NEP 2020 AND ROLE OF LIBRARIES

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Abstract:

The Indian union cabinet adopted and announced the National Education Policy On July 29, 2020. It has taken the place of India's 1986-formulated educational strategy. This policy significantly improves India's educational system. The five guiding pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, and Accountability develop the groundwork of NEP 2020. The NEP 2020 acknowledges the necessity of integrating technology into library services, including the provision of digital resources like e-journals and e-books. The strategy also emphasizes how critical it is to support indigenous and local knowledge by building community libraries. The National Education Policy's (NEP 2020) features, advantages, and goals are the main topics of this article. Additionally, NEP 2020, the function of libraries, and their worth in educational systems are highlighted. Public and academic libraries, as well as libraries at all levels, have benefited more from NEP-2020. The new policy put a strong emphasis on services, infrastructure, and library operations. This article shows importance of NEP 2020 including Library features.

Keywords: NEP 2020, Education, Libraries, Research, Education System.

Introduction:

The implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in India is to transform the education system by focusing on flexibility, creativity, and a more holistic approach to learning. Regarding the role of libraries, NEP 2020 recognizes the vital role of libraries in promoting a reading culture, providing resources, and supporting research and self-directed learning.

Libraries are seen as crucial in facilitating the development of critical thinking skills, creativity, and a love for reading. The policy suggests that schools and higher education institutions should strengthen their library systems and ensure access to a wide range of books, digital resources, and other learning materials. NEP 2020 encourages the integration of technology in libraries to enhance access to information. It envisions libraries as vibrant spaces that promote not only academic learning but also various co-curricular and extracurricular activities.

NEP 2020 acknowledges libraries as integral to the education ecosystem and emphasizes their role in fostering a conducive learning environment that goes beyond traditional classroom teaching. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in India is built on several fundamental principles that guide its vision for transforming the education system. Following are the key principles:

1. **Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education:** NEP 2020 aims to provide an education that is holistic, multidisciplinary, and goes beyond rote learning. It encourages a broad-based, flexible curriculum that promotes critical thinking and creativity.

2. **Equity and Inclusion:** The policy emphasizes the need for an inclusive education system that focus on the varied needs of all learners, irrespective of their socio-economic background, gender, or any other form of disparity.

3. **Quality and Research:** NEP 2020 focuses on improving the overall quality of education by promoting research and innovation. It envisions universities as centers of research excellence and encourages a research-oriented approach in higher education.

4. **Flexibility and Choice:** The policy advocates for flexibility in choosing subjects and courses, allowing students to follow their interests and talents. It supports a more learner-centric approach, giving students the freedom to choose their learning paths.

5. **Technology Integration:** Realizing the significance of technology in education, NEP 2020 encourages the assimilation of technology at all levels of learning. It aims to leverage digital tools to enhance the teaching-learning process and make education more accessible.

6. **Teacher Empowerment:** NEP 2020 underscores the value of teacher's professional development and trainings. It aims to empower educators with the essential skills and knowledge to create a stimulating learning environment.

7. **Assessment Reforms:** The policy suggests a shift in the assessment system towards a more comprehensive and competency-based approach. It aims to reduce the emphasis on high-stakes exams and promote a continuous and holistic evaluation of students.

8. **Language Diversity:** NEP 2020 recognizes the significance of preserving and promoting the diversity of languages in India. It supports a multilingual approach to education, ensuring proficiency in at least two languages.

9. **Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE):** NEP 2020 recognizes the critical importance of early childhood education. It emphasizes the need for a strong foundation in the early years, promoting the holistic development of children through ECCE. This includes both formal and informal modes of learning.

10. **Adult Education and Lifelong Learning:** The policy extends its focus beyond traditional schooling, emphasizing the importance of adult education and lifelong learning. It encourages the creation of opportunities for individuals of all ages to continue learning and up skilling throughout their lives.

11. **Sustainable Development:** NEP 2020 aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the role of education in promoting sustainable development. It aims to instill values of environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and ethical conduct in students.

