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CHAPTER - A

INTRODUCTION

A.1. **The Topic and Problem**

The present Doctoral Dissertation is an endeavour to present a status report on **LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES IN SENIOR SCHOOLS IN N.C.T. OF DELHI** and to suggest ways and means for further improvement of libraries of these schools.

Secondary and Senior Secondary School education system in N.C.T. of Delhi is controlled, coordinated and monitored by a number of agencies such as:

1.1  **Government Schools**

(a) Delhi Administration's schools, controlled by Directorate of Education, Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi.

(b) N.D.M.C. Schools, controlled by New Delhi Municipal Corporation.

(c) Central Schools, controlled by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.
(d) Navodaya Vidyalayas controlled by Navodaya Vidyalaya Sangathan.

1.2 **Private Schools**

(a) Government Aided Schools funded by Directorate of education, Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi.

(b) Private Schools, affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (C.B.S.E.) and Council for Indian School Certificate Examinations (C.I.S.C.E.), controlled by different Management Committees, so called Public Schools.

A.2. **Scope and Circumscription**

As it is evident from the very topic, the present study has taken into fold the study and analysis of the existing Library and Information Services in the Government as well as Government-aided schools under the control of the Government of N.C.T. Delhi, with a view to ascertaining the problems being faced by these schools in rendering Library and Information services to their cliental i.e. Students, Teachers and Administrators. On the basis of the ascertained facts, ways and means for providing still
better library and information services to users of school library have been suggested.

Circumscription of the topic to Secondary and Senior Secondary School libraries in N.C.T. of Delhi has a couple of valid reasons. First, all these schools in Delhi have their own libraries under the provisions of Delhi School Education Act, 1973 and hence these schools have provided sufficient opportunity and ground for pursuing a research study worth the name. Secondly, the study, analysis and findings of the present research work are more or less, can equally be applicable to all such schools in the country as a whole.

A.3. **Need and Importance**

In a system of education, students have to pursue a prescribed course for which they have to imbibe knowledge through their teachers, books and other reading materials. As a matter of fact, study of reading material is an integral part not only for learning by the students, but also for teaching by teachers. Libraries of the schools provide opportunity to the student and the teacher alike.
That all schools should have their own library worth the name – is not an utopian proposition, but is the need of the day. Innovations in school instruction have made great impact on education and many implications on school libraries. School library plays a significant role in converting the young boys and girls into a better citizen who are expected to play their respective roles in various fields, right from ploughing the lands to electing public representatives. These young boys and girls will be administering and implementing government policies at various stages and levels of bureaucracy, enhancing national capabilities in education, research, Science and Technology, Defence and so on. School education is the pillar on which is erected the castle of national development. It is, therefore, highly essential that our schools are equipped with proper library and information facilities so that young students develop proper reading habits and with self- study may inculcate the habit of self- sufficiency. If one of the essential functions of our education is to inculcate the habit of self-sufficiency among students, its practice should start from school library itself. The time has gone when students were supposed to be silent spectators and mute listeners to lectures in classrooms. Now, they are advised by the teachers and the parents alike to prepare their lessons and homework with the
help of the librarians and libraries. Students, after completing their school education will require to consult library facilities during their higher education also and therefore, again it is most important that necessary library infrastructure is provided so as to ensure that they develop reading habits at school stage itself. Here comes the role of school libraries to catch them young. It will not only be in the interest of students, but also in the interest of libraries and society at large. Those young students, who have been given proper library facilities in schools, will become vigorous and voracious advocates and patrons of libraries. Schools, aiming at providing quality education, pay greater attention to their libraries. Parry Committee, set up in U.K., very correctly pointed out as early as in 1921 that "the character and efficiency of a university can be gauged by its treatment of its central organ i.e. the library". This applies equally to schools.

The facts presented above would sufficiently justify the relevance of the present research work on school libraries, which are vital elements of education system and should be subjected to constant constructive study, observation, and research.
A.4. **Aims and Objectives**

Aims and objectives of the present research work may be enumerated as under:

(i) To find out comparative trends of information gathering habits of senior secondary school students, teachers and administrators of school libraries.

(ii) To find out habits of school teachers to satisfy the information need in support of their school curriculum.

(iii) To find out the status of library and information services in Government and Govt. aided schools under the control of Government of N.C.T., Delhi.

(iv) To find out the status of infrastructural facilities in school libraries in term of the four Bs: i.e. Brains (Staff), Building (Space), Budget (Finance), and Books (Collection).

(v) To suggest measures for improved library facilities in school libraries.

(vi) To present an analytical study of library-related policies and administrative orders of Government of N.C.T., Delhi and assess their effectiveness.
(vii) To assist planners and administrators in developing functional libraries in schools.

