LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES FOR VISUALLY DISABLED USERS: DISABILITY NEED NOT BE AN OBSTACLE TO SUCCESS

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ABSTRACT

This paper discuss library and information services for visually disabled users. Library is a scholarly kitchen where books are the main ingredient on yours dining table and you shall be full of taste in this way we can say that library plays an important role for developed any educational institutions as well as society, so we can say library is a reservoir of information to their users, and they can provide information without any discrimination Visually disabled users also an important part of our society. With the advancement of ICT library and information centers use assistive technology for reading and provide accurate, reliable information at their doorsteps. Talking books and braille books are highly used by the visually disabled user, audio newspapers and screen reader also helpful for disabled users. This paper through lights on the latest library and information materials, services and also discuss the major initiatives of Indian government.

KEYWORDS: *Saksham, Brookshare, VI (Visually Impaired), Braille Books, Talking Books*

INTRODUCTION

In ancient times Library means storehouse of books, where books are kept in a locked room but in the information age the concept of the library will be changed from store house of books to information centers. Today library is the hub of knowledge everyone can get their reliable information in a quick time. Libraries acting as an access point where every user can access their desirable information without any discrimination. The information user allows to accessing a vast amount of information from available information sources. Information communication technology plays an important role in providing the right information to the right user at the right time, with the help of information technology we can provide information tousers at their doorsteps.

The advancement of library services for the disabled users paralleled with the advancement of information technology which has played an important role in increase library membership, particularly in the print disabled. Library and Information centers serving various important devices for visually disabled such astalking books, talking newspapers, Braille embosser, voice recordings of printed materials, which are used as a means of compensating people with reading difficulties.

Visually disabled is a common phase used for low vision and totally blind. Visually disabled users can't literate the traditional print material. The libraries and information centers provide information to visually disabled in different such as braille book, talking newspaper, and audio recordings are highly used by the visually disabled users.

INFORMATION ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL

Information is an essential part of normal days activity. The regular activity of any average personality includes activities that are related to personal care and improvement (e.g. health plan, nutrition, preventive medicine, etc), family-related tasks (e.g. cooking, house work, child care, shopping for essentials, etc), and work schedule or livelihood tasks (e.g. handling tasks assigned, innovating through new projects, etc). To carry out all these tasks, a person unknowingly or knowingly uses 'information'. Information is a continuous stream of huge resource which makes capable to persons and society to communicate with each other so that we can say "lifeblood of society and success".

INFORMATION ACCESSIBLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED USERS

With the help of information communication technology Visually disabled users can acquire their information through talking books, large printed materials, Braille books and other audio sources such as(CD, cassettes, television, radio, and people) and other as government websites, printed materials. Visually disabled users also used the tactile medium to satisfied their information needs.

INSTITUTIONS SERVING FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED USERS:

- Central Reference Library (CRL), Jawaharlal Nehru University.

- Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute for the Physically Handicapped.

- Zakir Husain Library (ZHL), Jamia Millia Islamia.

- National institute of visually handicapped, Dehradun

- Bhartiya Netraheen Kalyan Parishad, Delhi.

- Shri Hanuman Prasad Paddar Andh Vidyalaya., Varanasi

- Jagadguru Ram bhadracharya Handicapped University, Chitrakoot.

- Dr. Shakuntala Mishra National Rehabilitation University, Lucknow.

- Hellen Keller Unit (HKU), Jawaharlal Nehru University

- Braille Library (BL) New Delhi.

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES FOR VISUALLY DISABLED USERS

- **Braille Materials:** Braille is a technique used for literacy. Large print materials also used by visually disabled user they can feel it with his hands.

- **Talking Books:** Audio material used in the forms of Cassettes, CDROM, and Digital video disks and other electronics materials are used for searching their information.

- **Talking newspapers:** Audio recordings of the latest news on a daily basis.

- **Large printed materials:** These are documents in large fonts for use by partially sighted users.

- **Screen Magnifier:** This equipment used for increasing the size of images and text on the screen. Screen magnifier allows text and graphics enhancing original size.

- **Voice Recording S/W:** Voice recording used for input data into the PC by voice.

- **Screen Readers:** These are software programmes that allow blind or visually impaired people to read texts displayed on the screen with a speech synthesizer. It is the interface between the computers operating system, its applications, and the user. The IFLA Library Services to people with Special Needs Section5 defines a screen reader as: 'A software application that identifies and interprets what is displayed on a screen and then represents it through text-to-speech, sound icons, or a Braille output device. Screen readers are potentially helpful for people with visual limitations, people who are illiterate, or people with learning disabilities'.

- **Braille Embosser:** Braille embossers are in the form of printers that are used for print materials into electronics form into braille. The embosser is anequipment that is used for printing the materials in the form of braille.

ICT for the Visually Disabled user in Libraries: ICT helps to encourage people to become active participates in social, Cultural, and economic developments. ICT can be multi-media for instructional delivery. It can be delivered in textual, audio, visual and audiovisual forms. The use of internet and e-resources are increasing worldwide day-to-day. The web environment is creating a new opportunity for visually impaired users to access information quickly and easier way without any barriers and support from others. (Anis, Rubina.2017).

