PERSPECTIVES OF NEP (2020) TOWARDS ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

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Abstract:

India is an ever-growing technological country. Its biggest assets depend on the Education system. To improve and upgrade the technological provisions in the country, Government of India has announced National Education Policy NEP (2020), whose whole purpose is achieving excellence, innovation & quality education in the Indian Education system. The up gradation process starts from School Education, Higher Education, Professional Education, Online and Digital Education and overall giving total strength to the Education faculty. When it comes to the libraries point of view, special mention is intended to focus on library as essential services in the context of the Schools/ Colleges/ University systems in India. Academic library services are so essential that they play a significant role in study, research, education and skill development. NEP major aims to promote the reading culture, research support centre, lifelong learning centers, preservation of national and cultural heritage, promoting Social connections and overall disseminate knowledge and empower future generations.

Keywords: National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Academic Libraries, Reading, Knowledge, Library Services, Skill Development

Introduction:

Ministry of Education in India had launched new policy called as The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) on 29 July 2020. The NEP 2020 primarily focuses at making "**India a global knowledge superpower**". The policy aims at transformation of India's education system. NEP-2020 aims at creating a conducive ecosystem to catalyse and energize research and innovation in HEIs. The special focus is on seeding and nurturing the culture of research and innovation at universities and colleges through funding support, guidelines/policies and establishing innovation and research centers.

Vision of NEP:

1. Developing an education system deeply rooted in Indian ethos and transforming traditional Indian education into a sustainable and highly knowledgeable society.

2. Access to high quality education to all

3. Respect of fundamental duties and values and increase bond with the nation

4. Overall development of student skills and knowledge and in return empowers every individual and makes global citizen.

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Mission of NEP:

The mission of NEP 2020 is to ensure that every student has access to equitable and inclusive education that encourages creativity, critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Highlights of NEP 2020:

1. Schooling starts at the age of 3 years now

2. Mother tongue as medium of instruction

3. NO UGC, AICTE, NCTE

4. Science, Arts, and Commerce gets blurred

5. FYUP Programme Returns & No More Dropouts

6. Common access at all school-level education

7. Attaining Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) starting from grade 3 by 2025

8. Experiential learning in the school curriculum

9. Increase the graduate enrollment ratio

10. Enhancing the Stadards of Open and Distance Learning

11. Technological innovation in education

12. Internationalisation of education

13. Increase in public investment in education

It is further explained as follows:

- **School Education:**

1. Universalization of education from preschool to secondary level with 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030.

2. The current 10+2 system to be replaced by a new 5+3+3+4 curricular structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively.

3. Class 10 and 12 board examinations to be made easier with all students allowed to take the exam twice.

4. School governance is set to change, with a new accreditation framework and an independent authority to regulate both public and private schools.

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5. Emphasis on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, no rigid separation between academic streams, extracurricular, vocational streams in schools.

6. Vocational Education to start from Class 6 with Internships.

7. Teaching up to at least Grade 5 to be in mother tongue/regional language. No language will be imposed on any student.

8. Assessment reforms with 360 degree Holistic Progress Card, tracking Student Progress for achieving Learning Outcomes

9. NEP is set to open a new and comprehensive National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE) 2021 in consultation with National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) that will be formulated by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE)

10. By 2030, the minimum degree qualification for teaching will be a 4-year integrated B.Ed. degree.

- **Higher Education:**

1. Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education to be raised to 50% by 2035.

2. Holistic Undergraduate education with a flexible curriculum can be of 3 or 4 years with multiple exit options and appropriate certification within this period.

3. M.Phil courses will not be further available and all the courses at undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD level will now be interdisciplinary.

4. Academic Bank of Credits are started to make Transfer of Credits easier.

5. The National Research Foundation will be created to build well established research capacity across higher education.

6. Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will be set up as a single umbrella body for the entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education. Also, HECI will be having four independent verticals namely,

a. National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for regulation,

   b. General Education Council (GEC) for standard setting,

   c. Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for funding,

   d. National Accreditation Council (NAC) for accreditation.

7. Affiliation of colleges is to be phased out in 15 years and a stage-wise mechanism to be established for granting graded autonomy to colleges. Over a period of time, every college is expected to develop into either an autonomous degree-granting College, or a constituent college of a university.

- **Other Changes:**

1. National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), is a plan of action raised to establish free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning, administration.

2. 'PARAKH' National Assessment Centre- has been designed to let the students to access.

Pillars of NEP 2020: The NEP 2020 is principally emerged on the five guiding pillars of **Access,**

Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability and its main motto is to prepare the young generation to meet the diverse national and global challenges of the present and the future.

Objectives of the Study:

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To enlighten towards the New Education Policy 2020;

2. To highlight the role of academic libraries in education system;

3. To make libraries safe and convenient place for its readers;

4. To develop adequate and accessible library resources.

5. To help Libraries promote Literacy among its readers.

Research Methodology:

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 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 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. The following paper is based on online and some of printed recent literature reviews. The paper primarily focuses on contributions made by academic libraries in supporting the NEP 2020 by providing access to diverse and quality resources, promoting lifelong learning, facilitating research and innovation, and enhancing digital literacy skills.

