International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews

The Impact of Library Tools and Techniques in Education: A Study on NEP 2020

[1]B. Sathish Kumar, [2]B Srinivasulu, [3]Dr. P. Venkatesu

[1]Lecturer in Library Science, Dr. Y.S.R. Government Degree College, Vedurukuppam, Andhra Pradesh. sathishheman@gmail.com
[2]Lecturer in Library Science, Government Degree College, Penukonda, Andhra Pradesh. bsrinivasulu75@gmail.com
[3]Lecturer in Physics, Dr. Y.S.R. Government Degree College, Vedurukuppam, Andhra Pradesh. venkateshpudi92@gmail.com
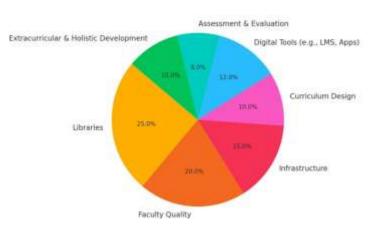
ABSTRACT

The transformative vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has redefined the role of libraries within the Indian education landscape. This paper explores how library tools and techniques have evolved in alignment with NEP 2020 to promote information access, digital literacy, collaborative learning, and research culture. Through various library advancements—ranging from Digital Libraries to Learning Management Systems and Mobile Applications—the article presents a comprehensive analysis of how these resources can enable inclusive, innovative, and interdisciplinary education. The integration of libraries into curricular frameworks ensures a more dynamic and student-centered academic ecosystem, supporting the holistic goals of NEP 2020.

Keywords: NEP 2020, Digital Literacy, Digital Library, OPAC, Mobile Apps

1.Introduction

The National Education Policy 2020 presents a revolutionary blueprint for transforming India's educational system. A significant element of this policy is the renewed emphasis on libraries as pivotal facilitators of lifelong learning and innovation (**Ministry of Education, 2020**). Libraries, once passive repositories of information, are now expected to become dynamic centers for digital literacy, research, and collaborative inquiry. With advanced tools and technologies, they now empower educators and students alike in a rapidly digitizing educational environment.

Here's the pie chart showing the estimated contribution of libraries and other parameters to overall education quality. As visualized, libraries contribute significantly (25%) alongside factors like faculty quality, infrastructure, and digital tools.

Estimated Contribution of Libraries and Other Parameters to Education Quality

2.Enhanced Access to Information

Access to reliable, relevant, and diverse information is the cornerstone of quality education. NEP 2020 underscores this need by advocating for universal access to learning resources, both physical and digital. Libraries today house a wealth of resources—academic journals, textbooks, digital archives, and multimedia content.

Table 1: Key Information Resources in Modern Libraries.

Resource Type	Examples	Access Mode
E-books	NDL India, Google Books, Project Gutenberg	Online
Academic Journals	JSTOR, Springer, Elsevier	Subscribed/Open
Multimedia Content	Khan Academy, SWAYAM, E-PG Pathshala	Online Streaming
Archival Databases	Internet Archive, British Council Online	Open Access

These diverse resources ensure that learners can pursue interdisciplinary education beyond the constraints of time and space, in line with the lifelong learning model promoted in NEP 2020 (**Ghosh, 2022**).

3.Promotion of Digital Literacy

Digital literacy is essential in today's knowledge economy. Libraries play a central role by integrating technologies like e-books, online catalogues, and academic search engines. Workshops, hands-on training sessions, and tutorial support offered by libraries ensure that both students and educators develop competencies in digital navigation, search strategies, and citation ethics.

The integration of tools such as OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogues), reference managers like Zotero, and open-access repositories make digital literacy both accessible and sustainable (**Bhatt & Singh, 2021**).

4.Supporting Research and Innovation

Research-driven education is a core pillar of NEP 2020. Academic libraries support this mission by offering access to:

    A.   Subscription-based scholarly databases (e.g., ScienceDirect, Web of Science)

    B.   Citation and referencing tools (e.g., EndNote, Mendeley)

    C.   Interlibrary Loan (ILL) networks

    D.   Institutional repositories

These systems provide students and faculty with real-time access to current research and facilitate the production of original scholarly work. This supports the quotation- "Libraries must evolve into knowledge hubs that assist and inspire users in conducting impactful research" (**Pradhan, 2021, p. 34**).

