

Students Empowerment Through College Library in Rural Areas in India

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Abstract

After finishing their secondary schooling, rural Indian teenagers preferred work in previous decades; but, today's digital natives seek for college degrees above employment. This encouraging development has, however, opened the door for a negative scenario where a greater number of distracted, unmotivated students are enrolling in higher education institutions. The diverse development of human resources should be emphasised in higher education by fostering the knowledge-enabled populace, which will lead to peace, prosperity, and socioeconomic mobility. A library is often a location where people go to get ideas and knowledge. Information access is essential since it raises the bar for both corporate and individual educational growth as well as individual improvement. Information is viewed as a financial resource, a development accelerator, or a tool for wise decision-making. An information society is one in which people's ability to satisfy their wants and requirements for information is essential to their quality of life, as well as their chances for social change & economic growth. Public libraries play a significant role in local communities, especially in underprivileged and rural areas. They are not just book shelves. Public libraries have evolved into a kind of cultural and social institutions by providing the community with an ever-changing array of cultural materials. This article presents the information at all the levels required for that, discussing the generally accepted conceptualisation of information for facilitating the growth of cultural and social events in individuals living in rural regions. Thus, it establishes a connection between rural public library usage in India and community development and empowerment.

Keywords: *-Rural Indian, Library, Disadvantaged Communities, Rural Public Library, Community Development, Socio-Economic Mobility, Human Resources, Higher Education, Rural Indian Adolescents, Corporate Educational, Public Libraries, Socio-Economic Mobility, Rural.*

“Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life.”

———**Sidney Sheldon**

I. INTRODUCTION

Since its inception, the profession has been in “search of identity,” despite the fact that it played a crucial role in the development of early civilisation, participated in changes to society and the economy, and embraced modern technical advancements. It has always undergone transformation because it has consistently adapted to all changes. It is important to keep in mind this passage from T.S. Eliot: “Where is life? We’ve lost the will to live. Where is the wisdom? Our knowledge has been gone. Where is the wisdom found? We are lacking in knowledge. This may thus be used as an additional argument to ask, “Where is librarianship? In digital libraries, we were defeated. To the extent that the new technology era facing the profession today is ingrained in the globe. It is caused by the convergence of professions as well as technology. It has been repeatedly affected by several converging causes. While many come from outside, some come from inside. Legends from antiquity included Aristotle, Plato, and Callimachus; foreigners from the middle centuries were Gutenberg, Francis Bacon, and Emanuel Kant. The names of J.C. Lindblad, H.P. Luhn, Vannever Bush, and Gerald Salton have demonstrated and greatly impacted the profession in the contemporary period. As a result, it has evolved into a multi-convergent profession today, but the pursuit of identity remains. It is a very difficult challenge to design a curriculum that is appropriately dynamic for the growth of personnel in this situation. The main focus of Library and Information Studies has always been this. In light of the aforementioned considerations, it is noted that, due to the influence of information technology & the rise of the information society, a thorough examination of the state of the field of information science and library higher education has been under attack for the past 20 years worldwide.

The UK’s Library and Information Council (LISC) suggested in the early 1980s to “review the future manpower requirements for training for Library and Information Work.” As a consequence, a Working Party discussed the issue and produced many Keynote Papers and Discussion Papers. Since the beginning of this decade, there has also been a rise in awareness of this situation, and constant efforts are being made to advance library and information science teaching and research worldwide. Johnson states, “It will be necessary to review the development which have taken place in teaching, or the extent to which the schools are involved in relevant research activities.” The report claims that “schools of librarianship and information studies are not playing the role they might have been expected to play in the emerging Information Society.” This essay examines the current state of British national libraries in both domestic and international settings. As of right now, one or two similar research from the USA have also been noted.

