

A STUDY INTO THE EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF LIBRARY IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS OF BANGOMUNDA BLOCK

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Abstract

The library of school is an essential part of school education. It is the place where most of the school community resorts to develop their knowledge. The basic elements of school library are infrastructure, resources and services and budget is essential to fulfill all this. Thus, for the development of a school library, specific standard is essential for uniformity at regional, local and national level. The school libraries are significant to the development of literacy, information literacy, teaching, learning as well as socio culture character of the individual. The school library works with teachers, students, administrators also parents to achieve the mission of the school; proclaiming the concept that intellectual freedom and access to information are necessary to effective and responsible citizenship and participation in democracy. The objective of the study is (i) To study the availability and status of library in schools, (ii) To study the effective use of library and (iii) To find out opinion of teachers and Headmasters for the better functioning of library. Data were collected from the Headmasters and Assistant Teacher, In-charge of Library through Checklist and Opinionnaire which was analysed both quantitatively and qualitatively. The results and discussions revealed that the existing library facilities in Bangomunda Block are far from being satisfactory.

Key Words: *Library, NEP 2020, Elementary Schools, Effective Utilization*

INTRODUCTION

Books are the source of knowledge even in the digital age. There is no substitute of books. It is one of the important aspects of education. Library in school is the structure where many books are kept to be read to assist the students and teachers. Libraries are meant for giving an extra boost to knowledge. Library is a place all over the world can be explored. School libraries help the student to learn and grasp knowledge. Right to Education 2009 act recommended that there must be a library in each and every primary school. Basing on the recommendation the existence of libraries in primary schools is given much priority in the present context. Ramzan (2005) studied the status of school library development in Pakistan. Walia and Krishnan (2008) conducted a study to know the current status of school libraries at Kurukshetra. Vashishth (2010) in his theoretical paper explained the role of school library in view of recent Right to Education Act passed by the Indian Parliament. Singh and Devi (2014) investigated various aspects of school libraries in Manipur.

According to National Curriculum - 2005, “the school library should be conceptualized as an intellectual space, where teachers, children and member of the community can expect to find the means to deepen their knowledge and imagination”. This opines that the school libraries are knowledge generating centre which act as the hub of all the activities proposed and executed in the school. The environment of school library should be gratifying to encourage an interest in reading among students. Reading provides new visions, new thoughts, new appreciations and new understandings necessary to the development of students into intelligent as well as literate citizens with the character and leadership required for a knowledge society.

The NEP 2020 has emphasized on the “importance of libraries and books by highlighting on various aspects including development of enjoyable and inspirational books in Indian languages, availability and accessibility of books in school/public libraries, strengthening of libraries and building a culture of reading across the country”.

A school library functions all types of media that is automated and uses the internet along with books for gathering information. School libraries have an important role to play for the future development of the educational, social, cultural life and progress of a nation. A well managed and well-equipped library is the foundation of contemporary educational structure. Thus, the present study attempts to find out the current status of primary school libraries in Balangir District.

SCHOOL LIBRARY IN INDIA

Although the University and college libraries have developed to a great extent as a result of the work done by University Grant Commission (UGC) and Information and Library Network Centre (INFLIBNET), the school libraries are unseen a lot in India. According to 5th All India Educational Survey (AIES), only about 40% of the schools have libraries that too in private schools. Furthermore, the situation in rural areas is worse than the urban areas. There is no recruitment of librarian in Govt. Primary and Secondary school in Odisha. Although the Central government has made libraries a priority to help raise the literacy rate, yet these are not receiving the right attention as revealed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) survey 2003.

The school libraries neither have good collection nor sufficient space because of the financial constraints. The situation is worse on government schools. As a result, the school libraries are neither able to inculcate the reading interest among the students nor they help in achieving information literacy. In most of the schools the documents are kept in cabinet under lock and key and are made available to the students on demand only. A traditional card catalogue and DDC (Dewey Decimal Classification) of the documents is generally used in schools. Majority of the school libraries have no computers in the libraries although a good number of them have set up the computer laboratory.

