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A Comparative Study on the Library Facilities of Government and Private Secondary Schools in Nagaon District

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Abstract:
Learning is a lifelong process. This process of learning and the habit of reading should build from the early days of a student life. Education is a lifelong process and libraries are proper agencies for providing all requisite reading materials to one and all for attaining proper education throughout once lifetime. Library is a backbone of an institution. The school library awakens and fosters reading habits among children and young students and enlightens their imaginative minds. The school library aims to create a love for books, generate interest in reading and slowly develop the habit of reading. The school library should have a good stock of books and other learning and teaching materials collections should include picture books, biographers of great man and woman, books of travel, folktales, stories, and reference books for children, children's magazines, audio visual aids like video cassettes, models, charts, photographs, maps and toys. The school libraries should develop an excellent stock of text books, general books on popular science, biographic, travel books, books on sports and games, dictionaries etc.
A school library serves a very useful purpose. It helps teachers to prepare themselves for teaching their subject. So, if there is no school library they would be at a disadvantage. If a student read only prescribed text book, he will not be able to know all about the subject of his study. Out sides books on these subjects will give him much useful information and will perhaps enable him to gain firm grasp of those subject. It is not possible for every student to buy all the books he wants to read. In the library he can read many books as he likes. Poor students, who cannot purchase book, can use the school library with advantage. When a student has to write an article for the school magazine or discuss a subject in the debating society he must read more outside books.
Project work is another important part of any educational institutions; it increases knowledge about different areas. This project work areas are a government and a private secondary school library and the selected topic is "A Comparative Study on the Library Facilities of Government and Private Secondary Schools in Nagaon District", so this project work has great educational implication because a library is the part and parcel of any educational institutions it may be school, college, university or may be other technical institutions. Library provides lifelong self education. It increases knowledge and gives information on all subjects including local national and international affairs to serve economic, political, social welfare. It is also useful for proper use of leisure, advancement of culture and preservation of literacy heritage for posterity. So, we can say that this project work has great educational implications. The main objective of the study is to make a comparative study of library facilities (infrastructure, books, staff, and time table) available in private schools and government schools.

1. Introduction

Education is a lifelong process and libraries are proper agencies for providing all requisite reading materials to one and all for attaining proper education throughout once lifetime. Library is a backbone of an institution. "A Library has been rightly charged with the function of collecting preserving, preparing and dissemination knowledge with an aim- the aim being the fulfilment of the purpose of the parent body." The general aim of libraries is the provision of reading facilities to the public so that their personality is enlightened. Library can play a vital role in education. Every school have library. It contains books of various subjects taught in the school. It also contains different newspaper, magazines, storybooks etc.

A library is the property of the school to which it is attached. It is not open to the outsiders, only the teachers and the students can use the school library. No student can take books from the library without permission of the librarian.

1.1. Secondary Education and Libraries

India is now a secular democratic republic and is governed by parliamentary system of government. Democratic government depends for its ultimate success upon the education of all the people and upon the widest diffusion of knowledge. The constitution of India provides 'Equality of Opportunity' one of the fundamental rights and 'Free Compulsory Education' as one of the directive principles of state policy.

The library movement is of comparative recent origin. It is the result of democratic influences which obtained on ascendancy towards the end by the last century. The desire to extend the benefits of learning of the people at large suggested the foundation of numerous public libraries.

In ancient and medieval India there was no public library in the real sense. Important centres of theological and philosophical learning however had their libraries. Rules in the medieval period made sincere effort to set up libraries. From 1690 Calcutta began to develop as one of the principal English Settlement. When large number of British began to settle there, the circulation and subscription libraries came into being. The English began to take interest in oriental learning.

Traditional schools in India are also be oriented to the pattern of the 'Basic Education' which is based on Mahatma Gandhi's concept of 'Education through life' and which has been adopted in many parts of India after the independence of the country. In order to orient the traditional schools towards the basic pattern by introducing an integrated curriculum for use in both the types of schools especially at the elementary level, principal Mathur has strongly urged that 'provision of a good school library is necessary and must be given immediate attention, orientation or no orientation.

The assessment committee on Basic education in India has also recommended that no school may be considered a Basic school or assessed as such, unless it also fulfils the requisite that a library with suitable books is available.

The modern tendency is to have a central library in each school and all the advantage of class room libraries can be derived from open access to the central library. The school library is now required to be closely integrated with a school's educational programme. The new philosophy of school librarianship can not be accepted in all the secondary schools due to failure of teachers to assimilate the new teaching methods, overtaking the demand of the teacher's time, shortage of trained teacher, librarian for organising and handling materials, lack of suitable accommodation for a library, lack of financial support and over crowded conditions in schools, lack of understanding and inability to open a library programme.

