



## Creating a sustainable reader community- Role of rural libraries in rural youth empowerment

Raghavendra A.N. Librarian, P.L.N. First Grade College, Poorigali, Malavalli (T), Mandya District, Karnataka state

**Abstract:** Libraries are very imperative component of community empowerment. Knowledge gains through libraries play a key role in supporting community sustainability. However in India Urban centers are supported by libraries with good infrastructure while rural areas lack good library facility. Government spends crores of rupees on rural infrastructure development, but the very concept of rural development is underplayed because rural population lack access to education & knowledge sharing libraries can support the knowledge bases by expanding the reaching. But rural libraries are suffering from fundamental problems. This paper addresses the issues relating to rural libraries & considers several recommendations which can promote sustainability through library.

**Keywords:** rural libraries, development, knowledge sharing, creation of sustainability

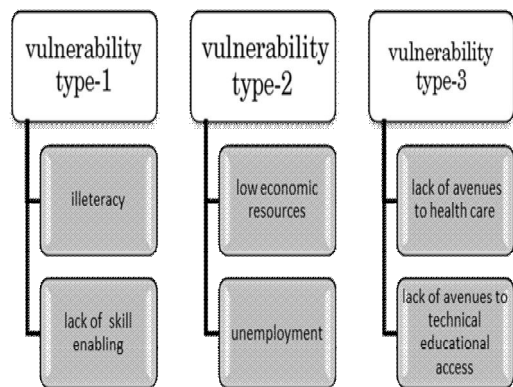
**Introduction-** The education provides self-reliance & self-reliance breeds' sustainability. Educational supports the growth of a nation towards economic prosperity & political strength. Educated masses are a country's wealth. (Narasimha Rao C -Rural Development in India - A Multidisciplinary Analysis 2005).

**Objectives of study:** This paper examines the issues relating to library infrastructural development & reading habits among rural population and considers the significance of policy interventions in rural library movement

**Methodology -** This paper has been prepared using several secondary sources & journal references along with primary sources such as government reports.

**The Concept-** Global image of a country is enhanced through its educated population. As education is spread through educational institutions & learning centers people access to

education gets empowered , But in rural India educational institutions are scattered & access to education is a hard task either they have to depend on continuing education in a nearby urban center or they should stop their education to the elementary level. Sometimes rural population found it hard to access educational support even at elementary level. Establishing rural libraries can become a handy tool in creation of sustainability





**Information needs-** Along with the changing scenario, rural people have been increasing in plenty. As shown in Chart -1 information needs of the rural people have been increasing

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Information farm sector development                                  | ✓ Banking facilities                        |
| 2. Information of government welfare schemes                            | ✓ Birth related health information          |
| 3. Information on health services on community hospitals & protection , | ✓ Care for elders ,                         |
| 4. Information on market trends / price                                 | ✓ Child education ,                         |
| 5. Information on schools /colleges                                     | ✓ Child labor related information ,         |
| 6. Information on animal husbandry                                      | ✓ Climate related information ,             |
| 7. Information of cattle feeds / cattle food                            | ✓ Community development assistant projects, |
| 8. Information on pests / prevention                                    | ✓ Developmental schemes such as MGNREGA ,   |
| 9. Information of rainfall  | ✓ Disaster reduction management             |
| 10. Information on banking facilities                                   | ✓ ,   |
| 11. Information on political affairs                                    | ✓ Disaster risk reduction & management ,    |

**Benefits to community empowerment**

Rural libraries support communities in the empowerment process. Community at large becomes aware of the welfare projects, government policy interventions NGOs support public private partnerships in rural development etc through newspapers which are available in a library. Rural libraries breed good reading habits it helps in building critical awareness it helps to build a right perspective inter personal relationships are built which enables them to attend to challenges of rural life.

**Rural libraries support empowerment mechanism**

-Rural libraries support reading newspapers, magazines, hearing to community radio etc which promotes strength of mind, as it opens avenues of income generation through self-employment. Rural people can seek local employment in their off season farm work. Rural libraries help them to build individuality as the rural population is always considered as ignorant & uneducated, rural libraries can help to promote knowledge about

- ✓ Drinking water ,
- ✓ Employment guarantee schemes ,
- ✓ Environmental human rights,
- ✓ Farm prices,
- ✓ Farm related subjects ,
- ✓ Girl child protection ,
- ✓ Government welfare projects ,
- ✓ Healthy habits ,
- ✓ Hygiene , sanitary support ,
- ✓ Impact of ecological imbalance ,
- ✓ Impact of under nutrition .
- ✓ Impact of over population ,
- ✓ Infant Mortality ,
- ✓ Irrigation projects, health accessories ,
- ✓ Land mortgage related information ,
- ✓ Legislative support from government ,
- ✓ Loan facilities ,
- ✓ Local political affairs ,
- ✓ Market information ,
- ✓ Micro financing through banks,
- ✓ Middlemen / commission agent related issues ,
- ✓ Need for primary health centers,
- ✓ NGO assisted projects
- ✓ Need for education ,



- ✓ Nutrition , food & dietary information
- ✓ Ombudsman & their role in rural development
- ✓ Political involvement & participation ,
- ✓ Poverty related issues ,
- ✓ Pregnant health , nutrition , wellbeing ,
- ✓ Preparation for natural calamities,
- ✓ Primary health checkups ,
- ✓ Protection against disasters ,
- ✓ Public delivery systems ,
- ✓ Qualitative product search ,
- ✓ Rain forecast detailing ,
- ✓ Rainfall related information ,
- ✓ Resource management at local level ,
- ✓ Safe & hygienic living ,
- ✓ Sanitation & cleanliness ,
- ✓ Soil related information ,
- ✓ Tank water management ,
- ✓ Tourism development avenues ,
- ✓ Wage labor issues ,
- ✓ Water management ,
- ✓ Women welfare schemes ,

**Rural library & rural youth** -Rural libraries can help rural population through internet connectivity as technology is spreading to rural areas as well . Rural Libraries can assist youth in finding good Job & a good career. Employment newspapers, magazines, job searches can help rural youth to gain access to good employment. ( Sreedhara & Rajashekhara -Rural Development Strategies & Processes 2014).