Government school do not have librarian, so the teacher in charge manages the library. Although the number of school library in primary and secondary is growing, yet there are many problems to overcome. Most of the government school in Odisha does not have a separate room for the library. In the current IT scenario, when the school library in developed country are being used as school library media centre with computer resources which enable the students to access a wide variety of information, almost all of the school libraries are far from such a reality in Odisha and other states of India.

NEED OF THE STUDY

Library is a place of learning institution which exists in our schools or society from ancient times; also a place where there is interaction between human being and information takes place and aims to satisfy the information as well social needs. Library plays a significant role for a nation by preserving its cultural heritage.

In present day scenario libraries are gradually neglected due to the negligence of Govt. or teacher or the public. Now-a-days the importance of libraries is gradually reduced due to the use of information technology. With the advent of mobile and technology the importance of libraries has been ignored. It has become a great challenge for the functioning of library due to the incoming of computer and internet. Now all are accessing mobile and internet, and acquiring information and knowledge through this. Gradually interest among the learners to use library is decreasing.

As technology can't ever replace libraries, the place of teacher in students' life, similarly technology can never replace the place of teacher in student's life; similarly technology can never replace libraries also. Library is the storehouse of knowledge. Thus, the book reading habit of a student is very important, because they acquire knowledge through books. Teachers should develop a positive attitude and reading habit among students. Library needs to be a movement among students.

It is high time to develop a library set up in all primary school. E-library concept needs to be prioritized in each school. There is a great need to modernize the traditional library or the existing library of all schools. Soft copy of all materials needs to be available in school libraries so that all teachers and students can access soft copy. Further, popularity of traditional library needs to be enhanced by increasing the reading habit of Learners. Even it is observed that in most of the Govt. schools, there is lack of separate library room, infrastructure or essentials of library and use of library books by less number of students or teachers.

The above reasons are creating problems in proper functioning of library in grassroots level of elementary schools.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are

- To study the availability and status of library in schools.
- To study the effective use of library.
- To find out opinion of teachers and Headmasters for the better functioning of library.

DESIGN OF THE STUDY

Considering the nature of the research, Descriptive Survey Method has been applied in the present study. For the present study, Forty four (44) Headmasters and Forty four (44) Assistant Teachers, In charge of Library were selected as sample through random sampling from Bangomunda Block. The researcher developed one Checklist, one Opinionnaire and one Observation schedule for the present study. The Checklist was meant for the Headmasters. The Opinionnaire was meant for the Headmasters and Assistant Teachers to record their Opinion regarding Improvement of Library function. The observation schedule was meant for the researcher to observe and record the way Library is functioning in the Schools. After collection of relevant information the investigator has applied descriptive statistics and calculated through mean and percentage for the analysis of data and interpretation has been done accordingly.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The results of the study are analyzed and interpreted below.

Information about Library Table-1

Sl. No	Types of Documents	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Text Book		
	1-100	18	41%
	101-200	4	9%
	201-300	3	7%
	301-400	4	9%
2	Reference Book		
	1-100	2	5%
	201-300	4	9%
3	Motivational Book		
	1-100	3	7%
	101-200	11	25%
4	Story Book		
	101-200	15	34%
	201-300	9	20%

	301-400	5	11%
	401-600	7	16%
	601-800	8	18%
5	Novels		
	1-100	33	75%
	101-200	4	9%
6	Biography/Autobiography		
	1-100	40	91%
7	Cartoons		
	1-100	25	57%
	101-200	5	11%
8	Mythological		
	1-100	20	45%
9	Comics		
	1-10	5	11%
10	Map		
	1-10	15	34%
11	Atlas		
	1-10	-	
12	Dictionaries		
	1-10	6	14%
13	Globe		
	1-10	4	9%
14	Periodicals News Paper		
	1-10	-	-
15	Other		
	1-10	-	-

From the above table-1, it was seen that 41% of the school's library had text book in between 1-100, 9% library had text books between 101-200 and 301-400 respectively. Only 7% school library had text book in between 201-300.

