

National Education Policy-2020 and Academic Libraries

Dawa Doma Sherpa

Librarian,
Dinhata College,
Dinhata, Coochbehar, West-Bengal, India.
dawadomasherpa651@gmail.com

Structured Abstract:

Purpose: The New Education Policy 2020 (NEP-2020) is the first education policy of the 21st century to replace the 34 years old National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986. The main purpose of this education policy is to make India as a global knowledge superpower throughout the world. In terms of libraries, the NEP 2020 recognizes the crucial role that libraries play in promoting a culture of reading and lifelong learning. National Educational Policy-2020 intended to focus on library as essential service in the context of the schools, colleges and university systems in India. The purpose of the present paper is an attempt towards understanding the New Education Policy-2020's purpose, new format of stages and fundamental principles under NEP-2020 and also aimed to discuss the various schemes and challenges focused on the library as per National Education Policy-2020.

Research Methodology: The paper is a kind of descriptive and analytical in nature and it is brought out with the help of books, journals, research paper and internet resources.

Findings / Conclusion: The policy aims at making the education system holistic, flexible, and multidisciplinary. The policy gives emphasized to well-equipped libraries with modern technology in all education institution. To implement NEP 2020 in higher education has led to a paradigm shift in the role of librarians and responsibilities. Libraries have played an increasingly important role in achieving the objectives of the policy in higher education. To successfully implement the policy the government should provide the needs of the library staff to fulfil the policy's various schemes focused on the library. Therefore, the government and education institutions need to prioritize investment in libraries and provide the necessary resources and infrastructure. When implemented, the policy will bring India at par with leading countries of the world.

Originality / Value: This paper highlights the New Education Policy-2020's purpose, new format of stages and fundamental principles under NEP-2020 and it also highlights the various schemes focused on the library as per National Education Policy-2020 and challenges in implementing NEP-2020 on libraries.

Paper Type: Research Paper.

Keywords: National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020), Libraries, Higher Education, National Policy on Education, 1986.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”

Nelson Mandela

Introduction

Education is a human right and one of the most important investments a country can make in its future. Providing quality education to everyone is the key to India's continued growth and excellence on the world-wide stage. In India, a new education policy introduced every few decades. The first education policy was in 1968 based on recommendations of the Education Commission (1964-1966), introduced by the administration under Mrs. Indira Gandhi as Prime Minister. This was replaced by the National Policy on Education in 1986, by Shri. Rajiv Gandhi as Prime Minister, which is the most elaborated form of any educational policy ever introduced, which emphasized on bridging all these gaps. After 1986, Programme of Action (1992), it was slightly modified again by the Prime Minister Shri. P. V. Narsimha Rao. The Indian Government replaced a 34-year-old National Policy on Education, framed in 1986, with the New Education Policy-2020 on 29 July 2020 approved by the Union Cabinet of India. The draft of the NEP-2020 was chaired by Dr. Kasturirangan on 31st of May 2019. After that it was available in the public domain for its critical appraisal and suggestions from all the stakeholders. It is based on the pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, and Accountability faced by the current education system.

The NEP-2020 recognizes the importance of libraries in education and their role in promoting reading, critical thinking, and access to information. The National Education Policy of India 2020 recognizes the critical role of libraries in education. It calls for the development of well-equipped libraries at all levels of education, including schools, teacher education institutions, and higher education institutions. The policy recognizes that libraries can serve as centers for learning and research, providing access to a wide range of resources, including books, journals, and digital media. The NEP's recommendations on libraries provide a framework for enhancing the quality of education in India and preparing students for the challenges of the 21st century. The Government should accept the needs of the library staff and appropriate staff has to be fulfilled to provide the better services from libraries.

Review of Literature

The research conducted by **Asif and Singh (2022)** discuss the role of libraries in the context of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in India. The authors argue that the NEP emphasizes the importance of libraries and librarians in promoting literacy, lifelong learning, and research.

The study by **Aslam (2022)** discusses the changing behaviour of academic libraries and the role of library professionals. The author argues that libraries must adapt to changing technologies and user needs and suggests that library professionals should focus on providing personalized and user-centric services.

Abeyrathne and Ekanayake (2019) explore the role of academic libraries in enhancing self-directed learning in higher education. The authors argue that academic libraries can play a crucial role in promoting self-directed learning by providing access to resources, providing training and support, and creating an environment conducive to learning.

The research conducted by **Gandhi (2022)** discusses the significance of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 for adult education and lifelong learning programs. The author argues that the policy emphasizes the importance of libraries and librarians in promoting digital literacy, open access, and lifelong learning.

