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The role of academic libraries in the context of national education policy (NEP)-2020

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Abstract

The MHRD has issued the National Educational Policy 2020 (NEP-2020) for the public of the contemporary nation as well as for the new educational system. Public and academic libraries, as well as libraries at all levels, have benefited more from NEP-2020. The new policy put a strong emphasis on services, infrastructure, and library operations. Information and communication technology (ICT) digital, online, and unique forms of facilities and services to all kinds of readers around the country are also included in the new policy.

Keywords: Public and academic libraries, MHRD, ICT, ISRO

Introductions

The New Education Policy of India, or NEP-2020, was unveiled on July 29, 2020. Through a number of adjustments at every educational level, from primary to higher education, the policy seeks to completely revamp the Indian educational system. A team headed by Dr. K. Kasturirangan, the previous chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), developed the policy. In 2019, the committee sent the draft policy to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), which examined and updated it before to approval by the Union Cabinet. The National Policy on Education, which was first presented in 1986 and changed in 1992, is being replaced by NEP-2020. The goal of the new strategy is to address the issues that the Indian educational system is facing and bring it into line with the evolving demands of the twenty-first century.

The new 5+3+3+4 school curriculum structure, the emphasis on multidisciplinary and vocational education, the establishment of a common university entrance exam, the increased funding for education, the use of technology in the classroom, and the promotion of Indian languages are some of the main components of NEP-2020. (2020, Development).

In India, the policy has been the subject of extensive discussion and controversy, with numerous parties voicing both support and reservations regarding its various elements^[1-2].

The following are the key components of the NEP 2020's vision and mission:

Vision

The NEP 2020 envisions an education system that empowers students with the knowledge, skills, and values they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world. The policy aims to transform India into a vibrant knowledge society by equipping students with the skills and knowledge necessary for the 21st century.

Mission

The mission of the NEP 2020 is to provide high-quality education to all students in India. The policy aims to ensure that every student has access to equitable and inclusive education that fosters creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. (Development, 2020).

Materials and Methods

This article was created after reviewing recent literature that was published online and in other places. It uses relevant sources and is descriptive research. As per the New Education Policy in India, few comparable studies have been conducted on the scope and prospects of libraries. An effort is being made to comprehend and assess how libraries are vital to our educational system.

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Objectives of the Study

The study of academic libraries in the context of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 can have several objectives, some of which are:

1. **To examine the role:** of academic libraries in supporting the goals and objectives of NEP 2020, such as promoting access to quality education, ensuring equity and inclusion, and fostering research and innovation.
2. **To assess the current state:** of academic libraries in India and identify areas that need improvement to align with the NEP 2020 objectives.
3. **To identify best practices:** and innovative models in academic libraries that can be adopted to support NEP 2020 goals.
4. **To evaluate the effectiveness:** of academic library services in promoting information literacy, digital literacy, and lifelong learning skills among students, faculty, and researchers.
5. **To investigate the role:** of academic libraries in fostering interdisciplinary research and collaboration across different disciplines.
6. **To explore the potential:** of academic libraries to support open-access publishing, data management, and other emerging trends in scholarly communication.
7. **To examine the challenges:** faced by academic libraries in adapting to the changing needs of students and faculty in the digital age.
8. **To develop recommendations:** for policymakers, library administrators, and other stakeholders on how to strengthen the role of academic libraries in supporting NEP 2020 goals.

Review of Literature

(Sunita Khatak, 2021) ^[15]: The 20th century is known as the "computer era," and as the digital age expands, it also presents management viewpoints with problems to meet its expanding needs. Since the education system presents a significant difficulty for emerging nations like India, it is the area that is most frequently neglected. Many intelligent people are working to change the widely used and modified education system with roots in the 1980s. NEP 2020 is an update of the educational system from the classic 1980s model to the 21st century to adapt and accept changes with developing technology, to put it simply.

