# Emerging Trends for Sustainable Development in Libraries

A Perspective of Self - Reliant Learning

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#### BIOLOGY LIBRARY AND ITS IMPORTANCE IN SCHOOLS

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#### Introduction

"Books are keys to wisdoms treasure;

Books are gates to lands of pleasure;

Books are paths that upward lead;

Books are friends, come, let us read."

Physically, Library is a place where many books are kept, placed on shelves in an organized manner depending on subject or topics. Library provides exactly the right kind of atmosphere to students for learning. It is usually a calm and disciplined place to study with proper concentration. Students can engaged in various ways to access useful quality information. A good library is a treasure of knowledge for the teachers, which gives them knowledge of the latest discoveries and inventions of their subject and makes them knowledge able. It also makes them complete by familiarising them with the new methods of class-room teaching, Forthe students, the library is a 'pilgrimage.' It makes their knowledge complete, systematic and useful. Library develops the interest of students towards Biology.

## **Types of Libraries**

In India there are two types of libraries: 1. Central Library and 2. Subject Library.

#### **Central Library or General Library**

The main library is also known as Central Library or General Library. Main library caters the books of all subjects and magazines and journals. There are different cup-boards and racks for books of different subjects. There is a separate room for magazines and newspapers where students can sit and read. Some good libraries have "Reading Rooms" where there are facilities for indepth studies.

In the beginning of the library, there must be an 'Index of Books' so that the students can find out which book is available in the library. There is also a section for Biology in the Central or Main Library where books related to Biology are kept. The students can get these issued when they require them.

#### **Subject library**

Subject library is that library, which is maintained by the various departments. These libraries have books related to the subjects dealt with by that department. Due to financial restraints, these libraries are not prevalent in India, then too good schools/colleges have arrangement for these. These departmental libraries should have text-books, reference books and other books related to different aspects of the subject. The management of the library can be given to the related teacher or the lab assistant. The students can also be given certain responsibilities in the management of the library. The books should be classified and thentheir index can be prepared. The students should be given fixed instructions and directives regarding use of library.

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## The Purpose of the Biology Library

The library for biology provides a range of learning opportunities for both large and small groups as well as individuals to cater on intellectual content, information literacy, and the learner. In addition to classroom learning, the Biology Library also serves as a place for students to do independent work, use computers, equipment and research materials and other facilities.

## Staffing of the Biology Library

In many schools, libraries are staffed by biology teacher or librarians. The school biology teacher develops and implements curriculum relating to knowledge and inquiry. Librarians will assist the students in selecting books and provide information relating to the study of biology.

## The Biology Library Collection

School libraries are similar to public libraries in that they contain books, films, recorded sound, periodicals and digital media. These items are not only for education but also for enjoyment, and entertainment of the all members of the school community enhancing and expanding the school's curriculum. The brief categories are: textbooks, inspirational books, background books, reference books, experimental books, general books, science magazines, journals, periodicals, newsletter etc.

## Selection of Books for the Library

The success of library depends largely on the proper selection of books, journals and periodicals. The selection of good books for the library is a difficult task. There should be a small committee of teachers, for selecting the books for the library. The books should be selected according to the interest, age and capability of the student. While selecting books there should be some books for the students and some for the teacher (like teacher's guide to teach Biology In the Biology section there should be books pertaining to life histories of eminent Biologists, their works, History of Biology such book should be selected/procured. Mainly for Biology teaching, the following types of books and magazines can be procured

- Text-books prescribed for various classes.
- Appropriate guide books for teachers.
- Interesting and knowledge improving general books which enhance the knowledge of students and teachers.
- Books which show the importance of Biology in other spheres.
- Books based on history and life histories.
- Nationally and internationally published reports on Biology and fortnightly or weekly reviews and various magazines and journals."
- Reference and rare books.
- A list of names and addresses of magazines related to Biologyare placed in the appendix- the end of the book. These can be procured by the library of school/college.

#### The Role of the Library in Schools

Secondary Education Commission emphasizes the importance of library and states "the library will be the hub and the center of the intellectual and literary life of the reorganized school and play the same part for all other subjects as the laboratory plays for science subjects or the work shop for the technical subjects".

S.R. Ranganathan writes "in a school that educates pupils for a changing worlds, the school library should be a live workshop".

The library plays an important role in the school setup. The availability of books other than their course material helps the students to develop awareness on various other aspects of science other than those in the curriculum. Both students and teacher become independent users of information and get benefited. The establishment of a science library inculcates reading habits in the students. It supports and enhances the essential learning by providing adequate resources, library personnel and instruction.

Students are greatly benefited by the library because:

- They read more and develop a greater potential for success
- They develop the reading skills, which increase their knowledge of the complex world of information.
- The needs and interests of students are catered to by the access to the library.
- Their learning improves when the library resources are integrated with classroom curriculum.
- They utilize their leisure in a proper manner by visiting the library and developing their knowledge.
- It enables the students to prepare themselves for taking part in the various co-curricular activities of the school. They get information which is very helpful to them in taking part in debates, giving lectures and writing for the school magazine.
- It develops habits of the students to derive pleasure and information from recreational and informative books.
- It imparts training to the students for the proper use of books.
- It gives students training in punctuality by impressing 'upon them the necessity of returning and borrowing books at a fixed time.
- It provides suitable books to the students to satisfy their hunger of reading books and saves them from the harmful effects of reading unsuitable and injurious literature.
- It inculcates in the students the habit of silent reading.

#### **Advantages of Biology Library**

#### **Source of Knowledge to the Teachers:**

Biology library helps the teachers to keep themselves up-to-date in every aspect of scientific knowledge so that they may able to do justice with their students. A well read teacher with wide knowledge is always a source of inspiration and a figure of reputation and respect for the students. It can happen only if the teachers get opportunity of good reading through the library organized in their school.

#### **Information of Latest Development**

Biology is rapidly advancing every day. There are changes coming up in the old concepts and theories. New Biology books in every field are being written day-by- day for giving information about the new discoveries and inventions. New useful gadgets are being made with amazing capabilities. Every day new vistas are being added to the horizon of science. The students as well as teacher can be acquainted with all such development through the books and reading material procured in the libraries.

#### **New Method of Teaching**

The books and material kept in the library may help the teacher to get acquainted with latest methods and techniques of teaching. With widened knowledge of new developments and progress in sciences, there have been appropriate innovations and researches with regard to the techniques, strategies and methods of imparting scientific knowledge and skills to the pupils.

## **Use in Better Learning by Students**

The variety available and interest created through the varied literature and material help the students to learn and acquire the biological facts in a better way. The students are able to read several books on the same subject and topics written in different styles by various authors. It helps them to understand and comprehend their own text-books properly.

#### **Development of Good Habits**

The use of library develops taste for reading and acquiring knowledge. Gradually, it helps them in imbibing study, keeping silence at the place of study, carrying for the proper upkeep and safety of the books etc.

# **Providing Inspiration**

The books and reading material related with the scientific inventions and discoveries as well as life history of the scientists fill the students with the thrill and adventure and prove a source of inspiration for them in the real pursuit and development of the scientific facts and principles.

# **Developing Scientific Attitude**

Biology library helps students in learning the scientific method of problem solving and developing the necessary scientific attitude in their thoughts and actions.

#### Good Use of Leisure

By creating necessary reading interests, the books and material of the library help the students and teachers to make best use of their leisure hours not only in the form of reading, but also in making practical use of what is read and grasped through this reading.

#### Values of a School Biology Library

A Biology Library is a collection of literary materials like books, journals, periodicals, magazines, newsletter, books of different origin etc related to the study of biology. It is a library within a school or a section within a library under the moderation of biology teacher where students and staff have access to a variety of resources. The goal of the biology library is to ensure that all members of the school community have optimum access to books and reading for information related to life sciences and more. Biology libraries in schools are distinct from public libraries because they serve as learner-oriented laboratories which support, extend, and individualize the school's curriculum. A Biology Library serves as the center and coordinating agency for all material used in the school.

As per the recommendations by Secondary Education Commission, it is necessary for every school to have subject specific library. Biology library is necessary for each and every school in addition to the common library. Library dedicated to biology will enable the teacher and students to access their subject book with much ease. Subject specific motivate the students to use the library enabling the pupils to develop the habit of reading. It aids the students a wide variety of information which is not practical to teach in the class hour. The books available in the library would establish a

strong insight to the students by addressing the relationship of biology with other subjects. It motivates the students in developing useful habits like collection of biological materials, preparation and maintaining aquarium, terrarium and vivarium.

#### Conclusion

The library occupies a very important place in school. With its books suited to the interests and aptitude of students of different age group, with its magazines, periodicals, news papers and with its calm and tranquil atmosphere it has a special call to the students who go there and quench their thirst for reading the material which cannot be provided to them in the class room. Here they find an environment which is conductive to the building up of habit of self learning. The library is the center of the intellectual and social activities of school. The library has got very wholesome effect over the work of school.

Books are a treasure for a lifetime. They are our lifelong friends. Books widen our knowledge, they are a source of inspiration, and develop positive healthy attitudes. They help in proper utility of leisure. According to RamyKollier - "Books are a guide to the youth and an entertainment for the old age". Research has demonstrated that good school libraries make a difference to students learning and achievement, and the school library has been identified as the agency which, by planning an effective match of its programs to the educational objectives of the school, can make a vital contribution to education.

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