



The Role of Libraries in promoting agricultural Development in Rural areas

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Abstract:

The article mainly presents with the developments and improvements of agriculture in the rural area with the help knowledge and resources of libraries. The agricultural knowledge may be theoretical or practical i.e. experienced gained through a day to day incidents. But the betterment of agronomy and cultivation is the most important knowledge which is received anyone from the library's a wide variety of books, journals, digital resources, and internet. The library sometimes arranged an organized program about the development of rural agricultural thought through resource persons. Now in rural areas, people like farmer, women, and workers taking active parts of the rural library, who takes their relevant pieces of information and cultivation related pieces of information from the rural libraries. The revolution in information and communication technology had changed their information seeking behaviour and the scenario of the rural libraries.

Keywords: Libraries, Rural Environment, Economic Growth, Agricultural Development

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Introduction:

It is an important task to the libraries is to create a civilized society and information society. The libraries are social institutions which we became educated especially in the field of agriculture and different fields. Libraries should build an organised information centre that support learning and developing human power especially who are lived in a rural area and engaged in agriculture. In rural areas, people like farmers, women and youth are taking an active part in agriculture. The libraries resources stimulate their agricultural methods and cultivation problems and procedures. The developments of agriculture are to the growth of economic, growth of rural society.

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Rural development generally denotes to the process of improving the quality of rural life and economic well-being of people living in relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas. Agriculture development in rural areas is to development of rural people and their socio-economic developments. Education comes from knowledge and knowledge can be gained through practical life experience and learning. The rural people, who are engaged in agriculture, learn lifelong from libraries and information centre. Neo-educated rural people are most of the time depended on libraries to taking their relevant knowledge and information, Through books, journals and newspaper and live video etc are the best friends of the farmers. The library plays a very important role to promote agricultural development in rural areas.

Agricultural facilitation for rural people through the library:

Agriculture is one of the most vital sectors in India that controls the economy of the country. It supports directly or indirectly around 60 to 70 per cent of the Indian population for their livelihood. Most of the agriculture field is located far from the city and the peoples who are connected with agriculture; they have a lack of knowledge to promote good agricultural development. Many Indian farmers are turning their backs on life altogether. In the rural area and interior place of India at last one library is available to enrich the knowledge of the rural farmers. The library provides special books, journals, articles, newspaper, videos, audio etc. to promote agricultural development among the rural people. The library has the huge number of books on agricultural methods, National service scheme/National Cadet Corps, Crop physiology, Horticulture, Soil science, Entomology, plant pathology, Poultry production, Farm power and machinery, Agribusiness, Food processing, Fertilizer technology etc.

Library Resource sharing among the farmer :

For the development of agriculture in the rural area, libraries may help the people to share the documents among the farmers. For Agricultural documents collection and development, participating Agricultural libraries should come together and co-operation in two broad areas as following – Development the collection on a shared basis and developing services for exploiting such collection. To promote Agriculture in a rural area the libraries in rural area sharing the document with ICAR-Indian Agricultural Statistic Research Institute, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, IARI Pusa and Agricultural universities in India etc.

Internet accessing for rural people through the library:

In India majority of people live in rural areas and new technology is not accessible from a remote village, therefore wide gap has been evolved between the libraries of "knowledge haves and knowledge have-nots". Today internet and web technologies open up new ways of

interactive communication between rural people and civil society. The emergence of internet-based "Gyandoot" digital libraries in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh has changed the life of unprivileged rural communities. The library can arrange internet carrel in the library to promote agricultural knowledge for the rural people. The library can purchase e-resources like CeRa (Consortium of e-resource in Agriculture), Krishikosh (Institutional repository) etc. The library can use Resource sharing Network as like DELNET has been established with the prime objective of promoting resource sharing among the libraries through the development of a network of libraries and INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network). Through the internet users can access seamless worldwide.

Educational lecture among rural people through the library:

The rural libraries specially organise lecture in agricultural development for the rural area from time to time which helps to acquire knowledge on agriculture. The libraries also arrange a seminar on agriculture and workshop on agriculture for practical knowledge of rural farmers. The rural farmers are helped by the rural libraries with the collaboration of agriculture universities and special agricultural institutions of India about the problems agriculture. Libraries can arrange a virtual classroom for seminar and workshop to promoting agriculture among the farmers.

Awareness for the government program to promote agriculture through the library:

"Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian Economy" – said Mahatma Gandhi six decades ago. The rural libraries provide available relevant information to the farming community through the use of information and communication technologies. Sometimes libraries web portal is hyperlinked with the different department of agriculture, institutions etc. to create a one-stop shop for meeting all informational needs relating to agriculture, Animal husbandry and Fisheries sectors production, sale/storage of an Indian farmer. Farmers will also be able to ask the librarian to specific queries. The rural libraries are aware to farmers of India about the government agricultural programs and schemes as like ATMA scheme (NMAET), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), Central Scheme, Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS), Farm Mechanisation Scheme, Horticulture Mission for North-East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), Integrated Scheme for Agriculture Marketing (MIDH).

Conclusion:

The important of useful agriculture information to the Indian farmer is as vital as the need for health information to the patients. Information centres and librarians have a major role to play in direction since they are committed to identifying, promoting and dissemination of relevant and scholarly information to their patrons. The main duty of librarian is to collect, organize,

store, retrieve and disseminate useful information to their users(Rural farmer) on time and at the place. The role of libraries and information services in disseminating agricultural information in India, rural libraries and information van services should be creating to provide the information needs of the farmers. The main concern of these facilities is the repackaging and the dissemination of information in the language and medium best understood by the farmers and local people who are mostly illiterates. Agricultural libraries and rural libraries extension programs are therefore required to transmit the available information to the local farmers in the format they can understand. The uses of web 2.0 applications that support information sharing include instant messaging with which social networking service must be applied. For instance, librarians and information officers can use instant messaging to provide chat-reference services so that users can ask questions and receive responses directly from them at specific time periods.

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