



## NEP 2020: TRANSFORMING COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN INDIA

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### **Abstract:**

*This article aims at examining the likely effect of NEP 2020 on the college libraries in India. In accordance with NEP 2020, libraries in colleges are indispensable to the changing face of education. The NEP prioritizes research, digitization, and flexibility in education. It is imperative to understand how these priorities will affect college libraries, both in how they are perceived and how they operate within the NEP framework. The central ideas of the NEP for college libraries revolve around building a comprehensive plan that prioritizes digital access, inclusivity, research, and interdisciplinary approach.*

**Key Words :** Libraries, College Libraries, NEP 2020, Transforming College Libraries, Role of Libraries in NEP.

### **Introduction :**

Asif & Singh underscore the revolutionary nature of the New Education Policy formulated by the Government of India in Jun 2020 in these words, “this is the first education policy of the 21st century that has superseded the thirty-four year old National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986. NEP 2020 is paved by the way of transformative reform and it is built on the five interdependent foundational pillars namely Access, Equity, Quality, and Affordability” (Asif & Singh, 2022). As it is intended to drastically transform the existing Indian education setup, college libraries being the central organ of the any higher educational institution, it is going to undergo revolutionary changes while maintaining its traditional functions.

**Importantly, the NEP recognizes the vital role college libraries play in empowering accessible, thorough research and academic progress.** It asserts that college libraries should be centres of intellectual study as well as resource repositories.

**In view of the policy, college libraries must adapt a flexible model that effectively blends digital and conventional resources for wider knowledge dissemination. Digitizing academic resources will surely transform college libraries into dynamic knowledge hubs. By harnessing technology (such as online databases and e-books), these libraries will make information more accessible and break down barriers to learning. Just like libraries share knowledge, they should also be inclusive spaces that embrace the diverse needs of all learners. This means providing resources and support for students with different abilities, backgrounds, and learning styles. From students with disabilities to those from diverse cultures, everyone should find resources and support to reach their full potential.**

### **Objectives :**

Objectives of the present article concerning college libraries within the framework of

the New Education Policy 2020 are as follows:

1. Enhance awareness regarding the New Education Policy 2020, specifically in the context of college libraries.
2. Illuminate the pivotal role of college libraries within the broader education system outlined in NEP 2020.
3. Explore and discuss the evolving landscape of learning and education as it pertains to college libraries.

### **Methodology:**

**Drawing on the latest online and other relevant sources, this detailed descriptive study aims to fill a gap in research. To date, few have explored the potential of libraries within India's new education policy. This article takes a comprehensive look at how libraries can be fully integrated into higher education institutions and contributes significantly to their success.**

### **Salient features of NEP-2020 with reference to college libraries**

As library being the heart of any educational institutions, the library cannot escape from the central focus of NEP. This is quite in keeping with what Dr. S. Radhakrishnan had observed about the importance of this institution “The library is the heart of all the university’s work, directly so as regards its research work, and indirectly as regards its educational work, which derives its life as its laboratories, while scientific research needs a library as well as its laboratories, while for humanistic research the library is both library and laboratory in one.” With its focus on transforming India's education system, there are several elements of the policy having the potentials to transform college libraries. Main features of NEP related to college libraries as follows:

1. **Transformative Learning Environment:** NEP 2020 proposes a flexible, multidisciplinary educational model. College libraries must live up to these expectations by diversifying resources and promoting interdisciplinary scholarship. Libraries should utilize digital platforms, e-books, and online databases to augment accessibility and create a learning experience that would transcend disciplinary boundaries. Supporting the emphasis on local languages, libraries should strive to provide educational materials in multiple languages. Libraries can also strive to build up such facilities as translating manuscripts and books as required for the users.
2. **Accessibility and Inclusivity:** Libraries are expected to play a critical role in ensuring equitable access to resources for all students, including those with disabilities, by providing appropriate materials and facilities. To support continuous professional growth libraries should offer all required resources and programs for faculty and staff development.
3. **Research and Innovation:** Libraries must strengthen up resources for research and actively support research initiatives of faculty and student to advance knowledge within the institution. Collaborating with the National Research Foundation, libraries can contribute to resource sharing, knowledge enhancement, and broader national research objectives.

Bringing out the expected dynamic role of librarians in terms of research, Yashwant Chaudhari makes quite apt observation, “We need an isolated research librarian with expertise in reference administration, statistical analysis, open-source technology, research assistance tools, and retrieval methods. The importance of having a research

librarian is emphasized in its goals to establish the national research foundation. (Chaudhari, 2023)

- 4. Quality and Governance:** Serving as repositories of evidence and relevant and updated resources, Libraries can play an important role in contributing to the quality assurance at the institution and accreditation by NAAC. College libraries, with their autonomy in resource acquisition and management, can effectively meet the institution's diverse needs and support its academic functions in a highly effective and efficient way.

These are the specific points that highlight the transformative potential of libraries within the NEP framework.

### **Changing Role of Libraries under National Education Policy 2020 :**

**With NEP 2020, libraries are undergoing a revolutionary change. Earlier known as static locations of printed materials, they are now evolving into vibrant learning resource centres embracing the digital age. The policy mandates these centres to be centres that reflect the changing face of education through various digital resources, ranging from e-books and multimedia to interactive tools. This indicates a move away from traditional, physical materials to a vast library of virtual learning materials accessible to all. Recognizing the importance of inclusivity, the policy focuses on meeting the needs of students coming from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds, making libraries true sources of knowledge and understanding.**

Yet, NEP 2020 wants libraries to be more than just quiet reading rooms. They are to be Launchpad for collaborative research and innovation, where students and scholars can delve deeper into complex questions and spark ground breaking ideas. By promoting critical thinking and problem-solving skills, these libraries will become centres of intellectual exploration within the university. **NEP 2020 reimagines libraries as just a place for students. They are envisioned as centres of lifelong learning, open to all, regardless of age or background. This means they will offer resources and programs not only for academic work, but also for skill development, career advancement, and personal development. Thus, libraries become central pillars of the education system beyond classrooms and textbooks.**

### **Conclusion :**

**According to NEP 2020, college libraries in India will have a revolutionary future, keeping in mind the changing educational environment of the country. The library will serve various purposes to promote adaptability, digitization and high-calibre research. In line with the digital age, they will provide e-books, online databases and creative learning environments to accommodate diverse learning preferences. To facilitate interdisciplinary learning, they will select resources from multiple fields to promote information sharing and idea generation.**

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