

New Education Policy - 2020: Role of Libraries

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ABSTRACT

This is a reviewed article on New Education Policy-2020 in India & the role of libraries in education. This paper emphasised major highlights of the NEP-2020 & fundamental principles of the libraries in pre-primary education to higher education & research, & making availability of public libraries. This paper briefly discussed Continues Professional Development of teacher-librarian according to NEP.

KEYWORDS: NEP-2020, New Education Policy, Role of Libraries.

INTRODUCTION

The Union Cabinet approved the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. This is the first education policy of the 21st century to replace the thirty-four-year-old National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986. The policy aims at universalization of education from pre-school to secondary level with 100 per cent Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030. Spending 6% of GDP, doubling enrolment 2 lofty targets of National Education Policy 2020. The NEP-2020 is based on the foundational pillars Access, Affordability, Equity, Quality, & Accountability.

According to the NEP 2020 Policy – “Education is fundamental for achieving full human potential, developing an equitable and just 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”.

This new education policy is to build Indian’s talent and resources and help develop a universal society, country while positively impacting all. The Government Endeavour’s to provide high-quality educational opportunities to grow holistically for oneself and society.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) emphasis on education is reflected in the 2030 plan of Sustainable development of Education in India, ensuring that Education is inclusive and equitable to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all – including children, adults, and professionals in the field of Education. 50 hours of Professional Development is required to ensure that educators have the necessary skills and pedagogical understanding and practices for executing the new education policy.

All practices included in the Library and schools must be inclusive and equitable. Being inclusive, it must consist of all groups of individuals to receive the services of a library and include all individuals from different tribes, rural, Socially Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) Children with Special Needs (CWSNs) and Minorities.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW EDUCATION POLICY - 2020

1. **The 5+3+3+4 system:** The 10+2 structure of school curricula is to be replaced by a 5+3+3+4 curricular structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively. This will include 12 years of schooling and three years of Anganwadi and pre-schooling.
2. **Schooling from 3 years:** According to the New Education Policy, from the age of 3, children will be part of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). This will be delivered through a) standalone 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 - all of which would recruit workers/teachers specially trained in the curriculum and pedagogy of ECCE.
3. **Promoting libraries:** A National Book Promotion Policy will be formulated, and extensive initiatives will be undertaken to ensure the availability, accessibility, quality, and readership of books across geographies, languages, levels, and genres.
4. **Teaching up to class fifth in the mother tongue/regional language:** The mother tongue or local or regional language will be the medium of instruction in all schools up to Class 5 (preferably till Class 8 and beyond), according to the NEP. Besides, Sanskrit will be offered at all levels and foreign languages from the secondary school level.
5. **Creating Bal Bhavans:** Every state or district will be encouraged to establish 'Bal Bhavans' as a special daytime boarding school, to participate in art-related, career-related, and play-related activities. Free school infrastructure can be used by Samajik Chetna Kendras.
6. **Academic Bank of Credit:** This to be established for digitally storing academic credits earned from different HEIs so that these can be transferred and counted towards the final degree earned. The academic credit stored in a digital locker will be like a bank credit through which a student will be able to resume education after a break as specified by the higher education commission later.

7. **Multiple entries and exit points in higher education:** The new policy will have multiple entry and exit points. Under the four-year programme, students can exit after one year with a certificate, after two years with a diploma and a Bachelor's degree after three years & Bachelor's with research after 4 years. The multiple entry & exit will be done through the academic bank of credit.
8. **Affiliation of colleges will be phased out in 15 years** and a stage-wise mechanism will be established for granting graded autonomy to colleges.
9. **By 2030, the minimum degree qualification** for teaching will be a 4-year integrated B.Ed. degree.
10. **Easing of board exam:** The board exams for class 10 & 12 will continue. However, the board exams will be made 'easier' as they will primarily test core capacities, competencies rather than months of coaching or memorisation.
11. **Changes in report card:** The progress card of all students for school-based assessment will be redesigned. It will be a holistic, 360-degree, multidimensional report card that will reflect in great detail the progress and uniqueness of each learner in the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains. The progress card will include self-assessment, peer assessment and teacher assessment.
12. **Foreign universities in India:** NEP has paved the way for foreign universities to set up campuses in India. Internationalization of education will be facilitated through institutional collaborations as well as student and faculty mobility. This will allow the entry of top world-ranked universities to open campuses in India.
13. **NEP ends science-commerce-arts streams:** NEP has eliminated the rigid separation of streams. Students will now be able to choose subjects like history and physics at the same time in class 11 & 12.
14. **National Educational Technology Forum:** An autonomous body, the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), will be created to provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning, administration.
15. **Common Entrance Exam for college admission:** The National Testing Agency (NTA) will conduct entrance examinations for admissions to universities across the country. The NTA already conducts the all-India engineering entrance exam -- JEE Main, NEET, UGC NET, and others. As per the NEP 2020, the entrance exam to be conducted by the NTA for admission to universities and colleges will be optional.

