Role of Library in Higher Education: Special Reference to New Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020)

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Abstract

The present paper reflects the role of Library in higher education and study on Higher Education system in India followed by New Education Policy 2020. Various library committee for promoting and establishing library system in India are discussed through it. The concept of Higher Education has been explicitly discussed in order to discuss the role of the library in higher education. In addition to the new education policy phases, architecture and changes to higher education, various challenges in the education policy are discussed in this paper.

Keywords: Library, Higher Education, New Education Policy (NEP 2020), University Grant Commission (UGC), College, University.

1. Introduction

Education is fundamental for a society. Peace, harmony and progress of a society and country depend on the health, education, behavior, skills and sound thinking of every individual. The education system plays a significant role in building a truly good citizen. In fact, education is a strong foundation of economic, political and social infrastructure. Therefore the development of a country depends on its education system. The education system of a country depends on the
standards of its educational institutions in which imparting quality education, the importance of intellectual development of the student is also given importance. In addition to this, the library of the educational institutions another important part of the education system. As gateway to knowledge and culture, libraries play a fundamental role in society. The resources and services they offer create opportunities for learning, support literary and education, and help shape the new ideas and perspectives that are central to a creative, innovation and literary society. A educational institution without library is like a body without the soul. So library plays a vital role to the society.

2. Objectives of the study:

The primary objective is to study role of library in Higher Education. The study also outline the salient features on New Education Policy 2020 and analyzed how it effect in Higher Education.

3. Research Methodology:

This research is a descriptive study done by secondary data. The secondary data was collected from various websites including those Government of India, magazines, journals, other publications, etc. These data was then analyzed and reviewed to complete this study.

4. Purpose of Education:

The purpose of education is to develop the personality of a person and to make him a good person in the society by enriching him with the social, cultural, economic and political knowledge he has acquire to survey. Education directly transforms human beings and help to transform society in a more relevant way. Our education system always trying to develop good personality of human beings, responsibility towards society, contribute to the cultural aspect, contribute to the social-economic development and to build them as better human beings.

The basic task of education is to promote the power of mind, acquisition of special skills and the advancement of knowledge but above all to generate in young generation a senesce of purposefulness and maximum dedication, confidence, in themselves and faith in the country’s future. Human mind has wonderful resources of eagerly, but to bring out the best result from it, it has got to be tapped developed and canalized with the help of education.

Education without library is like a body of without soul, a vehicle without engine and a building merely a collection of bricks without cement. Education and library service can live apart from the other. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

5. Higher Education of India:

The education system is an important component of a society and is thus not an Island. In another words education system effects and get effected by the societal developments. Higher education itself is an evolving concept and has its own ancestry. India today ranked as the third largest higher
education system in the world after USA and China. The understanding that higher education started from the standard beyond the 10+2 level in the 10+2+3 structure of the education system had emerged in India. Recently on 29th July, 2020, Union Cabinet Approved NEP-2020 (New Education Policy 2020) which has replaced the existing 10+2 School system with a new 5+3+3+4 School system. Beside this, the age group for the Right of Education (RTE) now is 3 to 18 years (earlier 14 years). Policy 2020 also emphasizes access, affordability, equity, equality, accountability of early childhood care Education (ECCE.) At present, India possesses a highly developed higher education system which offers facility of education and training in almost all aspects of human’s creative and intellectual endeavors such as arts and humanities, natural, mathematical and social sciences, engineering; medicine, dentistry, agriculture, education, law, commerce and management, music and performing arts, national and foreign languages, culture, communications etc.

There are following types of universities and institutions for Higher Education in India which are recognized by the University Grant Commission (UGC) and draws its power from the University Grant Commission Act, 1956:

- **Central University:** A university established or incorporated by a Central Act.
- **State University:** A university established or incorporated by a Provisional Act or by State Act.
- **Private University:** A University established through a state/ Central Act by a sponsoring body viz. A society registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860, or any other corresponding law for the time being in force in a state or a public trust or a company registered under Section 25of the Companies Act, 1956.
- **Deemed-to-be-University:** An institution Deemed to be University, commonly known as Deemed University, refer to a high performing institution, which has been so declared by central government under Section 3 of the University Grant Commission (UGC) Act, 1956.
- **Institution of National Importance:** An institution established by Act of Parliament and declared as institution of National Importance

