

A REVIEW OF INFORMATION, GUIDANCE ABOUT LIBRARY USAGE AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN-A PLACE FOR LEARNING: REVIEW ARTICLE

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ABSTRACT

Education is most important aspect in every child life and a key factor for development. The school is a first place to obtain knowledge and plays an important role in building up a love for reading books and others resources. The school library is integral to this educational process and is the place where complete knowledge is assembled and this knowledge is disseminated to students by providing an environment to achieve the same. A good study habit is very important for good academic performance and every parent and teacher would desire their children to become a lifelong readers. That's why it is very critical to make young kids to read books, which plays a pivotal role in active learning and make them to acquire innate love of reading. Unfortunately, Reading habit has lost importance as both the young and the old are glued to the television and other activities. Library should function as the 'hub' of all activities in the school, where students enter the library joyfully to spend some of their precious time going through books in a peaceful, pleasing and inviting atmosphere. School library is very important element in education development of any school and should become "learning resource centers" and librarian should become "learning resource center managers".

KEYWORDS: Library, Students, Learning, Books.

Education is most important aspect in every children life and is a key factor for development. Every country should be considering revamping the education system and go in parallel with the advanced education system which will contribute for the progress of nation (Malhan et al 1989).

The Government of India lays stress on education for all. This can be achieved by schools providing a quality education to all students and make them learners. The school is a first place to obtain knowledge and plays an important role in building up a love for reading books and others resources. The school library is integral to this educational process and is the place where complete knowledge is assembled and this knowledge is disseminated to students by providing an environment to achieve the same (. Preeti Mahajan 2010).

The human need for information is unlimited. People seek information from different sources and formats for undertaking a variety of jobs and tasks. They use the information for decision making, discovering new phenomena, developing new techniques and technologies, and improving existing knowledge and theories. Information also plays a vital role in shaping human thinking and character building, communication, and the teaching process as they grow.

A good study habit is very important for good academic performance and such every parent and teacher

would desire their children to be avid and excited readers rather than passive learners, where the student receives information from teacher in the form of lectures.

Library, more than any other place, provides ideal environment and vital information resources for students to develop and sustain good study habits necessary for excellent performance in academic work. Encouraged at the right age, the children are sure to develop a love for books. "Catch 'em Young" is therefore should be the motto of the school libraries. According to IFLA/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 (unesco.org/webworld).

The studies have shown that, a quarter of all adults cannot read, and the vast majority of illiterate adults live in developing countries (UNESCO, 2011). As a result of striking deficits like these, development policy has increasingly focused on improving the quality of education. Recently, attention has focused on reading instruction, and in particular, on the availability of age-appropriate reading material in primary schools (All Children Reading 2013).

Over the past thirty years, extensive evidence has been built up by researchers worldwide indicating that good school library programmes are linked to higher academic achievement in students. Yet in spite this, it is evident that libraries are often viewed as non-essential, optional, or even

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luxury expenditures for schools (Lonsdale, M 2003). Many a time's students are not motivated to use the library as resource centre.

To overcome this barrier the school librarians should have clear understanding of benefits and they should actively involve in appraising the benefits of library to students.

A study has stated that such an understanding is necessary to demonstrate the value of the school library, and for gaining appropriate recognition for its work (Williams, D & Wavell, C 2001).

The today's library is an intellectual powerhouse where all information is stored in proper manner and user should get effective knowledge by having proper access. Hence, the importance of libraries in academic institutions is considerable and they are often viewed as a nucleus of academic activity (Majid, Shaheen and Abdoulaye, kaba 2000). To ensure student get lifelong education libraries plays an important and decisive role. So they should be made available at all places especially in education section.

What are the School Library Objectives?

It should be emphasized that School Library is essential to every long-term strategy for Literacy, Formal Education, Information Provision and Economic, Social and Cultural Development. Thus it must be supported by the local, state and national governments of the day.

The librarian plays an important role in planning and development of school libraries according to objectives of school. These objectives mostly pertain to the provision of reading material, guidance in reading, reference service, instructions in the use of library catalogue and reading materials, personal and social guidance to students etc.

The Major Objectives of a School Library Should be:

- Effectively participation in the teaching-learning programme of the school.
- Provide the students with appropriate library materials both printed as well as audio visual and services for the overall growth and development of the personality of the students as an individual.
- Develop reading ability and interest.
- Assist the students to become regular users of library.