12. **Financial Support and Scholarships:** To ensure equitable access to education, the policy proposes increased financial support and scholarships. This is aimed at removing financial barriers that may hinder students, especially those from underprivileged backgrounds, from pursuing education.

13. **Governance and Regulation:** NEP 2020 suggests a restructuring of the regulatory framework for education. It envisions a more decentralized and autonomous system, giving educational institutions greater freedom in decision-making while maintaining accountability and quality standards.

14. **Cultural Integration:** The policy emphasizes the integration of traditional Indian

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knowledge systems, arts, and culture into the education curriculum. It seeks to create an educational environment that value and preserves India's rich cultural heritage.

15. **Global Citizenship:** NEP 2020 recognizes the interconnectedness of the world and aims to prepare students as global citizens. It encourages exposure to international perspectives, collaboration with global institutions, and the incorporation of global issues into the curriculum.

16. **Professional Education and Skill Development:** The policy places a strong emphasis on professional education and skill development. It aims to provide students with useful skills and knowledge that are relevant to the evolving job market, fostering entrepreneurship and employability.

These fundamental principles collectively aim to restructure the education system in India, fostering a more inclusive, flexible, and quality-oriented learning environment. These principles further illustrate the comprehensive and forward-thinking approach of NEP 2020, addressing various facets of education to meet the diverse needs of learners and the demands of a changing society.

Objectives of the Study:

The objectives of the research study are as follows:

1. To know the depth of NEP 2020.
2. To make awareness regarding Role of libraries in NEP 2020.
3. To highlight the changing scenario of learning and education system.

Research Methodology:

This descriptive research has been done on the basis of secondary data and literature published on internet and relevant journals. This research is an attempt being made to understand and accelerate the use of libraries as a basic part of our education system.

Multidisciplinary Approach in NEP 2020:

The multidisciplinary approach in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a key principle that seeks to break down traditional silos between academic disciplines. Here's a closer look at how NEP 2020 emphasizes and promotes a multidisciplinary approach:

1. **Integration of Subjects:** NEP 2020 encourages the integration of subjects across disciplines. Instead of strictly compartmentalizing knowledge, the policy advocates for a more interconnected curriculum. This integration is designed to provide students with a broader and more holistic understanding of concepts.

2. **Flexibility in Course Choice:** The policy promotes flexibility in choosing subjects and courses. Students are encouraged to explore diverse fields of study based on their interests and aptitudes. This flexibility allows for a more personalized learning experience, fostering a well-rounded education.

3. **Curricular and Extracurricular Integration:** NEP 2020 envisions a curriculum that seamlessly integrates curricular and extracurricular activities. This includes arts, sports, vocational education, and other non-traditional academic pursuits. The goal is to nurture

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creativity, critical thinking, and practical skills alongside theoretical knowledge.

4. **Promotion of Critical Thinking:** By incorporating a multidisciplinary approach, NEP 2020 aims to develop critical thinking skills in students. Exposure to diverse fields of study encourages students to approach problems from different perspectives, fostering a more analytical and adaptable mindset.

5. **Research-Oriented Education:** The policy emphasizes research and inquiry-based learning, cutting across disciplinary boundaries. This approach encourages students to engage in collaborative and interdisciplinary research, breaking away from rigid subject-specific research frameworks.

6. **Real-World Application:** NEP 2020 underscores the importance of connecting academic learning to real-world applications. A multidisciplinary approach allows students to see the practical implications of their knowledge, preparing them for a world where complex issues often require a multifaceted understanding.

7. **Professional Development:** The policy supports the professional development of educators to facilitate a multidisciplinary approach. Teachers are encouraged to collaborate across disciplines, bringing a diverse range of perspectives into the classroom and promoting a more dynamic learning environment.

8. **Interdisciplinary Projects:** NEP 2020 envisions the implementation of interdisciplinary projects and courses that cut across traditional subject boundaries. These projects aim to address real-world challenges and encourage collaboration among students with different academic backgrounds.

