



## Importance of Library in a School for the development of Young Minds: A Critical Analysis

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### **Abstract:**

School is the primary center for to develop good citizenship. Libraries are the foundation stone for university education and specialized learning. Every child with an average intelligence and ability starts taking keen interest in knowing things with curiosity and right through the schooling period he/she is on the way to acquire knowledge and enrich his or her faculties. It is therefore, essential to familiarize with the library, which would provide him quality reading materials. The school library plays a major role in this situation. It provides dynamic information and ideas that are fundamental for the functioning successfully in our increasingly information and knowledge based society. Studies on the use of libraries conducted in recent past have revealed that majority of the users are unaware of the different types of resources, their uses and the variety of services offered by the modern libraries. This accounts for undertaking this unit so that the learners may duly appreciate various uses of school library. The school library equips students with life-long learning skills and develops the imagination enabling them to live as responsible citizens". It plays this role by selecting, acquiring and providing access to appropriate sources of information. The school library offers books and other resources ranging from print to electronic media for completion of various school projects and assignments, for acquisition of knowledge about a topic taught in class, for finding information about a hobby or current events and news, etc.

**Key Words:** Knowledge, rational, books, information, access

Received 04 Sep., 2022; Revised 17 Sep., 2022; Accepted 19 Sep., 2022 © The author(s) 2022.

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### I. Introduction

Libraries are significant to schools and the people therein in ways more than one or the other way. Libraries help in filling the gulf between education and understanding which nothing else can, not even the modern advanced computers. Books and Journals will help the reader get a different view of the world without taking him/her away from the present world. A person who reads is usually shrewder and has a deeper sense of thoughtful in comparison to those who don't and thus, if there are libraries in school, the school children will learn much more by learning the art of reading at an early age. Dr. Ranganathan stated that the "school libraries should act as laboratories for students and the librarians should function as guides to help the students in learning and using the books for improvement of knowledge and scholarship". The school in the past was entirely dependent upon the textbook. At present, however method of teaching in school has changed. Consequently, a teacher must employ dynamic method of teaching by which learning is accelerated and broadened by the use of various devices and materials. The education structure in India is based on the British system of education. The Government of India emphasis on education for all. In the Constitution of India, the directive principle of state policy contained in article 45 states that the state has to provide free and compulsory education for all until the age of 14 years. According to 2011 census, 64% Indians are literate and almost every child has an access to school with around 95% of our rural education having a primary school within one kilometer of their residing place.

### Concept of School Libraries in India

School library is capable of undertaking this important responsibility. It serves to arouse curiosity for learning and supplements the instructional program for a creative life. An excellent educational program cannot

be developed without the provision and support of a well-planned school library. The good books that a child reads, in addition to his textbooks, shape his character and determine his ideal for the future. In the past one found that the term school library applied to anything from a collection of assorted books dumped in a store to classroom corner or array of books securely locked up in a cupboard located in the headmaster's office. Today, one can say that a school library ranges from a collection of books in a small or medium classroom located in the school premises. In a wider perspective, school library can be defined as collection of not only books but also pamphlets, journals, newspapers, audio- visual materials and other forms of printed and non- printed materials.

#### **Literal Meaning of the term Library:**

The word library has been derived from the French word *Librarie*, and means books in Latin and its origins go back to 2600 BC. As we all know, a library is an organized collection of physical and virtual information resources made accessible for reference as a source of education and recreation for the general public with no refinement whatsoever.

#### **Aims of School Libraries**

School library being a part of an educational set-up, it plays a key role for the development of young minds. Aims of School Library is as follows:

1. It provides documents for pupils and teachers.
2. It develops and promote reading.
3. It encourages research and study from many information sources.
4. It provides recreational and leisure time reading.
5. It emphasizes the pedagogical principles of self-education for furthering individual.

#### **Relation between Librarian and School Children:**

For young minds, a special period can be set aside for storytelling. This can be organized. Story telling can be done by the librarian or teacher to attract the children towards the world of books. Book talks, book debates, essay competition or quiz can be organized to attract the students to the library. These may be done during assembly time of the school. The responsibility can be handed over to the librarian or teachers. Library is a growing organism. Therefore, it will grow in terms of users and documents. The size and variety of the collection can easily bewilder a freshman (a new number of a library). In addition, the tools of the library have an element of artificiality about them. It is not easy to understand their use. There are many peculiarities about the arrangement of documents, layout of sections and kinds of services provided to freshmen by the librarian.

#### **Role of School Libraries**

School is a gateway to knowledge and plays an important role in building up a love for reading. The school library is integral to this educational process. Encouraged at the right age, the children are sure to develop a love for books. "Catch 'them Young" is therefore the motto of the school libraries. According to United Nations Economic Socio Cultural Organizations UNESCO School Library Manifesto, "the school library provides information and ideas that are fundamental to functioning successfully in today's information and knowledge-based society. The school librarian helps the students in finding the books/information on the topics of their interest. The librarians along with the teachers work together to achieve higher levels of literacy. While highlighting the role of the school library as the heart of school.

#### **Objectives of the Study:**

The following are the objectives of the study:

1. Understand the concept of school library.
2. Appreciate the services provided by school library;
3. Familiarize yourself with modes of document selection, classification and retrieval of the materials for use.
4. Critically estimate the role of school library in storing and disseminating information to learners for promoting self-learning.
5. Realize the vital role of school library in the overall schooling process as well as self-learning.

#### **Methodology of the Study:**

This paper is based on the information collected through Primary and Secondary data. As part of the study 20 schools around the Uttar Kannada District Bhatkal, Honnavar and Kumta were visited and information were collected from the Librarians and from the students. The study is conducted in the month of July 2022, Random Sampling Method and Interview Schedule method is used and collected information from the students. Benefits of the libraries werediscussed with the students.

