Imbibing and Implementation of NEP2020 for Re-imagining Libraries for Research and Development

Garima Gujral and J. Shivarama

Education is the fundamental right for all and is essential for achieving full human potential and an equitable, just society leading to national development. Universal access to quality education is the goal and aids the leadership and economic growth of our country on a global level. Developing and maximizing the potential of our country can be achieved through universal high-quality education. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4) is about quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Achieving this goal requires re-imaging the education system so that all the critical targets can be met by the year 2030. India aims to have an education system that guarantees equitable access to highest quality education for learners regardless of their socio-economic backgrounds. The National Education Policy 2020 is the first policy of the 21st century that addresses several developmental milestones of our country. NEP 2020 proposes revised and revamped aspect of the structure of education. This paper lays emphasis on the role of libraries in promoting and implementing E-learning, digital education, online learning pedagogies. It traces the pivotal role of libraries and information management centers to achieve the full potential of the policy and understanding technology use and integration in several domains. The role of information scientists and knowledge managers is also highlighted followed by the skills and competencies to achieve the full potential of NEP 2020.

Introduction

Education allows every person to achieve their full human potential and leads to holistic growth and development. Holistic development comprises of cognitive, foundational, literacy and numeracy followed by critical thinking and power solving. Along with social, ethical, and emotional capacities. With the onset of COVID-19 followed by nationwide closures and lockdowns transformed the way teaching and learning took place in a short span of time.

The unprecedented challenged that came along required technology-based solutions to meet the growing information needs of the learners at every stage. Information managers and educators worked hand in hand to bridge the knowledge gaps faced by users and libraries play a very pivotal role in meeting the targets and objectives of the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020). NEP has a new pedagogy along with special focus on technology integration and ensuring equitable use of technology. NEP has the potential to give out fundamental reforms in the education system. Education is a great leveler and is the best tool for achieving economic andsocial mobility, inclusion, and equality. All these elements must be incorporated and considered the local and global needs of an organization. Implementation of cutting-edge technologies

is a must to keep up with the pace of the technology driven society. Technology implementation now needs to be taken right from the stage of early childhood education. Its critical to bring in a new approach and NEP 2020 guarantees that every individual gets the most out of the education system.

India has been successfully implementing the integration of Information Communication Technology for the purpose of education and as a part of several literacy, numeracy, and continuing education programs. In the 21st century knowledge society, cutting edge technologies have taken over each domain and the education sector has also imbibed all the features and trends of the cutting-edge technologies. Policy level implementation of technology integrated approach for education is a must have. Libraries and Information Centers also known as the heart of an institution are playing the dual role of digital learning parks and resource centers in meeting the growing information needs of the users, information science professionals can play an integral role in the successful implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 as it performs multidisciplinary functions and has spread its tentacles in meeting the pace with the growing technological developments allied with tech savvy users and knowledge management professionals.

2.   National Education Policy 2020

The National Education Policy 2020 is the first education policy of 21st century and addresses several developmental imperatives. It was launched on 29 July 2020 and claims to revamp all the aspects of India's current education system. A greater emphasis has been laid on cognitive learning and fostering the creative potential of learners. The implementation of previous policies on education has focused largely on issues of access andequity. The unfinished agenda of the National Policy on Education 1986, modified in 1992 (NPE1986/92), is appropriately dealt with in this Policy. A major development since the last Policy of1986/92 has been the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 which laiddown legal underpinnings for achieving universal elementary education.

3.   Vision of NEP 2020

This National Education Policy envisions an education system rooted in Indian ethos that contributesdirectly to transforming India, that is Bharat, sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledgesociety, by providing high-quality education to all, and thereby making India a global knowledgesuperpower. The Policy envisages that the curriculum and pedagogy of our institutions mustdevelop among the students a deep sense of respect towards the Fundamental Duties andConstitutional values, bonding with one's country, and a conscious awareness of one's rolesand responsibilities in a changing world. The vision of the Policy is to instill among thelearners a deep-rooted pride in being Indian, not only in thought, but also in spirit, intellect,and deeds, as well as to develop knowledge, skills, values, and dispositions that support responsible commitment to human rights, sustainable development and living, and globalwell-being, thereby reflecting a truly global citizen.

