

## **Key Role of Libraries highlighted in the context of National Education Policy 2020**

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### **Abstract:**

*The National Educational policy 2020 (NEP-2020) has been introduced by Ministry of Human Resource Development (Now Ministry of Education) for the new education system for the academic community in India. The policy is divided into four parts: school education, higher education, lifelong learning and other critical focus areas. This paper tries to find out the important role of libraries of all levels, public and academic libraries. The new policy emphasised on infrastructure, services and the working of the libraries. The new policy also includes Information Communication Technology (ICT) digital, online, unique kinds of facilities and services to all types of readers of the nation.*

**Keywords:** *NEP-2020, Role of Libraries, Online Resources, Digital Libraries*

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### **I. Introduction**

National Educational Policy 2020 is given by the Ministry of Human Resources and Development, Government of India, after a long research and development work on the old education policy and the current education need of the society.

This is the first education policy of the 21st century to replace the thirty-four-year-old National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986. Education is fundamental for achieving full human potential, developing an equitable society, promoting country development and providing universal equity access to quality education. India is continuously changing the system and has a key position in leadership on the global stage in terms of economic growth, social justice and equality, scientific advancement, national integration, cultural preservation and universal high-quality education. It is the best for developing and maximizing the country's economic position and resources for the individual, the society, the county and the world. India is the second-highest populated country in the world; therefore, the national education policy 2020 will be very useful for the country's development.

The global education development plan reflected in Goal 4 (SGDG4) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development, adopted by India in the year 2015, seeks to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong educational learning benefits and opportunities. The entire education system is conferring to support and faster Education and the learning process so that all of the critical targets and goals (SGDs) of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development can be achieved.

This National Education Policy 2020 is the first education policy of the 21st century. The aim of NEP 2020 is to address the many growing developmental imperatives of our country. This NEP policy proposes the revision and revamping of all aspects of the current education structure, including the regulations and governance, to create a new system that will be aligned with the inspirational goals of the 21st-century education system at the school level and higher education level.

**Purpose of the Policy:** The purpose of the education policy and system is to develop good human beings capable of rational thought and action possessing compassion and empathy, courage and resilience, scientific temper and creative imagination with the sound of ethical moorings and values. It aims at producing productive, engaged, selective and contributing citizens for building an equitable, inclusive and plural society as envisaged by the Indian constitution.

**Previous Policies:** The implementation of previous policies on education has focused largely on issues of access and equity. The unfinished agenda of the National Policy on Education 1986, modified in 1992 (NPE 1986/92), is appropriately dealt with in this Policy. A major development since the last Policy of 1986/92 has been the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 which laid down legal underpinnings for achieving universal elementary education.

### **Principles and features of NEP 2020**

- ❖ Ensuring Universal Access at all levels of education.
- ❖ Teachers and faculty as the heart of the learning process
- ❖ Early Childhood Care & Education with new Curricular and Pedagogical Structure.
- ❖ Attaining foundational literacy and numeracy.
- ❖ Reforms school curricula and pedagogy.
- ❖ Respect for diversity and respect for local context in all curriculums.
- ❖ Creativity and critical thinking encourage logical decision-making and innovation.
- ❖ Multilingualism and the power of languages.
- ❖ Extensive use of technology
- ❖ Flexibility, so that learner has the ability to choose their learning trajectories and programs.
- ❖ Assessment reforms.
- ❖ Outstanding research
- ❖ Continues review
- ❖ Equitable and Inclusive Education.
- ❖ Robust Teacher Recruitment and Career Path.
- ❖ Effective and advanced School Governance. (Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, 2020)

### **II. Objectives of this study**

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- To study the New Education Policy-2020 in context of different types of libraries and
- To find out the role of libraries which is discussed in NEP.

### **III. Literature Review**

The review of literature is an important part to write up any article. It shows what types of works have been done previously by different types of researchers. So, an attempt has been made to present the views, idea, and opinions of the authors as expressed in their articles or documents.

Patil (2020) discusses the different facets of NEP-2020 and tries to find out value of libraries of all levels, public and academic libraries described in this policy. Bhojwani (2020) highlights the impact of national education policy 2020 from the librarians' point of view. On the other hand, Bapte (2022) determines the role and expectations of library and information centres in the National Education Policy 2020. Nevertheless, these expectations have not been mentioned explicitly in NEP. However, libraries with a quality collection and digital resources must impart quality education. Lifelong learning, preservation of national heritage, and developing a reading culture are a few areas where NEP has highlighted the importance of libraries.

### **IV. Discussion**

#### **New National Education Policy and Libraries:**

A Library Focused as "Learning and resources Hub" in National Educational Policy 2020. The NEP 2020 stresses on universalization of Education to increase a 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio at the school level. To meet this, the library will have to ensure sufficient and latest study and reading resources, easy accessibility and availability to all kinds of users at the school level and Higher education libraries. The role will not just limit to these services but will play a wider role and proactive approaches will be the need of the hour. NEP 2020 has provisions for advanced and latest resources as per the new curriculum for society readers as well as for the teachers. The policy focus on libraries is looking less but still, libraries matter should be seen clearly and accessed to the value of library and information centre in the National Education Policy 2020 needs more emphasis on the library services and facilities.

