

Set up 'book banks' on premises: Edu Dept to schools

SANJEEV SINGH BARIANA
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Setting an example by instituting "book banks" in schools with previous-session textbooks collected from all students, three schools in the state have made the Education Department issue a formal order to remaining over 19,500 government schools to replicate the model.

Besides the repertory of books given free till Class VIII, the collection in the banks included expensive textbooks and guides for senior classes contributed by students, teachers and even outsiders.

Students till Class VIII get books free of cost by the government. Girls and

Scheduled Caste (SC) students get books free till senior secondary classes.

Help books for English, science and mathematics in the bank help senior students.

Besides the component of aiding poor students, the department communication has underlined the move as a small contribution towards preserving the nature.

Each student, at the end of the session, will be required to deposit his books in the school bank when he or she comes to take the result. Directing school heads to make book banks, an official communication has asked them to maintain a record of the books received from students as well as later lent out to children.



Students of Government Senior Secondary School, Mall Road, Amritsar, promote contribution of textbooks.

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Government Senior Secondary School, Mall Road, Amritsar, had started the practice way back in 1994. Principal Mandip Kaur said, "We began with contribution of books by our more than 100 staff members who gave books of their children. These included guides for entrance examination to professional courses, particularly after Classes X and XII. Students need help books which are otherwise expensive in the market, so our book bank is a big help to poor students."

Principal of Government Senior Secondary Smart School at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, Sanjiv Thapar said "We had start-

ed the practice basically to help students at the beginning of the session. Textbooks came late many a time and students faced problem in completing their syllabus. Moreover, the direction of giving back books at the end of the session added the chapter of responsibility in the education of children."

Principal of GSSS, Bhaini Baringa village in Ludhiana district, Manju Bhardwaj said, "Besides collection from students and teachers, we get donations from villagers. Utilising books that would otherwise have been sold as 'raddi' (junk), we make students aware about their contribution towards saving trees and helping the poor."