

NEP (National Educational Policy) 2020.: Arena of Libraries and Information Center

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Abstract:

Introduction: Libraries serve a vital and diverse function in the execution of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 within India's higher education system. They act as centers of knowledge and play a key role in advancing the educational objectives set forth in the NEP. This article explores the complex and important role that libraries fulfill in the successful implementation of the NEP, particularly in relation to NEP 2020.

Objective: It highlights how libraries can enhance access to a variety of knowledge resources, stimulate research, and develop critical thinking abilities among students. By harnessing the capabilities of libraries as learning centers, higher education institutions can create a more inclusive and equitable educational environment with the NEP's vision. The main aim of this study is to thoroughly discuss the diverse involvement of libraries, which includes the proactive promotion of digital literacy, the encouragement of research activities and innovative projects, and the support of a comprehensive and unbiased approach to information acquisition for all segments of society.

Methodology: This research highlights the anticipated academic functions of libraries in enhancing all educational programs and suggests specific strategies to optimize their operations. Prior literature is integrated with qualitative research findings from semi-structured interviews conducted with 155 faculty members, including Professors, Associate Professors, and practicing librarians from three colleges of West Bengal of the higher education institutions. Questionnaires and interview tools were utilized to investigate the relevant data collection methods.

Conclusion: Suggestions and recommendation also stated after discussion of the response of the respondents. This research article emphasizes that libraries have the potential to foster the development of digital literacy, a fundamental element of the NEP. As digital technologies become increasingly prevalent in education, libraries are instrumental in granting access to a broad spectrum of digital resources, such as e Books, online databases, and assorted digital learning materials. They can deliver instructional support and assistance to both students and faculty on the proficient use of digital tools and platforms, which leads to a considerable improvement in their digital literacy capabilities. Additionally, libraries offer access to a wide range of scholarly resources, including academic journals, research papers, and books. This accessibility enables both students and faculty members to participate in important research activities. They also offer support and direction for performing literature reviews, accessing pertinent research databases, and staying updated with the latest advancements across various fields. Consequently, libraries act as collaborative environments for interdisciplinary research and innovation, promoting knowledge exchange and networking among students and faculty members, which is crucial for NEP 2020.

Keywords: Digital Divide, New Education Policy 2020 in India, Higher Education

1. Introduction:

The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986, which has been in effect for 34 years, is being replaced by this, the first education policy of the twenty-first century. NEP 2020 Policy stated that – “Education is fundamental for achieving full human potential, developing an equitable for society, and promoting national development. Providing universal access to quality education is the key to India’s continued ascent and leadership on the global stage in terms of economic growth, social justice & equality, scientific advancement, national integration, and cultural preservation”. By 2030, the policy seeks to achieve 100% Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in schooling, encompassing all levels of education from pre-school to Higher Education. Two ambitious goals of the National Education Policy 2020 are to double enrollment and spend 6% of GDP(Gross Domestic Product). The fundamental tenets of NEP-2020 are Access, Affordability, Equity, Quality, and Accountability. Whereas the 2030 plan of Sustainable Development of Education in India reflects the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) emphasis on education, making sure that education is equitable and inclusive to support opportunities for lifelong learning for all, including adults, children, and education professionals. To guarantee that teachers have the pedagogical knowledge and practices needed to implement the new education policy, 50 hours of professional development are needed.

Libraries have consistently supported education by offering resources and knowledge from school level to Higher Educational Institute. Following the introduction of the NEP in 2020, libraries have assumed an increasingly vital role in fulfilling the policy's objectives within higher education. The NEP seeks to fundamentally reshape the Indian educational framework by fostering interdisciplinary and holistic teaching, promoting research and innovation, and guaranteeing equal access to education for all. With their extensive array of resources and expertise, libraries are ideally situated to make substantial contributions toward realizing these aims (Asif & Singh, 2020). Every procedure used in the library must be fair and inclusive. In order to be inclusive, a library must serve all demographic groups, including those from various tribes, rural areas, children with special needs (CWSNs), socially disadvantaged groups (SEDGs), and minorities.

1.1 MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW EDUCATION POLICY – NEP 2020:

The 5+3+3+4 system: A 5+3+3+4 curriculum structure that corresponds to ages 3–8, 8–11, 11–14, and 14–18 years, respectively, intends to replace the 10+2 curriculum framework. This will consist of three years of Anganwadi and pre-schooling in addition to twelve years of education.

