



THE ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN EDUCATION AND HUMAN'S LIFE

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ABSTRACT

This article provides information on the role of libraries in people's lives, their benefits, their place in the education system and their continuous connection with society.

KEYWORDS

Academic libraries, research, library network, education.

INTRODUCTION

In comparison to primary and secondary education, the role of library in higher education is much more important since library is considered a prime requirement in university education. The entire academic and research process is fully dependent on library network. To facilitate any educational programmes successfully, library proves the essential

part. Academic library is the vital component which develops the teaching-learning and research activity. It serves as a key factor to accomplish the aims and objectives of the higher education. The system of education has been changing rapidly in modern world. Due to the impact of tremendous advancement in computer and communication technologies, the

perception, approaches and techniques of teaching and learning has also been altered gradually. Hence, according to the need of timely change, the entire system of education as well as academic libraries have to keep pace to fulfill the standards of quality education and achieve the projected goals. The modification in the academic world is considered essential to carry out further development of the country. With the advancement of digital technologies, the role of library and librarian in higher education has been widely expanded since a variety of challenges have emerged. The University Education Commission established in 1948-49 under the chairmanship of an eminent academician and president of India clearly mentioned the importance of library in educational and research field: “ The library is the heart of all the University work: directly so, as regards its research work, which derives its life from research work . The aims and objectives of an academic library are:

- To provide the facilities for advanced study and research work.
- To encourage the qualitative academic environment of teaching and research.
- To provide proper guidance and training in order to prepare the students for master and doctorate degree.
- To improve the quality of education at various level.
- To enhance the research output by faculty through useful information resources.
- To cooperate with other institutions with respect of information resources. Library offers the resources and encourages the thinking process, creativity, inquisitiveness and makes the learning more fruitful. The function of library is to provide textbooks, references, periodicals, research conducted till date on various subjects to students, teachers and researchers. The thirst-area in

research field is emphasized and requisite instructional material is also provided to define the concepts more logically. Education can be defined as the process of acquiring knowledge or habit through instruction or study. Education is the process of bringing desirable change in the behaviour of human beings. The behavioural changes must be directed towards a desirable end. There should also be changed in Knowledge, attitude, skills and understanding. With the growing need of society, education has converted to many shapes such as adult, child, Physical, health, Technical education and so on. The common types of Education are worth mentioned below those are Formal Education, Non formal education and Informal Education. Formal Education is that type of education in which the learner is involved in institution activities which based on hierarchal structured grading, uniform subjects and required fulltime and leads to some Certificates, Degree or Diploma etc.

Library and Education. Briefly speaking education aims at (i) the imparting of knowledge and skills; (ii) the inculcation of values; and (iii) the imparting of vocational skills.

There is both formal and non-formal education. Formal education is the one that an individual attains by enrolling himself in an educational institution like a school or a college or a university and through constant teacher-student contacts. In non-formal education there is no such institutional base for education; you educate yourself through courses offered by distance education mode, with the help of either other methods of learning or through self-study.

Formal Education. Every institution of formal education, be it a school, a college or a university, should have a library attached to it. It should have a



collection of books relevant to its courses of study. Students should be encouraged to read books and imbibe the knowledge contained in them. At the earlier stages of education like the school, this should be done to supplement classroom teaching. At later stages, particularly in colleges and universities, the focal point of learning should gradually shift from the classroom to the library. It is through the extensive reading of a variety of books bearing on a subject that a student will be able to acquire in-depth knowledge of the subject. By being able to analyze and compare different viewpoints as expounded in different books, a student will be able to develop his capacity for analytical and critical thinking. This will enable him to formulate independent viewpoints and opinions. The role of the library in fostering the intellectual development of students cannot be over-emphasized.

Apart from school, college and university libraries, the public libraries to have a responsibility to support formal education. For this purpose, the public library must stock books and other material of an academic nature suitable for students and teachers of educational institutions in its area and make the books, etc., available to them. It must be remembered in this context that a public library should serve everyone in its community and it should not ignore the requirements of teachers and students who form part of the community.

