The NEP 2020 is a policy drafted by the Indian government to raise education standards. It is the third such policy, arriving 34 years after the previous NEP, and the first under a BJP-led government. The broad policy prioritizes foundational literacy and numeracy for primary school-aged children, citing evidence from surveys—such as ASER—regarding poor learning outcomes.

With its emphasis on building basic reading and math skills, the NEP validates much of Pratham’s pioneering work. Our Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) approach has been internationally recognized for improving children’s literacy and numeracy skills in a matter of weeks.

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The policy calls for robust teacher training and student assessment systems, leveraging technology to prepare educators adequately and track student learning outcomes. From our perspective, having worked with India’s District Institute for Education and Training, we strongly advocate field-based training, which allows prospective teachers to understand the complexities they will face in real classrooms and develop the abilities necessary to adapt accordingly.

Pratham has been measuring children’s learning outcomes for over a decade. This aspect of the NEP is a stepping stone to achieving a sustainable model for improving and refining education goals.

The policy calls for 12 years of schooling with three years of early childhood education. This expansion acknowledges the importance of ages 3 to 6 as a crucial stage for cognitive development in children. Pratham has long advocated for early childhood education and appreciates the government’s recognition of this stage and early years (grades 1 and 2) as a continuum.

Pratham has long been a pioneer in developing quality educational materials and presently offers content in regional languages. The challenge for both government and outside entities will be the development of content adapted to a variety of contexts as well as the training of teachers. However, this is also an excellent opportunity to cultivate a more close-knit integration between community members and educators.

Pratham’s low-cost, scalable model has been rigorously tested and proven to help children achieve a strong foundation for future learning and success.

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Pratham’s digital initiative has focused on creating an open source learning environment, enabling access to devices, and developing contextualized and engaging content. Pratham has set up digital libraries in more than 3000 communities across 15 Indian states and has built a large repository of videos, games and applications in 11 regional languages.