

# EFFECTIVE ROLE OF SCHOOL LIBRARY: A LITERATURE REVIEW STUDY

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## **Abstract:**

A school library is not only a storage place for books but it is more than this. Actually, school libraries provide wide range of services to its users and play important roles in inculcating literacy skills in learners. The aim of this paper is to give an overview about the roles of the school library through literature survey. Based on the literature, the researcher is in the view that those community libraries should be established to supplement poor school library services.

**Keywords:** School Libraries, Community Libraries

## **1.0 Effective school library**

The school library is a core part of a school which caters the information needs of every student and staff member. The library integrates together —staff and resources. Each of these plays crucial role in supporting teaching and learning.

An effective school library:

- Improves students intellectual productivity
- Strengthen reading and learning programmes
- welcomes people for gaining intellectual and cultural values from the library
- brings people and information together at a common place
- develops information literate students for ethical participants in society;
- gives students confidence in their ability to solve problems

## **2.0 The role of school libraries in supporting development through access to information**

The school library operates as:

- an information centre that is open and easily accessible to all and providing access to information sources through various modes like print and digital collections;
- a centre of creativity and an learning
- an space where users always learn for creating knowledge
- a technological space where knowledge is being shared with the help of a diverse range of technology tools and softwares.
- a literacy center where best efforts of school community are put to inculcate reading habits among the student and some literacy development programmes are run in all its forms.
- a center for learning to use digital tools appropriately, ethically and safely, and learns to protect personal information.
- a space open for cultural, economic professional and educational events (e.g. events, meetings, exhibits, resources) for the general community.

## **3.0 Key factors of School Library**

Following are some key factors of school library:

### **3.1 School librarian as a key factor of development**

The school librarian is responsible for the school's physical and digital learning space where reading, inquiry, research, thinking, imagination, and creativity are central to teaching and learning. More than fifty years of international research collectively (see, for example, c:

- the size and quality of a school library's teaching and support staff and its collections are the best school predictors of academic achievement;
- students who score higher on standardized tests tend to come from schools with more school library staff and more access to services and resources such as books, periodicals, and online material, regardless of other factors such as economic ones. (see, for example, IASL Research Abstracts, Kachel & Lance, 2013).

### **3.2 Budget**

It has been observed from the literature review that the provision of school libraries is decreasing or school libraries lacking with resources due to lack of budget. decreasing with . A major area of concern is the budget allocated to libraries. Worryingly, the APPG for Libraries Report (2014) shows that 40% of primary schools have reduced their library budgets. The survey by the SLA (2012) reported that there were variations in the budgets of school libraries.

Researcher is in the view that budget is the key factor to give strength the school library. School authority should fix the budget for school library out of total budget so that school library can cater the information needs of the users.

### **3.3 Library staffing**

Staffing is also very important element of school library provision. A survey by the CILIP (Streatfield, Shaper & Rae-Scott, 2010) shows that just over half of libraries in secondary, independent, middle and special schools are run by a professionally qualified librarian (58.7% of responses). The provision of adequate supporting staff is important in achieving goals of library. It is also suggested by the researcher that school library needs other staff besides the librarian for smooth running of the library.

### **3.4 Library stock and provision of technology**

Apart from budgets and staffing in school library, the CILIP (Stratified, Shaper & Rae-Scott, 2010) survey provides interesting insight into secondary, independent, middle and special school library provision in terms of stock and technology. Their results show that there is not a proportionate increase in school library stock to reflect growth in student numbers. The authors were in the view that even though it could be expected that more books would have been added per pupil but it could not be achieved.

### **3.5 Library Advisory Committee**

Most of the schools have a library committee to advise. It will be beneficial if the school has an advisory committee in context of following references: to recommend budget for the library; to formulate policy for the development of resources for reading and other activities; to frame, review and approve library rules;

### **3.6 Library Space**

Sufficient and appropriate space is top requirement of a School Library be it a Primary/Middle level or Secondary/Senior Secondary level.

### **3.7 Collection Development**

It is the most difficult duty of the librarian to select and add to the library of any book because it is the general principle that best reading for largest readers at least cost. Regular collection addition is mandatory for the library

### **3.8 Library Automation**

With the information explosion, it is need of the hour to do automation of library to cater the information needs of the users. It will save the time of user and make the library more accessible in today's environment.

### **3.9 Library Rules**

Researcher has observed from the literature review that Rules and regulation should be kept minimum, but some rules like length of loan, number of books to be issued, ; loss of book etc. should be clearly mentioned in the library for convenient of the users..

### **3.10 Classification**

Books should be properly classified and shelved so that any user do not waste his or her time to search. Any scheme of classification can be adopted to classify the books. Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme is in the trend.

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