Abeyrathne and Ekanayake (2019) ^[1] 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 ACRL Research Planning and Review Committee (2014) presents the top trends in academic libraries, including topics such as evolving roles of librarians, digital scholarship, data management, and open access. The report highlights the need for libraries to adapt to changing technologies and user needs. Asif and Singh (2022) ^[3] 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. Aslam (2022) ^[4] discusses the changing behavior 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. Bapte (2022) ^[5] discusses the role of libraries in the context of the National Education Policy in India. The author argues that the NEP emphasizes the importance of libraries in promoting digital literacy, open access, and lifelong learning. Development (2020) provides an overview of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in India. The policy emphasizes the importance of libraries in promoting research, innovation, and lifelong learning. Ducas, Michaud-Oystryk, and Speare (2020) ^[7] discuss the new and emerging roles of academic librarians in Canadian research-intensive universities. The authors argue that academic librarians must adapt to changing technologies and user needs and suggest that they should focus on providing research support and digital scholarship services. Gandhi (2020) ^[8] 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. Itsekor, Jegbefume, and Oyebola (2019) ^[9] explore the role of librarians in implementing the National Policy of Education in Nigeria. The authors argue that librarians can play a crucial role in promoting education and literacy by providing access to resources, promoting research, and providing training and support ^[3-5].

(Muralidharan, 2022) ^[10] The democratic welfare government is equally passionate about quality-driven, impartial, and egalitarian education as it is about building educational institutions as the foundation for education for everyone. The Global Agenda SDG 4 is actually focused on ensuring excellent and lifelong education regardless of region, race, religion, color, and caste, among other factors, in order to increase the standard of living and quality of life.

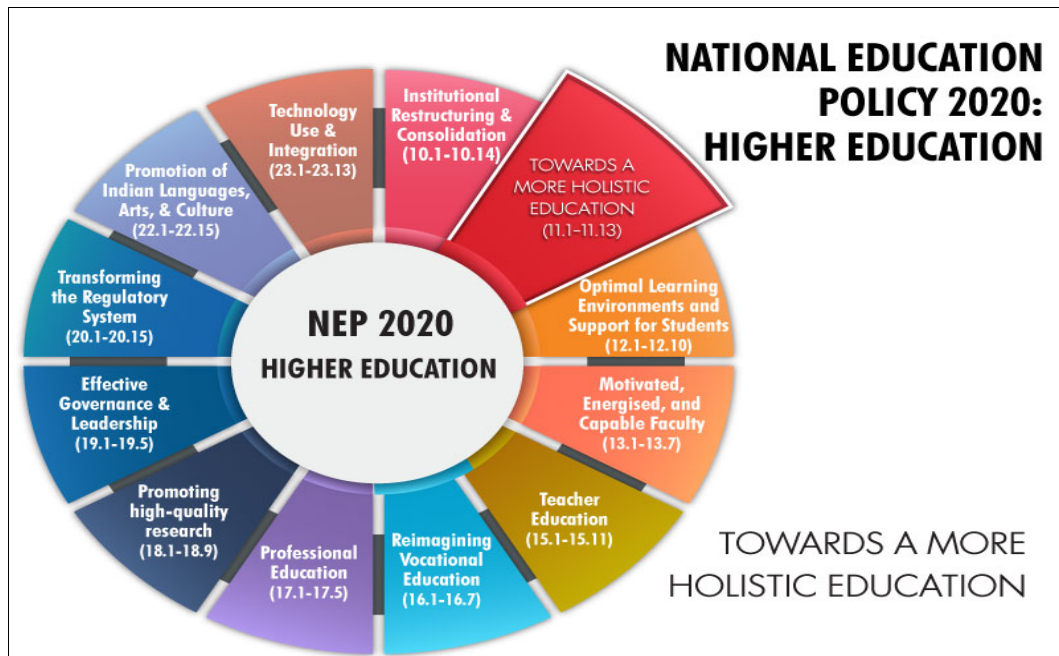


Fig 1: National education policy 2020: Higher education

National Education policy 2020 and Higher Education

The academic library plays a crucial role in achieving the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP-2020) objectives. Here are some of the ways academic libraries can support NEP-2020 objectives:

- 1. Facilitating access to quality educational resources**
NEP-2020 emphasizes the importance of providing quality education to students. Academic libraries can support this objective by providing access to a wide range of educational resources, including books, journals, research papers, e-resources, etc.
- 2. Promoting research and innovation:** NEP-2020 aims to promote research and innovation in education. Academic libraries can support this objective by providing resources and facilities to researchers and students. Libraries can also collaborate with other institutions and organizations to promote research and innovation.
- 3. Supporting multi-disciplinary education:** NEP-2020 emphasizes the importance of multi-disciplinary education. Academic libraries can support this objective by providing resources related to different fields of study. Libraries can also organize interdisciplinary events and activities to promote collaboration between different departments and faculties.
- 4. Fostering digital literacy:** NEP-2020 recognizes the importance of digital literacy in the modern world. Academic libraries can support this objective by providing access to digital resources and tools. Libraries can also provide training and support to students and faculty members to develop digital literacy skills.
- 5. Encouraging lifelong learning:** NEP-2020 emphasizes the importance of lifelong learning. Academic libraries can support this objective by providing resources and facilities for continuing education and professional development. Libraries can also organize workshops and events to promote lifelong learning. (Abeyrathne & Ekanayake, 2019; Gandhi, 2022; Itsekor *et al.*, 2019; Tzanova, 2020) ^[1, 8, 9, 12]

Challenges of Academic Library in Achieving Goals of NEP-2020

The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP-2020) is a comprehensive policy that aims to transform the Indian education system. Academic libraries play an important role in achieving the goals of NEP-2020, but they face several challenges. Some of the challenges are:

- 1. Funding:** Academic libraries require a significant amount of funding to purchase and maintain resources, upgrade technology, and provide services. However, libraries often struggle to secure sufficient funds from their institutions or government.
- 2. Digital Divide:** The NEP-2020 emphasizes the importance of digital resources and online learning, but not all students have access to the internet and digital devices. This digital divide creates a challenge for academic libraries as they need to ensure equitable access to their resources and services.
- 3. Changing Needs of Users:** The NEP-2020 focuses on developing critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills, which require a diverse range of resources and services. Academic libraries must adapt

Discussion points and Suggestions for the Success of NEP-2020 in view of the Academic Library

NEP-2020 encourages academic libraries to promote research, innovation, and lifelong learning. In this context, the following discussion points and suggestions can be helpful for academic libraries to achieve the goals of NEP-2020:

- 1. Strengthening digital infrastructure:** NEP-2020 emphasizes the importance of digital technologies in education. Academic libraries should focus on building a robust digital infrastructure to support e-learning and remote access to library resources. They should provide access to digital resources such as e-books, e-journals, databases, and online archives and create platforms for digital collaboration and communication.
- 2. Promoting research and innovation:** Academic libraries should facilitate research and innovation by

providing access to the latest research tools and resources. They should also offer training and support for research methods, data analysis, and citation management. The libraries can collaborate with research institutions and organizations to create repositories of research data and promote open access to research findings.

3. **Fostering lifelong learning:** Academic libraries should create programs and initiatives to promote lifelong learning among students, faculty, and the community. They should provide access to a range of learning resources such as textbooks, reference materials, and multimedia resources. The libraries can also organize workshops, seminars, and conferences to enhance the skills and knowledge of library users.
4. **Strengthening outreach and engagement:** Academic libraries should engage with their users and communities through outreach programs and activities. They can organize book clubs, reading groups, and other cultural events to promote reading and literacy. The libraries can also partner with schools, colleges, and community organizations to expand their reach and impact.
5. **Creating a culture of innovation and experimentation:** NEP-2020 encourages experimentation and innovation in education. Academic libraries should embrace this culture by adopting new technologies, exploring new methods of service delivery, and collaborating with diverse stakeholders. The libraries can also create spaces for innovation and creativity, such as maker spaces, and encourage users to experiment with new ideas and concepts.

Conclusion

In order to assist teaching, learning, and research, university libraries must offer access to digital resources such e-books, journals, and databases, according to NEP 2020. The policy highlights the value of free and open access to research results and calls on academic libraries to assist the creation of institutional repositories and open access publishing. Additionally, the NEP 2020 emphasizes how crucial academic libraries are to fostering interdisciplinary research and faculty, student, and researcher collaboration^[10, 11]. Academic libraries are encouraged by the policy to establish areas and resources that support cooperation, experimentation, and creativity. Conclusively, NEP 2020 acknowledges the evolving function of academic libraries in the digital era and underscores the necessity for these institutions to embrace inventive approaches to bolster research, teaching, and learning^[12-14]. The policy encourages academic libraries to work with other institutions to promote interdisciplinary research and innovation, acknowledging them as important contributors to the advancement of research and innovation.

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