Schooling begins at age 3: In accordance with the New Education Policy, children will begin attending Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) at age 3. This will be accomplished through: a) stand-alone Anganwadi's; b) Anganwadi's co-located with primary schools; c) pre-primary schools/sections covering at least age 5 to 6 years co-located with existing primary schools; and d) stand-alone pre-schools. Employees and teachers with specialized training in the curriculum and pedagogy of ECCE will be hired for all of these.

Promoting libraries: To guarantee the availability, accessibility, quality, and reading of books across regions, languages, levels, and genres, a National Book Promotion Policy will be developed and significant activities will be carried out.

Teaching in the mother tongue or regional language up to class five: The NEP states that all schools must use the mother tongue or local or regional language as the medium of teaching up to class five

(ideally till class eight and beyond). Additionally, foreign languages will be taught starting in secondary school, along with Sanskrit at all levels.

Establishing Bal Bhavans: Every state or district will be urged to set up "Bal Bhavans" as a unique day time boarding school where students can engage in play, career, and art-related activities. Samajik Chetna Kendras are able to use free school facilities.

Academic Bank of Credit: The purpose of the Academic Bank of Credit is to digitally store academic credits obtained from various HEIs (Higher Educational Institute) so that they can be transferred and applied toward the final degree obtained. A student can use the academic credit kept in a digital locker, which functions similarly to bank credit, to return to school after a break, as determined by the Higher Education Commission.

Higher education with various access and exit points: The new policy will feature several entry and exit points. Students can graduate from the four-year program with a certificate after one year, a diploma after two years, a bachelor's degree after three years, and a bachelor's degree with research after four years. The academic bank of credit will be used for the numerous entry and exit.

In 15 years, college affiliation will be phased out, and a step-by-step process for giving colleges varying degrees of autonomy will be put in place.

By 2030, a four-year integrated B.Ed. degree will be the minimal degree required to teach.

Board exam relaxation: Class 10 and 12 board exams will still be administered. The board tests will be simpler, though, because they will focus more on testing essential skills and abilities than on memorization or months of coaching.

Report card changes: Every student's progress card for the school-based evaluation will be changed. It will be a comprehensive, multifaceted, 360-degree report card that thoroughly details each learner's development and individuality in the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains. Self-, peer-, and teacher assessments will all be included on the progress card.

International colleges in India: NEP has made it possible for international colleges to open campuses in India. Both teacher and student mobility and institutional partnerships will support the internationalization of education. Top institutions in the world will be able to open campuses in India as a result.

Science, commerce, and arts streams are no longer strictly separated by NEP. In classes 11 and 12, students will now have the option to select courses like physics and history simultaneously.

Forum for National Educational Technology: The National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), an independent organization, will be established to offer a forum for the unrestricted sharing of ideas regarding the application of technology to improve administration, planning, assessment, and learning.

Common Entrance Exam for College Admission: Entrance exams will be administered by the National Testing Agency (NTA) to universities nationwide. JEE Main, NEET, UGC NET, and other engineering admission exams are already administered by the NTA. According to NEP 2020, the NTA will administer an optional entrance exam for admission to colleges and universities.

1.2 : Basic Requirements For NEP 2020: Library and Information Center.

In order to create an advance educational infrastructural for every citizen, it is essential that the libraries offer a secure and attractive space, where one is intellectually meshed and where the Libraries transforms into a Learning Hub or Knowledge Hub.

Library and Information Center as a Learning Hub or Knowledge Hub serves as a space where a conducive learning environment is established, engaging students and offering a diverse range of resource for learning experiences. Consequently, librarians' instructional practices and curriculum must incorporate a variety of pretence within an informal setting to assist students in cultivating the position outlined in the NEP, which include values such as empathy, respect for others, cleanliness, courtesy, a democratic spirit, a sense of service, responsibility, pluralism, equality, and justice. Libraries have been play a instrumental role in education by gathering and supplying resources that facilitate learning. With the implementation of the NEP in 2020 in India, libraries have gained even greater significance in fulfilling the policy's objectives within higher education. The NEP seeks to thoroughly reform the Indian education system by promoting interdisciplinary teaching methods, fostering research and innovation, and guaranteeing equitable access to education for everyone. Libraries, with their vast resources and knowledge, can play a vital role in achieving these aims. Libraries have been an essential component of education since their inception, serving as repositories of information and disseminate the resources to facilitate learning. The NEP aims to thoroughly reform the Indian education system by emphasizing interdisciplinary and holistic teaching, promoting research and innovation, and ensuring that education is accessible and equitable for everyone. With their vast resources and expertise, libraries can significantly contribute to achieving these aims (Raut, 2022).