With regard to reference book only 5% of the schools had in between 1-100 reference books in their library and 9% libraries had of 101-200 reference books.

Further, 7% and 25% of the school libraries had motivational books between 1-100 and 101-200 respectively.

Regarding availability of story books, 34% of the schools had story books in between 101-200, 20% schools had 201-300 story books, 11% had between 301-400 books in their library. Further 16% and 18% of the school libraries had story books in between 401-600 and 601-800 respectively.

The above table revealed that 75% of the libraries had 1-100 numbers of novels, and only 9% had 101-200 novels in their school library.

It was found that 91% of the libraries had biography and auto biography between 1-100 numbers.

Further, it was seen that 57% of the school libraries had cartoons between 1-100 numbers and 11% had in between 101-200 cartoons.

Regarding Mythological books, 45% of the libraries had mythological books between 1 -100 numbers.

It was found that, only 11% of the schools had Comics between 1-10 numbers in libraries.

Further, 34% of the libraries have Maps in between 1-10 numbers.

The above table revealed that 14% of the schools had Dictionaries between 1-10 and 9% had Globe in between 1-10 in their libraries.

No response found on the availability of Atlas, Periodicals/ News paper and others basic documents needed in a school library.

Technical Process

Table -2

Classification Of Book			
Yes	DDC	-	No
	CC	-	
	VDC	-	
-	Other	-	44 (100%)

The above table-2 revealed that none of the school libraries have specific mode on classification of Books as it is an important part of library to classify books categorically.

Table-3

Library Cataloguing			
Yes	Card Form	-	No
44 (100%)	Register Form	44 (100%)	
	Other	-	

Data presented in the table-3 revealed that all (100%) the schools had Library cataloguing which was maintained in register form.

Table-4 : Technical Process/Gadgets

Computer Available		Internet Available	
Yes	11 (25%)	Yes	11 (25%)
No	33 (75%)	No	33 (75%)

The above table-4 revealed that 25% of the school libraries had both Computer and Internet availability and the rest 75% had non availability of Computer and internet in libraries.

Table-5

Services Provided to Users			
Yes	Circulation	25 (61%)	No
	Book Exhibition	-	
41 (93%)	Story Telling	16 (29%)	3 (7%)
	Project Assistance	-	
	Internet Service	-	
	Audio/Video Tools	-	
	Any Other	-	

Exploring Library services, it was found from the Table-5 that majority (91%) of the schools were providing library services to the users, among them 61% libraries used book circulation and other 29% used Storytelling services provided to users. Only 7% libraries did not provide services like circulation, book exhibition, storytelling etc.

Table-6

Stock Verification			Method of Stock Verification		
Yes	Monthly	-	No	Accession Register	44 (100%)
	Quarterly	-		Self List	-
44 (100%)	Half Yearly	11(25%)	-	Catalogue	-
	Yearly	33 (75%)		Any other	-

Exploring the stock verification, the above table-6 revealed that stock verification of library was done in all (100%) the schools. Among them 25% of the schools were doing stock verification half yearly and the rest 75% were doing stock verification on yearly basis.

Regarding method of stock verification, all (100%) the schools were following accession register for stock maintenance.

Table-7

Services to Students			
Number of Students use Library	890		Mean=20
Number of Books Issued to Students	One	Two	Other
	44 (100%)	-	-
Open Access to Students	Yes		No
	44 (100%)		-
Home Landing Available	44 (100%)		-
Programme Organised	44 (100%)		-
Library period in Time Table	44 (100%)		-
Books Issued for a Period of Time	One Week		44 (100%)
	Less than One Week		-
	More than One Week		-
	Other		-

From the above Table-7, it was seen that an average of 20 (mean) students were using library regularly. Further it was found that; only one book was issued to the students in all (100%) the libraries.