The requisite standard of a school library organisation are of the following:

- Appropriate housing and equipment of the high school library.
- Professionally trained librarian.
- Scientific selection and care of books and materials and the proper classification and cataloguing of this material.
- Instruction in the use of books and libraries as a unit course in high school curriculum.

In the present study on investigation will be made regarding the library facilities available for the student in Secondary schools in and around Nagaon city. The data have been collected with the help of questionnaire and personal visit and contact with the schools. It is necessary to find out the library facilities for the students available at present, so that suggestions may be made to improve the situation and there by the students may be helped in becoming library minded. If they can develop their reading habits in the library in school, they can perform their studies quite independently in other subsequent educational career.

1.2. School Library System

The school library awakens and fosters reading habits among children and young students and enlightens their imaginative minds.

The school library aims to create a love for books, generate interest in reading and slowly develop the habit of reading. The school library should have a good stock of books and other learning and teaching materials collections should include picture books, biographers of great man and woman, books of travel, folktales, stories, and reference books for children, children's magazines, audio visual aids like video cassettes, models, charts, photographs, maps and toys. The school libraries should develop an excellent stock of text books, general books on popular science, biographic, travel books, books on sports and games, dictionaries etc.

Learning is a life long process and the school library must prepare lifetime learners.

1.3. Educational Implication of This Project Work

A school library serves a very useful purpose. It helps teachers to prepare themselves for teaching their subject. So, if there is no school library they would be at a disadvantage. If a student read only prescribed text book, he will not be able to know all about the subject of his study. Out sides books on these subjects will give him much useful information and will perhaps enable him to gain firm grasp of those subject. It is not possible for every student to buy all the books he wants to read. In the library he can read many books as he likes. Poor students, who can not purchase book, can use the school library with advantage. When a student has to write an article for the school magazine or discuss a subject in the debating society he must read more outside books.

Project work is another important part of any educational institutions; it increases knowledge about different areas. My project work areas are a government and a private secondary school library and the selected topic is "A Comparative Study on the Library Facilities of Government and Private Secondary Schools in Nagaon District", so this project work has great educational implication because a library is the part and parcel of any educational institutions it may be school, college, university or may be other technical institutions. Library provides life long self education. It increases knowledge and gives information on all subjects including local national and international affairs to serve economic, political, social welfare. It is also useful for proper use of leisure, advancement of culture and preservation of literacy heritage for posterity. So, we can say that this project work has great educational implications.

2. Area of the Study

The investigator studied the problem of the library facilities in govt. and private secondary schools in Nagaon district. The topic was on "A Comparative Study on the Library Facilities of Government and Private Secondary Schools in Nagaon District."

The two schools where the survey was conducted were:

2.1. Kujidah Higher Secondary School

Kujidah H. S. School is government school and it is located in Nagaon district and this school was established in the year of 1954.

2.2. Sankar Dev Vidya Niketon

It is a private school located in Brahmingaon of Nagaon district and it was established in the year of 1993.

The present study is a part of M.A. course in Education and as such terms of the study are limited, so, the study has been restricted only to two schools of Nagaon district.

3. Objectives of the Study

1. To find out the services offered by the library in Government isnd Private Secondary Schools in Nagaon dijrict.
2. To make a comparative study of library facilities (infrastructure, books, staff, and time table) available in private schools and government schools.

4. Hypotheses of the Study

Keeping in view with the above objectives the following hypotheses have been formulated:
1. The library facilities available in the schools are satisfactory.
2. There is difference between the two schools with regard to library facilities.

5. Review of Related Literature

5.1. Purpose of the Review

Research takes advantages of the knowledge which has accumulated in the past as a result of constant human endeavour. It can never be undertaken in isolation of the work that has already been done on the problems which are directly or indirectly related to a study proposed by a researcher. A careful review of the research journals, books, dissertation, thesis and other sources of information on the problem to be investigated is one of the important steps in the planning of any research study.

Review of the related literature, besides, allowing the researcher to acquaint himself with current knowledge in the filled or area in which he is going to conduct his research, serves the following specific purpose: -
1. The review of the related literature enables the researcher to define the limits of his fields. It helps the researcher to delimit and define his problems. The knowledge of related literature, brings the researcher up-to-date on the work which others have done and thus to state the objectives clearly and concisely.
2. By reviewing the related literature, the researcher can avoid unfruitful and useless problem areas. He can select those areas in which positive findings are very likely to result and his endeavours would be likely to add to the knowledge in a meaningful away.

