

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF LIBRARY FACILITY IN GOVT. & PUBLIC SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF H.P

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Abstract

A school without a library is like a body without soul. The school library has been regarded as the core, the heart and the hub of the academic life of the school. It is the real intellectual workshop. It should be the centre of the school educational programme. In the words of (H.Wells)" A school without an easily accessible library of at least a thousand volumes is really scarcely a school at all - it is a dispensary without bottles, a kitchen without a pantry. keeping into consideration of the aforesaid importance an attempt has been made to study the library facility in govt. & public senior secondary schools of H.P.in respect of availability and utilization of library facilities, types of books available ,systems adopted for maintenance of library in government and public senior secondary schools of Hamirpur district of H.P

Key Words: Comparative study, Library Facilities, senior secondary schools

School Library is an integral part of the school education. It supplements classroom teaching and is essential for the efficient functioning of every school. A well equipped library helps in encouraging literary and cultural interests in students. But we feel that the position of school libraries in Himachal Pradesh is not very satisfactory. A large number of Senior Secondary schools do not have a library with adequate facilities.

In the words of (Bacon), " Libraries are the shelves where the relics of saints full of virtue and that without delusion and importance are preserved and reposed." Library is much more than a collection of books kept in a room or building. In the worlds of Education Commission (1964-66), " A collection of books, even a collection of good books, does not constitute a library." Library is a collection of the "background material" which can be drawn upon to enrich the work of the curriculum. It is a place where the use of books as sources of information may be thought and practiced.

JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

The present age is called the age of Science & Technology and it is education which enabled man to make progress from stone age to the present modern age. Education has, infact, enabled man to search the bottom of deep oceans, reach the heights of heavenly bodies, send messages to all corners of the world in the shortest duration and watch the events & happenings of the world while sitting in a room. It is through education that man has secured victory over all. Education is a life-long process and it is library service, which makes it a life-long process.

Library is a place where every person, whether he is a child, young or old person can receive education through the study of books. Hence Library is an integral part of the education system. Infact, it is the heart & soul of the school. The students can quench their thirst for knowledge with the help of school library.

As secondary stage is the final stage for majority of children in India because only 6% students opt for higher studies, therefore, opportunities should be provided to widen their views on life, so that they may play an effective role as a democratic citizen. This will be possible when the schools will be well equipped with proper library facilities as it will help the students in cultivating reading habits and update their knowledge in different walks of life. But there is no hesitation in admitting that the State Government is find it difficult to provide adequate funds for Senior Secondary school libraries in H.P.

Realizing that though Himachal Pradesh is a developed state in terms of infrastructure, economy and education, the condition of libraries at Secondary School level is very disgraceful. In order to make an objective investigation in this area, a problem has been selected and an attempt has been made to study the library facilities in Government and Public Senior Secondary Schools of H.P.

A good library system which brings books within the reach of all is the backbone of the system of adult education. Without this, there is a little hope for cultivating reading habits among students particularly in rural areas, where books distribution is difficult. The working group of the planning commission has recommended a scheme for large scale establishment of libraries in the country.

The Library facilities in the Senior Secondary schools serve the students in cultivating reading habits and to develop and update their knowledge. The Library will be the hub and centre of the intellectual and library life of the recognized school plays the same role vis-à-vis all the other subject as the laboratory plays for science subjects or the workshop for the technical subjects.

Individual work, the pursuit of group projects, many academic hobbies and co-curricular activities postulate the existence of a good efficiently functioning library. The library may well be regarded as essential instrument for putting progressive methods into practice.

In his function is merely to maintain a register of books, keep the library open at odd hours and occasionally issue books to a few students there would be no need for a full time and highly qualified librarian, but the library is to be the hub of the academic and intellectual life of the school, if it is to work as a centre of free and supervises study as well as group work on projects undertaken by them, if it is to do all these things, the librarian will surely have all his work cut out.

The focus on the facilities of libraries has necessitated the need for Senior Secondary schools with a view that books are a powerful medium of education and hence of importance of a school library.

There is no hesitations in admitting that the State Government is finding difficulties in providing adequate funds for the Senior secondary school libraries.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the availability of school libraries, their accommodation, furniture, Seating capacity, etc.
2. To study the utilization of library facilities – issue of books, periodicity of issue, number of books in circulation, etc.
3. To find out the type of books available in the Sr. Secondary Govt/Public school libraries.
4. To study such aspects as the cataloguing system adopted.

5. To study the stacking arrangement, time for which school libraries remain open.
6. To study the staff available in the Govt./Public Sr. Secondary schools.
7. To find out the expenditure on various items procured for the libraries during the year 2005-2006.

Methodology of the Study:

Keeping in view the nature and purpose of the study, the descriptive Survey method of library research was be used. Survey studies are generally conducted to collect data of the existing phenomenon with a view to employ data to justify current conditions and practices.

In the present study survey data from a relatively large number of teachers of Govt. & Public Senior Secondary schools of Hamipur District was collected. They were analyzed and conclusions drawn and a comparison was made to see the significance of differences in library facilities of Govt. & Public Senior Secondary schools of Hamirpur District.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

The following are hypothesis made with regard to study at hand:

1. There will be no significant difference regarding the library facilities are normally distributed among Government and Public Senior Secondary schools of Hamirpur District of Himachal Pradesh.
2. There will be no significant difference regarding the utilization of library facilities in Govt. & Public Senior Secondary School of Hamirpur District of Himachal Pradesh.
3. There will be no significance difference towards library books availability in Govt. & Public Senior Secondary Schools of Hamirpur District of Himachal Pradesh.
4. There will be no significant difference regarding the system adopted for maintenance of library in Govt. & Public Senior Secondary Schools of Hamirpur District of Himachal Pradesh.
5. There will be no significant difference regarding the staff position in Govt. & Public Senior Secondary Schools of Hamirpur District of Himachal Pradesh.