Objectives of the Study

The following objectives are the focus of this research:

1. To study the National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020).
2. To study the new format of education stages as per National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020).
3. To study the fundamental principles under National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020).
4. To discuss the various schemes focused on the library under as per National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020).
5. To find out the challenges in implementing the NEP-2020 recommendations on libraries.

Research Methodology







The study is brought out with the help of books, journals, research paper and internet resources and is a kind of descriptive and analytical in nature. There is a short of previous similar studies observed on the scope and opportunities of library as per New Education Policy in India, it is an attempt being made to understand and evaluate the use of Libraries as an integral part of our education system.

National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020)

The National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020), which was drafted by a panel of experts under the able guidance of the former Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Chief, Dr. K. Kasturirangan after five years of deliberations, got approval by the Union Cabinet of India on July 29, 2020. The NEP-2020 supports school, college and higher education equally.

Purpose of the Policy

According to the Secretary of Ministry of Human Resource Development (now Ministry of Education), Shri Amit Khare, “The policy is aimed at bringing transformational change, and not an incremental change.”

-  The purpose of this policy is to bring qualitative improvement in professional and vocational education and also making sure that its proper implementation can be done effectively thereby constituting evaluation committees which can identify grass root level problems and their solutions at the same time.
-  Taking the education system of the country back to its roots and making it a total Bharat-centric education by taking care of contextualization of every aspect of education, may it be professional or vocational education.
-  To develop scientific temperament and free the students from rat-race of marks and lay emphasis on their holistic development.
-  To make India as a global knowledge superpower throughout the world.
-  To make professional education an integral part of the higher education system.
-  To provide autonomy to all higher education institutions.

- ✚ To consolidate 800 universities and 40,000 colleges into around 15,000 large, multidisciplinary institutions.
- ✚ To protect and promote our culture through the study of classical languages, mother tongues, and regional languages.
- ✚ To universalize the pre-primary education by 2025 and provide foundational literacy/numeracy for all by 2025.

New Format of Education Stages as Per National Education Policy-2020

In NEP-2020, the 10+2 structure of school curriculum is to be replaced by a 5+3+3+4 curriculum structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years, respectively now the school structure has been divided into four parts.

- ✚ 3-8 age group is further divided into 2 groups 3-6 & 6-8.
 - In 3-6 years, early childhood care will be given importance.
 - Age 6-8 years grade 1-2 called as **Foundation Stage**.
 - Focus-play and activity-based learning method, development of language skills
- ✚ Age 8-11 years grade 3-5 called as **Preparatory Stage**.
 - Focus-develop language and numeracy skills; play and activity-based teaching methods; includes classroom interaction, reading, writing, speaking, physical education, art etc.
- ✚ Age 11-14 years grade 6-8 called as **Middle Stage**.
 - Focus-critical learning objectives, experimental learning in science, mathematics, arts, social science, humanities, etc.
- ✚ Age 14-18 years grade 9-12 called as **Secondary Stage**.
 - Focus-multidisciplinary education, high order thinking skills, critical thinking, conceptual clarity and choice of subjects.
- ✚ **Under-graduation Education Level**
 - Every subject will have three- or four-year undergraduate degrees that can be completed in a number of ways, such as with a certificate after the first year, a diploma after the second year, or a bachelor's degree after the third year of study.

It is recommended to follow a four-year undergraduate plan that includes a major, minor, and research projects.

Post-graduation Education Level

- One more year of study after graduation will be called Graduate Research. After completing each stage, students will get credits as per present Grades and these students will be able to view the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) of UGC. You can use these credits to get a job or for further education. The duration of postgraduate studies will be 1 or 2 years. 2 years duration if the student wants to pursue Post Graduation after Graduation and 1 year duration for Post Graduate after Research. For students with a four-year bachelor's degree, the master's degree can be earned in one year; for students with a three-year bachelor's degree, it can be earned in two years; and for students with an integrated five-year degree, the emphasis of the last year is on good research. The Master's degree will contain a sizable research component to enhance professional competence and prepare students for a research degree.

Research Stage

- The Ph. D. research stage requires carrying out good research for a minimum of three to four years for full time study and separately for part-time study in any core subject, multidisciplinary subject, or interdisciplinary subject. They should take part in an 8-credit course in pedagogy, education, or teaching that relates to their selected Ph. D. field. The prior M Phil programme of one year has been discontinued.

Lifelong Learning

- The NEP-2020 promotes lifelong learning and research to avoid individuals with disabilities losing the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to lead pleasant lives in society. At any stage of life, education and research are thought to foster greater maturity and life happiness.

