COMMUNITIES | ENGAGEMENT | LIBRARIES

A Collection of Case Stories from across India



DEF
DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT foundation

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FOREWORD

COMMUNITIES| ENGAGEMENT | LIBRARIES
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Books permit us to voyage through time, to tap the wisdom of our ancestors. The library connects us with the insight and knowledge, painfully extracted from Nature, of the greatest minds that ever were, with the best teachers, drawn from the entire planet and from all our history, to instruct us without tiring, and to inspire us to make our own contribution to the collective knowledge of the human species. I think the health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries."

- Carl Sagan, *Cosmos*

They say public libraries are the most democratic space for citizen and community. And rightly so. Our quest to look for heartening models of this public space was a journey, both humbling and fulfilling at the same time. A journey that spanned the length and breadth of India in identifying pools of innovations and interventions that have satiated the lives of the societies around. These pools have been in various places regarded as knowledge centres or resource hubs but primarily perform as support and advocacy units within a community landscape. They are all positive stories and developments happening on ground of libraries; of libraries rewarding and supporting community needs.

The global changes particularly in Information and Communication Technologies have impacted the functioning of most of the libraries visited in this book. The said developments have definitely changed the library users` expectations, thus posing bigger challenges for the movers and doers of this transformation, the libraries in varied ways. The scope and role have seen changes through new developments in library services, online access to library catalogues, databases and the internet, online/offline access to digital resources, database searching, electronic reference, online circulation service, information literacy programme , public relations services, library promotion and marketing , e-publishing are some of these expectations. These positive interventions call for looking at the existing and emerging good practices in community and public libraries functioning in India.

The need for identifying, encouraging and documenting such good public library practices arises due to the reason that these practices becomes reference points for learning and sharing knowledge and in evaluating the effectiveness of alternative methods to strengthen public libraries. The distinctive features of a public library are where library services are frequently evaluated and updated to meet the changing needs of library users. They need to encourage users` participation and feedback in the development and maintenance of library services. Library services have the ability to evolve and improve on a constant and rapid basis. The user must be a participant, co-creator and a builder of these practices. Such practices are identified by examining empirical and anecdotal evidence of success.

Some of the common parameters observed and identified in the compilation presented here are:

- Access - the ease and convenience of accessing the library services
- Communication - keeping the users informed; listening to them
- Competence - having the skills and knowledge to provide the services required
- Credibility - trustworthiness, reputation and image in the community
- Reliability - providing consistent, accurate and dependable services
- Responsiveness - being willing and ready to provide services when needed
- Security - physical safety; financial security; confidentiality
- Tangibles - the physical aspects of library services
- Content and Services - innovations in content and services delivery and
- Methods - innovative methods to manage the library and engage the citizens

The rationale of bringing out this publication is to bring to light some of the inspiring models in public libraries on the basis of above parameters. Admittedly we have not been able to cover many; this is as they say, yet again, the first step of the journey of a thousand miles that we have embarked upon here together at the India Public Libraries Conference 2015.

Dr. Syed S. Kazi
Deputy Director: Digital Empowerment Foundation
Member: Open Knowledge Community (OKC) [A Knowledge Platform of GoI & UNESCO]

HEART WARMERS FROM THE HINTERLAND

In this section of this compendium, there are 17 case stories of public libraries from various parts of India that range from being government sponsored to community to non-resident sponsored libraries. It depicts libraries that reflect re-invention of this public space. It highlights positive aspects that address community challenges from caste and class divides, to being differently abled friendly to gender responsiveness.



Building Libraries, Building Communities

Funded by READ, the Oceanic Library is an impressive library posessing an equally impressive body of work and accolades. Focused on the marginalised people of West Bengal, it has a noble agenda of promoting education and literacy through the use of libraries in the area.

The Oceanic Library
Kolkata

Year of set up
2008

Status
Community Led and Run+A25

Resource Person
Kapilananda Mondal

Contact
03174-277451, 09609145459

History

The Oceanic Library was setup in 2008 with support from READ Global and VSSU. Initially focusing on the major demographic groups of women and children and ~5000 books, It has expanded to serve over 12000 people with free book lending, home delivery service among other allied services.

It currently serves various demographic groups within the Sunderbans Area in augmenting their Education & Skill training initiatives. They also focus on health, hygiene, social forestry, women & child development , livelihood promotion and job creation. They also support micro-credit lending faciities for SC, ST & OBC women.



The USP

Incorporating allied services to increase the attractiveness to the community has been key to the success of the Oceanic Library. To build initial interest in reading and borrowing books, the creation of a home delivery service for users was an innovative practice. This had an additional effect of increasing the recovery rate of books to 98%.

Sustainable Model

The Oceanic Library is funded predominantly by READ India. Apart from this, the use of the allied services is at a nominal cost which may be scaled up to increase the financial sustainability of the library.

One unique element of this institution is the focus on the physical environment to increase the quality and create a conducive reading and learning environment for readers. This has been done with a focus on creating green spaces and water bodies.

Activities

- Free membership and home delivery service
- Cyber Café use at a nominal rate
- Electronic Services Centre to provide Railway ticket booking, Electric/ phone bill payment, SCAN, Xerox and studio services
- Running Carpet weaving, handicrafts, embroidery, tailoring courses for women
- Spoken English classes for children in the free creche
- Computer training classes for senior citizens
- Encouraging financial inclusion of women through the provision of micro-credit/ lending through SHGs
- Solar light distribution program

Innovations

The Oceanic Library was setup in 2008 with support from READ Global and VSSU. Initially focusing on the major demographic groups of women and children and ~5000 books, It has expanded to serve over 12000 people with free book lending, home delivery service which was instrumental in making it an attractive location for the people. The inclusion of allied services and innovative programs like health check up, livelihoods training, honey processing, fisheries resource centre etc. have increased its utility to the community that increases the overall footfall in the library.

Road Ahead

Community Involvement & self Sustainability are two prime factors for this library. Apart from providing books, they provide skills, education & employability. Their belief that the library is not a place to gain knowledge only , it is a place for emancipation; educationally, financially and mentally is a core strength.



A Child's Wholesome Delight

The National Centre for Children's Literature Library-cum-Documentation Centre takes forward the visions of its parent organisations (NBT & NCCL) in promoting childrens' access to literature and content that is created for them.

National Centre for Children's Literature
Vasant Kunj, New Delhi

Year of set up
1993

Status
Government Owned & Operated at the National Book Trust campus

Resource Person
Mithlesh Ananth

Contact
m.ananth@yahoo.co.in

History

The National Centre for Children's Literature (NCCL) was created within the National Book Trust in 1993 as a focal point for promoting childrens' literature in India. It actively promotes the creation of reading clubs across India. The NCCL's library-cum-documentation Centre for Children's Literature (NCCL Library) was created soon after to provide a space for children to read within the NBT campus.

The USP

The NCCL Library is the focal point in India for the promotion of reading habits among children in India. Its work in the creation of reading clubs across India has been invaluable to the increasing number of children in India.



Sustainable Model

The NCCL Library is owned and operated by the Government of India. It recieves a majority of its funding through grants made to the National Book Trust. However, the library also charges a nominal fee in the form of a one-time registration payment and a security deposit for borrowing books.

Road Ahead

The NCCL Library has done noble work in the promotion of childrens literature and reading habits. Its focus on bringing the individuals who create content in front of the children who consume it is one of its most admirable traits. Its strong belief that libraries should be available to children all across india and books & displays should be attractive to readers ensures that its work has the potential for maximum impact all across India.

Activities

- Consists of three sections: Reading & Library Section, Research & Events Sections and Media & Internet Section.
- Activities with authors and illustrators
- Database access through DELNET
- Promotion of reading clubs for children in India
- Lectures on issues related to promotion of childrens literature
- Providing a space for researchers and students of Literature.

