

THE TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT OF NEP 2020 ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

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Abstract:

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in India marks a fundamental shift in the education paradigm, aiming to modernize higher education by assuring inclusivity and quality in line with global educational aspirations. This paper examines how NEP 2020 has affected Library and Information Science (LIS) and what that means for information professionals and librarians. NEP 2020 argues for a wide range of resources, technology integration, and interdisciplinary approaches, with a focus on digital literacy and skill development. However, issues such as professional skill development, the digital divide, and resource management are common and widespread.

Introduction:

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 represents a significant change in the educational landscape of India. Its goals are to guarantee inclusive, high-quality learning opportunities that are in line with global sustainability goals and to transform the higher education system. NEP 2020 has a great deal of impact on the field of Library and Information Science (LIS), changing the roles, responsibilities, and practices of this area of study, among other far-reaching effects. The revolutionary impact of NEP 2020 on LIS is examined in this study, along with the opportunities and problems it brings for information workers and librarians. This study intends to analyse the implications of NEP 2020 on libraries by examining its guiding principles, objectives, and structure. It emphasizes the importance of professional development and strategic planning in order to navigate the changing terrain and position libraries as dynamic information centres. A brief overview of NEP 2020's main goals, Vision, Foundational Principles are as follows:

1. National Education Policy-2020: Foundational Principles:

The goal of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is to overcome obstacles and deliver high-quality, equitable education by completely transforming the higher education system. It seeks to guarantee inclusive, high-quality education and opportunities for lifelong learning in line with UN Sustainable Development Goal 4

NEP-2020 Foundational Principles:

- Acknowledging and fostering each student's individual potential.
- Giving students the freedom to select their own educational pathways in accordance with their interests and talents.
- Dismantling boundaries between academic and professional streams, extracurricular and curricular activities, and disciplines.
- Promoting interdisciplinary education that includes the humanities, arts, sciences, and

sports.

- Giving conceptual knowledge precedence over memorization, encouraging originality, critical thinking, and moral principles.
- Fostering multilingualism, strengthening the role of language in education, and teaching students life skills like resilience, teamwork, and communication.
- Conducting regular formative assessments and leveraging technology to support inclusive learning.
- Accepting inclusiveness, equity, diversity, and the local context when making decisions about education.
- Making sure that the curriculum is consistent from early childhood education to higher education.
- Acknowledging the key role played by teachers and emphasizing the need for recruiting, professional growth, and happy workplaces.
- Creating a well-balanced regulatory structure that uses autonomy and sound governance to guarantee system integrity, transparency, and efficiency.
- Highlighting exceptional research for superior learning and growth.
- A dedication to conducting on-going study to analyse progress continuously.
- Honouring India's numerous knowledge systems and rich cultural legacy.
- Believing that access to high-quality education is a fundamental right and that education is a public service.
- Making large investments in public education and promoting sincere participation in the community and private spheres.

2. National Education Policy Goals:

Following are some significant changes to the current system that are outlined in NEP-2020, which are based on its vision and guiding principles:

Undergraduate Education with Multidisciplinary Focus:

Multidisciplinary programs are given priority in NEP-2020 to promote holistic learning. Seek to integrate formal and informal learning, improve problem-solving skills, and blend different disciplines by **2035**, colleges will be transformed into multifunctional institutions with the goal of full acceptance by **2040**.

Educational Reform Focus:

- Reorganizing support systems, curriculum, pedagogy, and assessment.
- Converting learning from being teacher-cantered to being student-cantered.
- Putting forth the idea of an Academic Bank of Credit for flexible degree completion.

Enhanced Evaluation and Assistance:

- Accepting on-going evaluation in lieu of final exams for the semester.
- Making use of digital platforms for learning remotely.
- Put an emphasis on fostering values, knowledge, and skills for all-around development.

Autonomy and Governance:

- Universities to have autonomous governance structures.

- Institutions may make a smooth change in response to performance.
- The ability for faculty to create curricula, select resources, and employ a variety of instructional strategies.