5.Creating Collaborative Learning Spaces

Gone are the days when libraries were silent sanctuaries of solitary study. Modern libraries are collaborative spaces equipped with:

    1.   Group discussion rooms

    2.   Smart boards

    3.   Multimedia centers

    4.   Project incubation labs

This transformation supports project-based and team-based learning strategies as promoted by NEP 2020, fostering peer engagement, critical thinking, and creativity (**Kumar & Patel, 2023**).

6.Integration of Libraries into Curriculum

NEP 2020 envisions the library as a curriculum enabler. Library resources and professionals are now partners in:

- Curriculum design
- Resource curation

- Co-teaching sessions

- Academic mentoring

Embedding libraries within academic departments ensures subject-relevant material is available and updated, thus reinforcing teaching-learning processes (**Sharma, 2022**).

7. Key Library Tools and Techniques in the NEP Era

7.1. Digital Libraries

Digital Libraries offer 24/7 access to academic resources from anywhere in the world.

Popular Digital Libraries:

- National Digital Library of India (NDLI)

- Project Gutenberg

- Internet Archive

- British Council Online Library

- Google Books

- Open Library

These platforms promote inclusivity by bridging geographic and socio-economic gaps in resource access.

7.2. Library Management Systems (LMS)

LMS platforms streamline resource management, from cataloguing to user access. Examples include:

- **Koha**: Open-source and customizable

- **Libsys**: Commercial system with integrated modules

- **Evergreen**: Scalable and community-supported

LMS tools facilitate real-time book tracking, inventory checks, and report generation, optimizing administrative efficiency.

7.3. Reference Management Tools

Researchers need to manage citations efficiently. Popular tools include:

Tool	Key Features
Zotero	Browser integration, cloud storage
Mendeley	PDF annotation, social networking for researchers
EndNote	Integration with MS Word
RefWorks	Cloud-based and ideal for collaborative projects

These tools improve research quality and uphold academic integrity (**Singh & Raj, 2022**).

7.4. Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)

OPACs allow users to search, reserve, and renew resources online. They include search filters for:

- Title

- Author

- Subject

- Year of publication

They enhance transparency and efficiency in resource discovery (**Chakrabarti & Mishra, 2021**).

7.5. *Electronic Databases*

E-databases offer indexed and full-text academic content. Examples include:

- JSTOR
- ScienceDirect
- PubMed
- DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals)

They support interdisciplinary research and curriculum development.

8.Information Literacy Programs

These programs are crucial for guiding students in:

- Information search strategies
- Evaluating source credibility
- Ethical citation practices

Workshops and online modules contribute to NEP's vision of building 21st-century skills.

9.Inter library Loan Services (ILL)

ILL agreements allow students to borrow materials across library networks, expanding their research scope. This system supports resource equity in rural or underfunded institutions.

10. Library Automation

Automated libraries use software to manage:

- Book lending/return
- Cataloguing
- User authentication
- Reports and analytics

This reduces paperwork, enhances service delivery, and enables data-driven decisions (**Rao & Nair, 2023**).

11. Collaborative Software

Libraries now incorporate collaboration tools such as:

- Microsoft Teams
- Slack
- Google Workspace

These platforms facilitate group work, discussions, and virtual seminars, key to NEP's blended learning vision.

12. Mobile Apps in Library Services

With mobile apps, students can:

- Access e-books (Libby, Hoopla)
- Stream lectures (Khan Academy)
- Borrow digital content (OverDrive, CloudLibrary)
- Read classics (Project Gutenberg app)

Mobile learning ensures learning continues beyond campus walls (**Bharati & Meena, 2023).**

13. Discussion and Analysis

The implementation of NEP 2020 represents a paradigm shift in Indian education, and libraries stand at the forefront of this transformation. The integration of digital technologies not only modernizes libraries but democratizes access to knowledge.

However, challenges remain—particularly in terms of infrastructure, funding, and training of library personnel.

Future efforts must focus on:

- Standardization of library software
- Capacity-building programs
- Rural outreach and mobile libraries
- Policy frameworks for digital content curation

14. Conclusion

In conclusion, libraries under NEP 2020 have transitioned from passive knowledge holders to proactive educational partners. They now empower educators and learners through access to tools, resources, and spaces that promote innovation, inquiry, and collaboration. To achieve a truly inclusive, equitable, and forward-looking education system, investment in library development—digital and physical—is essential. As hubs of learning, libraries are central to realizing the ambitions of NEP 2020 and beyond.

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