

Chapter - 6

Findings of the Study

The findings obtained from the research work are summarized below:

1. It has been shown that there are 47% schools where a permanent school librarian is present in the school libraries. But in 53% schools, no permanent librarians are present in the schools. North 24 Parganas district have highest schools (75%) having librarians. It is also shown that 69.5 % schools are running without the supporting staffs in the libraries, 27.25% schools have only one supporting staff in the library and only 3.25 % schools have more than one supporting staffs in the libraries. Kolkata, Puruliya and Bankura districts are having the highest number of schools where at least one supporting staff is present and the percentage is 40%. The library without a librarian, like a house without a housekeeper. Generally, libraries having no librarians are run by the teachers who are charged to run the library. They opened the library when they were free from their scheduled classes. Beside that librarians are responsible to render services to the students and helps in enhancing the reading habit among the students. Every school library should have a librarian and if the collection and the number of students are high, at least one sporting staff is needed to run the library properly.
2. Out of the 400 schools from West Bengal, 26% the schools have a separate reading room in the schools but in 74% schools a separate reading room is not attached with the library. Kolkata, Purba Medinipur and Koch Bihar district have the highest percentage of schools having a reading room and the percentage are 50%, 45% and 40% respectively.

It is also found from the study that 7.76% schools have a reading room where the seating capacity is around ten, 36.89% schools have seating capacity ranges

between 11 to 20. There are 35.92% schools where the seats in the library reading room range between 21 to 30. Out of the total, 72.81% responses are observed within these two classes i.e., 11-20 and 21-30 respectively. In 10.68% and 5.82% schools are having seating capacity range between 31-40 and 41-50 respectively. There are only 2.91% schools where the seating capacity in the reading room is more than 50. It is also seen that 95% schools are from Jalpaiguri and Nadia district, is highest, where the seating capacity is nil. The highest number of schools where the total seat capacity ranges between 11 to 20 is Dakshin Dinajpur (25%). Further, Purba Medinipore and Kolkata (25%) has the highest share where the total number of seat capacity in the reading room varies from 21 to 30. Kolkata district is holding the highest number of schools (15%) where the total number of seat capacity in the reading room varies from 31 to 40. North 24 Parganas district is holding the highest number of schools (15%) where the total number of seat capacity in the reading room varies from 41 to 50. Furthermore, out of all the districts, North 24 Parganas, Hugli and South 24 Parganas are the only three districts where 5% schools are having more than 51 seat capacity in the reading room. Rest of the districts have no seating capacity more than 51. The reading room is a palace where students and teachers can read and exchange their views. A well-equipped reading room is needed for every school library. Depending upon the strength of the library, the seating capacity of the library should be planned.

3. In 17.5% school libraries the only furniture have is Almirah. In 80.25% libraries, there are a chair, table and Almirah in their libraries and only in 2.25% schools possess Almirah, chair, table and magazine rack in the libraries. It is the matter of strange that few libraries have the only almirah, no table and chair are there to sit for the librarian or the library-in-charge. The main reason may be the lack of librarian or maybe the lack of time spent by the library-in-charge. Every library should be well furnished with almirah, chair, table and other necessary furniture.

4. There are 30.75% school libraries where the total collection are below 1000 in amount, 20.25% school libraries have the collection ranges between 1000-2000, 27.75% school libraries have books that ranges between 2000-3000, 9.75% schools where the total collection in the school libraries are 3000-4000, 5.5% schools having their collection ranges between 4000-5000 and only 6% schools out of the total samples have their collection in the library that is above 5000 in number. Only 7% school librarians said that their collections are sufficient to serve their students but 93% school librarians opined that their collection is not sufficient. It has been observed that 60% schools are from Darjiling district, is highest in the collection below 1000. Bankura (35%) and Bardhaman (35%) districts are having the highest number of schools where the total book collection varies from 1000-1999. Dakshin Dinajpur (50%) has the highest number of schools where the total books collection ranges between 2000-2999. Whereas, Birbhum, Malda, Nadia, and South 24 Parganas are the second highest (40%) in case of total book collection under this class range. Purba Medinipore (30%) has the highest share where the total number of the book varies from 3000-3999. Hugli, Kolkata, Paschim Medinipur are holding the highest number of schools (15%) where the total collection varies in between 4000-4999. Out of all the districts, Kolkata is the only one where 30% schools are having more than 5000 books in their school libraries. In Dakshin Dinajpur, Haora, Nadia, Purba Medinipur, Uttar Dinajpur, almost 100% school librarians opined that they are not at all satisfied with their collection. In the Kolkata districts also 70% schools do not have sufficient collection. The collection of the library is an important aspect. The library with insufficient document means students and teachers are not able to get their desired documents. The collection is related to both volume and variety. A school library should have a sufficient number of books with all subject coverage. Besides that some inspirational books, juvenile literature and reference books, like a dictionary, encyclopedia, and the biographical dictionary should be collected in the school library.