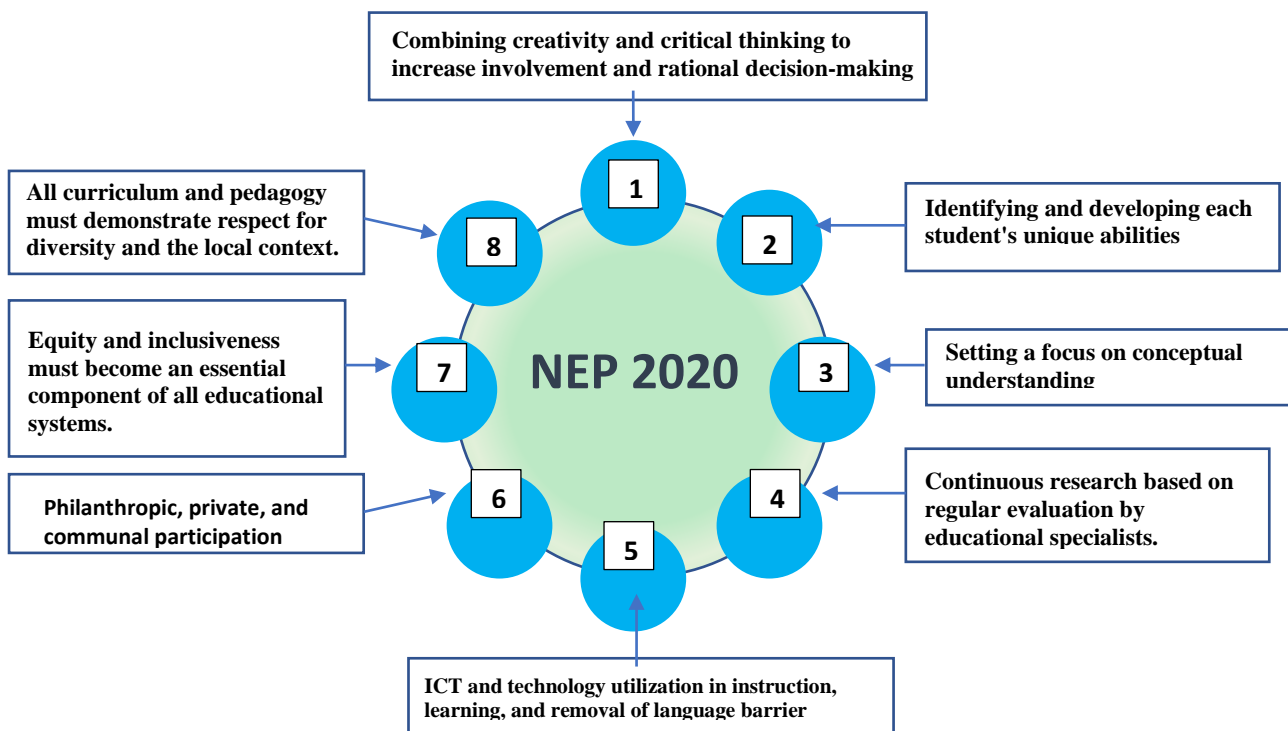
Language and Medium of Instruction:

- Emphasizing the value of Indian languages in all stages of schooling.
- Proficiency in Indian languages is required for job.
- Encouraging mother tongue training, with bilingual programs to provide a broader audience.
- The founding of language academies and an Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation to provide high-quality materials and promote language use.
- The use of Sanskrit in higher education and classrooms to promote inclusivity and linguistic variety.

3. NEP Access, Equity and inclusion in higher education:

Inequities in higher education arise from various backgrounds, impacting student vulnerabilities. Increased enrolment due to affirmative action hasn't fully improved student participation and success. Challenges persist in fostering full student engagement, worsened by institutional stratification and unequal access to disciplines. Addressing access, participation, and success issues requires both financial support and conducive campus environments. Effective interventions encompass monetary aid for financial hurdles and non-monetary initiatives for social inclusion and learning. Strengthening secondary education systems is crucial for further higher education expansion. NEP-2020 offers a comprehensive framework for equity and inclusion, but success relies on governmental and institutional commitment to transformative change through empathetic engagement and actionable programs.

4. NEP-2020, Curriculum and Pedagogy:



The National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020) provides clear guidance on how the entire educational system might be set up and carried out at different levels in order to raise the bar for quality and improve student learning experiences grow, and graduate employability and calibre is enhanced.

