

Role of Academic Libraries in context of National Education Policy 2020

Smriti Das *

Librarian, Ranaghat College, Ranaghat, Nadia

*For correspondence: dassmriti222@gmail.com

Abstract

The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) was published by the Indian Ministry of Education on July 29, 2020. The new policy has taken the place of the previous, 1986 National Policy on Education. The policy provides relevant guideline materials for all levels of education, including higher education and vocational training, on the Indian subcontinent. All people have a fundamental right to education, which is crucial for realising one's potential as a whole person and for creating a just and fair society that promotes the growth of a nation. Our country's leadership and worldwide economic development are aided by the goal of ensuring that everyone has access to high-quality education. Through a system of universal, high-quality education, our nation can grow and reach its full potential. Everybody should have access to high-quality education and opportunities for lifelong learning, according to the Sustainable Development Goals. The education system must be reimagined in order to meet all of the important goals by 2030 if this objective is to be realised. The National Education Policy (NEP 2020)'s features, advantages, and vision are the main topics of this article. Additionally, it emphasises the importance of libraries to educational institutions and NEP 2020. The New Education Policy 2020 supports all forms of higher education equally, including school. This article's major focus is on the key selling factors of NEP 2020, particularly its library features.

Key words: National Education Policy (NEP), Library, Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, College.

1. Introduction:

The National Education Policy 2020, which addresses a number of developmental imperatives, is the first education policy of the twenty-first century. It was introduced on July 29, 2020, and it makes the case that it will completely transform India's existing educational system. The development of students' creative potential and cognitive learning have received more attention recently. The implementation of prior education strategies has been primarily concerned with concerns of access and equity. This Policy adequately addresses the unfinished business of the National Policy on Education from 1986, as modified in 1992 (NPE1986/92). The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act of 2009, which established the legislative foundations for achieving universal basic education, was a significant improvement from the previous Policy of 1986/92. The National Education Policy 2020 identifies the following as the new Indian educational system's vision: "National Education Policy 2020 envisions an India centric educational system that directly contributes to the sustainable transformation of our country into a just and thriving knowledge society by providing high-quality education to all."

This article explores the value of libraries in education and emphasises their function at all educational levels.

2. Vision of NEP 2020

This National Education Policy aims to make India a global knowledge superpower by creating an educational system that is firmly rooted in Indian culture and directly contributes to

transforming India, or Bharat, into a vibrant and equitable knowledge society. According to the Policy, a strong sense of respect for one's nation, a sense of belonging, and an understanding of one's roles and responsibilities in a changing world among the students. This is what the curriculum and pedagogy of our institutions must foster. The Policy's objective is to foster in learners a deep-seated pride in being Indian, not just in idea but also in spirit, intellect, and acts, as well as to help them acquire knowledge, skills, attitudes, and dispositions that support a responsible commitment to human rights.

3. Objectives of the Study

- ❖ To spread knowledge of the New Education Policy 2020
- ❖ Emphasise the importance of libraries in the educational system
- ❖ To discuss the evolving nature of education and learning
- ❖ The key function of libraries and librarians under the New Educational Policy
- ❖ to create sufficient library resources

4. How does INDIA'S new Education Policy Related to Libraries?

The National Policy on Education (NPE), which had been in effect for 34 years, was replaced with the New Education Policy 2020 (NEP2020). The NEP 2020 is built on the fundamental tenets of Access, Affordability, Equity, Quality, and Accountability.

Significant steps will be taken to increase the availability and accessibility of educational resources in all areas and tongues, including the development of a national book promotion policy.

Here are the developments in school/public libraries and digital libraries that the government will concentrate on in order to promote the habit of reading, make the most of library use, and make sure that books are available and accessible to pupils regardless of their location, language, or technology.