Whereas ensuring equitable access to education is a core tenet of the National Education Policy (NEP), with libraries playing a vital role in this endeavor. Libraries have the capacity to formulate extensive strategies aimed at bridging the digital divide and facilitating equitable access to information for all students, particularly those hailing from marginalized communities or remote regions. Such strategies may include the provision of resources like computer labs, internet access, and assistive technologies, enabling libraries to cater to the varied needs of their student demographics. Furthermore, libraries can emphasize the procurement of materials that represent the cultural and linguistic diversity of the student body, thereby fostering inclusive within the educational framework. In the contemporary landscape, global distances have diminished while competition has intensified. To advance a nation's development, it is crucial for educational policies to be transparent and consistently applied (Pandey et al., 2021).

To offer best practices that uphold the essential principles of Education, the teacher-librarian should work in collaboration with Teachers to advance the core principles established in the NEP. This can be achieved by engaging in Curiosity and Passion Projects through cluster groups. The NEP highlights the importance of teachers and faculty, including the Librarian, adopting a service-oriented mindset. With this perspective, the Library transforms into the educational service center for resources in print, digital formats, and personnel.

1.2.1 Role of Library And Information Center :

Firstly, the NEP of 2020 in India emphasizes the significance of digital transformation (avoid digital divide) within the education sector. Libraries are required to evolve in the digital age and adopt technology to fulfill the changing demands of students and faculties. The policy underscores the necessity for digital literacy and the incorporation of technology into the educational framework. As vital sources of information, libraries should align their functions with these goals and ensure access to digital resources, including online databases, electronic books, and various educational materials. The policy outlines a structure for libraries to improve their digital infrastructure, create digital literacy initiatives, and utilize technology to enhance learning experiences. A clear and consistently applied educational policy is essential for the advancement of a nation (Sontakke et al., 2022).

Secondly, the policy highlights the importance of research and interdisciplinary approaches. Libraries can enhance research efforts by offering access to academic resources, scholarly journals, research publications, and literary materials. The policy acknowledges the value of education grounded in research, and libraries can contribute to this goal by aligning their services accordingly.

Ultimately, the policy advocates for inclusive education and fair distribution of information. Libraries are essential in ensuring access to high-quality educational resources, overcoming socio-economic and geographical obstacles. The policy highlights the importance of closing the digital gap and ensuring that marginalized communities and remote regions have access to information. Libraries can formulate strategies to tackle this issue by providing amenities such as computer labs, internet connectivity, and assistive technologies. Additionally, they can assemble resources that represent the cultural and linguistic diversity of the student body, thereby fostering inclusive in education.

Consequently, libraries within higher education play a crucial role in facilitating digital transformation, supporting research, and ensuring inclusive access to information. In order to meet the objectives set forth by the policy, libraries must enhance their digital infrastructure, offer research assistance, and guarantee equitable access to resources. By implementing these strategies, libraries can greatly advance higher education while promoting the holistic growth and development of students. The amendments specified in the policy are designed to foster the development of contemporary skills in students, including critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, and digital literacy (K. C. et al., 2022).

2. Research Methodology:

The present study is done by the three eminent colleges of North 24 PGS of the State of West Bengal. The Colleges are named by Sahitya Samrat Rishi Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay are as follows Rishi Bankim Chandra College For Women, Rishi Bankim Chandra College and Rishi Bankim Chandra Evening College. Colleges are offering NEP (graduate and post-graduate) programs during 2023-24 academic year. A literature review was conducted and a qualitative research consisting of semi-structured interviews with 155 faculty members, including working librarian and LIS Practitioner from considered colleges. The interview protocol adhered to a predetermined guideline aimed at gathering information regarding the librarians' understanding and recognition of the significance and advantages of their role within higher education institutions. The qualitative data obtained was examined through content analysis. Additionally, the study evaluated the practices of active librarians to uncover concepts associated with the execution of the NEP, as well as current trends and methodologies.

2.1 Objectives Of the Study:

Libraries are play a pivotal role in the implementation of the NEP 2020 within the higher education system in India. They fulfill several important purposes that greatly aid in realizing the objectives of NEP (2020) in the higher education domain. The goals related to the role of libraries in the execution of NEP 2020 in higher education in India are outlined below.

1. Enhancing digital literacy
2. Encouraging the advancement of research and innovation.
3. Assessing the sufficiency of educational materials for the NEP curriculum.
4. Assure inclusive and fair access of information.
5. Improving the advance Teaching Learning practice.
6. Fostering collaboration and networking.