Review of Literature:

Cite this article: Vagdal TS, Acharya S. The role of academic libraries in the context of national education policy (NEP)-2020. IP Indian J Libr Sci Inf Technol 2023;8(1):32-3

Vadgal, T S; Acharya S. suggested in their article that academic libraries are important in facilitating access to quality educational resources. Academic libraries can support this objective by providing access to a wide range of educational resources, including books, journals, research papers, e-resources, etc. Both of them stated that academic libraries proved their importance by encouraging curiosity, problem solving and innovation skills. They provide high quality reference materials in the collection.. Further, the academic library gives you a feeling of formal learning. There are many cases showing that academic librarians teach their campus communities about digital literacy skills required in the world of online information and technology.

S, Sivankalai suggested in his article the importance and presence of e-learning as a crucial part in todays learning system and lifelong learning. The study was done during Covid time when everything was done online. E-

learning is a modern teaching method that seeks to enhance student teacher relationships. When utilising a distance education platform, students do numerous things. Because instructors and students do not have to educate staff, e-learning saves time. E-learning is vital for library expansion. More library librarians are more prepared, allowing the library to accomplish its goals faster. Encouraging innovation and creativity via e-learning India's eLearning growth is accelerating. Virtual learning is also becoming very common now days.

Prof. Savita Vaidya has discussed in her paper those institutional libraries in many areas of the nation focuses to work with research embraced by the pioneers, youthful business visionaries, and different people in the imaginative economy. By providing qualitative resources, particularly e-resources, guidance on reference management, and assistance with information retrieval, libraries and information centers can be the interest of researchers and readers. To address the growing digital divide and challenges, libraries have transformed into hybrid and digital libraries and integrated technology-based solutions by providing access to resources for education. ICT and digital divide technology has improved in this NEP 2020. Prof. also has pointed out that educational institutions lack adequate facilities and space for libraries, and they are focusing on creating user-friendly, organized spaces and resources until 2025 in order to increase the value of libraries to society. According to the new policy, the nation offers high-quality technology-based options for education including apps, online courses, modules, satellite-based television channels, online books, digital resources, and ICT-equipped libraries and Education Centers. Also the new policy has given the academic libraries and its readers the desire for lifelong learning is influenced by personal ambition, experience, passion, and work. To address the growing digital divide and challenges, libraries have transformed into hybrid and digital libraries and integrated technology-based solutions by providing access to resources for education.

Rahul Dattatray has suggested that the objective of the New Education Policy 2020 is to make India a global knowledge superpower. This policy will boost employment in the country and fundamentally change our educational system. School librarians have a crucial role to play, since they provide the only environment in which most people can access books. Therefore, they need to attract children who are reluctant readers and expose them to the joys and benefits of reading. They can also help the children to develop a pleasant and positive attitude towards reading. He has also suggested that school librarians must improve their following skills in addition to their love for reading such as communication, computer, organization, cataloguing and documentation.

Mohammad Asif and K. K. Singh have mentioned in their article the use of libraries as an integral part of our education system. They have imposed certain points focusing on libraries and their services such as development of major learning materials (irrespective of languages), ensure of availability and accessibility of books and other reading resources in school and public libraries, promotion of reading habits among all the readers, application of ICT in school and public libraries in villages, broadening and strengthening library collection for the Higher Education Systems, Convenient and comfy space for Libraries, opportunities for library staff if any case of continuing education etc. Library innovation has been involved in this article for maintaining sheer importance of libraries across the country.

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Limitations of Libraries as per National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:

- Academic Libraries are facing maintenance and upkeep problems on daily basis. Improper space management, illiterate staff and improper timings of the library.

- Malware problems, a lack of standardization for digitized information, rapidly degrading properties of digitized material, different display standards of digital products and their associated problems, the health hazard nature of monitor radiation, and other factors make digital libraries handicapped at times

- Severe harm to library materials is caused by natural elements such as temperature and humidity extremes, light, pollutants in the air, mold, and pests.

- The reliance on digital formats may limit access to certain resources that are not available in digital form or have not been digitized.

- Concerns regarding the authenticity and reliability of digital sources also arise, as the online landscape is susceptible to misinformation and plagiarism. Expensive digitization process.

- Flexible internet connections or high demand during peak times can result in frustrating delays when retrieving or downloading materials.

- The cost of digitizing print materials, creating metadata, and developing user interfaces can be substantial.

- Bandwidth limitations can pose a significant challenge when accessing digital library resources, particularly for users in regions with limited internet connectivity or areas with restricted bandwidth.

- Online hacks and unauthorized access pose risks to the integrity and confidentiality of digital library resources. Libraries must implement regular security audits to safeguard against potential vulnerabilities.

Following are some of the ways to overcome limitations and come up with impressive Academic Libraries as per new NEP 2020 policy:

- Improve and expand library collections: By adding digital resources to the physical holdings, librarians can offer more variety, currency, and relevance to your users. They need to consider users' needs and preferences, budget and licensing options, technical infrastructure and support, and policies and procedures.

- Enhancement of library services: Some examples of enhancing library services with digital resources are: creating online guides, tutorials, or newsletters; offering virtual reference, instruction, or programming; using social media, blogs, or podcasts to communicate and interact; and joining consortia, networks, or repositories to share and access resources.

- Empowerment of Users: Some examples of empowering library users with digital resources are: providing access to e-books, databases, or multimedia; teaching them how to use digital tools or platforms;

- Evaluation of impact: Some examples of evaluating library impact with digital resources are: using web analytics, surveys, or focus groups to assess user behavior, satisfaction, or outcomes; using citation analysis.

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Conclusion:

The new policy launched by the government of India NEP 2020 has all provisions of making academic libraries a very powerful and effective tool in the field of research and education development. With slight possible changes and advances made by the librarians, the users and librarians themselves are ought to be a special force in the future education system of the country.

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