- Offer opportunities for experiences in creating and using information for knowledge and understanding.
- Support all students in learning and practicing skills for evaluating and using information, regardless of form, format or medium, including sensitivity to the modes of communication within the community.
- Stimulate and guide each student in the selection and use of books and other reading materials.
- Work out a programme in consultation with teachers for the effective use of all types of library materials.

Objectives of the School Librarians are to:

- Provide the students equal access to all library resources by providing complete information.
- Update the library according to modern changes with better quality.
- Always keep information about student's familiar and popular books, magazines.
- Arrange for reading sessions of popular books and magazines and talks by the reputed persons.
- Make the library inviting and pleasing by providing proper environment.
- Involve teachers and students in making the collection up-to-date.
- Keep student friendly library rules with school rules and regulations.

HOW TO PROMOTE READING HABIT

Alex G 2011 described a habit which includes good study habit as something that is done on scheduled, regular and planned basis that is not relegated to a second place or optional place in one's life. It was further stated that a habit is what is simply done, no reservation, no excuses and no exceptions. Thus, the habit formed can be improved upon by constant practice; and it is very hard to give up a habit once is formed. This also holds good for reading books and other aspects such as problem solving, team effort.

Moghadam and Cheraghia 2009 submitted that academic performance is affected by a lot of factors; study habits is one of them. Williamson 2010 showed that many students suffer low grade in schools because of bad study habits. Also, students' failure to use the school library and its' resources to expand their study habits has a negative effect on their academic performance. Dent 2006 reported a

study conducted by Lance 2000 to show that students in middle school with libraries had 18 percent higher achievement test scores than their counterparts without a library.

In schools it is very critical to make young kids to read books, which plays a pivotal role in active learning and make them to acquire innate love of reading.

Unfortunately, Reading habit has lost importance as both the young and the old are attached to the TV more than books. As far as the educational institutions are concerned, coaching students for the examinations seems to be the be-all and end-all of our education system.

Library should function as the 'hub' of all activities in the school, where students come joyfully to spend some of their precious time going through books in a peaceful, pleasing and inviting atmosphere. The information obtained by students will be used for decision making, discovering or developing new concepts and improving their existing knowledge.

How to Overcome This Situation

The information source present in library should be in the form of Books, research articles, magazines, audio/video plays and Xerox so that the Library develops into a real Learning Resource Centre where both students and teachers can explore new paths of learning. This also helps learning process to occur in different type of learners in the schools.

One of the most important tasks of the School Library is to inculcate reading habits among the young generation. Books are the mute entities; their application does not come automatically. It always requires some human agency that can induce the value of books among the students. In the school environment this human agency is Librarian and Teacher.

There should be activity which will make students to interact with other in solving an issue/problem, which makes them to work as team rather than as individuals. It's absolutely necessary on the part of Librarian's/Teacher's to encourage reading and Library use positively by students. The student needs to be taught about the variety of books available in the Library. How to select books, how to read them, how to take notes, how to relate information collected from various books, maintenance & handling of books, etc.

of course, it includes, the use of Card Catalogue, Loan Procedures, Knowledge of books, Audio Visual materials, Computer assisted facilities, Use of bibliography, reference books etc. Infact, it would be more desirable to organize a Library project or unit to acquaint the students with the Library.

The studies have shown that various factors affect the use of library resources by the student and one of them is self-efficacy (Waldman, Micheal 2003) One of the study emphasized that students who never visited the library or new students may not be exposed to library resources and doesn't know how to use (IGNOU, 2002).

Recently an increasing demand for greater accountability in higher education has created a demand for the academic library to show objectively how well it is doing and the extent to which student benefit from library services (Morgan, Steve 2000). Hence, librarian plays an important role especially when new students join the schools. They can conduct orientation class to students and make them aware of resources available and how to use them. This makes students to understand the necessity of library in their education.

THE TEACHERS CAN MAKE STUDENTS TO USE LIBRARY BY

- Telling students of books that might be of their interest.
- Asking students to go to the Library as the need for reference material arises.
- Making assignments requiring the students to use Library resources.
- Distributing suggested readings through digitalized materials.
- Classroom reference material discussions like book talk, group discussion etc.

FEW WAYS THE STUDENTS ARE MADE RESPONSIBLE TO VISIT LIBRARY (cbse.nic.in/LIBRARY)

Class Room Libraries

Library should be the focal center of learning in school, it needs to reach out to classroom also. Classroom Libraries consisting of select fiction books, non-fiction, Dictionaries, atlases, globes and maps and reference material should find a place in every classroom under the

direct control and supervision of the Class Teacher and a student Librarians of the class.