Innovations

- The provision of OPAC facility to access NCCL catalogue over the internet
- Organising lectures to promote childrens literature
- Organising workshops for children to increase their interest in reading/ drawing
- Incorporating books from over 44 different languages (18 Indian & 26 Foreign) to maximise linguistic inclusion
- Incorporating design thinking in the construction of the library to promote an enabling and postive reading environment.

Reader Remarks

Subrata Bhattacharyya: I am impressed with this majestic building with its excellent infrastructure. The staff of NBT is as cooperative and helpful as when I first visited NBT in 1972.
Sonali: Love coming here. It's a pleasure to be in a place that allows joyful learning
Deepak Nigam: As I have always said, I love the library and enjoy reading the books at the childrens library



Community Engagement to Leadership

A model of sustained community participation, the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Library has leveraged the strenghts of the non-resident (NRI) population to continue in its mission of spreading literacy and education in the village of Jeeda.

Shaheed Bhagat Singh Library
Bhatinda District, Punjab

Year of set up
1978

Status
Community Owned and Operated

Resource Person
Kewal Krishna Singla

History

The Shaheed Bhagad Singh Library in Jeeda was started 37 years ago by individuals of the village with the motive of creating awareness in people towards healthy literature and culture. They received 73 books from the panchyat at inception. Currently, they have over 1300 books in the library with 6 newspapers and 13 magazines subscribed to. It has a relatively small reach with only 150 subscribers. however, its retention rate for regular readers is very high with 90 of 150 as regular readers.

The USP

Community engagement and participation goes hand in hand with this library. The ability to rally the small community behind the creation and sustainability of the library is a key factor in the success and growth. Its mission to incorporate various socially relavent activities into the operations of the library has also increased its utility to the community.



Sustainable Model

Funded predominantly through members of the community, it is also able to rally individuals who have emigrated to other countries and gain significant funding from them.

Road Ahead

A small and intimate library; it is a picture of how community engagement and ownership goes a very long way in the success of social institutions like community libraries.

Activities

- Distribution of books to needy and high-scoring students
- First Aid Awareness camp
- Ayurvedic Camp
- Organising Blood Donation camps
- Video and Movie screening
- Organising cultural fairs
- Organising tours to various places outside the village.

Innovations

To gain initial funding for the creation of the library,the founders encouraged community farming on a piece of land. The proceeds were augmented by funding from members of the community who had emigrated to other countries.
The library also provides space for shops and earns an income from a percentage of sales.



Enabling to Follow Dreams

A space for the children, founded on the hopes and aspirations of the children themselves, PRAYOG has focused on providing a healthy and enabling environment for the young readers.

PRAYOG (Professionals Alliance for Youths Growth)
Gopalganj District, Bihar

Year of set up
2013

Status
Rural, Community Library

Resource Person
Surya Prakash Rai

Contact
+91 9801764664

History

A very young library, it was started based on demand from the children of the area. It began with 32 books and 24 children who came there to read. It has expanded to a collection of over 1000 books with over 500 children members.

The USP

This library is beyond a collection of reading materials only. They take the impact of a library to a higher level by enabling children to dream bigger, discuss on their readings, helping others by sharing of their knowledge and involving in social activities. It keeps the motivation alive and there is regular flow of ideas/suggestions from the beneficiaries for improvements.



Sustainable Model

PRAYOG has been able to generate a sense of ownership and this has come by leading with examples. Leveraging the team's contacts with individuals from India and abroad has been key in securing the funds and capactities needed by this library to sustain itself.

Road Ahead

PRAYOG is not a library in the truest sense of the word. It is a space; created using inputs from children and targeted towards children; that allows them to engage, interact and create opportunities for learning beyon the confines of their school.

By incorporating health camps and exposure visits into its allied services, PRAYOG has been able to consistently generate and maintain the interest and capture the imagination of the children it serves.

Activities

- Reading room for children that was created using inputs from the children themselves
- Running Global Literacy Program with partner universities from the USA using tablets
- Diary and Creative Writing classes - A compendium of letters by these children was converted into a booklet and distributed to 64 school teachers
- Sports classes and competitions
- Night classes for students and volunteers using resource persons from India and abroad
- Exposure field visits for students in India and Abroad.
- Monthly sessions by volunteers who are doctors, teachers, engineers and social workers

Innovations

- Creating a community space that was designed with inputs from students
- Incorporating students in the book procurement process by allowing them to make suggestions
- Incorporating financial and non-financial incentives for the library volunteer.
- Conducting needs assessments to facilitate an effective rollout of solar lamps to increase the hours of study

Reader Remarks

Khushboo Kumari, 13: When this library started, many of the children of my caste couldn't dare to enter and read books. We wanted to but were not sure. Vijay bhaiya ensured that we get access to the books and also taught us there. Since then, all children of my village now regularly visit and read books of our choice together "



Reading Healthy, Staying Healthy

The Shri Siddheshwar Granthalay provides an interesting set of allied services to its readers to promote expansion of the user base and higher rates of retention. It has a vision to grow to be a ICT enabled library to provide services of a higher quality to its readers.

Shri Siddheshwar Granthalay
Sillod, Maharashtra

Year of set up
2002

Status
Community Led, Partly Government Supported

Resource Person
Santosh Manikrao Borade

Contact
09422347407, 02430-230095

History

Started in 2002, with just 320 books, the Shri Siddheshwar Granthalay has grown to impact over 7500 people in the last 5 years. Its book offerings has also grown to 2046. Over the past few years, the progress that the team has made, has improved the rating of the ilibrary, which made it eligible for government funding. This funding has been routed to increase the number of books and in improving the overall service quality.

The USP

Its health related allied services set this library apart from the rest. The collaboration with the district hospital is a key element in ensuring positive impact on patients.



Sustainable Model

Being partially funded by the government aids this library and allows them to provide access to reading resources to users for free.

Road Ahead

The Shri Siddheshwar Granthalay exists in a state where the enabling envrionment is quite helpful for the funding of libraries. Its management has a vision to incorporate ICT tools in the operations of the library to increase the readership and enagement with the community.

Activities

- Free Reading resources and home delivery of books.
- Cataloguing syste deployed to allow readers to locate books effectively.
- Literacy and allied programs for students and women of the region
- Health awareness classes to reduce prevalence of HIV/AIDS
- Agricultutal information service to aid farmers
- Free health checkup and referral service for serious patients

Innovations

Collaboration with the district hospital to allow referral service for serious medical cases.

Reader Remarks

Anita Jadhav , 10th std student: "Siddheshwar Public Library has provided me with lots of books and reading material which was very beneficial to me regarding sports, schooling and various competitions. I shall be continuing using the library services along with spreading the word to my friends"

Manisha Bidve, 32: "I gained through knowledge of the care with is to be taken during pregnancy and also of "Garbhsanskar" with the help of books from Shri. Siddheshwar library and now al am reading about "Child Care" after giving birth to a healthy baby"

Prabhakar Gavhale, 66: "Although my doctor suggested some exercises but I could do them perfectly only by using yogasan books from Shri. Siddheshwar public library and able to keep myself fit evn today at the age of 66"



Meriting More than a Mention

The BREAD Society supports one of the largest networks of school libraries in India. Effective community engagement and participation by the teachers in the running of the libraries has been key in the success of the vision of the organisation.

BREAD Society Libraries
Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad

Year of set up
1989

Status
Private, Community Driven, Donations

Resource Person
Dr. N. Bhaskara Rao

Contact
9391357141, 9342109434

History

Setup in 1989, the BREAD Society started a library programme in 2009. As of November 2014, the society supports over 600 libraries in schools in Andhra Pradesh. Each library is provided with 650 books selected by an Expert Sub Committee for 10 to 14 year age group children. The Society is currently adding 100 new books to the 300 libraries established in the first three years by December 15, 2014. It plans to replenish the remaining 355+ libraries in 2015-16.
The Society aims to add more books to about half the libraries every alternative year to sustain the interest of the students.

The USP

Its health related allied services set this library apart from the rest. The collaboration with the district hospital is a key element in ensuring positive impact on patients.



