

Nepalese Libraries: Current Situation and Challenges

Yadab Chandra Niraula
Undersecretary
Library Coordination Section
Ministry of Education
9841494062
yadabchandra@gmail.com

Background

सत्ये सत्यवती यत्र
त्रेतायम् तु तपोवनम् ।
द्वापरे मुक्तसिोपानम्
कलौ नेपालकिा रवाः ।।

स्कन्धपुराण हमिवत्खण्ड

- It was the birthplace of King Janak, Janaki, Lord Buddha poets Balmiki and Vedvyasha.
- It proves that Nepal was the origin place of the Human civilization based on Hinduism and Buddhism.
- The writing of Ramayana, Mahabharata, Geeta and the Buddhist holy books such as Tripitaka shows the development of the civilization and the literature.
- Oral Education system (Shruti and Smiriti) was followed for long times. Hindu temples and Teachers Homes, Buddhist Gumbas, Mathas were used as the teaching centres. It is still in practice in some extent.

Background

Muslims attack in the Indian state

Lichhaviies came to Nepal

They brought valuable manuscripts to Nepal and set up a library in Bhaktapur called “sakotha”

The written history of Nepal Begins from Lichhaviies King Manadeva.

"Sakotka“ was famous for oriental philosophy and tantrism in 13th to 17th Century.

It is said that there were more than 14000 manuscripts in the Library.

Unfortunately, most of the manuscripts of Sakotha were burnt out.

Very few were taken to Hanumandhoka.

Formal initiation of libraries in Nepal

- King Prithivi Narayan Shaha collected valuable manuscripts along with the unification of Nepal.
- King Girvanyuddhavkram Sahadev, issued an ordinance to establish a library called "Pustak Chitai Tahabil" in 1812 August 31st (1669 Bhadra 15).
- Gradually it was renamed as Durbar Schools library, Bir Library, Ghantaghar Library and National Archeves Library at last.
- 205 years formal history
- Stopped during the Rana ruling system.
- Any activities related to establishment of Schools and public libraries and writing books were prohibited.
- The speech given in the inaugural ceremony of the Tri-Chandra College " I myself breaking my knee" by the Prime minister (1975 BS),
- Makai Parva 1977 BS

Cont...

- Besides the suppression of the Government, some libraries were established by the initiation of the civil society.
- Pustak Padhne Dalan was established in Palpa in 1936, later it was renamed as Dhawal Pustakalaya.
- Likewise Pasupati Pratap Pustakalaya was established in the same year in Taulhawa, Kapilvastu. Adarsa Pustakalay Biratnagar and Pradipta Pustakalaya, Kathmandu (1946)
- Mahabir Pustakalaya, Butabwal; Public Vidya Bhavan, Dharan; Sarada, Lalitpur; Sarbajanik Shiksha Nitetan, Dhankuta; Padma, Bandipur Tanahun were established in 1947.
- According to the report of the Nepal National Education Commission, 1956 there were 31 libraries established throughout the country before the independence.

Cont..

- Libraries in Planned documents
- 8th plan
- 9th plan
- 10th plan
- Interim plans

Library in the Educational Reports

- After the dawn of the democracy in Nepal, Nepal National Educational Planning Commission has formed by the Government of Nepal in 1956. Like other areas, the Commission has recommended to establish the community libraries in the local level in the leadership of the school teacher. According to the report teachers are only capable to handle the libraries because there is lack of educated persons to manage the library in a scientific way.
- All Round Education Commission Report 1961, has made a draft report of the Education code. Besides the other things one chapter was dedicated to the school libraries, its types by collection. Basic things needed to run the library such as accessioning, processing and basic library rules too. It was reflected in the Education code 2019 and Education Rule 2020 too.
- National Education System Plan 1972, had also stressed on the establishment of the school libraries as well as the community and public libraries.
- Higher Education Commission, 2039

- National Education Commission

- A subcommittee was formed under the coordination of Trailokyanath Uprety,

- History, Current situation, Problems and Recommendations

High Level Education Committee

- Followed the NEC Report

Library in Education Act/Regulations

- The Education Act, 1972 and Education Regulation 1972 has also clearly mentioned the establishment and setting up the academic and public library in Nepal.
- Library Regulation, 2049 has made a separate chapter
- It was removed in 5th amendment
- Only some points are mentioned about the situation of school libraries
- Tribhuvan University Act, Regulation and other Universities has the library acts and regulations, directions

Cont...

Library in the constitution

- Article 51.4: Establishing and Promoting information centres and libraries for the personality development of citizens.
- Library in the LSGA and Regulation
 - Right and duties of Municipalities, Village Development Committees and DDCs.
 - They are not well practiced and implemented

Current situation

April 25, 2015 Earthquake- Most of the libraries of Nepal were damaged by the earthquake.

NNL building was totally damaged, temporarily preserved in another place.

It is being late to gate land and construct building of NNL.

Kaiser Library and Dilliraman Library were also damaged but their building is not that much damaged.

Partial service initiated

Schools libraries

- 35222 Schools (34736 primary), LSS (15170), Basic (34920) Secondary 9084, HSS +2: 3673,
- All the Secondary and HSS has library.
- Few Basic Schools have libraries
- EGRP project is lunching in-cooperation with USAID. EGRP has initiated Library corner in Basic schools, espically from grade 1-3.

Higher education

- There are 10038 Colleges (9 Universities, 4 Deemed Universities)
- All the colleges and Universities has their own libraries.

Public and Community Libraries

- Difficult to mention then exact figure
- It is assumed there are 1000 to 1200 public and community libraries throughout the country.

Contribution of Autonomus bodies

- Tribhuvan University ..
- Tribhuvan University Central Library (Training, Collection, ISBN, NNB)
 - Criticized conducting continuous training rather than regular work.

Challenges

- Lack of laws
 - Legal depositary Act for the national library
 - Public and community library act

Lack of reading habit, user habit

Lack of Government priority and budget

Use of ICT in the libraries

Human Resources

Personalities tussel between LAs

Opportunities

- Provision in the library in the constitution (Article 51.4.h)
- Budget allocation to establish 756 Public Libraries in each local level.
- National book policy, Library master plan and Library Automation draft report has submitted to MoE and implementing very soon
- Rebuild the Libraries (National, Kaiser, TUCL and all the other libraries)
- National seminar on public and community libraries is going to held in October 12 & 13 (Ashwin 26, 27 2074)
- Incorporation in curriculum (from school to Universites)