2.2 Review of Literature:

This literature review investigates the role and functions of libraries in the context of NEP 2020 implementation in higher education across India. By reviewing current research and academic articles, the review aims to clarify the different facets of library engagement in meeting the NEP's objectives. The findings suggest that libraries are vital in enhancing digital literacy, supporting research and innovation, guaranteeing inclusive access to information, enriching learning experiences, and promoting collaboration and networking. However, the review also points out existing gaps in the literature and recommends areas for future inquiry to further assess the role of libraries in the NEP's implementation.

Patil (2022) investigates the critical role of libraries and resources in the implementation of NEP 2020. Libraries are fundamental to the growth of educational institutions and the successful enactment of new educational policies. They act as both a repository of knowledge and a means of conveying information to fulfill the learning and research demands of users. Besides traditional books and academic journals, libraries present a broad spectrum of digital resources that are essential for students, faculty, and researchers. These resources support knowledge acquisition and foster significant research activities.

Azim & Ajahar (2022) conducted a comparative study that analyzes the higher education systems of India and Japan. Education is crucial for societal progress and national growth. This research offers a comprehensive evaluation of the educational frameworks in both countries, investigating recent policy changes and reform efforts, while also providing statistical information regarding universities, colleges, and enrollment figures. Furthermore, the article discusses the lower enrollment rates in higher education observed in both nations and poses questions regarding the factors and obstacles that contribute to this issue. In conclusion, the study highlights the essential role of higher education in the development of a nation.

Singh & Srivastava, 2022 The digitization of education has faced a variety of challenges as outlined in the NEP framework. These challenges hinder the advancement of online teaching and learning, which is a primary focus of NEP 2020. The NEP seeks to transform India's educational landscape by 2021, implementing a range of initiatives designed to promote digital learning and enhance infrastructure requirements. Nevertheless, the shift to online education has encountered several obstacles. This analysis highlights the barriers encountered and underscores the necessity of developing critical infrastructure, offering digital literacy training, ensuring fair access to educational resources, encouraging pedagogical changes, and promoting collaborative efforts. These actions are vital to address the identified challenges and guarantee the effective and successful implementation of NEP 2020.

The study conducted by Vagdal & Acharya (2023) illustrates the diverse functions that libraries focused on academia fulfill in aiding the NEP 2020 initiative. Libraries are crucial in supporting academic communities. They accomplish this by offering high-quality information resources, encouraging lifelong learning, enabling research and innovation, fostering collaboration and networking opportunities, and enhancing digital literacy skills. In this manner, libraries assist in meeting policy goals and play a significant role in the broader advancement of the academic community.

3. Research Statement of Present Study:

Digital Literacy and Technology Integration: Libraries of Higher Education Institute have the capacity to promote the improvement of digital literacy for both students and faculties by providing the remote access to digital resources and offering training on digital tools and technologies. Furthermore,

libraries can significantly contribute to the endorsement of technology integration in teaching and learning practices, as highlighted in the NEP 2020.

Research and Innovation Support: Libraries serve as essential foundations for research assistance in educational institutions, providing an abundance of scholarly resources, research databases, and academic journals. Their function goes beyond simply supplying resources; libraries also offer expert advice on various research methodologies, efficient literature review techniques, and precise citation management. This comprehensive support fosters a conducive atmosphere for research and innovation, thus making a substantial contribution to the academic environment of higher education institutions.

Promoting Access to a Diverse Selection of High-Quality Resources: Libraries hold a significant position in ensuring inclusive and equitable access to a comprehensive assortment of diverse and high-quality informational resources, which include literature, periodicals, databases, and digital assets, thereby supporting the objectives set forth in the NEP 2020.

Expertise in Information Literacy and Development of Critical Thinking Abilities: Libraries have the ability to foster the development of information literacy and enhance critical thinking skills among students, accomplished through the delivery of skilled guidance in assessing and effectively utilizing information sources. This is in harmony with the primary goal established by the NEP 2020, which focuses on nurturing strong critical thinking skills and encouraging innovative capabilities within an informed society.

Cultural and Linguistic Diversity: Libraries can assemble resources that showcase cultural and linguistic diversity, enhancing inclusive in education as underscored in NEP 2020. They are capable of supplying materials in regional languages and ensuring the representation of a wide array of cultures and perspectives.

Learning Spaces and Collaborative Environments: Libraries have the potential to offer supportive learning spaces that promote active learning, collaboration, and group discussions. They can foster environments that stimulate interdisciplinary collaborations, knowledge sharing, and networking among students, faculty, and researchers

Sustained Professional Development: Libraries are able to offer training and capacity-building programs for library personnel to enhance their skills and competencies in areas including digital literacy, information literacy, research support, and emerging technologies. This initiative supports the NEP 2020 focus on the continuous professional development of educators.