Road Ahead

The BREAD Society has a noble mission; to capture the imagination of students through the power of books. Through their vast network of libraries in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, they impact the lives of over 3 Lakh students every year. Through selfless individuals and corporates, they are able to provide libraries with adequate resources to achieve their mission from the outset.

Activities

- Headmaster of the school nominates a library teacher
- Selection of 2 female and I male student students by teacher to manage the library
- These students are trained in book lending with guidance by the teacher

Innovations

- Focusing on increasing the safety of readers in the library by bolstering the physical infrastructure
- Capitalising on the physical location of the library to increase the footfall and readers.

The USP

- The BREAD Society Libraries engages students in the day to day operations of the library
- It chooses schools on the basis of the number of National Means-cum-Merit Scholarships it wins in a year.
- Schools with 6 or more NMMS awards are chosen for library support.
- Funding comes from Individuals (Rs. 25000) and from corporates (Rs. 30000)
- An Expert Comittee chooses the books that would be bought for libraries

Sustainable Model

- Setting up libraries within schools allows BREAD Society Libraries to operate effectively, after the initial donation.
- Students learn managerial skills at an early age and reduces the burden on teachers
- A nominal donation allows these libraries to be replenished with new books to keep engagement with students high.



First at the Grassroots

A focused vision and a noble goal is what makes the Dewanchal Public Library a microcosmic example of a library succeeding in its goal when the odds are stacked against it.

Dewanchal Public Library
Rewa, Madhya Pradesh

Year of set up
2008

Status
NGO Run

Resource Person
Dr. Ajay Tiwari

Contact
07663-294607, 09893036578

History

Run by the Dewanchal Welfare Society, the library was established in 2008 in a small room with a small cupboard housing 150 books. It is run by Dr. Ajay Tiwari in small house in the village of Shahpur. It was setup with the purpose of providing good quality books in a rural area where the opportunities for learning augmentation are few and far between.

The USP

Being the first library to be created in the village, it tapped into a vast number of individuals who were without any other source of information and learning. It has a small number of books but its allied activities engage the community and allow the elderly to participate, thus creating a more condusive atmosphere in the village. Digital tools are an aspirational deployment currently, due to short and infrequent electricity supply (2 -4 hours per day)



Sustainable Model

The library charges a moninal fee of Rs. 60 per month for people to access the home-lending facility for books. However, access to the books and reading room is free for all. In the 7 years of operation, the collection has grown slowly to about 300 books.

Road Ahead

The Dewanchal Public Library is a small library with even smaller beginnings. However, Its founder; Dr. Tiwari's positive attitude about the impact that libraries can have on the rural masses who do not have any other source of information means that it has miles more to go in its growth.

Dewalchal PL aspires to be a space for community engagement and participation through which the people are empowered to be change makers for their own development.

Activities

- Skill development and capacity building of the staff
- Information services about vacancies provided to students
- Information regarding agriculture is provided to farmers
- Problem solving assistance for citizens
- Provision of Religious, motivational and self-help books among others

Innovations

- Focusing on increasing the safety of readers in the library by bolstering the physical infrastructure
- Capitalising on the physical location of the library to increase the footfall and readers.

Reader Remarks

Shri Ram Sahdur Shukla, 76: "It has brought a positive approach to life"
Dr. Santosh Mishra, 62: "Books recharged them and they are ready to engage themselves in social activities."
Shri Shripal Singh, 70: "It is the only centre of education"



An Interactive Haven

A venerable library in its history, the District Central Library, Aurangabad, has identified the challenges of the contemporary age and its gearing up to meet them head on. An expansion of the premises is a good pre-emptive move to cope with increased footfall.

District Central Library
Aurangabad, Bihar

Year of set up
1918

Status
District Library, State Run

Resource Person
Mithlesh Kumar

Contact
9334911345

History

Created in 1918, this library has a rich past, as the educational hub for people in the surrounding regions. Set-up pre-independence, its initial readership and book records have been lost to history. However, it currently boasts an average readership of about 7000 per year. The strategic location of the library in the main market ensures a steady stream of readers.

The USP

The Library has positioned itself as a safe place that everyone can visit to interact, read and share knowledge. This has been an evolving stance, from the pre-independence exclusivity for the educated masses to the more contemporary embracing approach.



Sustainable Model

The library is supported by the Library Suprintendant of the Government of Bihar and by the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation which provides it the books and funding necessary to expand its work.

Road Ahead

The Aurangabad District Central Library has taken significant steps in the right direction towards expanding its reach. Its larger premises harkens a positive time for this library to grow and achieve its true potential.

Activities

- Information services providing newspapers and abundant magazines
- Engaging the youth through children-specific activities
- Encouraging participation of senior citizens in the library

Innovations

- Focusing on increasing the safety of readers in the library by bolstering the physical infrastructure
- Capitalising on the physical location of the library to increase the footfall and readers.

Reader Remarks

Sri. Dev Kumar Tiwari, 70: "I am a regular reader and I feel that time spent in the library is time well spent."



A Community Library, Truly

Bakul public library is the result of romance of volunteerism by the community to create something that makes an impact on people`s lives not only about seeking knowledge but also making informed choices a way of life.

Bakul Public Library
Bhubaneswar | Odisha

Year of set up
2007

Status
Private, community driven

Resource Person
Sujit Mahapatra

Contact
0674-2571286; 9238404040

History

When it started, Bakul had 4000 books. It was a reading library primarily for children. At the same time, children could come and learn computers, learn different arts/crafts at the workshops organized at the library and listen to storytelling. The library was then and is now run and maintained by a group of volunteers, that keeps changing, with Sujit Mahapatra, the founder, constant. The Library was free to use then as it is now. There is no registration as such required to use the library services. Anyone can walk into the library and read books and/or participate in the activities. They only fill in the Entry Register.



The USP

Bakul library has a ramp and is disabled friendly.
Its volunteers are young people who help clean and maintain the library, catalogue books and become reading buddies to children.

Sustainable Model

Despite no institutional funding, it has managed to sustain with the help of readers who are inspired by how it has been built and developed entirely with resources of volunteers.
They come back with books, ideas and a will to contribute in whichever way they can. The support has grown so much that new libraries have been set up in the state by Bakul and its well-wishers.

Activities

- Fortnightly Book Club
- Interactions with authors and book launches
- Awareness generation on social and environmental issues through film screenings, interactions and talks
- Providing access to computers and holding computer training classes
- Weekly storytelling, film screening, art/craft workshops
- Workshops and informal discourses on gender issues among youth
- Engage with children to compose meaningful stories and draw appropriate illustrations, some of which have been published
- Workshops for children with disabilities both at the library and as outreach activities.
- Library services for nearby schools, including a school for the deaf, in which the children come during their library period

Innovations

- Novel method of arranging books on the basis of difficulty levels (on a scale of 1-15) and within that on a thematic basis.
- A cell phone application in addition to bar coding to help with issue and return of books
- E-Library to help users access books and journals that are not available in print at the library
- Digitizing records and having an online catalogue so that users can easily locate books across a network of libraries and facilitate inter-library loan.



Road Ahead

Bakul is a manifestation of the power of volunteerism, as every book and infrastructure item is donated by community members, who thereby get a sense of achievement and ownership. In the process, they rediscover the value of libraries and the joy of reading. The best part is that all of this seems to happen organically which is why it is done effortlessly. It believes that libraries should not be merely storehouses of books but vibrant community spaces where people come together and engage. Bakul aspires to provide an open space, where people from different social groups come together and participate in learning activities facilitated by other members of the community.

Reader Remarks

Arati Mahapatra, 60: "At Bakul, I find a wonderful platform to express myself very freely, frankly and get to interact with others. This I would not have got elsewhere."

Nachiketa Swain, 41: "I wish Bakul was there when I was a kid. It gives me access to many books that are not easily available, such as books on Art that are available only at art galleries."

Shipra Nayak, 12: "Earlier I was not so interested in reading and would read only textbooks, but after coming here, I found many interesting books, and now I love reading. After I became the Reading Star in school, many of my friends have been motivated and inspired and have started reading. I feel like a role model."



Skilling Women, Scaling Heights

Linking the noble goals of a library with a focus on livelihoods generation and training has elevated the READ Geejgarh library to take up a central position in the community. The community has been central to the sustained growth of this library.

READ India- Geejgarh Gyan Kendra
Dausa, Rajasthan

Year of set up
2010

Status
Community Driven

Resource Person
Chandra Prakash

Contact
09610400966

History

Geejgarh Gyan Kendra (GGK) was established in 2010. At the time of its inception, the library had over 3,000 books and over 100 members. A standardised model has been deployed at all of its community library resource centres (CLRC) over the years.

The USP

Creating an enabling environment, particularly for women to interact and enhance their skill set. Focus on updating the catalogue of publications, as per each member`s requirements. Appropriate training programmes have been launched for all sections of the community.



Sustainable Model

To sustain the library's resource centre, the institute is engaged in stitching white bags which are supplied to Bharti Walmart's 'EasyDay' stores. Over 100 automatic sewing machines are deployed in the centre, which are operated by women who are remunerated according to the number of bags they make.

Road Ahead

In a relatively short span of time, GGK has ensured that ICT is leveraged to its full potential by its members. To maintain the momentum, it has also introduced the following:

- E-learning courses
- Preparation for competitive examination through sample test papers available online.
- Online courses pertaining to learning English
- Typing courses
- Basic computer literacy

Activities

- Launched the Practical Action Knowledge Dissemination Program, which aims at providing farmers information pertaining to best practices in agriculture. Over 100 farmers have participated in this programme.
- Established a computer centre to provide training programmes are held on a monthly basis. The centre is powered by a solar panel, thereby ensuring that the centre is entirely self-sufficient energy supply.
- The institute's Early Childhood section is aimed at educating its younger members through activities such as painting, crafts, story-telling, etc.
- Training programs for women for dairy farming, beauty and healthcare and livelihood skills, etc.
- Training programmes in Information and Communication Technology (ICT), eco-tourism, etc. predominantly targeted towards the youth.

Innovations

- The deployment of solar panels to provide clean energy for the library
- Collaboration with Bharti Walmart to impart training pertaining to livelihood skills (such as stitching, etc) to over 2,500 women.

Reader Remarks

Anuradha Mudgal, 23: I was amongst the first to join the institute as a volunteer. I helped the library arrange activities pertaining to community mobilization. I have participated in English Speaking, stitching and sewing, radio communication and computer training. I have also encouraged my mother to learn sewing at the READ Center. My younger sister, Archana, also participates in the programmes on eco-tourism, radio communication, beauty and health and computer training.



Capturing Minds, Capturing Imaginations

Part of the Delhi Public Library System, as the Zonal Library for New Delhi, the Sarojini Nagar DPL has distinguished itself with the strength of the varied services it offers. Its leadership is committed to expanding its portfolio to serve the population better in the increasingly digital space.

Delhi Public Library
Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi

Year of set up
1951

Status
Autonomous entity under Ministry of Culture

Resource Person
H. R Meena

Contact
9891186968

History

Delhi Public Library was established in 1951 as a collaborative effort between Ministry of Education, Government of India and UNESCO with an aim to provide modern library services to the citizens of Delhi. In addition to the traditional services offered by public libraries, great emphasis was laid on providing special facilities to the less educated, neo-literates, children, young adults, persons with disabilities and other special categories. The library started with a collection of about 8000 books. In the first year itself, 38757 books were loaned on an average of 240 books per day and 6072 users were registered during the same year. Lending & Newspaper Room, Processing, Children and Social Education were the first four departments established in the library. Posters, pamphlets and press were used to publicize library services.



The USP

It is the only Braille library in Delhi, is disabled friendly and offers a dedicated interactive space to children. Has a separate children library with T.V and computer facilities. Conducting children specific events like -'Books tells something', story -telling sessions, workshops, lectures, debates and discussions. Mobile vans for under privileged communities residing in remote areas. Organizing unique community outreach and learning initiatives in partnership with multiple stakeholders.

Sustainable Model

Revenue generation through fees received from members and grants received from Government of India.

Activities

- **Book Services:** DPL has been offering book lending services to its members since last 63 years. It has a vast and resource rich collection of DVD's and CDs.
- **Information services:** There is a dedicated reference section accessible to both members and non-members. Users can get their reference queries answered in person by visiting the library or via emails or over phone.
- **Technology Services:** Providing ICT enabled environment and free internet service to its users. Internet facility can be accessed through 20 workstations available in the library. Plans are underway to extend it to 6 more library units.
- **Children activities:** The institution has been working towards providing interactive and vibrant reading spaces to its young members. The library has a separate section for children which houses books, toys and games specific to their needs, taste and learning levels.
- **Women/Youth/Citizen/Citizen centric activities:** The institution has been forth coming in organizing various activities aimed at the enrichment and overall development of people particularly women, youngsters and senior citizens. The library has several study groups for theatre, music, literature, naturopathy and homoeopathy enthusiasts. These are aimed at developing a culture of knowledge sharing and exchange among its members. Exhibitions, book reading sessions, film screenings, television shows and lectures are some of the regular features of the library.
- **Other activities:** Being the only Braille library in Delhi, DPL offers specialized services to visually impaired individuals.



Road Ahead

The library envisions itself as a state-of the art knowledge resource centre catering to needs of all.

Innovations

- Introduction of a special section dedicated to children. The section is a store house of children specific literature and also offers internet services to the kids. This section offers vibrant and interactive reading space to the children.
- Providing ICT enabled environment and free internet services to its members
- Connecting with teachers and students through outreach activities by collaborating with various NGOs.
- Organizing special programs such as 'Books tells something` during summer vacations, story- telling sessions, art & craft workshops, theatre workshops and various other personality development programs for underprivileged children particularly girls.

Reader Remarks

Arun Chhibber: "I and my three family members have been regular members of the DPL since the last 15-20 years. My children found the children section very useful since school days. They took part in various activities organized by the library."

Brijesh Aggarwal: "As a blind person I have gained the knowledge of braille from the Braille Department of DPL.I am indebted to the DPL because today I could pursue my Masters in Hindi."

Anuvansh Gundev: "The kind of infrastructure & facilities updated & maintained by the DPL management are commendable. I think it is a very good initiative taken up by the management by introducing the separate children library with T.V. & computer which was not available earlier."



Catching them Young and How

Founded by educators, to serve the needs of children, the Bookworm Library targets its work at children in the all-important age range of 2-14 years. It guides them in exploring the rich world of content available in books and focuses on expanding their view of the world

Bookworm
North Goa, Goa

Year of set up
2005

Status
Private

Resource Person
Sujata Noronha

Contact
(0832) 2451233

History

Bookwork came into being in 2005, envisioned by two educators Elaine Mendosa and Sujata Noronha. They converted their family owned space into a library lending and learning space for children. It was established on a partnership model. The library started its operations with 6300 books initially which grew to 8000 within one year of its inception. Monthly calendar of activities has been the hall mark of the program where books are read aloud, discussions called book talks, parent workshops and preschool programs around books are carried out. 240 members were registered in the first year between the age groups of 2-14 years. Good library practice, love for books and positive feedback from the members popularized library among the community members.

Initiatives like a children's magazine soon followed. Elaine also now had the facilities to develop literacy through her innovative 'read aloud' story skills and associated activities and this soon became Bookworm's flagship programme that continues to this day.



The USP

Good selection of books, recommending and linking them themes suitable to learners and readers. Bookworm has adapted the traditional book classification system suited to the needs and requirements of its users, team and field work. It is mandatory for every team member be it from administrative department or any resource person to engage with books closely and link them to practice within the library. Books are discussed, planned, reviewed and read throughout the year by everyone at Bookworm to build a community of knowing readers within the organization. Significant amount of investments is made annually in updating the books, refreshing the collection and purchasing award winning books.

