

# National Education Policy-2020 and Value of the Libraries

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**Abstract:** The National Educational policy 2020 (NEP-2020) has been given by MHRD for the new education system and for the public of the modern nation. NEP-2020 has provided more value to the libraries of all levels, public and academic libraries. The new policy focused on infrastructure, services and the working of the libraries. The new policy also includes Information Communication Technology (ICT) digital, online, unique kinds of facilities and services to all types of readers of the nation.

## Introduction:

National Educational Policy 2020 is given by the Ministry of Human Resources and Development, Government of India, after a long research and development work on the old education policy and the current education need of the society.

This is the first education policy of the 21st century to replace the thirty-four-year-old National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986. Education is fundamental for achieving full human potential, developing an equitable society, promoting country development and providing universal equity access to quality education. India is continuously changing the system and has a key position in leadership on the global stage in terms of economic growth, social justice and equality, scientific advancement, national integration, cultural preservation and Universal high-quality Education. It is the best for developing and maximizing the country's economic position and resources for the individual, the society, the county and the world. India is the second-highest populated country in the world; therefore, the national education policy 2020 will be very useful for the country's development.

The global education development plan reflected in Goal 4 (SGDG4) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development, adopted by India in the year 2015, seeks to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong educational learning benefits and opportunities. The entire education system is conferring to support and faster Education and the learning process so that all of the critical targets and goals (SGDs) of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development can be achieved.

This National Education Policy 2020 is the first education policy of the 21st century. The aim of NEP 2020 is to address the many growing developmental imperatives of our country. This NEP policy proposes the revision and revamping of all aspects of the current education structure, including the regulations and governance, to create a new system that will be aligned with the inspirational goals of the 21st-century education system at the school level and higher education level.

## Purpose of the Policy:

The purpose of the education policy and system is to develop good human beings capable of rational thought and action possessing compassion and empathy, courage and resilience, scientific temper and creative imagination with the sound of ethical moorings and values. It aims at producing productive, engaged, selective and contributing citizens for building an equitable, inclusive and plural society as envisaged by the Indian constitution.

## Significant Highlights of the Policy:

- 1. The 5+3+3+4 System:** The 10+2 structure of school curricula is to be replaced by a 5+3+3+4 curricular structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years, respectively. This will include 12 years of schooling and three years of Anganwadi and pre-schooling.

2. **The school from 3 years:** As per the NEP Policy, from the age of three, the children will become part of early childhood care and education. This will be delivered through a) standalone Anganwadi's; b) Anganwadi's co-located with primary schools; c) pre-primary schools/sections covering at least age 5 to 6 years co-located with existing primary schools; and d) standalone pre-schools - all of which would recruit workers/teachers specially trained in the curriculum and pedagogy of ECCE.
3. **Promoting the libraries: In NEP 2020, a National Books Promotion policy is formulated,** and extensive initiatives will be undertaken to ensure the availability, accessibility, quality, and readership of books across geographies, language levels and genres.
4. **Teaching up to class 5th to mother languages /regional language**
5. **Establishment of BAL BAVANS:** Every state or district will be encouraged to establish 'Bal Bhavans' as a particular daytime boarding school; free school infrastructure can be used by "samajik chetna kendras."
6. **Affiliation of colleges will be phased out in 15 years:** NEP gives an affiliation of colleges will be phased out in 15 years, and a state-wise mechanism will be established for granting graded autonomy to colleges.
7. **Foreign universities in India:** NEP 2020 has paved the way for other countries' universities.
8. **Common Entrance Exam:** Common Entrance Exam for different courses of college admissions.
9. **National Education Technology Forum:** An autonomous body, the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), will be created to provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of enhancing education learning, assessment, planning and administration.
10. **Academic Bank of Credits:** It is made for the strong digital academic credits earned from the different Higher Education Institutions, so that can be transferred and counted towards the final degree earned.
11. **Multiple entries and exit points in higher Education:** The NEP has multiple entries and exit points in higher Education in less than four years of the program. Students can exit after one year with a Certificate, after two years with a diploma and Bachelor's after three years, and Bachelor's with Research after four years.
12. **Changes in report card:** The progress card of all students for school-based assessment will be redesigned.
13. **Bye 2030, the minimum degree qualification** for teaching will be a 4-year integrated B.Ed. Degree.

### Principles and features of NEP 2020

- Ensuring Universal Access at all levels of education.
- Teachers and faculty as the heart of the learning process
- **Early Childhood Care & Education with new Curricular and Pedagogical Structure.**
- **Attaining foundational literacy and numeracy.**
- **Reforms school curricula and Pedagogy.**
- **Respect for diversity and respect for local context in all curriculums.**
- **Creativity and critical thinking encourage logical decision-making and innovation.**
- **Multilingualism and the power of languages.**
- **Extensive use of technology**
- **Flexibility, so that learner has the ability to choose their learning trajectories and programs.**
- **Assessment reforms.**
- **Outstanding Research**
- **Continues review**
- **Equitable and Inclusive Education.**
- **Robust Teacher Recruitment and Career Path.**
- **Effective and advanced School Governance.**

### Higher Education

#### Increase Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) to be 50 % by 2035

NEP 2020 aims to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher Education, including vocational education, from 26.3% (2018) to 50% by 2035. 3.5 Crores new seats will be added to higher education.