4. Discussions And Implications Of The Present Study:

The execution of NEP 2020 in India's higher education system requires a careful analysis of the part libraries can fulfill. After analysis of response of respondent and prior interview with him where necessary the following facts are identified. Therefore this text explores several discussions and implications associated with the implementation of NEP 2020 and the roles that libraries may assume.

Access to Resources and Information: Libraries fulfill an essential role in enabling equitable access to information and resources for learners of various backgrounds. They are key in assuring that both students and faculty can take advantage of a diverse selection of high-quality resources, spanning both physical and digital formats. This can help to bridge the divide between the availability of resources and the needs of learners, thus supporting the aim of inclusive in education.

Digital Transformation: NEP stresses the Equability of the Education for all. The crucial importance of digital learning infrastructure and the seamless integration of technology is very much essential for

implication of Equability Education for all. Libraries are positioned to reinforce this necessity by investing resources in improving digital infrastructure, providing unrestricted access to a range of digital assets, and organizing systematic digital literacy programs. Furthermore, libraries can promote collaborative partnerships with different educational institutions and related organizations to share digital resources and broaden the accessibility of educational materials to a wider array of learners.

Collaborative Learning Venues: Libraries can operate as collaborative learning venues that stimulate active engagement and knowledge dissemination. They can cultivate environments that encourage cooperation among students, faculty, and researchers, fostering interdisciplinary techniques and inventive thinking. Libraries can offer facilities for group discussions, project endeavors, and interactive learning opportunities.

Research and Innovation Support: Libraries are instrumental in advancing research and stimulating innovation within the context of higher education. They deliver a vast selection of critical resources, which encompass access to thoroughly vetted research databases, reputable scholarly content, and a wide-ranging assortment of research support services.

Conclusion:

For successful implementation of NEP-2020 in higher education, Libraries and Information Center are procure and maintain the motivational literature and that will be access to the students of all levels in various local and Indian languages. Actions will be taken to ensure that books are accessible to individuals with disabilities and those who are differently-able. The government, in collaboration with both public and private organizations, will create strategies aimed at enhancing the quality and appeal of literature.

According to the NEP, **the content to include the following**

- Knowledge of India: ancient & modern
- Environmental awareness including water and resources conservation, sanitation and hygiene.
- Current affairs and understanding of critical issues facing local communities.
- The specialties of each state, countries and the world around.
- Tribal and indigenous knowledge.
- All forms of literature Indian and International.
- A multi-disciplinary approach to all subjects, Art and Sports integration, Multi-lingual learning,

Collection of Library, as recommended by NEP, must be inclusive and include the following:

- Digital
- Multi-lingual
- Multi-levelled books
- Bi-lingual books
- Indian literature with global literature
- Blend of modern and classical literature in all languages
- Books based on inquiry, critical thinking and problem solving
- In addition to high-quality offerings in Indian languages and international languages, language learning is encouraged to help students to learn about the cultures of the world and enrich their global knowledge.
- Folklore and stories from different states

- Resources to include pride in India and its diverse, ancient and modern culture and knowledge systems and traditions and resources to lead to Global awareness
- Librarians Lesson plans to include the following skills when planning
- Scientific temper and evidence-based thinking
- Creativity and innovativeness, problem-solving and logical reasoning
- Sense of aesthetics and art
- Oral and written communication
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Digital literacy and information literacy
- Ethical and moral reasoning.

Therefore the libraries will undergo enhancements within the higher education systems as academic libraries are the knowledge hub of the educational institutions. The government is committed to improving and expanding the acquisition of reading resources such as books, journals, and various educational materials. Steps will be taken to further enhance digital libraries and the online accessibility of libraries resources. In addition, electronic content will be made available in regional languages. This initiative is designed to assist in recognizing, identifying, and nurturing each individual's strengths and talents while supporting the overall development of every student in both academic and non-academic fields. Library and Information Center are now without the wall, and 24x4 hours communication with students and faculties facilities will be utilized for ICT-enabled educational courses and various activities aimed at community engagement and enrichment.

To facing the new challenge of NEP,2020 it is very much needed to develop the appropriate Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programs for library Professional for their upgradation regarding professional skill and professional ethics. To fulfill the objective of NEP 20, establishing, advancing, and improving current libraries while catering to the needs of all reader demographics across the nation, the government will create appropriate career development pathways for library Professional and ensure adequate staffing for efficient operations. This initiative will require collaboration between educators and librarians, emphasizing the learning process through Continuous Professional Development (CPD), promoting positive work environments, and enhancing service conditions. If a librarian wishes to transition into the position of a teacher librarian, they may also seek Continuous Professional Development totaling 50 hours each year, as outlined by the NEP 2020.

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