**13.1 Importance of Academic Library of School**

A library is an important source of knowledge to students in schools. It develops the important habit of reading among the students. Every school deserves to have a good library.

* The school library plays a great role in the life of students by serving as the store house of the knowledge, when explored.
* While the role of school library remains constant, its design, digital platform, strategies and tools could change as the technology changes.
* School library impacts positively on the academic achievement of the students.
* Students can perform better during exams by reading various books.
* It facilitates the work of the classroom teacher and ensures each student has equitable access to resources, irrespective of home opportunities or constraints.
* Runs independent learning programs which integrate information resources and technologies.
* Equips students with the skills necessary to succeed in a constantly changing technological, social and economic environment.
* Provides and promotes quality fiction to develop and sustain in students the habit of reading for pleasure and to enrich students’ intellectual, aesthetic, cultural and emotional growth.
* Provides a wide range of curriculum resources—fiction and non-fiction, digital, print, audio and video.
* Provides teachers with access to relevant curriculum information and professional development materials within and outside the school.
* It’s hard to encourage students to use the library, if we don’t know what the library has to offer.
* Teachers should visit the library to see firsthand know-how of books arrangement and the layout plan, what technical devices are available for the students, what the check-out process is for books, etc.
* It is beneficial to contact the librarian too at the time of visiting the library. There always remains something new for the teachers.
* Librarian might be in a better position to suggest something supplementary for the lesson, the teacher is currently teaching.
* Ask the librarian ahead of time; be prepared to show the students where to look in the library for a particular book for reference.
* As the teacher starts to learn more about the library, he/she may pass on what he/she has discovered to his/her students.
* Replenish the library with books recommended by teachers/coaches those are required for preparation of different competitions such as JJE, medical entrance test, civil services, ITI, polytechnics and many other vocational courses.

**Suggestions for developing reading habits among students**

**1. Read**

* It is the first simple step to encourage students to read, we need to do it first. Read for pleasure, information, connecting with others and so on. Read a little more than you’ve been reading lately.

**2. Share your reading experience**

* Share it with your students. Tell them what you have been reading, what you have gained or learned from these texts, and recommend it for the first hand experience in pleasure of reading.
* Tell the students regularly about what you love to read, brought in books for reading; tell them that sharing the reading with family members is a great fun.

**3. Invite students to socialize around reading**

* Set up book-clubs, reading groups, literature circles.
* Many students, especially boys, need to interact with each other around text. It greatly enhances their comprehension and makes it so much enjoyable.
* Adults should join the read-club and spend time with students in order to help and have the joy of reading.

**4. Take a field trip**

* This is another way to make reading social and exciting.
* Students should be advised to visit a local library or public library, or a book store.
* It’s not about checking out or buying books—it’s about being surrounded by thousands of books, touching their gorgeous pages, seeing the world of possibility in print.
* Accompanied with parents or other family members, students should make it a habit to visit a good book-store. This is an event that parents can organize and school teachers can give advice and support.

**5. Listen to audio-books**

* Invite students to listen to them; play short passages. It is just like reading a book.
* Such an activity gives a chance to acquire a good vocabulary, applying comprehension strategies, and enjoying stories or accruing information.
* Sometimes carry out the activity of listening the audio-book, it affect the mind more than reading a book, because during the activity mind remains free to visualize the scenes that last in the memory.

**6. Invite authors to speak**

* Another activity that can be supported by teachers in the school. Kids greatly impressed from hearing an author. He can speak to motivate them for reading and writing.

**7. Tech reading strategies**

* All teachers in every content area should be responsible for teaching reading. Kids do not enjoy reading, if teachers can’t tell them how to enjoy reading.
* *There is so much more we can all do.*

**8. Responsibilities of a librarian**

* He/she is responsible for overall management of the library.
* Maintain documentation of books, journals, magazines, news papers, CDs and library materials.
* Prepare a periodical requirement of books and journals for students and faculty members.
* Responsible for maintaining and updating e-journals, and all teaching-aids
* Keep record of library materials and report to the principal for any discrepancy.
* Arrange periodical inventory of library materials.