



General Studies-2; Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Public Policy Education

Introduction

- India's rapid economic growth and increasing social and public challenges underscore the need for public-policy education.

Public policy education in India

- Public policy education in India has been confined to post-graduate degree programmes, often offered in isolation from the real-world complexities.
- These programmes focus on theoretical frameworks and case studies from the West, without addressing the political dynamics that shape policy challenges in India.
- To truly empower the country's citizens, public-policy education must evolve to become more accessible, practical and contextually relevant.**

What needs to be done?

- Public-policy education should be integrated into the curriculum of UG and PG across all disciplines.
- Students pursuing degrees in engineering, business or arts should be exposed to the basics of public policy.
- Issues from urban planning and environmental protection to healthcare and education—have become ubiquitous concerns in the workplace.
- Programmes on public policy matters should be made available to working professionals across diverse sectors.
- This would improve the quality of decision-making and service delivery.

Benefits of Public policy education

- This will help bring forth a generation of problem-solvers who understand the interconnected nature of societal challenges.
- They will be able to contribute meaningfully to policymaking processes.
- It can play a key role in empowering the country's entrepreneurs.
- By integrating public policy curricula into entrepreneurship programmes can equip the next generation of business leaders with a deeper understanding of the policymaking landscape.
- This can enable them to become active advocates of policy reforms that support innovation and growth of small businesses.
- **Thus public-policy education could become instrumental in fostering informed and resilient startup ecosystem.**

Way Forward

- **India needs a public-policy ecosystem that is responsive and capable of addressing the unique needs of its people.**
- The ultimate goal of public policy education should be to **create a more informed, engaged and empowered citizenry.**
- Through immersive learning, learners can engage with a wide range of experts from policymakers and civil society leaders to academics and social entrepreneurs.
- Local governments, state agencies and national ministries could tap this talent pool to tackle the country's most pressing issues.