

# Crafting the Future: Educational Challenges and Initiatives in Viksit Bharat@2047

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**Abstract:** The vision of "Viksit Bharat@2047" envisions India's transformation into a developed nation by the year 2047, coinciding with the centenary of its independence. This ambitious initiative, introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, encompasses various facets of development, including economic advancement, environmental sustainability, social enhancement, and efficient governance. Education is identified as a crucial component in this pivotal transformation, serving as the cornerstone for success and upward mobility. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 addresses significant challenges that hinder India's progress, identifying financial constraints and inadequate infrastructure as primary obstacles within the education system. Furthermore, the NEP 2020 sets an ambitious target of raising educational expenditure to 6% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), a goal that necessitates strategic planning and execution. This paper intends to explore the initiatives undertaken and the challenges encountered in the educational sector of Viksit Bharat@2047, emphasizing the urgent need for a comprehensive reform of the current educational framework. By tackling these issues and adopting innovative approaches, India can harness the transformative power of education to propel its development and prosperity.

**Key Words:** Significant, Enhancement. Raising, Centenary, Advancement, Execution.

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

As we embark on a new era, it is imperative for every individual, institution, and organization to respond to the call for contributing to the realization of a developed India. Just as the youth of past generations dedicated themselves to the struggle for freedom, we must now pledge our efforts towards the advancement and development of our nation. Our historical fight for independence serves as a profound reminder of the importance of unity, commitment, and collective action. In the same spirit that our ancestors labored with unwavering determination to secure freedom, we must now focus on the establishment of a developed India. On December 11, 2023, the esteemed Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi, launched the "Viksit Bharat @2047" initiative aimed at the youth of India. This initiative is designed to transform India into a developed nation by the centenary of its independence, encompassing various dimensions of development, including economic growth, environmental sustainability, social progress, and effective governance.

The processes, effects, and results of these developmental initiatives require scholarly engagement to reevaluate and redefine them within the context of "Viksit Bharat@2047," as articulated by our esteemed Prime Minister. The concept of "Viksit Bharat" is in a state of continuous development, reflecting our commitment to the five foundational pillars, or "Panch Prana," which encapsulate the core of India's developmental philosophy. These five pillars—liberation from colonial influences, pride in our cultural heritage, promotion of national unity, advancement, and a sense of responsibility—together create a comprehensive framework for development. This framework aspires to promote equality, satisfaction, and collective welfare throughout the nation.

Education is a fundamental element of advancement and prosperity in developing countries. Its importance goes beyond individual advantages, impacting societal, economic, and political dimensions. Educated individuals are more equipped to navigate the complexities of contemporary life, adapt to evolving situations, and capitalize on opportunities for personal and professional advancement. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasized the crucial role of higher education institutions in realizing the vision of a developed India. He has also highlighted the significant contributions



of esteemed universities such as Kashi Hindu University, Lucknow University, Visva Bharati, Gujarat Vidyapith, Nagpur University, Annamalai University, Andhra University, and the University of Kerala in the Indian Freedom Movement.

There exists a significant academic interest in examining and deliberating on the "development of the nation." The framework of the "Amrit Kaal" has been influenced by a multitude of successful development initiatives that have been conceptualized and executed over the past nine years. "Sankalp Se Siddhi" has emerged as one of the foundational principles during this transformative era, ensuring the effective implementation of developmental schemes, which collectively narrate a story of developmental success.

Over the last nine years, the Government of India has launched a wide array of innovative initiatives and programs. These efforts have had a profound social and economic impact, fundamentally altering the lifestyle within the country. Various research studies have documented these social and transformational effects, leading to the implementation of governmental development initiatives and schemes. These initiatives have significantly transformed both the tangible and intangible aspects of the nation's development landscape and warrant discussion among the academic community, researchers, youth, and students. At both national and state levels, numerous initiatives have been introduced to improve the education system, including flagship programs such as the National Education Policy 2020, the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, and Saksham Anganwadi, among others. Furthermore, these efforts are bolstered by collaborations with various stakeholders and partners, including UNICEF, UNESCO, and the World Bank.