In 40.860% schools, the librarians opined that the documents in the library should be between 3500 to 4500. In 29.570% schools, the librarians opined that the number of documents in the school library collection should be between 4500 to 5500. There are 1.075% schools where the range of the collection should be between 6500 to 7500. Only in 0.806% schools, the librarians opined that in their libraries they needed the collections range between 7500-8500 and in 2.415% schools the number is above 8500.

It is well envisaged that in most of the districts the dominant percentage of schools where the amount required for the library is Rs.30000.00– Rs.40000.00. Haora (75%) has the highest number of schools under this class range. Kolkata (60%) has the highest share followed by Darjiling and Bankura where the amount required for the library is Rs.40000.00 – Rs.50000.00 and the percentage is 55%. North 24 Parganas is holding the highest number of schools (40%) where the amount required for the library is above Rs.50000.00.

5. There is 80% librarian who suggested to write letters to the different publishers to donate specimen copies to the library to increase the collection and 24% the librarian wanted to depend on Government grants to increase books in the library.
6. Librarians have opted their different view with regard to the amount needed to increase the collection. It was observed that 44.75% schools demanded amount ranges between Rs.30000-40000 for their collection development. There are 38% school libraries who needed a large number of rupees range between 40000 -50000 and there is only 7.75% schools where more than Rs.50000 is needed to build up the collection within a year. Without the Government initiative, no library will be built a sufficient collection of documents. Though the 80% the librarians think that publishers' help is sufficient for collection building, but it is not desirable to build the collection with publisher's specimen copy. Therefore, Government aid is needed for increasing the collection.

In 33.5% school libraries have a separate book selection committee and in rest of the school, i.e., in 66.5% schools no book selection committee is there to select the books for purchasing. In 37.75% schools, the designated teacher takes the responsibility where in 13.75% schools, jointly the designated teacher and the managing committee of the respective schools select the books to be purchased. In 16.75% schools, both the librarian and the Head of the institution select the books for the library. There are 23.75% schools where more than one official jointly selects the books for the library. Within these schools, 73.68% schools the librarian and the designated teacher both jointly decided the list of books. In 12.63% schools, the librarian, teacher and the managing committee jointly purchased the books for the library. In 2.11% schools, the Head of the institute and the librarian both select the books. In 7.37% schools designated teacher and the Managing committee jointly select the books to be purchased. In 4.21% schools, designated teacher, librarian and Head of the Institute select the books for purchasing. A school library should have an active book selection committee, comprising with a librarian, head of the institution and representative of teachers and representative from students. The Committee will evaluate the requisition of books came from a different end.

7. There are only 18% schools where internet collection is available in the school libraries but in the rest of the schools, no internet connection is there. Koch Bihar has the highest number of schools (35%) where internet facility is available.

Out of 400 schools, only 24.25% schools have procured newspaper, magazine, newspapers and rest of the schools i.e., 75.75% schools are not procuring the same. Further, 89.75% librarians opined that they felt the necessity of multimedia resources in their libraries and only 10.25% of them denied to accept the necessity of multimedia resources in school libraries.

As the library is responsible for growing the reading habit among the students, the library should procure the newspapers and magazines. The reading habit is

changing remarkably among the students with the advent of using information and telecommunication resources. The library should maintain a collection of multimedia resources to support the students need. Internet is a must for the school library to provide multimedia resources to the students.