**Rural library & women empowerment** - Rural libraries can help rural women towards empowerment they can find good part time occupation in local packaging industries , eateries , farm feeds , dairying . Women can access to

local micro financing & can become small scale entrepreneurs . Women gain information through newspapers of brochures or hand bills or bill boards about health , food habits , nutrition etc

**Rural library & adolescents** – Rural libraries can help rural adolescent children to know about nutrition, health related issues, schools education , good habits , sanitation , drinking water etc

**Rural library & children** - Rural libraries can help rural children to complete their schools projects , science projects, cultural events competitions ,etc. It enlarges their knowledge bases.

#### **Challenges to rural library**

1. Lack of awareness
2. Lack of good stuffed libraries
3. Lack of basic amenities in rural libraries
4. Lack of committed staff
5. Lack of financial resources
6. Lack of budgetary allocations
7. Lack of local government supervision
8. Lack of devoted users
9. Lack of service providers

Rural libraries mainly serve on newspapers & general books. Rural families cannot afford to daily newspapers , hence the information needs do the rural population can be met with enhancing the support of service providers .

**Rural libraries & Digital inclusion** : as these are the days of digital revolution rural libraries can widen their work through digital inclusion . They can attract rural population through internet connectivity , 24 / 7 wireless net



connection , computer terminals , & technology supported staff.

The rural libraries are beneficial to community through its accessibility , support towards bridging the digital divide , supports rural people to combat social isolation ,hence the community as a whole is supported through rural library. As an implement of information dissemination rural library can play a stellar role in community empowerment. Poked to allow build & strengthen inter personal & intra personal relationships in a community, if the potential inequity of access & such other barriers are removed. Legislative interventions through subsidies, internet provision, infrastructure building etc are needed to strengthen rural libraries.

**Need for policy interventions-** there is an urgent need for policy intervention with regard to

1. Considering Electricity supply issues
2. Considering Equipment costs
3. Considering Input costs
4. Considering Management of library maintenance network
5. Considering Potential funding sources
6. Considering Prospective patronage
7. Considering Technological innovations
8. Considering Telecommunication services
9. Considering lessening geographical isolation

**Promotional staffing-** Rural libraries lack staff & there is a complete absence of committed staff . People hate librarians who are lethargic, hostile & short

tempered. Rural librarians should attract local population through commitment , devotion & sincerity. But most of the rural libraries have no adequate staff or trained staff.

**Catering to information needs :** Information needs of the rural people relates to a farm occupation, the level of socio-economic development through farm involvement , local agro-ecological conditions , Farm size , soil type , rain fall , moisture content , seed information pest control , rain water harvesting , tank irrigation , building of tank bands, seasonal vegetables , seasonal fruits , seasonal flowers, health management of cattle , technological support to farming , soil erosion, testing soil fertility , etc. If a rural library can cater to providing these information needs, then rural population can support their occupational needs.

**Conclusion –** Thus rural libraries can bring about a change which the government anticipates. A rural library can become an important tool in making rural empowerment a reality. Rural libraries can breed good reading habits it helps in building critical awareness it helps to build a right perspective inter personal relationships are built which enables them to attend to challenges of rural life. Barriers to rural population's lack of access to education & knowledge sharing have to be overcome through government interventions. The fact that rural libraries can support the knowledge bases by expanding the empowerment realization levels needs a thoughtful consideration. Thus rural libraries can play a key role in supporting community sustainability.

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## Enhancing learning student capabilities through study tours – new approaches

Basavaraju M.R. Assistant Professor & H.O.D. Department Of History, Government First Grade College, Malavalli, Mandya District-571430 Karnataka

**Abstract:** Traveling always is helpful to students because traveling helps their learning Ancient Indian education system always believed in making learning joyful through traveling. These days classrooms teaching has become more academic & students do not get opportunities to travel. Students are confined to classrooms. The subjects which are to be taught externally are inside the classrooms are always which is a dangerous .The learning experiences of students become dull & even the teachers become sober because some subjects need to be taught with practice & field work This paper analyses the advantage of traveling & considers programs which can make students learn things practically .

**Key words:** traveling, students' aptitudes, enhancing learning capabilities,

**Introduction:** travelling is a beneficial learning activity cum recreational activity. It provides hands on experience knowing new culture, knowing new experience , spending time with family , friends , learning more about curriculum, students can learn more about their text based lessons through traveling This travelling would be visiting a local bank , archeology office , museum , post office , blind school Industry, factory etc

**Study tour concept-** A study tour is a travel experience with specific learning

goals. The learning goals of each study tour vary, but are always spelled out in the course syllabus that is distributed to each learner. Study tours emphasize experiential learning and offer both group and self-directed activities that enable learners to explore new territories, cultures, and people.

Diagram -1 shows the influence of study tour towards group activity , practical learning , experimental learning , exploring new things , individual leadership & self-directed activities

Diagram -1

