

School Libraries of Pakistan: A Case Study of Government High Schools in Tehsil Gujar Khan, Rawalpindi

Amir Latif^{1*}, Zia Ahmed², Naveed Akhtar Satti³, Mumtaz Hussain Satti⁴, Ikram ul Haq⁵

¹Librarian, Shifa Tameer e Millat University, Allied Health Sciences, Islamabad, Pakistan

²Lecturer, COSHP, King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences Riyadh Saudi Arabia

³Assistant Librarian, Institute of Space Technology Islamabad, Pakistan

⁴Lecturer, COSHP, King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences Riyadh Saudi Arabia

⁵Lecturer, COD, King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences Riyadh Saudi Arabia

*Corresponding author

Amir Latif

Article History

Received: 02.03.2018

Accepted: 10.03.2018

Published: 30.03.2018



Abstract: School libraries play an important role in the development of educational and intellectual life of students. Establishment of libraries at school level has been neglected in developing countries including Pakistan. Rawalpindi is the fourth-largest city of Pakistan consisting on seven tehsil (sub-division), Gujar Khan is one the tehsil. The aim of this study is to know the existence of school libraries in public sector schools of targeted area. Fifty-seven percent schools have libraries, 33.3 schools have their collection between 1001-2000, whereas only one library has its collection more than 3000. Only one library has periodical collection, four libraries purchasing newspapers, none of the library has professional staff and library budget. The ratio of daily library use is higher (47.6%) in teaching staff as compare to students (28.6%). This article also provides a vision for improvement of school libraries in Pakistan. There is a dire need to prepare and implement school library policy for the public sector education system in Pakistan.

Keywords: School Library Improvement, School library developments, School Libraries, School Libraries in Tehsil Gujar Khan, School libraries in Pakistan.

INTRODUCTION

Books are as necessary for educational activities and learning as the air and water for life. Every child needs access to reading material both in printed and digital format.

Exploring the required information from library during school life, can be help to encourage and motivate the student to as lifelong learner and constant users of library in his future life. School libraries are center of learning and play a vital role in encouraging innovation, curiosity and problem solving. It is a source of increasing. It supports the teachers to search the modern techniques of teaching and develop the reading habits in the students. Student's evaluation ability, information, search, skill and knowledge about the library assets can inculcate the learning attitude in the students. The purpose of the school library is to provide a wide range of books and multimedia resources to support teaching and learning throughout the key stages, further a reading and information culture that promotes independent motivated readers and learners for future if it should be appropriately staffed, funded, and accessible to the whole school community during the school hours. The librarian is called the teacher of the teachers so qualified and experience librarian is an integral part of the library. Actually, he is the main activist who can create a reading culture in the school community.

Rawalpindi is the forth-largest city of Pakistan consisting on seven tehsil (sub-division), Gujar Khan is the largest tehsil of Punjab by land area. Gujar Khan in considered the heart of Potohar region. It located 55 kilometers southeast of Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan (Wikipedia).

The school libraries have been ignored by the establishment even though the proposals and recommendations of the experts in Pakistan. It is also been provided in the rules i.e. "Rawalpindi Board of intermediate and Secondary Education Act (No. VIII of 1976)",

"That every affiliated school shall have a diverse collection of books in its library properly organized and managed, list-wise, by a qualified and experienced librarian".

However, the situation is very different in the field of school libraries of Pakistan. This article evaluates the existing conditions and the importance of school libraries in tehsil Gujar Khan (Distt: Rawalpindi)

along with a comparative study of the school libraries at the national and international level according to the school library principles strategy.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Fredrick and Salaam [1] reported that the library is entrance for rational improvement. There is huge requirement for building attentiveness among students in school in the area of ICT infrastructural growth in organizes with the global trend in information prerequisite and services. Education annual report [2] expressed that school libraries are a front entrance for children and childhood to study about the world. It also signify that as the digital world puts more and more information at student fingertips, the library can open the entrance to learn beyond the walls of the school. Kargbo [3] reported that the significance of high-quality school library in school could not be overemphasized. He also defined that in Sierra Leone, the condition is not reasonable. Many school libraries are having limitation of virtual functionality and many children depart the school with partial reading facility and without the present growth. Udoh-Ilomechine [4] reported that foundation on the importance of an excellent school library is to in-cooperation of employees and students, the library should take steps to develop its collection and resources with material for both staff and students that meet their educational requirements, growth and success of classroom technology. Hay [5] reported that the school library take part in vital role in sustaining student knowledge and also library organization and state of art education should support education system and perfection of library development.

