

# UTILIZATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARY SPACE: A CASE STUDY OF KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA LIBRARIES

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**Abstract:** In Kendriya Vidyalayas, the space of the school libraries are double the size of a class room; exemptions are there in few cases, where the size is 3 times. The paper discusses about the utilization of space, on different areas like - Work area – book acquisition, technical work etc., Reading area – to accommodate minimum 50-60 students at a time, Stock area to house 5,000-15,000 volumes, Periodicals area, Issue & return counter, Store area – keeping old newspapers, magazines and written off books, New arrivals, Space for computer and internet use, Teachers’ corner, Bulletin boards, organizing different programmes and activities etc. (Lib 2.0). In order to promote reading habits among children, libraries require both printed and electronic resources. In addition to it to organize different activities school libraries need more space to satisfy the emerging needs of the young generation?

**Keywords:** School library, Space, Lib 2.0, Kendriya Vidyalayas, India

## 1. Introduction

When good intentions meet bad planning, library users pay the price (Woodward, 2007). Space planning involves determining how large spaces within a building are arranged and relate to each other within larger area. The space needed for a school library should forecast and meet a future need, based on library’s school strength, projected collection and service aims. (Better by Design) The school library is considered as part and parcel of the academic set up. Dr. S Radhakrishnan, the former President of India stated that, “Library is the heart of the institution”. The school library is created and maintained to serve and support the educational activities of the school. It provides information, inculcates ideas and develops knowledge for successful functioning of today’s information and knowledge society. It is fundamental to a school library to equip students with lifelong learning skills and enabling them to live as ideal and responsible citizens.

## **2. Kendriya Vidyalayas**

The government of India in 1962 approved the scheme of Kendriya Vidyalayas (Central Schools) to provide uninterrupted education to the wards of transferrable Central Government employees. Initially, 20 Regimental Schools were taken over as Central Schools during the academic year 1963-64. The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan was registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1965. The main aim of the Sangathan is to provide, establish, endow, maintain, control and manage the central Schools located all over India and abroad. The government of India wholly finances the sangathan. Last year, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan as an organization completed 50 years of its existence and celebrated its golden jubilee. Over the years the number of Kendriya Vidyalayas increased to 1092 as on 01.08.2014 with 11,48,340 students. (<http://www.kvsangathan.nic.in>)

All the Kendriya Vidyalayas are affiliated to CBSE and have classes from I to XII. It pursues excellence and sets the pace in the field of School education by promoting national integration and a sense of “Indianness” among children while ensuring their total personality development and academic excellence. Kendriya Vidyalayas are in the fore front of integrating innovative ideas and up-to-date technologies in teaching learning.

### **3. Aims and objectives of School Library**

- To develop the child acquires reading habit and self-study habit.
- To develop in pupils the ability to learn from books without teacher.
- To create a lifelong liking and longing for new knowledge.
- To contribute to the fulfillment of the educational aims of the school.
- To provide the students with appropriate reading materials.
- To encourage and participate in teaching learning programmes of the school.
- To assist the students to become skillful and discriminating users of the library.
- To provide IT based services to the users. etc.

### **4. Library location**

The school library should be located in an area of maximum accessibility to the students and teachers. It should have the facilities for good ventilation and ample

day light. It should have sufficient floor area in the Reading room to enable the students to use it comfortably either in class/groups or individually.

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) stated that the secondary and senior secondary school library building should have a Stack room, Librarian's room and a Reading room having a capacity of seating 40 to 120 students at a time. The stack room should be big enough to accommodate between 10000 and 15000 volumes.

The size and seating capacity of the Reading room will depend on the maximum number students in a school admits. A provision of 10 sq. feet area per pupil in Reading room is considered adequate. On the basis of these considerations a Library should provide accommodation for at least 60 students of a class at a time plus 10% extra space for other group activities, projects and reference service beside room for librarian, circulation, reference desk, books and periodicals display, etc.

## **5. Kendriya Vidyalaya Libraries**

In all the Kendriya Vidyalayas, there is separate room for school libraries. It may house an average of 10000 books and subscribes 30-40 magazines and minimum 5 newspapers. All the libraries have e-resources, internet facilities, multimedia CDs/DVDs etc. Almost all the K.V. libraries are automated with library software to execute the routine works in a professional way. Qualified librarians (Professional degree holders) are appointed in each library to discharge the duties of the libraries. The size of school libraries with minimum of 2 division schools (classes I to XII with student strength of about 1000 students) is double the size of a standard class room. In some cases the size is 3 times and more, where the student strength is more than 2000.

## **6. Library Space**

The Central Board of Secondary Education stated that in Secondary and senior secondary schools, a minimum of three standard classrooms are designated as Library by removing the inner partition wall to organize library and Reading room. A separate library building built for the purpose is an ideal one.

### **6.1. Types of Space**

The following types of space are needed for the library. This may be considered for a new library building. The Fifth Law of Dr. S Ranganathan “Library is Growing Organism” can be kept in mind while constructing buildings for the school library. There should be provision for space expansion in future. The space utilization in the 21<sup>st</sup> century IT era is very important, because there should be provision for providing both traditional and IT based services to the users in a meaningful way. When constructing new buildings for the school, while constructing library room, the matter has to be discussed with library professionals or senior librarians. In many cases this has been left out; where administrators, engineers and school principals are involved.

