

Green Library Initiatives in Rural College Library - With Special reference to AKPC Mahavidyalaya, Hooghly, WB: A Study

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ABSTRACT

The latest important issue of the world is to save the earth and save life of the earth. Libraries can play better role in this regard by taking initiatives to aware and inspire people to protect the environment because libraries are in an excellent position to be both an ecological operator and promoter of environmental awareness. Here comes the importance of green library. The term green library refers to a library that is environmentally conscious in many ways which include a wide range of actions like reducing energy use, collecting and promoting environment-friendly materials, adopting many kinds of green practices using non-toxic products in library. "Green Library" is also known as "Sustainable Library" or "Environment-friendly Library" or "Eco-friendly Library". The main objective of the paper is to cover the present scenario of AKPC Mahavidyalaya library in the green perspective. It investigates how the library is practicing the green library concept practically in their collection, building and services at present. It also provides suggestive measures for further provisions of the college library for the development to go green.

KEYWORDS: Green library, College library, Sustainability, LEED, CASBEE, Rain water harvesting.

INTRODUCTION

The latest important issue of the world is to save the earth and save life of the earth. Libraries can play better role in this regard by taking initiatives to aware and inspire people to protect the environment because libraries are in an excellent position to be both an ecological operator and promoter of environmental awareness. Here comes the importance of green library. The term green library refers to a library that is environmentally conscious in many ways which include a wide range of actions like reducing energy use, collecting and promoting environment-friendly materials, adopting many kinds of green practices using non-toxic products in library. The green library building was popular in ancient India. According to the Online Dictionary of Library and Information Science Green library is designed to minimize negative impact on the natural environment and maximize indoor environment quality by means of careful site selection, use of natural construction materials and biodegradable

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products and conservation of resources (water, energy, paper etc). The green library movement was started in early 1990s. The librarians are getting interested to develop such libraries that will minimize the consumption of electricity and be environment friendly. Green libraries are the structure that designed, built, renovated, operated or reused in an ecological and resource efficient manner. For these reasons “Green Library” is also known as “Sustainable Library” or “Environment- friendly Library” or “Eco-friendly Library”.

Necessity of Green Library

- ✓ To control the pollution and green house gases increasing day by day
- ✓ To play a great role in making the planet green
- ✓ To work for the betterment of mankind
- ✓ To make a new image of library to the modern world

Why Green Library

Green library does not require high budget because of the low energy consumption and low maintenance cost

Green library creates user-friendly and healthy environment by providing environment-friendly and sustainable library services to the users.

Green Standard Certification in Different Countries

Green Building Certification Agencies provides certain pre-requisites which should be followed by the institutions for the Certification of Green Building. Different countries have their own rating system e.g.

Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) in UK, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) in USA ,Comprehensive Assessment System for Built Environmental Efficiency (CASBEE) in Japan. Among all India follows LEED which judge on location, water consumption, energy efficiency, material and indoor air quality. India also follows the following three rating systems:

Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) (in 2001) - It has licensed LEED standard

Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) (in 2002)

Green Rating for Integrated Habit Assessment (GRIHA) (in 2006)- It is considered as most suitable in Indian context.

Initiatives of State Government

Green Building guidelines are jointly developed by IGBC and Government of West Bengal. Some of the Government buildings pursuing IGBC rating are- West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd. (WBSEDCL), Kolkata, Lal Bazar- Kolkata Police Head Quarters.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the paper is to cover the present scenario of AKPC Mahavidyalaya library in the green perspective. It investigates how the library is practicing the green library concept practically in their collection, building and services at present. It also provides suggestive measures for further provisions of the college library for the development to go green.

METHODOLOGY

Data has been collected from observations and cost-effective methods which can be accommodated with the functioning of library have been taken into consideration.

Green Library Initiatives in AKPC Mahavidyalaya

AKPC Mahavidyalaya college is situated in Bengai near Arambagh in Hooghly district. The college was founded in 1959 in a very important communicating location of four districts-Bankura, Burdwan, Medinipur and Hooghly. The rural location of the college enables it to cater to the needs of students, mostly from agricultural family background. Now the college offers 18 honours and 17 general courses to the learners. The central library of the college was also established in 1959 with a few number of books. Now the total book strength of the library is about 30,000 covering the materials of arts, science and commerce streams and many reference books.

