

*“Teaching is not about answering questions but about raising questions – opening doors for them in places that they could not imagine.”*

*- Yawar Baig  
Author and Motivational Speaker*



# NAVTIKA

A JOURNAL OF EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION  
A publication of Salwan Education Trust

Website: <https://navtika.in>



Scan to subscribe

RNI No. HARENG/2010/35200  
ISSN-2348-8824 (Print), 3048-5061 (Online)  
Price: Rs. 150/-  
Once Every Four Months  
Published from Gurugram (English Edition)

# NAVTIKA

**A JOURNAL OF EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION**

A publication of Salwan Education Trust

Vol. XVI No.2 December - March 2026



## **Bridging Books and Life: NEP's Vision of Experiential Learning**

- ❖ Reimagining Early Childhood Education: Pedagogical Shifts and Developmental Priorities in Light of NEP 2020
- ❖ Impact of NEP 2020 on Foundational Learning in North India: Bridging Gaps and Improving Readiness
- ❖ Transforming Early Childhood Education: A Teacher's Guide to Moving Beyond Rote Learning
- ❖ A Practical Roadmap for Implementing Competency-Based, Child-Centred Approaches in Indian Classrooms

**National Education** —  
Policy 2020: The Way Forward



**Achieving Target 4.2 of Sustainable Development Goals Concerning Quality ECCE for All by Year 2030**

- Building Brighter Futures - Innovative Approaches to Integrating SDGs in Early Learners
- Seeds of Change - Nurturing Global Citizens Through Play and Storytelling in Early Childhood
- Integrated Educational Approaches
- Teaching Kids Sustainability & Global Responsibility Through Technology
- Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi

Empowering Young Minds,  
 Shaping Sustainable Futures



**Building Brighter Futures: Integrating SDGs into Early Learning**

- Strengthening Early Childhood Education in India: NEP 2020, Global Commitments, and the Path to Sustainable Development
- Building Brighter Futures - Innovative Approaches to Integrating SDGs in Early learners
- Seeds of Change - Nurturing Global Citizens Through Play and Storytelling in Early Childhood
- Nurturing Sustainability And Global Citizenship In Early Childhood Education (Ages 3-5)

Empowering Young Minds,  
 Shaping Sustainable Futures



**Nurturing Early Minds: On-the-Go Assessment at the Foundational Stage**

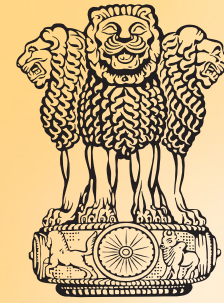
- Innovative Assessment Methods in Early Childhood Education
- Transforming Early Education: Embracing On-the-go Assessment in Early Education
- Quality Assessment of Early Childhood Care and Education: Strengths and Challenges
- Practical Strategies for Implementing Formative Assessments in Early Education Settings

Early Learners,  
 Infinite Possibilities

# NAVTIKA

A JOURNAL OF EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION  
 By Salwan Education Trust

Navtika is a journal that serves as a practical guide for teachers, parents and other caregivers who nurture and monitor children during the foundational years, i.e., three to eight years. It seeks to provide valuable information, deepen knowledge and address parental concerns, empowering teachers and parents to deliver better care. The journal publishes original work based on standards of excellence and expert views.



सत्यमेव जयते



## National Education Policy 2020

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

### Dr. Indu Khetarpal

Former Principal  
Salwan Public School, Rajendra Nagar, New Delhi-110060

## EDITORIAL ADVISOR

### Prof. Venita Kaul

Professor Emerita Education,  
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University, Delhi-110006

## EDITORIAL BOARD

### Dr. Subhash Chander

Assistant Professor, Central Institute of Education (CIE)  
Delhi University, New Delhi-110007

### Dr. Romila Bhatnagar

Professor, Department of Elementary Education,  
National Council of Educational Research and Training  
(NCERT), New Delhi-110016

### Dr. Parul Srivastav

Joint Director, National Institute of Public Cooperation  
and Child Development (NIPCCD), New Delhi-110016

### Prof. Shraddha Kapoor

Professor, Department of Human Development and  
Childhood Studies Lady Irwin College, Sikandra Road,  
New Delhi-110001

## EDITORIAL TEAM

**Editor-** Priyanka Barara, Principal

**Project Coordinator-** Rashi Oberoi, Headmistress

**Assistant Coordinator-** Meghna Chhikara

**Peer Review Coordinator-** Parul Thapar

**Design & Illustrations-** Sampati Sharma

## EDITORIAL OFFICE

Salwan Montessori School, Sector-5,  
Gurugram (Haryana)  
navtika@salwangurgaon.com  
<http://www.navtika.in>

## PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY:

Published by Shri Paramjit Khanna on behalf of Salwan Education Trust, at Salwan Montessori School, Sector-5, Gurugram, Haryana, and printed by Smt. Vinayak Bhowmic at Balaji Ad Prints, E-4, Mayapuri Industrial Area, Phase-II, New Delhi - 110064. Editor: Mrs Priyanka Barara

The facts, figures, conclusions, and opinions expressed by individual contributors are those of the respective authors and should not be attributed to the Editor or to Salwan Education Trust.