The multidisciplinary approach in NEP 2020 aims to create a more interconnected and dynamic education system, fostering creativity, critical thinking, and a well-rounded development of students. It recognizes the interconnected nature of knowledge and seeks to prepare students for a rapidly evolving and interconnected world.

Role of Libraries in NEP 2020:

In National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, libraries play a pivotal role in achieving several aims and objectives that align with the broader vision of transforming the education system. Here are key aims and objectives of libraries in NEP 2020:

1. Promoting a Reading Culture:

- **Aim:** Cultivate a love for reading and lifelong learning among students.
- **Objective:** Create a conducive environment in libraries that encourages students to explore diverse books and reading materials, fostering a habit of reading for pleasure and knowledge.

2. Supporting Multidisciplinary Learning:

- **Aim:** Implement a multidisciplinary approach to education.
- **Objective:** Provide a range of resources covering various subjects, allowing students to explore interdisciplinary topics and encouraging a holistic understanding of knowledge.

3. Facilitating Research and Inquiry:

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- **Aim:** Promote research-oriented education.
- **Objective:** Offer resources and services that support research and inquiry-based learning, encouraging students and educators to engage in independent and collaborative research activities.

4. Integration of Technology:

- **Aim:** Integrate technology into the learning environment.
- **Objective:** Incorporate digital resources, e-books, and other technological tools within libraries to enhance accessibility, provide diverse learning formats, and align with the technological advancements outlined in NEP 2020.

5. Providing Access to Diverse Learning Resources:

- **Aim:** Ensure access to a wide range of learning materials.
- **Objective:** Curate a diverse collection of books, journals, digital resources, and other educational materials to support the varied needs and interests of students and educators.

6. Supporting Inclusive Education:

- **Aim:** Promote equity and inclusion in education.
- **Objective:** Ensure that libraries are accessible to all students, including those with diverse needs, and offer resources that reflect diverse perspectives, languages, and cultures.

7. Enhancing Critical Thinking and Creativity:

- **Aim:** Develop critical thinking and creativity among students.
- **Objective:** Provide resources that encourage critical analysis, creative thinking, and problem-solving skills, fostering an environment that goes beyond memorization and promotes intellectual curiosity.

8. Fostering Community Engagement:

- **Aim**: Create a sense of community within educational institutions.
- **Objective:** Position libraries as hubs for collaboration, discussion, and community engagement, involving students, educators, parents, and local communities in various learning activities and initiatives.

9. Preserving Cultural Heritage:

- **Aim:** Preserve and promote cultural and linguistic diversity.
- **Objective:** Include literature and resources in multiple languages, showcasing the richness of India's cultural heritage within library collections.

Library services and resources with these aims and objectives, educational institutions can contribute to the successful implementation of NEP 2020, creating an inclusive, multidisciplinary and dynamic learning environment.

Conclusion:

With a focus on research, innovation, and teacher empowerment, the policy aspires to position India as a global educational powerhouse, nurturing learners as not just academicians but also as well-rounded global citizens. The National Education Policy 2020 places a library-

focused "learning and resources hub" at its center. In order to boost a 100% gross enrollment ratio at the school level, the NEP 2020 focuses on the universalization of education. In order to do this, the library at higher education institutions as well as those in schools must guarantee that there are ample and up-to date reading and study materials, as well as easy accessibility for all types of users. Although there is less of a focus on libraries in policy, libraries should still be recognized for their significance as information hubs, and the National Education Policy 2020 must emphasis on the resources and services that libraries provide. The Policy states that libraries must stock a sufficient number of high-quality resources in a sufficient quantity to accommodate readers from all subject areas. In order to create a different kind of value for libraries for the public and society, it is also suggested that schools and organisations lack adequate space and facilities for libraries. As a result, they are focusing on organising a specific area and providing resources for users until 2025.

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