Activities

- Library services for government school and underprivileged children through mobile outreach programme (MOP).
- Age specific book services for the enthusiastic readers. Over 5000 children had made use of the library services in last 5 years.
- Thematic workshops on literacy, reading and home literacy activities for parents and children.
- Environment walks, heritage walks, art camps and creative arts workshops for youngsters.
- Working and providing necessary assistance and book services to under-resourced schools and schools with multi lingual population.
- Read aloud story skills and tactile activity sessions for visually challenged individuals in one of the centre of National Association of Blind (NAB).
- Poetry week, fact finding programs to showcase non-fiction books.
- Interactions and book reading sessions with authors.

Innovations

- **Mobile Outreach Programme:** Taking bookworm services to the under-resourced and under-served communities. Most of the children accessing services under this initiative are first generation learners.
- **Library Management & Governance:** systemized data entry through custom designed catalogue and assessment program that enables checking in and checking out across all three programs of Bookworm and generates reports based on usage type, linked to reading levels of users and collection status.
- **Enabling Environment:** Age specific dedicated spaces within the library to carry out children activities including play area for the pre-schoolers.



Sustainable Model

Bookworm is a privately run initiative and does not receive any kind of institutional or government support. Certain services offered by Bookworm to schools and communities are non-chargeable. 40% of the administrative cost is sustained through membership fees received by the library. Despite, financial hurdles library is going very strong. Effective implementation, passionate team, knowledge base, intense engagement and inclusion of innovative techniques in the serving the community has been some of the strongest elements in sustaining the library.

Road Ahead

- Bookworm aspires to provide resource rich creative spaces for children of all ages and abilities through innovative techniques of story- telling, needle craft, book reading session and many more.
- More outreach activities to draw more readers into the library.



A Treasure Trove of Knowledge

An open space; with open arms, is the best way to describe the Swami Vivekanand Library. It is ever-growing and expanding to better serve the needs and requirements of its readers. It has positioned itself over the years as a support to teachers and to the education system itself in the area.

Swami Vivekanand Library
Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Year of set up
2008

Status
Government sponsored library

Resource Person
Laxmi Sharan Mishra

Contact
9893012706

History

SVL is an initiative of Government of Madhya Pradesh launched in 2008 to provide a state of the art library and resource centre to the people of Madhya Pradesh. The library was entrusted with the task of conducting and organizing seminars, workshops and training programs on career, health, technology, education and other informational content for the undergraduates, graduate and working professionals in the initial years. An autonomous society was formed to manage and oversee the functioning of the library under the chairmanship of Commissioner Public Instructions, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh. SVL started with a collection of 18000 books. OPAC, online resources, movie membership, reference membership, institutional membership, air-conditioned library area and education based counseling workshops were some of the special features inducted in the library at the time of establishment. Library orientations in various schools, colleges, offices and clubs were conducted to spread the word about library.



The USP

Open space for visitors, customer care and hospitality, orientations and capacity building trainings, quiz competitions for children and youngsters, high speed internet connectivity, friendly environment, energetic and enthusiastic staff, collection of old and latest books in the library.

Sustainable Model

The library is committed to maintaining its relevance by expansion and constant upgrade of facilities and services. Coupled with the tiered membership fees and grants from the government allow it to sustain its activities well into the future.

Road Ahead

Envisions much better and connected library spaces with a vision for libraries to become centers of knowledge and learning; available and accessible to all.

Activities

- Weekly addition of 50-100 latest and award winning books in the library collection.
- Organizing national and international sessions on higher education and career guidance themes catering to youth.
- Providing free E-library services to the members.
- Carnivals and festivals for children are organized every winter. 5000 schools participated in the 'Wake up Kids' festivals held in 2010 and 2011.
- Heritage walks, quiz and debate competitions for women, children and youth.

Innovations

- Classification of members according to the reading habits and knowledge needs. This helped in identifying need based and common interests of the members. Three distinct clubs - civil Services club, Bhopal Quizzers club and Club ink were formed catering to specific need of each category.

Reader Remarks

- ***Ms. Tulika Shree:*** "This library has been one of the earliest teachers of my life. Throughout these years, my association with SVL has only deepened. SVL boasts of the largest assortment of books and magazines in the city, and is practically the proxy for the word "Library" in Bhopal. Apart from a huge collection of great books on nearly all topics, SVL actively organizes many literary events, quizzes, workshops, guest lectures, and seminars. SVL has been the torchbearer of spreading knowledge, awareness and competitive spirit. "
- ***Dr. Amita Singh:*** "The library added a new dimension to my learning".



Preserving 'A Slice of History`

One of the oldest libraries in India, the Trivandrum Public Library has held an important space in the operations of the British Raj and, more recently, in the hearts of the people of Trivandrum. It has also started to accept its role as a custodian of records from history.

State Central Library
Palayam, Trivandrum

Year of set up
1829

Status
Under the purview of the Education Department, Government of Kerala

Resource Person
Sobhana P K

Contact
9447781895

History

In 1829, Colonel Kadogan, the then British Resident and Grandson of the founder of the British Museum, started this library as the Trivandrum Public Library under a registered society, the Trivandrum Public Library Association. The library`s records, dating back to 1877, are still available. In 1898, the Travancore government took over the library and the Trivandrum Public Library society was disbanded. When the state of Kerala was formed in 1956, the library was renamed the State Central Library under the Kerala government. The library is housed in one of the oldest heritage monuments in Trivandrum.



The USP

Preservation of records-The State Central Library is the oldest public library in the country. The main challenge faced was to preserve the huge volumes of dilapidated and damaged records, as well as newspapers and magazines. In 2006, the library began digitizing valuable books and other records.

Sustainable Model

The library`s newspaper reading room and non-members reading facilities have caught on very well. All current magazines are purchased and distributed to members.

Activities

The State Central library`s activities are listed as follows

- Book Services- Books are purchased, catalogued and stored appropriately. Circulation-related services are being carried out via the Libsys Software OPAC Service. Over the past five years, 20 lakh members have been added and the library is issuing close to 15,000 memberships annually.
- Information Services- Information from government-issued Gazettes dating back to 1902 is available. Moreover, dated newspapers and magazines are provided, on request.
- Technology Services- The library houses the digital version of rare old books and Gazettes. Other facilities include photocopy machines, scanners, internet browsing, etc.
- Activities related to children-A separate library has been established for children, which includes a multimedia section, comprising of a television and activities such as story time, etc.
- Activities related to women-international Women`s Day is celebrated
- Activities for youth-Cultural meetings are held, as is the Sarga Sagmamam literary session.
- Activities` pertaining to education and content- The library`s reference section is often used by students preparing for the civil service examinations.
- Services for citizens and senior citizens- The library has a public reading room



Road Ahead

For many years, the Trivandrum Public Library has played its part in preserving old and dilapidated records and has leveraged ICT to this end. For example, tools such as the Online Public Access Catalogue and the computerization of routine tasks such as housekeeping, book circulation, etc, have helped it streamline operations.

Innovations

- Library Management and Governance- A one-week publishers and book sellers` exhibition is being conducted every year, enabling members to be part of the book selection process The library purchases the books selected by its members.
- Content and Services- A survey is conducted to examine the reading habits of children.
- Enhancing Visibility and Membership- The State Central Library conducts a one-month summer school for school children. Around 700 children participate each year. This initiative began in the 1980s and the focus is on conducting innovative entertainment and educative programs.

Reader Remarks

- ***E H Pushkin:*** A Painter and writer who is a member of the library from the days when he was studying in the Fine Arts College, Trivandrum in 1980s . He always emphasizes on the importance of the Trivandrum Public Library in his creative life. The huge collection of art books and the serene atmosphere in the library have had a positive impact on his life.
- ***Sri Vinodkumar:*** An unemployed youth from Kottayam , who stays here and use the facilities of the Trivanrum Public Library. He regularly comes to the library to read the newspapers and spends his time in reference section referring the career guidance books.
- ***Sri Malayinkil Gopalakrishnan:*** He is a retired Journalist who still write a column in leading Malayalaam newsapaper, Mathrubhumi daily as ´Nagarapazhama(Memories of old City). His major reference source is the rare book collection of State Central Library.



