Implication Of India's National Education Policy 2020 In Libraries: Opportunities and Challenges

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Abstract

The objective of this article is to ascertain the role of libraries and information centres as well as the National Education Policy, 2020. These possibilities haven't been made explicit in NEP, though. Nonetheless, libraries that have high-quality digital resources must convey high-quality instruction. NEP 2020 calls for the introduction of a number of educational levels, including foundational, preparatory, middle, secondary, undergrad, post-graduation, research, and lifelong learning. NEP has highlighted the importance of libraries in a variety of contexts, such as the promotion of reading culture and the preservation of the nation's cultural legacy. Additionally, library professionals must find innovative ways to enhance and boost the impact of academics in higher education by practicing fixed librarianship. Librarians play a crucial role in implementing NEP 2020, requiring them to develop necessary skills and adopt a growth mindset. They must be proactive in transforming libraries to achieve the objectives and ensure their readiness for the implementation process. The librarian must work with teachers to promote the NEP's key ideals and best practices in education. They can accomplish this by pursuing passion projects in cluster groups while keeping a service-oriented mindset. The library should function as a central hub for personnel and educational materials, partnering with administration, the local community, and national and international funding agencies.

Keyword: National Education Policy, Higher Education, Role of Libraries, Role of Librarians, Education Development

Introduction

The future of a country depends on its education system, which should be based on learning methodology. Governments should facilitate learning opportunities for all citizens. The Union Cabinet approved the new National Education Policy after 34 years, introducing radical changes in school and higher education structures. The importance of 10th and 12th boards is now diminished, with school education structured as 5+3+3+4. Vocational education will be provided after 6th standard, with mother tongue education being preferred until 5th standard. Both forms of education are now interdisciplinary and coordinated, allowing students to complete higher education by combining ideal education and their choice of learning (Chaudhari, 2023).

In the modern era, libraries have evolved to incorporate educational information and communication technology and new media. Academic librarians play a crucial role in promoting access to accurate and appropriate information, guiding users to find the best sources of information, both in print and online. Previously, libraries were book-centric institutions, but now they collect books and non-book resources

aims to provide effective library services to their customers (Pathak, 2023) College libraries offer a variety of primary, secondary, and tertiary sources of information, ensuring that students and other users have access to the best resources.

Objectives of the Study

- To explore the role of libraries in achieving NEP 2020 goals such as promoting quality education, ensuring equity and inclusion, and fostering research and innovation.
- To identify steps for modernizing libraries and upgrading their services to align with NEP 2020 requirements.
- To highlight the importance of libraries in the education system, emphasizing their role in bridging gaps in access and supporting lifelong learning.
- To propose actionable measures for implementing NEP 2020 in libraries

Literature Review

(Khan, 2023) stated in his paper that the National Education Policy-2020 in India aims to transform the education system and ensure quality education through transformative reform based on five foundational pillars: Access, Equity, Quality, and Affordability. While libraries play a traditional role, specific expectations from academic libraries are not explicitly mentioned. Public libraries are also emphasized, but librarians must identify their roles in the context of the NEP. Libraries should develop cognitive abilities, increase students' self-efficacy, and enable them to become lifelong learners. The policy aims to build a strong base for self-reliance and self-reliance in India.

The National Education Policy 2020 highlights the importance of university libraries offering access to digital resources like as electronic books, periodicals, and databases for students, faculty, and researchers. It fosters open access to research outcomes, open access publishing, and institutional repository development. The strategy also highlights university libraries' role in facilitating multidisciplinary research and collaboration amongst faculty, students, and researchers. It promotes the development of dedicated areas and facilities that enable collaboration, experimentation, and development. The NEP 2020 recognizes academic libraries as critical participants in advancing research and innovation, and encourages partnerships with other institutions to create multidisciplinary research and innovation (Acharya & Vagdal, 2023a)

(Mhaprolkar, 2022) highlights the importance of libraries as hubs for educational resources and the Government of India's NEP 2020 strategy. It emphasizes the need for libraries to innovate and create a significant impact on higher education. The article also suggests that librarians should define their roles in the context of NEP and position themselves as resources for students and researchers. While traditional roles are highlighted, particular expectations from academic libraries are not defined.

The National Education Policy 2020 seeks to establish an India-centric educational system that promotes an equal and thriving knowledge society by delivering high-quality education to all. Libraries play an important role in educational activities such as teaching and learning by offering 24/7 access to materials for knowledge and skill development. Libraries are as fundamental to human life as food, and the educational system has changed dramatically. Libraries today contain digital knowledge and information for a wide range of ages, including learners, educators, researchers, politicians, and the general public. Libraries will play an increasingly important role in India's new education policy (Satpute, 2022).