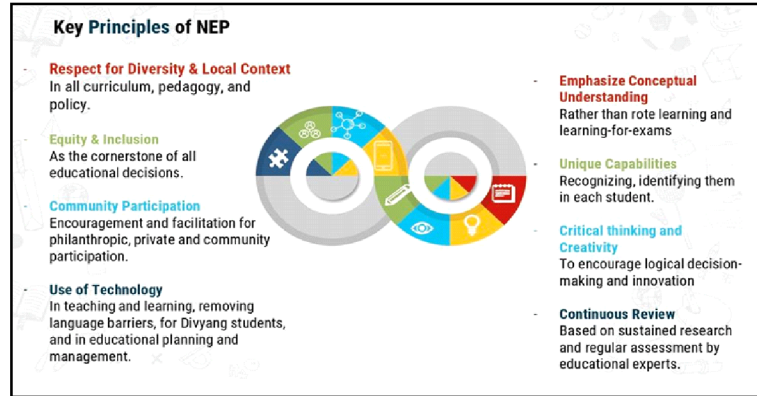The key principles of the NEP 2020 are illustrated as follows-

Figure 1: Key Principles of NEP

Figure 1 enlists the key features of NEP 2020 that focusses on the following aspects-

❖ Respect for diversity and local context

❖ Equity and inclusion

❖ Community participation and encouragement.

❖ Use and implementation of technology

❖ Emphasizing conceptual understanding.

❖ Fostering unique capabilities

❖ Critical thinking and creativity

❖ Continuous review and evaluation.
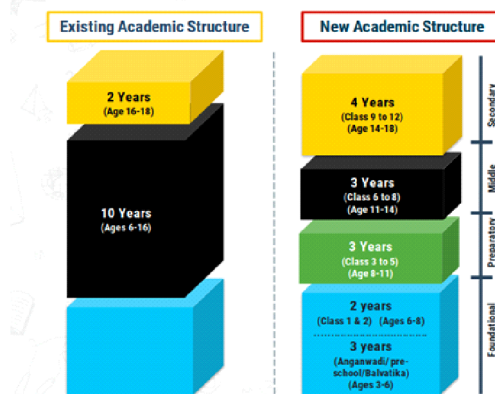
4. **Re-imagining Education**

Figure 2: Pedagogy as per NEP 2020

The above figure represents the difference between the existing and new academic structure, the new academic structure has been revamped and broken down into multiple silos and has been divided into stages such as foundational, preparatory, middle, and secondary. Across various stages and milestones for development. This re-imagined structure allows students to progress in an agile manner and in a segmented approach.

5. Imbibing and Implementing NEP 2020

Implementation of NEP 2020 can aid and enhance the education system in a highly holistic manner. Imbibing its features and provisions refers to deeply assimilating in all walks and sectors of education. To successfully implement and imbibe all its features its important all the stakeholders come together and work hand in hand to achieve the full potential of this policy. Learners and Educators need to be committed and work in compliance to reap the best possible results of this policy. The implementation needs to take place at the policy, governance, institutional and individual levels. This would allow an agile approach to achieve in chunks instead of imposing the burden to achieve it all at once. A step-by-step approach for educators with continued retrospectives to reflect and re-work on their approaches. A periodical follows up or touch base for educators and all other stakeholders would be beneficial to achieve the full potential of the policy in an efficient manner.

6. Incentive Approach for Libraries for National Education Policy (NEP 2020)

Libraries provide an incentivized approach for implementation of the NEP 2020, by the following ways-

❖ Fostering unique capabilities of students.

❖ Achieving foundational literacy and numeracy for students.

❖ Offering multidisciplinary and holistic education.

❖ Laying greater emphasis on conceptual understanding

❖ Fostering creativity and critical understanding.

❖ Reinstating ethics and values.

❖ Promoting multilingualism.

❖ Focusing on formative assessments.

❖ Extensive use and implementation of technology.

❖ Respecting diversity and inclusion.

❖ Offering synergy across all levels in education.

❖ Greater emphasis on outstanding research and development.

❖ Continuous review of progress based on sustained research with educational experts across domains.

❖ Investing in a strong and vibrant public education system.

7. Technology Use and Integration in Libraries

India has proven to be a global leader when it comes to ICT implementation and imbibing cutting-edge technologies in various sectors. The Digital India campaign has transformed and enabled the entire nation to become digitally enabled and moving towards a knowledge economy. Education plays an essential role and when integrated with technology makes the progress four folds. The relationship between technology and education is directly proportional and aids each other. Matching up with the ongoing pace of technological developments requires trained and expert professional to gatekeep these services and meet user needs. The use and integration of technology has improved several aspects of education system and evolved the methods for pedagogies

Under the scope of NEP an autonomous body, the National Education Technology (NETF) has been set up that provides a platform for a two-way communication on the sue and implementation of technology to enhance the existing teaching and learning methods. NETF will facilitating decision making with respect to development, deployment, and governance of technology for education.