8. There are 40% school libraries where open shelving method is followed. In 58% school libraries, the shelves are closed and there are 2% libraries where the shelves are both open and close. It is well envisaged that 70% schools are from Birbhum district, is highest, where open access shelving is maintained. Darjiling (85%), South 24 Parganas (80%) and Haora (75%) districts are having the highest number of schools, where the close access shelving method is maintained. Out of all the districts, Bardhaman is the only one where 15% schools are having both open access and close access in their school libraries. 9.5% school libraries do not maintain any definite method for the arrangements of the books on the shelf. Most of the school libraries like 88.5% schools arrange the books subject wise on the shelf and in 2% school libraries the books are arranged according to the accession register they followed. Under the subject wise arrangement of documents, cent percentage of schools are from Birbhum district. Puruliya and Purba Medinipur, both districts are having the highest number of schools (10%) where the arrangement of documents are made according to the class number. The highest number of schools where no proper arrangement method is maintained is North 24 Parganas (30%).

The school library should maintain open access shelving policy and the arrangement should be either subject wise or by Call No. wise, depending upon the collection. If the collection is big, the arrangement of books should be in call no. wise. Otherwise, it will be impossible to find a book within a huge collection. The students should be allowed to search and browse books by themselves.

9. There are only 8% schools where all the books in the libraries are catalogued but in the rest of the schools that is 92% schools the books in the libraries are

not catalogued. It is observed that the majority of the schools have not done cataloguing of the documents. Kolkata district (40%) has the highest percentage of schools which have libraries where all documents are fully catalogued. The library should maintain a catalogue in any other form. In this digital age, a computerized cataloguing system is preferable, as it is easy to maintain and possess low cost.

Out of the 400 schools, only 4.5% schools have a catalogue cabinet in the school libraries. And in the rest of the schools that is in 95.5% school, no catalogue cabinet is there. Kolkata district (30%) has the highest percentage of schools which have catalogue cabinet. On the other hand, Darjiling and Purba Medinipur districts have the lowest percentage (5%) of schools that have catalogue cabinet in their libraries. None of the other district schools that have any card cabinet in their libraries.

In 84.41% schools cataloguing system is being followed and the rest 15.59% schools have catalogued their documents using different cataloguing systems. Within the 15.59% schools 3.71% use book cataloguing system to catalogue their documents. Card cataloguing is used in 5.2% schools where as in 3.37% school libraries shelf lists are followed and in 2.97% schools computerized cataloguing have been implemented. Murshidabad (15%) district having the highest number of schools where book catalogue is maintained. Kolkata (30%) has the highest number of schools where the card catalogue is maintained. Whereas, North 24 Parganas (20%) has the highest share where the shelf list form is maintained in terms of the physical form of cataloguing.

It is also found that 34% librarians considered lack of fund as the main reason that is responsible in not doing the documents catalogued in their library. Only 3.25% schools considered that not having a permanent librarian in the schools is the main reason.

10. Only 4% schools are following classification schemes. The rest number, i.e., 96% schools are not classifying their books using any standard scheme.

Bardhaman, North 24 Parganas district (15%) have the highest percentage of schools which follow classification scheme.

The librarians/ library-in-charge pointed out the following reasons behind it:

- i. 94% librarians agreed with this and 6% disagreed where 96% agreed that for not being to purchase of classification scheme is the reason behind it.
- ii. In 34% schools, librarians opined that as because they were compelled to do other tasks at the office, they did not get time to use it but 66% disagreed with it.
- iii. Again 34% said that as because another classes were allotted to them the job of classifying the documents using any standard scheme was getting hampered but 66% did not agree with it.
- iv. In 8% school libraries objected about the unwillingness of the Managing Committee in library matters but 92% opposed it.

The objectives of classification are to find the book, to put the book on the shelves in a proper manner. If the books not being classified, it will be hard to find the book at ease. Librarians should put a call no. for locating the books on the shelves. It is understood that for a school library the budget is not sufficient to buy a classification scheme. Therefore, librarians should classify the books at least in third summary, which is available free on the Internet.

11. It has been seen that 20.75% school libraries do not circulate the books for lending at home. In 55% school libraries, circulation is done through the register. In 18% schools, the circulation is done through library cards and there are 6.25% school libraries where both register and cards are used for the circulation of books. Malda District has the highest number of schools (50%) where books are not being circulated in the school libraries. Murshidabad District scored highest (70%) where books are issued through register. Haora districts have the highest number of schools where books are circulated through card (40%). And North 24 Parganas scored high (35%) where both of the techniques (register and card) are used.

