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## Value of Libraries in National Education Policy-2020

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### Abstract

The MHRD has provided the public and the future educational system with the National Educational Policy 2020 (NEP-2020). Academic and public libraries of all levels have benefited more from NEP-2020. The new policy put a strong emphasis on the library's operations, services, and infrastructure. The new approach also includes special ICT (information and communication technology) facilities and services for all of the country's readers.

**Keywords:** NEP, policy, libraries, online, digital, resources

### Introduction

After extensive research and development on the previous educational policies and the present educational needs of the community, the Ministry of Human Resources and Development, Government of India, released the National Educational Policy 2020.

The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986, which had been in effect for 34 years, has been replaced with this education policy for the twenty-first century. Achieving one's full potential, creating a just society, advancing national development, and ensuring that everyone has equal access to high-quality education all depend on education. In terms of economic growth, social fairness and equality, scientific advancement, national integration, cultural preservation, and universal high-quality education, India has a significant place in leadership on the international arena. The resources and economic position of the nation are best developed and maximized for the benefit of the person, the community, the nation, and the globe. India is the second-most populous nation in the world, thus the national education strategy 2020 will be highly beneficial for the growth of the nation.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's Goal 4 (SGDG4), which India accepted in 2015, calls for "ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong educational learning benefits and opportunities."

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's essential objectives and goals (SGDs) are being discussed at a system-wide level in order to enhance and accelerate education and the learning process.

The first education policy of the twenty-first century is this National Education Policy 2020. NEP 2020 seeks to meet the numerous, expanding developmental imperatives facing our nation. In order to create a new system that will be in line with the aspirational objectives of the 21st-century educational system at the school level and higher education level, this NEP policy proposes the revision and revamping of all aspects of the current educational structure, including the rules and governance.

### Purpose of the Policy

The goal of education policy and system is to create decent people who are capable of moral reasoning and action, who are courageous and resilient, who have a scientific mindset and a creative imagination, and who uphold moral principles and values. It aspires to create citizens who are useful, active, thoughtful, and contributing to the creation of a just, inclusive, and plural society as envisioned by the Indian constitution.

### Significant Policy Highlights

- 1. Promoting the Libraries:** In NEP 2020, a National Books Promotion strategy is developed, and significant efforts are planned to guarantee that books are available, easily accessible, of high quality, and are read by people from all backgrounds and who speak a variety of languages.
- 2. Technology in Education National Forum:** The National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), an independent organisation, will be established to offer a forum for the unrestricted discussion of ways to improve educational learning, evaluation, planning, and administration.

3. By 2030, the minimum degree qualification for teaching will be a 4-year integrated B.Ed. Degree.
4. **The school from 3 years:** The NEP Policy states that children would start early childhood care and education at the age of three. This will be provided through a) standalone Anganwadis; b) Anganwadis co-located with primary schools; c) pre-primary schools/sections covering at least age 5 to 6 years co-located with current primary schools; and d) standalone pre-schools - all of which would recruit staff/teachers specially trained in the curriculum and pedagogy of ECCE.
5. **National Education Technology Forum:** The National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), an independent organisation, will be established to offer a forum for the unrestricted discussion of ways to improve educational learning, evaluation, planning, and administration.

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

A library is emphasised as a "Learning and Resources Hub" in the National Educational Policy 2020: To achieve a 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio at the school level, the NEP 2020 places a strong emphasis on the universalization of education. To do this, the library will need to provide enough current reading and study materials, as well as convenient access to all users at the secondary and higher education levels. Proactive methods will be required at all times, and the function won't only be limited to providing these services.

For readers in society as well as for instructors, NEP 2020 includes provisions for the most cutting-edge materials in line with the new curriculum. The National Education Policy 2020 has to place greater attention on the library services and facilities even if there is less of a policy focus on libraries. Libraries concerns should be understood clearly and accessed to the value of libraries and information centres.

