

# Role of School Libraries in Education: Special Reference to Uttarakhand

## Abstract

The study is to examine the importance of a school library in the schools of Uttarakhand. The state was formed with the vision of creating a developed and better state on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2000, Uttarakhand is the 27<sup>th</sup> State of the country. Uttarakhand is divided by the northern Uttar Pradesh. Located at the foothills of the Himalayan mountain ranges, the state is called as the Dev-bhumi and also known for its world class schools from the years. The schools situated in Uttarakhand have earned a very good reputation in the world, specially the boarding schools. In the study is to identify that do they have proper infrastructure, have library professionals, library building and do the schools realize the importance of a good library.

**Keywords:** School Library, Libraries in Uttarakhand, Schools of Uttarakhand.

## Introduction

The libraries of 21<sup>st</sup> century have to be conceived not merely as the storehouse of knowledge, but an effective mechanism to facilitate dissemination of knowledge, promoting information and knowledge sharing, while, at the same time, supporting the growth of knowledge and achievement level of the students. Libraries can play an important role to support in the entire range of academic activities as well as overall personality development in an educational institution.

No School or College or University without a library, adequate for its needs and size, should be recognized as a worthy centre of education. Library is defined as any collection of books and non-book materials organized for use. Libraries preserve knowledge so that none is lost, organize knowledge so that nothing is wasted and make knowledge available to everyone. Library is an organization which engages in selection, collection, procurement, process, preservation and dissemination of Documents according to the need of its user. Library play a very important part in the development in any society, Library is the means of education in both formal and non-formal way. Shaida, R. N. (1992). It provides the necessary support to education. The role of Libraries in School education also cannot be undermined it is the third angle of school education after Teachers and Students to provide quality education.

## School Library

School libraries are basically meant to collect then processes, arrange and make available the syllabus-based books, books for general reading and entertainment. That may include classics, biographies, adventure and travel books, motivational books and the fiction, etc.

School Libraries helps in educating for the lifelong reading habits and in opening of the ways to knowledge for the students, The prime focuses of school libraries is to achieve these main objectives, libraries have to build up their collections with print and non-print information sources, and act as media centres.

Library and the Librarian have to serve adequately the needs of students and teachers with a number of services like reference, storytelling, debates, audio-video shows, book reading programmes etc. in Uttarakhand the school libraries have an important role as there are no public libraries, to spurt teaching and learning. (Atri, 2016) As their collections may include multimedia documents they are often referred to as "Media Centres" or "Learning Resource Centres" also.

The school libraries are important part of the academic set-up develop and maintained to serve and support the educational activities in the schools. Various committees and the commission established by the government and the states to improve the school education have also proposed the need of school libraries. According to them the school library

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has not been given its correct place however, Libraries can play a very vital role and help the institution in achieving its instructive as well as other overall personality development.

The school libraries are to provide/ offer the documents to be informed, ideas to be creative, and to develop knowledge that is very crucial to be successful in today's fast-growing information and knowledge-based society for a school student. It is essential for each and every school library to work as a hub of all the activities so that the students can have reading habit, learning skills by the using good documents. Creative thinking and the power of imagination in a student is so important to live as ideal and responsible citizens of the country. Library and the librarians are needed to be friendly so that the kids can feel free to ask help from them and library can be used at its best by them. CBSE. (n.d.). Libraries are very useful for the students to prepare for their next class, homework, general studies, competitive information, and other activities and to self motivation.

Selection and procurement of document on the basis of certain principals is essential to make available the wide varieties of documents for the students as well as the teachers. Documents need to be prescribed/recommended smartly from different sources, All the procured library material is need to be technically processed, that too with the use of standard methods of doing that (important for managing the library). So that one of the law of library science given by Dr. S. R. Ranganathan "Avery book his/her reader" can be achieve. Library resources must be organized and circulate in a scientific way and disseminate the information should be in a manner that students and teachers can be beneficial. In addition, to this the school library has to serve as a centre place for so many other resources.

#### **Significance of the Study**

It is needless to emphasize that Libraries are very important for the students so that they can be good in their studies and a library at school level is even more important for the students. Library in schools can give the understanding and create a good habit of using library in students before they go for higher studies. The School libraries can offer the services to students and faculties to help them in their education and to achieve more in their life and so that students can increase their reading habits. And teachers can use different sources for teaching the students in the School. That reflects the significance of the study.

