

## THE ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN PROMOTING READING CULTURE

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### Introduction

Libraries are committed to providing all people with free and equal access to information, whether it is printed, electronic, or audio-visual. They help to create literate and hospitable settings by providing relevant and appealing reading material for people of all ages. Modern libraries are sometimes known as learning resource centres or media resource centres since they include a range of learning materials in both print and non-print media in addition to books. Librarians play an essential role in encouraging a culture of reading.. They act as a catalyst, encouraging and motivating students to read by providing adequate and appropriate reading material, library orientation programmes, a colourful, conducive

reading environment, and innovative library services that capture their attention and encourage them to develop a healthy reading habit. Active reading awareness programmes, information literacy programmes, and other initiatives will help kids to develop a positive reading culture. The following are some of the methods for instilling reading habits in students:

**How to Promote Reading Habit among Students:** Library services should be geared on establishing a reading habit in kids. The library should provide innovative, creative services with the goal of capturing students' interest, attracting them to the library, and motivating them to develop a reading habit. Adopting proactive

learning techniques and methodologies that may motivate and encourage students to establish a life-long reading habit is critical so that they can not only improve their communication skills but also grow intellectually and contribute successfully to society.

**Advertising Library Services:** Regular user education programmes, information literacy programmes with creative activities and student engagement, or student apprenticeship programmes can assist them become more aware of library activities and services. Through these promotional services and activities, librarians play a critical role. The Librarian's role is to educate and help students in locating the correct information and making needed, interesting, and pleasant reading material available in order to promote a healthy reading culture. To accomplish this, librarians must instil a reading habit in students by directing them to appropriate reading materials that may be of interest to them, as well as materials that are enjoyable and enrich their knowledge, thus acting as a matchmaker or a liaison between students and books or reading materials.

**Promoting Activities of Reading:** Promotion is the process through which people inform others about their product or service and persuade them to utilise it. In libraries, promotion activities include a wide range of activities such as attractive brochures, newspaper advertising, story-telling competitions, book talks competitions,

book reviewing or summarising competitions, creative bookmark design, essay writing and drawing, and the best library user award, all of which will help to foster students' reading habits.

Events in the library, as well as proper awareness and advertisement displays - aside from notice boards, at places where students congregate or are frequented, such as the canteen, gymkhana, common room, campus, and so on - can help raise student awareness of the library's innovative activities and encourage them to participate in reading programmes.

**Open Access Service :** Providing open and direct access to a diverse array of pleasurable reading materials can help kids become more aware of what is available and build a lifetime love of reading.

**Readers Corner:** A reader's nook with appropriate reading area, beautiful atmosphere, exhibiting intriguing must-read books, colourful and inspiring quotations, thereby creating a reading environment that will not only encourage interest, growth, and reading habit, within the main library.

**Readers' Club:** Members of a readers' club come together on a regular basis to discuss and share the books they've read. The debate, which raises controversial problems, meanings, and importance regarding the book read, may aid in the development of one's articulation talents as well as inspire one another to read additional books

that offer them pleasure, improve their expressive skills, and broaden their knowledge. This might also help you build a good reading habit.

**Book Exhibitions:** Periodical Book Exhibitions that support the curriculum and are of interest to the students will not only make them aware of the available collection, but will also pique their curiosity in reading the book. Annual Book Exhibitions, where merchants sell current and newly published books, will keep them updated about new arrivals in their field of interest. As a result, exposing children to the world of books will help to encourage them to establish a reading habit.

### **Self Motivation Towards Inculcating Reading Habit:**

Even in this technological day, reading is a fantastic habit to develop. It's a great way to kill boredom, boost your intelligence, and make you a kinder, more mature person. It is generally recognised that libraries play an essential role in instilling a reading habit in kids. It is also critical that kids become aware of their own self-awareness and drive to develop a reading habit. The methods below will assist you in consciously cultivating and maintaining the excellent habit of reading.

### **Steps to Inculcate Reading Habit:**

Reason of Reading: Look for something interesting to read. Anything goes, including newspapers, magazines, and books. You will be

motivated to read just by thinking about it. When it comes to developing excellent habits, self-motivation is crucial.

**Choose to Read a Book:** Before you begin reading a book, go at the table of contents; a brief summary; or the reader's comments on the back cover to get a sense of what the book is about. The book's reviews might also help you decide whether or not to read it. A excellent book is enjoyable to read.

**Drill your reading habit:** Set a goal of 15 minutes of reading each day now that you've discovered what you enjoy reading. Fix the same time and place, and focus solely on your reading during that period. Every day, put this into practise. Make it a habit to do so. After you've gotten into the habit of reading, gradually increase the amount of time you spend reading. Perfectionism is attained via practise. Reading should be enjoyable rather than stressful. If you become anxious when reading a book, remember not to continue reading under duress. If one pushes oneself too hard, one may lose interest in reading and eventually stop reading, or even if one does read, the outcome may be meaningless. Reading may be enjoyable if you believe it to be so. Always think positively and convince yourself, "I'm going to love reading this book," and you'll succeed. Reading for pleasure not only entertains, but it also improves one's mood, refreshes one's ideas, and offers one good perspectives on life. For lifelong learning and

knowledge, reading must be made enjoyable and voluntary.

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