Fundamental Principles under National Education Policy-2020

The fundamental principles conceived in the NEP-2020 guiding both the education system at large as well as an individual institution within it are summarised below-

- ✚ Recognizing, identifying, and fostering the unique capabilities of each student;
- ✚ Flexibility to choose learning path;
- ✚ Giving highest priority to achieving Foundational Literacy and Numeracy by all students by Grade 3;
- ✚ No hard separations between different streams;
- ✚ Implementing multidisciplinary and holistic education;
- ✚ Emphasizing on conceptual understanding rather than rote learning and learning for examinations only;
- ✚ Encourage creativity and critical thinking for logical decision-making and innovation.
- ✚ Fostering ethics, human and constitutional values;
- ✚ Promoting multilingualism and the power of language in teaching and learning;
- ✚ Focus on life skills such as communication, cooperation, teamwork, and resilience;
- ✚ Focusing on regular formative assessments for learning;
- ✚ Extensive use of technology in teaching and learning;
- ✚ Respect for diversity;
- ✚ Synergy in curriculum across all levels of education from early childhood care and education to higher education.
- ✚ Teachers and faculty as the heart of the learning process;
- ✚ Common standards of learning in public and private schools;
- ✚ Light and tight regulatory framework;
- ✚ Strengthening research as a co-requisite for outstanding education;
- ✚ Continuous review;
- ✚ Education as a public service;
- ✚ Substantial investment in a strong, vibrant public education system.

Libraries in National Education Policy-2020

Education is the backbone for the progress of any society. Library is a house of knowledge and it occupies a very important place in the institution. Libraries provide the vital role in

promoting education, research work, personality development, ethics and other important values. The primary requirement of the education system is the knowledge available in the books. Apart from large collection of preserved documents and access to e-resources library provide technical support like computers with internet facility, print facility, wi fi connection, and multimedia equipment. NEP-2020 has emphasized the significance of libraries in a number of areas, including the preservation of national heritage and the promotion of reading culture. The library is the heart of every institution and it is a common platform where the diversity of people without any kind of discrimination can meet on a common level with equal opportunities.

The following are the various schemes focused on the library under as per National Education Policy-2020:

- ✚ A National Book Promotion Policy will be formulated, and extensive initiatives will be undertaken to ensure the availability, accessibility, quality, and readership of books across geographies, language levels and genres.
- ✚ The policy recommends that all Higher Education Institution should have established digital libraries, so steps will be taken further enhancement of digital libraries and online accessibility of library books.
- ✚ This policy recommends that all communities and educational institutions- such as schools, colleges, universities and public libraries-will be strengthened and modernized to ensure an adequate supply of books that cater to the needs and interests of all students, including persons with disabilities and other differently-abled persons.
- ✚ Making widely available reading material in Indian languages.
- ✚ Steps will be taken to enhance online accessibility of library.
- ✚ The policy calls for the development of research libraries, which can provide access to specialized resources to support in various fields.
- ✚ The policy indicates the libraries need to establish a good quantity and quality resources. Enjoyable and inspirational books will be developed for the students at all levels in all local and Indian languages.

- ✚ Suitable infrastructure will be ensured so that all interested adults will have access to adult education and lifelong learning. Steps will be taken to ensure the accessibility of books to disable and differently-abled persons.
- ✚ The policy highlights the importance of school libraries in promoting literacy and language development among children.
- ✚ The policy recommends that teacher education institutions should promote the use of libraries among their students.
- ✚ The NEP'S recommendations on libraries provide a much-needed framework for enhancing the quality of education in India, by ensuring that students have access to well-equipped libraries at all levels of education.
- ✚ The NEP-2020 includes provisions to promote and advance research and development in fields involving cutting-edge technology like big data analytics, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and natural language processing.
- ✚ Adequate library staff-ensure appropriate staffing to meet its goal of building, developing, enhancing existing library facilities and catering to the requirements of all sorts of readers across the country.
- ✚ To promote the readership habit, maximum use of libraries, to ensure the availability and accessibility of books to the students without any barrier of language, technology, and geographies.

Challenges

The major challenges in implementing National Education Policy-2020 on libraries are:

- 1. Need for Better Infrastructure:** One of the major challenges in implementing the National Education Policy 2020 on libraries is the better infrastructure. Many libraries facing the inadequate infrastructure like physical space, seating capacity, ICT facility, provide access to digital resources.
- 2. Lack of Physical Space:** The NEP 2020 aims to making libraries stronger and spacious for use but many academic libraries have limited space to store collection and providing adequate reading materials.