#### **Objectives of the Study**

Although it is needless to write that how important a school Library can be for a student and teacher to improve the education system, their reading habits and learning but still through the study is to evaluate: -

1. The check the impact of having a good school library with all the facilities and the staff.
2. Evaluate the effective use of libraries in the teaching-learning programme of the school.
3. Analysis of School Library can improve reading habits in the students.

#### **Why School Libraries?**

School Libraries are meant to provide formal education, literacy, information provision economic, social and cultural development, providing supplementary books and reading materials to help study and teaching at the school. Thus, it must be supported by the local, state and national governments of the day. To provide batter services to the user librarians need to plan by considering the objectives of the library which must be developed to satisfy ultimate objectives of the institute associated to it. Most of time these objectives are basically as to provide relevant reading material, provide direction for batter education, provide assistance for the user to the projects with expert's advices in the use of library catalogue and reading materials, personal and social guidance to the students etc.

Each and every library has a set of objectives based on the objectives of the associated/ parent organization, as so school libraries. Then Library frame a policy to provide/ offer such services that its objectives or ultimately the objectives of it parent organization can be achieved. The basic objectives of a school library can be as:

1. Provide the students with appropriates as well as the best library materials both printed and audio visual and services (depending on the particular need/requirement) so that the overall growth and development of the students can be achieved.
2. To Develop reading ability and to form interest of reading, and inspire love, enjoyment and pleasure of reading amongst the school students;
3. Not only assist the students to be skilful, creative and determinate users of library resources;
4. School Library must provide assistance to it users/ students in learning and to improve/ develop skills for evaluating and using information, despite of form, format or medium;
5. Encourage and guide each and every student in the selection and use of documents and other reading materials for the building of taste and reading at appropriate level of maturity; Ranganadham, D. S., & Babu, D. K. S. (2013).

#### **Services of the School Libraries**

The services are as follows:

1. User orientation, education and information literacy;
2. Reference, reader's advisory services;
3. Lending and Inter Library Loan services;
4. Bibliographic service;
5. Career guidance.etc

#### **How Do Libraries Support Teaching and Learning?**

Libraries are fundamentally developed to set educational resources which include documents, human services as well as the entire spectrum of media and hypermedia. Libraries have physical components, such as space, equipment, and storage media; intellectual components, such as collection development policies that decide what document will be procure and schemes for technical process that determine how the collection is accessed; and the peoples, who manage all these components and try to satisfy the information requirements.

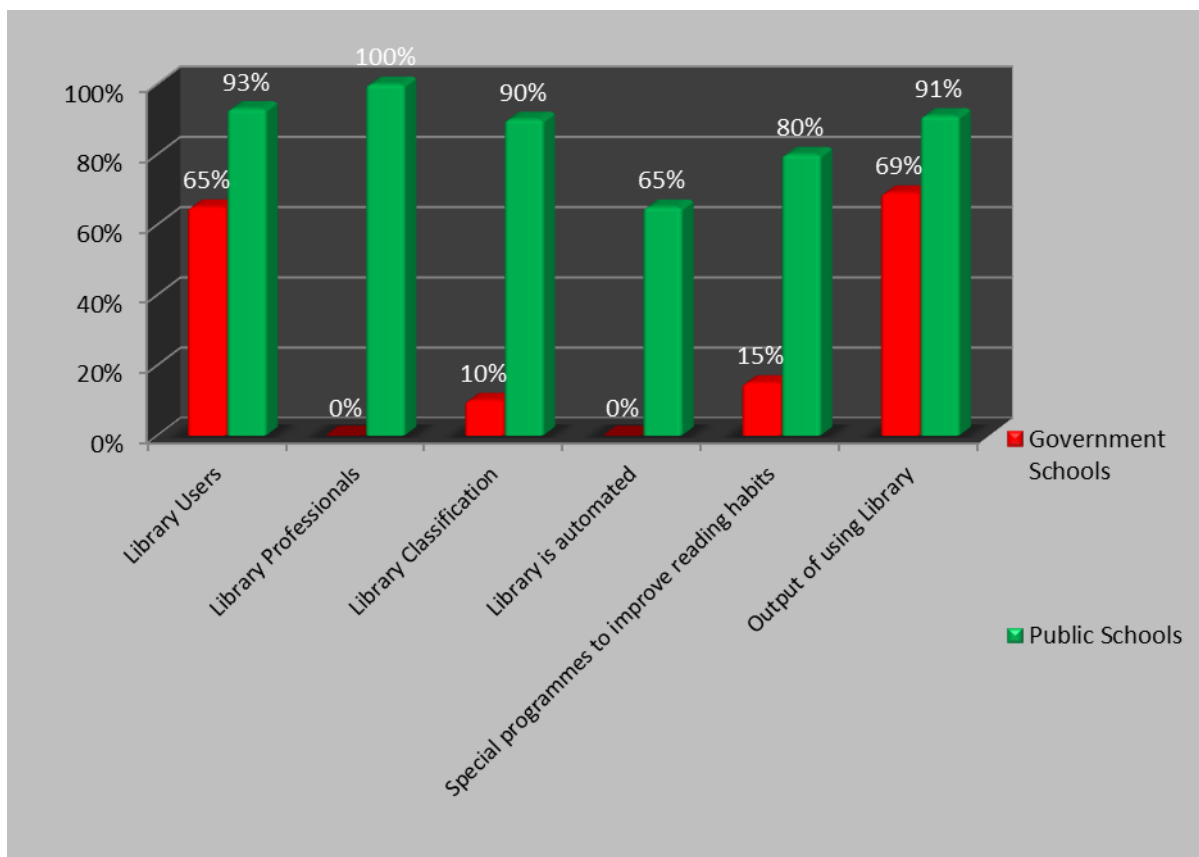
Libraries basically serve at least in three ways for learning. First, they serve a practical role in sharing educational resources. Physical resources, such as books and periodicals, films and videos, and software and electronic databases, and specialized tools, such as projectors, graphics equipment, and cameras, are shared by a community of users. Human resources—librarians are also known as media specialists or information specialists support instructional programmes by responding to the requests of teachers and students' responsive services and by initiating activities for teachers and students (proactive services). Responsive services include maintaining reserve materials, answering reference questions, providing bibliographic instruction, developing media packages, recommending books or films, and teaching users how to use materials. Proactive services include selectively disseminating information to faculty and students, initiating thematic events, collaborating with instructors to plan instruction, and introducing new