Teaching-learning is concerned; the policy specifically focuses on the following:

- Base curriculum design, learning resources, and teaching-learning methodologies on Indian culture and values, as well as Bhartiya Gyan Parampara (indigenous knowledge systems).
- Provide learning resources and instruction in regional/local languages, mother tongue in addition to regional dialects like Hindi and English.
- Holistic and multidisciplinary education that includes classes from several disciplines and by carefully attending to the social, emotional, mental, and physical, spiritual and moral growth of the pupils
- A focus on outcome-based learning, wherein the learning objectives of the students participation in educational activities, as well as the assessment methods and rubric, are interconnected with one another.
- Several entrance and exit points within a course of study in academia, as well as between general education and vocational training, both horizontal and vertical mobility instruction.
- Applying theory into practice, which divides credit hours equally between theoretical and conceptual study, student participation in activities, and internships (i.e., applying conceptual learning to real-world situations or circumstances).
- Fusing employability and skill development with curriculum and teaching-learning studies that are multidisciplinary, cross-disciplinary, and inter-disciplinary.
- Credit transfer, recognition of earlier learning (knowledge and skills), and credit build-up at the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC).
- Using technology to enhance teaching-learning, learning resources, and evaluation.
- Researching the discipline's pedagogy and enhancing discipline pedagogy.
- Combined in-person instruction with self-study and hands-on learning and practicum, as well as face-to-face and online collaborative learning, remote, virtual, and flipped learning).

Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education and Multiple Entry-Exits:

Focus of Multidisciplinary Education:

- NEP-2020 stresses holistic and trans disciplinary education for the information economy of the twenty-first century.
- It's based on a problem-solving technique, although the concept is more complicated than it appears.
- Its goal is to present multidisciplinary education at an introductory level, motivating teachers to investigate deeper and promote this method in higher education teaching and research.

Multiple Entry-Exit System:

- In Indian higher education, NEP-2020 provides a flexible curriculum with several entry-

exit points.

- An annual certification program helps learners enter the workforce and lowers the number of dropouts.
- This system facilitates chances for lifelong learning and improves internal efficiency in higher education.

Shift in Knowledge Dynamics:

Information and knowledge are pivotal for societal development, evolving into raw material, process, and product due to digital ICTs. Governments globally prioritize innovation and knowledge creation as crucial for societal and economic transformation.

The Emergence of Knowledge Economy and Society:

The economy is now termed a '**knowledge-based economy**,' with society moving towards a '**knowledge-based society**.' Preparing learners for future technologies, educating them for uncertainty, and fostering interconnected and inclusive societies aims the new NEP. Learning environments are critical instruments, requiring versatility, robustness, and flexibility to meet the evolving needs of present and future economies and societies.

Vocational education, skilling and employability:

With an emphasis on inclusive practices, India has achieved notable progress in making schools and higher education more accessible. Initiatives that prioritize vocationalization are intended to transform higher education according to NEP. Driving skill development through **Vocational Education and Training (VET)** requires effective policies, funding, leadership, and stakeholder involvement. It is essential that academic institutions, the government, and other stakeholders work together so that graduate employability is increased through developing training, curriculum, and evaluation that are in line with competency frameworks. Vocational learning must be complemented by internships, apprenticeships, on-the-job training, and mentoring. Strategic action plans need to be developed by Higher Education Institutions in collaboration with VET stakeholders. These plans can enable the required adjustments to VET implementation and skill development programs for a more efficient system.

Digital Education/Technology-Enabled Learning:

AI, machine learning, AR/VR, block chain, IoT, and other technologies have impacted business and education in many ways.

- A vibrant artificial intelligence ecosystem is the goal of India's National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence (NSAI).
- AI enables educators to provide high-quality content, tailor lessons to each student, and enable ubiquitous learning—all of which are in line with NEP2020's emphasis on "Learning how to learn."

In order to maximize learning potential, NEP2020 highlights the critical role that technology plays in education and anticipates significant benefits for both instructors and students.

Role of teachers:

Teachers are essential to NEP 2020's success. Consequently, educators must comprehend

just what the NEP 2020 requires of them and what they need to undertake in order to meet these requirements. There are six main requirements for NEP 2020 that educators nationwide must meet. In light of these expectations, the faculty's responsibilities include practicing formative assessments, teaching in a learner-centric manner, and supporting student's academic and personal growth. Issues that impede learning, conduct and support research, employ technology in instruction and evaluation, and participate consistently in professional development activities.