**2. EDUCATIONAL THEMES, SCHEMES, INITIATIVES, AND POLICIES - "VIKSIT BHARAT @2047":** The Indian Government has implemented various educational themes, schemes, initiatives, and policies, which are outlined as follows:

Empowerment of Women in India, referred to as Nari Shakti, signifies the evolving social and cultural landscape of the nation. Recent years have witnessed concerted efforts from diverse groups aimed at elevating women to more prominent positions, challenging traditional gender norms, and fostering a more equitable and inclusive society. Notable initiatives introduced by the Indian Government include the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Stand Up India, PM Mudra Yojana, PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, PM Matru Vandana Yojana, Sarvada Shaktishali: Breaking the Glass Ceiling in Armed Forces, Women Technology Parks, and S&T for Women Empowerment, as well as the Vigyan Jyoti program, which encourages talented girls to pursue careers in underrepresented fields of STEM.

The educational landscape in India is undergoing a transformative phase with the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which aligns with the vision of "Viksit Bharat@2047." This policy lays a robust foundation for advancement within the education sector. The strategic framework outlined in NEP 2020 addresses not only the existing challenges but also articulates aspirations essential for fostering significant and effective educational reforms for both the present and future.

The comprehensive revisions to the curriculum introduced by NEP 2020 are designed to enhance flexibility, inclusivity, and relevance in the context of twenty-first-century society. Furthermore, the policy underscores the importance of achieving a balance and integration of various educational focuses, enabling students to develop skills through experiential learning, life skills, and vocational education and training.

Recognizing the impact of technology on the future of education, NEP 2020 advocates for the incorporation of numerous digital tools and platforms within the educational framework. To support this initiative, the establishment of the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) has been initiated, aimed at promoting innovative EdTech solutions. The technological advancements proposed under NEP 2020 seek to mitigate the digital divide that exists between urban and rural areas, as well as between affluent and underprivileged communities, thereby ensuring equitable access to quality education.

To attract and retain high-quality educators, the policy endorses substantial teacher training programs, continuous professional development, and the formation of teacher recruitment boards. NEP 2020 aspires to enhance learning outcomes and elevate teaching standards across the nation through investments in teacher capacity-building initiatives.

Additionally, various programs such as the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (National Education Mission), Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0, National Initiatives for School Heads and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTA), PM USHA, Study in India, Maddhyamik and Uchchatar Shiksha Kosh (MUSK), Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme, Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring



Minds (SWAYAM), and SWAYAM Prabha (TV programs) are integral components of this comprehensive educational reform strategy.

**Empowerment of Divyang Jan:** The empowerment of Divyang Jan is a fundamental element of inclusivity and societal progress. The Indian government is consistently working to ensure that individuals with disabilities enjoy equal rights and are fully integrated into the community. The following initiatives have been implemented to achieve this goal:

Unique ID for Persons with Disabilities (UDID), legislation supporting transgender rights, the restoration of Janjatiya Gourav through the recognition of heroes, the establishment of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras, and technological interventions aimed at assisting the disabled and elderly, including the provision of assistive technologies for Divyangjans.

**Skill Development:** Skill development is a crucial factor in the socio-economic advancement of the nation and the enhancement of human capital. In recent years, there has been a concerted effort to bridge the skills gap between the capabilities of the workforce and the demands of various industries. The government has launched several initiatives to foster skill acquisition among the youth, including the National Skill Development Mission, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Recognition of Prior Learning, collaboration between Skill Universities and industries, Sector Skill Councils (SSCs), and the integration of skill development with education, industry, and technology to facilitate a transition towards a knowledge-based economy, thereby strengthening the national economy through innovative entrepreneurship.

**Tech-Enabled India:** Tech-Enabled India narrates a transformative tale of digital empowerment and technological advancement across various sectors. The utilization of technology to foster inclusive growth, enhance efficiency, and drive innovation has garnered significant attention in recent years. The Indian government has effectively implemented several key initiatives, including Aadhar, Digi-Locker, Jeevan Parman Patra, Digital India, and Aatmanirbhar India via the Unified Payment Interface (UPI), the UNG Unified Mobile App for contemporary technology, State Spatial Data Infrastructure (SSDI), a Digital Financial Literacy Campaign, and Geospatial Technologies for SMART cities, and the National Academic Depository (NAD).

Additionally, there are numerous other initiatives and programs that contribute to the enhancement of knowledge and technological infrastructure in India, such as the Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN), Operation Digital Board, Flipped Classroom, EPathshala, the National Programme on Technologically Enhanced Learning (NPTEL), the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT), the N-List Programme of INFLIBNET, the All School Monitoring Individual Tracing Analysis Yojana (Shala ASHMITA), the Shala Guvatta (Shagun Portal), the Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan, De-Novo Institutions, and Shodh Chakra.