1.1 Problems with LIS Education

The course levels offered in India include certificate programs, undergraduate diploma programs, postgraduate diploma programs, advanced training courses in information systems as well as management and technology, M. Phil, Ph.D., and D. Litt programs in library and information science, as well as Bachelor, Master, and Advanced Training courses in BLIS and MLIS programs. For most students, library courses in science are not their first choice. The majority of students enrol in Library Science programs after being turned down for entrance to other esteemed academic programs. Teaching standards, a sufficient number of faculty members with a strong academic record, current knowledge and advancements in the field of LIS, and sufficient previous teaching experience are what determine the course’s strength and reputation. An examination of the course materials indicates that the primary focus of the LIS

course of study in South Asia is to prepare students for library management through a thorough understanding of customary library procedures. The course, length, number and names of papers, topics, number of lecturers & practice, teaching and assessment strategies, and grading scheme all differ significantly. As a result, curricula urgently need to be revised to incorporate emerging fields like information marketing, management knowledge, online information systems, and information processing or retrieval systems, and information and communication technology, while also decreasing the traditional value of education. The updated curriculum has to be able to equip LIS practitioners for the new difficulties that the discipline will face.

A library is often a location where people go to get ideas and knowledge. Information access is essential since it raises the bar for both corporate and individual educational growth as well as individual improvement. The focus of information access is on each person's right to timely access to information. Its significance is also seen to be a deciding element in the political, economic, and social growth of any country, regardless of that country's culture, ethnicity, language, etc.

In the era of information, data is viewed as a financial asset, a driving force behind progress, and a tool for wise decision-making. An information society is one in which people's ability to satisfy their wants and requirements, whether they be in print, non-print, electronic, or any other media, depends on their ability to obtain information. This includes potential for change in society and economic progress as well as their quality of life. With the development of technology for communication and information, access to information now includes access to the internet (ICT).

By providing additional access to knowledge, the internet has helped society overcome its information gap. The notion of the "digital divide" was born out of the significant differences in information and communication technologies between developed and developing countries in terms of the availability, access, and use.

Libraries may rely on the internet to provide users with the appropriate information at the appropriate time in the appropriate format. Since many people now visit libraries to access the internet, the methods of getting information have also evolved with the rise of technology for communication and information. Public libraries are in a position to support and facilitate information access, which will advance societal development. Information accessibility is crucial. To thrive in business, to broaden their cultural experiences, to take charge of their everyday lives, and to develop their full potential via education and training, people need knowledge.

We live in a time when knowledge and human creativity—rather than material resources—are becoming the primary sources of wealth and power. Many people believe that having libraries is crucial to having a populace that is literate and educated. Information is a valuable resource that is necessary for both national and individual advancement, hence every literate society must ensure that its members have timely access to accurate and pertinently updated information. Information is necessary everywhere in any information society. The enrichment, direction, and development of citizens towards the instillation of national pride and an accurate understanding of national culture are facilitated by public libraries.

A community's social and cultural growth may be greatly influenced by the public library, which can also serve as a powerful force for community growth & empowerment. In this sense,

the public library may be seen as a community's social and cultural hub, providing a constantly evolving array of cultural materials. This might be especially significant in underprivileged and rural areas. The fundamental issue is how to take advantage of public libraries' capacity to support community development and empowerment, as this is a function that is frequently overlooked.

The public library serves as the hub of information in our society. "I've discovered that my library card is the most valuable item in my wallet," stated Laura Bush in her well-known quotation. Public libraries maintain inventory for the general public and users' needs in the areas where they are located. Public libraries occasionally host knowledge-disseminating events including seminars, workshops, trivia competitions, book displays, and the exhibition of rare and antique goods, among other things. Improved women's empowerment is also possible with public library assistance. Public libraries may provide a variety of training programs relating to women's empowerment, including courses on sewing, tailoring, and women's awareness, among others. The public library plays a significant part in women's empowerment. Numerous studies on women's empowerment and the general public library systems have been conducted. Women have been making strides and demonstrating their ability to outperform males in a variety of fields, including athletics, scientific research, politics, and service. Still, she wonders about security. The government has become aware of the need for comprehensive security and safety measures for women due to the horrifying and pessimistic incidents of violent rape and murder that involve several trafficking tactics.