\*All disputes shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of Gurugram Courts.

## FROM THE

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S DESK

The National Education Policy 2020 has placed the early years at the heart of India's educational transformation and this edition of *Navtika* brings together a rich collection of voices that examine, question and reimagine this pivotal stage. As educators, parents, policymakers and practitioners reflect on the promise of National Education Policy 2020, one truth becomes clear: meaningful change in foundational learning can only happen when policy vision meets thoughtful implementation.

The articles in this edition shed light on that journey. They explore the shift from rote learning to experience-led classrooms, the importance of strengthening early childhood education through robust teacher preparation, and the power of integrating culture, community and multilingualism into everyday teaching. They remind us that learning in the early years is not a race for early literacy but a nurturing process in which curiosity, play and interaction shape the child's intellectual, social and emotional growth.

This issue also highlights the challenges that schools and states continue to face—uneven access, disparities in quality, and the urgent need to support the educators who stand at the frontlines of reform. At the same time, it celebrates the encouraging gains being witnessed across the country as schools adopt developmentally aligned pedagogies, parents embrace new expectations, and children experience the joy of active learning.

As we move through this decade of transformation, *Navtika* remains committed to fostering dialogue, sharing research, and offering grounded perspectives that help educators translate policy into practice. The goal is clear: to ensure that every child's foundational years become a springboard to confident learning and lifelong growth.

I extend my gratitude to all contributors for their insightful work and to our readers for their continued engagement. Together, may we shape learning environments where every child is seen, heard and inspired.

**Warm regards,**  
**Dr. Indu Khetarpal**  
**Editor-in-Chief**

\*All articles in this issue of *Navtika* have been peer reviewed and critically assessed for academic authenticity and accuracy.

# National Education Policy 2020: The Way Forward

3

Perspectives from the Guest Editor The NEP–NCF Shift: Delhi’s Roadmap for a New Educational India

Veditha Reddy-IAS

6

Reimagining Early Childhood Education: Pedagogical Shifts and Developmental Priorities in Light of National Education Policy 2020

Dr. Megha Mohan

14

Impact of National Education Policy 2020 on Foundational Learning in North India: Bridging Gaps and Improving Readiness

Dr. Sheetal Aggarwal

21

Transforming Early Childhood Education: A Teacher’s Guide to Moving Beyond Rote Learning

Abha Arora

29

Indigenous Knowledge and multilingualism - Strengthening The Foundation - National Education Policy 2020

Shivani Shokeen Dahiya

34

Curriculum and Pedagogical Innovations Post-National Education Policy 2020 and NCF-FS in Early Childhood Education

Reetu Dawar

40

Importance of Age-Appropriate Legal Knowledge in the Indian Education System (National Education Policy 2020 Aligned)

Advocate Ananya Mishra

46

Impact of Mathematics: Learning Through Art

Anubha Srivastava

51

THE Practitioner’s Perspective Curriculum and Pedagogical Innovations-National Education Policy 2020 & NCF-FS in ECE

Amrita Malhotra

53

Expert Corner

58

Book Review

60

Parent’s Perspective

# Perspectives from the Guest Editor The NEP–NCF Shift: Delhi’s **ROADMAP** for a New **EDUCATIONAL INDIA** Veditha Reddy-**IAS**, Director of Education, GNCT

**“India cannot prepare children for a new world with old classroom habits.”**

Introduction: NEP 2020 and the new National Curriculum Framework ask India to rethink what schooling means for a changing society. Delhi’s early actions show promise, but the path ahead demands clarity of vision, deep pedagogical reform and sustained investment in teachers. The National Education Policy 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (2023) together signal a decisive shift in Indian schooling. They challenge a decades-old system built on memory, standardised tests and textbook-centred classrooms, proposing instead a holistic, multidisciplinary, competency-driven approach. This is more than a policy revision; it is a vision of what India seeks to become creative, inclusive, skilled, and globally competitive.

Delhi, with its large government school network and history of educational experimentation, is poised to become a pivotal ground for this transformative agenda. The question is not whether change is necessary, but whether systems, teachers and communities are prepared to carry the vision forward.

## **The Vision: From Content and Exams to Competencies and Humanity**

NEP 2020 reframes the purpose of schooling around four pillars:

- foundational literacy and numeracy
- critical thinking and creativity
- socio-emotional and ethical development
- multilingual, culturally rooted learning

The NCF operationalises this through the 5+3+3+4 structure, new curricular learning outcomes, flexible pathways for learners, and a stronger emphasis on mother-tongue instruction in early years.

[Click here to read more .....](#)