Library Programmes & Projects

There are many programmes a librarian can introduce with the help of teachers and motivate students to read. Preparation of 'wall magazines', 'wall newspaper' or 'class magazines' containing students writings in prose and poetry, their cartoonsand illustrations, mathematical puzzles, science quizzes and amusing anecdotes and jokes, all stimulate interest and help to develop creative thought and expression right from earliest years.

Book Seminar

A programme which can be very stimulating for the older students is a 'book seminar', when the students select and read a chosen book and then have a Round Table Discussion on it, led by acknowledgeable moderator. Students can encourage giving short talk on the topic after reading the books.

Holiday Project Work

The students were asked to prepare some interesting models, charts and projects on subjects of their choice, using material from the books, it is amazing how much creative work is produced - working models made out of scrap material, colourful charts and albums containing exciting new information on the latest technological developments taking place in different countries of the world.

Book Fairs

Since the material collected by students for their projects is obtained from books, this can be a good time to arrange a 'Book Fair' in the school inviting local publishers and booksellers to put up stalls for display and sale of their books.

Book Week

During the 'Book Week' a whole variety of programmes can take place catering to the interests of each age group of students. The programmes may include talks and lectures, discussions, book reviews, book exhibitions, visits to local libraries, screening of films and so on.

Book Donation Drive

As a part of 'Book Week', the schools may organize 'Book Donation Drive' and the students may be encouraged to share their book with others and donate good books of their own to the library.

Young Readers Clubs

Another useful suggestion for promoting an interest in books and reading is to establish a 'Readers Club', an idea put forward by the National Book Trust during the National Book Week in 1986. Inspite of declining habit of reading, there are still children in every school and in every class who are voracious readers and who naturally gravitate towards books, and, if there is one, to the Library.

Library use and reading habits can also be considerably augmented by performing other activities like talks, stories sessions, display, homework facilities, outside library visits, reading programmes, lectures & symposiums, play reading groups, quizzes, Library Clubs, Brain Trusts, Dramatic shows,(where space & staff permit), Book Exhibitions and exhibitions of children art and handicraft in the Library.

Advantages of Library to Students

1. Good academic performance.
2. Successful curriculum or learning outcomes, including information literacy.
3. Positive attitudes towards learning

SCHOOL LIBRARIES ARE TRUE PLACES OF OPPORTUNITY WHEN (16)

- All students can strive for and achieve success.
- Quality collections are provided, in print and online, which supports the curriculum and address a wide variety of learning needs.
- Students can develop a love of reading and literatures.
- Library specialists help students explore the world around them through print and electronic media.
- Students can work individually or in small groups on research and collaborative projects.

IMPACT ON STUDENT LEARNING

- Student will learn all the objectives of the curriculum and will achieve the school mission in terms of success.
- Manage information by providing intellectual and physical access to information in print, media, and online resources.
- Actively collaborates with teachers to meet the intellectual needs.

- Assist teachers and students to search out their information needs, critically evaluate the materials they locate, and use technological means to synthesize their findings into new knowledge.
- Promote reading advocacy by matching students to books in all formats.
- Teach information skills and how to use it.
- Organize, manage, and maintain a collection of valuable resources
- Provide resources and activities for students that are meaningful now and in the future
- Share the findings of reading research with teachers
- Promote resources and activities that spark student interest in reading, learning, and achievement through the school years
- Maintain a supportive and nurturing environment in the library and network environment to increase student satisfaction and achievement.

ROLE OF SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

- Collaborate with teachers in the integration of information skills in the curriculum.
- Provide access to a comprehensive range of learning materials in different formats for borrowing.
- Promote the effective use of the library learning resources by students and teachers.
- Promote and foster the enjoyment of reading from the earliest age and cultivate in students the habit of lifelong reading.
- Organize all learning and teaching materials within school to facilitate their accessibility, location and use.
- Remain aware of new learning resources; maintain contact with publishers and booksellers.
- Liaise with outside agencies and information networks and encourage their use by the school community and thereby extend the range of resources available in the school library.
- Attend professional conferences, seminars, workshops etc and communicate/share the developments in the profession with junior colleagues in the school library.
- Advise staff members in the selection of appropriate reading materials for enhancing their work skills.

CONCLUSION

The students who receive education in classroom are a glimpse of knowledge and libraries should provide

them resources to understand and effectively comprehend the subject.

School library is very important element in education development of any school and should become “learning resource centers” and librarian should become “learning resource center managers”.

Also Libraries should aim to make all the users aware of the resources information and services, available with proper guidance from the librarians.

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