

Environmental Science: Exploring the Modern Library of Knowledge and Solutions

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ABSTRACT:

This essay examines environmental science and its relevance to solving the many environmental problems that the contemporary world faces. It looks at the function of the contemporary library as a useful tool for environmental awareness-raising, research, and teaching. The wide variety of environmental scientific literature and information, including books, journals, databases, and digital resources, is discussed in the study. It emphasises the value of libraries in encouraging environmental literacy and giving people and communities the tools, they need to make wise choices and conduct sustainable actions. This study intends to emphasize the crucial role libraries play in encouraging environmental stewardship and sustainability via an examination of the contemporary library's involvement in environmental science.

KEYWORDS:

Books, Environmental, Information, Library, Resources, School, Students.

I. INTRODUCTION

The contemporary school library is a significant hub for environmental studies educational materials. The emphasis of contemporary educational programmes is on teaching students to think independently and develop judgements. This calls for the supply of a wide range of materials, the major clearinghouse of which is the school library. As a significant service organisation, it offers advice to teachers in developing curricula, students in choosing books, and adults in reading and counselling [1]–[3]. The school library sets the groundwork for free inquiry and intellectual growth, which are crucial for forming public opinion in a democratic society like ours. The school library has developed from a collection of books into a hub of information that is heavily utilised by everyone associated with the school. It permeates every classroom, affects every student and instructor, and even spreads into the neighborhood. It encourages reading for both personal and professional purposes and aids in curriculum enrichment for the instructor. It aids the learner in acquiring worthwhile educational experiences. It caters to the community's leisure and hobbies interests. It serves as a repository for various instructional tools, such as maps, charts, photos, models, manuscripts, and more. It adds fresh richness to the students' personal lives and academic experiences. No other agency can take its place in a contemporary school.

Functions of the School Library

1. Providing Reading and Teaching Materials

The school library provides a significant service by offering a large selection of text and reference materials linked to different academic disciplines, benefiting both the instructor and the student. It gives the student a tonne of reading material to use for homework, assignments, and problem-solving.

2. Stimulating reading for enjoyment and recreation

Numerous general interest books are available in the school library for both students and instructors. Biographies, travel, adventure, innovation, and discovery-related novels, among other engaging genres, inspire students to read for leisure and pleasure.

3. Teaching the techniques of searching references

By properly using the diversity of materials it has, the school library instructs students in the procedures of doing references searches. Books, journals, pamphlets, and other materials are purchased, arranged, stored, issued, and received in the library room according to a certain process.

4. Providing opportunities to pupils to assume responsibilities

The students are taught how to properly care for books, participate in library communities, work as library assistants, and do other odd tasks related to library service. They learn how to collaborate with others, support other students in choosing literature, and help them find solutions to some of their difficulties. It enables individuals to get perspective on interpersonal interactions, comprehend economic efficiency, and behave responsibly as citizens when circumstances call for it [4], [5].

Essential Equipment for the Library

1. Shelves

Books of all kinds, albums of records, videos, filmstrips, school-made slides, and other materials are organised on shelves in the library room in a certain manner, topic and area wise.

2. Chairs and tables

To allow students and instructors to read and work in the library, the tables and chairs should be of the right height, size, and comfort. To do his tasks efficiently, the librarian should have a dedicated workstation and chair.

3. Filling Cabinets for Catalogue Cards

Catalogue cards fit easily in cabinets and drawers of a typical size.

4. Racks for Newspapers and Magazines

Daily newspapers as well as periodicals and publications in many languages, covering all themes, are organised in racks that were created specifically for this use. These racks are positioned in various library room corners or in the reading room next to the library so that instructors and students may visit them and read them during free time. It's crucial for journals and magazines to have lock magazine covers. They protect the periodicals and journals from tampering and damage. The daily newspapers may be displayed on rods in specific frames [6], [7].

5. Bulletin Boards

People who are not frequent library users might learn about new arrivals by seeing book covers and other graphic materials on bulletin boards. The bulletin boards are positioned in a section of the area designated for the library.

6. Storage Room and Work Room

Books that need binding and equipment necessary for the audiovisual content are kept in the library storage room. Books are repaired, photos are mounted, and books are prepared for the shelves in a workroom or spacious closet with a large table.

Book Resources

These are crucial for satisfying individual reading requirements since they provide many viewpoints and give detailed backgrounds on the people, the processes, and the world and the locations, which are so important for teaching environmental studies. Among the book resources are the following:

1. Text books

The library has a variety of excellent history, geography, civics, economics, and environmental studies textbooks. To ensure that students and instructors have access to the most recent information, new and updated versions of common textbooks must be acquired for school libraries in light of how quickly human existence is changing everywhere in the globe.

2. Unit Guides

The Environmental Studies library should also include a number of unit booklets in addition to textbooks. These pamphlets cover a wide range of subjects, including neighborhood life and individuals from different lands.

3. Reference Resources

Reference books, dictionaries, yearbooks, atlases, biographies, bibliographies, directories, government bulletins, and more come under this category.

4. Textual Resources

In order to give reading material for everyone's amusement and pleasure, they include biographies, fiction, folklore, short tales, travel books, books of adventure and hero stories, romance, theatre, and poetry.