A.5. **Literature Survey and Previous Attempts**

Extensive survey and search of literature was conducted by the present researcher, in order to find out earlier attempts if any, on the topic. The survey reflected that very meagre amount of literature is available on this topic, that too in articles form, published in foreign journals including in a few Indian journals. These contain stray thoughts and do not take into account a consolidated picture of problems and prospective of school libraries. As far as Doctoral works in this area is concerned, a still gloomy picture emerges. A peep into the “Bibliography of Doctoral Dissertations” (AIU) and scanning of the weekly issues of the University News (Published by Association of Indian Universities) brought to light only 2 completed and 1 in progress research work on school libraries. These are:

The literature survey, thus, prominently revealed lack of interest among prospective researches on this immensely important area.

A.6 **Methodology**

Following methodology has been adopted in pursuance of the present research work:

(i) **Documentary sources**

The researcher undertook an extensive study and analysis of primary sources available in the field i.e. Original Books on school library’s policy documents
published and adopted in the field at International, National (India) and State (N.C.T. of Delhi) levels.

(ii) **Sample Survey**
Sample surveys of school librarians, school students and school teachers were conducted with help of Questionnaires and interviews. The questionnaires circulated among three categories at Annexure-I, Annexure-II, and Annexure-III.

(iii) **Suggestions for improvement of Services**
On the basis of collection and analysis of facts and testing of hypotheses, viable suggestions and recommendations for the improved library services at school level have been presented in the relevant chapters in general and in Chapter-F captioned “A Model of School Library” in particular.

A.7. **Minor Rearrangement**

While the research work under reference has been pursued in consonance with the Synopsis submitted by the researcher at the
time of registration (Synopsis is at Annexure-IV), in-depth study of subject during the course of preparation of this Doctoral dissertation necessitated some minor re-arrangement, and also coupling of two chapters together in order to maintain systematic flow of material at presentation stage, as explained below:

i. Testing of Hypotheses was originally conceived in the Synopsis to form an independent chapter. It was, however, later found more appropriate to include it in chapter-A owing to the significance required to be attached to “Testing of Hypotheses”.

ii. Preparation of “A Model of School Library” and description of “Operational Level” were originally conceived, in the Synopsis, to form two independent chapters. It was, however, later visualised that the two should be discussed in one chapter due to the fact that activities to be performed at various operational levels are inter-linked with preparation of “A Model of School Library”. As a matter of fact, no model could be prepared in isolation of operational activities.
Accordingly, the present research study has been presented in six Chapters i.e. (Chapters A to F), suffixed by four (IV) Annexures and one Bibliography (of documents cited and consulted).

A.8 Testing of Hypotheses

Facts collected through questionnaires have been of great help in testing the hypotheses, which were developed while preparing the synopsis of this research work. These hypotheses, as were conceived while preparing the synopsis, are as under:

i. That the school particularly government school libraries in N.C.T. of Delhi are highly deficient in catering to the information needs of the teachers and students.

ii. That the use of school libraries by the students and teachers can be increased substantially, if factors detrimental to library use are eliminated.
iii That the collection development policy in the
government school libraries needs to be
reviewed for increasing use of libraries.

iv That the library staff's chagrin against the
library-related policies also minimizes the
efficiency of school libraries.

As far as the testing of hypotheses is concerned, the present
researcher reports with great satisfaction that all the four
hypotheses stood proved after analysis of the facts, collected
through the three questionnaires, as indicated below:

**Hypothesis – I**  Deficiency of libraries in catering to the users’
needs

All categories of users confirmed the inadequacy of their
respective libraries in catering to their information needs. This
has been explained in chapter-E and also through Pie-
Charts/Graphs given therein.

**Hypothesis – II**  Library use will increase, if detrimental factors
are eliminated
The survey revealed great enthusiasm among the users, students in particular, for use of the library. In no uncertain terms they reflected that due to many detrimental factors such as – lack of time and avenues for visiting the school library, lack of collection, inadequate infrastructure etc., they do not get enough time and opportunity to use the library. They emphatically indicated that if these barriers are removed and detrimental factor are eliminated, they will love to use the library more frequently and purposefully.

**Hypothesis – III**  
Lack of Well-formulated Collection Development Policy

The survey also revealed that there is no well-formulated Collection Development Policy for school libraries. Normal practice is that the Directorate of Education, Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi prepares and circulates a list of approved titles through Delhi Bureau of Text Books and all the schools are bound to purchase books for their libraries, out of this approved list only. The users were found to be greatly opposed to this type of arrangement. It may, therefore, be inferred that adoption of viable Collection Development Policy will increase the use of school libraries.
Hypothesis – IV  School Librarians’ Chagrin

Facts collected through librarians’ survey reflected great deal of dissatisfaction among school librarians, and their morale was at low ebb. This is very dangerous for sustainance of library services. High staff-morale is the life-blood of a successful organization. Dissatisfaction of library staff relates to lack of promotion policy, irrational rules concerning stock verification and loss of books, non-availability of support staff such as assistant librarian and library attendant and so on. These facts validated this hypothesis also, as will be evident from the description in the Pie-Charts/Graphs presented in Chapter-E. The researcher has tried to perceive and tender viable recommendations in the respective chapters in these areas.

