



## Panchpadi Teaching Methodology: Contemporary relevance and alignment with NEP-2020

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### Abstract

The first integrated curriculum framework for children ages 3 to 8 in India is the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCFFS). It seeks to offer an integrated approach to education and care for young children. The NCF highlights that pupils' potential cannot be fully developed by a single teaching approach. In order to give pupils a wider learning environment, teachers must organise their teaching methods. In order to create a comprehensive environment for holistic growth and meaningful learning experiences, effective teaching is predicated on concepts that direct instructional practices. Rather than being an unplanned activity, effective teaching is a well-structured activity with the aim of producing meaningful learning experiences. Planning, which includes developing and organising lesson plans, instructional strategies, resources, and assessment procedures, is the cornerstone of good teaching. In light of this, NCF-FS describes lesson planning as an essential step in the learning process. Panchpadi, a five-step learning process, is one of the many teaching strategies that are highlighted for the Foundational Stage and is a vital tool for encouraging comprehensive understanding and development. Its relevance has increased in the modern era as a result of the paradigm shift in teaching and learning that the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 advocates. In order to foster critical thinking, creativity, and socio-emotional abilities, the policy places a strong emphasis on experiential, competency-based, and holistic education. This essay examines Panchpadi's current relevance as a means of implementing NEP 2020's goals in the classroom. The NEP 2020 focus on fundamental learning, joyful classrooms, and lifelong learning competencies is strongly aligned with Panchpadi's methodical linking of prior knowledge to conceptual comprehension, active practice, real-life application, and peer-led diffusion. As a potent paradigm for modern education reform in India, the study contends that Panchpadi offers educators and students a flexible yet disciplined framework for attaining meaningful learning results.

**Keywords:** Integrated curriculum, foundational stage education, experiential learning, competency-based education, holistic development, meaningful learning experiences, lesson planning, child-centred pedagogy

### Introduction

Socio-economic and caste-based inequalities have long influenced India's educational system, which has had an impact on educational quality over time. To enhance the Indian educational system, a number of frameworks and policies have been implemented on occasion. India's 2020 National Education Policy is a comprehensive attempt to enhance the educational system. To accomplish the goals and objectives of NEP 2020, the National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023 (NCFSE) is a significant project.

By introducing a 5+3+3+4 model that is intended to correspond with children's developmental stages and encourage interdisciplinary learning, the NCFSE 2023 seeks to replace the current 10+2 educational framework in the Indian educational system (Ministry of Education, 2023). The NCFSE 2023 also prioritises bilingual education, digital education, basic literacy, and vocational training. Nonetheless, the NCFSE's suggested reforms are meant to rectify the unequal distribution of education in a multicultural nation like India.

Across the new 5+3+3+4 school system, the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF 2023) serves as the implementation roadmap for the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in India for children ages 3 to 18. By moving away from rote learning to promote critical thinking and creativity, it places an emphasis on holistic education through basic literacy and numeracy, activity-

based and multimodal learning, multilingualism, flexible topic options, and contemporary assessment approaches.

### Key Aspects of NCF 2023

- 1. Holistic Educational Transformation:** By emphasising a thorough approach to student development, the framework seeks to enhance the Indian educational system as a whole.
- 2. 5+3+3+4 Structure:** Four phases are included in this structure, which takes the role of the conventional 10+2 system: Foundation (ages 3–8), Preparatory (ages 8–11), Middle (ages 11–14), and Secondary (ages 14–18).
- 3. Focus on Foundational Skills:** Early childhood education places a great focus on play-based and activity-oriented learning to guarantee that every kid has good reading, writing, and math skills.
- 4. Teacher Empowerment:** The framework acknowledges educators as important change agents and seeks to enable them to adopt innovative teaching strategies.
- 5. Multilingual Education:** By using regional languages as teaching languages, it encourages multilingual proficiency.

6. **Flexible Subject Choices:** Students can select courses from a variety of disciplines in the secondary level, eschewing the rigid streams of science or the arts.
7. **Integrated and Modern Assessment:** The NCF 2023 encourages contemporary evaluation techniques that go beyond a purely exam-focused approach and foster holistic development.
8. **Vocational Education:** Through the development of practical skills and a respect for labour, the framework promotes vocational education as a means of bridging the gap between education and employment.
9. **Inclusive Curriculum:** Because of the curriculum's comprehensive and equitable design, every kid will have access to high-quality educational opportunities.

Accordingly, the five-stage Panchpadi pedagogical framework for learning was suggested by the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2023. A key idea in both the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) and the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) is the Panchpadi approach.

