

NEP Alliance invites all citizens to voice their views



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[National Education](#) Policy Alliance, [India](#)'s diverse [group](#) of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) has started an avant-garde concept of creating a Wiki on the government's draft [National Education Policy](#) (NEP) to democratize the [policy](#) discourse. The Wiki is at www.nep.ccs.in. The idea is to have an open platform to deliberate, publically collaborate and find realistic solutions for the challenges plaguing the [education](#) sector and influence the [policy](#) in a participatory manner. It is a collaborative, productive and a transparent platform for public discourse on [education policy](#).

[India](#) has embarked on a historic mission of formulating a new [National Education](#) Policy (NEP), which was left untouched since 1992. The two official [documents](#) give a distinct idea of the contours of the NEP: [One](#) by the Committee for Evolution of the New [Education](#) Policy, headed by TSR Subramanian and the second by the MHRD titled 'Some Inputs for Draft [National Education](#) Policy 2016.' The MHRD has also invited comments on the document with a deadline of July 31 to be mailed at – NEP nep.edu@gov.in. Both the [documents](#) are open to discussion on the platform- NEP Wiki.

The launch of the participatory platform of Wiki coincides with the reshuffle in the Cabinet and Shri Prakash Javadekar has become the HRD Minister. Shri Javadekar has the first hand knowledge of the complexity of the challenges in school education [as](#) his mother and sister have been teachers. This complexity requires working with all voices and stakeholders, none more so than the citizens of [India](#). He will be particularly thrilled to see the active engagement of the citizenry on this critical issue of national education [policy](#) formulation.

Visibly excited at the prospect, Dr Parth Shah, Founder & [President](#), Centre for Civil Society (CCS) said, "[Technology](#) has been the most powerful tool for democratization of public space. A [group](#) of citizens

and CSOs—NEP Alliance—has decided to democratize the whole [policy](#) discourse via NEP WIKI. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first in the history of Indian public [policy](#) making.”

Professor Geeta [Gandhi](#) Kingdon, Chair, UCL Institute of [Education](#), University College London and Economist said, “The NEP-wiki is an excellent initiative, which will give voice to many stakeholders who feel passionately about improving the quality of [education](#) in the country. I urge the contributors to write only evidence-based critiques and suggestions, in order to make the contributions free of ideology and focus mainly on what works and what does not, to improve quality of schooling.”

Wiki provides a transparent process wherein one can read the comments of all the others, [as](#) opposed to each one sending in suggestions unknown to other citizens. It is a more collaborative approach since before making a comment, one can see all the other points of views and therefore build on the contributions of all. It is more productive since at the end of the process, there will be a new document on [policy](#) and not just a list of random reform ideas.

Commenting on the novel idea of the participatory democracy, Mr D Shashi Kumar, Director, Brain Center and General Secretary, KAMS Karnataka (Associated Managements of Private Unaided [Schools](#) in Karnataka) said, “We are thrilled about the initiative taken by NEP Alliance [as](#) it is the need of the moment to showcase the concern of all individuals in [policy](#) making on Indian education. Usually suggestions are taken only from a few individuals who do not have practical experience. It is time to harness digital technology and rope in people from all walks of life.”

Stating his views on the NEP Wiki, Mr C L Rose, Secretary General, All

[India](#) Associations of Teachers' Organizations (AFTO) said, "Teachers are rarely consulted in making policies about education. Most assume that they would oppose reforms. The NEP Wiki allows teachers [as](#) well [as](#) all the real stakeholders to voice their concerns on the [policy](#) and do it publicly."

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