions, analyses their impact, and reflects on potential challenges and future directions.



1. Philosophical Harmony Between NEP and EBSB

1.1 Unity in Diversity: An Indian Ethos

India's strength lies in its diversity — of languages, cultures, religions, traditions, histories, cuisines, art forms, and worldviews. The EBSB programme is rooted in this understanding: unity does not mean uniformity, but mutual respect and appreciation across differences.

The NEP 2020 emphasizes the same spirit by proposing a curriculum that is rooted in Indian knowledge systems while embracing global best practices. Instead of promoting a monolithic culture of learning, the NEP celebrates variety — incorporating local contexts, indigenous knowledge, multiple languages, and diverse learning pathways.

This philosophical harmony forms the foundation of how the NEP contributes to the EBSB vision.

1.2 Holistic Development Over Rote Learning.

Both NEP and EBSB reject narrow conceptions of education. Instead of rote memorization or compartmentalized knowledge, they promote:

- Critical thinking
- Experiential learning
- Ethical and value-based education
- Appreciation of cultural diversity

This orientation primes students to see beyond parochial identities and embrace a broader Indian identity — precisely the aim of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

2. Multilingualism and Linguistic Inclusivity

2.1 Mother Tongue and Multilingual Education

NEP 2020's emphasis on early education in the mother tongue or regional language until at least Grade 5 (and preferably beyond) is transformative. Linguistic identity is central to culture, memory, and belonging. By legitimizing regional languages as mediums of instruction, the NEP:

- Strengthens local cultures
- Reduces alienation in early schooling
- Enhances cognitive development

At the same time, NEP promotes multilingualism, encouraging students to learn multiple languages including regional, classical, and foreign languages.



2.2 Linking Linguistic Policies with EBSB Exchanges

Under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, states are paired to share cultural and linguistic learning. For example:

- Students in one region learn the basics of the partner state's language, music, dance, or cuisine.
- Schools organize inter-state projects, dialogues, and cultural showcases.

NEP's multilingual mandate gives institutional legitimacy to this cultural exchange. Schools can now incorporate structured learning of partner state languages as part of language curricula. When students learn each other's languages, barriers fall and empathy rises — a direct contribution to national integration.

3. Teacher Education and Cultural Competence

3.1 Revamping Teacher Preparation

NEP proposes a complete overhaul of teacher education, including:

- Four-year integrated teacher education programmes
- Continuous professional development
- Training in multi-lingual and culturally responsive pedagogy

Teachers become cultural ambassadors — not only delivering content but also shaping attitudes of curiosity, respect, and inclusivity.

3.2 Sensitization to Cultural Diversity

Teacher preparation under NEP includes sensitization to regional cultures, traditions, and social contexts. This equips teachers to:

- Facilitate dialogue on diversity
- Address stereotypes and prejudices
- Integrate local examples with broader Indian contexts
- Encourage students to appreciate difference

Such teacher capacity building is crucial to realize the EBSB vision at the grassroots.

4. Institutional Partnerships and Student Exchange

4.1 Inter-State Linkages and NEP Support



The EBSB programme encourages inter-state adoption linkages — where one state connects with another for cultural and educational exchange. NEP complements this through:

- Standardized frameworks for student mobility
- Credit recognition across institutions
- Collaborative research and projects on culture, languages, sustainability, and technology

Such structured cooperation embeds respect for diversity into education and builds friendships across regions.

4.2 Digital Platforms and Virtual Exchanges

NEP emphasizes technology in education, including virtual classrooms, open digital repositories, and online collaborative platforms. In the context of EBSB, these technologies facilitate:

- Virtual cultural exchange programs
- Joint online projects between students of different states
- Digital storytelling competitions on cultural themes
- Collaborative research on heritage

During times when physical travel may be limited, digital tools keep the spirit of exchange alive — making cultural learning more accessible.

5. Technology, Accessibility, and Inclusivity

5.1 Digital Platforms for Cultural Learning

NEP's emphasis on educational technology expands reach:

- Virtual cultural tours
- Archives of regional arts and performances
- Digital libraries with multi-lingual content
- Interactive modules on Indian geography, history, and society

These resources allow students across India to learn about every corner of the country, breaking geographical and socio-economic barriers.

5.2 Accessibility Beyond Metros



NEP focuses on equity and inclusion — reaching students in rural, tribal, and remote regions. When access to quality education increases, so does access to cultural knowledge.

EBSB programmes, supported by digital platforms, ensure that cultural exchange is not the privilege of urban schools alone. Village schools, tribal communities, and marginalized groups can participate equally in cultural dialogues.