5. Importance of LIS in Knowledge Dissemination and Management:

The field of library and information science (LIS) is at the cutting edge of knowledge diffusion, organization, and management. The organization, retrieval, preservation, and dissemination of information are all included in this multidisciplinary field of research. LIS specialists are essential in helping individuals' access information, promoting education, and advancing sociological, cultural, and educational advancements.

- **Information Access:** LIS guarantees that all people have equal access to information resources. Librarians curate digital and physical collections so that a variety of user groups can access information.
- **Information Organization:** Three essential LIS tasks are classification, indexing, and cataloguing. These procedures organize data for quick and easy access and utilization.
- **Technology Integration:** LIS uses digital tools for information storage, retrieval, and distribution in order to keep up with technology advances. Managing databases, digital archives, and internet resources are all included in this.
- **User Services:** LIS experts help users make their way through intricate information environments. They help users use databases efficiently, conduct information literacy training to improve users' skills, and offer advice on research methodologies.
- **Conservation and Preservation:** Historical documents, rare manuscripts, and cultural legacy are all preserved by libraries and information centres. These treasures are guaranteed to be accessible for future generations through conservation initiatives and preservation methods.

Contextualizing NEP's Impact on LIS:

NEP 2020, with its focus on reinventing education, inclusion, and technological integration, closely overlaps with the field of LIS:

Integration of Technology:

Libraries should embrace cutting-edge technologies in light of NEP's emphasis on utilizing technology in teaching. For effective information management and distribution, LIS professionals need to learn how to use and integrate new tools. To put it simply, NEP 2020 has created a changing environment that calls for LIS professionals and libraries to reassess their roles, practices, and services. It emphasizes how crucial it is for professionals to be flexible, creative, and actively involved in the field in order to support the goals of the policy and successfully meet changing requirements in education.

Embracing Technological Advancements in Libraries: Digital Transformation:

NEP 2020 underscores digital literacy, significantly impacting library services. Libraries must evolve to offer digital resources, fostering an inclusive learning environment.

- **Digital Transformation:**

Libraries are open to more than physical spaces with printed resources. They're evolving into multifaceted digital hubs with a variety of resources, including multimedia content, e-books, and online databases. This transition enables libraries to accommodate a wide range of educational approaches and preferences, assuring inclusion.

- **E-Learning and Remote Access:**

The role of libraries in facilitating remote learning cannot be overstated. They bridge the digital divide by providing access to online educational resources, especially for students who might lack internet connectivity or access to expensive educational materials. Through digital archives and e-resources, libraries support lifelong learning beyond traditional classroom settings.

- **Technological Infrastructure:**

A robust IT infrastructure forms the backbone of a modern library. It involves not only hardware but also software solutions and skilled personnel. Libraries need systems to manage digital collections efficiently, platforms for seamless access, and cybersecurity measures to safeguard sensitive data. Collaboration with IT experts and regular updates are crucial to keep pace with evolving technologies.

This technological infrastructure not only enables the digitization of resources but also facilitates innovative services such as virtual reality experiences, interactive learning platforms, and AI-driven assistance. It enhances user experiences and supports diverse educational needs, aligning with the goals set forth by the NEP 2020.

Overall, embracing technological advancements in libraries isn't just about keeping up with the times; it's about ensuring equitable access to knowledge, promoting lifelong learning, and fostering an environment where technology complements traditional library services to meet the needs of a rapidly evolving educational landscape.

6. Curriculum Changes in LIS Education:

The National Education Policy (NEP) introduces a multidisciplinary approach to education, influencing the curriculum of Library and Information Science (LIS) programs in several ways:

Alignment with NEP Objectives:

LIS programs are now undergoing changes to incorporate multidisciplinary perspectives. This involves integrating various subjects like data science, information technology, psychology, business studies, and more. Such integration prepares future information professionals to navigate the diverse landscape of information management effectively.

- **Skill Development:**

The emphasis on skill-based education within the NEP necessitates a shift in LIS courses. Beyond traditional library management, there's a greater focus on cultivating skills crucial for the digital age. This includes expertise in data analytics, digital curation, information retrieval, cyber security, user experience design, and emerging technologies. Students must gain hands-on experience in utilizing these skills within library settings.

- **Innovative Pedagogies:**

NEP guidelines encourage innovative teaching methodologies in LIS education. This prompts educators to adopt dynamic approaches, such as project-based learning, flipped classrooms, collaborative assignments, and experiential learning opportunities. These pedagogical shifts enhance engagement, critical thinking, and practical application of knowledge among students.