Non-Formal Education. In non-formal education where the help of the teacher is minimal, it is the library that is the main resource. Students here have, by and large, to acquire knowledge through self-study. Libraries of formal educational institutions as well as public libraries have a significant role to play in this respect: The former should throw open their facilities to students of non-formal education in such a manner that the interests of their primary clientele are not

adversely affected. Universities, as the bodies that lay down academic standards and conduct examinations in the field of higher education; have a special responsibility in this regard. They should try to make their library services reach as wide a clientele as possible including students of non-formal education. One way to make this possible is to establish branch libraries of the main university library at different places within its jurisdiction and making them accessible to the entire academic community in the area including students of non-formal education. But the main responsibility of supporting non-formal education rests with the public library system. Everyone should have access as a matter of right to the public library. A public library should try to discharge this responsibility by acquiring books and journals suited to the needs of the students of non-formal education in its area. The development of a sound public library system is an essential pre-requisite for the successful implementation of all non-formal educational programmes.

If the library needs of the students of non-formal education are not met by academic and public libraries, the result would be that the students would take to cheap guide books. The inevitable consequence of this substitute will be a steep fall in the standards of education.

Education of Illiterates. If one is an illiterate person, do you think that he/she is unable to get the benefits of education? Not at all. Literacy is only a means of education, not education -itself. It is, no doubt, the most important means, and not having it is a serious handicap. But we have today many other effective means that modern technology has brought into existence. The audio-visual media, especially the video tape, have made it possible for education to be brought to your doorstep. It is a special responsibility

of the public library to work for the education of the illiterate people in its community through. such media: It should also organise learning clubs and other programmes of oral communication for educating its illiterate clientele.

Role of Library in Research. Supporting research is yet another important role of the library. Access to existing knowledge and information is essential for research. The knowledge that is newly created is primarily communicated through journals, research reports and other similar publications: Every library attached to an institution engaged in research should have a strong collection of such publications to support research programmes. The libraries attached to universities, research organisations and research and development wings of industrial establishments play the key role in this respect. However, no library is without a research function in some form. Even public libraries have a research role especially in the social sciences and humanities.

Role of Library in Cultural Activities. The first cultural role of the library is that it preserves the cultural heritage of the human race as represented by the books and other documents it holds. It has also a cultural role in two other senses. It should make available books which would bring to expression the creative talent- of individuals and develop their faculties for aesthetic appreciation. It should also organise cultural programmes like music concerts, dances, dramas, painting competitions for children, exhibition of paintings, etc. and thus enrich the cultural life of the community. These programmes primarily fall in the domain of public libraries.

Role of Library in Disseminating Information. Libraries, through their books, are actually repositories of information and knowledge. Information is indispensable for any human activity aiming at social

progress. The researcher, the teacher, the student, the administrator, the industrial and business manager, the artisan, the entrepreneur, the farmer, the worker in the factory and the field, all need the information to equip, themselves better for the fruitful pursuit of their respective vocations. The basic information role of the library is to collect material containing information through appropriate methods.

It is primarily in this sense that a library is described as an information centre. But a library also has an information role in the sense of providing information relating to the socio-economic needs of the people. A library can stock career information books and help those who are on – the lookout for a career in a particular field. Similarly, well-produced “how-to-do-it” type of books would be helpful in providing guidance to youngsters wanting to start some enterprise. In short, a library should be so equipped and organised that it will be able to serve its community with all types of information that may be in actual or potential demand.

Role of the Library in Religious and Spiritual Institutions. Books can be broadly divided into three categories – books of information, books of recreation and books of inspiration. Spiritual and religious books, books that propound ideological themes and other books of permanent value which may be described as classics are books of inspiration. They meet the spiritual, religious and ideological needs of their readers. Every library should have a representative collection of books of this type to inspire people to high ideals in life and inculcate values in them. To serve as a vehicle of social progress, the library plays a vital role :

- To assemble, organize, preserve, socialize, and serve all expressed thought embodied as manuscripts, books, periodicals, their constituents

documents, however minute, and every other similar document produced as a means for communication; and by this means;

- To help in the transmission of knowledge of the earlier generations to the later ones; and by this mean;
- To help in cumulation and further building up of knowledge from generation to generation; and in a similar way;
- To help in the contemporary development of knowledge, by the unintended and purposeless repetition of effort and the consequent wastage in the research potential of humanity; and further
- To conserve the research time of humanity by the separation of literature search from positive search; and also
- To help in the perpetual self-education of one and all; and further
- To collect together all available recorded information particularly in the form of reference books, and to socialize and serve freely all such information to each according to his needs at the moment; and by all such mean
- To increase the economic resources of humanity to the extent necessary to maintain the ever-increasing population, in comfort and free from want of any kind; and also

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