National Education Policy, 2020

NEP-2020 is India's New Education Policy, announced on July 29, 2020, aimed at transforming the education system at all levels. Formulated by a committee led by Dr. K. Kasturirangan, the policy was submitted to the Ministry of Human Resource Development in 2019, which reviewed and revised it before being approved by the Union Cabinet. The National Policy on Education (NEP-2020) is a new policy introduced in India to address the challenges faced by the education system and adapt to the 21st-century needs (Soni, 2023)It includes a new 5+3+3+4 structure for school education, a focus on multi-disciplinary and vocational education, a common university entrance exam, increased funding, technology integration, and language promotion. The NEP 2020 policy, widely debated in India, has garnered support and concerns from various stakeholders, with key components including its vision and mission.(About National Education Policy | Government of India, Ministry of Education, n.d.)

Vision

The NEP 2020 seeks to convert India into a knowledge society by equipping students with essential skills and knowledge for the 21st century, enabling them to succeed in a swiftly evolving environment.

Mission

The NEP 2020's objective is to ensure that all Indian kids receive a high-quality education. The policy seeks to ensure that all students have access to an equal and inclusive education that promotes critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.

Role of National Education Policy in Libraries

In today's modern society, libraries are integrating educational information and communication technology and new media. Academic librarians play a crucial role in promoting access to accurate information, guiding users to find the best sources of information, both in print and online. Libraries have evolved from being book-centric institutions to providing effective services to customers. They now collect books and non-book materials, offering primary, secondary, and tertiary sources of information (Bharti, 2022).The internet is not a substitute for library premises, and librarians guide and teach users how to find the best sources of information.

College libraries offer web search and Web 2.0 facilities, a user-cantered virtual community that is socially rich and egalitarian. Web 2.0 represents a modern form of library services, reflecting a transition in the way services are provided to users within the library world (Ekta Mishra & Mishra, 2023).

Librarians as Pioneers in Integrating NEP 2020

Librarians play a crucial role in implementing NEP 2020, requiring them to develop necessary skills and adopt a growth mindset. They must be proactive in transforming libraries to achieve the objectives and ensure their readiness for the implementation process.

Students require a constantly evolving collection of material that addresses their cultural, social and political requirements. This collection should be available both inside and outside the library, and libraries should establish institutional and data repositories to index open access resources. Libraries should collaborate with other libraries and implement ICT-based services to offer patrons a diverse range of resources. Innovative services including research assistance, learning management systems, discovery services, individual libraries, and information literacy initiatives are also required. Libraries should also focus on promoting library services and resources in order to maximize their use, as well as supporting high quality education and research. This will allow libraries to give a more complete and accessible

resource to its users (Jayamma et al., 2023).

The librarian must work with teachers to promote the NEP's key ideals and best practices in education. They can accomplish this by pursuing passion projects in cluster groups while keeping a service-oriented mindset. The library should function as a central hub for personnel and educational materials, partnering with administration, the local community, and national and international funding agencies.

Opportunities for Libraries

A National Education Policy (NEP) not only influences education, but also indirectly benefits libraries and information resources by addressing teaching methodologies, curriculum and assessment practices.

1. **Stimulating Interest in Reading**

   A well-designed NEP may foster a reading culture by highlighting the significance of reading and research abilities, as well as leveraging libraries as vital means for obtaining educational materials.

2. **Facilitating Information Literacy:**

   NEPs encourage critical thinking and information literacy, emphasizing libraries' role in providing trustworthy information and cultivating a culture of investigation and research.

3. **Encouraging the Growth of Digital Libraries**

   NEPs are integrating technology into education, benefiting libraries by incorporating digital materials like e-books and online databases to enhance the learning experience.

4. **Alliance with Educational Institutions**

   NEPs can foster collaboration between libraries and educational institutions, urging them to enhance their library resources and infrastructure in line with the policy's educational objectives.

5. **Strengthening Librarian Competencies**

   A holistic NEP may include opportunities for professional growth for educators, especially librarians, to improve skills and knowledge, thus contributing to optimal utilization and management of resources.

6. **Diversification of Learning Resources and Materials**

   NEPs promoting diversity in education can enhance students' learning experience by providing a diverse range of materials from various cultures and experiences in libraries.

7. **Fostering a Culture of Continuous Learning**

   NEPs emphasize lifelong learning and skill development, with libraries playing an important role in promoting ongoing learning outside of formal education, which aligns with policy goals.

8. **Social Engagement**

   NEPs frequently stress community involvement, with libraries positioned as community hubs for educational promotion, training sessions, learning programs and academic workshops, seminars.

9. **Library Budgeting and Resource Planning**

   An NEP highlighting the crucial role of well-equipped libraries in various academic institutions may result in higher allocations of funds to develop advance library infrastructure, collections, and technology.

10. **Cultural Heritage Conservation**

    NEPs prioritize cultural heritage preservation and promotion, with libraries playing an important role in highlighting regional cultural diversity and history, hence promoting broader educational goals.

The policy's emphasis on education and skill development may indirectly improve library services and resources within the larger educational landscape, albeit its direct influence on libraries is not explicitly

acknowledged (Asif & Singh, 2022).

Challenges for Libraries

The National Education Policy (NEP) can positively impact education, including libraries, but it may also present challenges and disadvantages. Some of these are:

1. **Shortage of Financial Resources**

   Insufficient funding could hinder the implementation of the NEP's goals for libraries, causing difficulties in updating collections and infrastructure to meet the policy's objectives and lack of use of technology.