Public libraries must demonstrate how the limited public funding they receive are used to improve both the areas in which it operate and the individual inhabitants. There is a lot of demand because of the political and economic climate right now to show the benefits of public libraries. In addition, fundamental shifts in society—particularly the development and digitisation of Information Technology (IT), the rise of multiculturalism and the dissolution of local communities—as well as ongoing financial strain on the public sector—are causing fundamental changes for public libraries across the globe. The diversity of public libraries' effects highlights one of their core qualities, which is their complexity.

While public libraries are primarily small institutions, they offer a wide range of services aimed at very different spheres of life, including children and adults, local businesses, individuals who are the elderly or disabled, and the entire sector of education from kindergartens to universities. This is in contrast to other public institutions like schools or hospitals, which produce educational along with medical care services.

Additionally, they offer a variety of opportunities for leisure pursuits, self-improvement, and the growth of civic and personal abilities. Public libraries also have an influence and importance since they are physical spaces that serve as gathering places for culture and society, study and reflection areas, and public rooms. Since public libraries are such a complex institution, it is necessary to examine them from a variety of angles. Of particular significance are the cultural, educational, informational, political, and economic aspects of public libraries. The ability to assess and quantify the worth of public libraries is essential. To justify public libraries' worth and use in financial terms to legislators and the general public—that is, the taxpayers who fund public libraries—clear, precise, and verifiable data are required.

People view the public library as their institution. It is a local point of access to information that offers the fundamentals of lifelong learning and promotes the cultural growth of both

individuals and social groupings. Everyone can use the public library's services, regardless of their age, sex, caste, religion, level of education, or social standing. In general, the public library provides all users with information according to their wants and needs. Culture and society are complimentary concepts that go hand in hand. It is challenging to distinguish between the two. Within a civilisation, there can be several subcultures that fluctuate throughout time.

Culture is shaped by a number of socially influential variables rather than by the culture itself. One of the things that altered the cultures of particular social classes in a society was the library. This study discusses the impact of public library on social and cultural development in particular to highlight the value of these services for those in the community. The literature review forms the basis of the investigation.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Shrudi, S. K., (2024) Public and rural libraries have been essential components of knowledge growth in India. In both both urban and rural locations, libraries are the public's primary information source. The disadvantage for those who are unable to learn on their own is that we must study from books in libraries; these individuals require a foundational knowledge guide in order to begin learning. They may study online using multimedia content and absorb more knowledge from the resources.

Deb, P. (2020) Given that women make up about 50% of the population, their standing has a significant impact on the growth of a nation. According to a recent research (ABP, 2015), if 50% of India's female population found jobs, the country's GDP would increase to 27%. The Beldanga-II Community Development Blocks in the Murshidabad District of West Bengal is the site of the current study. Students' opinions about women's empowerment are assessed, and the public library's contribution to this cause is also assessed.

Lal, J. (2018) A library is often a location where people go to get ideas and knowledge. Information access is essential since it raises the bar for both corporate and individual educational growth as well as individual improvement. Information is viewed as a financial resource, a development accelerator, or a tool for wise decision-making. An information society is one in which people's ability to satisfy their wants and requirements for information is essential to their quality of life, as well as their chances for social change and growth in the economy. Public libraries play a significant role in local communities, especially in underprivileged and rural areas. They are not just book shelves. Public libraries have developed into a kind of social or cultural institutions by providing the community with an ever-changing array of cultural materials.

Deb, P., (2021) The Western empiricist's defined knowledge as a knowledge or familiarity acquired through experience. Knowledge is the accumulation of all the information that civilisations have managed to preserve, and knowledge enhances education. One of the most important strategies for achieving women's empowerment is education. One of the hardest things a woman can do to overcome a barrier and ultimately develop the attributes that will shape her life and her community is to empower other women.

