



Building, Maintaining And Utilizing Class Libraries as the Medium to Foster Reading Habits: A Case Study of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Narimedu, Madurai

KEYWORDS

Class library, external resources, book display, reading log, reference books, library activities, book selection

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ABSTRACT *When the main library is not able to serve the primary class students in school environment, class libraries go to the students. These tailor made and customized class libraries born to serve the information requirements of different cadres of students have become paramount in this modern educational scenario. This paper throws lights on various aspects of a CL – meaning of class library (CL), why and how of CL, nature of collections in a CL, display of resources in a CL, different activities that can be organized during CL periods, methods of rotating the collections among CLs and the management of CLs. This paper also discusses two CL activities, inter alia, being organised by the Library at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Narimedu, Madurai.*

What is a class library?

A library located inside a classroom meant for the use of a particular class students during the class library periods/ library periods/substitution periods/any other free periods.

Why Class Libraries?

In schools, the main library is generally meant for secondary and Higher Secondary students. It is because there is not enough periods for accommodating primary children. So Class libraries are formed. Here the library goes to the class. Every Class has its own library.

How Class libraries?

The Library Policy for Kendriya Vidyalayas, 2007 and CMP for Qualitative improvement of the Primary Education articulate that the Class libraries will be under the charge of class teachers. The class teacher will get books from the main library.

Location

1. On the shelf (in-built wall cupboard)
2. In the Purchased steel/wooden cupboard
3. In a steel/wooden/tin boxes
4. In a special glass –cum – wooden case meant for the purpose
5. Smart CL – a case of CDs/DVDs

Resources (Internal and External)

1. School Story books (Narrative & Comics)
2. Story books brought by the students (use and return basis)
3. Story books donated by the students/parents on the birthdays/in the beginning of the year
4. School Magazines
5. Magazines brought by the students
6. Specimen copies
8. Reading Cards

Reference Collection in a Class Library

1. One English-English dictionary
2. One Hindi-English Dictionary
3. One Atlas and
4. One Yearbook

Number of Books

1. Depends on the quantity of primary books available in the main library.
2. The minimum required ratio of students to books is 2:1
3. It is okay to have the books in the ratio of 1:1

4. It is better to have books in the ratio of 1:2

Selection

- Resources suiting the requirements of the class
- Depends on the standard of students (language comprehension, reading ability and vocabulary mastery)
- Both English and Hindi books/magazines
- Books suiting different grades of Students

Display of Books

1. Hanging libraries
2. Display of books on the corner
3. Let the books stand up right in the shelves so that the students are able to see the cover page
4. Display of list of books

Use of Resources

1. Group Method (Books in 4/5 groups) : House –wise , Cluster of Roll numbers , Row-wise and Column-wise
2. As it comes out
3. Children into – Good and Average readers; Books in four groups – Basic, Average (2 sets) and Advanced

Reading Log (KVS Library Policy)

1. The teacher would maintain a register regarding the issue of books to the students so that he/she can keep track of the books read and students are not given books they have already read.
2. The class teacher will ensure that every pupil in the class maintains a notebook in which the name of the book read, its author and a brief account of the content is recorded.

Activities in Class libraries

- Self-Reading
- Difficult words (Attach it with meanings)
- List of Characters (order of most/least importance)
- Names of persons, places, things
- What is the Climax?
- Digest of the stories (verbal)
- Draw picture
- Form questions and answers
- Quiz on the stories read
- Story hours (students tell the stories they read in the class libraries)
- Spin the yarn, as you wish it would be
- Change the climax activity
- Character parade
- Dumb Charade (others should tell either the name of the

book/story/characters)

- Mime depicting story / scene in a story
- You read – I listen Programme
- Group reading / Peer reading
- Worksheets on authors / stories / characters
- Debates/GDs (Best character/Best jester/Best book in our CL)
- Multi media stories (Big Screen TV using DVD/LCD with computer)

Refreshing the collection

1. Exchange among other sections of the same class once in 3 months
2. After six months, V std collection to IV std, IV std to III std, and so on. V standard will get books of next higher standard. I Std. CL books come back to library
3. Once in 3/4 months, get another set of books from the main library.

Advantages of CL

- Promotion of reading habits
- Developing the vocabulary of students (Spell bees); Sentence Construction
- Develops the imagination ability of students ; Creativity development
- Improves the concentration level of students
- Children visit many countries, many men, many cultures and traditions – GK
- Children become engaged ; no idle chit-chatting ; A fruitful time passing device

Few motivating moves.....

- Best class library award for a class every year
- Best class library reader award
- Class library leader badges
- Best reading log award
- Books as prizes to the winners of class library competitions during World Book Day and National Book Week Celebrations
- Display of CL Flyers/Newsletters
- CL Photos/Activity reports on School/Library website

Challenges of Class libraries

1. Books are torn/damaged/coloured/scribbled/stolen
2. Teachers consider the class library period as a casual activity to be taken up by the students themselves and thus they can relax
3. Books of proper level/standard are not available/are not given for reading.
4. Books once taken are not changed; not even rotated ; the same set of books are used throughout the year ; students get bored of seeing the same book
5. Since no reading log is maintained, the teacher cannot keep track of the books read by the students
6. Proper storage space is not available; attractive display shelf is not available
7. The teachers instead of selecting the books, they just ask the librarian to give some books of his/her choice

Class library activities at KV Narimedu, Madurai : Two examples

1. Story Hour

- ✓ Two children (boy/ Girl – volunteered/allotted) narrate stories in English/Hindi
- ✓ It is followed by a Question Answer Session which checks the listening ability of the children .(Active listening)
- ✓ The moral of the story / the lesson children learn from the story is discussed, taking inputs from them. (Value Education)
- ✓ The children find out the meaning of new words they come across in the story with the help of dictionaries. (Building Vocabulary)
- ✓ Story tellers are photographed and uploaded in the library website. (Publicity; Motivational force)
- ✓ Story Tellers get rid of stage fear, gain confidence of public speaking & become fluent in spoken English
- ✓ It creates an interest among other students too, to read stories. (Cultivating the habit of reading)

2. URVL (You Read We Learn) Time

- Children are called randomly by their roll numbers (boy/girl order). (For Readiness/ Alertness)
- He/She has to read few lines from the selected magazine (English/Hindi). (For shedding stage fear; to correct pronunciation ; to learn new words)
- The children read stories, tit bits, GK Questions, riddles, poems, jokes, amazing facts, puzzles, and quotes. (multi-cuisine recipe for ears)
- The children are given few seconds time to think and give answer for riddles and GK Questions. (Squeezing brains)
- The students listen to jokes and facts (Improves their humour sense and IQ level)
- The children make the notes of words/points/facts given by the librarian from that day's reading. (Note making; Write on dictation)

Conclusion

A well planned Class library programme, functional class libraries, creatively designed and well executed library activities make students lifelong learners. Teachers/Librarians should become a part of this small indispensable revolution in this digital era focusing at our digital natives, our beloved baby netizens.

REFERENCE

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