2. **Inadequate Development of Library Infrastructure**

   The efficiency of libraries may be compromised by certain NEPs' disregard of the construction and upkeep of their infrastructure, which could result in dilapidated spaces and restricted access to resources.

3. **Insufficient Technological Infrastructure**

   There may be technological disparities in libraries if the NEP encourages technology integration in education but ignores the digital divide. Students' options for conducting online research may be restricted by certain schools' inability to provide access to digital information.

4. **Limited Support for Skill and Knowledge Expansion**

   The NEP should prioritize professional and knowledgeable librarians to effectively support educational objectives, as a lack of emphasis may lead to a lack of knowledge about managing library resources and services.

5. **Obstacles to Standardization**

   Libraries develop when they provide broad resources to support various subjects, methods, and preferences, however the NEP's uniform curriculum and evaluation system may impede their ability to satisfy unique learning requirements.

6. **Insufficient Emphasis on Information Literacy**

   Libraries play an important role in building information literacy skills, which are required for accessing large amounts of information. Without an emphasis on information literacy programmes, students may fail to properly use library resources (Acharya & Vagdal, 2023b).

7. **Central Framework vs. Local Realities**

   NEPs may centralize decision-making while overlooking local context and requirements resulting in libraries that are not adapted to community needs, which might hinder effective educational goals.

8. **Excessive Focus on Academic Success**

   If the NEP focuses too much on promoting examinations and academic accomplishment, libraries may be forced to concentrate primarily on items that directly promote test preparation, thus disregarding broader recreational and educational requirements.

9. **Limited Decision-Making Power**

   The NEP's implementation of rigorous norms and restrictions may reduce educational institutions' autonomy, limiting their ability to innovate and adapt to the requirements of the user community.

10. **Poor Consultation Practices**

The NEP should include libraries and librarians in the formulation of plans to ensure that their views and knowledge are taken into account, as a lack of active participation may result in overlooking critical parts of effective library services.

To ensure that libraries properly contribute to the policy's educational goals, policymakers must recognize and address potential disadvantages throughout the establishment and implementation of a NEP (Pathak, 2023).

Key Insights and Recommendations for Libraries to Support NEP 2020 Implementation

The NEP-2020 initiative urges university libraries to actively foster research, innovation, and lifelong learning. It includes instructions for accomplishing these goals, as well as highlights and recommendations for good library management.

1. **Expanding and Modernizing Digital Infrastructure**

   The NEP-2020 emphasizes the significance of technological advances in education, urging academic libraries to build an efficient digital platform for e-learning and remote access to resources such as e-books, databases, e-journals and online archives, while also encouraging digital collaboration and communication among users (Ekta Mishra & Mishra, 2023)

2. **Stimulating Research and Innovation**

   Academic libraries can encourage research and innovation by giving access to advanced tools, methodology training, data analysis, and citation management, as well as cooperating with research institutions to promote open access to research findings and build research data repositories.

3. **Fostering a Culture of Lifelong Education**

   Libraries should encourage lifelong learning in students, professors, and the community by offering access to a variety of learning materials such as books, reference books, and multimedia. Libraries can also conduct seminars, workshops and conferences to help users improve their skills and knowledge (Thapa, 2022).

4. **Enhancing Community Outreach and Involvement**

   Academic libraries should encourage user and community engagement through structured outreach programs, events such as book clubs, cultural gatherings and reading groups as well as partnerships with educational institutions such as schools, colleges, and community organizations to broaden their influence.

5. **Supporting a Culture of Experiments and Innovation**

   NEP-2020 encourages an atmosphere that fosters creativity in education, which university libraries should embrace by leveraging emerging technology, investigating novel service delivery techniques, and engaging with a wide range of partners. Creating innovative and creative environments, such as maker spaces, allows users to experiment with new ideas.

Conclusion

The National Education Policy of 2020 highlights the role of libraries and literature in education. It focuses on creating fun and inspiring books in Indian languages, increasing book accessibility and availability within educational institutions and public libraries, improving libraries, and fostering a reading culture. The updated strategy focuses on library infrastructure, reading materials, and promoting a positive reading culture. Funding for library development is available through the Smagara Shiksha scheme (Pandey, 2023). The NEP-2020 policy stresses the digital age's role in academic libraries, highlighting the importance of access to digital resources, promotion of teaching and learning, and open access publication. It also emphasizes the value of multidisciplinary research and collaboration between academics, students, and researchers. The strategy encourages the development of spaces and facilities that promote

collaboration, research experimentation and innovation. It sees university libraries as critical catalysts for furthering research and innovation, encouraging collaboration with other institutions to create multidisciplinary research.

Libraries' involvement in quality education is not expressly specified in NEP 2020, but they have been considered an integral aspect of teaching and learning since antiquity. Ancient colleges such as Nalanda, Takshashila and Vikramashila had extensive libraries, which are regarded the centre of institutions. According to the National Knowledge Commission (NKC), libraries play an important social role in making knowledge available to the public by functioning as local information and learning centres (Patil & Patil, 2020).

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