

THE VALUE OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN WEST BENGAL AND THEIR CONTEMPORARY SERVICES

Sonia Ghosh*

Biswajit Das**

Abstract

To assist and support the school's instructional endeavours, the library is kept up. It might be useful for students' academic and extracurricular endeavours. There are primary, middle, and secondary levels in the school library. This paper has covered the goals, duties, contemporary services, and significance of secondary school libraries. In the present era, a computer system connected to a network is required for the school library. For kids and instructors to adjust to today's more advanced technology, a contemporary school library and its new services are crucial.

Keywords: School Library, Stock verification, Importance of School Library, Modern Services of School Library.

1. Introduction

The school library is a part of the academic library. The academic library includes the school library. The school library is the library that is a part of the school and aids in completing the school's curriculum and mission. Secondary school libraries meet the academic needs of the students and teachers in learning and teaching as well as their own development, whereas primary school libraries are created to operate and perform the educational programme at that time. The main focus of this discussion has been on secondary school libraries. Middle-class classes 6 to 8 are supported by secondary school libraries, as are secondary classes 9 to 10, and higher secondary classes 11 and 12. The school library helps students form and maintain the habit of reading for pleasure and to learn new things. Using library resources, the school library's services provide chances to gain knowledge and experience. The school library should assist pupils in their academic endeavours. All modern services in the current technological era rely on computers connected to a network. It is essential to offer readers of school libraries computer-based modern services. New technology must be understood by school librarians. By giving them up-to-date information, it provides the chance to update them.

2. Objectives of the school libraries

- Creating a habit of reading additional learning resources for fun, relaxation, and general knowledge as well as using the school library as a resource for their coursework.

*Professional Assistant Library, Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata, West Bengal.

**University Librarian, University of Gour Banga, Malda, West Bengal.

- The development of knowledge-gathering abilities for researching any topic by examining reference books and other materials.
- Giving kids the chance to experience libraries as important learning resources that they can utilise later on in life.
- To know what are the management problems in organisation of school libraries in West Bengal.
- To study the present situation of school libraries in West Bengal especially at Kolkata.
- To know the financial position of these school libraries.
- To study the system of maintenance work and stock verification process.
- To provide proposed solutions for smooth running of the school library.

3. Functions of the school libraries

Creating interest among teachers and students about the library materials and developing learning and reading skills so that a student becomes a good user of learning resources are the other two functions of school libraries. They include acquiring, maintaining, lending, and keeping books and other library resources relevant to the needs and interests of teachers and students. Allowing the teachers to use learning materials to support various programmes at the school and fostering a culture of lifelong learning.

- Choosing, collecting, processing, preserving, and distributing the library's collection;
- offering a current awareness service;
- utilising ICT in the library;
- maintaining a bulletin board;
- creating a new arrivals corner;
- creating and presenting news clippings and bulletins;
- offering staff and students loaner services;
- creating and enforcing library rules;
- creating a budget;
- correcting and verifying stock;
- Reference services, such as contact a librarian for assistance in choosing and locating documents for both staff and students.

4. Study focuses in West Bengal:

Private schools and government schools make up the two categories of schools in West Bengal. There are two types of government schools: completely government and government-aided. The West Bengal government controls and oversees the public schools, while the respective Management Committees and Trustee Boards are in charge of the government-aided schools. At government-aided schools, Assistant teachers are chosen by the School Services Commission. The Public Service Commission appoints the teachers in schools that are totally government-run.

Yet, the position and pay scale for teachers at government and government-aided schools are identical. In contrast, the Public Service Commission appoints librarians in government-run schools, while the School Services Commission does so in government-aided institutions. In both situations, the librarian's standing falls under the non-teaching

group. These institutions are associated with WBCHSE and WBBSE. In addition to this, there are some private schools that are fully managed by Management Boards or Trustee Boards and are under government administration and oversight. These institutions are associated with CISCE or CBSE.

5. Importance of School Library and Role of Librarian

The secondary school library aids in completing the curriculum and mission of the institution. Resources in the school library should support the curriculum, pique students' general interests, and foster their creative growth. High-quality reading material is required in libraries. The school library builds up a solid collection of textbooks and reference materials on a variety of subjects and themes to meet the academic demands of pupils. For smarter students, it subscribes to more complex literature on all disciplines. The library collection should be chosen with consideration for the needs of the pupils and their age. For the students' mental development, the secondary school library should acquire standard children's literature, young adult literature, fiction and nonfiction of various genres, a collection of short stories, picture books, and folk literature. For student amusement and to broaden their understanding, the school library collection should include general books on science, social science, environment, travel guides, games, and sports. A selection of biographies of famous people will be available at the library to help students develop moral character. The school library's reference section offers junior-level encyclopaedias, illustrated dictionaries, reference books on various topics, video and multimedia materials, and computer-based study materials. For entertainment, school libraries subscribe to kid-friendly publications like Anandamela, Shuktara, etc. It is possible to keep both teachers and students up to date on current events thanks to a variety of periodicals and newspapers.

A computer and an internet connection are now very necessary for school libraries. The school's library will purchase a licence for a library management system. As part of a networking system, the school library offers links and portals to a variety of online resources, including e-books, e-journals, e-newspapers, e-audio, and e-video, to better the understanding of its readers.

