

State Education Policy Commission

Press Note on report submitted

The Karnataka State Education Policy Commission was appointed by the Government of Karnataka by a Government order on 11 October 2023 to formulate an education policy for the State of Karnataka under the chairmanship of Prof. Sukhdeo Thorat with 17 members, 6 Subject Experts/Advisors and Member Secretary.

The Commission started functioning from 1st November 2025. Commission Constituted total of 35 Task Forces: 16 each for school and higher education and 3 for professional education. This was a massive exercise involving a total of 379 experts who participated as active members across the 35 Task Forces, with 166 experts in the school sector, 170 in higher education, and approximately 43 in professional education. Over a period, commission held 42 meetings and Task Forces convened 132 meetings, amounts to be about 2775 Man days. Commission held, various stakeholders' interactions: 59 related to school education and 73 to higher education.

The commission submitted its interim report in March 2024, which addressed the issues of duration of the degree, MEME and Curriculum framework of general education. The Government accepted majority of recommendations and issued Government Order.

The Final Report of the Commission is culminated into three Volumes. The volume IA & IB cover the School Education of about 580 pages each, Volume IIA & IIB cover the Higher Education of about 455 pages each, and Professional Education in Volume III of 450 pages.

Report is in totally 2197 pages consisting of 617 tables, 47 figures, 16 Graphs 8 Pictures and 619 pages of annexures.

The recommendations of the commission are shaped by a comprehensive understanding of the actual situation. Probably it is for the first time that Karnataka's school and higher education sectors have undergone through such a close scrutiny, based on all available official data and widespread consultations with various stakeholders. Consequently, the recommendations are based on vast amount of empirical data, information, and the experience of those actively engaged in development of education at the national and state level for decades.

The Major Recommendations as follow:

School Education:

1. Adopt a 2+8+4 structure: 2 years of pre-primary, 8 years of elementary, and 4 years of secondary education.
2. Establish residential schools for migrant children.

3. Universalize secondary education across the State.
4. Mandate Kannada/mother tongue as the medium till Class V in all board schools.
5. Implement a two-language policy: Kannada/Mother Tongue + English.
6. Attach 2-year pre-primary programs to primary schools.
7. Regulate private pre-schools through a dedicated framework.
8. Extend RTE coverage to ages 4–18 in a phased manner.
9. Align public school quality with Kendriya Vidyalayas.
10. Develop a Comprehensive Curriculum for School Education (CCSE).
11. End NCERT textbook dependency; localize content across subjects.
12. Discontinue contract/guest teacher appointments.
13. Discourage and arrest further privatization.
14. Create a dedicated regulatory body for private schools.
15. Empower Block Education Offices for academic impact.
16. Separate Committee to be constitute on Indian Knowledge system for the State
17. Merge parallel agencies into an integrated Commissionerate.
18. Convert DSERT into an autonomous SCERT for R&D.
19. Revive a Directorate for Lifelong Learning.
20. Screen public library content to uphold constitutional and scientific values.
21. Raise education's share to 30% of total State expenditure. (New)
22. Ensure steady real growth in per-student spending (5–10% annually).
23. Allocate dedicated budgets for equity, quality, and training.
24. Mobilize additional funds from non-State actors without substituting State obligations.
25. Institutionalize “Constitutional Value Education” as a compulsory subject.
26. Establish a Karnataka State Open Schooling System (KIOS)

Higher Education

1. Create a comprehensive financial framework for timely and adequate funding.
2. Gradually increase spending to 4% of GSDP for education and 1% for higher education by 2034–35.
3. Reallocate budget share for higher education from 14% to 25–30% of the education budget; consider an education surcharge on certain indirect taxes.
4. Allocate at least 25% of increased funds specifically for infrastructure.
5. 3+2 pattern for UG and PG in general education and 4+2 pattern for professional programs.
6. Continue pre-NEP 2020 re-admission policy.
7. Allow PG admissions from any state university (50% seats as per roster norms).
8. UG credit limit extended up to 160 if BoS demands and include interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary courses.
9. Make a second language course compulsory including Kannada/Mother tongue/Indian/foreign.

10. Add compulsory courses on Constitutional Values Education & Environmental Studies.
11. For 3-year UG states: offer 2-year PG with 2nd year research focus.
12. Offer 5-year integrated UG–PG programs.
13. Introduce PG programs in ML, AI+X, healthcare, agriculture, law.
14. Fill UG, PG, Ph.D. seats in private universities via state entrance exams.
15. Ph.D. coursework: 1 year; minimum duration: 4 years (full-time).
16. Apply SC/ST/OBC reservation rules in private Unaided institutions.
17. Recognize top universities/colleges as “State Institutes of Excellence.”
18. Open new University/Colleges only after feasibility studies.
19. New teachers must complete 1–3 months training before teaching.
20. Establish Higher “Education Teacher Academy centre” in all divisions.
21. Training teachers periodically is essential and Open Centre for Language Teaching & Training under Higher Education Academy.
22. Promote bilingual teaching and also provide bilingual versions of major textbooks.
23. Create Centre for Knowledge Translation to Kannada ↔ global languages.
24. Establish and strengthen Equal Opportunity Cells in all colleges, universities, and standalone institutions.
25. Introduce Comprehensive Sexuality Education in undergraduate programs.
26. Keep fees affordable in self-finance courses in state universities, government, and aided colleges and Provide grants to public institutions to cover self-financing course costs.
27. Create a permanent Regulatory mechanism to regulate fees in private institutions.
28. Set up Karnataka State Council for Quality Assessment (KSCQA) to help universities, colleges, and standalone institutions improve quality and excellence.
29. Fill all permanent teaching post vacancies within 5 years, based on workload needs and also provide required budgetary allocation.
30. Fill vacancies (due to retirement or new posts) in time so the gap between sanctioned and filled posts never exceeds 5%.
31. Assistant Professors in universities to be filled through written test via KEA + university interview.