3. **Shortage of Trained Library Staff:** According to the policy libraries require trained staff to implement NEP 2020 but one of the significant challenges is the shortage of trained staff in libraries. In many libraries there is a shortage of trained library staff to meet the needs of NEP-2020. Thus, Libraries required trained staff who has to manage and organize the libraries.
4. **Lack of Budget:** To implement the proposed reforms of policy for technology, infrastructure, and resource, libraries must require a significant investment in infrastructure and adequate fund to maintenance of library resources.
5. **Lack of Resources:** The NEP-2020 has recommended the creation of well-equipped libraries but libraries may face challenges in accessing and managing the resources. Libraries need to manage their allocation of resources.
6. **Need to Integrate New Technologies:** The NEP-2020 promotes the need to integrate new technology in the library and provide access to e-resources like e-books, e-journals and other reading materials. To meet these needs library, have to upgrade the service.
7. **Digitization of Materials:** The NEP 2020 recognizes the importance of digitization for academic libraries. However, libraries face several challenges to implement this. To meet the needs of policy libraries, need to invest in the required infrastructure to support digitization and libraries have to enough funds. Libraries needed more funds to implement this.
8. **Lack of Training:** NEP-2020 has emphasized the need for continuous professional development and training programs for library professionals. Therefore, libraries need to organize training for their staff to enhance their competencies.

In the Indian context, successful implementation of NEP-2020 in libraries faces challenges related to policy coordination and compliance. Many schools and colleges have the lack of necessary resources to set up and maintain libraries. Therefore, the government and education institutions need to prioritize investment in libraries and provide the necessary resources and infrastructure.

Conclusion

The study concludes that NEP 2020 aims to shift towards a more scientific approach to education. The policy aims at making the education system holistic, flexible, multidisciplinary. It will help to cater to the abilities of children in different stages of development. The libraries are an essential component of any academic institution it will play a significant role in research and education development. The NEP 2020 recognizes that libraries can serve as centers for learning and research, providing access to a wide range of resources and it also emphasized on the importance of libraries in the education system. The policy gives emphasized to well-equipped libraries with modern technology in all education institution. To implement NEP 2020 in higher education has led to a paradigm shift in the role of librarians and responsibilities. Libraries have played an increasingly important role in achieving the objectives of the policy in higher education. To successfully implement the policy the government should provide the needs of the library staff to fulfil the policy's various schemes focused on the library. Therefore, the government and education institutions need to prioritize investment in libraries and provide the necessary resources and infrastructure. When implemented, the policy will bring India at par with leading countries of the world.

References

- Ari (Rajat). Importance and role of libraries in our society. A Peer Reviewed National Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies.2; 2017; 59-62.
- Asif (Mohammad) and Singh (K K). Libraries @ national education policy (NEP 2020) in India. IP Indian Journal of Library Science and Information Technology.7, 1; 2022; 18-21. <https://www.ipinnovative.com/open-access-journals>
- Chaudhari (Yashwant S). National Education Policy 2020 and changing role of libraries. Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal). 2023; 1-18. <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/7860>.
- Jayamma (K V), Mahesh (G T) and Kotur (Mrutyunjaya). Role of libraries in implementing the New Education Policy 2020 in Higher Education in India. Asian Journal of Information Science and Technology.13, 2; 2023; 66-71. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.51983/ajist-2023.13.2.3748>.

- Kamala (K). Implementation of National Education Policy-2020: A critical analysis. University News.59, 03; 2021; 34-40.
- Lawande (Dr. Rajendra S). National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) and Role of Libraries. International Journal of Humanities Social Science and Management (IJHSSM).4, 4; 2024; 235-237.
- Mahajan (Surabhi). Implementation of National Education Policy-2020 to Transform Higher Education in India: Some Viewpoints. University News.59, 03; 2021; 47-51.
- Mittal (Pankaj). Implementation of National Education Policy-2020: Restoring India's Status as a Vishwa Guru. University News.59, 15; 2021; 19-25.
- Praveena (K). National Education Policy-2020: An Overview. University News.60, 41; 2022; 23-26.
- Saxena (M M). New Education Policy-2020: Should the Concept of E-Universities Be a New Normal? University News.59, 15; 2021; 131-135.
- Sumadevi (S). Role of academic librarian in Higher Educational Institutions. National Conference on Exploring the Past, Present, and Future of Library and Information Science. 29-30 May 2023. University of Mysore, Mysuru.