Additionally, fostering research-oriented learning experiences, internships, and partnerships with libraries or information centres allows students to gain real-world exposure. This helps in bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application.

Moreover, the NEP's encouragement of continuous professional development aligns with the field of LIS. It emphasizes the importance of lifelong learning and staying updated with evolving technologies and information management practices.

Overall, the changes in LIS education aligned with NEP objectives aim to produce information professionals equipped not only with traditional library skills but also with a diverse skill set essential for thriving in the digital era. It's about preparing individuals who can adapt, innovate, and lead in a rapidly changing information landscape.

The National Education Policy (NEP), the role of librarians and information professionals is experiencing a significant redefinition, encompassing various facets:

7. Role of Librarians according to NEP:

Libraries are more than just physical locations with printed materials. They are developing into multifunctional digital hubs that house a range of resources, such as online databases, e-books, and multimedia content. This change guarantees inclusivity by empowering librarians to work with a broad range of pedagogical approaches and goals.

- **Information Management:**

Librarians are evolving into information administrators, in charge of curating, organizing, and efficiently sharing digital materials. They now handle a variety of digital materials in addition to physical books, guaranteeing that users may access, find, and utilize the knowledge they need. This change entails using technology to organize information, putting metadata standards into place, and utilizing sophisticated search and retrieval techniques to successfully satisfy user needs..

- **Community Engagement:**

The community-cantered approach is emphasized by NEP, which encourages information workers to interact with a variety of user groups. Libraries are dynamic places that promote engagement, cooperation, and diversity rather than being static archives. Librarians assist in organizing events and projects that address the needs of diverse populations while advancing universal access to information, lifelong learning, and literacy. They serve as intermediaries between communities and resources, constructing customized services to satisfy individual user needs.

- **Advocacy and Policy Implementation:**

Librarians now play a critical role in advocating for legislation that fit with NEP aims.

Their experience is utilized in educational policy talks, where they advocate for programs that promote digital literacy, better access to information, and technology infrastructure in educational institutions. To put policies into place that improves learning outcomes, information access, and technological integration in the classroom, librarians work in conjunction with policymakers, educators, and stakeholders.

In addition, librarians teach by example, helping teachers and students develop information literacy abilities, critical thinking, and appropriate information resource use. This educational component is a natural fit with the NEP's emphasis on developing skills outside of the traditional academic curriculum and on holistic learning.

In essence, the NEP's redefined roles for librarians and information professionals reflect a shift toward proactive engagement, technology adoption, policy advocacy, and the creation of inclusive spaces where information serves as a catalyst for learning, innovation, and community development.

8. NEP Challenges and Opportunities :

The impact of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 on libraries, LIS education, and professional roles, it's essential to explore the challenges and opportunities it presents:

- **Challenges:**

Allocation of Resources:

It frequently takes a significant amount of resources to implement NEP standards. Libraries may encounter difficulties obtaining funds for digital resource acquisition, infrastructure upgrades, and staff training on new technologies.

Training Requirements:

Librarians and other information workers must continuously update their skills and receive training due to the rapid advances in technology. However, due to time and financial restrictions, setting up thorough training programs to stay up to date with these developments might be difficult.

Adapting to Technological Changes:

Taking advantage of the rapid improvements in technology might be intimidating. Libraries may find it difficult to quickly adopt, incorporate, and make use of new technologies and systems, which could affect how well consumers receive library services.

- **Opportunities:**

Innovation through Technology Integration:

Libraries can innovate in response to the changing nature of education. Technology integration makes it possible to create new services that improve user experiences, such as digital repositories, online learning platforms, virtual libraries, and AI-driven information assistance.

Skill Development:

Because the NEP places a strong focus on education based on skills, there are opportunities to redesign curricula in LIS programs. This is an opportunity for librarians and information professionals to equip themselves with digital era skills like data management,

digital curation, and information technology.

Leadership in Learning Environments:

Libraries have the potential to be leaders in offering improved learning environments outside of conventional classrooms. They can develop into centres for group education, providing materials, training sessions, and activities that encourage creativity, critical thinking, and digital literacy.