### **Standards for School Libraries**

The school library is inseparable element for literacy, education and information provision as well as for economic, social and cultural development of a nation. Hence, the school libraries must have adequate and sustained funding for trained staff, materials, technologies and facilities. As the responsibility of local, regional and national authorities, it must be supported by specific standards. Library standards are used to measure and evaluate the condition of the libraries as well as the degree of their development.

### **School Libraries in the Present Scenario**

The school library is an essential partner in the local, regional and national library and information network. The school librarian has to be professionally qualified because he is responsible for planning and managing the library. Supported by the teachers, he not only inculcates love for reading amongst the future citizens of the country but also helps in information literacy. The role of school librarian as a teacher is to analyze the information needs of his clients for which he seeks help from the teachers. He must have good interpersonal skills and should be able to take on the decisional roles. The school librarian need to know what teachers like to work with and what information they need for teaching. Finally, the school librarian needs to know what is expected of the student and how and what are they being taught. In fact, the school librarians have to move away from the role of keeper of books to that of the information providers and support students in learning and using information regardless of its form and format.

### **Why Libraries Need for the Children?**

The library, of course it has the most stories, Jokes apart, libraries are a national treasure, an unbreakable tie which binds history and culture with the present. It's undeniable that a child's reading skills are important to their success in school, work, and life in general and they can be introduced to the beautiful world of reading at an early age by taking them to a library which will intrigue and interest their inquisitive minds and forge a lifelong friendship with books. Parents agree it is a great idea to show them libraries around the city, however it's not feasible everyday with jobs and other responsibilities. The brilliant solution to this issue is investing in a Student Centric homes where they have dedicated space for libraries or wonderland for books in the premises itself furnished with books catering to each age group..

### **Benefits of School Libraries for Parents and Children**

The following are the uppermost benefits of spending quality time in libraries for both parents and children:

- 1. To Easy access to the libraries:** Libraries are an amazing repository of unlimited books and information which can be accessed in physical or digital form as per our convenience. They are also easy on the pocket as one can get a membership card for a nominal fee and gain access to various books of any genre. The quiet and calm ambience of libraries encourages reading and studying and really gets the intellectual juices flowing. Nowadays we also have human libraries where you "borrow" a human instead of books and learn about their unique life experiences.
- 2. To Increased attentiveness and discipline:** Introducing reading time, especially in a library into your child's schedule has the immense benefit of increased discipline and concentration. Kids today get exposed to the ill-effects of smartphones and radiation even before they're born and later on too much screen time makes them prone to stunted mental growth and discipline issues. According to Ranganathan father of Library Science, reading in an appropriate and quiet environment leads to a stronger self-discipline, longer attention span, and better memory retention, all of which will serve the child well in their academics when they enter school.
- 3. To develop Strong reasoning development:** Reading to young children via story time or story-telling in libraries is proven to improve the process of cognitive development which is the ability to think and understand including remembering, problem solving, and decision-making. It refers to how a person perceives and thinks about the world through areas such as information processing, intelligence, reasoning, language development, and memory. Therefore, the more teachers and caretakers read aloud to children, the larger their vocabulary will grow and fire up their imagination and creativity.
- 4. Enhance language skills:** Libraries are furnished with reading material in every language which may not always be available online. It is good for children to be able to read and write in their mother tongues beyond English and Hindi. This will make them multilingual which is an asset in every sphere of life, improves social skills and makes their cognitive skills sharper.
- 5. Enable Success in academics:** Research indicates that kids who are exposed to reading before preschool are more likely to do better in their formal education. They are already ahead of their peers in reading skills and this advancement helps them later on in academics when the curriculum becomes more technical and tough. Libraries have age appropriate books on traditionally tough subjects like maths and science which if the child is exposed to in his/her early years, will ignite interest and love for these subjects instead of fear and confusion.

**6. Increase Quality Time among the students:** Reading together in the library is a great bonding session for your child and you. They will emulate you and thus will cultivate a lifelong love for reading. Everyone aware of the fact that if you love reading you'll never be lonely because you'll always have your book friends by your side. Even if on just weekends, it will be a shared event where you can look forward to spending time together, and your child will trust and expect that you will be there for them and the importance of trust to small children cannot be overstated.

**Suggestions to improve the Reading Habits among the School Kids:**

- A. Art activity linked to books and painting other imaginary sketches.
- B. Collecting traditional stories by interacting with elder generation.
- C. Writing small stories with help of read books and pictures.
- D. Role play and debate/ discussion on specific stories or characters.
- E. Preparing information charts (collecting thematic information from newspaper and discussion)
- F. Children are motivated to involve in free writing activities

**II. Conclusion:**

Reading with them exposes them to all types of subjects and concepts, building children's understanding of humanity and the world around them. Reading is the key for lifelong learning, and if you can instill a love of reading at an early age, then a commitment to lifelong learning is sure to follow. Libraries present books as sources of pleasant, valuable, and exciting experiences. Children who value books are motivated to read on their own, and encourage others to do the same too. The entire experience of researching will have more value and importance for children if they do so in a library instead of on their phones or smartphones where everything maybe available with the click of a button but wouldn't have a lasting impact on a child's holistic development. As parents, we want to expose them to the best of experiences and libraries are the perfect place for them to open up to learning mixed with the old world charm of reading a book. Para 11.4 of NPE 1986 states that the investment on education be gradually increased to reach a level of 6% of the national income as early as possible. In spite of the resource constraints, the budgetary allocation on education has increased over the years. As part of the mid-term Strategic Plan and the Millennium Development Goals priorities, UNICEF India is also committed to ensuring quality education for all children. Though education is in the concurrent list of the constitution, the state governments play a major role in the development of education particularly in the primary and secondary education.

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