Moreover, it was seen that 100% of the libraries had open access facilities to students in library, also home landing availability in library. All the school libraries organized programmes like story telling in their school, and their libraries had a specific period in time table; also all of libraries issued books to the students for one week.

Table-8

Service to Teacher				
No of Books Issued	One	Two	Other	
	26 (59%)	18 (41%)	-	
Books Issued for a Period of Time	One week	Less than one week	More than one week	Other
	33 (75%)	-	11(25%)	-
Separate reading room available	Yes		No	
	-		44 (100%)	

The above table-8 revealed regarding service to teachers that 59% of the libraries issued one book to teachers and the rest 41% issued of two books.

Further, 75% of the libraries issued books to teachers for a period One week and in 25% of schools books were issued for more than one week.

None of the schools have separate reading room in their schools.

Table-9

Library Services		
	Yes	No
Arrangement of Audio Video Services	11(25%)	33 (75%)
Book Exhibition in the School	11(25%)	33 (75%)
Display Board Service	11(25%)	33 (75%)
Display of New Arrivals	-	44 (100%)
Film shows in School	3 (7%)	41 (93%)
Specific Programme to improve reading habit	30 (68%)	14 (32%)
Seminars, Book Fairs, Book Exhibition	14 (32%)	30 (68%)
Holiday Project Work	30 (68%)	14 (32%)

Regarding Library services, the above table-9 revealed that only 25% of the libraries had arrangement of audio video services, display board service and organised book exhibition in schools.

Further, only 7% of the schools arranged film show in their schools.

It was seen that 68% of the schools organised specific programme to improve reading habit of the students and provided holiday homework to students. Only 32% schools were organising seminars, book fairs and book exhibitions.

ANALYSIS OF DATA RELATING TO LIBRARY INFRASTRUCTURE AND LIBRARY FACILITIES

Library benefit for students

Regarding benefit for students from library, it was found that almost all (98%) the respondents stated that their students get benefitted from library, as students were using library books during library period and also there was in home landing services. As per their opinion, students were also reading others books beyond text books and acquiring additional knowledge.

Library Dictionary

Further, it was found from the opinion of respondents, their school library had many deficiencies like there was no separate library room in almost all the schools. There was also shortage of infrastructure facilities for library in most of the school.

Infrastructure Facilities

It was revealed from the opinion of the respondents that their school had no availability of infrastructure in library. Due to lack of infrastructure facilities, proper services were not provided.

Quality of Books

Regarding Quality of Books available in library almost all the respondents opined that Books quality was satisfactory on good students got benefitted from library as there were good quality of books available revealed from the opinion of respondent.

Quantity of Books

Regarding quantity of Books, some of the respondents opined that there was sufficient books available in there library, where as some stated the quantity of books was on average and not as per the requirement of students.

Govt. Funding for the improvement of Library

It was found from the opinion of the respondents that the Govt. funding to improve the library was not enough. Library but there no such provision facilities for the improvement of library as there was no separate library room also.

Alternative of Effective Functioning of Library

Regarding the alternative of effective functioning of library, most of the respondents opened that for smooth functioning of library of was required a separate library room with sufficient infrastructure and also technical assistance some stated there should be book exhibition in the school for students impose on all books of library .

Effective Functioning of Library

With regard to effective functioning of library some respondents opined that E-library/digital library should be started, there should be availability of computer, projector, etc, so that students would be benefited.

Human Resources Availability and its management

It was found from the opinion of majority of the respondents that the in charge teacher was managing the library. Some respondents opined that due to shortage of staff they faced difficulty to manage the library hour properly.

Regarding Library Improvement

Regarding the improvement of library of the most of the respondents opined that by providing financial assistance as well as separate library room and more infrastructure for the library it could be improved, there should be available of more racks, almirah, table, benches chair for the students.

Library improvement and other related

Further the respondents suggested for the organizing of training for the in charge teacher of library for the smooth functions of library. It was also suggested that there should be appointment of librarian in each school have number of book should be supplied.

