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Contribution Of Library Resources Towards Educational Research

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Abstract

A Library is one of the key elements for open access to information, which is crucial to educational development. Today's libraries are repositories and access points for print, audio, and visual materials in numerous formats, including maps, prints, documents, microform (microform/microfiche), CDs, cassettes, videotapes, DVDs, videogames, e-books, audio books (microfilm/microfiche), and many other electronic resources. The primary aim of the library is to collect, organize, preserve, and provide access to knowledge and information. Libraries preserve a valuable record of culture that can be passed down to succeeding generations. Libraries are the important link of communication between the past, present, and the future. Whether the cultural record is contained in books or in electronic formats, libraries ensure that the record is preserved and made available for later use. Libraries provide people with access to the information they need to work, play, learn, and govern. Library provides information and services that are essential to learning and progress. Libraries also provide the services of librarians who are experts at finding and organizing information and at interpreting information needs. Libraries often provide a place of silence for studying. Library is a place which is provides artistic materials, such as books, periodicals newspapers, pamphlets, prints, records, and tapes, are kept for reading, reference, or lending. In a digital sense, a library may be more than a building that houses a collection of books and other materials as the Internet has opened up an avalanche of online and electronic resources for accessing documents on various fields of interest.

Introduction

The word library deprived from *liber*, the Latin word for —book. (Encarta, 2009). A library is a collection of sources, resources, and services, and the structure in which it is housed; it is organized for use and maintained by a public body, an institution, or a private individual. It can mean the collection itself, the building or room that houses such a collection, or both. The term _library _has itself acquired a secondary meaning: "a collection of useful material for common use." This sense is used in fields such as computer science, mathematics, statistics, electronics and biology. It can also be used by publishers in naming series of related books, e.g. The Library of Anglo-Catholic Theology (Encarta, 2009).

Libraries are established for the systematic collection, organization, preservation and dissemination of knowledge and information. It is very important for man to preserve and maintain the valuable knowledge and information contained in the books and documents because

we want to preserve our knowledge and wisdom for the coming generations. Library makes available all the records of knowledge of the past and present, whereas a man acquires that conserved knowledge to choose as between good and bad, the right or wrong, which distinguish him from the other animals who have no rational power or thinking.

Library does not mean merely a collection of books. It is a learned institution equipped with treasures of knowledge maintained, organized, and managed by trained personnel to educate the children, men and women continuously and assist in their self-improvement through an effective and prompt dissemination of information embodied in the resources. A research scholar can never successfully conduct his investigations and researches without the help of a library and a librarian. Librarian, as an —information officer‖ or a —scientific officer‖ possesses, of necessity, definite subject background and knows best the subject area to be covered by an investigator in his narrow field of the problem in hand that he wants to attack!

Education

Education refers to the process of learning and acquiring information. Education can be divided into two main types: formal learning through an institution such as a school and self-taught learning or what is often termed life experience. Generally, education is important for learning basic life skills, as well as learning advanced skills that can make a person more attractive in the job market. Education has the same importance as food and shelter and it is known to be essential to a life of an individual. As food is considered necessary for the health and shelter for the body, education is needed for the mind. Education in the largest sense is any act or experience that has a formative effect on the mind, character, or physical ability of an individual. In its technical sense, education is the process by which society deliberately transmits its accumulated knowledge, skills, and values from one generation to another.

Education has become of immense value to the development of human knowledge. Its importance can be seen in the fact that nearly all current developments depend largely on education . Even though some advancement of knowledge have occurred by mere accident, trial and error or even by shear shrewed reasoning, intuition and imagination, experience through the ages has shown clearly that none of these has proved effective as education. Researches are carried out in order to improve instruction and education in general. Research is carried out because we want to know something and to devise better conceptual models for describing the inter-relationships among variables or because we want to establish the direction and nature of cause-effect interactions. Thus, educational research has utilitarian values of being a panacea to problems, clearing misconceptions and making discoveries which ultimately result in advancement in knowledge.

It leads to improved instructional techniques and management of educational establishments.

Educational research is interdisciplinary. Trainee teachers are often subjected to some sort of research at different levels and at varying degrees. This provides a sort of training in problem solving as well as in leadership. The results emanating from such researches do contribute immensely to the data bank which are necessary for effective planning. Also, by

reading through research reports in his subject area, the student teacher enhances his professional growth.

Attention to the urgent need for improving research in educational institutions. No field was the need for research more apparent than in that of teaching. The superiority of one teaching method or class organisation over another has not been categorically determined. Curriculum is constantly undergoing changes and innovations. Little evidence is available on the most satisfactory size of class and not enough data have been gathered on how the child learns, although in recent years, some attention has been given to investigation in this field. More research is therefore required in the science of teaching.

Educational research as theoretical, factual and for solving practical problems. The theoretical objective is the development of theory for the explanation of nature and is derived through scientific investigation. This, cording to him, may lead to the establishment of entirely new bodies of thoughts and that this would help man to comprehend and achieve his desires. The results of theoretical research have implications for future action and should therefore permit predictions of natural phenomena. The factual nature of research .is the accumulation of facts relevant to what the researcher wants to do. The third objective regards educational research as an avenue to solving practical problems. The findings of such research is of enormous significance to the person involved in the exercise.

Educational research should be applied to educational practices to make it more meaningful. New ways of presenting materials, new theories regarding selection and organisation of subject-matter, suggestion on administrative and supervisory practices have been postulated by those who have conducted researches in these areas. Library is like a storehouse of knowledge. The books available in a library in almost all topics, be it history, geography, or even science fiction a library has it all. All schools and colleges have a library. Libraries are as the shrine where all the relics of the ancient saints, full of true virtue, and that without delusion or imposture, are preserved and reposed- Bacon. A library is like the whole world encompassed in one room. Without a library a school will not be complete. It is very essential to the education and school system. Any problem you have any query unanswered you will find it in one of the books stored in the library. A pivotal role played by the libraries it is one of the factors which helps in the development of a society or an even a civilization. It caters to the knowledge thirsty minds of thousands of people. With the onset and advancement of technologies virtual libraries are created. Libraries are an integral part of the education system and one is incomplete without the other.

Conclusion

This paper was attempted to highlight the contributions of library to the improvement of educational research and the role of education itself in national development. Educational research is now accepted as a necessary ingredient in the divers educational activities of any nation. It is seen as being at least of immense benefit to teachers in choosing curriculum and methods, to administrators in deciding structures and to the government in framing policies. It is contented that policies, structures, curricula and methods will be improved

and refined in a way that educational process and the educational system will be made more efficient and more effective.

But while the desire to improve is gaining momentum, there is doubt about the right approach. Some educators place greater premium on financial support for schools as a means of improving education while some others contend that 'research' is unavoidable for finding solutions to educational problems. Educational research is nonetheless a perplexing activity. As some problems are solved, changing circumstances give rise to others. New devices of research and some other additional information may be needed. There will have to be some major innovations in educational planning itself — planning that must serve as a strategy for educational change and adaptation. Finally, Libraries are an integral part of the education system and contribute to educational research

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