Bordoloi, R. (2018) The diverse development of human capital should be emphasised in higher education by fostering the knowledge-enabled populace, which will lead to peace, prosperity, and socioeconomic mobility. As a result, it is the responsibility of the educational institutions

to provide need-based higher education, which develops individuals into intelligent, skilful, progressive, and analytical individuals. Therefore, there is an urgent need to tackle some of the fundamental issues facing higher education, such as the need for educational pathways or institutional setup that match population demand, advancements in global learning, equal access to knowledge, research on cost-benefit analysis, partnerships and innovations in education, use of technology for learning, mechanisms for quality assurance, and the need for sufficient funding for higher education expansion.

Kumar, S., (2013) Information literacy is defined in this chapter along with its range of applications, including media literacy, proficiency with computers, network literacy, health literacy, business the ability to read and & library literacy. As an altered understanding of literacy, it establishes the relationship between information literacy and literacy. It also claims that information illiteracy is the primary cause of the digital gap in nations like Bangladesh, Nepal, and India. There has been discussion of the data gathered from several e-initiatives in Bangladesh, Nepal, and India. Information literacy plans have been developed for these nations following careful analysis of their socioeconomic, geographic, and political conditions. Information literacy depends on a number of elements and should begin at the national level. Initially, on a national scale, followed by the educational and community levels. Additionally, the curricula for IL course at different levels have been developed.

Lakhawat, P. S., (2024) Education is a basic entitlement for every person, irrespective of their gender. However, because of cultural expectations and biases, females in India are no longer granted this privilege. The need for skilled labour in the education sector has increased in tandem with the industrial sector's explosive growth. Nonetheless, not everyone can easily obtain school, and many girls in rural areas still aspire to a college education. Education is essential to a nation's progress. Education is also important for the growth of a person's intellectual capacity, which improves employment prospects. For the study, 231 female dropouts & 154 current rural students were taken into account. The survey was conducted in the rural parts of the Prayagraj district.

Deb, P. (2019) Adolescent females may be empowered in a number of ways through knowledge, which is recommended for them. For women in the following decade of the twenty-first century, this is a difficulty. Numerous initiatives have been launched globally to shield teenage females from darkness. Among them, KanyashreePrakalpa has been a trailblazer in empowering girls to take on more responsibility in society. The analysis revealed the influence of the Kanyashree one-time grant, which was used for a variety of purposes including business, manufacturing, horticulture, agriculture, higher education, tailoring, opening a computer training centred for the village's impoverished brothers and sisters, and purchasing wedding jewellery.

1.2 Objectives of the study

- Examine obstacles that prevent student from using or accessing library resources (such as distance, library hours, or a lack of digital resources).
- Empower students by using the library to provide forums for debates, lectures, & academic mentoring.

1.3 The Scope of the study's

A research on "Students' Empower through College Libraries have in Rural Areas in India"

may take several forms in order to investigate the ways in which libraries support student empowerment in rural areas. These are important factors to take into account:

Access to Educational Resources

1. Access to Educational Resources

- **Scope:** Examine how rural college libraries give students access to scholarly books, journals, and electronic resources that they may not otherwise have because of budgetary or physical limitations.
- **Focus:** availability of periodicals, books, journals, and magazines with specialised content as well as databases on the internet or e-resources.

2. Bridging the Digital Divide

- **Scope:** Consider how libraries can help students become digitally literate by giving them access to computers & the internet and enabling them to use online resources for learning.
- **Focus:** Internet access and technologies for learning, digital literacy training courses, and the difficulties in preserving these resources for rural libraries.

3. Skill Development and Capacity Building

- **Scope:** Examine the ways in which libraries might support skill development for students in remote locations by holding seminars, workshops, or read groups.
- **Focus:** Development of soft skills, research abilities, leadership endeavours, and improvement of critical thinking with the availability of a variety of reading materials.

4. Support for Higher Education and Career Guidance

- **Scope:** Examine how rural college libraries help students who want to pursue further education or jobs by providing resources for career assistance, test preparation materials, or job-related information.
- **Focus:** Books about careers, study guides for competitive exams (including UPSC, SSC, and GATE), and advice on scholarships & postsecondary education are all readily available.

