



## REIMAGINING INDIAN EDUCATION THROUGH THE LENS OF NATIONAL INTEGRATION AND VIKSIT BHARAT@2047

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### RESEARCH ARTICLE



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#### Abstract

As India moves toward its centenary of independence in 2047, the vision of Viksit Bharat emphasizes an inclusive, developed, and united nation. In this context, the role of education extends beyond academic achievement to cultivating national unity, shared identity, and civic responsibility. This paper explores how the Indian education system can be reimagined to foster national integration while aligning with the developmental aspirations of Viksit Bharat@2047. Drawing inspiration from the legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel – widely regarded as the architect of Indian unity – this research examines how his ideals can be translated into modern educational practices. The paper reviews policy frameworks such as the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and explores their potential to integrate cultural pluralism, constitutional values, and civic consciousness into the curriculum. It also investigates innovative pedagogical approaches, such as experiential learning, value-based education, and technology-enhanced instruction, that can help students from diverse backgrounds connect with the idea of a unified India. Furthermore, it identifies challenges including regional disparities, linguistic diversity, and socio-economic inequalities that may hinder cohesive national growth. The paper concludes by proposing a holistic model for education that nurtures responsible citizenship, embraces diversity, and actively contributes to national integration – laying the groundwork for a truly developed and united India by 2047.

**Keywords:** *National Integration, Viksit Bharat@2047, Education Reform, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Civic Education*

#### Introduction

India, with its unparalleled cultural, linguistic, and socio-economic diversity, has always viewed education as a transformative force – capable of nurturing individuals and shaping the trajectory of the nation. As the country stands at the cusp of celebrating 100 years of independence in 2047, the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 (Developed India @2047) emerges as a clarion call to reimagine every foundational pillar of national development, with education at the forefront. In this context, it becomes imperative to explore how Indian education can be re-envisioned not merely as a system of academic instruction, but as a holistic mechanism to foster national integration, inclusive growth, democratic citizenship, and a shared vision for a developed India.

The concept of Viksit Bharat@2047 encapsulates India's collective aspiration to become a self-reliant, equitable, innovative, and globally respected nation—anchored in its civilizational values while embracing modernity. To actualize this ambitious vision, the education system must serve as both an enabler and a unifier, providing young citizens with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to contribute meaningfully to national progress. At the same time, education must also be a powerful instrument of national integration—promoting unity in diversity, mutual respect, constitutional values, and a strong sense of belonging among India's youth.

Historically, education in India has undergone significant transformations—from the ancient gurukuls and madrasas to colonial-era schooling, and then to the post-independence public education system shaped by constitutional mandates. Despite commendable strides in access, enrolment, and literacy, persistent challenges remain, including regional disparities, socio-economic inequalities, rote learning, skill gaps, and disconnects between curriculum and contemporary realities. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has provided a blueprint to address many of these issues, emphasizing critical thinking, multilingualism, holistic development, experiential learning, digital integration, and the nurturing of ethical and constitutional values. However, to align the education system effectively with the aspirations of Viksit Bharat@2047, there is a need for a deeper reconceptualization—one that integrates the goals of national development with the ideals of national unity.

This research paper aims to explore how Indian education can be reimagined through the twin lenses of national integration and Viksit Bharat@2047, arguing that these two goals are not separate, but mutually reinforcing. It examines the role of curriculum, pedagogy, teacher training, technology, policy frameworks, and community participation in building an education system that prepares students to be not just economically productive but also socially responsible, culturally rooted, and globally competent citizens. It also investigates how education can help dissolve historical divides—be they linguistic, regional, religious, caste-based, or gendered—and foster a shared national consciousness that respects diversity while building unity.

In doing so, this paper seeks to answer a set of critical questions: What should be the philosophical and pedagogical foundations of education in a Viksit Bharat? How can schools and universities become spaces for cultivating constitutional morality and inclusive citizenship? What strategies can be employed to ensure that every child—regardless of background—has equal access to quality education that empowers them to contribute to India's future? And how can educational institutions act as agents of national cohesion while also embracing local, cultural, and regional identities?

Ultimately, this research proposes that a forward-looking, integration-oriented education system is central to the realization of Viksit Bharat@2047. By nurturing not only intellectual excellence but also emotional intelligence, civic consciousness, and a sense of collective destiny, education can become the most powerful vehicle for nation-building in the 21st century. It is through such a reimagined vision that India can transform its demographic dividend into democratic strength, and its cultural diversity into a source of resilient unity and innovation.

### **Objectives**

- To critically examine the current state of the Indian education system in terms of its alignment with the goals of national integration and inclusive development.
- To explore the conceptual framework of Viksit Bharat@2047 and identify the educational reforms necessary to support its vision of a developed, self-reliant, and united India.