#### **Adequate library staff:**

In NEP 2020 on (21.9) -it will be imperative to make availability of adequate library staff to run the library services for the public readers, and teachers and devise appropriate career pathways and CPD for them. Other steps will include strengthening all existing libraries, setting up rural libraries and reading rooms in disadvantaged regions, making widely available reading material in Indian languages, opening children's libraries and mobile libraries, establishing social book clubs across India and across subjects, and fostering greater collaborations between education institutions and libraries. The Policy also indicates that the libraries need to establish a good quantity and quality resources in the stock for readers of all the areas. It is also indicated that schools and organizations have no proper space and facilities for libraries and focus on creating an organized particular space and resources for users till 2025 to make a different kind of value of libraries for the public and societies.

**Suitable infrastructures for the library:**

Proper and suitable infrastructure will be ensured, therefore that all interested adults will have access to adult education, study and lifelong learning. A key initiative in this direction will be to use schools, school complexes after school hours and on weekends and public library spaces for adult education courses which will be Information Communication Technology-equipped and well-designed when possible and for other community engagement and enrichment activities. The sharing of infrastructure for school, higher, adult and vocational education, and other community and volunteer activities will be critical for ensuring efficient use of physical and human resources and creating synergy among these five types of education and beyond. For these reasons, Adult Education Centers (AECs) could also be included within other public institutions such as HEIs, vocational training centers, etc.

**Availability and accessibility of books:**

The NEP 2020 focused on the availability and accessibility of quality books and resources for the public and readers for quality education and research development. Improving the availability and accessibility of books is essential to inculcate the habit of reading within our communities and educational institutions. The Policy recommends that all communities, organizations and education institutions-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. The NEP 2020 also has provisions to make available books and resources for different and special kinds of readers of the society, including persons with disabilities and other differently abled persons.

**The role of Central and State Government:**

The central and state governments are responsible to established and support for the libraries' services and for developing the libraries will take steps to ensure that books are made accessible and affordable to all across the country, including socio-economically disadvantaged areas as well as those living in rural and remote areas. Both public and private sector agencies/institutions will devise strategies to improve the quality and attractiveness of books published in all Indian languages.

**The NEP 2020 has the provision for online resources and digital libraries:**

The NEP 2020 has the provision for online resources for digital Libraries, and steps will be taken to enhance the online accessibility of library books and further broad basing of digital libraries.

**Provision for strengthening all existing libraries:**

The NEP 2020 has provisions for strengthening all existing Libraries, setting up rural libraries and reading rooms in disadvantaged regions, making widely available reading material in Indian languages, opening children's libraries and mobile libraries, establishing social book clubs across India and subjects, and fostering more excellent collaborations between education institutions and libraries. Currently, library needs to change the services of library with the frequent use of ICT in all the area of the library services. Government of India is focusing on world class online teaching and learning of resources for the users in school level to higher education institutions. Digital India work and vision of Indian Government motivated and support to Digital Library for online learning and teaching of resources. The NEP 2020 has very supporting nature and development parameters for Indian libraries.

**Availability of non-books materials and use of technology in all types of libraries:**

The Policy indicates that library technology will be leveraged to strengthen and undertake the above initiatives. Quality technology-based options for adult learning such as apps, online courses, modules, satellite-based TV channels, online books, digital resources and Information Communication Technology -equipped libraries and Adult Education Centers in the nation. In many cases, quality adult education could thereby be conducted in an online mode and types. The National Education Policy is strengthening all existing libraries. The National Education Policy 2020 has all kinds of provisions for the development of libraries on all levels in the digital world. In the current modern digital era, it is clear that libraries will play a significant role in research and education development. Libraries will provide quality education and correct ways of progress for the nation. (Patil, 2020)

**V. Conclusion**

The National Education Policy-2020 reflects drastic changes over the current scenario of education system and the prospects including future planning ensuring the quality education in India. The NEP, 2020 is providing a philosophical guidance for changing the learning landscape, making education holistic and roadmap for building strong base for the self-reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat). NEP 2020 is paved by the way of

transformative reform and it is built on the five interdependent foundational pillars namely Access, Equity, Quality, and Affordability. Although libraries' traditional role is quite visible and highlighted in NEP, the specific expectations from academic libraries have not been mentioned, barring a few exceptions. However, these expectations are implicit and to be understood. To some extent, the importance of public libraries has been highlighted. Nevertheless, the librarians must identify their roles in the context of NEP. Apart from playing a traditional role, libraries of all kinds should strive to develop cognitive abilities, increase students' self-efficacy, and make them capable of becoming lifelong learners.

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