5. Promoting Lifelong Learning

- **Scope:** Think about how libraries support a habit of continuing their education outside of the classroom, enabling students to pursue new interests, learn on their own, and keep up with world events.
- **Focus:** Books and materials covering a range of subjects, imaginative reading programs, and the function of library employees in fostering learning.

6. Community Engagement and Social Empowerment

- **Scope:** Examine how university libraries function as community hubs that serve the needs of both the greater rural population and students, therefore promoting the region's overall social empowerment.

- **Focus:** outreach initiatives, community participation in library events, and interaction with non-student patrons (e.g., local people, workers).

7. Role of Government and NGOs

- **Scope:** Analyse how NGOs, local governments, and other governmental entities support and finance rural college libraries in general, as well as the steps made to advance library services.
- **Focus:** Policies, funds, and programs from the government that promote education in rural areas and the participation of non-governmental groups in enabling remote students through libraries.

8. Empowerment of Marginalized Groups

- **Scope:** Examine how libraries, by granting equal access to information and education, may strengthen marginalised people (such as women, students from lower castes, and those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds).
- **Focus:** Diversity, targeted initiatives for under-represented populations, and transforming libraries into secure environments for learning and development.

III. THE STRUCTURE OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM IN INDIA

The Honourable As early as 1910, Sayaji Rao Gaekwad III, the Maharaja of Baroda, spearheaded the establishment of India's public library system. He was a remarkable visionary. He also made elementary schooling mandatory for all boys and girls in the whole state. He painstakingly designed a mass education program that was implemented in 1893 in a single district and expanded to the entire the State by 1907. His Highness also saw that in order to maintain literacy and give men and women in rural regions access to the knowledge base that is not readily available to them, universal education necessitated the establishment of a network of free public library systems. The public library was designated as the people's university by the Maharaja (National Mission on Libraries, 2017). The Public Library Act is in effect in the following Indian Union states:

1. Tamil Nadu 1948, 2. Andhra Pradesh 1960, 3. Karnataka 1965, 4. Maharashtra 1967, 5. West Bengal 1979, 6. Manipur 1988, 7. Haryana 1989, 8. Kerala 1989, 9. Goa 1993, 10. Mizoram 1993, 11. Gujarat 2000, 12. Odisha 2001, 13. Uttarakhand 2005, 14. Rajasthan 2006, 15. Uttar Pradesh 2006, 16. Lakshadweep 2007, 17. Bihar 2008, 18. Arunachal Pradesh 2009, 19. Chattisgarh 2009.

Only 17 states in India have passed laws pertaining to public libraries, out of 28 states and 7 union territories, according to Ramiah and Reddy (2010). India has thirty state central libraries, forty regional and divisional libraries, 364 district libraries, 4658 city/town libraries, and 49,758 village libraries out of a total of 54,851 public libraries. The Public Library Act has been passed by 19 States. The following diagram illustrates the organisational structure of the public library system in India:



Fig. 1 Structure of Public Library System in India.

I. Socio-Cultural Development and Public Libraries

Divergent viewpoints exist on community development. Some refer to it as raising people's quality of life; others see it as primarily about creating networks within the community; yet others see it as empowering people individually and collectively. A community developer works alongside groups of people to assist them achieve their goals under a typical community development approach. These goals might be anything from encouraging community members to engage in an arts project to adding additional public restrooms to a town. Working with the community to understand whatever individuals require from the library to improve their quality lifestyles is how librarians and staff at public libraries serve it. Staff members and librarians collaborate with communities to determine how the general public library can support them in achieving their objectives.

Community development in the context of a public library also refers to fostering interpersonal interactions. A public library may effectively move beyond a basic conversation or support process and grow into important and inclusive collaborations, strengthening ties and partnerships inside its community, by giving access to modern resources and technology. But the most crucial point is that the effectiveness of the public library in detecting information needs and advancing the community's future is critical to sustainable community development, particularly in small rural towns.