### **Methodology**

This study has employed a qualitative methodology, analyzing policy documents, educational frameworks, and scholarly literature to explore the role of education in promoting national integration and achieving the goals of Viksit Bharat@2047.

### **Critical Examination of the Current State of Indian Education**

India's education system, as one of the largest and most diverse in the world, holds immense potential to be a unifying force across regional, linguistic, social, and economic divides. However, its alignment with the ideals of national integration and inclusive development remains uneven and faces several structural and ideological challenges, despite ongoing reforms.

#### **1. Diversity and Unity: Promise vs. Practice**

While India's diversity is celebrated constitutionally and culturally, the education system has often struggled to convert this diversity into a coherent foundation for national unity:

- *Language Barriers:* The linguistic diversity of India poses both a challenge and an opportunity. Although the three-language formula aimed to promote multilingualism, in practice it often reinforces regional linguistic silos rather than encouraging cross-cultural understanding.
- *Curriculum Gaps:* Curriculum and textbooks vary widely across states, often emphasizing regional histories at the expense of national narratives. There is limited representation of tribal, northeastern, and marginalized communities in mainstream educational content.

#### **2. Social Inclusion and Access Disparities**

While enrolment rates have improved significantly, inclusion in terms of quality, outcomes, and equity is still lacking:

- *Caste, Class, and Gender Gaps:* Students from SC, ST, OBC, and minority backgrounds often face structural discrimination and lack access to quality institutions. Girls, especially in rural areas, still contend with dropout rates and safety concerns.
- *Urban-Rural Divide:* There is a significant gap in infrastructure, teacher quality, and digital access between rural and urban schools, limiting equal opportunities for learning.
- *Private vs. Public Schooling:* The proliferation of private schools has led to increasing stratification, where students from lower-income families often receive inferior education in underfunded public schools.

#### **3. Value-Based and Civic Education**

One of the critical pillars of national integration is the cultivation of shared constitutional values such as secularism, democracy, fraternity, and respect for diversity. However:

- *Civic Education is Underemphasized:* Civic literacy, democratic values, and ethical reasoning are not systematically integrated into classroom instruction.
- *Rise in Polarization:* In some instances, textbooks and pedagogical approaches have been accused of promoting ideological bias, potentially undermining the secular and inclusive ethos of the Constitution.

#### **4. Skill Development and Economic Inclusion**

An inclusive education system must empower learners with the skills and competencies required for socio-economic mobility and contribution to nation-building:

- *Skill Mismatch:* A large segment of graduates remains unemployable due to outdated curricula and limited vocational or experiential learning.
- *Digital Divide:* With increasing digitization, particularly post-COVID-19, there is a growing exclusion of economically disadvantaged students who lack access to devices, connectivity, and digital literacy.

#### **5. Reforms and Policy Intentions**

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 offers a vision aligned with Viksit Bharat@2047, aiming to make education more holistic, inclusive, and value-based. However:

- *Implementation Challenges:* The decentralized education system and federal structure complicate uniform implementation.
- *Insufficient Investment:* Public spending on education remains below the recommended 6% of GDP, hampering infrastructure upgrades, teacher training, and equity programs.

While India's education system has made significant strides in improving access and literacy, its alignment with the goals of national integration and inclusive development is still a work in progress. The system remains marred by inequalities, regionalism, exclusionary practices, and a narrow academic focus. For education to serve as a true vehicle of national unity and development, it must embrace pluralism, equity, and empowerment not just in policy, but in pedagogy, curriculum, infrastructure, and institutional ethos.

#### **Exploring the Conceptual Framework of Viksit Bharat@2047**

Viksit Bharat@2047 is the Government of India's aspirational vision for transforming the country into a developed nation by the centenary of its independence in 2047. It is not merely a developmental roadmap but a collective national mission that aims to harness India's demographic dividend, technological capabilities, cultural richness, and democratic institutions to ensure holistic, inclusive, and sustainable growth.

#### **Core Pillars of Viksit Bharat@2047**

1. *Economic Growth and Innovation:* Achieving a high GDP per capita through industrial growth, entrepreneurship, and knowledge-based innovation.
2. *Social Inclusion and Equity:* Ensuring that development is inclusive, benefiting marginalized sections, and reducing socio-economic disparities.
3. *Environmental Sustainability:* Promoting green technologies and sustainable practices to address climate change and resource degradation.
4. *Technological Advancement:* Making India a global hub for AI, robotics, space research, and digital economy.
5. *Governance and Institutional Reform:* Creating a citizen-centric, transparent, and accountable administrative ecosystem.
6. *National Unity and Cultural Renaissance:* Strengthening national integration while preserving India's pluralistic heritage and promoting constitutional values.
7. *Human Capital Development:* Equipping India's youth with the knowledge, skills, ethics, and mindset to lead and sustain progress.

