

CONDITION OF PUNJAB GOVERNMENT SCHOOL LIBRARIES ESPECIALLY IN THE DISTRICTS OF MOHALI AND RUPNAGAR: AN OVERVIEW

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The study presents the condition of Punjab government school libraries in Mohali and Rupnagar districts. School libraries are essential part for the overall development of students. Libraries are still in developing stage in some of the already developed government schools. The purpose of the school library is to provide self-education but the condition of government school libraries in Mohali and Rupnagar is not satisfactory. This paper examines the nature of staff, Physical facilities, Number of books and periodicals in libraries. It also discusses the library facilities and expenditure on Government schools libraries of Mohali and Rupnagar.

Keywords: Government schools; School libraries, Technical processing, Reading habits, Library facilities, Expenditure on books.

INTRODUCTION

Libraries are absolutely essential to achieve the developmental goals, improve quality of life and preserve and make known the cultural heritage [1]. Academic libraries are as varied and distinctive as the institutions which they serve [2]. Academic libraries comprise the libraries of schools, colleges and universities which cater to the needs of different levels of academic community and supplement academic instructions [3].

School libraries are primarily meant to collect and arrange syllabi based books and some books for general reading and entertainment that may include classics, biographies, adventure and travel books, fiction, etc. [4]. Cultivating lifelong reading habits and opening of windows of knowledge to the students are the main objectives of school libraries [5]. To achieve these main objectives, they have to build up their collections with print and non-print information sources, and act as media centres [6]. They have to serve the students and teachers with a number of services like reference, storytelling, debates, film shows, book reading clubs, etc. The school libraries have still a greater role where there are no public libraries, as they have to perform the role of public library also. As their collections may include multimedia documents they are often referred to as “media centres” also [7]. But if Government school libraries are without proper library budget, efficient and trained librarians then it is just because of lack of farsightedness on the part of educational authorities. It is a common scene in Punjab especially in Mohali and Rupnagar districts. Government School libraries are without adequate library budget, efficient and trained staff and proper space and building. These are generally housed in a mote corner of the school building where books are kept under lock and key and where do not find proper reading material and place to study. To make library a central point of a school, it is necessary that these are provided a right place, proper furniture and relevant reading material [8].

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OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following are the objectives of this study:

- To know whether or not the school libraries of Mohali and Rupnagar districts are managed by trained librarians.
- To study the physical facilities in the school libraries of Mohali and Rupnagar districts.
- To know the number of books, magazines, newspapers and other types of reading materials.
- To study the system of technical processing in school libraries.
- To know the system of circulation of books in these libraries.
- To know the average number of books issued and returned per day.
- To know the average number of readers visited per day.
- To study the budgets of school libraries for their maintenance and improvement.

METHODOLOGY

Keeping the above-cited objectives in view, the research plan was drawn, and to collect comprehensive and relevant data, a questionnaire is used as a tool. Author visited all the school libraries to collect the original and reliable data and also met the librarians/teacher in-charge of the schools. From there author came to know the exact situation of school libraries. The author also discussed with the school pupils to understand the difficulties that they are found in their school library. By observation author checked each and every aspect of libraries such as financial problem, reading room and materials present in the libraries.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

A survey was conducted through structured questionnaire circulated personally among the fourteen school librarians of Mohali and Rupnagar districts. All filled the questionnaires and these were collected personally so the response rate is 100 percent.

Availability of Trained Librarians

Table 1 shows the availability of trained librarians in different government school libraries. It is clear from table that out of fourteen schools only five schools (i.e. Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Phase-3B2, Mohali; Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Chunni, Mohali; Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Sohana, Mohali; GMN Sr. Sec. School, Rupnagar and Govt. Sr. Sec. School for Girls, Rupnagar) have trained librarians.

Table 1: Availability of Trained Librarians in Libraries Covered in the Study

S. No.	Name of the School	Trained Librarian	Untrained Librarian / Teacher In-charge
1	Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Phase-3B2, Mohali	Yes	NA
2	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Chunni, Mohali	Yes	NA
3	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Jhanjeri, Mohali	NA	Yes
4	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Lakhnour, Mohali	NA	Yes
5	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Sohana, Mohali	Yes	NA
6	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Mataur, Mohali	NA	Yes
7	Govt. Elementary School, Majatri, Mohali	NA	Yes
8	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Kishanpura, Rupnagar	NA	Yes
9	GMN Sr. Sec. School, Rupnagar	Yes	NA
10	Govt. Sr. Sec. School for Girls, Rupnagar	Yes	NA
11	Govt. Sr. Sec. for Boys, Rupnagar	NA	Yes

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12	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Behrampur, Rupnagar	NA	Yes
13	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Bhagwantpur, Rupnagar	NA	Yes
14	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Kotla Nihang, Rupnagar	NA	Yes

Physical Facilities

Table 2 shows that out of fourteen only three schools (i.e. Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Phase-3B2, Mohali; Govt. Elementary School, Majatri, Mohali and GMN Sr. Sec. School, Rupnagar) provided specific rooms for libraries, they are airy and ventilated and also mottos are written on the walls. All other government schools have not even provided separate rooms for housing the library.