### What is Panchpadi?

Panchpadi, which means "five steps" in Sanskrit, is a five-step pedagogical approach to teaching and learning that is being promoted in Indian education, especially by the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2023. The purpose of the Panchpadi technique is to assist educators in creating efficient lesson plans. Through five stages—Aditi (Introduction), Bodh (Conceptual Understanding), Abhyas (Practice), Prayog (Application), and Prasar (Expansion)—this methodical approach seeks to promote holistic growth by advancing from introduction to concept mastery and practical application. This approach assists students in developing a solid foundation, honing their abilities, applying their information in practical settings, and expanding their comprehension through peer learning.

The Panchpadi technique is a methodical five-step strategy to efficient teaching and learning that was created by Indian educationist Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar and later made popular by scholars such as Dr. V.G. Vaidya. Panchpadi, which literally translates to "five steps," refers to the methodical technique of logically and captivately presenting information.

The Panchpadi approach works particularly well for teaching history and social sciences since it develops students' critical thinking, reasoning, and analytical skills in addition to imparting factual knowledge. It guarantees active engagement and significant learning by progressing from the familiar to the unfamiliar and from easy to difficult. Additionally, it is in line with contemporary educational ideas of critical inquiry, experiential learning, and child-centered education that are connected to language, geography, religion, and caste.

In essence, Panchpadi is a comprehensive and entertaining method of teaching that supports children's active exploration, comprehension, application, and sharing of their knowledge—all of which are in line with the fundamental ideas of the NCF-FS. It shifts the focus from

rote memorisation to a more interesting and significant educational process.

### The Five Steps of Panchpadi

1. **Aditi (Introduction):** This stage focusses on using enquiries and investigation to activate past knowledge and make connections between new ideas and the child's past experiences. Teachers assist students in connecting new concepts with what they already know by asking questions and promoting initial research.
  - **Goal:** to expose pupils to concepts or topics they haven't encountered before.
  - **Approach:** It consists of stating the learner's objectives and expectations for a certain learning unit. It stimulates students' curiosity and readies their minds for the upcoming learning process. Typically, strategies such as telling a tale, asking questions, or utilising real-world examples to illustrate the material are used immediately.
  - **As an illustration:** In order to stimulate students' pre-existing understanding of the planets, stars, and space, a teacher may show them images of the Earth and the moon. This is one way to introduce the solar system.
2. **Bodh (Conceptual Understanding):** Through play, conversation, investigation, and experimentation, students gain a deeper understanding of the fundamental ideas. Children gain a basic understanding of concepts under the supervision of teachers through reading, experimenting, dialogue, and playful inquiry.
  - **Goal:** The experiences made it possible for students to appreciate the subject as their understanding of it improved.
  - **Approach:** Extensive and in-depth research and analysis on the topic are the goals of this stage. Through explanations, arguments, and examples, it offers tasks that help students learn more efficiently. During this period, practical thinking is encouraged since society expects people to think critically.
  - **As an illustration:** The various planets and their order from the sun are taught to children through a brief animated film, a talk, or a basic model. To help students retain the planet sequence and develop a conceptual grasp of the fundamental structure of the solar system, the teacher may employ a straightforward song or mnemonic.

Through conversation and observation, this teaching method will assist students in understanding the idea.

3. **Abhyas (Practice):** During this stage, kids put what they've learnt into practice to make sure they comprehend it. Students experiment and refine their

skills while strengthening their comprehension through hands-on activities, group projects, and small projects.

- **Goal:** To make the learning process easier by doing it repeatedly.
  - **Method:** In order to demonstrate what they have learnt, students are encouraged to complete assignments, make use of resources, or resolve problems at this phase. It aids in strengthening the knowledge and skills picked up in earlier learning phases.
  - **As an illustration:** Students can use play-dough to create a model of the solar system, draw and label the planets, or colour worksheets where they have to match the names of the planets to their pictures. Students' comprehension will be strengthened by these exercises, which will also foster their creativity.
4. **Prayog (Application):** Students gain the ability to use the knowledge and abilities they have learnt in real-world scenarios. By using what they have learnt to solve problems and complete projects in real-world situations, students demonstrate knowledge transfer.
- **Goal:** To apply knowledge to practical or real-world situations.
  - **As an illustration:** the students could collaborate in groups to prepare a brief presentation on a single planet, using what they have learnt to investigate its features and share their findings with the class. To show off what they've learnt, they may also illustrate the solar system on a giant poster. It will assist students in seeing how their education relates to the actual world.
5. **Prasar (Expansion):** In the last phase, students impart their information to others, which improves their own comprehension and forges enduring memories. At this final stage, children are able to communicate their newly gained knowledge and comprehension to others through peer engagement, narrative, music, or further investigation. It will promote an interactive and cooperative learning atmosphere.