5.2. The Review

It has been found from research survey report that much research work has been done on public library system and college library service but very few research works has been done on school library service.
1. Hazarika Deba, 'Library facilities and promotion of reading habits in the Secondary schools with special reference to Sibsagar district', a dissertation, Gauhati University, 2000

In his dissertation Hazarika mentioned that the schools in the past entirely were dependent upon the text books. The school of the past concentrated upon drilling the child in a service of mental exercise. Today the teacher must employ dynamic method of teaching by which learning is accelerated and broadened by the use of many and varied devices and materials. In modern school the child also takes his first lesson in human being. The child, who is surrounding with good books of all kinds, learns beyond the class room routines and through extensive reading he is able to develop judgement about books. This brings into play the use of school library as a common literacy laboratory and an indispensable agency for importing real education through dynamic method of teaching.

He noticed that the lack of reading habit among the school children is an academic problem which leads to a social problem. It is widely accepted fact that two period of secondary level education is an important period of learning and forming habit of reading for the next level of higher education without a good reading habit built during the secondary level education no student can attain higher education successfully. It is very discouraging to note that because of the decline in reading habit the students are getting bachelor degrees from different universities with a very limited knowledge or learning and this is not always reflected in the mark-sheets.

It has been found from research survey report that much research work has been done on public library system and college library service but very few research works has been done on school library service.
2. "A study of the Organisation of Library in Secondary Schools with special reference to Golaghat district." – by Mrs. Alakananda Barman, 1985 - 1986
3. "A Comparative Study of Library Facilities in Various Departmental Educational Institutions situated within Guwahati Municipal Corporation" –by Md. Abdulaziz Ali, 1992 - 1993
4. "A Study on Library Facilities in Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools with special reference to city of Guwahati" –by Kushal Haloi, 1994 – 1995
5. "Role of Library Facilities Developing Reading Habits Among Secondary School Students"-by Binod Jyoti Das, 1998-1999

6. Methodology Used in the Study

Research methods are of utmost importance in a research process. They describe the various steps of the plan of attack to be adopted in solving a research problem, such as the manner in which the problems are formulated, the definition of terms, the choice of subjects for investigation, the validation, analysis and interpretation of data, and the process of inferences and generalization.

Research methods can be classified into 3 basic categories-
→ Historical Method, Descriptive Method and Experimental Method
→ The topic which the investigation has undertaken neither Historical nor Experimental, the field of research obviously shows that the 'Descriptive Survey Method' is to be applied.
→ Descriptive Method: Which provides a method of investigation to study, describe and interpret what exist at present.

6.1. Tools Used
The tools used for study are questionnaire and observation. The tools were designed to collect information of the library facilities from the govt. and private secondary schools.

6.2. Questionnaire:
A questionnaire is a device consisting of a series of questions dealing with some psychological, social, educational etc topic(s) sent or given to an individual or a group of individuals with the objective of obtaining data will regard to some problems under investigation. In the present study the questionnaires are prepared for the students, librarians and Head of the Institution. For the present study, both open and closed forms of questions or statement are included in the questionnaire.

6.3. Observation:
Observation is a more natural way of gathering data. Data collection through observation may be more real and true than data collected by any other method.
The schools undertaken for study are situated in various parts of Nagaon district. The investigator visited the schools to observe the school library and also to know the development of library facilities.

6.4. Sampling
 Sampling is a process of selecting a small representative proportion of the population which is analyzed to draw generalization or conclusion.

6.5. Sample
For the present study the investigator selected the samples according to her own judgement based on experiences for including a given student in the sample. The sample so selected is called judgement or purposive sample. As the investigator have already determined the study to two schools so the samples selected are as follows-
- Head of the Institution
- Librarian or library in-charge
- Students: Some students studying in class VIII and IX have been included in the present study.