Note: NA = Not Available, Govt. – Government, Sr.-Senior, Sec. - Secondary.

Table 2: Physical Facilities in Government School Libraries

S. No.	Name of the School	Specific Room	Air and Ventilation Room	Mottos written on walls
1	Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Phase-3B2, Mohali	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Chunni, Mohali	NA	NA	NA
3	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Jhanjeri, Mohali	NA	NA	NA
4	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Lakhnour, Mohali	NA	NA	NA
5	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Sohana, Mohali	NA	NA	NA
6	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Mataur, Mohali	NA	NA	NA
7	Govt. Elementary School, Majatri, Mohali	Yes	Yes	Yes
8	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Kishanpura, Rupnagar	NA	NA	NA
9	GMN Sr. Sec. School, Rupnagar	Yes	Yes	Yes
10	Govt. Sr. Sec. School for Girls, Rupnagar	NA	NA	NA
11	Govt. Sr. Sec. for Boys, Rupnagar	NA	NA	NA
12	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Behrampur, Rupnagar	NA	NA	NA
13	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Bhagwantpur, Rupnagar	NA	NA	NA
14	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Kotla Nihang, Rupnagar	NA	NA	NA

Note: NA = Not Available, Govt. – Government, Sr.-Senior, Sec. - Secondary.

Books in Libraries

Table 3 shows the collection development in Government school libraries of Mohali and Rupnagar districts, during the last three years. It is clear from the table that in Govt. Schools, minimum numbers of books (220) were purchased in Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Lakhnour, Mohali and maximum numbers of books (700) were purchased in Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Phase-3B2, Mohali.

Table 3: Total Number of Books in Libraries

S. No.	Name of the School	Books (2013-2014)	Books (2014-2015)	Books (2015-2016)	Total No. of Books (2013-2016)
1	Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Phase-3B2, Mohali	200	200	300	700
2	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Chunni, Mohali	200	100	50	350
3	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Jhanjeri, Mohali	100	100	50	250
4	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Lakhnour, Mohali	100	100	20	220
5	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Sohana, Mohali	200	200	100	500
6	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Mataur, Mohali	100	150	100	350
7	Govt. Elementary School, Majatri, Mohali	300	200	100	600
8	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Kishanpura, Rupnagar	200	200	150	550
9	GMN Sr. Sec. School, Rupnagar	300	200	100	600
10	Govt. Sr. Sec. School for Girls, Rupnagar	200	150	50	400
11	Govt. Sr. Sec. for Boys, Rupnagar	100	100	100	300
12	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Behrampur, Rupnagar	150	100	50	300
13	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Bhagwantpur, Rupnagar	100	150	100	350
14	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Kotla Nihang, Rupnagar	200	100	50	350

Note: Govt. – Government, Sr.-Senior, Sec. - Secondary.

Periodicals in Libraries

Table 4 shows that all the govt. schools in Mohali and Rupnagar are subscribing to periodicals. It is clear from the table that in govt. schools, minimum numbers of periodicals (04) were

purchased in Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Kishanpura, Rupnagar and maximum numbers of periodicals (08) were purchased in Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School Phase-3B2, Mohali and Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Sohana, Mohali.

Table 4: Number of Periodicals in Libraries

S. No.	Name of the School	No. of News-papers (2013 - 2014)	No. of Magazines (2013 -2014)	No. of News-papers (2014 - 2015)	No. of Magazines (2014 - 2015)	No. of News-papers (2015 - 2016)	No. of Magazines (2015 -2016)	Total No. of Periodicals (2013-2016)
1	Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Phase-3B2, Mohali	2	2	1	1	1	1	8
2	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Chunni, Mohali	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
3	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Jhanjer, Mohali	1	2	1	1	1	0	6
4	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Lakhnour, Mohali	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
5	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Sohana, Mohali	1	1	2	1	1	2	8
6	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Mataur, Mohali	1	0	1	0	1	2	5
7	Govt. Elementary School, Majatri, Mohali	1	1	0	1	1	1	5
8	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Kishanpura, Rupnagar	1	0	1	1	1	0	4
9	GMN Sr. Sec. School, Rupnagar	1	2	1	1	1	0	6
10	Govt. Sr. Sec. School for Girls, Rupnagar	1	1	0	1	1	1	5
11	Govt. Sr. Sec. for Boys, Rupnagar	1	0	1	2	0	2	6
12	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Behrampur, Rupnagar	1	0	1	1	2	1	6
13	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Bhagwantpur, Rupnagar	1	1	0	1	1	1	5
14	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Kotla Nihang, Rupnagar	2	1	0	1	1	0	5

Note: Govt. – Government, Sr.-Senior, Sec. - Secondary.

Library Services

From the table 5, it is clear that three out of fourteen govt. schools i.e. Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Phase-3B2, Mohali, Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Jhanjeri, Mohali and Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Lakhnour, Mohali have done technical processing of books. Also all govt. schools provide issue/return facility to its readers, out of which two schools, i.e. Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Phase-3B2, Mohali and GMN Sr. Sec. School, Rupnagar use computerized

method and others use manual method. It is also clear that only five govt. schools provide book bank facility and four schools provide books to the community.