- ❖ Creating entertaining and uplifting books for students, novels in various regional and Indian languages will be written that are amusing and encouraging. The accessibility of readers for people with disabilities and other special needs shall be ensured through the implementation of measures. Together with organisations from the public and private sectors, the government will create strategies to improve the standard and attractiveness of books.
- ❖ Increasing the number of books in public and school libraries and making them more readily available. Increased book availability in public libraries and schools will be a top priority for the administration. The government will make sure that readers are accessible to everyone in the country, including those who utilise modern ICT and those with disabilities. The main emphasis would be on rural and distant areas as well as populations with a low socioeconomic standing.
- ❖ Fostering reading as a culture nationwide. To increase readership and readers across the country, public and school libraries will undergo significant renovations. Public libraries will become in better condition. There will be an adequate supply of books that suit local needs and tastes, leading to an increase in the number of children's libraries, mobile libraries, and social book clubs around the country to encourage widespread reading and community development.
- ❖ Local public libraries and schools with ICT Public libraries and schools with ICT facilities will be built to serve the community and students after school, especially in remote areas. The creation of book club facilities will help to promote reading even more.
- ❖ There will be improvements to the libraries in higher education systems. Since academic libraries are the lifeblood of institutions, the government will strengthen and accelerate the acquisition of reading materials including books, journals, and other learning and teaching

resources. Digital libraries will be enhanced, and online access to library books will be increased. The electronic information will also be offered in regional languages.

- ❖ Public libraries that offer adult education. The government will attempt to create the required infrastructure in order to guarantee adult education and lifelong learning for interested persons. The public library will host adult education programmes using ICT resources and other community involvement and enrichment initiatives.
- ❖ Adult education in public library settings the government will work to create the framework required to ensure that interested persons have access to adult education and lifetime learning. The public library will provide adult education programmes with ICT assistance, community interaction, and enrichment activities.
- ❖ Design a relevant CPD programme for library staff. To achieve the goal of building, developing, and strengthening existing libraries and satisfying the needs of all readers across the country, the government will construct appropriate career routes for the growth of the library staff and provide adequate staff for optimal operation.

5. NEW EDUCATION POLICY 2020: THE LIBRARIAN'S ROLE:

Here are some crucial perceptions on the NEP 2020 from the viewpoint of a librarian. In order to provide best practises that support the guiding principles of education, the librarian must collaborate with teachers to promote the key concepts described in the NEP. And pursuing interests and passion projects through cluster groups is one method to do this. The NEP underlines the importance of maintaining a service-oriented mindset among all academic members, including the librarian. In light of this, the library becomes a centre for employees and printed and digital educational resources.

6. The National Education Policy's (NEP 2020) Incentive Approach to Libraries:

The following approaches libraries offer an incentive-based strategy for NEP 2020 implementation

- Fostering students' individual talents.
- Helping them develop their fundamental literacy and numeracy skills.
- Providing a multidisciplinary, all-encompassing education.
- Giving conceptual understanding more weight
- Promoting critical thinking and innovation.
- Restoring morals and principles.
- Supporting linguistic diversity.
- Emphasising formative evaluations.
- Widespread use and implementation of technology.
- Honouring inclusiveness and diversity.
- Providing synergy at all educational levels.
- A stronger focus on excellent research and development.
- Continual evaluation of progress based on ongoing study with educational authorities from various fields.
- Making investments in a robust and energetic public education system.

7. EXAMPLES OF THE LOCATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS OF LIBRARIES ARE PROVIDED BY THE NEP :

Schools and libraries need to provide a safe, welcoming setting where kids can be intellectually challenged and where the library can change into a Learning Hub to build someone's education. At a library-learning hub, when the learning environment is present, students can be

engaged and given a variety of educational opportunities. Where the focus is on the traits that are the core of a person's personality and character, or the 21st-century competencies.

As a result, in order to help students develop the personalities specified in the NEP, librarians' instructional methodologies and curriculum must include a diversity of dispositions in a casual atmosphere.