Anwar [6] reported that only formulation of the library standards are not enough for library development. It is said that success breeds success. If the education establishment agrees to the need and interest of the school library, half of the difficulty will be solved. Until this credit has been achieved, school libraries will keep on to starve. Sigilai [7] reported that an educational school should make available the capability include instructional materials, desk, chair, and classroom, library and other essential equipments for their schoolchildren. Therefore, the rationale of the educational body should be achieved. Marcia, Lance, and Hamilton-Pennell [8] highlighted that the adding up of well-equipped and managed central library has an important part on the representation of elementary school students in library-related skills, mainly outlining and note taking. Students who used a new fully stuffed and operational elementary school library also showed major development in the educational skills. Gretes [9] guided that schools libraries are the hubs of culture in community schools. They also reported that the employment of school libraries with full time, expert librarians is also important for student success. All winning school, in adding up to given that access to books, they play a key function in teaching.

Librarians grow their students a life long love of analysis, built a significant thinking skills and digital literacy that practice student for the 21st century work place and help students for better score on standardized attainment test in reading.

Aplin [10] reported that libraries must also make a decision how to best exploit other techniques that straight engage reading, like e-reader, e-books and social reading applications. He also says that the publishers sell more e-books that they did book in any other formats, including soft cover and hard covers. Ramzan [11] painted that there is necessary to be considerate and legislation to make sure that each library have a reading room. Sufficient quantity of school level books, furnishings and multimedia services. The condition of a school library would be huge pre-requisite for institution of any school and size of school library should be the range of the school population. Fredrick and Salaam [1] reported that the teacher/librarian should give confidence and forced the student in the practice of reading and utilization of library. Teachers may use creativeness wit and thoughts to develop, support, observe and facts the movement at every one student. The school teacher/librarian as to get in touch with out in new subject areas, maintaining up to date subject information and then devising and marks new syllabus resources for the students.

Hopkins [12] reported that the library collections are also essential to many school reading initiatives. Programs such as DEAR (Drop every thing and Read), SSR (Salient Sustained Reading), and ballets books, are set up very powerful population. Still the library population used the library collection in sustain of get a move on reader a reading inspiring programs that give reading the exact books, followed by computer-based testing. Paton-Ash [13] reported that a regular shift in the job of library-from a place then resources are trace and used by student, to place in which the student in the focus of the international literature. Kargbo [3] reported that para-professional staff run the one familiar difficulty in school libraries. There environment of services are hopeless, and after this force their staff to leave work. On this some work was done by the school library association to support for development in site of services for library staff. Cahil and Richey [14] reported that by accomplishment of EBLIP as the lessons being a conservatory at the classroom and stability. In fresh era the librarian should chains their decision, enlarge agenda that support with their objectives and patent conclusion level and make compulsory improvement and the school library modification from now. Champlin and Loertscher [15] were explored that new library media expert should to be knowledge need to be technology development, learning guide and bloom pattern focused on making a difference learning, because the library media program can act to in enhance the success. Adeniji, Babalola & Adeniji [16] tinted that the breakdown and achievement

of any library is to depends on its employees are needy on the professional training programs. So the training programs are attractive their improvement programs.

Agboola and Bamigboye [17] recommended that the needs of addition for the awareness to made student on library utilization and guideline for existing library materials. Busayo [18] investigated that reading habit is also an excellent stair to any student of school. The reading habit have an important chance to affect skills to significance background, build general and stuffing knowledge, text and course build up for life time reading habits. Barner [19] explored that according to the Ranganathan’s dream, the library is a rising organization and in the field of digital compilation and last built not least the opportunity to become engage in publishing era. Chan [20] examined that the excellent school library agenda have an important impact on student’s education and school library program should plan to be additional forceful, especially on small level reading with the contribution of school library expert. Suleiman [21] recommended that librarians are answerable for most important use of education growth on different topics to use in education growth. Shah and Farooq [22] tinted that the school library straight have an effect on the student mind-set. The traditions of the school library should be developed in early life of the student in schooling year. This will make to facilitate their life for resolutely livelihood and technological period with reading routine. Pritchard [23] highlighted that excellence of school libraries is also useful to adapt from customarily system to new technological system. Librarian may have to provide single material tool for act or excellence.

Objectives of the Study

- To evaluation the existing situation of school libraries in targeted area
- To assess the resources and services for the school community
- To know the usage of library services by students and teachers
- To measure the shortcomings and make practicable suggestions for improvement

METHODOLOGY

The author from the Govt. High Schools of Tehsil Gujar Khan, District Rawalpindi, conducted this study. The cluster sampling technique was employed for this purpose. The questionnaire was used to gather the data. There are 21 Union Councils in Tehsil Gujar Khan and there are several Govt. High Schools in each union council. Only one sample was taken from all union council by personal visit of the author(s). The data were collected during July 2014.