ANALYSIS OF DATA OBTAINED THROUGH OBSERVATION SCHEDULE

The researcher visited the sample schools and observed the status of library and its functioning. The findings of all observations were recorded against each issue of the Observation schedule. Qualitative analysis has been done as per the domains in the Observation schedule.

Infrastructure Availability

Library infrastructure includes any physical or technological systems which support the operation of library programs and services like reading areas, study rooms, shelves, seating arrangements, books, journals etc., computer hardware, internet, library management software, digital databases, online catalogues etc. It was observed regarding library infrastructure that all the schools have only books in their library. Further it was seen that, there was no separate library room, reading room, computer, bench and table for students in all the schools.

Room Size

Schools should have a separate room for library for the proper organization and arrangement of books and other equipments necessary in library. It was seen that that there was no separate room available for library in all the schools.

Neatness and Cleanliness of library

Regarding the neatness and cleanliness of library, it was found that the libraries are functioning in office room or classroom in some of the schools and the rooms were not that much neat and clean. Further, it was observed that in spite of shortage of room, some of the schools have maintained its' beauty by keeping the books and other materials of library in a rightful place, and maintained it neat and clean.

Keeping of Books

It was observed that more than 50% of the schools were keeping books in Almirah, some schools were keeping books in shelves and in trunks.

Display of Books

Display of books in school library creates interest among the Pupils for learning and reading. In this regard, it was found that none of the schools had displayed books in their library.

Maintenance of Records

Regarding maintenance of records, it was seen that all the schools had maintained library records in register. Some schools had maintained it categorically, so that it would be easily accessible.

Light, Ventilation and Fan

School building should be built with proper design, so that light and ventilation will come into the classroom, also other rooms. Regarding this, it was found that there was no separate room for library in all the schools and it was functioning in office room or classroom. Some of the classrooms were having proper light and ventilation, also a place for fan. In a few schools, the rooms were not having enough light and ventilation, also no fan, due to electricity problem.

Functional Hour of Library

It was observed that there was a particular period for library, when the library was functioning in all the schools. Further, it was seen that some students and teachers were also taking books from library. There was also home lending service for the students as well as teachers.

Security measures taken to prevent damage to books from earthworm

Regarding security measures taken to prevent damage to books from earthworm, it was observed that some schools (60%) were taking preventive measures and keeping the storage item like Almirah and trunk protected to protect books from earthworm. A few schools were not taking any measures to protect books from earthworm.

Healthy practices followed in the school for effective functioning of the library

Concerning healthy practices followed in the school for effective functioning of the library, none of the schools had any innovative practices, so that students reading habit could be improved.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

To improve the quality of school library in Bangomunda Block, the present study recommends changes at different level. The following suggestions are the resultants of the study to improve the school library.

1. There should be a separate library room in each school.
2. The facilities should be made more attractive with an ideal building with proper lighting and ventilation, furniture and organization of different documents.

3. There should be seminar hall and team work area for students to have discussions as well as for conducting small programmes.
4. The school library should have Computer classroom along with ICT facilities. The study suggested attaching ICT section in school library.
5. The collection of library need to be updated frequently by providing more funds to school library.
6. The traditional way of library services need to be modernized with ICT to attract more users to the library.
7. The study suggested for introduction of classroom library through book pooling method, in which students of each class will donate their personal collection for their classroom library that enables the students to read more books and their free period can be properly utilized.
8. There should be audio video services, display board service and organisation of book exhibition in schools.
9. The schools should have separate reading room for students and staffs.
10. The Govt. should provide sufficient funds for schools to enable them to purchase library materials in print and electronic form.

CONCLUSION

The study focused on the effective utilization of library in Bangomunda block. It examined the status of school library in Bangomunda Block. The study covered the Govt. elementary schools under the school and Mass Education, Govt. of Odisha in Bangomunda Block. The existing library facilities in Bangomunda Block are far from being satisfactory. The essentials like proper physical facilities i.e. separate library room, adequate collections, manpower, students' involvement, proper organization and basic services are lacking and these can be corrected by implementing the above suggestions.

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