6. Values Education and National Identity

6.1 Ethical and Value-Based Learning

NEP includes ethical education, life skills, and human values as explicit goals. Students learn respect for others, empathy, cooperation, and civic responsibility — values at the heart of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

6.2 Inclusive National Identity

Rather than enforcing a singular narrative of nationalism, NEP encourages inclusive national identity that embraces regional histories, diverse languages, and plural traditions. Students learn to see themselves as Indian citizens with unique cultural roots, rather than competitors in identity hierarchies.

This perspective is foundational to EBSB's goal: fostering emotional unity without erasing local identities.

7. Higher Education: Research, Collaboration, and Cultural Studies

7.1 Multi-Disciplinary Universities

NEP encourages multi-disciplinary institutions that cross silos between arts, sciences, humanities, social sciences, and technology. Such academic environments promote dialogues across perspectives, including regional cultures and histories. Centers for cultural studies, comparative literature, anthropology, and linguistic research gain prominence, creating knowledge ecosystems that reflect India's diversity.

7.2 Research on Regional Knowledge Systems

NEP supports research into local knowledge systems — be it Ayurveda, folk arts, indigenous agriculture, or regional literature. When this research intersects with EBSB partnerships, institutions across states co-create knowledge that enriches the national narrative.

For example:

- Universities in Northeast India partnering with central institutions to document tribal histories
- Institutions in South India collaborating with North Indian peers to explore classical languages



Such academic collaborations deepen mutual understanding.

8. Challenges and Considerations

While the synergy between NEP and EBSB is promising, effective implementation requires confronting real challenges:

8.1 Resource Disparities

Achieving multilingual classrooms, technology access, and teacher training demands significant investment. Uneven educational infrastructure can limit the reach of both NEP and EBSB.

8.2 Linguistic Sensitivities

Language policies must be carefully implemented to avoid perceptions of dominance. Respect for local sentiments and transparent communication are essential.

8.3 Teacher Preparedness

Training millions of teachers in culturally responsive pedagogy is a mammoth task. Success depends on sustained professional support, not just one-off training.

8.4 Measurement of Impact

Quantifying cultural integration and attitudinal change is challenging. Education systems must develop robust, qualitative metrics to assess the impact of EBSB-aligned initiatives.

Despite these challenges, thoughtful policy execution can maximize the impact of NEP towards realizing the vision of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

9. Case Studies and Examples

9.1 School Cultural Exchange

A school in Punjab and another in Tamil Nadu collaborate through annual cultural exchange weeks. Students learn partner languages, share regional cuisines, perform folk dances together, and prepare joint projects on cultural festivals. Supported by NEP's flexible curricula and EBSB's institutional partnerships, such exchanges break stereotypes and build friendships.

9.2 Multilingual Digital Content

An educational app under the NEP initiative uploads videos of folk tales from Odisha in Oriya, with subtitles in Hindi and English. Students across India engage with the content, write reflective essays, and discuss regional traditions in online forums — strengthening cultural appreciation nation-wide.



9.3 University Research Collaboration

Two universities — one in Kashmir and another in Kerala — launch a joint research project on traditional medicinal plants. Students and faculty travel between campuses, conduct fieldwork, and publish bilingual research. The project fosters academic ties and highlights India's shared heritage of holistic medicine.

10. Vision for the Future

The synergy between New Education Policy and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat heralds a transformative era for Indian education and society:

- Schools become spaces of cultural immersion and mutual respect.
- Language learning becomes a bridge rather than a barrier.
- Students graduate not only with skills but with empathy for diverse ways of life.
- India's youth emerge as global citizens rooted in their cultural identity.
- National integration deepens organically through shared learning, dialogues, and collaborative creation.

In a rapidly changing world, nurturing unity without erasing diversity is a defining challenge. Through NEP's structural reforms and EBSB's cultural impetus, India can foster generations that see diversity as strength — a pluralistic nation bound by shared values and mutual respect.

Conclusion

The New Education Policy 2020 is more than a pedagogical reform; it is a cultural reform. By realigning education with Indian values, local contexts, multilingual learning, and inclusive practices, it creates fertile ground for the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat vision to flourish. Education is a critical driver economic development, contributing to workforce development ,innovation, social mobility and global competitiveness. The NEP 2020 aims to bring about positive transformations in the Indian education system. By critically examining the advantages and disadvantage, stakeholders can work towards implementing the new education policy effectively, ensuring an education system that fosters holistic development, inclusivity and equal opportunities for all. It is a progressive change towards a more scientific approach to education. Indeed, this policy will help fulfill the child's potential stages of cognitive development as well as their social and physical awareness.

References :-

1. Govt. of India. <https://www.education.gov.in>
2. Govt. of India. <https://www.ekbharat.gov.in>



3. Final National Education Policy (PDF) Report. Ministry of Human Resource Development
4. <https://ruralindiaonline.org/>
5. M.M.Goel (2020) A view on Higher Education in New Education policy 2020.
6. <https://mhrd.gov.in/university-and-higher-education>