

The '3Cs' that Haunt Indian Education Today

The introduction of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 masks a government that appears indifferent to the education of India's children and youth. Over the past decade, the Union Government has demonstrated that its educational priorities revolve around three core agenda items - centralisation of power, commercialisation of education, and communalisation of curriculum and institutions.

These three points are systematically reshaping India's education landscape with far-reaching consequences for students, educators, and the nation's future. Let's examine how these '3Cs' are fundamentally altering the educational framework of India.

Centralisation: Undermining Federal Education Structure

**1**

Central Advisory Board Dormant

The Central Advisory Board of Education has not convened since September 2019, despite implementing NEP 2020.

2

State Consultation Ignored

Union Government has not consulted State governments on implementation of NEP policies.

3

Constitutional Violation

Education is in the Concurrent List but is being treated as Union Government's sole domain.

Unchecked centralisation has been the hallmark of this Government's functioning over the last 11 years, with its most damaging consequences manifesting in education. This approach contradicts the constitutional framework that places education squarely in the Concurrent List, requiring cooperation between Centre and States.



The Bullying Tendency in Educational Governance

Withholding SSA Funds

State governments coerced to implement PM-SHRI scheme by withholding grants due under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.

RTE Implementation Affected

Funds meant for implementing Right to Education Act have been due to States for years.

Parliamentary Committee Intervention

The bipartisan Parliamentary Standing Committee has called for unconditional release of SSA funds to State governments.

The lack of dialogue is accompanied by what can only be described as a 'bullying tendency' in educational governance. These actions reveal a government more concerned with publicity and posturing than upholding the constitutionally guaranteed Right to Education, representing a flagrant violation of constitutional morality.



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Higher Education: Centralising Vice- Chancellor Appointments



UGC Guidelines 2025

Draconian draft guidelines exclude State governments from VC appointments



State Universities Affected

Even universities established, funded and operated by States lose autonomy



Governor Powers

Union Government gains power through Governors typically designated as Chancellors



Federalism Threatened

Represents backdoor attempt to convert Concurrent List subject to Union preserve

In higher education, the centralisation agenda has manifested through the draft University Grants Commission guidelines of 2025. This move gives the Union Government near-monopoly power in selecting Vice-Chancellors in State universities, representing one of the gravest threats to educational federalism in contemporary India.



Commercialisation: The Retreat of Public Education

89,441

**Public Schools
Closed**

**Schools shut down or
consolidated since 2014**

42,944

**Private Schools
Added**

**Additional private
institutions established
in the same period**

100%

**HEFA Loan
Repayment**

**Up to 100% of loans being
repaid through student
fees**

The Modi government's commercialisation of education has been happening in plain sight, fully compliant with the NEP. The concept of neighbourhood schools is being overturned by introducing school complexes, which in practice means large-scale shutdown of public schooling and unchecked privatisation of school education.



The Shift from Grants to Loans in Higher Education

HEFA Introduction

Higher Education Financing Agency replaces UGC's block-grant system

Fee Hikes

Students bear the burden through increased educational fees



Market-Rate Loans

Universities encouraged to seek loans at commercial interest rates

Revenue Repayment

Institutions obliged to repay from their own revenues

In higher education, the shift from grants to loans has fundamentally altered how institutions are funded. According to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education's 364th Report, between 78% to 100% of HEFA loans are being repaid by universities through student fees, effectively transferring the financial burden to students.

Corruption: A Byproduct of Commercialisation



NAAC Bribery Scandal

National Assessment and Accreditation Council implicated in corruption cases



NTA Controversies

National Testing Agency facing scrutiny for financial malfeasance and incompetence



Systemic Venality

Growing cynicism in public education linked to government-sponsored politicisation

The increasing prevalence of corruption in India's education systems is a manifestation of this commercialisation. From the bribery scandal in the National Assessment and Accreditation Council to the tragically inept National Testing Agency, public education systems and agencies are increasingly under the spotlight for financial malfeasance.



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Communalisation: Rewriting History and Curriculum

NCERT Textbook Revisions

Textbooks have been revised with the intention of sanitising Indian history. Key historical events and periods have been selectively removed or modified to align with a particular ideological narrative.

- Mahatma Gandhi's assassination dropped from curricula
- Sections on Mughal India removed
- Preamble to Indian Constitution initially removed

Ideological Appointments

Educational institutions have seen systematic changes in leadership and faculty composition, with preference given to those aligned with the ruling ideology rather than academic merit.

- Regime-friendly professors hired despite quality concerns
- Leadership positions in premier institutions filled with "pliant ideologues"
- Qualification requirements for professorships being diluted

The Temples of Modern India Under Siege



IITs Under Pressure

The Indian Institutes of Technology, described by Nehru as "temples of modern India," are facing ideological pressure with leadership positions increasingly reserved for those aligned with government ideology.