It is also observed that in 51.02% schools, the number of daily issued books ranges between 1-10. In 20% schools, the number of books issued daily are between 11-20. In 3.88% schools, it ranges between 21-30. In 5.72% schools, the number of books that issued daily is between 31-40. In 3.27% schools, the number of books that issued daily is 41-50 and there are only 6.12% schools where the number of daily issued books are more than 50. It is observed that 75% schools are from Darjiling district, is highest, where no books are issued. Murshidabad (70%) has the highest number of schools where the total book issued varies from 1-10. Purba Medinipur (40%) has the highest number of schools where the total books issued ranges between 11-20 followed by Koch Bihar (30%). Kolkata (30%) has the highest share where the total number of the book issued daily varies from 21-30. Kolkata (40%) has the highest number of schools where the total books issued ranges between 31-40. North 24 Parganas (20%) district is having the highest number of schools where the total book issued varies from 41-50. Out of all the districts, Purba Medinipur is the only one where 10% schools are having more than 50 books issued daily in their school libraries. It indicates that in the maximum number of schools the number of books that issued daily is between 31-40. It is self-explanatory that students need to issue the books at home. So, every school library should provide circulation service to the students and the teachers.

12. There are 5% libraries where no library services were given to the users. In 13% school libraries, only one service is given that is issuing books for home. In 10.5% schools, there is only the provision of book reading only. There the students, teachers can read books but they cannot issue it for home. There are 47.5% school libraries where both the services are given like there the users can read the books in the libraries and along with it, they can issue the books for home. In 0.5 % schools, information service is also given along with issuing books. In 6.75% schools, along with book reading, information service is provided. And there are 16.75% school libraries where all the above services are being provided.

13. It was seen that 40% librarians or library-in-charges want to deliver the services according to the wish of the students. There are 33.75% school librarian who selected two choices of services, where 62.96% of them gave emphasis on to deliver services mainly to the students and teachers. Out of 20.25% school librarian who selected more than two choices of services, 45.68% librarians wanted to deliver service according to the wish of the students, library service rule and according to the will of the teachers of the institution. It is clearly understood that majority of the librarians want to deliver their services according to the wish of the students and the teachers.
14. Only 5.25% school librarians said that a regular basis pest control is done in their libraries but in 94.75% schools the pesticide program is not done regularly. 52.25% school library regularly weeded out the old, rarely used, torn books from the library but 47.75% school libraries never weeded out their old books from the libraries. Pesticide should be done in the library on a regular basis to protect the library documents. The library should have a weed-out policy.
15. Out of 400 schools, 25% said that the School Administration did not support the librarian in library matters and this is the main constraint for them. According to 49.25% librarians both inadequate fund and insufficient staff patterns are the main barriers behind providing good service. The fund is the main constraint in running the library smoothly. While insufficient library staff and in cooperation from the administration are also the main constraints.
16. 13.75% librarians rated the students as good regarding their eagerness of using the library, where 7.5% librarians rated them as average, and 78.75% obtained 'very good' score regarding the eagerness of using the library. And it is a matter of hope that though everywhere the infrastructure is not good, then also the students are taking interest in using the library.
17. In 32.25% schools, the officials opined that in their libraries, lack of librarian and lack of budget are the constraints in the good operation of the library. Among them 19% said that not having the proper budget is the main constraint.

In 13% schools, lack of budget and student's lack of interest are taken as the main problems. The upper mentioned factors are also hampering good operation of the school library. The government should take the necessary step towards appointing librarian in every school library and provide a sufficient budget for the school library.

18. There are 43.75% librarians who opined that the most important step is conducting more library classes to grow the interest of the students about the library. Out of 35.25% school librarians who selected two choices, 43.97% librarians suggested both building awareness and conducting more library classes will help to grow the interest of the students. Out of 11.5% librarians who suggested more than two steps to take to grow the interest of the students, 32.61% librarians suggested study competition, storytelling, building awareness, where study competition, storytelling, conducting more library classes, and 32.61% librarians suggested arranging storytelling program, building awareness and conducting more library classes to grow the interest of the students. School librarians should conduct different extension services to grow the interest of the students towards the library.