Building: The library is a two-storied building named Kala Bhavan, surrounded by many trees. The ground floor of the library is comprised of lending section, book processing section, stack room and reference section. In first floor there is a large reading room for the students and it can accommodate 50 students. The building is old with thick walls and great height. The interior portion of the building is painted with light colours which is eye-soothing and reflect the light. The vast open area surrounded by various big trees keeps the library building naturally cool. Large windows with sunshades prevent the direct sunlight but allow natural sunlight. This helps in low consumption of electric light during library hours. The building has the ventilation system (skylight, etc.) for the air circulation and refreshment of the library rooms.

Furniture: The library mainly emphasized on using bio-degradable wooden furniture-like issue-return desk, almirah, display rack, journal and other periodical display rack, reading room table, chair, bench, computer table, catalogue cabinet, notice-boards and the doors and windows.

Use of Water: In-front of the library there is a pond named "Bidhan Sarobar". Rainwater harvesting tank and purifying channel has been founded by The State Water Investigation Directorate under the Government of West Bengal in 2014. This scheme was initiated to collect the roof-top rainwater of the library building and recharge ground water level. This is a sustainable process that helps in preserving the water for future need. This is very much helpful for the use of water for washing, cleaning during summer time.

Electricity: A Grid-Connected Roof Top Solar Power Plant has also been installed in an adjacent building of the library and there is a provision of power supply during the shortage period. Large windows and skylight also helps in less use of electric light and fans in the library.

Resources: As mentioned earlier the library has around 30,000 printed books including text and reference used by near about 3000 students from arts, science and commerce streams. Instead of card catalogue, OPAC is used for searching books in open access system. The library also has 6000+ e-journals and 31,000+ e-books from the subscription of INFLIBNET N-LIST consortium. The library practices less use of paper by providing necessary

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notice and information to the students through college website. Students are also inspired to use less paper by taking the pictures of the part of any book necessary for them through mobile cameras (obviously by non-violating the copyright act).

ICT Applications: The library has standard software for bibliographic records and under the process of transforming the circulation process from manual to computerized system. This will help the library to go ahead towards the sustainable process.

Future Initiatives: AKPC Mahavidyalaya is a rural college and its student- community is mostly from remote villages. The college has a large campus comprising of two water bodies for fishery and two gardens –one botanical and another kitchen. The campus is arranged with various kinds of trees and shrubs. In this beautiful natural environment the library has initiated some small steps to practice sustainable process. But it has many potential areas for going green in future. These are following

- The library can take more number of strategies and plans to ensure sustainability.
- Initiate awareness programmes to popularize the green activities and thinking of library.
- Solar Power Plant should be installed on the roof-top of the library building to supply sufficient electricity to the entire library building during sunlight.
- Glass doors and glass windows can be used to allow the natural sunlight.
- Different power saving practices may be promote among the users such as turning off lights during bright daylight, turning off fans and computers when not in use.
- Organic rooftop gardening can be arranged to decrease the heating of the top floor.
- Pot pants and indoor plants can be kept for purifying and refreshment of air inside the library building.
- Reuse and recycling of papers such as labeling, notice writing, demand slips can be practiced.
- Documents on high demand can be digitized.
- More use of e-resources may be inspired.
- Bye-back policy may be introduced to diminish the accumulation of e-wastes.

Role of Librarian

Librarians with innovative ideas for greenery are now called eco-librarian. Eco- librarian in an academic or college library has to perform different duties such as ;

Handle the budget for building, library collection, ICT requirements, interior decoration etc.

Building up eco- friendly collection

Weeding out out-dated or worn library materials

Creating green - awareness among the students and staff.

Planning and taking more initiatives to make the library green

Green libraries in India-Some examples

India has been ranked third on the list of top 10 countries in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design outside America, according to the latest US Green Building Council report. Some of them are:

1. Anna Centenary Library (ACL)
2. Karnataka university library Dharwad
3. Mumbai University Library
4. Madras University Library

Other green libraries initiatives in India are:

- Calcutta University Library
- Delhi University Library
- Perma Karpo Library, Ladakh in Indian Himalaya

CONCLUSION

Academic libraries are the heart of the institutions. Developing the 'green' concept in library is an important initiative for the sustainable development because a green library is also known as a sustainable library and is built with environmental concerns in mind. Academic libraries are not only the repository of knowledge but also can play a vital role in developing awareness about the environmental consciousness among its target users. Library professionals should adopt the strategies with the help of new technologies to promote the green library movement in their respective institutions. The duty of the librarians is not limited to provide information about the green movement but to play a leading role to construct a green environment in their intuitions to save the nature.

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