**Numbers of Universities of India:**

- **Central Universities in India:** 49
- **State Universities in India:** 399
- **Open Universities in India:** (13+1)
- **Deemed to be Universities in India:** (Sec. 3{124}, Sec. 12B{39})
- **Institution of National importance:** (20, IIM’s) (23 IIT’s) (31 iit’S)
- **Private Universities in India:** 334
6. Development of Library system in India:

Ranganathan Committee (1967):

It is considered as one of the significant committee towards the upgrading of entire library system in higher education submitted by UGC library committee entitled “University & College Libraries”. The report suggested the standard of libraries, building, pay scales and library training to modernize the entire library set-up. This committee demanded that the UGC as well as the state government should offer financial support to the College and University libraries for purchasing the required materials and resources of libraries. This committee the formula on funding be given at the rate of Rs. 15 per enrolled student and Rs.200 per teacher and research fellow. This report emphasized open access system that should be introduced in every academic library and also mentioned about ‘reference services’ of library.

Kothari commission (1964-66):

Under the chairmanship of Dr. D.S.Kothari with other 17 members, the Kothari Commission was created on July 14, 1964. The main purpose of Kothari commission was to evaluate the educational system which was followed before and to recommend new pattern of education. Different working groups were created to solve the problems in the education system. This commission was created to give full priority to the libraries. Kothari committee brought some norms which can help the libraries in equipments as well as students to utilize the books in an efficient way. According to its recommendation no new libraries can be opened if the library are not provided with proper collection of books. The agenda of Kothari commission was to take steps towards the modernization of the libraries.

UGC:

Formally the UGC was inaugurated by late Shri Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and later the UGC was setup by Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India to maintain the standards of higher education in the year 28 December, 1953 with various agendas. The UGC works as a guardian for the libraries in higher education by providing financial support as well as providing systematic planning with proper leadership. UGC provides financial supports and planning to various universities for building construction. UGC is providing more and more funds to the academic libraries for the development. It monitors the developments in the academic field of education. It also organize examination standards for UGC-NET, ICAR NET, CSIR-NET etc. UGC can maintain a good communication between the universities. It has six regional centers at Hyderabad, Pune, Kolkata, Bhopal, Guwahati and Bangalore. UGC regulates four different types of universities like-Central Universities, State Universities, Deemed University, Private Universities.
INFLIBNET:

UGC established a national library network which name is INFLIBNET. INFLIBNET was established in the year 1986 and the main center of INFLIBNET is located in Gandhinagar, Gujrat. INFLIBNET helps the member libraries with various consortium platforms so that they can improve the library collections as well as to meet the needs of the users. INFLIBNET provides various programs and facilities like library automation, Manpower training, digitization of old documents and software development. INFLIBNET provides software of university libraries (SOUL) so that the member libraries can manage their library functions in an advanced way. INFLIBNET provides various platforms for researchers to perform their research without lack of resources. Through INFLIBENT the member libraries are now able to connect with each other’s and they can share their resources to maintain the collection development of the libraries. It provides various e-resources to its member libraries so that the library can provide its best facilities to its users.

7. Role of Library in Higher Education-

Education is primarily at the hub of a country’s economic social and cultural development as much as it is science and technology. The evaluation in education can be seen as the increased awareness of the ever-increasing access to the wealth of information or knowledge. The library is an integrated part of any academic institution, so also of any college/University. Education becomes student-centered and encourages students to play a dynamic and creative role in pursuing learning and reading and making him/her a perfect citizen. It should provide maximum information and services support to faculty, research scholars and students in a professional institution. The library and librarian can basically change in the techno-driven world. The library is a multi-functional information provider. As such modernization of libraries is essential for research and development activities in any field and library facilities should be developed as a part of the total programme of a college/university.