FINDING

Number of Students and Staff

The digit of students is very imperative for a school. Students require presence daily school to be successful. The table 1 is shown minimum 110 students and maximum 884 students in each school. However, it depends on the part, where the school is situated i.e. town, community and tiny rural villages etc. To offer a perfect, organized and representative description of the variety of information, and growth in school, the employees of the school are very vital role. In Govt., high schools in Tehsil Gujar Khan the minimum 9 and maximum 30 teaching staff were available.

Table-1: Number of Students and Staff

S/No	Population	Numbers of Schools	Minimum	Maximum
1	Number Of Students	21	110	884
2	Number Of Staff	21	9	30

Availability of Library

A school library is situating within a school where, students, staff and many parents of the school kids have right to use multiplicity of the resources. In

the investigated part, the 57.1% schools had an ordinary library i.e. not furnished, not suitable library room and without shelve for books, and 42.9% school had not any library.

Table-2: Availability of library

S/No	Library Availability	Frequency	Percent
1	Available	12	57.1
2	Not Available	09	42.9
	Total	21	100

Collection of Books

The library collection has been seen as essential to the support of teaching and learning for various years. The collection has been seen as the most important information foundation throughout which the library media specialists build suggestion and information is accessible to the students and teachers.

The investigated area of the Tehsil Gujar Khan high schools, only 33.3% school have near to 1000 books, 33.3% had 1001-2000, 23.8% had 2001-3000, and only one school library had its collection more than 3000. Out twenty-one libraries, only 12 (57%) were functional.

Table-3: Collection of Books

S/No	Collection of Books	Frequency	Percent
1	000	1	4.8
2	1000	7	33.3
3	1001-2000	7	33.3
4	2001-3000	5	23.8
5	Above 3000	1	4.8
	Total	21	100

Collection of Periodicals

The publications of periodicals are a variety of shape in pictures books, songs, news, and calendars. All periodicals are written with most modern information. It

is intimately connected to school and students. In high school of tehsil, Gujar Khan there were 4.8% school libraries had periodicals collection and 95.2% school libraries had no any periodicals collection.

Table-4: Collection of Periodicals

S/No	Collection of Periodicals	Frequency	Percent
1	500	1	4.8
2	0	20	95.2
	Total	21	100

Newspapers

Newspapers are very important foundations of information to provide explanation to society, providing the nearly all current information to readers. It is too

compulsory for improving students reading skills. In inspected area of tehsil Gujar Khan, only 19 % school had one or two newspapers cope by the teaching staff and 81% school had not purchased any newspapers.

Table-5: Collection of Newspapers

S/No	Newspaper	Frequency	Percent
1	1	4	19.0
2	0	17	81.0
	Total	21	100

Type of Materials

A library is and structured place of resources, which consist of human services as well as complete variety of media (audio, video and all kinds of collection i.e. history, Urdu, Islam, literature, generality

etc. In examine area there were 95.2% libraries had mixed types of books i.e. Islam, history, fiction, Urdu literature and generality and 4.8% libraries had not any resources.

Table-6: Collection of Periodicals

S/No	Type of Material	Frequency	Percent
1	Mixed Material	20	95.2
2	0	1	4.8
	Total	21	100

Library Budget

Budget is incredibly imperative for a school library rising and providing excellence in provision of services. The school should assign a yearly library financial plan adequate for sustainable library expansion to hold up recent and projected requirement. In look into area there was not any school library budget.

library. In tehsil Gujar Khan School libraries, there was not any professional and para-professional staff in libraries.

Post of Librarian

Among a deep information of large array of valid reading resources accessible the school library and beyond, the school librarian have very important responsibility in sustaining print and online reading materials, policy instruction in relationship with class room, teachers are reading specialists. While surveying the tehsil Gujar Khan high school libraries, there was not any post of librarian in Govt. high schools.

Library Staff

Library staff provides basic services to the students and teachers for their educational activities. Only the professional library staff can serve up students and teachers by providing resources to gather their different requirements and reading by utilization of

Library Usage by Students

In tehsil Gujar Khan high school, where meaning less library available only 28.6% students were using library daily, 69.9% weekly, and 4.8% using monthly and 4.8% were never using the library.

Library used by Staff

In tehsil Gujar Khan Govt. high school 47.6% staff had used library daily, 47.6% weekly, 4.8% had not used their library (Table 8).