#### Purpose and Benefits

1. **Holistic Learning:** Panchpadi seeks to combine value-based, social, and emotional growth with academic instruction.
2. **Active Engagement:** It promotes inquiry-based learning, active engagement, and a more profound, enjoyable comprehension of ideas.
3. **Structured Framework:** Teachers can prepare and present successful lessons using a clear and adaptable framework that is provided by the five processes.
4. **Alignment with NCF:** It supports the comprehensive development that is emphasised in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

#### Relevance of Panchpadi Teaching Methodology with NEP 2020

Since the Panchpadi teaching approach emphasises deeper comprehension over rote memorisation and reflects the program's experiential and competency-based learning principles, it is extremely pertinent to NEP 2020. The goal of NEP 2020 is to provide a complete, dynamic, and interactive learning environment. This five-step strategy fosters students' creativity, critical thinking, and passion of lifelong learning by shifting the focus from knowledge delivery to skill development.

1. **Experiential and competency-based Learning:** Panchpadi, a cornerstone of NEP 2020, emphasises skill development, real-world application, and information acquisition through experiential learning, going beyond rote memorisation.
2. **Holistic Development:** One of the main goals of NEP 2020 is the education of the "whole child," which includes not only academic learning but also the development of emotions, relationships, and values. The Panchpadi framework supports this goal.
3. **Joyful and Interactive Learning:** By providing a structured yet dynamic five-step technique, Panchpadi helps to create interactive learning environment that boost students' engagement and enjoyment of learning.
4. **Focus on Fundamental Education:** Because it fosters early curiosity and aids in the development of strong reading and numeracy skills, the Panchpadi concept is particularly relevant to the NEP 2020 foundational period (ages 3–8).
5. **Promoting Deeper Understanding:** Each step of the Panchpadi process is designed to ensure that knowledge is not only retained but also well understood and conserved, in line with NEP 2020's emphasis on conceptual clarity.

#### How Panchpadi is Put into Practice

**Five-Step Approach:** Panchpadi's five stages give teachers a practical, step-by-step method to implement new teaching techniques in the classroom, even though they aren't discussed in the material that is available.

**Teacher Empowerment:** In order to support teachers' professional growth, the policy encourages them to adopt innovative teaching strategies and provides resources like Panchpadi to help them do so successfully.

**Production of New Materials:** As suggested by NEP 2020, the successful implementation of Panchpadi requires the development of new teaching-learning materials, textbooks, and teacher support training programs.

#### Implementation in the Classroom

Teachers are urged to do the following in order to successfully implement the Panchpadi framework:

**Create Curriculum Activities:** Create lesson plans that adhere to the five steps in a progressive manner to guarantee a seamless and thorough learning process.

**Encourage student involvement:** Encourage student's participation through interactive exercises, dialogues, and practical projects to promote active learning.

**Assess Holistically:** Instead than depending only on conventional testing, use assessment techniques that gauge comprehension, application, and teamwork.

**Provide Continuous Support:** To assist students in successfully navigating the learning process, provide direction and comments at every turn.

### Conclusion

The Panchpadi framework offers an organised but adaptable approach to early education that perfectly fits with NEP 2020's goals. Teachers can improve the learning process and help young students develop critical thinking, creativity, and social skills in addition to academic success by implementing this five-step pedagogical paradigm. Children that participate in Panchpadi develop a growth attitude and a lifelong passion of learning. It equips kids to better handle the demands of a constantly changing knowledge and skill base, both during and after their school years. Learning could become a dynamic and interesting experience in the classroom if the Panchpadi technique is used. The five elements of this broad-based approach to learning that were previously mentioned can help students learn how to use their abilities effectively, apply their information effectively, and expand their knowledge of the subjects in a useful way.

Thus, Panchpadi methodology operationalizes the vision of NEP 2020 by providing a practical pedagogical model that:

1. Shifts classrooms from rote learning to experiential learning,
2. Builds competencies rather than just knowledge,
3. Fosters holistic development, and
4. Empowers both teachers and students in the learning process.

Hence, Panchpadi can be regarded as both pertinent and crucial to achieving the transformative vision for school education outlined in NEP 2020. It is applicable to a wide range of courses and useful for teachers in foundational and early childhood education settings.

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