6.5.1. Sample for Present Study

Schools	Head of the institution	Librarian or library in-charge	students		Total
			Class VIII	Class XI	
Kujidah H. S. School	1	1	8	8	18
Sankardev Vidya Niketon	1	1	8	8	18
Total	2	2	16	16	36

Table 1

6.6. Data Collection: (Primary and Secondary Source)
The data collected through the questionnaire was the primary source of data collection and the secondary sources were the journals, books, reports and thesis, dissertations etc collected from K. K. Handique library of Gauhati University and Library of Department of Education, Gauhati University.
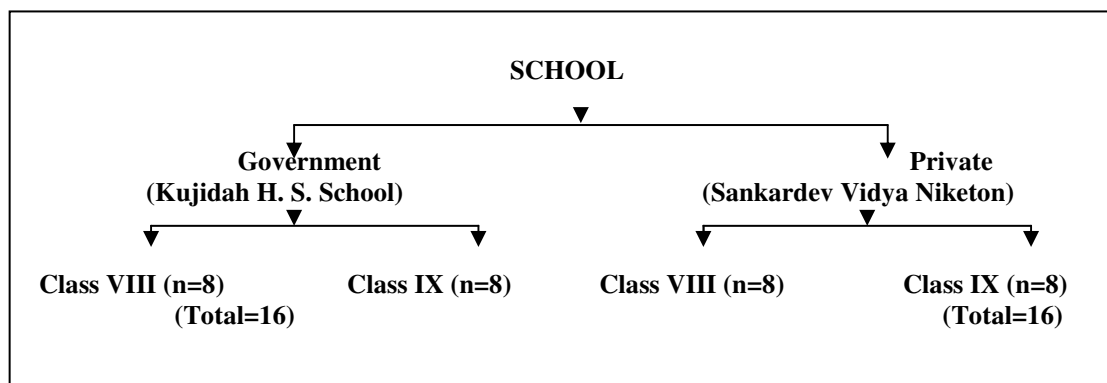The sample of the present study can also be shown as follows-

Figure 1

7. Analysis and Interpretation of Data

Analysis and interpretation is the heart of the research process. Analysis of data means breaking down the complex factors of tabulated material into simple parts and putting the parts together in the new arrangements in order to determine inherent facts or meaning and purpose of interpretation. In this study, after collection of data investigator arranged them in tabular form. Moreover, in this study as there are both open and closed questions in the questionnaires, so, the open statements were analyzed in the paragraphs and closed questions or statements were analyzed with the help of simple percentage technique.

7.1. Analysis of First Objective

The library facilities available in the two schools are analyzed with the help of following table, Table No. 2 and Table No. 3.

➢ Objective 1: To find out the services offered by the library in both govt. and private secondary schools.

Q no.	Responses of the students				Total responses		Percentage of the responses			
	Kujidah H. S. School		Sankar Dev Vidya Niketon		Kujidah H. S. School	Sankar Dev Vidya Niketon	Kujidah H. S. School		Sankar Dev Vidya Niketon	
	Yes	No	Yes	No			Yes	No	Yes	No
4	16	0	16	0	16	16	100	0	100	0
5	16	0	16	0	16	16	100	0	100	0
7	16	0	16	0	16	16	100	0	100	0
9	16	0	16	0	16	16	100	0	100	0
10	16	0	16	0	16	16	100	0	100	0
13	16	0	0	16	16	16	100	0	0	100
14	16	0	16	0	16	16	100	0	100	0

Table 2: Analysis of the questionnaire by the students

Q No.	Responses				Total responses		Percentage of the responses			
	Kujidah H. S. School		Sankar Dev Vidya Niketon		Kujidah H. S. School	Sankar Dev Vidya Niketon	Kujidah H. S. School		Sankar Dev Vidya Niketon	
	Yes	No	Yes	No			Yes	No	Yes	No
3	1	0	1	0	1	1	100	0	100	0
6	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	100	100	0
18	1	0	1	0	1	1	100	0	100	0
19	1	0	1	0	1	1	100	0	100	0
20	1	0	1	0	1	1	100	0	100	0
22	1	0	0	1	1	1	100	0	0	100
25	1	0	1	0	1	1	100	0	100	0
26	1	0	0	1	1	1	100	0	0	100
27	1	0	1	0	1	1	100	0	100	0
28	1	0	1	0	1	1	100	0	100	0
32	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	100	0	100

Table 3: Analysis of the questionnaire by the Librarian or Library In-Charge

From the table no. 2 and 3 it can be said that necessary facilities for library in the school are available in both schools. In Table no. 2 and 3 only closed items are analysed. The open items also show that library facilities are available in both schools which are analysed in second objective. From this analysis we can say our first hypothesis 'The library facilities available in the schools are satisfactory' can be accepted.

8. Analysis of the Second Objective

➢ Objective 2: To make a comparative study of library facilities (infrastructure, books, staff, time-table) available in private School and Govt. School.