So, we can say that there is a need for technical processing of books in govt. schools, so that the books can be found out easily by the students as well as by the teachers.

Table 5: Library Services

S. No.	Name of the School	Technical Processing	Method Adopted for Issue/Return	Book Bank Facility	Books for Community
1	Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Phase-3B2, Mohali	Yes	Computerized Method	Yes	Yes
2	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Chunni, Mohali	NA	Manual Method	Yes	Yes
3	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Jhanjeri, Mohali	Yes	Manual Method	Yes	NA
4	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Lakhnour, Mohali	Yes	Manual Method	NA	NA
5	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Sohana, Mohali	NA	Manual Method	Yes	Yes
6	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Mataur, Mohali	NA	Manual Method	NA	NA
7	Govt. Elementary School, Majatri, Mohali	NA	Manual Method	Yes	Yes
8	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Kishanpura, Rupnagar	NA	Manual Method	NA	NA
9	GMN Sr. Sec. School, Rupnagar	NA	Computerized Method	NA	NA
10	Govt. Sr. Sec. School for Girls, Rupnagar	NA	Manual Method	NA	NA
11	Govt. Sr. Sec. for Boys, Rupnagar	NA	Manual Method	NA	NA
12	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Behrampur, Rupnagar	NA	Manual Method	NA	NA
13	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Bhagwantpur, Rupnagar	NA	Manual Method	NA	NA
14	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Kotla Nihang, Rupnagar	NA	Manual Method	NA	NA

Note: NA = Not Available, Govt. – Government, Sr.-Senior, Sec. - Secondary.

Financial Position

Below mentioned table shows that the source of govt. school libraries is govt. grant.

Table 6: Financial Position of Govt. School Libraries

S. No.	Financial Resources	Govt. School Libraries
1	Institution's own budget	NA
2	Any Govt. Grant	Yes
3	Other Grants	NA

Note: NA = Not Available.

Money spent on Government school libraries

Table 7 shows the expenditure spent by the libraries of govt. schools on books and periodicals. It is clear from the table that in govt. schools, the expenditure on books and periodicals is either decreasing in the coming years or remains the same with the only exception, i.e. Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Phase-3B2, Mohali in which expenditure on books is increasing from Rs.30,000 (2013-14) to Rs.45,000 (2015-16).

Table 7: Expenditure spent on Govt. School Libraries

S. No.	Name of the School	Expenditure (2013 – 14) (In Rs.)		Expenditure (2014– 15) (In Rs.)		Expenditure (2015 – 16) (In Rs.)		Total Expenditure (2013-2016)
		Books	Periodicals	Books	Periodicals	Books	Periodicals	Books + Periodicals
1	Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Phase-3B2, Mohali	30,000	2955	30,000	1480	45,000	1480	11,0915.00
2	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Chunni, Mohali	30,000	1480	15,000	1480	75,00	1480	56,940.00
3	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Jhanjeri, Mohali	15,000	1515	15,000	1480	7500	1440	41,935.00
4	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Lakhnour, Mohali	15,000	1480	15,000	1480	3000	100	36,060.00
5	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Sohana, Mohali	30,000	1480	30,000	2920	15,000	1515	80,915.00
6	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Mataur, Mohali	15,000	1440	22,500	1440	15,000	1515	56,895.00
7	Govt. Elementary School, Majatri, Mohali	45,000	1480	30,000	100	15,000	1480	93,060.00
8	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Kishanpura, Rupnagar	30,000	1440	30,000	1480	22,500	1440	86,860.00
9	GMN Sr. Sec. School, Rupnagar	45,000	1515	30,000	1480	15,000	1440	94,435.00
10	Govt. Sr. Sec. School for Girls, Rupnagar	30,000	1480	22,500	100	7500	1480	63,060.00

11	Govt. Sr. Sec. for Boys, Rupnagar	15,000	1440	15,000	1515	15,000	175	48,130.00
12	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Behrampur, Rupnagar	22,500	1440	15,000	1480	7500	2920	50,840.00
13	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Bhagwantpur, Rupnagar	15,000	1480	22,500	100	15,000	1480	55,560.00
14	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Kotla Nihang, Rupnagar	30,000	2920	15,000	100	7500	1440	56,960.00

CONCLUSION

School libraries are usually housed in most inadequate and unattractive rooms, books are old, outdated and unsuitable. They are selected without reference to the students' taste and interest. Person in-charge is a teacher who does this as a part-time job or given an extra allowance for bearing more responsibility. He/she may not have love for books and usually does not know library techniques and work. The school library must be attractive. It should have a spacious well-lit hall with walls suitably colored with pictures and rooms decorated with flowers. Library furniture should be designed with artistic sense and functional efficiency. School libraries should have an open shelf system so that students get free access to books and learn how to handle them. There should be full co-operation between students and librarians. School librarians who do not have library background should be given a summer course training of 3-4 weeks duration. We have to understand the fact that school library is an essential instrument of education [9]. This paper shows the condition of government school libraries and educational authorities have to work on this so that the condition of libraries may improve.

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