II. Role of Public Libraries

Public libraries gather and maintain a vast array of resources on society, all groups, and all individuals. It carries out its responsibilities with the goal of facilitating and improving equitable access to knowledge in society. Its mission is to give society fast access to accurate, up-to-date, and trustworthy information by serving as a doorway to knowledge, information, and culture. Public libraries' provision of information access via a variety of channels and ways is essential to the country's socioeconomic growth and the enhancement of people's quality of life in general. The general public library is acting as a hub for culture and communication in this instance. Public libraries aid in the development and execution of educational initiatives that provide patrons the tools they need to thrive in an ever-changing world. Public libraries are essential to the growth of the information society because they offer resources for study and research. Since the quantity of information available has a significant impact on national development, the economic function that public libraries play depends on access to information.

III. Cultural Centre for the Society

A public library serves as the social focus for culture. It supports and fosters the community's creative and cultural growth while also assisting in the formation and maintenance of the community's cultural identity. Through its services, the public library fosters respect for the arts, scientific advancements, and cultural heritage by gathering all papers pertaining to many cultural sectors. In addition to preserving cultural historical records, it also plans cultural events and intercultural programs using its audio-visual services. Access to all forms of art, including the performing and visual arts, is another thing it offers. Cultural development may be accomplished via working with other organisations taking part in local, national, or worldwide events, planning cultural events, and making sure the local population is interested.

IV. Community Information Centre

The primary purpose of the public library in the information era is to give all facets of the community access to current facts and information. Although each citizen may have distinct information demands, public libraries should do their utmost to satisfy users' information requests.

V. Recreation Centre

The public library acts as a recreational hub for kids and young people in the area by offering books for leisure reading that foster spiritual and personal development, which fosters creativity within the community. In order to tackle the problems of society, kids and young adults essentially require specific attention in the development of their personalities. The library should be aware of its patrons' information requirements and build a strong collection of books for leisure, including electronic information resources, biographies, books on sports and games, travel, religious literature, audio-visual materials, periodicals, and popular novels. A selection of books that meet the informational requirements of young people in the community might alleviate their perception because the library is unkind to and may help them get over feelings of social exclusion from both the library and society at large.

VI. Knowledge Centre for Disadvantaged People of the Society

The services offered by public libraries are unrestricted. It includes even the most isolated regions of the nation. Every member of the community should have equitable access to library resources in order to expand their knowledge in many fields. Inmates of rehabilitation facilities, blind people, hospital patients, prisoners, and others should all be able to obtain information at no cost in their designated locations. Services provided by extensions can help accomplish this accessibility. To give such resources to individuals in need, bookmobiles and mobile libraries, audio-visual programs, concerts, and extended lending services might be used. Physically disabled people may also be eligible for specialised technological and informational training programs in order to aid in their rehabilitation.

VII. Creativity Centre for Children

It is important to give children guidance as well as instruction for their futures in society; they should not be disregarded. It is necessary to investigate and nurture the creative minds of children who are born differently. The public library's children's department is set up and run with the intention of fostering a love of reading in young children from the outset. This area

could contain toys, picture books, and other items that help kids grow as individuals and foster creative attitudes. Programs that raise awareness among kids, such as movie screenings, fancy dress, story several hours, plays, recitations, etc., may be arranged to do this. Giving our kids the tools they need to develop their creativity will help them remember and follow these skills as they become older and become well-adjusted members of society. As a result, we may set up public libraries as places where kids can play and develop their creativity.

VIII. METHODOLOGY

One important tactic to reduce the educational gap between rural and urban areas in India is to empower students through college libraries. You must focus on a number of factors, including infrastructure, accessibility, accessibility of resources, and active involvement, in order to create a strong technique for this. Here is a methodical technique of handling this:

1. Needs Assessment

- **Surveys and Interviews:** To evaluate the existing state of library usage, obstacles, and needs, conduct polls and interviews involving students, professors, and community members.
- **Data Collection:** Gather information on the community's availability of resources, academic achievement, and literacy rate.
- **Gap Analysis:** To find any gaps, compare the services offered by library in urban and rural locations.