Data collection through questionnaire in both the schools was to find out the difference between 'Kulidah H. S. School and 'Sankardev Vidya Niketon'. Difference between both the schools are analyzed and shown in the following paragraphs.

On the analysis of the responses from the librarian, head of the institution and students of the various questions, it is observed that every teacher and student has responded to the questions according to the library facilities available in their schools. so, there were significant variations in their replies.

8.1. Infrastructure

It is shown from the questionnaire that in Kujidah H.S. School (govt.) there is good building facility for the library. In a separate building library is located. About 20 students can sit at a time in the reading room. There is proper electricity facility in the library room. There is also has drinking water facilities. The books are kept in almirah and both in the open and closed shelves.

In Sankerdev Vidya Niketon (private) the library room is located in the main building. There are also sitting capacity in the library room. About 15 students can set at a time. The library room has proper electricity facility but there is no drinking water facility as like Kujidah H. S. School. The books are kept in almirah and other closed shelves.

8.2. Books

From the analysis of the questionnaire it is shown that in the Kujidah H. S. School there are above 3000 books in the library. And in the Sankardev Vidya Niketon there were above 2500 books available. The books are classified in the following table-

BOOKS	No. of books available in Kujidah H. S. School	No. of books available in Sankardev Vidya Niketon
Text Books	700	500
Reference Books	600	500
Story Books	400	600
Books on Travel	300	300
Novel	150	100
Books on Science	300	200
Classics	200	150
Pupils Periodical	200	150

Table 4: Books Available in both Schools

From this table it is shown that all kinds of books available in both schools. In Kujidah H. S. School, more books are available than the Sankardev Vidya Niketon School library.

8.3. Staff

In Kujidah H. S. School (govt.) there is no librarian, but a female science teacher is the in-charge of the school library. Her age is about 50 years and experience of 5 years with the school library. And there are other two members employed in the library. One is also a teacher and other is the cleaner of the library.

In Sankerdev Vidya Niketon (private) there is a B. Lib qualified librarian in the school library. His age is about 35 years and experience of 3 years with the school library. And the Head of the institution, the Pradhan Acharyya is also a member of the library staff and there is also an assistant librarian employed in the library.

In both the schools they have library committee. The Principal of Kujidah H. S. School is the chair person of the school library of Kujidah H. S. School and in Sankerdev Vidya Niketon Pradhan Acharyya is the chair person.

8.4. Time-Table

The library is open in all school days in both the schools. In Kujidah H. S. School the books are issued twice in a week, and there is a library period in the time table. The students are issued books on Monday and Friday, and they can take the books for 15 days only. After that they have to return it or they can renew it for another 15 days. Library cards are issued to every student. Without the library cards books are not issued.

In Sankerdev Vidya Niketon the books are issued only once in a week. on Saturday the students are issued books. There are not any library classes in the time-table. Students can go to the library daily; library cards are issued to every student. Without the library cards books are not issued. The books are issued for 15 days. In the leisure time the students can go to the library also.

From this analysis we have seen various differences in both the schools. According to this analysis there are better facilities available in the govt. secondary school than the private.

But there is not a qualified librarian in the govt. school library.

Our second hypothesis "there is difference between the two schools with regard to library facilities" can be accepted.

8.5. Major Findings

The school in Nagaon district has to face lots of problems. The major findings of the study are summarised below –

1. The library room is not well decorated to attract the children in both of the schools. And in the reading room, the seat capacity is very small.
2. There is not a well qualified librarian in the govt. secondary school. And in both the school's librarian and the library in-charge is directly responsible for the library functions.
3. There are limited numbers of books available in both the library.
4. Due to lack of proper service the students are not interest to study the books.
5. Books are not systematically arranged in the libraries. There are not open shelves in the private school library, so students get troubled for reading the books when they need.

6. There is no provision of govt. financial aid facilities in the private school library. Library is maintained by the students' library fees.

In the govt. secondary school, school library get grants from the govt., but they have not developed the library facilities according to students needs.

7. The school authority is not interested to organise the libraries properly for the benefit of the students in both the schools.

8.6. Suggestions

There are various drawbacks in the government and private school library. For the development of library, the investigator has given the following suggestions-

1. School library should be planned and organised scientifically according to the needs and situation of teaching and learning process.
2. The school library should possess a separate attractive building with attractive and beautiful furniture. There should be well illustrated books and sufficient audio visual materials to attract the children and to motive them.
3. Financial problem is one of the main barriers in the development of libraries. It is therefore the responsibility of the school authority to manage the library found.
4. Trained libraries with requisite qualified with good salaries should be appointed in school.
5. There should have the provision of daily library class in the school daily routine.