**New National Education Policy and Libraries:**

**A Library Focused as "Learning and resources Hub" in National Educational Policy 2020.** The NEP 2020 stresses on universalization of Education to increase a 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio at the school level. To meet this, the library will have to ensure sufficient and latest study and reading resources, easy accessibility and availability to all kinds of users at the school level and Higher education libraries. The role will not just limit to these services but will play a wider role and proactive approaches will be the need of the hour. NEP 2020 has provisions for advanced and latest resources as per the new curriculum for society readers as well as for the teachers. The policy focus on libraries is looking less but still, libraries matters should be seen clearly and accessed to the value of library and information centre in the National Education Policy 2020 needs more emphasis on the library services and facilities.

**Adequate Library Staff**

In NEP 2020 on (21.9) -it will be imperative to make availability of adequate library staff to run the library services for the public readers, and teachers and devise appropriate career pathways and CPD for them. Other steps will include strengthening all existing libraries, setting up rural libraries and reading rooms in disadvantaged regions, making widely available reading material in Indian languages, opening children's libraries and mobile libraries, establishing social book clubs across India and across subjects, and fostering greater collaborations between education institutions and libraries.

The Policy also indicates that the libraries need to establish a good quantity and quality resources in the stock for readers of all the areas. It is also indicated that schools and organizations have no proper space and facilities for libraries and focus on creating an organized particular space and resources for users till 2025 to make a different kind of value of libraries for the public and societies.

**Suitable infrastructures for the library:**

Proper and suitable infrastructure will be ensured, therefore that all interested adults will have access to adult education, study and lifelong learning. A key initiative in this direction will be to use schools, school complexes after school hours and on weekends and public library spaces for adult education courses which will be Information Communication Technology-equipped and well-designed when possible and for other community engagement and enrichment activities. The sharing of infrastructure for school, higher, adult and vocational education, and other community and volunteer activities will be critical for ensuring efficient use of physical and human resources and creating synergy among these five types of Education and beyond. For these reasons, Adult Education Centers (AECs) could also be included within other public institutions such as HEIs, vocational training centers, etc.

**Availability and accessibility of books:**

The NEP 2020 focused on the availability and accessibility of quality books and resources for the public and readers for quality education and research development. Improving the availability and accessibility of books is essential to inculcate the habit of reading within our communities and educational institutions.

The Policy recommends that all communities, organizations and education institutions-schools, colleges, universities and public libraries - will be strengthened and modernized to ensure an adequate supply of books that cater to the needs and interests of all students.

The NEP 2020 also has provisions to make available books and resources for different and special kinds of readers of the society, including persons with disabilities and other differently abled persons.

**The role of central and state Government:**

The central and state governments are responsible to established and support for the libraries' services and for developing the libraries will take steps to ensure that books are made accessible and affordable to all across the country, including socio-economically disadvantaged areas as well as those living in rural and remote areas.

Both public and private sector agencies/institutions will devise strategies to improve the quality and attractiveness of books published in all Indian languages.

**The NEP 2020 has the provision for online resources and digital Libraries:**

The NEP 2020 has the provision for online resources for digital Libraries, and steps will be taken to enhance the online accessibility of library books and further broad basing of digital libraries.

**Provision for strengthening all existing Libraries:**

The NEP 2020 has provisions for strengthening all existing Libraries, setting up rural libraries and reading rooms in disadvantaged regions, making widely available reading material in Indian languages, opening children's libraries and mobile libraries, establishing **social book clubs across India and subjects, and fostering more excellent collaborations** between education institutions and libraries.

Currently, library needs to change the services of library with the frequent use of ICT in all the area of the library services. Government of India is focusing on world class online teaching and learning of resources for the users in school level to higher education institutions.

Digital India work and vision of Indian Government motivated and support to Digital Library for online learning and teaching of resources. The NEP 2020 has very supporting nature and development parameters for Indian libraries.

**Availability of non-books materials and use of technology in all types of libraries:**

The Policy indicates that Library technology will be leveraged to strengthen and undertake the above initiatives. Quality technology-based options for adult learning such as apps, online courses, modules, satellite-based TV channels, online books, digital resources and Information Communication Technology -equipped libraries and Adult Education Centers in the nation. In many cases, quality adult education could thereby be conducted in an online mode and types. The National education policy is **strengthening all existing Libraries**. The National Education Policy 2020 has all kinds of provisions for the Development of libraries on all levels in the digital world. In the current Modern digital Era, it is clear that libraries will play a significant role in research and education development. Libraries will provide quality education and correct ways of progress for the nation.

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