



Making India literate - promotion of literacy movement through library

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Abstract : *Libraries have been a medium of literacy link since ages. Libraries performs the work of creating awareness about current events, socio-political developments, digital technological innovations etc are made known through library. Libraries always have been a part of the community. They are important because there are several dimensions to the functions of a library. But futuristic information needs are growing beyond current rate, hence libraries can become a good mode of interrelating community welfare projects & societal inclusiveness. The scheduled prioritizing of libraries has to be taken up by all stake holders alike. This paper focuses on how a library can become a vision of future in a globalized situation .*

Key words : *Library, digital literacy, awareness, role of community stakeholders ,role of government*

Introduction : Library is a storehouse of immense potential & Library can embrace the whole society towards an affirmative progression. People can be made to learn to detach their mind from distractions specially youth . As student life has been full of distortions & students always disorient themselves from proper learning libraries can support their learning . (Ravindra Sharma – Libraries In The 21st Century Vol. 2 An International Perspective 2005). Majority of the students indulge in inappropriate & indecent activities soon after they enter college campus. Higher education institutions can orient these urban students towards ethical learning & living. Higher education institutions can make students to focus their full strength towards learning. Education should

make students to unfold tremendous power & unlock mysteries of universe. Libraries can be a powerful tool in community empowerment & there have been several positive impact on community empowerment .These days education has become a commodity with corporate thoughts of profits & loss. The institutions are forging ahead with high quality smart classrooms excellent equipments but they forget to make students aware of self their strengths & weaknesses their self identity & self motivation these changes should be brought about in education which always should make students should use their intellectual qualities for proper use. Education is a manifestation of all good qualities.



There are several types of libraries such as

- ✓ Academic Libraries,
- ✓ Archives Libraries ,
- ✓ Art Libraries ,
- ✓ Central techno Libraries ,
- ✓ Community Libraries,
- ✓ Digital libraries etc.
- ✓ Fine art Libraries,
- ✓ Historical Libraries ,
- ✓ Mobile Libraries,
- ✓ Museum Libraries ,
- ✓ Public Libraries,
- ✓ Rural Libraries,
- ✓ Science Libraries ,
- ✓ Urban Libraries,

Libraries perform a variety of tasks

1. Providing information
2. Catering to the knowledge needs of the community
3. Providing literacy support to public
4. Creating awareness

Libraries always have been a part of the community. They are important because there are several dimensions to the functions of a library. Academic libraries provide information to all the stake holders of the academic institution such as school libraries, college libraries, higher education Institutional libraries etc.(Ravindra Sharma –

Libraries In The 21st Century Vol. 2
An International Perspective 2005)

Libraries cater to the information needs of the public as they provide

1. Newspaper support
2. Periodicals
3. Magazines
4. Journals

Libraries always have supported the literacy programs of the government . Both rural & urban population need a variety of information .

Libraries in a community

Libraries have been instrumental in awakening the community towards literacy awareness. Rural libraries have been very supportive to rural public in creating an awareness about health, social welfare measures of the government, NGO sponsored development campaigns, bank policies etc. Rural libraries have been very significant in creating a receptiveness about governmental welfare programmes. Several of the community welfare projects designed for rural population is made known through heavy campaigning supported by rural libraries.

Library for women : there are several welfare programs for empowerment of women . Several libraries stand for public but very few library operate for women members.

1. Women can have awareness about women empowerment programs



2. Women can become aware of the health care issues
3. Women can know about nutrition related health news through articles in newspapers / journals
4. Women can educate their children & support them with their class studies / homework / project work .assignments /
5. Women can build an image of self confidence & self identity if they be

Libraries as a community mentor

1. Libraries perform the duty of creating an awareness of community needs.
2. Libraries perform the obligation of making the community aware of the nutrition needs , health care needs , education needs , information needs , societal needs , monetary needs etc .
3. Libraries can make the policy makers to concentrate on providing educational benefits to community, only when community is educated, it can awake towards progression.
4. Governmental programs on literacy adult literacy, women literacy & community literacy becomes a reality only when community stake holders engage in utilizing the learning resources provided through libraries .
5. Each person's information needs are different hence, multiplicity of

information is needed. Even though flex banners, hoardings, bill boards, pamphlets, hand bills are used to provide information. Libraries reach the mass of population directly.

6. Libraries perform the duty of communicating the individuals through interpersonal linkages. Libraries make the community understand the needs of spreading information to one another.
7. Library usages have to be spread among community, This is the responsibility of the community stake holders. All stake holders need to make the community members use library facilities for community progression.
8. Instead of just listening to Radio programs TV programs, community broad casting stations , Libraries can make the community understand the essence of current events with direct linkages with books / magazines.
9. These days mobile Libraries are made available. These libraries prioritize book reading facility through visiting each village location, each urban extension, and each suburban area with support reading facility.
10. Book reading can rouse interest about creativity Imagining things gives support for resourcefulness. Book reading among women can help them to support their



children's education. They can help them with good home work sessions or project work sessions. This gives opportunity for women towards self confidence & self image building. Women can support themselves with banking dealings, fiscal transactions, marketing connections, market movements, commercial trends etc.

11. Young children can benefit from libraries throughout their schooling period. Books serve as supportive learning resources. This helps children to fascinate towards reading habits, as they can become attracted to extra reading. This assists them in memorizing, understanding & creative scholarship.

Libraries support towards building critical awareness. They avoid alienate attitudes of people . It helps them to intermingle & link to from society. A library helps to build a healthy & dynamic frame of mind which enables them to meet the challenges of life. Book reading habits is helpful to all levels of population.

Libraries face certain challenges

1. Libraries suffer from infrastructural insufficiency. Most of the libraries do not have own building , even though they have own buildings they are tiny , &
2. The lack of 24 X 7 electricity supply to libraries is the primary defects of the libraries. The telephonic links, the trans- linear supply of energy, technical imports etc are lacking in the libraries.
3. They also suffer from lack of technical staff. The staff who can handle computers, e - library mechanisms, internet browsing etc have to be handled by the technically trained personnel. This lacuna deters people from visiting library. People wish to visit library for information needs but libraries fail to provide upgraded technical support.
4. Libraries often fail to reach out to community needs. As people in a community need information about banking facilities, health care information , online support for governmental programs etc. (Chethan Sharma-Use and Impact of E-Resources A Case Study2013)
5. Libraries are always suffering from technical up-gradation. As this is the era of globalization, people get information about a variety of things directly through internet access on their mobile phones. But libraries lack technical support. They suffer from providing internet access to readers. This lack of technical access makes people to deviate towards mobile phones & smart phones
6. The lack of technical up gradation always has deterred them from becoming attractive to readers of library.



7. Government funding to public libraries is also not prioritized. Government often neglects to fund community libraries / rural libraries.
8. The shortage of recent books, the scarcity of newer magazine subscriptions, deficiency of good regional language books are some of the defects which are to be resurrected on priority.

Conclusion: Thus libraries are a great medium of interrelating educational resources with learning resources & information needs. Futuristic information needs are growing beyond currents rate, hence libraries can become a good mode of interrelating community welfare projects & societal inclusiveness. The scheduled prioritizing of libraries has to be taken up by all stake holders alike. A library can become a vision of future as globalization has forayed to multitude of opening in education & career.

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