5. Reference Works

Non-book Resources

These include diaries, meeting minutes and proceedings, firsthand travel and historical narratives, manuscripts, timetables, etc.

1. Periodicals

These include journals covering current affairs and publications covering a wide range of topics, such as literature, dance, music, and other arts that reflect the time's social trends.

2. Pamphlets

Pamphlets often cover a single subject and are embellished with images, photos, and drawings. The teacher of environmental studies should be up to date with publications related to his field that are presently available. The majority of pamphlets are inexpensive since they are produced by several government departments and bureaus for specialised services. They provide crucial details regarding many spheres of social, economic, and political life [1], [8], [9].

3. Newspapers

Every school library needs a local newspaper because it emphasises newsworthy local occurrences that are relevant to the students' immediate social and physical contexts. For the library, one or two daily newspapers with distribution across India are also preferred. A decent newspaper serves as a reflection of global happenings. Its study is crucial for all environmental studies instructors and students to stay current on all that is occurring locally, nationally, and internationally.

4. Special Publications and Documents

Almost all state governments provide brochures, annual calendars, data books, or publications on activity inside their borders. Rich information on numerous locations, regions, and cities is also published in folders by significant businesses, concerns, railroads, and tourism agencies. These provide first-hand information.

5. Audio-visual or Non-reading Materials

Non-reading resources are crucial to the Environmental Studies curriculum. Many of these items include information that is hard to find in books. They provide the class a shared history of experience and enhance authenticity.

The Librarian as a Resource Person

A skilled librarian maintains the school library as a crucial hub of information for teachers and students, offering them planned, knowledgeable service and assistance. Every secondary school should have a permanent assistant and at least one full-time librarian. For them to operate efficiently, a separate workroom and enough office space should be provided. Creating fosters, a climate of friendship, restraint, and initiative. A full-time qualified librarian assists the pupils in developing strong study habits and a passion for reading. He collaborates with educators to turn the library into a vital hub of resources and a dynamic organization. He offers environmental studies courses the necessary reference resources [10].

Collateral Reading and the Library

The curriculum for environmental studies must include collateral and supplemental reading. In addition to their textbooks, which they use for problem-solving, assignment completion, discussion participation, and other academic activities, the students browse several books and journals to get knowledge on different facts and movements. A library's resources may provide a plentiful selection of books, journals, and pamphlets for side reading. Additional reference reading must be used in addition to the content in the textbook. It is important to encourage pupils to read extensively on subjects that interest them, both for informational and recreational purposes. They should be instructed on how to choose, read, and apply the information they have learned in order

to develop healthy reading habits and effective study techniques. They need to be encouraged to take notes and to regularly maintain a log of their readings.

Suggestions for Motivating Pupils to Utilize Library

1. Reading List

At the start of the school year, the instructor should establish a minimum quantity of extra reading for each student. The instructor should work with the library to compile lists of various genres of books, both fiction and non-fiction, particularly those related to Environmental Studies curriculum. All students should be given these, and they may be obliged to read the necessary number of books, not more than half of which may be fiction.

2. Marks for Supplemental Reading

The instructor has to designate specific points in his course for further reading. At the conclusion of the semester, these might be added to the child's overall score in environmental studies. The students will be inspired to read as a result.

3. Questions in Tests

It is required that at least one question from the supplemental readings, with options suitable for all student categories, be included in the question paper.

4. Scheduled for Additional Reading

The instructor could bring books that provide fascinating descriptions of life at that time while teaching a specific unit on that time period in environmental studies. He should read aloud a few passages from such books to the class. He should also tell his students the titles of the books, the names of the writers, and the names of their publishers, and instruct them to get information from those sources related to the topic being studied. After a couple of days, he can invite a student who has read a particular book and written reports and notes to get up and recite what he has gathered in relation to the current lecture.

Teacher's Duty in Motivating Library Studies

The instructor should be a voracious reader who is conversant with all the literature written in his profession. He ought to ensure that the school library has copies of all those books accessible for use by pupils. He should also read newspapers and magazines on a regular basis. In the school library, there should be a wide variety of publications. Encourage your students to utilise this information. The study of newspapers and magazines found in the school library can be encouraged if the teacher has developed the habit of reading a daily newspaper, at least one or two monthly magazines related to his own subject, and making current affairs the basis of some key Environmental Studies units. Each student's reading should be noted by him. If a student's reading is carefully monitored, it may be possible for him to evaluate books when he creates his library book lists for different grades each year.

II. CONCLUSION

Access to a multitude of materials that help people comprehend, participate with, and take action against urgent environmental challenges is made possible by the contemporary library, which acts as a key center for environmental science. Researcher, student, policymaker, and general public access to comprehensive environmental literature in print and digital media allows them to learn more and contribute to sustainable solutions. In order to bridge the gap between academics, communities, and policymakers, libraries provide a venue for learning, collaboration, and interdisciplinary study. Libraries encourage information discovery and advance environmental literacy by selecting and organising environmental science resources, producing a more educated and environmentally conscientious society. In order to ensure that environmental knowledge is accessible to everyone, regardless of socioeconomic class or geography, libraries play a crucial role in increasing information access. Libraries extend their physical borders via the use of digital resources and online platforms, making environmental science available to a worldwide audience.

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