- Values such as accountability, diversity, equality, empathy, and regard for others. values such as cleanliness, civility, democracy, and the desire to serve.
- There is discussion of practical life skills like adaptability, collaboration, communication, and teamwork.
- Positivity, inventiveness, and creativity, as well as a love of the arts and science, as well as a tendency towards science and evidence-based thinking
- The ability to communicate both orally and in writing, to work in a team environment, to cooperate, to reason logically, and to solve problems.
- The ability to act ethically and morally, to understand and apply constitutional and human rights principles, and to be sensitive to the needs of other genders.
- Coding and computational thinking skills, as well as digital literacy.
- Gender-related concerns are taken seriously; human and constitutional rights are known and upheld.
- Supporting language learning and multilingualism in schools.

8. Libraries as a hub for research:

The value of research in some universities and institutes was also emphasised by NEP. NEP merely specifies that libraries should provide all the amenities that patrons might reasonably anticipate. Libraries may undoubtedly greatly improve the research efforts of organisations. To build a pool of inventions and construct ecologically sustainable goods and services, grassroots innovators and young entrepreneurs frequently require assistance from public and institutional libraries. Every region of the nation should establish a few public and institutional libraries as research support hubs to aid in the research conducted by grassroots innovators, budding businesspeople, and other members of the creative economy. A researcher must possess the fundamental knowledge of the subject, the inclination to investigate any topic in depth, and the willingness to contribute to the field. By offering high-quality resources, with an emphasis on electronic resources, assistance with reference management, and information retrieval, libraries and information centres may ignite the passion of scholars. Specialised librarianship is quite beneficial in this regard.

Libraries can take a particular interest in research, among other things. We require a specific research librarian that possesses expertise in research methodology, statistical analysis, open-source technology, research support tools, reference management, and retrieval methods. The National Research Foundation (NRF) is a goal of NEP, and having a research librarian is essential. NRF will coordinate national research efforts and support independent funds in addition to conventional research financing organisations. The research librarian can help NRF achieve its goals as the nodal officer. In order to promote and coordinate the research efforts of Indian institutions and organisations, INFLIBNET recently created the IRINS system. As nodal officers, many librarians are doing a fantastic job of upgrading Vidwan's profile to increase the value of IRINS.

9. Libraries as institutions for lifelong learning:

Only formal education can be offered by institutions. Libraries are helpful when one needs to explore themselves or grow outside of the norm after receiving the required knowledge. Libraries would never refuse membership based on caste, creed, or sex, and they also don't take

regular students into account. The study materials needed to assist someone advance their studies are available at libraries. On the other hand, classroom instruction has time and age restrictions. As a result, libraries have had a significant impact on lifelong learning. The motivation for continual learning is influenced by work, experience, passion, and individual ambition.

The foundation for creating a society that is knowledge-driven is lifelong learning. But we must be savvy enough to recognise the difference between lifelong learning and adult education. In the late 1960s, the idea of lifelong learning first gained popularity. The International Commission for the Development of Education's 1972 report to UNESCO, "Learning to be: The World of Education Today and Tomorrow," is regarded as a watershed advancement in the concept of lifelong learning. Given their potential to launch numerous innovative services through partnerships with local academic libraries, public libraries must be given the attention and importance they deserve. For instance, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA) in Egypt offers a variety of research services in addition to its usual services and hosts scientific and civic activities. Eight lifelong learning competencies that are reflected in the NEP have long been referenced by the European Parliament and the Council.

The ability to communicate in one's mother tongue, speak another language fluently, be mathematically proficient, and have a foundational understanding of science and technology are all required. Digital competence; Learning to learn; Social and civil competence; Sense of initiative and entrepreneurship; Cultural awareness and expression.