2. Library Infrastructure Enhancement

- **Facilities Improvement:** Enhancing the physical infrastructure (construction, illumination, and furniture configurations) of current libraries.
- **Digital Access:** Install internet connection points to give users access to digital resources like e-books and periodicals.
- **ICT Training:** Provide library personnel and students with IT (information and communication technology) training to enable them to easily access digital resources.

3. Resource Enrichment

- **Book Collection Expansion:** Expand the library's holdings to encompass a greater variety of topics, such as self-study tools, competitive test guides, and materials for vocational education.
- **Partnership with NGOs and Government Programs:**
 - Work together with groups to get financial support for library resources or book contributions.
- **Digital Repository:** Establish an online library with open access so that students may obtain research papers, e-books, & study guides.

4. Capacity Building Programs

- **Training for Librarians:** Provide librarians with training programs to help them operate the library effectively, covering topics like digital system maintenance.

- **Workshops for Students:** Plan sessions that instruct students on how to use library materials for academic reasons.
- **Reading Clubs and Study Groups:** Start study or reading clubs to encourage kids to have a culture of learning and innovative thinking.

5. Community Engagement

- **Outreach Programs:** Plan neighbourhood's get-togethers or campaigns of awareness to highlight the value of libraries for individual and collective growth.
- **Collaboration with Schools:** Collaborate with surrounding educational institutions to enable students in high school to use the library and ease their transfer to tertiary study.
- **Mobile Libraries:** To reach students who live in more rural places and are unable to physically attend the library, establish mobile library units.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Usage Metrics:** Keep track of library usage using both paper records and, if available, digital technologies to assess the success of the initiatives.
- **Student Performance:** Examine students' academic achievement before as well as following the intervention to see how the library affected their learning objectives.
- **Feedback Mechanisms:** Get input from students and educators on a regular basis to ensure that the library's offerings are always improved.

7. Sustainability and Scaling

- **Government Support:** Seek financing and assistance from regional administrations to ensure the library's long-term viability.
- **Volunteers and Community Contributions:** Through voluntary donations, promote involvement in the community in the upkeep and expansion of library services.
- **Replication in Other Areas:** Create a scalable methodology that, if the pilot project is successful, may be implemented in other rural areas.

By incorporating digital technologies, fostering a culture of learning, and enhancing the calibre and connectivity of library materials, this model seeks to empower students in remote areas. The intention is to establish rural libraries as the main hubs for education.

IX. CONCLUSION

The LIS profession must adapt its perspective and practices in an age of networks built on the knowledge economy in order to acquire new skills and hold onto the shrinking clientele that the IT industry and related professions are encroaching onto. Librarians are mentors and torchbearers of knowledge, not just providers and retrievers of information. Everyone has a moral obligation to have access to knowledge in public libraries so that it may be used for economic, educational, and national growth as well as for self-empowerment. Additionally, it is believed that public libraries should assist their community's users in finding details about the necessary resources and information literacy initiatives.

In order to promote literacy in the communities, public libraries should work to gather current

and pertinent print and electronic materials on social, economic, political, and educational development. In order to facilitate the seamless flow of information, rural libraries & rural neighbourhood resource centres should be encouraged to participate in integrated rural library programs and should have well-developed infrastructure. It is recommended that qualified library staff be assigned to oversee and manage the operations of rural libraries & rural community service centres. Through programming and developmental activities, rural libraries serve rural communities and empower them more effectively than remote public libraries. A public library plays a crucial role in ensuring the growth of communities, especially in underprivileged and rural areas. Since it offers information vital to the advancement of the community, it has come to be recognised as a vital component of members' lives. There is an explosion of information in all fields in the modern era of the information society. Personnel who possess professional qualifications and training are necessary to successfully gather, arrange, and distribute information. Additionally, they must be effective communicators in order for public libraries to fulfil their mission as a centre for lifelong learning.

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