



ENGAGING YOUNG LEARNERS THROUGH LIBRARIES

FACILITATOR:THE DPS SOCIETY - HRD

CENTER



RESOURCE PERSON

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Ms. Anupam Saini delivered the webinar on 'Engaging Children through Libraries' for Delhi Public School Society - HRDC. Librarians from over 200 DPS schools across the globe attended the webinar to know about modern approaches to librarianship, design thinking in libraries and how British Council libraries stay relevant to its users in this day. The focus was on how to explore the academic library so that it can help foster conditions for both academic and social engagement on the school campus, with the ultimate goal of increasing student satisfaction, success, and retention. The background and varied definitions of student engagement were reviewed and the importance of engagement for student success was discussed.

Listed below are the various points discussed to upscale the libraries and motivate our learners to divulge in voluntary reading:

1) IMPORTANCE OF READING& CONTRIBUTION

An emphasis on reading and student literacy helps develop higher levels of focus and concentration. It also forces the reader to sort things out in their own mind. Reading may also lead to a better, more balanced life. Books train their brains, in essence. They are mentally stimulated, acquire knowledge and ideas, reduce stress in their lives, improve their vocabularies and memory, and develop keener analytical skills.

Inculcating this habit is the responsibility not only of school but of parents as well. Every day 15 minutes of effective reading can bring wonders to the child's learning capabilities.

2) CHALLENGES FACED BY LIBRARIANS TO MAKE CHILDREN VISIT LIBRARY OFTEN AND VOLUNTARILY

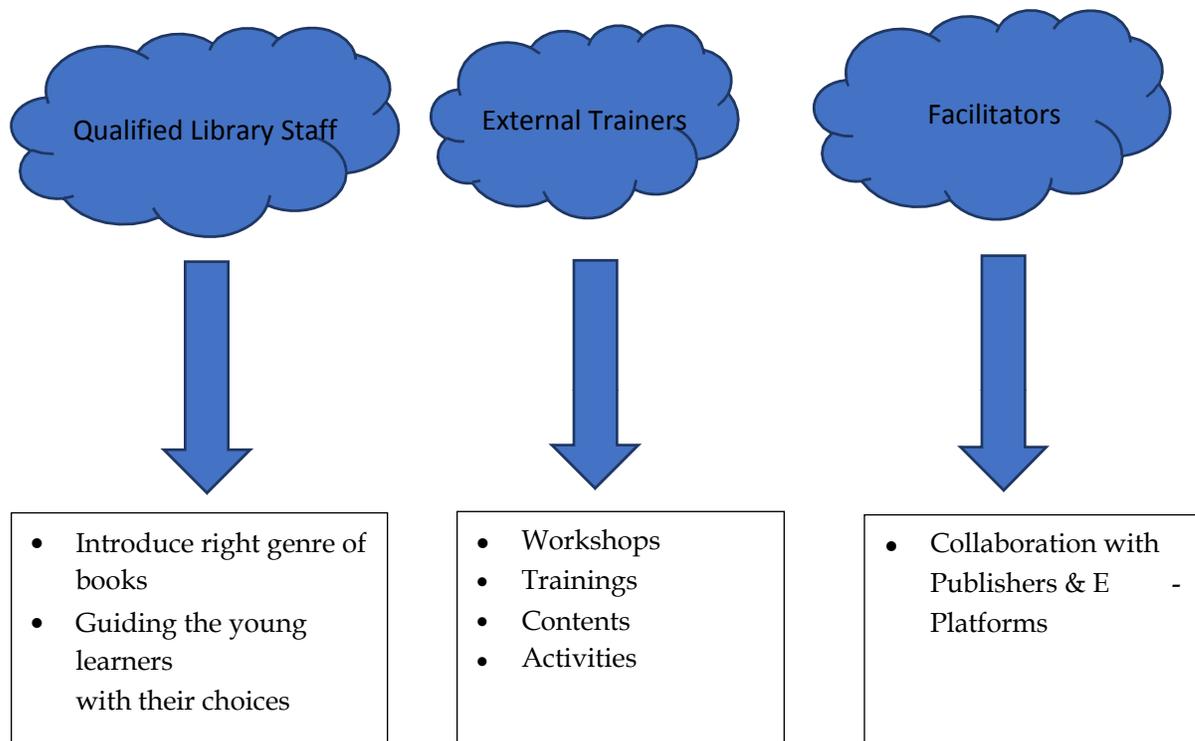
To name a few shared by the members present in the webinar:

- Paucity of qualified and competent staff members, and also lack of the required number of staff members
- Procuring of books
- Lack of motivation
- Absence of well-defined and uniform library policies
- Maintaining Digital Library
- Infrastructure
- Defined time for usage whereas it should be open all the time

3) **DIGITAL / ONLINE LIBRARY**- British Council collaborate with Publishers and the content is scrutinized by the authorities before uploading it on their Online Library. They perform variety of Activities and provide interesting platforms for each one of their members on this portal. Various e-books, e-magazines are available for their avid readers.



4) **BRITISH COUNCIL PRACTICES**



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OUTLOOK - One of the most important aspects for designing a library is to consider the physical interior environments which comprises of interior space planning, and interior ambience such as selection of lightings, furniture, materials and finishes. Maximum natural light, Agile furniture, Regular changes in the layout etc are major game changers in grasping the attention of members. *They also allow children to take books and find any corner in the entire campus to sit and read.*



6) **NOT JUST A LIBRARY**

Activities like Board Games, Author Readings, Music evenings, Movie Screenings, Story Telling Sessions are organized at Family Level in order to engage large group of members.



7) 5 LAWS OF LIBRARY SCIENCE BY RANGNATHAN

- **First Law: Books are for use** –Means that books in libraries are not meant to be shut away from users. They are often chained to prevent their removal and that the emphasis was on storage and preservation rather than use.
- **Second Law: Every reader his or her book** - Librarians are to serve a wide collection of patrons and should respect that everyone is different and that everyone has different tastes regarding the books they choose.
- **Third Law: Every book its reader** - Means all books have a place in the library, even if only a small demographic might choose to read them.
- **Fourth Law: Save the time of the reader** - Means that all patrons should be able to easily locate the materials they desire quickly and efficiently.
- **Fifth Law: A library is a growing organism** - Library should be a dynamic institution that is never static in its outlook. Books, methods, and the physical library should be updated over time.

8) Q/A/ SUGGESTIONS POST THE SESSION:

- *Question:* E-Books: difficult to manage and limited free books are available for schools to procure. Can DPS Society invest in the E -books for the combined use of all schools affiliated to DPS Society?
Response: Very few E -books have access for unlimited users simultaneously (number of schools can access a particular book at the same time). Majorly all the E - books have access to limited users at one point in time making the waiting period on that particular book a task for schools.
- *Question:* Should we impose fine for kids, who do not submit books on time?
Response: No, we should find alternate methods to avoid it. We can give a buffer time and depending on the previous record we can choose not to issue books but it is not advised to impose fine.
- *Question:* Librarians have lot of work at their hand and are given all kinds of jobs where they don't get time to invest in the library?
Response: It is the thought that matters. You are your School 's Resource, if your school needs it, your Head of the School has all the right to assign you any task at hand.
- Reading Report of each child should be shared with the parents on the PTM or could be mentioned on the Report Card
- Cluster Level Partnership involving parents, teachers, learners and Librarians
- E-Library
- Awards and recognition for kids issuing maximum books along with the review of the same.
- Library Notebooks to be maintained for kids to write reviews (50-100 words) of each book read.
- Online Activities to be organized by Librarians during Online classes.
- Emphasis not only on reading but in writing as well.
- Applications like Book Creator, Link tree, Padlet are few of the applications used and suggested by various schools for online Library
- KOHA : It is an open source integrated library system (ILS), used world -wide by public, school and special libraries to maintain their Database . British Council Library uses this and finds it very effective.

It was an instructive session and there was a lot to take from it and use it in our institute.