
Book Review

Vibrant Children's Library in the Digital Era

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The book highlights the importance of learning during the process of education from pre-school to higher secondary school. It has linked it to school education, school library as a centre of learning, live workshop and the quality of education. It has also shown the role that books play in Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE). The importance of reading habits has been stressed among children in the book. Organising various books-related activities is central point of the book. The book also gives a brief outline on children's literature and salient features of a good children's book. The book is divided into 12 chapters. The introductory chapter explains the best ways to improve the quality of education by making it respond to the demands of the society to usher in social change, development and do away with the outdated social practices. This chapter also explains education as a social process, where participation of community in the education process has been shown as pre-condition to knowledge, which has been said to be created by the interaction of knower and knowee. Organisation of knowledge includes knowledge creation, knowledge accumulation and knowledge dissemination.

The next three chapters explain 'education and learning', 'role of school libraries in quality education' and 'the school library, a centre of learning and live workshop'. In these chapters, it is explained that education is a system, which acts as an agent for the transfer of knowledge as well as socialisation of individuals. According to the author, the characteristic of education as a social sub-system can be that education can serve as a powerful agent in building social individualism that helps to modulate the society. These chapters explain that school library plays a major role in bringing learning to the children of disadvantaged group; it helps

the teachers as well as pupils to learn to think logically, to work alone, and to work and play with others, etc. This book also explains that school library is the best place for learning. It helps all of us to do better work, be better citizens and to live useful, happy and full lives. These chapters seem to justify the need, scope and importance of school library. The three chapters include 'School library and Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE)', 'A brief outline on children's literature' and 'A good children's book'. These chapters explain that education is a continuous process. Evaluation has to be carried out in every possible situation or activity and throughout the period of formal education of people. Evaluation has to be continuous. The main purpose of evaluation has been shown to make a judgement continuous about the progress of the learner and measure achievement of the pupils at the end of instruction. According to the book, learning is basically to acquire the four major skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Chapter VI explains that children change their purpose reading according to the changing needs. This chapter has justified the selection of good children's book through knowledge and individual needs, interest and abilities as well as equal understanding of literature. The content, theme characterisation, style, format, and other consideration are the important criteria for evaluating children's fiction. The book highlights the characteristics of children's literature. Children's literature is the literature meant for moral instructions. The book also highlights dramatic changes that have taken place in children's publishing. Book clubs, book fairs and co-publications would all give children's book publishing a much needed boost. Another chapter also explains the attributes of children book's like: good central ideas, originality in idea, good hand writing style, characterisation, and sense of humour. The attributes shown in the book designed and written for children are limited vocabulary, short sentences, large-sized type 14 font, durable binding, etc.

The book also covers concern for fostering reading habits among children, 'NCF-2005 and Reading habit — A study and introduction to e-Books'. These chapters explain the importance of language, the importance of reading as education. The chapter has highlighted development of new words in everybody's conversation. The habit can become a healthy addiction and add to the information available in various topics, supplementing educational developments, etc. Next chapter explains the advantages of a good book or reading as an informative piece that makes an ideal companion. Books are shown to help in enjoying childhood thoroughly and to grow up, be able to

make full use of their abilities and their opportunities for service and happiness. School library is highlighted as provider of information and idea of thousands of years that are fundamental to functioning successful in today's information and knowledge based society. Another chapter explains the increasing usage of the internet as the major cause of the rise in web-based publishing by the academic community. The electronic publishing has very specific non-book characteristics that distinguish it from print publishing and it has been highlighted. Electronic publications can be disseminated worldwide. Validation, authentication and copyright are the major issues concerned with e-publishing. E-books are easy to use and available on time. The book gives issues in e-book development from various perspectives. The role and potential of e-books in the spectrum of the scholarly content in electronic form is discussed well in the book. 'Librarian brings fresh thinking to e-book' is the outcome drawn out of this chapter.

The book also includes chapters on 'NCDL (National children's Digital Library), A survey' and 'vibrant library for children in the Digital Era'. This has a chapter on survey explaining children's books is important source in young people's life as these books contribute to the child's ability to be literate in today society. This chapter also explains the idea of 'collaborative digital library for children,' at national level. With the survey results as a supposition and the evidence, the book justifies the need of institutions, NGOs, publishers, authors, illustrators and parents working on a common platform.

Next chapter explains the four steps of cognitive development proposed by the project. The need of the library has further been emphasised on the child with the support of construction approach that constructs his knowledge by his own actions; children's book and programmers can be used as tools by parents to assist their children. This chapter explains that the key to successful school is through affection libraries as to balance study and reading with fun and activity that stimulate children and inspire them to explore further.

The book is an excellent treatise on the importance of learning during the process of education—pre-school to higher secondary school. This book highlights the ways and means of reaching out to children across the states making their school library vibrant in digital way. There are various ideas in the book with ample examples from different sources for digital books and their effective use. This book helps to understand that library can sharpen and enhance

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one's understanding and perspective in a big way. This book could help in motivating children and teachers to use library and develop reading habits, whereas it may help librarians and administrators to develop good libraries at all levels of education.

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