32. Principal in Government colleges: Selection committee by Department of Collegiate Education; applications from eligible UGC-qualified teachers from Government colleges only.
33. Principal in Grant-in-aid colleges: Selection committee by management with government approval; applications from eligible UGC-qualified teachers from GIA colleges.
34. Create a “State Research Foundation” with ₹500 crore seed money.
35. Provide Junior Research Fellowships for Ph.D. students by the state.
36. Reform policies to improve enrolment and reduce dropouts in rural and low-attainment areas specifically Northern Karnataka and the lowest-performing districts.
37. Ensure full free-ship and scholarship coverage for low-income groups in post-matric scholarship.
38. Expand post-matric scholarship coverage and raise income limit to ₹10 lakh per annum.
39. Full free education to girls in government, aided, and private unaided colleges, Incentives girls to prioritise education over domestic/economic activities and financial incentives to delay early marriage.
40. Stipend (half of MGNREGA rate) to reduce labour migration especially Low GER districts.
41. Full financial support for all low-income students Muslims, support to households with low parental education, incentives to increase rural Muslim female enrolment and also incentives for delaying marriage for girls’ education.
42. Establish Karnataka State Education Finance Corporation (KSEFC) under Public-private funding partnership support for education with employment-linked loan repayment system.
43. Provide scholarships to all low-income students who gain admission on merit to private unaided institutions so they are not forced to withdraw.
44. Enact regulations to provide SC/ST/OBC reservation in private unaided universities, deemed universities, colleges, and standalone institutions as per the constitution Article 15(5)
45. Create a separate directorate under the Commissioner of Collegiate Education to monitor infrastructure, admissions, reservations, teaching quality, faculty issues, accountability, and grievances in private unaided colleges.
46. Restructure administration by reducing Regional Joint Director Offices from 6 to 4, with new district-level offices headed by academicians.

47. Set up a Foreign Students' Cell in each university, with a central hub in the Karnataka State Higher Education Council.
48. Should Expand and diversify ODL programs to increase employability and meet local needs in Open Universities.
49. Upgrade ODL infrastructure beyond online-only delivery, with decentralized facilities.
50. Develop credit-based modular learning and recognize prior learning (RPL).
51. Build a state-owned platform and collaborate with SWAYAM/MOOC providers for Kannada-medium courses.
52. If regular universities resume ODL, ensure strict quality conditions and strong support systems.

Professional Education

1. Increase the Job Oriented Professional Courses in all streams of Education.
2. Encourage short term diploma and certificate courses in various professional disciplines especially rural and agriculture related courses.
3. The government should initiate paid internship facilities for students to enrolled in both general degree courses and professional courses.
4. Establish Division-specific Skilling Councils led by local industry leaders in each division of Karnataka.
5. Foster an Entrepreneurship and Innovation-centric Approach:
6. Prioritize Sustainable and Green Skills Development:
7. Integrate Industry-Academia Collaboration as a Core Policy Pillar
8. Prioritize Technology-enhanced Learning and Digital Literacy:
9. Engineering and Polytechnic Education Curriculum must align with National/State Goals:
10. Increase trending technologies like quantum Computing, AI, ML, DS, Life science and Nano science in Engineering and Polytechnic Education
11. Strengthening Research and Innovation in Engineering and Student Support & Entrepreneurship through incubation centre
12. Regional Imbalances in Distribution of Farm Science Universities and Colleges to be addressed.
13. Introduction of New Courses with technology integration *in agriculture*
14. Diploma in Food Processing and Precision Farming to be encouraged specifically in rural areas *from agriculture universities*.

15. *Constitutional Values Education shall be the part of undergraduate study in farm universities.*
16. Introducing Agriculture/Farm study from School and Pre-University Education
17. Restrict the setting up of private agricultural universities. Continue with NRI intake (increased to 10%) in public universities.
18. Promote dual/joint degrees, exchange programmes, and international internships in agriculture domain and permit foreign institutions or campuses under PPP Model.
19. Establishing thematic Research Networks across farm universities (e.g., Biotechnology Research Network of Karnataka) modelled on AICRP;
20. Development of Kannada Language Textbooks for Agricultural Context:
