

GREEN LIBRARY INITIATIVES IN INDIA: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

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Abstract:

Library is synonymous with universality and utility. The role of library in this worldwide circumstance is enormous. Libraries are platform for lifelong learning and provide users with information and knowledge they need. Green Library Movement which comprises of librarians, libraries, cities, institution and university campuses committed to greening libraries and reducing decimation. This paper remarks the problems and efforts of the leading organizations towards an eco-friendly world, developed standards for the betterment, green India, green library, role of a librarian, features of green library, Initiatives in India.

Key words: Medical Librarian, Clinical Information, Skill Knowledge, Information Provision

Introduction

Green library or sustainable library is new concept and it is gaining popularity among the library professionals. Around the world the idea and behavior of creating green libraries is approaching a tipping point and transforming into a library movement by building green library buildings, by greening existing library facilities, providing green library services, and embracing. Environmentally supportive and sustainable

practices within the library. The Green Library Movement has been in existence for over 25 years .The climate change issue become heavy on dependents specially people of around world. The world is very much concerned over global warming and its abuses so we want everything to be to save the planet. The interconnected topics of sustainability and green libraries have received a great deal of coverage in recent years in publications targeted toward world librarians.

The word Green has a great importance here for a healthy survives. Over the past few years there are increasing interest towards green revolution in every discussed on various aspects of green libraries and national initiative.

The online dictionary of library and information science (ODLIS) defines green libraries as “A library designed to minimize negative impact of the natural environment and maximize indoor environmental quality by means of careful site selection, use of natural construction materials and biodegradable products, conservation of resources like water, energy ,paper and responsible waste disposal recycling etc. So we can built a new library building according to green library principles or renovate existing library building and also provide green library services and facilities and embrace environmentally supportive and sustainable practices within the library.

Need for Green Libraries

- **Conservation of energy**

Most of energy resources are finite and it is our responsibility to our responsibility to use these resources with care for our generation and future generation.

- **Water conservation**

Reduce potable water use by considering alternative on site water sources (for example rainwater, storm water and air conditioner condensate) for custodial uses and toilet flushing,

planting native and adaptable vegetation reduces the need for irrigation.

- **Air**

Today air is a most important factor. Air for breath should be pure and breathable. A proper plantation is needed in the surrounding campus which provides clean and pure air and make library cool. Also trees gives pleasant air and it control air and it control air conditioner operation during summer. In hilly area cases building should be in a sunny place so that it will become little warmer and reduces room heater and blower expenses. The more air ventilator planned the more it reduces the electricity consumption.

- **Electricity**

Electricity can be generated using direct sun light by planting solar system on the roof top of library building. Also the surplus energy can be conserved and helps during summer when library need extra energy consumption because of the use of air conditioner, fan and cooler.

- **Community and locality**

As library is a heart of any institution or university or any department, it should be in a perfect locality such as away from the noise zone like club, auditorium, entertainment hall etc. to make patron concentrate on their study. Also public transportation system to reach library is a necessary element which should need extra attention while choosing location. There are

various guide lines have been given by different agency and organizations like LEED and Us GREEN Building council to developed world class green library.

- **Area**

India's diversity is not only on its languages, culture and traditions but also it differentiates itself by its locality, weather and area. So before planning for a constructional setup it is most important duty of the institutional head is to think about all sides benefit and drawback of it, just like separate plans for hilly area and a plain area setup.

- **Constructional material**

While we think about green library the first thing which comes in to our mind is the library building. There are lots of standards and protocols in India and outside India to make a green building by using recyclable and environment sustained materials.

IGBC (Indian Green Building Council) is a part of CII(confederation of Indian industry) offers a variety of services which include green building rating programs, training programs, certification service program etc.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and environmental design) is a nationally accepted program planning environmentally compatible hygiene performances green building for a healthy environment. According to LEED wastes should be minimized at every stage of construction of building.

The Role of Green Librarian

1. Librarian should always make efforts to promote green library movements by using different online tools like social media.
2. The librarian constantly willing to work under the eco library system and identify those people who are willing to work in this Environment.
3. He can promote green library tools, techniques to encourage others.
4. A librarian can encourage other librarians towards green library by discussion
5. The green librarian's role is most dynamic he is also called as eco librarian because he has to handle the budgets to support the organizations.
6. Use wooden furniture and material because these are bio degradable materials
7. Library can use wool brick instead of burnt brick.
8. Solar tiles or panel can be used for roof.
9. More and more use of bamboo by replacing steel.
10. Rooftop planting can be a good idea.

Indian initiatives towards Greening: Indian Libraries

India has been third ranked on the list of top 10 countries in Leadership in Energy and environmental design outside America, according to the latest US Green Building Council report. Canada followed by China occupies the top two

ranks in the ranking of the top 10 countries for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) outside the US. There are numbers of Green library has situated at different part of the country .in Asia's first LEED Gold rated LIBRARY building is Anna Central Library, Chennai. There are some other green libraries are given below:

1. Anna centenary library (ACL)

The library was established in 2010 by government of Tamil Nadu situated at kottur Puram, Chennai. The building occupies an area of 8 acres. The library is well equipping with modern technology and proper use light, air and wood. The cost of the building is 172 Crore. It is one of the reputed green libraries in India which is gold rating by LEED.

2. Mumbai university library

The Mumbai university library was setup in the year 1880. The library was made with ecofriendly equipment with wood the size of the windows is wide so that proper light get in to the library. The library gives a big open space area for the readers. The library use wood as stack materials.

3. Madras university library

It was built in the year 1907 in Indo-British style. The library use wood material in stack areas and reference hall, periodical section reading hall. The windows are big and wide and

proper lights come to the reading area and fresh air came.

4. Karnataka university library

The library stated working since 1950. The library is eco-friendly library. They facilitate give a green space to the students of the university. The library follows the traditional Gurukul system in this view they setup a green library environment. The main motto of the green library is to facilitate students for group discussion. The library gives an open study space for the student with sitting, dirking and Wi-Fi facilities, etc. the green library situated at nearest to all P.G. departments so that students can get maximum benefits.

5. The central library NIT, SILCHAR

The central library NIT, SILCHAR was established in 1977. The initiatives for greening the library taken by NIT, Silchar is probably the first of its kind in the entire North East Region of India. The new Library Building under construction is designed according to LEED certification system of U.S. which can be the role model for developing green libraries in Barak valley.

Challenges for Indian Libraries:

In spite of the green library movement and sustainable practices are realized across the world or India, still there are some challenges to be dealt with:

1. Though cost of constructing green building has become affordable to other

entities, libraries will face issues in meeting green goals as they are subject to strength budget cuts especially when reengineering or reconstructing library structures one cannot forget the cost associated with it.

2. Library buildings are most neglected part especially in colleges. At most places librarians are helpless as he has to work in allotted space even when new building are proposed or are under constructions.
3. Green practices in sustainable manner require considerable degree of expertise or competency from general management to ordinary level of maintenance throughout library function. It is likely to except lack of awareness in green technology and among the employees who have been recruited with traditional knowledge and skills.

Recommendations

Following recommendation are made to make all the libraries green and protect our environment and thereby making libraries sustainable.

- Government or management should consider the adaption of sustainable principles in their buildings. Services and practices in order to reduce the negative impact to the environment of the region it belongs.

- Disseminate awareness and popularize and market the libraries green activities.
- Teach LIS students about green library activities so that generation libraries will adapt these ideas
- Approving agencies should make it mandate for all institutions to get the approval to go for green libraries and also green buildings.
- Encourage organic roof top gardening which decreases the heating of library buildings as well as increases staff team building skills development and fostering staff morale.
- Encourage sustainable collection services such as e-book, e –journals which reduces paper consumption.
- Reuse and recycling concepts should be promoted and practiced.
- Government should take steps to promote green libraries through award and financial aid to maintain such libraries.

Upcoming of green library in India

LEED certifications are increasingly becoming common place in India. Our strategic partnership with the energy and resources institute (TERI) is anchored around accelerating the development of green, high performing buildings across India and Southeast Asia. LEED and TERI'S GRIHA

(Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) rating system are proven market transformation tools that are essential for India's resource efficient future.

USGBC has also approved a LEEDhub IN India to further accelerate the adoption of LEED in India. The LEED hub is a local technical, market, certification and customer support centre for LEED project teams. The LEED hub adds significant capacity in the market, encouraging even greater adoption of green standards across more populations in the region. Helping project teams successfully navigate the design, construction and operations of building in to achieve the requirements of LEED certification the LEED hub also delineates the local strategies for business development and brand advocacy. Over the years, the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) has been instrumental in mobilizing the green building movement in India and helping establish LEED as a key driver for market transformation. USGBC remains grateful to IGBC's early support of LEED India and its ongoing leadership in India. USGBC and IGBC continue their collaboration in advancing the uptake of green buildings in India.

Conclusion

India is developing country and it should develop in all fields. But in currently India struggle against problems relating to pollution explosion dwindling resources, illiteracy, poverty,

unemployment, threats of terrorism among others. In this scenario, little emphasis is given on emerging issues like hygiene and environmental awareness. Very recently, Indian libraries started to have provisions for natural lights as much as possible, energy saving bulbs in the reading rooms and places within library premises, provision of natural air, emphasis on cleanliness, hygienic toilets, adequate provisions of waste bins at appropriate places, proper disposal policies for weeded library materials etc.

Green building has very important role in the environmental protection. Libraries and librarians are directly related to the society and their green buildings are giving them great opportunities to educate the citizen. The duty of a librarian is not only to provide information to the users but they should play a role of leader to construct modern Green buildings to save our natural environment. For the next generation, library professional should move beyond environmental sustainability exemplified by various practices of greening libraries and focus on proactive steps to guarantee future sustainable development of libraries.

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