With their daily activities in the school library, librarians in schools are required to serve as both teachers and guardians of the children. A computer and networking system should be required to offer contemporary services. Installing Koha or another library administration programme on a computer is recommended for web-based systems. To make the texts more appealing to pupils, the librarian gives them various types of images, charts, models, maps, and presentations that are relevant to the writings. He can provide essential teaching resources to library patrons by using the internet to access web pages. Students are informed by the librarian about reliable text and reference books as well as online sources. A librarian demonstrates to students how to use the phone number to obtain papers. He teaches them how to use books from the bookshelf and should educate them on different search strategies so they may find the information they require from internet sources.

Inadequacy of funding: To maintain any library, financial support is absolutely essential. The collection of overdue book fines is a school's primary source of money. However, the revenue obtained from these sources is insufficient to maintain librarians. Even frequently, the school authorities' declines to increase the money collected for library purposes.

Stock Verification: The task of circulation is crucial to library management. Appropriate stacking and shelving techniques are required for the effective circulation of library materials. Another aspect of managerial labour is personally checking the documents in the library or verifying the stock. All of these come from the library's upkeep tasks. The organisation of the library contents, which must be regularly verified physically, is a major component of maintenance work. Stock verification is what this is known as. It is to make sure that all the supplies are properly maintained. It is completed one shelf at a time, one subject at a time, or one section at a time. It assists in revealing the quantity of missing and lost books, as well as providing statistical data for movement of books.

6. Services of School Library

The services of the school library are lending service, information, consultation and reference service, guidance and advice service, awareness service on current events, activities etc. Other routine services like display of jackets of currently acquired books, newspaper clipping service, etc. Librarian can perform various programs such as book exhibition, quiz programs, discussions on recent topics etc. To increase the interest of students towards the library. Special events like Book Weeks, Book Fairs etc. can be held to encourage students to enjoy books. There should be availability of a computer system in a network environment in a school library for providing modern services. Library management software (such as Koha) will be installed on the computer in the school library. The library able to work its activities automatically using the library management software which will be a web-based resource management application which can be accessed from anywhere. Automation is a way of preparing the collection to become sustainable with the technology-based society. There are some activities should be completed for the library automation. Then the lending process would be run automatically. The facilities of online catalogue and library automation system by establishing library management software now have been operating in most of the libraries for providing modern library services. These activities are accessioning each book and journal in the separately accession register, preparing call no. of books and journals to make a database of all library materials or total collection on a library management software. Preparing membership registration, making, barcode and spine label for sticking to the books or documents, creating a common database of library resources of the school. The Librarian will prepare lists of books and journals according to the subject. He will establish an online catalogue system. Students require an internet system for their online examination and online form fill up. Accessing the links and portals of open access, e-books, e-newspaper, free thesis, e-audio, e-video, various free online courses librarian fulfils the requirements of students and teachers.

Digital library services of the school library play a vital role in helping students to assimilate knowledge. If the school Library materials is catalogued into a computer based database and made keyword searchable, pupils can seek information by using a word search in the school library. A digital library deals with organization and access of a large information repository. It can be accessed from anywhere, anytime. Digital library services can also be provided here by creating a database of school library materials on library management software. Digital library services can also be provided by connecting library rules, access times, academic calendars and various useful links, etc. on the web pages of the specific school library. It enables students to check the status or availability their requirements by logging in this portal from the school websites. For the successful implication of digital library, it is essential that Library and Information Science professionals are well trained and possess the knowledge and skills in this respect.

School library may create virtual learning opportunities for students in the modern era. A child's learning extends beyond the school library walls. It is no matter if they are inside or outside of the classroom. A virtual space helps students to promote independent learning from anywhere. Cloud-based application, mobile technologies, online database collections are readily available to many students today.

7. Conclusion

The Students have the chance to advance their moral and intellectual growth by using the school library. It is crucial to the school's success in fulfilling its educational goals. Students are taught by librarians how to find the finest sources and how to evaluate and analyse the data they discover. Using internet resources implies that librarians can assist students in comprehending and assimilating knowledge. The learning centre in the digital age extends beyond books. With a dynamic website connected to the school website, the school library may establish a virtual school library to interest readers and enhance learning. In the best interest of the entire school community, the library should maintain its resources and services.

The school library gives students the opportunity to build their mental and moral development. It plays a very important role and helps the school in achieving the educational objectives. Librarian teaches students how to locate the best resources and how to assess and analyze information they find. Depending on online information suggests librarians have a role to play in helping students understand and assimilate knowledge. In the digital era the learning centre goes beyond books. The school library may create a virtual school library to engage readers and support learning with a dynamic website linked to school's website. The library should keep its resources and services updated in the interest of the entire school community. The LIS students have the chance to advance their moral and intellectual growth by using the school library. It is crucial to the school's success in fulfilling its educational goals. a librarian instructs students in the amount of additional library employees needed will have to be assessed in light of factors such as readership, collection quality, annual additions, services provided, etc. The management of information in libraries and information centres is now impacted by modern technological advancements. In order to effectively use

information, school librarians must be aware of the implications of these changes and develop technological abilities. There are numerous issues affecting schools today, including those concerning the organisational structure, personnel, facilities, and financial situation. Personally affiliated schools in West Bengal with libraries are well-equipped and organised. There aren't always full-time librarians, though Librarians might be teachers or any other qualified individuals. They lack any LIS (Library Information Science) expertise. The basic components for the successful mission of school libraries in West Bengal are the development of a healthy atmosphere for library growth and the endorsement of positive attitudes by the authorities for the appropriate use of librarians.

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