IIMs Facing Changes

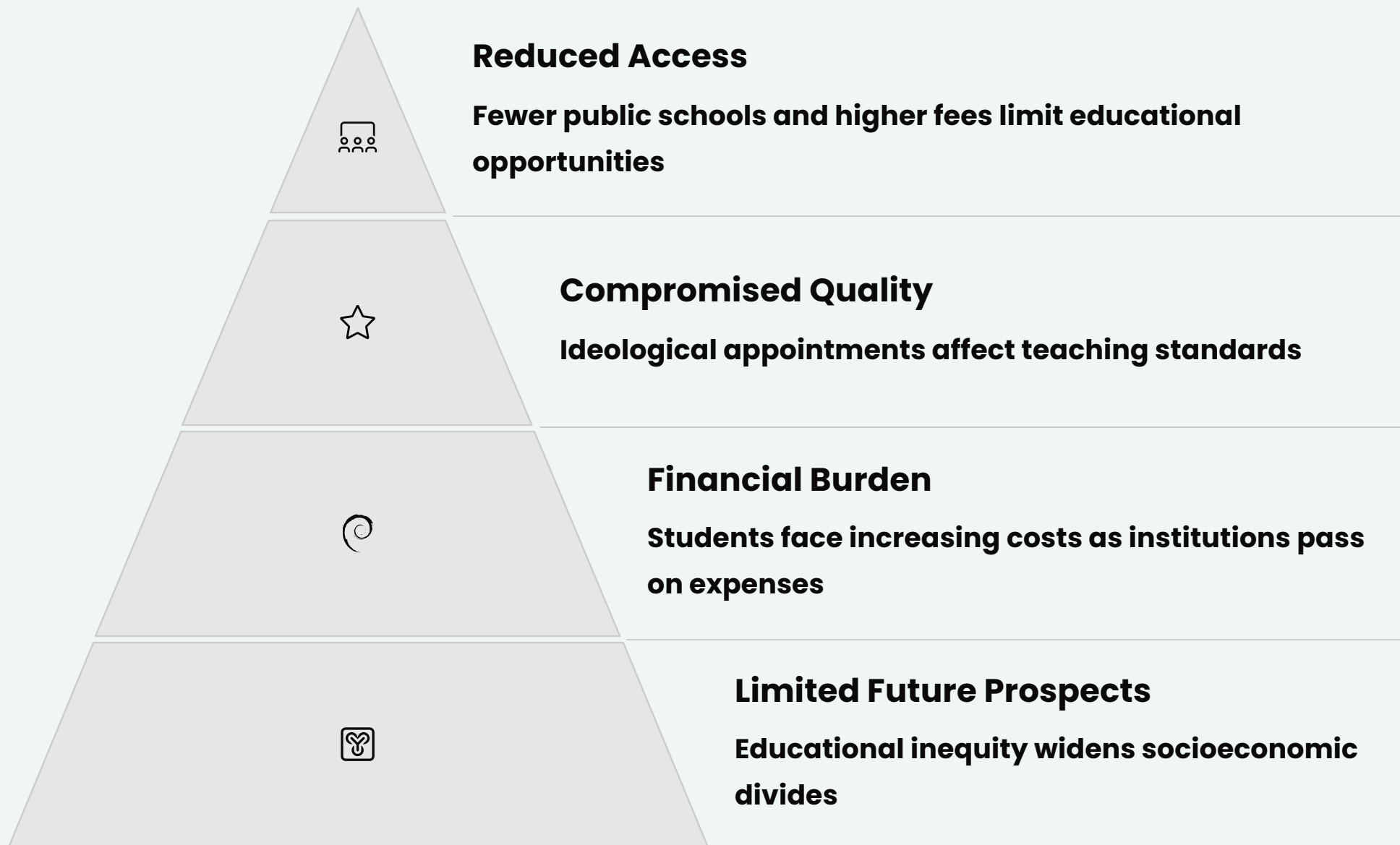
Premier management institutions are experiencing similar pressures with academic freedom and autonomy increasingly constrained by ideological considerations in appointments and curriculum.



Academic Quality Concerns

The UGC's attempts to dilute qualifications for professorships and vice-chancellorships appear designed to enable the influx of educationists driven by ideological considerations rather than academic excellence.

The Impact on Students: Bearing the Brunt



The consequences of this single-minded push for centralisation, commercialisation, and communalisation have fallen squarely on India's students. The poor have been forced out of public education and into prohibitively expensive private schools. Higher education students face mounting fees as institutions struggle with loan repayments, while all students contend with an increasingly ideological curriculum.

The Way Forward: Reclaiming Public Education

1

Restore Constitutional Values

Return to federal structure in educational governance



Reinvest in Public Education

Reverse privatisation trend and strengthen public institutions



Protect Academic Freedom

Ensure curriculum and appointments based on merit not ideology

Over the last decade, India's education systems have been systematically cleansed of the spirit of public service, and education policy has been sanitised of concerns about access and quality. This carnage of India's public education system must end. The path forward requires recommitment to constitutional values, substantial reinvestment in public education, and protection of academic freedom from ideological interference.

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