It is universe that the education, particularly at higher level is a process of learning rather than teaching, signifying the efforts to be put in by the students. They have to provided with the facilities necessary for mastering the subject matter, technique, skills, and habit of thinking and method of work in their chosen field. It is more so in the present day of information explosion, technological revolution and the days of dramatic shift in socio-economic and political environment. The enormous growth of information and its proliferation, on the one hand, access to information through various communication media with the advancement of technology on the other; and awareness among the public of egalitarian opportunities and social justice on yet another hand have exerted greater stress on the total educational system. The shift on these stresses calls for a change in teaching skills and techniques, learning habits, curriculum design, and implementation etc. This change in the educational system has further increased the need for supplementary reading resources. The classroom lectures cannot suffice the student to prepare for facing societal
challenges. The teacher cannot be an effective teacher unless he draws extensively from a variety of information sources and keeps himself up-to-date in his field of specialization. So also the information needs of the research scholars vary in quantity and quality. It is here that the libraries being reservoirs of knowledge hidden in a variety of forms have a vital role to play. The library played a vital role in the development of higher education. It is not merely a storehouse of books and other reading material collected for preservation, but it also functions as a dynamic instrument of education, to feed the intellect of the student, to encourage the researchers of the faculty and to invite all who enter its house to partake fully of its intellectual and cultural contexts. It would not be an exaggeration if it were said that a library is an essential pre-requisite for the successful implementation of the higher education programme.

In the words of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, “Libraries are not mere storehouses; they are rich springs from which knowledge flows out to irrigate the side field of education and culture.” Documents are a medium for knowing the latest information, with the help and cooperation of a library no formal educational programme can fructify.

The importance of a library in higher education, a modern college in India must have a well-planned and functional library so that it becomes an intellectual hub of the institution for both students and teachers. The librarian invites information seekers of knowledge to enjoy an intellectual feast in calm and periodicals arranged systematically in shelves. It will then rightly call as open sesame of the wardrobe of literature”.

Gorman (1995) has interrupted Ranganathan’s laws in present day’s context and gave five new laws for library.

- Library serve Humanity
- Respect all from by which knowledge is communicated
- Use technology intelligently to enhance service
- Protect free access to knowledge
- Honour the past and and create the future.

These laws have been framed from the viewpoint of ‘function of Librarian’ engaged in a technological society.

Hence, the importance of the library role in imparting and disseminating knowledge has been enhanced by developments in continuing education, distance education and the open university system. The university/college libraries have assumed even greater importance in a country like India where the majority of students can’t purchase the most essential books.

8. Concept of New Education Policy-

National Educational Policy (NEP): Union cabinet paved the way for transformative reform in school and higher education system by launching the New National Education Policy (NEP) on 29th July 2020. They also renamed MHRD as Ministry of Education. After the old national education policy which was launched way back in 1986, this is the first education policy of
21st century that has replaced 34 years old education policy. The new NEP is based on four pillars which are Access, Equity, Quality, and Accountability. In this new policy, there will be a 5+3+3+4 structure which comprises 12 years of school and 3 years of Anganwadi/ pre-school replacing old 10+2 structure.

Through this new education scheme, they are trying to bring more than 2 crore students into the mainstream and with the help of this, they aim to achieve 100% GER (Gross enrollment ratio) from pre-school to secondary by the end of 2030. Through this NEP 2020 government is looking forward to making India a “global knowledge superpower” and it will be only done by making education system for schools and colleges more flexible, holistic, and multi-disciplinary which will bring out their unique capabilities.

9. New Education Policy Phases-

The phases of New Education Policy are divided into four phases. In the New Education Policy, it has been completed abolished. New Education Policy has organized and based on 5+3+3+4 formula, which is discussed below.

NEP 2020: The new 5+3+3+4 School System:

Here is the age-wise and class-wise breakdown of the 5+3+3+4 curricular and pedagogical structure of New Education Policy 2020. It is based on the cognitive-developmental stages of the children.

- **Secondary Stage – 4 Years** (Age 14 to 18: Class 9 to Class 12)
- **Middle Stage – 3 Years** (Age 11 to 14: Class 6 to Class 8)
- **Preparatory Stage – 3 Years** (Age 8 to 11: Class 3 to)
- **Fundamental Stage – 5 Years**
  - (Age 3 to 6: 3 Years {Anganwadi/Pre-School/Balvatika})
  - (Age 6 to 8: 2 Years {Class 1 and Class 2})

10. Higher Education Under New Education Policy-

- Higher education plays an important role in improving human well-being and developing India and through this NEP they aim to increase their GER from 26.3% to 50% by 2035, and around 3.5 cr new seats will also be added to higher education institutions.
- Under this, UG education could be of 3 or 4 years with numbers of entry and exit options.
- Multidisciplinary education and Research University will be set up of global standards.
- HECI (Higher education commission of India) will be the only body for entire higher education (except medical and legal education)
- HECI will have 4 independent verticals such as NHERC (National higher education regulatory council) for a directive, GEC (Genera education council) for standard setting, HEGC (Higher education grants council) for sponsoring, and NAC (National accreditation council) for recognition.
- Globalization of higher education.
- An academic bank of credit will be established in which credit earned by the students during their academics from different HEIs could be stored and transferred at the time final degree.
• National research foundation will act as a peak body that fosters a strong research culture and builds research capacity covering higher education.