10.Strengthening pupils' cognitive skills and establishing an ethical foundation:

The fifth standard of information literacy, which states that "The information literate student understands many of the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information and accesses and uses information ethically and legally," is extremely pertinent to the ethical mooring of the students by the library professionals. Many of the ethical, legal, and socioeconomic concerns relating to information and information technology must be made clear to students in libraries. They must create the framework for teaching the kids the importance of this criterion. To assist them acquire the material needed to adhere to academic etiquette, it is imperative that they have a subscription to qualitative e-resources as well as a solid relationship with the students, researchers, and faculty members. The scientific reference management tradition must also be taught to the users. The domains of "Academic ethics" and "Publication ethics" are only a couple of the ones where librarians need to break through the silos that encourage academic dishonesty and solve the ethical issue through methodical, collaborative work.

The foundation for the development of the nation is higher education. Development of "good, thoughtful, well-rounded, and creative individuals" is the goal of NEP. The policy highlights a few of the difficulties India's educational sector is currently facing. The following list includes some ways that librarians can support the educational system. The NEP has 5specialize that improving cognitive ability is not given as much priority. In order to improve cognitive capacities, the educational system must have a strong programme and a commitment to implementing it. Higher education libraries and information facilities offer supplemental reading on a range of subjects. These are all fantastic initiatives to improve the pupils' cognitive ability. However, in order to affect stakeholders' cognitive abilities through their services, librarians must possess crucial skills. Therefore, they must comprehend their wants, which must be thoughtfully met. Critical thinking, reflective thinking, and emotional intelligence are all cognitive processes.

11.Libraries as a preserver of national and cultural heritage:

Libraries have historically served as repositories of cultural legacy. They ought to safeguard India's illustrious past, present, and traditional knowledge, as well as its arts, languages, and traditions. It represents "responsible custody." The connection between the present and the previous civilizations will be made through documents. These days, libraries are seen as the hubs

of cultural expression and legacy. Wayne Weigand, a well-known library historian, believed that libraries are crucial as institutions and physical locations for fostering culture, social culture, human ambitions, and the creation and interaction of social capital. Libraries must meaningfully connect with the community in order to connect as a keeper of cultural heritage and give value to society, according to IFLA (IFLA). In order to develop knowledge and preserve cultural legacy, libraries and cultural institutions must collaborate through the creation of a bilateral and multilateral 6pecialized6 and agreement, as stated by Michael Gorman. Libraries ought to offer programmes and services that spread cultural heritage as well.

The following competences should be included in lesson plans for librarians.

- Having a scientific attitude and being willing to use evidence
- Along with reason and problem-solving, creativity and innovation are essential
- artistic and aesthetic sense
- Collaboration and collective effort
- Written and oral communication;
- Knowledge of information and technology
- Awareness of moral and ethical issues

12. Conclusion:

To maximise the potentiality of NEP 2020 to transform the educational system, all stakeholders must collaborate. Professionals in the fields of library and information science are vital to the implementation and integration of technology at all levels of education. In the past two years, libraries have undergone a complete transformation, being fully outfitted to satisfy virtual needs. It is predicated primarily on the notion that education must develop students' cognitive skills, including their "foundational capacities" of literacy and numeracy as well as "higher-order" mental skills, like critical thinking and problem-solving, as well as their social, ethical, and emotional dispositions. This study 6pecialize the growth of the library as a centre for excellent learning materials. In order to better grasp the need for and purpose of the Government of India's NEP 2020 initiative, this article also integrates library innovation with the educational system. Moreover, through embedded librarianship, library professionals must consider additional fields in which they might have a stronger and more substantial influence on higher education. The value of public libraries has been 6pecialize in part. However, the librarians must define their responsibilities within the NEP framework. Since research has received a lot of attention, libraries at higher education institutions need to position themselves as resources for both students and researchers. The research processes could be sped up with a new function for a research librarian. It can be furthered by 6pecialized librarianship. Libraries of all kinds should aim to foster cognitive talents, boost students' self-efficacy, and prepare them to be lifelong learners in addition to serving a conventional function.

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