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Q5(d)

How does the New Education Policy, 2020 aim to eradicate disparities in the system of education in India?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2020 · Sociology GS 2 · 10 marks · Challenges of Social Transformation

Challenges of Social Transformation: Crisis of development: displacement, environmental problems and sustainability; Poverty, deprivation and inequalities; Violence against women; Caste conflicts; Ethnic conflicts, communalism, religious revivalism; Illiteracy and disparities in education.

Core demand of the question

- How does the New Education Policy, 2020 aim to eradicate disparities in the system of education in India?
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length

Revision summary

NEP targets early childhood, mother tongue and flexible pathways.

SEDG, gender funds and special zones name structural exclusion.

Vocational and multiple-exit routes try to reduce one-exam disparity.

Commercial and digital divides can recapture the gains.

Public funding is the test of eradication.

Introduction

NEP 2020 aims to cut educational disparities by widening early care, mother-tongue schooling, flexible pathways, and named inclusion of socio-economically disadvantaged groups. Aim is not the same as delivery in a commercialising system.

Body

Stated aims against disparity

- Universal **foundational literacy** and **ECCE** try to close the gap that starts before Class I for first-generation learners.
- Home-language teaching at the base can reduce the English-caste filter that Beteille's middle class already owns.
- Multiple entry-exit and vocational mix try to stop one-exam exclusion.
- Gender Inclusion Fund, **Special Education Zones**, and **SEDG** targeting name girls, SCs, STs, OBCs, and disabled learners.

Sociological test

- Commercial higher education and coaching markets can recapture the policy as a fee ladder.
- Adivasi language aim needs teachers, not only a paragraph.
- Digital push can widen the COVID-visible device gap.

What eradication would need

- Public funding, caste-gender hostels, and an end to dummy private quality.

Flow diagram

NEP 2020 2020 -> Foundations language

NEP 2020 -> Girls ST SC zones

Market coaching -> Gap risk

Conclusion

NEP 2020 aims to eradicate disparities through early years, language justice, flexibility, and **SEDG** tools. It will do so only if the public school remains the equaliser, not a residual beside a commercial track.

Facts & figures

ECCE

Early childhood care and education as a disparity-closing first step.

SEDG

Socio-economically disadvantaged groups named for inclusion.

Special Education Zones

Spatial targeting of historically underserved tracts.

Foundational literacy

The skill gap that later reservation cannot fully repair.

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