Reading in Serenity

A venerable library in its home district of Udaipur, the Kunzru Library has expanded its mandate; with one eye on the future and one on the vision of its founder, Dr. Mehta and the ideals espoused by Pt. Kunzru who inspired him to found Seva Mandir.

Kunzru Library
Udaipur, Rajasthan

Year of set up
1973

Status
Private

Resource Person
Shruti Goyal

Contact
9460253091

History

When the library was established in 1973, there were 1,800 books with two staff members and 60 members. There was no computer facility and an annual membership fee of Rs.35 was charged. There were few magazines and newspapers. All the records were maintained manually in a register.

The USP

The library issues books, journals, etc over 3,000 times annually. Information related to employment opportunities and competitive exams is shared with members



Sustainable Model

Kunzru Library has an advisory board which meets every quarter and advises on increasing the efficiency of Library. Library utilizes the services of volunteers who helps in managing the library at the time of need and the regular members are identified who ensure books upkeep and discipline in the library. Capacity building of Library is a regular feature which has resulted in making it a popular public library in Udaipur. Stakeholders from various strata of society are its members who regularly visit and often donate quality books which keep adding quality to its good collection.

Road Ahead

The Kunzru Library believes "Knowledge is Power" and has built up its collection with this adage in mind.

Activities

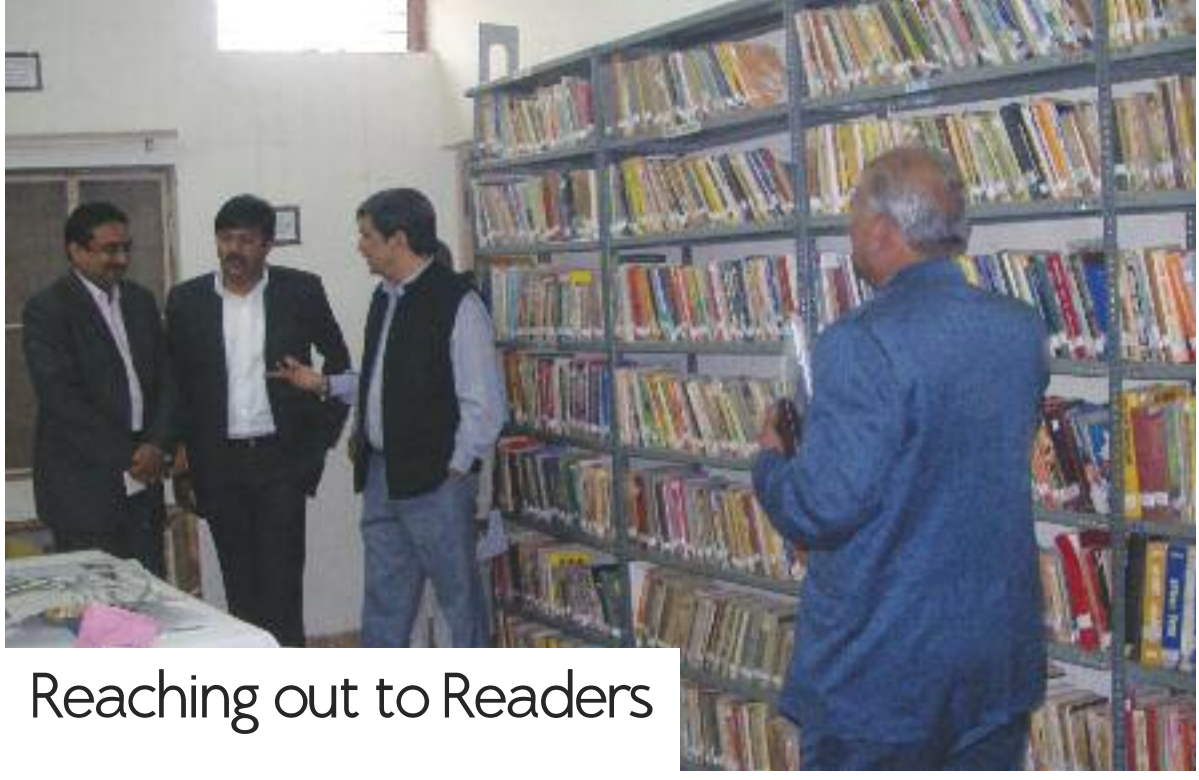
- Providing information on Census-related material, current news and events.
- Research studies and reference material available for researchers and readers
- Online data tracking facilities
- Availability of various journals
- Information of successful candidates for motivation of current users
- Information can be accessed online on the Seva Mandir website
- A special space is allotted to differently abled people, the library has reserved seats for such members and staff assists them in smoothening books issuance process and they are provided books on their desks if they are located on upper floors.
- Provides support to smaller libraries in the area by providing books and support.

Innovations

- Separation of the library into 3 wings according to user category
- The provision of reserved spaces for the differently abled to allow inclusion of the most number of people.

Reader Remarks

- ***Ashok Kumar Bajaj, 71:*** I did get a few books that changed my lifestly and behaviour and interaction with others. I did get such good books which were not only very informative but enlightened in various ways.
- ***Sunil Bhanawat, 52:*** I am reading books for the last 30 years. The best books I have read are in the collection of Seva Mandir. Getting books issued from a library and reading in a fixed time makes you a regular reader.



Reaching out to Readers

Its growth has been slow but steady. The Noida Public Library has demonstrated the importance of a clear vision to the success of any endeavour.

Noida Public Library
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Year of set up
2002

Status
State Library, NGO managed

Resource Person
Mahesh Saxena

Contact
09810722102

History

In its initial days, the library housed over 4,000 books. During that period, the library received 20 periodicals weekly or bimonthly, as well as a few complimentary magazines. As the readership numbers increased, the library began the process of enrolling members.

The USP

To create awareness, the library distributed pamphlets to local residential areas, markets and offices etc. It also placed some posters in public places and placed ads in local newspapers.



Sustainable Model

Sustainable areas taken into consideration in evaluating library`s sustainability could be space, green IT, strategies, collection management, location and environmental awareness of both public and staff. Users should be offered recycling points for books and waste, staff should be committed to sustainability and communicate their awareness. Library strategies should include a sustainable point of view. It is noteworthy that the library is often a part of a large organization in a municipality, town or school, college, university etc. If the host organization has an environmental management system, library is most likely a part of that. Sustainability needs commitment from every person in the organization.

Road Ahead

Though relatively new, the Noida Public Library has set its sights firmly on adopting the best practices in ICT.

Activities

A few of the institution's activities include book services, information services, activities for children, women and the youth, content related to education and citizen and senior citizen services.
Other activities include conducting health camps and extending support to victims of natural disasters.

Innovations

- Development of Infrastructure- The library has expanded its collection to include titles in English, science, Hindi, fiction, computer and children's books.
- Enabling Environment-The reading room includes material pertaining to competitive examinations.
- Content and services-The library offers basic training in computer courses.



Walking the Talk

A young library, the Varadenahalli Village Library has aimed at overcoming the societal conditions in which it exists. It actively engages the lower caste women and children in its activities to promote education and literacy among the community.

Varadenahalli Village Library
Varadenahalli, Bangalore

Year of set up
2013

Status
Private

Resource Person
Usha Mukunda

Contact
080-23348657

History

The library was started just over two years ago with just 500 books. After initial issues in the selection of a librarian, the founders recruited a local lady as the head librarian. The library was promoted by word of mouth and by introducing children to stories while ensuring their attention by providing them sweets and treats.