Advocacy and Collaboration:

NEP's objectives create opportunities for librarians to advocate for policy changes that enhance information access and new technology integration like Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education. Collaboration with educational institutions, policymakers, and technology providers can lead to innovative solutions that benefit the entire education sector. While challenges like resource constraints, funds and rapid technological changes exist.

NEP also opens doors for libraries and information professionals to innovate, adapt, and play a pivotal role in shaping the future of education through:

- **Embracing Technology for Knowledge Dissemination:**

Libraries may turn into dynamic knowledge centres by using NEP 2020's emphasis on technology. Adopting strong digital infrastructure, investing in online platforms, and curating various digital materials allow libraries to successfully spread knowledge. They can use these platforms not merely to store e-books and periodicals, but also to hold webinars, virtual workshops, and interactive learning sessions.

- **Curating Multidisciplinary Resources:**

Multidisciplinary education is promoted under NEP 2020. Libraries can support this by collecting a wide range of materials from different academic field of study. They can work with academic divisions to develop digital collections that are subject-specific, promoting an atmosphere that encourages interdisciplinary study and research.

- **Community Engagement and Outreach:**

Libraries can act as community hubs, interacting with a wide range of user groups. Inclusionary education is encouraged by NEP 2020, and libraries can be essential in guaranteeing that everyone has access to information. To meet the educational needs of underprivileged communities and isolated places, they can plan community-focused workshops, literacy campaigns, and outreach activities.

- **Strategic Planning for Resource Allocation:**

Libraries require strategic planning in light of NEP 2020's call for flexible curriculum and resource allocation. Libraries can strategically deploy resources toward acquiring digital assets, updating infrastructure, and encouraging collaborations to correspond with educational goals established in the policy by assessing the evolving educational landscape.

- **Professional Development for Information Specialists:**

The policy's emphasis on continual learning corresponds with the development of information professionals. Libraries can make an investment in the professional growth of their employees by providing courses on pedagogy, information management, digital literacy, and emerging technologies. This guarantees that librarians are prepared to handle digital resources efficiently and adapt to the changing needs of patrons.

- **Overcoming Obstacles Through Collaboration:**

Libraries may encounter challenges such as restricted funds, technology limitations, or aversion to change. Collaborations with educational institutions, government agencies, the commercial sector, and other libraries can help overcome these obstacles. Innovation can be encouraged and barriers can be reduced by combining resources, exchanging knowledge, and working together on projects.

NEP 2020 offers libraries a game-changing chance to become dynamic hubs of knowledge through technology adoption, varied resource curation, community engagement, strategic planning, professional development investments, and collaboration-building. Through adherence to the policy's guiding principles, libraries can effectively overcome challenges and transform into vibrant centres that meet the educational requirements of a wide range of stakeholders.

Conclusion:

NEP 2020 is a revolutionary force in the Library and Information Science (LIS) area, having a profound impact on a variety of facets:

Effect on the LIS Domain: Technological Integration: NEP places a strong emphasis on digital literacy, which forces libraries to change through the provision of digital resources, improved online access, and redesigned offerings.

Curriculum Development: In order to address educational objectives, the multidisciplinary focus forces changes in LIS education by promoting the integration of many courses and skill-based learning.

Redefining Roles: As they become more involved in community-cantered services, policy advocacy, and inclusivity in libraries, librarians become information managers.

Need for Proactive Adaptation and Collaboration:

The influence of NEP involves proactive adaptation within libraries, educational institutions, and policymaking spheres: Libraries must quickly adjust by investing in technology, changing curricula, and redefining roles to correspond with NEP's objectives.

Educational institutions should work with libraries to incorporate technological advances into teaching methods and promote interdisciplinary education.

Policymakers: They must create regulations that help NEP achieve its transformative goals by easing the distribution of resources and fostering LIS skill development.



Proposing Future Avenues and Adaptation Strategies:

Future LIS research should examine the success of NEP implementation in libraries, the influence on student learning outcomes, and novel ways libraries might support interdisciplinary education.

Adaptation Strategies could include promoting policy reforms that encourage technological integration in libraries, encouraging collaborative projects between libraries and educational institutions, and up skilling library staff in technology.

LIS is about to enter a transformative period, and NEP 2020 calls for proactive adaptation, teamwork, and creative thinking to make sure libraries are able to effectively address changing educational demands. In order to connect with NEP's goal, future research and adaptation techniques should concentrate on evaluating the efficacy of implementation and encouraging on-going innovations in library services.