11. Major reform in New Education Policy -

• Students now take a school examination which was conducted by the appropriate authority in grades 3, 5, and 8.
• Board examination for 10th and 12 will be continued but will be redesigned with the aim of holistic development.
• PARAKH (Performance assessment, review, and analysis of knowledge for holistic development) a new national assessment platform will be set up.
• Mathematical thinking and scientific temper coding will start from class 6.
• Vocational education will start in school from 6th grade which also includes internships.
• The 10+2 structure will be replaced by 5+3+3+4+...
• The new system will have 12 year of schooling and 3 years of pre-school/Anganwadi.
• Till grade 5th this policy will emphasize local language/regional language/mother-tongue as the medium of instruction.
• At school and higher education, Sanskrit will also be included at all levels as an option for students which includes three language formulas.
• As an option, literature of India and other classical languages will also be available.
• No student would be forced for any Language.
• Higher education will receive flexibility in subjects.
• There will be multiple entries and exit points with appropriate certification for higher education.
• UG programmed can be of 3 or 4 years with multiple exit options with appropriate certification in this period like certificate will be awarded after 1 year, advanced diploma after 2 years, degree after 3 years, and bachelor with research after 4 years.
• Academic bank of credit (ABC) will be created in which digitally academic credit earned by students will be stored through different HEIs and it will be transferred and counted for final degree.
• The curriculum in all subjects has been reduced to its core essentials.
• Through this, they focus on critical thinking, discovery, inquiry, discussion, and teaching based on analysis and holistic learning methods for education.
• Regulator for higher education will be light but tight.
• Focus on E-learning so that they can reduce the dependency on textbook.
• Under the new policy education will get 6% of GDP earlier it was 1.7% which will definitely boost the education system.
• By the end of 2040, they aimed that all HEIs will become multidisciplinary institutions and each of them will have 3000 or more students.
• In next 15 years, college affiliation will be phased out.
• At least one large multidisciplinary HEI should be built-in or near every district by 2030.
• Aim to achieve 100% youth and adult literacy.
• NTA will offer a common entrance exam for admission in HEIs.
12. Challenges related to New Education Policy 2020:

1. Opening University in every week is difficult task-
   India has around 1000 universities across the country. Doubling the gross enrolment ratio in Higher Education by 2035 which is the most stated goal of the policy will mean that govt. must open one university every week for next 15 years which is undeniably massive challenge

2. Funding is a big issue in the covid era:
   The NEP 2020 predict and increase in education spending from 4.6% to 6 % of GDP which amount to around INR 2.5 lakh cores per years. Which is another challenge in this covid era.

3. Current emphasis on healthcare and economic recovery to lower the execution speed:
   Economist have been calling for large stimulus packages amounting to double digit percentage of GDP, DESPRIT the strain in the exchequer.

4. Need to create a large pool of trained teachers:
   In school education, the policy envisages a sweeping structural re-design of the curriculum a very welcome step. But in order to deliver this curriculum effectively, we need teachers who are trained in and understand the pedagogical needs. Many of the curricular changes require substantial mindset shifts on the part of teachers, as well as parents.

5. Language barrier:
   There is much in the document ripe for debate-such as language. The NEP 2020 seeks to enable home language learning up to class five, in order to improve learning outcomes. If the foundation are not sound, learning suffers, even with the best teaching and infrastructure. But it is also true that a core goal of education is social and economically mobility in India is English.

13. Conclusion:
   Higher education is an important aspect in deciding the economy, social status, technology adoption, and healthy human behavior in every country. Improving GER to include every citizen of the country in higher education offerings is the responsibility of the education department of the country government. National Education Policy of India 2020 is marching towards achieving such objective by making innovative policies to improve the quality, attractiveness, affordability, and increasing the supply by opening up the higher education for the private sector and at the same time with strict controls to maintain quality in every higher education institution. And other hand as non-profit organization, library have been playing a vital role in higher education system as well as playing an extra role to our society in making better human beings.
References:

3. Website of UGC: https://ugc.ac.in/