NETF will be taking up data driven decisions based on regular influx of data from various sources while engaging with a diverse set of researchers to analyze data.

Libraries have transformed into hybrid and digital libraries and have integrated technology-based solutions to meet the growing digital divide and challenges. By offering access to teaching and learning resources followed by edtech implementations.

8. Online and Digital Education: Ensuring Equitable Use of Technology

The post COVID society has brought out new realities and initiatives, adopting to alternative modes of education and eradicating the challenges of the traditional models of education. The traditional methods left out most of the population as the pandemic struck. The importance of recognizing and leveraging technology for ensuring equitable access and usage is a must. The ICT based education initiatives can be optimized and expanded to meet the existing challenges with respect to digital divide. It is essential that the existing platforms considers the needs of the most marginalized. Suitable training for educators and teachers for effective online education and pedagogies. Understanding the approaches for online assessment such as conducting exams at a scale.

A dedicated unit for building world class digital infrastructure for the purpose for educational content creation and capacity building.

9. Pivotal Role of Libraries for Implementation of the National Education Policy 2020

Libraries play an essential role for the successful implementation of the National Education Policy 2020, the roles played are enlisted as follows-

❖ Providing E-Resources in the form of e-books, journals, serial publications, web-based databases.

❖ Digitalizing existing forms of resources such as books, audio, and media tapes.

❖ EdTech based solutions and startups.

❖ Provide maker's space for creative idea sharing and interactions.

❖ Responding to student's queries via AI based chatbots and reference systems.

❖ Hosting teaching and learning sessions for learners.

❖ Offering cyclic training programs for using technologies and access to digital learning resources.

❖ Hosting digital literacy programs for learners to eradicate the existing digital divide.

❖ Removing the barriers to time and space by offering solutions to users at any time and at any geographical location.

❖ Meeting needs via DIKSHA platform by offering e-content creation and learning through portals such as SWAYAM.

❖ Adopting disruptive technologies such as artificial intelligence, virtual reality in the education system.

❖ Offering research support in core areas such as machine learning, natural language processing.

❖ Training and capacity building programs for professional education and skill building.

❖ Content creation, digital repository, and dissemination.

❖ Setting up a suitable digital infrastructure for students.

❖ Supporting the set up and deployment of virtual labs.

❖ Supporting blended models of learning.

10. Re-Imagining Libraries for Research and Development

NEP 2020 lays a great emphasis on research and development and strengthening the scholarly communication environment. NEP has provisions to enhance and foster research and development in the areas of cutting-edge technologies such as machine learning, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, natural language processing, big data, and analytics. Libraries play a major role in fostering and supporting researchers through reading and referencing service across multidisciplinary domains. Providing access to research portals and databases for data collection as well as literature. Virtual and reference librarians have been meeting user needs while bridging the barriers of space and time by providing 24*7 access to resources for users. Cloud based libraries are taking over the traditional methods and approaches for data and resources. This re-imagined approach for libraries has great potential to serve its users in a better manner.

11. Conclusion

NEP 2020 has great potential to revamp the education system, but every stakeholder needs to work hand in hand to get the most out of it. Library and Information Science professionals have a critical role to play in implementing and integrating technologies at every learning stage. Libraries have transformed over the last two years and completely transformed and equipped to meet needs in a virtual manner. EdTech startups have been greatly supported by libraries and rely heavily on the e-learning resources and access to portals. Training and capacity building centers along with the concept of maker's spaces has been adopted by libraries and would aid in a great manner and enhance the creative potential of the learners and educators.

NEP 2020 has been developed based on extensive research and experts from stakeholders from coming together. The vision and objectives of NEP has been drafted based on empirical research and with a long-term view to meet needs of learners in the technology enabled environment and in compliance with the sustainable development goals.

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About Authors

Ms. Garima Gujral
Taxonomist
Walmart Global Tech, Centre for Library and Information Management Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai
Email: garimagujral9@gmail.com

Dr. J. Shivarama
Assistant Professor
Centre for Library and Information Management Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai
Email: shivaramatoo32@gmail.com