The USP

To promote the library, the founders talk about it while walking through the village. As a result, the adults in the village have caught on and encourage the children to visit the library. A walk through the village often reveals young children sitting on the verandas reading. Older boys who were hesitant are slowly coming in to borrow and take part. The loss of books is minimal. Children have understood the concept of borrowing and returning and alert their friends. According to the founders, one older man came in to borrow looking very embarrassed but then went off happily with a book.



Sustainable Model

The founders are of the firm opinion that the interest and enthusiasm of the children are the best models of sustainability. They purchase resources as per the children's requirements and stress upon the need for care and responsibility.

Road Ahead

According to the founders, teaching the children how to look after a book is still a little difficult. Equally challenging is encouraging members of the "upper" side of the village to visit the library (a subtle indication of the caste politics that exists in the village). Another interesting example is changing the mind-set of married women who are reluctant to come to borrow books themselves, preferring instead to send a child. Despite humble beginnings, what drives the founders of the Varadenahalli Village Library is the enthusiastic response they have received. While the library has made significant headway, there is still a long way to go.

Activities

- Children were asked to pick a book and identify to others each of these elements. Activities were carried out where material in all categories was put out and asked the children to identify each.
- **Listening:** A story is read out or told, and are nuances brought out through discussing the book, looking at illustrations and asking the children what was their favourite part was and why.
- **Sharing:** The children take turns to talk about a book they had read. The librarian asked them to talk about the theme, the characters, the way the story moved and how the illustrations helped in this process.
- A story was told with no pictures and the children then drew or sketched their impressions. Sometimes, a story was orally made up and they had to sketch and put in captions or sentences below to convey the story. These were always displayed on the walls.
- Children were asked to secretly choose a book from the shelves and mime the cover or the story for others to guess. An easier version of this was to hang a number of books on a string and each child would mime one of the books and others could look and guess. After that they were asked who had read that book and that child would say a few words about it thus encouraging more borrowing.
- One session on poetry was done by reading out one or two children's poems by well known Kannada writers and then gave out photocopies of different poems to each child. They were to either go over them well and read out next time, or learn by heart and recite from memory. This turned out so well because some children actually sang the poems!

KINSEY BROS

Estd. 1905

Digitizing Heritage...





A-285 Defence Colony, Main Bhisham Pitamah Marg, New Delhi-110024
+919810064404, +919910022605 kinseybros@gmail.com

MODELS FROM TELENGANA & ANDHRA PRADESH

This section of the compendium highlights 2 important public library initiatives that bring out best practices in ideas and implementation through innovations like supporting rural libraries with community engagement and setting up Book Depository Centres (BDCs).



Enabling for All, by All

Gunrampally Library & Information Centre
Nalgonda District, Telangana

Year of set up
2006

Status
Private, Community driven

Resource Person
Prof. N. Laxman Rao

Contact
+ 91-40-2717 1565

History

It was founded in April 2006 by Mr. Anumula Srinivas with a vision to serve the educational and knowledge needs of the Gunrampally village and to build a centre of community learning and knowledge enrichment. Financial and in-kind contributions from various individuals including community members are used to manage and fund initial activities of the community library. The library was set up in a rent-free space provided by the Gundrampally Gram Panchayat.

Currently, the library houses more than 2000 books, has subscription to 8 newspapers and 25 weeklies. The average number of people visiting and availing library services every day is 40. The library remains open seven days a week, 07:00-9:00 in the morning and 06:00-08:00 in the evening. On Sundays, it remains open for an additional one and a half hours. The overwhelming response received from the community played an instrumental role in granting Book Depository Centre (BDC) status to the library.



The USP

In addition to serving the knowledge needs of the community, awareness campaigns on various social issues, dental camps, essay writing competitions, career guidance programs, sports and similar activities are conducted on regular basis to create a conducive environment for learning and growth.

Sustainability Model

Being a voluntary initiative; management, functioning and upkeep of the library largely depends upon the contributions received from friends, patrons and community individuals. Besides, the library receives an additional funding Rs.900 per month from Zila Granthalaya Samstha (ZGS) under 'Book Depository Centre' (BDC) scheme. Despite limited finances, the library initiative has managed to sustain and garner enough support from the like-minded individuals of the community.



Taking Communities in Stride

Rural Library Foundation
Andhra Pradesh

Year of set up
2000

Status
Private, Community driven

Resource Person
Prof. N. Laxman Rao

Contact
+ 91-40-2717 156

History

Rural Library Foundation (RLF) is a collective effort of several NRI professionals living in USA, modelled on the vision of facilitating equal opportunities of learning & growth to rural school children and to inculcate a sense of knowledge sharing and reading habits among them. The project started with an aim to provide a solution to the unattended knowledge needs of the rural students/community youth by opening and sponsoring libraries for them. Most of the patrons supporting library activities are the students of the same village schools, who moved out of their villages in search of better opportunities and now want to give back to their communities through this noble initiative. RLF runs 39 rural libraries in Warangal, Karimnagar, Mahbubnagar, Nizamabad, Ranareddy and Medak districts of Telangana.



Sustainability Model

Rural Library Foundation follows a fund based model and does not receive any institutional support from the government other than a financial assistance of 900 rupees per month allocated under Book Depository Centre (BDC) scheme.

Operations and management cost of all the rural libraries managed by RLF is borne by the monetary support provided by its committed sponsors/donors.

Minimum sponsorship amount for establishing a library with basic set of books and furniture amounts to Rs.25,000 (US$500). The number of libraries sponsored by each RLF contributor vary from 2-3. A feasibility study of the library/s is conducted by the RLF executing body before setting it up in proposed area. The executing body also oversees the monitoring and evaluation processes of these libraries.

The USP

- **User Oriented Collection development:** Involvement of users/readers in selecting books for the library by allowing them in putting forward requests for books/reading material required by them through requisition forms. Earlier, all the books & other relevant reading material were selected under the close supervision of 'Book Selection Committee` at district levels. The same books were then distributed to Zila Granthalaya Samstha (ZGS) and other public libraries. This kind of practice encourages reader participation and develops a sense of ownership and belongingness in the people.
- ICT enabled environment: Internet has emerged as another vital resource pool of information. Providing inexpensive internet access and services to the users of rural libraries as an alternative source for fulfilling their information and knowledge needs. District libraries in Telangana offer internet services to its users at a nominal rate of five rupees for an hour. The libraries may not be able to procure all the needed knowledge resources and internet service could be an alternative source to satisfy the user`s needs. Integration of internet services in libraries not only aid in modernization of the existing set up but also provides infinite opportunities to access information and knowledge enrichment.
- **Separate section for career oriented collection:** The Telangana district library has a dedicated 'career development` section which has books, information material, interview reference guides particularly for young individuals preparing to enter professional field. 10 more rural libraries in the district have replicated and adopted the same practice.
- **Development of Text Book Collection:** With the advent of open schools and universities, there is a significant increase in the number of students in need of library services as most of these open universities do not have libraries at the study centres allocated to them. In order to meet this growing need, a lot of public libraries in Telangana have started this innovative practice of stocking text books prescribed in the curriculum of these schools/universities and making them accessible to the needy students.

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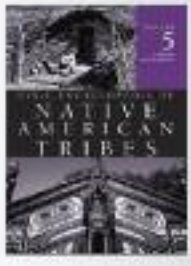

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Users can cross-search your *GVRL* eReference collection via *Gale PowerSearch* as well as other Gale holdings including *InfoTrac* and specific *InContext* resources.

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High School Student: *"...the book covers catch my eye... it gives me hope—makes me feel like I am going to find what I am looking for."*

With its depth of features and content, *Gale Virtual Reference Library* is a digital cross-curricular resource that supports information literacy and the development of 21st century skills and reinforcing the critical difference between authoritative resources and consumer-published content on the web.

OUTSTANDING CONTENT

High School Librarian: *"I like the sidebar navigation because it helps students make the choice of what (subject) category they should be in."*

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SHINNING FROM THE NORTH EAST

The last segment of this collection brings out examples of State Central Libraries from 3 States of the North East India, one of India`s most picturesque yet topographically difficult regions. It brings to the fore, the impact of vision and motivation to run public libraries through focused and concerted efforts.