instructional methods and tools. In these ways, libraries serve to allow instructors and students to share expensive materials and expertise. (Lis.unc.edu, 2014)

**Data Collection and Analysis**

The exact status of the school libraries in the Uttarakhand can only be finding out by the survey. Total 80 schools were covered out of that 40 school were government schools (old and new) and 40 were private schools (old and new). To collect the data a small questionnaire was develop and through interview method data have been collected. The data is collected from the major districts of the state like, Dehradun and Nainital both the districts have world class schools in its nearby places like Mussoorie, Nainital etc. these two districts are much more known as compared the other districts of the state. Some world-famous schools are there, which has proven the quality of education they are providing in form of the production of so many great scholars to the world.

| S. No. | Types of schools   | Library Users | Library Professionals | Library Classification | Library automated | Special programmes to improve reading habits | Output of using Library |
|--------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 1.     | Government Schools | 65%           | 0 %                   | 10%                    | 0%                | 15%  | 69%                     |
| 2.     | Public Schools     | 93%           | 100%                  | 90%                    | 65%               | 80%  | 91%                     |



But it was surprised to see that none of those schools belongs to Government. Even then it was surprisingly shocking to see that most of the Government schools do not have anything in the name of School Library. They do not have Library professional staff, No building.

It is found that just 8% schools have computers in library, but the library is not automated. Other libraries neither have any computer nor their library automated.

It is found that just 10% school has a classified collection and for that they are using classification scheme like DDS and Colon. The rest of the schools arrange the books subject-wise without following any standard classification schemes. In respect of that old private schools have proper school libraries. 100% schools have library professionals. 85% have reading room and computers. 50% have library management system and the library is automated.

During the study the library users output was also analysed and found that the students of schools with library are having advantage of school library in their respective schools, the same was found in their performance during the exams and other school activities but on the other hand students of schools without library misses the benefits of having school library which is clearly visible in their performance during the exams and other school activities.

80% of the students having school library are having better reading habits as compare to the schools are not having libraries or schools having programmes to improve reading habits.

#### **Conclusion**

In the study "Role of School Libraries in Education: Special Reference to Uttarakhand" it was tried to analyze the libraries of the schools to understand the conditions of the libraries of government and public schools. The study is providing a picture of all the school libraries of the city in particular. It will not be surprising if I would say that the libraries are the most important part of each and every educational institution, in its qualitative

improvement/development. Without the assistance and ready co-operation of a library no formal educational programme in school can fructify. But still the study cannot be generalized. The study reflects continuous loss of using libraries in the schools of the state that is causing a number of problems in the overall development of the students. Government and other regulatory agencies must start thinking about the importance of having libraries in the schools.

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