TOOLS USED: In the present study the investigator develops the questionnaire for collection of data.

DATA COLLECTION: The investigator collected the data for the present study. The self-made tools was personally administered to the selected 20 Senior Secondary Schools (10 Government and 10 Public school teachers) included in the sample. Close link was made with the respondents before administrating the tool by emphasizing the purpose and utility of the study. They were told about the future importance of the study. If any one of the teacher experienced any problem he was provided immediate clarification. Hence, the data was collected with great care and sense of responsibility.

MAIN FINDINGS:

From the analysis of data obtained with the help of "Questionnaire" the findings of the study are drawn as under:-

(A) COMPONENT WISE LIBRARY FACILITIES OF GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- i. Only Public schools teachers opinions were fulfilling the availability of library facilities in a better manner (60%) with regard to the component " Library

Infrastructure. Thus, we conclude that Public Schools were provided better library facilities regarding the component " Library Infrastructure".

- ii. After analyzing the teachers opinion it was revealed that Public Senior Secondary School fulfilled the criterion of availability of the library facilities on the 04 (four) items included in the component " Library Books". Govt, Senior Secondary schools fulfilled the criterion 03 (three) items of availability of library facilities with regard to the component " Library Books". It was found that there was no fiction section in the libraries of both the Government and Public Senior Secondary schools of Hamirpur District of Himachal Pradesh.
- iii. In case of component " Acquisition of Books (System adopted)", the opinion of the teachers of Government and Public Senior Secondary Schools regarding availability of library facilities on the abovesaid component, it was found that Public Senior Secondary [07(seven) items] with regard to aforesaid component fulfilled the criterion of availability of the library facilities in a better manner (60%) whereas, Government Senior Secondary Schools fulfilled the criterion of [only one item] with regard to the aforesaid component. We can concluded from the above findings, that Public Senior Secondary schools were provided better library facilities than Government Senior Secondary Schools.
- iv. Both Government and Public Senior Secondary School fulfilled the criterion of availability of the library facilities [05 (five) items] included in the component " Library Rules and Regulations", It was also found that both Government and Public Senior Secondary schools were not fulfilled the criterion with regard to [item No.29 i.e. Does the library open on holiday?] of the aforesaid Component. Libraries were not opened on holidays in both the Government and Public Senior Secondary Schools due to lack of "library staff".
- v. Both Government and Public Senior Secondary School were not fulfilling the criterion of availability of the library facilities with regard to the component " Library staff", It was found that most of the libraries of Government Senior Secondary schools were handled by "A Teacher", whereas, libraries of Public Senior Secondary Schools were handled by "A Full Time Trained Librarian"
- vi. Both Govt. & Public Senior Secondary schools were carrying out the physical verification from the Accession Register only.

(B) COMPARISION ON LIBRARY FACILITIES AMONG GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF HIMACHAL PRADESH.

- i. Comparison of Government and Public schools on the Component "**Library Infrastructure**" reveals that two groups differ significantly on this component. It was found that the level regarding providing of library facilities with regard to aforesaid components appeared to be higher than Government Senior Secondary Schools of Hamirpur District of Himachal Pradesh. There is significant difference between Government and Public Senior Secondary schools with regard to Library Infrastructure.
- ii. In the component "**Library Books**" Government and Public Senior Secondary Schools differ significantly. It was found that Public Schools provided better library facilities with regard to the above mentioned component than Government Senior Secondary Schools of Hamirpur District of Himachal Pradesh.

- iii. In the Component “**System Adopted for Acquisition of Books**”, there is significant difference between Government and Public Senior Secondary schools. It was found that Public Senior Secondary schools were adopted better system for the “**System Adopted Acquisition of books**” than Govt. Senior Secondary schools.
- iv. (iv) In the component “**Library Rules & Regulations**” there is significant difference between Government and Public Senior Secondary schools. Public Senior Secondary Schools are adhering library rules and regulations in a better manner than Govt. Senior Secondary Schools.
- v. There is no Significant difference in the library facilities level of Government and Public Senior Secondary Schools regarding the component “**Staff Position**”. It was concluded from the percentage of positive responses that libraries of Government Schools were handled by a teacher and libraries of Public Senior Secondary schools were handled by a Full Time Trained Librarian.
- vi. There is no significant difference in the library facilities level of Government and Public Senior Secondary schools regarding the Component “**Sources of Stock Verification**”. It was concluded from the percentage of positive responses both Govt. & public Senior Secondary schools were carrying out stock verification through Accession register.
- vii. Overall Library Facilities of Government and Public Senior Secondary schools differ significantly. Thereby, leading to the conclusion that Public Senior Secondary schools were providing better library facilities than the Government Senior Secondary Schools in Hamirpur District of Himachal Pradesh.

Library is a social institution, the work of which is to procure books to keep them properly and to convey their knowledge to the readers. Librarian plays an important role to keep the library books safely in the school. But now days, great emphasis is laid on the practical use of the library. Just as the need of knowledge will go on increasing, then the importance of library will also increase thoroughly. In modern age, the administration of library service is undertaken on scientific lines according to scientific techniques. Keeping into consideration of the findings of the study, we can say that library facilities at senior secondary level are dismal in H.P. which needs urgent attention not only from the government but also from all stake holders.

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