CURRENT INITIATIVES FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED USERS IN INDIA:

IIT Bombay Establishes Facility For Visually Disabled Users

This institution established recent services for students with visualimpairment at Central Library in IIT Bombay. This facility was inaugurated on January 4, 2017, by D. Khakhar, Director of this institution. The facility was set up with the aim to empower and encourage visually challenged users to pursue education or research. IIT Bombay has acquired latest applications for visually disabled As (JAWS, BRAILLE EMBOSSER/PRINTER, PERKINS SMART BRAILLER, Sangeeta S/W and Eye-PAL ROL).

Indian Association for the Blind

Blind library has always believed that VI users should appreciate equity. This association contains immense information resources for visually disabled users, around 300 voice recording books and around 979 Braille Books on different subjects such as Hindi, English, and Tamil. Visually disabled users acquire books on novels, literature, history, autobiographies and increase their intellect with resources from here.

NIEPVD- DIVYANGAJANS
Braille Book Section

Braille book section has around 1,33,265 books on its stacks contain around16,681 titles. For providing a rich collection of Braille literature. The Braille book section participate with LC, USA, AFB, USA Daisy and Royal National Institute for the Blind. It provides a facility for fulfilling the information needs of visually disabled users. for this purpose -institution provide free of cost delivery service at their doorsteps.

Print Material Section

The print section of NIEPVD has around 19,290 information materials. It is the largest collection of materials for disabled users. Around 5,000 Ph.D. scholars consider this library every year. To facilitate charge less distribution of Braille materials at their doorsteps. Print section provides reliable and accurate information resources on demands.

Talking Book Section (Audio Books)

In the ICT age of literacy braille books plays a significant role for visually disabled users Thissection contains huge materials on different subject fields.Thissectionmaintaintalking books in English, Hindi, Sanskrit, Urdu andsome others traditional languages. Talking book section contains around 6,000 headings and around 20,0000 users access this section per year.

Hyderabad Public Libraries

Hyderabad government start working for the development of public libraries for visually disabled users, invest immense amount only for the advancement of Braille catalog in public libraries, printing Braille calendars, distributing Braille books of ancient scriptures are also as weird as the usage of telegram. On the other hand, all the government institutions and public libraries are still printing Braille books which are not too useful for most of the visually impaired community. Hyderabad. Bringing audiobooks at lessprice to the visually disabled users, installing computers with screen-reading software in public libraries are some important initiative taken by Haryana state to empower the blind.

SAKSHAM: Saksham is an important initiative of the government, providing facilities for visually disabled.

BOOKSHARE

Book Share India is an online library of documents that can be downloaded and read using a computer or a mobile phone. TheBrook share. India is an important initiative-taking by the Indian government for visually disabled persons. The persons with blindness themselves produce these materials. Bookshare works as a coordinator and facilitator to collect all such material and make these available to everyone in the country who cannot read normal printed text. Computer files in the specific format are a basis for the production of books in Braille, talking book, large print and e-text formats.

ACCESSIBLE BOOK LIBRARY

Literacy, livelihood, and employment are not possible without reading. Most of the reading tools are produced as printed characters, which can't be read by visually unfit or blind persons. braille books and braille magazines are a very important means for carrying the printed world to the visually impaired. Since we are catering to various regional requirements, this needs to be done in many Indian Languages in spite of the predominance of the English Language. Print books can be converted in different accessible formats like E-pub, Daisy, and Audio.

Reading books in accessible format provides a unique navigational system through which a book viewer can easily and quickly, access the material not only chapter wise, area wise or sub-area wise, but also page wise. In other words, he/she can reach the required page/section/heading almost effortlessly within no time. This system is portable as well as economical. These books can be read through the laptop, smartphone or with E-book readers.

THINGS TO DO

- Provide attainability to the documents written in braille through another means that are relevant to their libraries as referrals to sources of supply, interlibrary loans or resource sharing with other libraries or the development of collections as applicable.

- Support or provoke the inclusion of all braille catalogues in the province or national catalogues as beneficial.

- Encourage the inclusion of braille in running educational and research programs.

- Braille books and other types of braille documents should be included in library programs like story hours, literary discussions in order to inspire young visually disabled children to read along with their sighted associate.

- Braille collection should use in the catalogues holding by the library or where other braille holding library has.

- Conscious Library staff and boards regarding braille as the means of literacy for blind and visually impaired users.

- The community of braille users should braille as a medium for reading the material

- Support the library services available for visually impaired that are served by a community.

CONCLUSIONS

So finally we can say that library and information centers play an important role for providing library and information services to visually disabled users acting as a bridge between users and their source materials Library is the central hub of knowledge for every user equality without any discrimination. Today society is informative society, information is life-blood of success with the help of information communication technology we provide reliable, accurate and pinpointed information at their doorsteps.

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