1. Location of the library: It may be placed in the ground floor of the main building
2. Collection area: Collection space includes the account of books, periodicals and non-print resources (multimedia CDs/DVDs), Librarian’s room – staff work area, etc.
3. Circulation area: Issue & return counter – to place one table, 2 chairs, computer, printer, bar-code reader, scanner, place to keep return books (minimum to place 50 books at a time), to keep registers/records, etc.
4. Seating area: To accommodate 60 to 75 students at a time. Minimum one table (ordinary table 6` x 4`ize) for 6 students and sufficient number of chairs; area for group discussion/activities
5. Teachers’ corner: Space for teachers’ to read/reference in the library. To accommodate minimum 6 teachers at a time.
6. Computer area: to place minimum 3 computers for students use
7. Display area: place for new arrivals (new books and periodicals)

## **6.2. Library furniture**

Following types of furniture is needed for school libraries; and to arrange and keep neatly for the use of the readers and day to day activities of the library.

1. Students’ chairs and tables: To accommodate 60 to 75 students at a time minimum 15 tables and 75 chairs are needed. For Teachers’ use, minimum 1 table and 6 chairs are needed.

2. Racks/almirahs: To house 10,000 volumes, minimum 20 racks are needed. Separate racks are needed for periodicals display and newspapers stand, multimedia CDs/DVDs rack, computer tables and chairs, display of new arrivals stand, etc.

3. Issue & Return counter: Wooden oval or rectangular shape – space to accommodate 1 table, 2 chairs, computer, printer, scanner, etc.

In Kendriya Vidyalaya libraries, in almost all the schools, these facilities are available and all the works related to libraries are going on in uniform manner based on the Library Policy brought out by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.

### **7. Traditional Vs. Modern Libraries:**

Although the school library has been recognized as an essential component of a good school, yet many schools of our country do not have library facilities. Schools affiliated to CBSE, ISC, Public Schools, Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas, International Schools, etc. have full-fledged libraries and qualified librarians are appointed to discharge the library duties. But in many states including Kerala, there is no specified school library/library room and books are stacked in a corner or Head-Master's room. Accessibility and proper use of books are not there.

With the advent of ICT, the school libraries have changed a lot in its functioning when compared to the traditional library concept. Computer, Library Automation, Internet, Websites, Blogs, Social networks, etc. (Lib 2.0) added a new face in the modern school library scenario to give maximum support to the 21<sup>st</sup> century young readers. Apart from providing traditional services like reference, bibliographic, issue & return, now the librarians are providing IT based services on modern library concepts to the maximum extent to user satisfaction.

In Kendriya Vidyalayas, libraries are functioning in a better manner as in the cases of College libraries. There is library period in the timetable (Classes I to XII). Students go to the library during library periods; sit and read periodicals or reference books, practiced to make note of what they read, and then to get the books issued or returned. Many Kendriya Vidyalaya libraries have their own websites, blogs, digital collections, and internet access to students and teachers.

The students of K.Vs. perform well in their academic and co-curricular activities. A recent study reveals that 98% of schools have internet facility, 97% have their own website and many libraries have launched their blogs and have Digital Collections. (Annual Report 2012-13)

## **8. Library Programs**

The library's services and physical and on-line learning spaces facilitate students' participation in individual and group learning; through sharing information, discussion and creation of new ideas. The school libraries must be made the centre of all the activities planned and executed in school. It can be used to prepare for their next subject period, assignments, general education, examination, competition, recreation and inspiration.

In Kendriya Vidyalaya libraries many programmes and activities are being carried throughout the academic year. Various competitions like book review, book mark, book jacket designing, literary quiz, storytelling, poetry writing, etc. are conducted based on the national and international days of importance. Other programmes like book exhibitions, meet the author, etc. are conducted to help the young readers to get attracted more towards the library, and to use the resources more and more. To organize such programmes in the library more space is needed.

## **9. Conclusion**

A modern school library with sufficient space and suitable furniture and latest resources will be the attraction for the people of all ages. In developed countries, there is sufficient space with attractive furniture suitable to the ages, attracted the students to visit their libraries in reading. To motivate the young readers towards reading, we have to create a suitable atmosphere with all facilities; so that more people will spend their time for reading in libraries and update their knowledge. No doubt, if we adjust the library environment suitable to the age group, and the librarians show a positive attitude towards the young readers, we can create wonders, and concept of 'library will be centre of all the activities' will be fulfilled in true sense.

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In 2011 received Intel Appreciation Award in Teacher Category for the project “Role of libraries in Conservation of Energy”

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### **Declaration**

I, Mr. B. Surendran, hereby certify that the article **“UTILIZATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARY SPACE: A CASE STUDY OF KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA LIBRARIES”** has not been presented/published before and this is the original contribution of the author.

Date: 28/08/2014

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