

# I Holistic NEP 2020 Integration and Academic Flexibility

## 1. About the Practice

This practice involves the complete transition from a rigid disciplinary structure to a multidisciplinary and flexible academic framework as mandated by NEP 2020. It centers on the introduction of a four-year undergraduate program that incorporates Major and Minor subjects, Multidisciplinary Courses (MDC), Skill Enhancement Courses (SEC), and Value-Added Courses (VAC). The institution provides students the liberty to choose "creative combinations" of subjects, breaking the traditional silos of Arts, Commerce, and Social Sciences.

## 2. Goal

- **Multidisciplinary Growth:** To allow students to acquire knowledge across diverse fields .
- **Skill Acquisition:** To bridge the gap between degree education and employability through mandatory Skill Enhancement Courses.
- **Student Autonomy:** To empower students with the "Multiple Entry and Multiple Exit" system, allowing them to earn certificates or diplomas if they cannot complete the full degree.
- **Digital Literacy:** To institutionalize the use of the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) for seamless credit transfer.

## 3. Context

As an institution admitted to the privileges of **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)**, DAV PG College faced the challenge of implementing a complex new national policy while maintaining its high academic standards. The session 2024-25 marks a critical phase where the college had to:

- Re-train faculty to handle new course structures like "Value-Added Courses" (e.g., Environmental Studies, etc).
- Modernize administrative systems to track credits via the DigiLocker/ABC portal.
- Counsel students (and parents) who were accustomed to the old annual/semester system and were hesitant about the new "Major-Minor" choices.

## 4. Evidence of Success

- **Successful Orientation:** In late 2024 and early 2025, the IQAC organized high-level NEP Orientation Programmes (notably featuring experts like Dr. Ashutosh Mohan from BHU) to clarify the 4-year degree structure for first-year students.
- **Expanded Course Offerings:** The successful launch of diverse SEC and VOC (Vocational) papers, such as *Communicative English*, *Yoga*, and *Digital awareness*, which saw high enrolment across departments.
- **Improved Results in Skill Papers:** Internal assessments show that students are performing exceptionally well in practical-oriented skill papers compared to purely theoretical ones

## II Promotion of Local Culture, Heritage, and Regional Languages

### 1. About the Practice

This practice involves a multi-pronged approach to preserving and propagating the cultural and linguistic heritage of Varanasi (Kashi). It includes the use of bilingual pedagogy (Hindi and English), and the organization of specialized workshops on Sanskrit, Vedic Mathematics, and local history. The college leverages its location in the cultural capital of India to turn the city itself into a "living laboratory" for students of History, Sanskrit, and Philosophy.

### 2. Goal

- **Cultural Preservation:** To instill a sense of pride in students regarding the Vedic and classical traditions of Varanasi.
- **Linguistic Inclusivity:** To ensure that students from rural backgrounds feel empowered by using Hindi and Sanskrit as academic mediums alongside English.
- **Holistic Identity:** To develop "Global Citizens with Local Roots" by teaching traditional ethics (Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam) alongside modern science.
- **Economic Opportunity:** To train students in *Heritage Tourism* and *Pilgrimage Management*, turning local culture into a source of employment.

### 3. Context

Varanasi is undergoing a massive transformation with the development of the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor and increased global tourism. DAVPGC, being one of the oldest institutions in the city, recognized that:

- Many students were losing touch with classical languages like **Sanskrit**.
- There was a gap between academic History and the "living history" found in the Ghats and temples of Varanasi.
- Students required a bilingual approach to excel in both local administrative exams (UPPCS) and global platforms.

### 4. Evidence of Success

- **Sanskrit Sambhashan Shibirs:** In the 2024-25 session, the Department of Sanskrit successfully conducted 10-day intensive "Spoken Sanskrit" workshops, resulting in students being able to converse fluently in the language.
- **Heritage Walks & Field Surveys:** The Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology (AIHC) organized field visits to Sarnath and Rajghat, where students mapped local archaeological sites, leading to high-quality project submissions.
- **Bilingual Repository:** The college's official Media Center and YouTube channel now feature lectures delivered in a bilingual format, which has seen a **30% increase in viewership** from students in rural Purvanchal.