### **Adequate Library Staff**

It will be crucial to have enough library employees on hand in NEP 2020 and beyond (21.9) in order to manage the library services for the general public, instructors, and students, and to provide suitable career routes and CPD for them. Additionally, all currently existing libraries will be strengthened, rural libraries and reading rooms will be established in underserved areas, reading materials in Indian languages will be widely accessible, children's libraries and mobile libraries will be opened, social book clubs across India and across subjects will be established, and more cooperation between educational institutions and libraries will be encouraged.

The policy also states that libraries must stock a sufficient number of high-quality resources for readers from all fields. Additionally, it is stated that there is a lack of suitable space and amenities for libraries in schools and organizations. As a result, efforts are being concentrated on developing a well-organized space with user-friendly resources until 2025 to provide libraries a new sort of value for the general public and societies.

### **Suitable infrastructures for the library**

To guarantee that all interested individuals have access to adult education, study, and lifelong learning, appropriate and acceptable infrastructure will be ensured. Using schools,

school complexes, and public libraries for adult education classes that are equipped with information communication technology and well-designed, as well as other community engagement and enrichment activities, will be a key initiative in this direction. To ensure effective use of physical and human resources and create synergy across these five forms of education and beyond, infrastructure sharing for school, university, adult, and vocational education, as well as other community and volunteer activities, will be essential. Because of these factors, adult education centres (AECs) may also be a part of other public institutions like higher education institutes (HEIs), vocational training facilities, etc.

### **Availability and accessibility of books**

The NEP 2020 placed a strong emphasis on making high-quality publications and materials accessible to the general public and readers in order to promote excellent education and the advancement of research. To encourage the habit of reading in our communities and educational institutions, we must increase the availability and accessibility of books.

The Policy suggests that all communities, organizations, and educational institutions-including public libraries, colleges, universities, and schools-be improved and modernized to guarantee a sufficient supply of books that meet all students' requirements and interests.

The NEP 2020 also includes measures for making books and resources accessible to various and unique readers in society, such as those with impairments and other differently abled people.

### **Role of Central and State Governments**

The central and state governments are in charge of establishing and supporting the library services, and they will take steps to develop the libraries to make sure that books are made available and affordable to all people across the nation, including those living in rural and remote areas and socioeconomically disadvantaged areas. Agencies and organisations from the public and commercial sectors shall develop plans to raise the calibre and appeal of books produced in all Indian languages.

### **Online libraries and resources are included in the NEP 2020**

The NEP 2020 includes a provision for online library resources, and actions will be done to improve the online availability of library materials and broaden the scope of digital libraries.

### **Provision for enhancing all already operating libraries**

In accordance with the NEP 2020, all currently operating libraries will be strengthened, rural libraries and reading rooms will be established in underserved areas, reading materials in Indian languages will be made widely accessible, children's libraries and mobile libraries will be opened, social book clubs will be established across India and subjects, and more outstanding partnerships between educational institutions and libraries will be encouraged.

With the frequent use of ICT in all areas of library services, libraries currently need to adapt their offerings. The Indian government is concentrating on providing users from K-12 schools to higher education institutions with top-notch online teaching and learning materials. The government of India's Digital India initiative and vision inspired and

provided assistance to the Digital Library for online learning and teaching materials. For Indian libraries, the NEP 2020's nature and development characteristics are particularly supportive.

### **Conclusion**

The policy states that the aforementioned activities would be strengthened and carried out using library technology. Adult education centres on the country that offer high-quality technology-based solutions for learning, including applications, online courses, modules, satellite TV channels, online publications, and digital resources. As a result, high-quality adult education may frequently be delivered online. All current libraries are being strengthened by the national education policy. For the development of libraries on all scales in the digital age, the National Education Policy 2020 contains a wide range of requirements. It is certain that libraries will play a vital role in the advancement of research and education in the current Modern Digital Era. The nation will benefit from libraries' high-quality education and effective means of advancement.

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