9. Conclusion

The school library serves useful purpose. The library helps the teacher as well as students in their studies. Every private and govt. secondary school should have a library. It should contain the books of reference for all subjects. The students as well as the teacher should read the library books for acquiring more and more knowledge.

From this project study we have seen that there are various problems in both schools regarding library facilities. They have a library but they are not well managed. In government school library there is no qualified librarian and in private school library there is no proper time-table for library users. The two libraries can not fulfil the demands of the students.

Learning is a life long process. This process of learning and the habit of reading should build from the early days of a student life. By providing all the library facilities and promoting reading habit of the students during the school education a library must prepare lifetime learners.

We are now entering in to the information age. At this moment the need of the well organised service libraries in the govt. secondary schools is deeply needed. The govt. should give financial assistance to each and every school for the proper development. Every schools should have a trained librarian so that he can fulfil the needs of the students.

10. References

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iii. Abraham J   : Library Extension Service
iv. Gyanjyoti   : the Magazine of Kujidah H. S. School

APPENDIX 'I'
QUESTIONNAIRE
(To be filled in by the Librarian / Head of the institution)

Instruction: It is necessary to answer to the questions in a very few words and where necessary please put tick mark (√) on the correct answer only. Your answer will be used only dissertation purpose.

1. Name of the school :
2. Year of the establishment :
3. Do you have a library in your school?: Yes / No
4. Where is the library located? :   a. In the main building
                                        b. In separate building
5. What is the area of the library? :
6. Do you have a qualified librarian in your library? :   Yes / No
7. If yes, qualification of the librarian :   B. Lib / M. Lib
8. Age of the librarian :
9. Sex of the librarian :
10. Experience of the librarian :
11. Other additional qualification of the librarian:
12. If not, who is the in-charge of the library? :   Teacher / Clerk
13. Number of staff employed in the library :
14. Mention the other staff :
15. Number of books available:
    a) Text books :
    b) Reference books :
    c) Story books :
    d) Books on travel :
    e) Books on Science :
    f) Novel :
    g) Classics :
    h) Pupil's periodical :

16. Where are the books kept?: a. In almirah
                                b. In open shelves
                                c. In closed shelves
17. When are the books issued? : a. Once a week
                                  b. Twice a week
                                  c. daily
18. Are the library cards used for issuing books? : Yes/ No
19. Do pupils read books other than text books? : Yes/ No
20. Is there reading room facility in the library? : Yes/ No
21. What is the sitting capacity of the reading room? :
22. Is there regular library period in the time table? : Yes/ No
23. How many classes about library books you have in a week?:
24. If not, what procedure / timing is followed to enable the student to make use of the library :
25. Is there any provision for counselling and information? : Yes/ No
26. Does the library have Electricity : Yes / No
27. Do you have drinking water facility in your library? : Yes / No
28. Whether the library committee exist? : Yes/ No
29. If yes, who are the members of the library committee?:
30. What is the amount of annual library contribution realised from each student:
31. Library receives grants from:
    a) State Govt. Grant (   )
    b) Library fees   (   )
    c) Donation   (   )
    d) Others   (   )
32. Is the total annual library collection sufficient for purchasing required books, journals etc?   : Yes/ No
33. What improvement would you like to make in your library for improving the standard of education in your school?:

………...

APPENDIX 'II'
QUESTIONNAIRE
(To be filled in by student)

1. Name of the student   :

2. Name of the school   :

3. Class   :   Age :   Sex :

4. Is there a school library?   : Yes / No

5. Is there reading room facility in your school library? : Yes / No

6. Where are the books kept?   :   a. In Almirah
                                                         b. In open Shelves
                                                         c. In closed Shelves

7. Are the library cards used for issuing books?   : Yes / No

8. When are the books issued?   :   a. Once a week
                                                         b. Twice a week
                                                         c. Daily

9. Does your teacher refer non textual books?   : Yes / No

10. Is there any guidance by the teacher?   : Yes / No

11. What do you mostly do in your leisure time?   :

12. How often you go to the library   :   a. often
                                                         b. occasionally
                                                         c. regular

13. Do you think that the library facilities in your school are adequate? : Yes / No

14. Do you think that the library has helped in your studies?   : Yes / No

Figure 1: Photos from the Sankardev Vidya Niketon School Library (Private)

Figure 2: Photos from the Kujidah Higher Secondary School Library (Government)