Showing the Way

State Central Library
Gangtok, Sikkim

Resource Person
Phurden Lepcha

Contact
03592-203458

Figurespeak

Hierarchy of Libraries in the State - 1 State Central Library, 3 District Libraries & 5 Sub-divisional Libraries

Library members using State Library = 465

Total library members across the state = 1500

Number of Books in State Library = 52837

Total Number of books in libraries across the state = 109401

Total books added in the last year = 1536



Background

The Sikkim State Central Library is the apex library in Sikkim with operational control over 3 district libraries and 5 sub-divisional libraries. It functions with an operational budget of Rs. 62.68 lakhs. It has recently shifted to a more spacious venue at the Government building in Gangtok.

It entertains about 30 visitors per day who have the opportunity to access their catalogue of over fifty-two thousand books. Library patrons in the state have a choice of about 110,000 titles among the 9 libraries (inclusing the State Library)

Activities

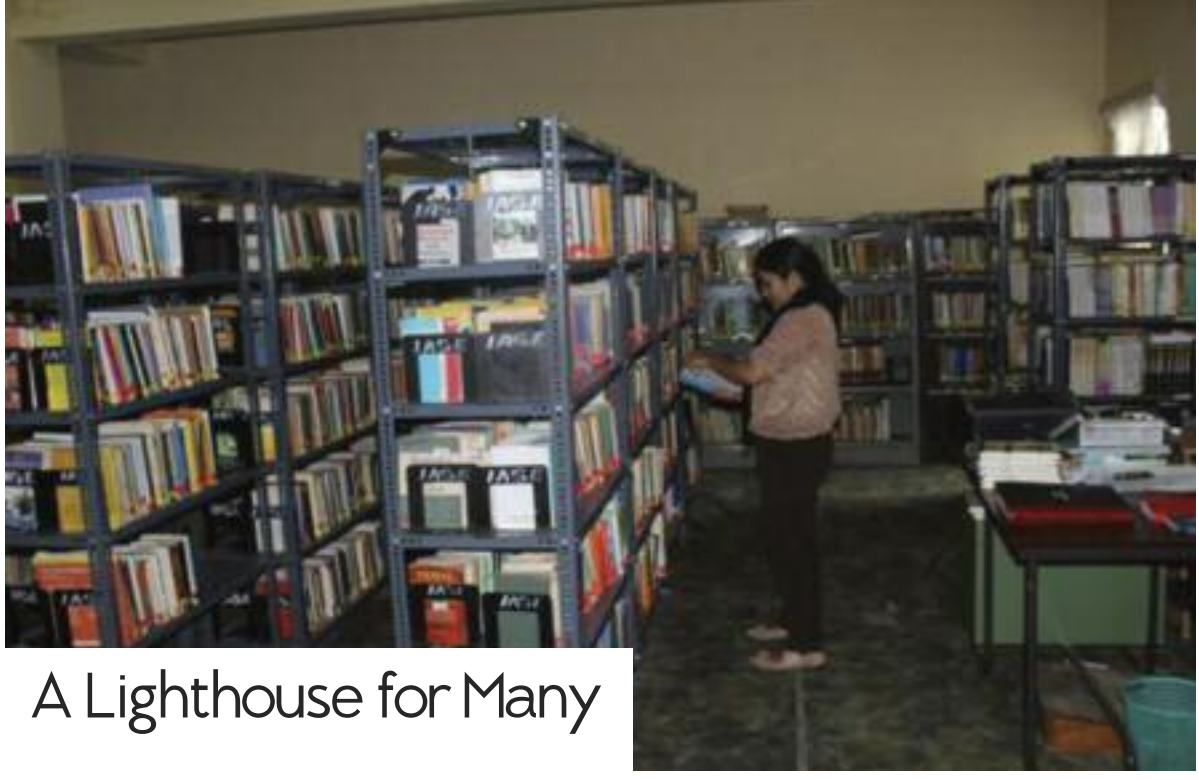
- Book lending services - Servicing approxminately 500 regular members.
- Library Management and automation software deployment in the state
- Support in development of infrastructure in the eight subordinate libraries
- Liasoning with National Mission on Libraries to evolve the State Central Library to an NML Model State Library
- Training and Capacity building processes for librarians of the state

Challenges

- Lack of qualified manpower in the state
- Degredation of reading habits among people
- Growth of modern technologies resulting in easy access of information
- Lack of Library legislation at the state level

Moving Ahead

- Creation of an independent Department of Library Services
- Staffing with a uniqie cadre of trained library and information\ services personell
- Incorporating technologies to augment services of libraries



A Lighthouse for Many

State Central Library
Aizawl, Mizoram

Resource Person
R. Hmingthanzuala

Contact
9436140546, 0389-2335695

Figurespeak

Hierarchy of Libraries in the State - 1 Central State Library, 5 District Libraries & 460 NGO Run Libraries

Library members using State Library = 5479

Number of Books in State Library = 57768

Total books added in the last year = 1246



Background

As the apex library in Mizoram, the State Central Library has oversight on 5 district libraries and provides support and hand-holding to approximately five-hundred NGO run Libraries. It has an operational budget of Rs. 147 lakhs,of which 82 Lakhs is further disbursed to the district libraries. The State Government and RRRLF provided matching funding to the library to move to its own premises in 2011.

It has a catalogue of over fifty-seven thousand books and approximately 20-30 people use its facilites every day.

Activities

- Book lending services - Servicing approxminately 5500 regular members.
- Library Management and automation software deployment in the state
- Support in development of infrastructure in the five subordinate libraries
- Aids recognised NGO led rural libraries in recieving grants from the RRRLF and from the Art and Culture Department of the Government of Mizoram.
- Organise Librarian's Day events and engage students and adults with Best Reader Awards
- Liasoning with National Mission on Libraries to evolve the State Central Library to an NML Model State Library
- Training and Capacity building processes for librarians of the state

Challenges

- Lack of qualified manpower in the state
- Low levels of Computer Literacy of the librarians
- Physical Location of the State is not condusive to enouraging footfall due to distance from central locations in the city.
- Lack of e-Resources in the library to better enagage readers
- Lack of budget to purchase new books to maintain relevance of library resources
- Improper implementation of the Public Library Legislation, which was passed in 1993

Moving Ahead

- Creation of an independent Directorate of Public Libraries
- Staffing with a unique cadre of trained library and information services personell
- Incorporating technologies to augment services of libraries
- Proper implementation of the Mizoram Public Libraries Act, 1993



Overcoming Barriers, Offering Solutions

State Central Library
Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh

Resource Person
J. Berang

Contact
03592-203458

Figurespeak

Hierarchy of Libraries in the State - 1 State Central Library, 2 SCL Branch Libraries, 3 Divisional Libraires, 18 District Libraries, 12 sub-divisional Libraries, 32 Block Libraries & 38 Circle Libraries

Library members using State Library = 391

Number of Books in State Library = 62199

Total books added in the last year = 3425



Background

The Arunachal State Central Library is an apex library with operational control over 104 surordinate libraries and 2 branches.In the past few years, it has spent over 2 crores on upgradation of the smaller libraries under its watch. It has an extensive catalogue of 62199 books and library catalogue and automation software KOHA.

Activities

- Book lending services - Servicing approxminately 391 regular members.
- Library Management and automation software deployment in the subordinate liraries
- Support in development of infrastructure in the district libraries
- Creation of specialised sections within the library: Archive, Children-centric and Career Guidance
- Training and Capacity building for librarians of the state

Challenges

- Lack of qualified manpower in the state
- Uneven topography of the location restricts the number of people who can access the library

Moving Ahead

- Staffing with a uniqie cadre of trained library and information services personell
- Being able to stimulate the creativity and capture the imagination of children
- Promoting awareness of cultural heritage
- Ensuring access for citizens to all sorts of community information
- Promoting scientific achievement and innovations

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