# **Open Library-Creating a Culture of Reading Books in Schools**

# Karimnagar - Telangana

# Introduction :

**B**ooks play a very important role in everyone's life, especially in a students' life. They are our best friends because they inspire us to do great things in life and overcome our failures. We learn a lot of things from them. *Books* are our best companions as they provide us knowledge unconditionally without asking anything in return.

Friendship with good *books* makes child a good person. In case when there is no one for your help, only these will become your companion in life. *Books* will always be there for you in your adverse times and bring positive value to our life.

For students, it is worth saying that:

"A class room without books is like a body without a soul."

A good book is like a good friend; the more you read it, the more interesting it will be. They have always benefited to the reader.

Books tell us about the History, teach Positive values, Spirituality and Love, make us Intelligent, increase Self Confidence, boost Memory and Imagination Power, these are also the library of information.

As said by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam -

"Learning gives Creativity, and Creativity leads to Thinking, Thinking provides Knowledge, Knowledge makes you Great."

Reading good *books* like autobiographies of many prominent personalities, philosophers and authors inspire us to become or to achieve something great like them. It also makes us intelligent as we gain a lot of knowledge by reading books.

## **Initiation of the District Administration :**

Keeping in view of the importance of the reading books the Karimnagar District Administration took initiation to enrich Govt. schools with providing reading material to the students in them.

A selection committee with the experts/resource persons in the teaching community was formed and they were asked to identify the best books for the school children keeping in view of their levels of understanding.

In turn they have identified a Set of 180 Books for High School Level Children, worth of Rs. 10037/- and a Set of 125 Books for Primary, Upper Primary School Level Children, worth of Rs. 4832/- in which each Set of Books contain Story Books, Morals, Biographies, GK, Dictionaries, Science Fictions etc.,



Distribution of Library books to School Headmasters by District Collector



Set of 125 Story books for PS

Set of 180 Story books for HS

Totally 201 Govt Schools were freely provided with these Library Material, worth of Rs 1491732/-.

# **Open Library Concept - Creating a Culture of Reading Books in Schools:**

It was planned to implement a robust independent reading program that involves time spent reading in and outside of school, and the school library is the backbone of that program.

It helps kids calm down and relax, opening doors of new knowledge to enlighten their minds. Kids who read grow up to have better cognitive skills.

An open library concept was practiced at schools. All the reading material was made available to children reach. Almarah's locks were kept opened. And a separate reading room is set up in all schools. The children were encouraged to go to the reading rooms during their leisure periods and reading periods.

Teachers guide students to good books, they get them hooked on reading, and then, largely, teachers get out of their way.



Further it was allowed to take story books to their homes and return them safely.

# **Assessing Learning Out Comes:**

It was beautifully designed to assess the utilization of reading material, developing reading habits. Every Saturday of the week all the children will be assembled at one place during afternoon and each child have to tell a story which he read & liked during that week. And further he has to say what he learnt from it.

In most of the schools it is observed that the children have improved their vocabulary, learnt new words, phrases and writing styles. Now they have better comprehension of things around them. Their critical thinking skills ability is developed. They have improved their memory. Children who indulged in reading books and learning new things do better at school. They are more creative, open to new ideas, and develop empathy for others. They are different from others. They have improved their analytical skills, they are more confident & socialized now. In some cases it is observed that their leadership qualities also improved.