The challenge of low literacy rates in India poses a significant barrier to the nation's socioeconomic progress, reinforcing cycles of poverty and inequality. Despite various initiatives aimed at enhancing literacy, such as the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and the Right to Education (RTE) Act of 2009, numerous factors continue to sustain low literacy levels across the country. According to data from the National Statistical Office (NSO), India's average literacy rate was recorded at 77.70% in 2021, with male literacy at 84.70% and female literacy at 70.30%. The National Family Health Survey 2019-21 (NFHS-5) indicates that the literacy rate for adult women (ages 15-49) is 71.5%, while for adult men in the same age group, it is 87.4%. Furthermore, state-wise data from the NSO reveals that Andhra Pradesh has the lowest literacy rate at 66.2%, followed by Rajasthan at 69.7% and Bihar at 70.9%.

**Foundational Literacy and Numeracy:** Foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) are essential skills that form the core of a child's learning and development throughout their life. The economic advisory council's report on foundational literacy and numeracy emphasizes that the years from birth to six, referred to as the foundational years, are critically important for every child, as missed opportunities during this period are irretrievable.

In India, however, there are considerable obstacles related to FLN that impede children's educational progress and overall well-being. Various governmental and non-governmental surveys reveal that we are currently facing a learning crisis: a significant number of elementary school students—estimated to exceed 50 million—have not achieved foundational literacy and numeracy. According to UNESCO, nearly two-thirds of ten-year-olds struggle to read and comprehend a simple text. The 2023 Annual Survey of Education Report (ASER) highlights several concerning statistics:

- About 25% of individuals aged 14-18 cannot read fluently at the Standard II level in their regional language.



- More than half of these students encounter difficulties with division problems, particularly those involving a three-digit number divided by a one-digit number.

- Only 43.3% of 14-18-year-olds are proficient in solving such problems, a skill generally expected by Standards III or IV.

- Additionally, just over half of the children can read sentences in English, with around three-quarters able to understand their meanings.

**Girl's Education:** Investing in the education of girls is widely acknowledged as a fundamental element of national development and advancement. The impact of education transcends individual gains, influencing economies, communities, and future generations. By providing equal access to high-quality education for girls, countries can unlock numerous opportunities for economic development, social unity, and gender equity. Various studies have highlighted the challenges that girls encounter in obtaining an education. Common barriers include financial limitations, a familial preference for educating male children, and a lack of adequate sanitation facilities. Research by Siddhu (2011) in rural Uttar Pradesh emphasizes the critical role of primary education participation in facilitating the transition to secondary education. Although many girls across the country face difficulties moving from elementary to secondary schooling, completing secondary education presents an even greater challenge. A study by Santhya et al. (2016) in rural Gujarat aimed to improve girls' attendance and successful transition to secondary education by engaging parents and communities. While a slight increase in girls' school attendance was noted, there was no significant change in transition rates. The authors advocate for a holistic approach to foster an inclusive and supportive educational environment. Gender norms significantly influence the subjects that girls select during their educational journey. Research indicates that girls are less likely to pursue STEM subjects, often due to the belief that men are inherently more skilled in these areas. Such societal expectations regarding academic choices can limit girls' future career opportunities.

### 3. Conclusion:

India boasts a rich historical background and a vibrant cultural tapestry. However, the nation faces numerous challenges, making the path to progress a complex endeavor. The journey towards development has been both difficult and intricate, highlighting the magnitude of the task ahead. While India aspires to evolve into a developed nation, it frequently confronts harsh realities within its social and economic frameworks. Education stands as the cornerstone of solutions to many pressing issues, forming the basis upon which societies build their futures and address critical challenges. It is recognized as a vital driver of positive change and sustainable development, influencing factors such as poverty, inequality, unemployment, environmental issues, and healthcare disparities. Prime Minister Modi's vision for a developed India (Viksit Bharat@2047) is anchored in a crucial understanding: realizing this ambitious objective necessitates more than governmental initiatives; it calls for the active engagement and collective responsibility of all citizens of India.

In summary, the vision of "Viksit Bharat@2047" presents significant opportunities and challenges for India's educational system as the nation strives to achieve the status of a developed country by 2047. The necessary transformations call for a comprehensive overhaul of the educational framework, encompassing fundamental literacy and numeracy as well as advanced skills and creativity. Key initiatives such as digitalization, inclusive education, and skill development hold promise for fostering growth, yet they also face obstacles. These include addressing issues of equity, improving quality and standards of education, and ensuring effective implementation of policies. Therefore, achieving the vision of "Viksit Bharat@2047" will require the concerted efforts of legislators, educators, communities, and various stakeholders across different sectors.

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