

Improved utilisation of Library Services Across India: A sustainability Perspective

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ABSTRACT: The library system in India is more or less neglected. People are turning toward towards faster means of communication and knowledge transfers like internet, telecommunications and mobiles. The paper investigates the possible hidden role of a library in development of a society. It also calculates the cost reduction in newspaper printing and concentrates in increasing the daily readership.

Keywords: library, IGNOU, cost reduction

INTRODUCTION: According to all India survey of higher education, only 0.5% of total students enrol in phd programs[1]. To encourage higher education, libraries must play a major role. As calculated in Table 1, a total of 1,19,964 libraries are spread over the entire country excluding online libraries. Not only children but also the elderly retired people should be encouraged to go to libraries regularly. In places where public libraries are unavailable, college libraries could be utilised with the help of aadhar card. The retired community could spend some time in nearby library as a favourite pass time.

LITERATURE SURVEY: Vimal et al provides a brief picture of Koha software adoption and the users' perceptions about it in the Indian library scenario and evaluates the satisfaction level of Indian library professionals with Koha. Adoption and use of open source library management systems in Indian libraries is gaining momentum [2]. Kumbar et al studied the growth and development of public library system in India may be studied by categorizing it broadly into three groups- Ancient libraries; Medieval Libraries and Modern libraries. He deduced that lot of negligence and indifferent attitude have marred the growth of the system as a whole [3]. Ghosh et al deduced that public libraries in India do have the potential to use new information and communication technologies to create online facilities and services which will further transform the lives of Indians[4].

METHODOLOGY: The method is to develop a reading habit among the retired community. The reading habit percolates into the young seeing the older generations. These generations would also be abreast with latest knowledge. These people are also encouraged to enrol in open education system, IGNOU. Community readership is the method adopted in the paper to investigate the possibilities of cost reduction in news paper readership.

DISCUSSION: The urban and rural India is yet to develop a culture of reading books as a favourite pass time. In the present day scenario, television is the favourite pass time. Even though, the number in higher education has grown in India over years, it is yet to see a tremendous growth. The open university system – IGNOU-Indira Gandhi National Open University has been very successful in shaping the lives of four million Indians till now [5]. IGNOU being the largest university in the world many more lives of future indians are to be shaped in the hands of IGNOU . The low wage people in India are often deprived of educational opportunities even in the system of open university. This is because of the high cost of urban living leading to reduced affordability and lack of awareness about opportunities in education. One common aspect to be publicised among people is 'learning while earning'. To encourage lower middle class people in higher education, IGNOU is expected to come up with bank loans to their education programs.

The retired and elderly must inculcate a habit to spend some time in library daily. Be it a daily news paper in a library, it nullifies the cost of news papers in households and also gives a community approach to elders. There are two lakh fifty thousand gram panchayats in India[6]. Let every panchayat office have a reading room based on the major occupations of the people living in the panchayat. Literature in native languages should be made freely available in gram panchayat offices for occupational readership. To consider the case of farmers, literature on latest farming techniques must be available in gram panchayat offices so that farmers will be well equipped with the latest trends and technologies of agriculture. Similarly, horticulture. This would not only inculcate a reading habit among people but also give a direction as to the future education prospects of children at home.

The habit of community reading would also reduce the carbon footprint of the country as the prints would reduce on the nationwide scale. Also, online library system must be encouraged among young students so that they would access themselves of the best resources around the globe.

Table 1: education in india

Parameter	Value
Universities[1]	903
Colleges[1]	39050
Stand alone institutions listed[1]	10011
Women universities[1]	15
Colleges in rural area[1]	60.48 %
Urban area colleges	39.32%
Public libraries across India[8]	70,000
Total number of libraries across India	1,19,964

Table 2: Economy benefits of community readership

Parameter	Value
Indian newspaper readership[8]	39%
Total head count	$130 * 10^7 * 0.39 = 507 * 10^6$
Daily Revenue generated	$5 * 507 * 10^6 = 2535 * 10^6 = 253.5 \text{ crores}$
Printing cost per news paper daily(1000 copies) [9]	$0.30 * 5 * 1000 = 150 (0.15 \text{ inr per 16 A3 pages})$
Total number of libraries in India	119,964
Total number of panchayats	2,50,000
Total community readers to a minimum	$119,964 + 2,50,000 = 369,964$
Number of Daily newspapers in a community	5
Cost of community newspapers	$369,964 * 5 = 18,49,820 \text{ INR}$

Percentage Cost reduction in newspapers	93
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CONCLUSION: The libraries across India have a huge role to play in increasing the literacy rate and higher educands' percentage in India. As most of the country lives on meagre wages, open education system-IGNOU has to be given wide publicity in regards to the opportunities in education and the career oriented benefits of such programs. The village panchayats have a key role to play in the development of villagers' occupational knowledge. This could be done from the funds available to the gram panchayats. The paper also deduced the economic benefits in terms of reduced printing cost of news papers. It also reduces the ecological rucksack involved in the entire value chain of news papers, starting from printing to distribution to recycling.

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