#### **Role of Education in Realizing the Viksit Bharat Vision**

Education forms the foundation for all the above pillars, particularly in fostering a self-reliant, innovative, ethical, and united citizenry. Without deep-rooted reforms in education, the Viksit Bharat dream cannot be translated into reality. The current system must thus be reimagined to produce:

1. Globally competent individuals
2. Socially responsible citizens
3. Culturally rooted leaders
4. Future-ready innovators

#### **Educational Reforms Necessary to Support Viksit Bharat@2047**

##### **1. Curriculum Transformation**

- *Contextualized and Future-Oriented Content:* Integrate climate literacy, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, AI, data science, and civic engagement into the curriculum.
- *Focus on National Integration:* Embed stories, examples, and case studies that reflect India's cultural diversity, constitutional values, freedom struggle, and civic duties.
- *Value-Based Education:* Prioritize ethics, empathy, critical thinking, and emotional intelligence to shape well-rounded individuals.

## **2. Multilingual and Inclusive Pedagogy**

- *Language of Learning:* Strengthen multilingual education through proper implementation of the Three-Language Formula, ensuring respect for regional languages while enabling national cohesion through Hindi and global connectivity through English.
- *Culturally Responsive Teaching:* Include local history, folklore, crafts, and knowledge systems to empower regional identities within a national narrative.

## **3. Teacher Training and Professional Development**

- *Capacity Building:* Restructure teacher training institutions (DIETs, SCERTs) to focus on digital pedagogy, inclusive teaching, and nation-building goals.
- *Emotional and Civic Pedagogy:* Train teachers not just in content delivery, but also in fostering democratic dialogue, classroom diversity, and conflict resolution.

## **4. Digital Inclusion and Infrastructure**

- *Bridge the Digital Divide:* Expand rural internet access, provide devices, and localize digital content to ensure that the benefits of EdTech reach all learners.
- *Smart Classrooms and Hybrid Models:* Implement blended learning models to build adaptability and resilience into the system.

## **5. Vocational and Skill-Based Education**

- *NEP-2020 Implementation:* Integrate vocational education from Grade 6 onwards, linking students with local industries and startups.
- *Industry-Academia Partnerships:* Encourage collaboration between schools, universities, and industries to make curricula job-relevant and innovation-driven.

## **6. Civic and Constitutional Education**

- *Active Citizenship:* Introduce experiential learning on constitutional rights and duties, mock parliaments, and local governance simulations.
- *Community Engagement:* Mandate student participation in local development initiatives, environmental projects, and social inclusion programs.

## **7. Research and Innovation Ecosystem**

- *Strengthen Higher Education Institutions:* Transform universities into research hubs focused on national challenges—agriculture, health, rural tech, renewable energy.
- *Incentivize Innovation:* Provide grants, mentorship, and incubators for student-led innovations addressing SDGs and local problems.

## **8. Equity and Social Justice**

- *Targeted Support for Marginalized Groups:* Expand scholarships, hostels, and bridge courses for SC/ST/OBC, tribal, and disabled students.
- *Gender Equity in Education:* Encourage girls' participation in STEM, leadership programs, and higher education through community mobilization and safety infrastructure.

The vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 requires not just economic reforms or infrastructural development but a deep transformation in the educational paradigm. Education must evolve into a dynamic, inclusive, and value-driven force that prepares India's youth to lead a united, self-reliant, innovative, and equitable society. By reorienting curriculum, pedagogy, teacher training, governance, and digital outreach in line with national integration and developmental goals, India can empower its citizens to not only dream of a developed nation but actively build it—together, with purpose and pride.

## **Conclusion**

As India marches towards its centenary of independence in 2047, the vision of Viksit Bharat—a developed, inclusive, and empowered nation—demands a transformative rethinking of its educational landscape. Reimagining Indian education through the lens of national integration entails not merely academic excellence but also fostering a shared sense of identity, values, and purpose among its diverse populace. Education must evolve to become a unifying force that celebrates diversity while instilling constitutional values, civic responsibility, and a commitment to nation-building. By aligning pedagogical strategies, curricula, and institutional goals with the aspirations of Viksit Bharat@2047, India can cultivate a generation of informed, empathetic, and innovative citizens ready to lead the country into a future marked by equity, prosperity, and unity. The journey ahead calls for policy coherence, grassroots implementation, and a steadfast belief in the transformative power of education as the cornerstone of a truly integrated and developed India.

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