Table-7: Library Usage by Students

S/No	Use of Library by Students	Frequency	Percent
1	Daily	6	28.6
2	Weekly	13	61.9
3	Monthly	4	4.8
4	Never	4	4.8
	Total		100

Table 8: Library Usage by Staff

S/No	Use of Library by Staff	Frequency	Percent
1	Daily	10	47.6
2	Weekly	10	47.6
3	Never	01	4.8
	Total	21	100

Library automation

At the present day the library automation and computerized library is very significant for excellent access and superior services. In investigated area there was not any computerized or automated library in schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Stand on the value and the profit of the school library, the author has the following recommendations:-

- Education department, school headmasters, school librarians and the library associations are responsible for sustaining improvement in the school libraries.
- Furnish libraries a deliberate responsibility in the school's, ICT growth and use appreciate the reading cultures of the children to make sure that the service be capable of carry their different requirements.
- Be aware of the role that the school library and library service build up in upgrading children's reading habits, sustaining their literacy and increasing their knowledge abilities.
- Think the school library as an instrument in the school development plan and take account of it in the Self Evaluation Framework (SEF).
- The school library must have a qualified librarian to deliver valuable services to staff and students.
- The library must obtain hierarchy to increase its collections and assets with stuff for staff and students, their learning requirements and progress and add to classroom practice.
- The library must make available sufficient reading and learning space.

CONCLUSION

The school library is a basic tool for all approaches for literacy, schooling, information circumstances and financial for community and civilizing enlargement. The majority of researchers agree that awareness in the field of school library growth play a very important role for student learnings and achievements. Access to books during school life is helpful tool for students towards interest in reading. So that students always achieve better positions in examination when there is a fully furnished and automated library. School library can create the best reading habits in the students. Government should take positive initiative to establish school libraries all over the country. School management should have continuous financial support for professionals, resources, IT infrastructure, increase library services, collection development and library related skills.

REFERENCES

1. Ajegbomogun FO, Salaam MO. The state of school libraries in Nigeria. PNLA Quarterly: the official Publication of Pacific Northwest Library Association. 2011;75(3).
2. Allen IE, Seaman J. Going the distance: Online education in the United States, 2011. Sloan Consortium. PO Box 1238, Newburyport, MA 01950; 2011 Nov.
3. Kargbo JA. The history and development of school libraries in Sierra Leone. Education Libraries Journal. 2000 Apr 1;43(1):19.
4. Udoh-Ilomechine Q. The significance of school libraries in the educational development of students: the case of Novena University staff school, Kwale, Delta state, Nigeria.
5. Hay L. Student learning through Australian school libraries Part 1: A statistical analysis of student perceptions. Synergy. 2005;3(2):17-30.

6. Anwar MA. Secondary school libraries in Pakistan. *International Library Review*. 1971 Jul 1;3(3):349-52.
7. Sigilai RM. A Review of Curriculum-Related Factors Influencing Academic Achievements Among Students in Public Secondary Schools in Kenya. *International Journal of Advanced Research* (2013). 2013;1(3):219-30.
8. Rodney MJ, Lance KC, Hamilton-Pennell C. The impact of Michigan school librarians on academic achievement: Kids who have libraries succeed. *Library of Michigan*; 2003.
9. Gretes F. *School library impact studies: A review of findings and guide to sources*. Owings Mills, MD: Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. 2013.
10. Aplin SM. Using technology to connect public libraries and teens. *School of Information Student Research Journal*. 2013;2(2):7.
11. Ramzan M. Status of school library development in Pakistan. *Sri Lankan Journal of Librarianship and Information Management*. 2009 Mar 24;1(1).
12. Hopkins DM. *The School Library Collection: an essential building block to teaching and learning*. *School Libraries Worldwide*. 1999 Jul 1;5(2):1.
13. Paton-Ash M. *Issues and challenges facing school libraries: A case study of selected primary schools in Gauteng Province, South Africa*. ME thesis, Rhodes University. 2012.
14. Cahill M, Richey J. Integration of evidence-based library and information practice into school library education: A case study. *School Libraries Worldwide*. 2012 Jul 1;18(2):95.
15. Champlin C, Loertscher D. Reinvent your school's library and watch student academic achievement increase. *Principal leadership*. 2003 Mar;3(7):67-9.
16. Adeniji MA, Babalola GA, Adeniji MA. *Workers training programmes in two university libraries in Nigeria*.
17. Agboola IO, Bamigboye OB. *Students' level of study and user of library resources in Nigerian Universities: A comparative study*.
18. Busayo IO. *The School Library As a Foundational Step To Childrens' Effective Reading Habits*.
19. Barner K. *The library is a growing organism: Ranganathan's Fifth Law of Library Science and the academic library in the digital era*.
20. Chan C. *The impact of school library services on student achievement and the implications for advocacy: A review of the literature*. *Access*. 2008;22(4):15.
21. Suleiman SA. *User education programs in academic libraries: the experience of the International Islamic University Malaysia students*.
22. Shah SZ, Farooq MS. *Effect of School Library on Students' Learning Attitude*. *Online Submission*. 2009 Jan;24(1):145-51.
23. Pritchard SM. *Determining quality in academic libraries*. 1996.