A.9  Scheme of Chapters

A comprehensive picture of “Changing Dimensions of School Education” with special reference to India, U.K. and U.S.A. has been presented in Chapter-B. India is one of the oldest civilizations with a kaleidoscopic variety and rich culture heritage.
The school education system is aimed at developing a thinking child: i.e. child who can conduct himself/herself properly in a democratic society and can contribute to the society's overall development including one's own development. Trends are not different in other countries either. In this chapter the historical and the present system of school education in the three countries have been presented in vivid details. The presentation revolves round important issues such as Educational Administration, Governance, Structure, Policies, Curricula, Examination and other related issues. These aspects have been discussed in still more details in respect of G.N.C.T. of Delhi.

Chapter-C deals with changing role of school libraries. Discussion in this chapter revolves round such issues as Change in School Education, Library Cooperation & Resource Sharing, Teaching – Learning Process & Libraries, Library as Instructional Material Development Centre, Pre-service training for school librarians, In-service training for school librarians, School libraries in N.C.T. of Delhi. The changes in school education and management of school libraries, which have been caused by knowledge explosion and information revolution which in turn, have changed the world into the proverbial global village. · The
changes have cast their impact on teaching methods as well as on management of school libraries. These aspects of school education and school libraries have been mainly discussed in this chapter.

Chapter-D is devoted to analysis of policies concerning school education. The analysis of policies framed in India, U.K. and U.S.A. in general and in N.C.T. Delhi in particular has been presented in this chapter.

The chapter starts with description of policies laid down by Secondary Education Commission, 1952; Education Commission, 1964-66; Committee of Members of Parliament, 1967; Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE); National Policy on Education, 1986; and National Policy on Education (Revised), 1992 in context of India. These policies form the foundation-stone of the educational policies laid down by different Indian states for their school education system. However, since this thesis related to Delhi to N.C.T. Delhi area, special treatment has been given to the description of “Delhi School Education Act, 1973”. Together with these, silent features of Education Acts and Policies adopted in U.K. and U.S.A. have also been presented.
It may be pertinent to point out at this juncture that in Library & Information Science Terminology, it may be stated that for the purpose of this thesis, Chapter-A to D serve as discussion in idea-plane and Chapter-E onwards enter the verbal-plane. It is so because in Chapter-A to D, the topic of the thesis has been defined and developed in idea-plane with a view to examine and analyse in the rest of the chapters the facts ascertained from surveys.

Chapter-E is devoted to description, analysis, and presentation of facts collected through three surveys, viz – 1 Survey of School Librarians, 2. Survey of School Students, 3. Survey of School Teachers. For a research work of this kind, surveys of these three categories are essential. The survey of school librarians is essentials because they are the managers of their respective libraries and study of their professional and humane qualifications, their pay and status, their feelings and expectations and their functioning and services must be studied and analysed if the library services are to be rendered upto the optimum satisfaction of the users. The students and teachers are the two major categories of library users. Their reading habits
and their expectations from the library must also be an essential component for research of the present type. Therefore, extensive surveys of these three categories were conducted. It might have been an added advantage to survey the school administrators and parents of school students. Though, this researcher interviewed a selected few administrators and parents (incidentally, who are not easily accessible and available for such interview), however, the researcher mainly concentrated on the survey of the users of the libraries. A few decades ago the library was considered to be the centre. But in modern time, the users are considered to be in the centre of all the libraries’ activities and there is no gainsaying the fact that libraries are established for their users only. It is for this reason that ultimately the researcher concentrated on the survey of the users of the library.

The surveys were conducted through questionnaires and personal interviews of these three categories of users of school libraries. The copy of these three questionnaires, which were personally distributed and collected by the researcher, are given at Annexures I to III.
The researcher may humbly state that Chapter-F incorporating ‘A Model of School Library’ is the crux of the present doctoral dissertation. While data and information collected through documentary sources (by way of in-depth study of available reading material), and through Surveys (by way of questionnaires and personal interviews) have served as spade-work for the purpose of this thesis, Chapter-F, captioned “A Model of School Library” forms crux of the present doctoral dissertation. While preparing the Model, the researcher has first jotted down and described in systematic manner all the activities concerning library house-keeping activities and services, and then has prepared the Model, which is expected to serve as a guideline for running an ideal library and information centre in schools aiming at providing optimal library services to its users. All major aspects of library activities, such as library building, sitting capacity arrangement, acoustics, lighting, furniture, collection development including acquisition policy, budget, Library Advisory Committee, Personnel, School Library and Information Service System (SLISS) etc. have been taken into consideration.