Some of the biggest reforms of the NEP include teaching up to class five in mother tongue or regional language, lowering the stakes of board exams, allowing foreign universities to set up campuses in India, a single regulator for higher education institutions except for law and medical colleges and common entrance tests for universities.

ROLE OF LIBRARIES

To build an education for an individual, schools, and libraries must provide a safe, welcoming place, where he/she is intellectually stimulated and where the Library becomes a Learning Hub.

A Library – Learning Hub, where the learning environment exists and can engage and provide a variety of learning experiences to the students. Where the focus is on the 21st-century skills with the dispositions that form the core of the individual's character and personality. Librarians instructional practices and curriculum, therefore, must include a variety of dispositions in an informal setting to help students develop the dispositions cited in the NEP are: Values like empathy, respect for others, cleanliness, courtesy, democratic spirit, the spirit of service, responsibility, pluralism, equality and justice.

To provide best practices to support the fundamental principles of Education, the teacher-librarian to collaborate with Teachers that can promote fundamental principles laid down in the NEP, and this can be done by pursuing – Curiosity and Passion Projects through cluster groups. The NEP emphasizes the teachers & faculty, including the Librarian, to have an attitude of service. Keeping that in mind- the Library becomes the education service centre of resources in print, digital, and personnel.

**The Libraries to map Fundamental Principles in the NEP emphasizes the following, and they are;
Developing enjoyable and inspirational books**

Enjoyable and inspirational books will be developed for the students at all levels in all local and Indian languages. Steps will be taken to ensure the accessibility of books to disable and differently-abled persons. The government, with the help of both public and private sector institutions, will devise strategies to improve the quality and attractiveness of books.

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.

1. Making the availability and accessibility of books in school/public libraries

The government will emphasize making books available extensively in both schools and public libraries. The government will take steps to ensure the availability and accessibility of books to all, including persons having disabilities and differently-abled persons using modern ICT technologies across the country. The main emphasis will be on the socioeconomically disadvantaged areas and rural/ remote areas. Public and school libraries to build a culture of reading across the country. Digital libraries to be established and serve the community during non-school hours and book clubs may meet in public/school libraries to further facilitate extensive reading.

2. Building a culture of reading across the country

Both public and school libraries will be extensively enhanced to increase the readership and readers across the country. Public libraries will be strengthened and modernized. An adequate supply of books that cater to the needs and interests of communities will be ensured. Establishing more children's library and mobile library and social book clubs across the country to support widespread reading and community development.

3. ICT equipped school/public libraries in villages

Enjoyable and inspirational books for students at all levels are developed, including through high-quality translation (technology-assisted as needed) to serve the community and the students particularly in villages during non-school hours, the ICT equipped school/public libraries will be set up. Book club facilities will be developed to further promote widespread reading. For schools to execute new practices offered by the NEP 2020, they will be introducing a wave of Professional development opportunities that will be provided to all faculty members.

4. Libraries will be strengthened in the higher education systems

Academic libraries are the hearts of institutions and the government will strengthen and increase the procurement of reading materials like books, journals, and other learning and teaching materials. Steps will be taken for further enhancement of digital libraries and online accessibility of library books. E-content will be provided in regional languages also. To help recognize, identify and foster each individual's strengths and talents while promoting each student's holistic development in both academic and non-academic sphere.

5. Use of Public library spaces for adult education

The government will work on providing suitable infrastructure to ensure adult education and lifelong learning to interested adults. The public library spaces will be used for ICT equipped adult education courses and other activities for community engagement and enrichment.

6. Devise appropriate Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for the library staff

To realize the aim of establishing, developing and strengthening existing libraries and catering to the needs of all types of readers across the country, the government will devise appropriate career pathways development for the library staff and ensure adequate staff for the proper functioning. A collaboration where teachers and Librarians learning process with Continuous Professional Development (CPD), Positive working environments and service conditions. If a librarian nurtures the profession to become a teacher-librarian, they can also request Continuous Professional Development of 50 hours a year as prescribed by the NEP 2020.

CONCLUSION

A national Book Promotion Policy will be formulated and extensive initiatives will be taken to increase the accessibility and availability of learning materials across geographies and languages. Here are the developments in the digital libraries and school/public libraries, the government will work on, to promote the readership habit, maximum use of libraries, to ensure the availability and accessibility of books to the students without any barrier of language, technology and geographies.

A National Book Promotion Policy will take extensive initiatives to ensure the availability, accessibility, quality and readership of books across geographies, languages, levels and genres. According to the NEP – Curriculum and Pedagogy in Schools: Learning should be Holistic, Integrated, Enjoyable and Engaging. Library classes and lessons, therefore, must be Inquiry-based, discovery-based, discussion-based, and analysis based learning. Here is a chance for Librarians to learn with the others in the transforming role from a bookkeeper to a Teacher Librarian.

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