
ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN COVID 19 PANDEMIC SITUATION

Dr. Anita G. Chandwani

Librarian

Rajkumar Kewalramani Kanya

Mahavidyalaya, Nagpur

Email : lib.rkkm@gmail.com

Abstract - Every aspect of human life has been adversely affected by the spread of covid 19 pandemic. Education sector also undergone unprecedented test all over the world. Higher educational Institutes have reacted positively and managed to continue the teaching learning process. The paper highlights various ways through which libraries are trying to reach their users and provide uninterrupted services. It also provides a detail outline of e resources, platforms and initiative taken by Government of India to ensure that teaching learning, research must keep on and development of learners should be kept on. The paper also discusses the ways in which new trends of learning could be setup.

Keywords–Covid19, pandemic, E Resources, E platforms, Digital Libraries

Introduction :

On March 11 2020, World Health Organization declared Covid19 as a pandemic. The pandemic has affected more than 4.5 million peoples worldwide. In India the first case was reported on 30January 2020 in the KERALA STATE. After that with rises in the case Janta Curfew was observed on March 22, 2020. The 1st phase of lockdown started with the announcement of Prime Minister which was extended in 5 phases till 30th June 2020. During these 5 phases, the education sector was affected significantly. Almost every educational institute of the world, campuses faced closed down situations.

In India, educational activities of about 32 crore learners came to a stop. Despite of all these challenges, higher education institutions reacted to this situation positively and moved to online. They managed to ensure the continuity of teaching learning, research services to society, during pandemic. According to a survey report of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India, conducted on higher education it was observed that there are 993 universities, 39931 Colleges and 10725 standalone institutions listed on their portal, which contribute to education (DNS Kumar, 2020). The worldwide spread of the pandemic taught an important lesson to human kind that ‘Necessity is the mother of all innovations’. The technological innovations provided a steer to educational institutes during hard situation of pandemic spread.

Role of Libraries in Pandemic Situation :

The libraries all over the world are also facing the challenges of keeping their users informed and abreast of latest information during lockdown situation. A wide range of libraries have accepted it as a task have advanced their computerized administration during

covid pandemic circumstances. By using e assets libraries have served their clients through virtual presentations, featuring content on sites. The covid 19 pandemic situation have changed various customary libraries to the current brilliant libraries. The significant function of libraries i.e. storage and distribution of information has been transformed into virtual cloud based storage and 24*7 basis availability of information on internet and websites. The utilization of ICT (Information Communication Technology), Internet and World Wide Web have reformed the concept, nature and library exercises in the advanced world. In future, these brilliant libraries may get converted into shrewd libraries including use of ability and information while data is additionally recorded, put away, recorded and discussed in the edesign at a huge scope.

Academic Libraries serve as a lifeline for school, college students and research professionals and many people in society. During lockdown situation libraries are continuously trying to find new and different ways with different means of implementation. Libraries are continuously redesigning their services during critical covid 19 phase.

It appears that covid 19 pandemic does not seem to be exterminated completely. So, the librarians are looking forward to provide new services and opportunities to build strong library user interface in the future. In this scenario several online services are also started by libraries such as –

- Libguides list of resources available in libraries
- Virtual workshops / Seminars/ Awareness programs
- Virtual Library tours
- Online services through email/ chat /websites etc.
- Virtual reference services

Apart from these online services libraries all over the world are using different web tools and methods to educate their users on how to search and use relevant information from their home place in pandemic condition.

E Platforms for Digital Interaction ;

Various Library 7 Information Science departments from different universities are organizing webinars, online workshops / subject related programs in collaborations with other libraries. Librarians are also using online platforms to interact with users and are providing them information about various e resources. There are number of e platforms available, some of them are named as below-

1. CISCO Webex
2. Google Classroom
3. ZOOM
4. Google hang out Meet
5. Easy Class
6. Go to Meeting

Social Media Use :

Social media tools are built for interaction and sharing of information as text, audio & video. There are number of such platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, what's app, YouTube, My space, twitter, blog, wiki etc. Libraries are organizing various online activities such as debate, storytelling, book reading book reviews, online book discussions, poster making competitions etc. Various librarians have created what's app groups and keep posting latest updates and useful information to the class.

Useful Links of Digital Libraries and E resources :

Various libraries have created their online web based connections and online links as well as open access resources to fulfil user requirements. Few advanced libraries offering perusing material liberated from cost. Academic libraries can make use of these digital links and keep providing online access to e resources to their users. There are number of e resources and links are available, some of them are mentioned here –

| SN | Name | Web address | Description |
|----|---|---|--|
| 1. | National Digital Library of India(NDLI) | https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in/ | virtual repository of educational material with interface support for 10 most widely used Indian languages holding the 67,102,159 resources in various subjects. |
| 2. | Hathi trust | https://www.hathi-trust.org/ | HathiTrust is a nonprofit collaborative digital library which preserves and provides lawful access to the 17+ million digitized items |
| 3. | World Digital Library | https://www.wdl.org/en/ | World Digital Library is an international <u>digital library</u> operated by <u>UNESCO</u> and the United States <u>Library of Congress</u> . Provides free access to 19,147 items about 193 countries between 8000 BCE and 2000 |
| 4. | Khan Academy | https://www.khan-academy.org/ | It offers personalized learning, instructional videos and practice exercises to learners. |
| 5. | Project Gutenberg | https://www.gutenberg.org/ | It provided online access to e books and it also efforts to digitize and archive cultural works. |
| 6. | Open Library | https://openlibrary.org/ | Open Library is an online project which aims for 'one page for every book ever published' |
| 7. | Internet Archive | | Internet Archive is an internet digital library of millions of free books, movies, software, music, websites and many more |

Digital Platforms by Govt. of India :

Unlike all platforms available free on internet, the MHRD initiated a number of projects for students, teachers, scholars to assist them in lifelong learning. It tries to meet the educational requirement of leaners from school level to postgraduate level. The projects

initiated by the govt. areas follows. Here the link of each initiative is provided from where Details for these could be taken out.

| Sr. | Name of Project | Link |
|-----|-----------------|---|
| 1. | SWAYAM | https://swayam.gov.in/ |
| 2. | SwayamPrabha | https://www.swayamprabha.gov.in/ |
| 3. | E Yantra | https://www.e-yantra.org/ |
| 4. | FOSSEE | https://fossee.in/ |
| 5. | e pathshala | https://epathshala.nic.in/ |
| 6. | e ppathshala | https://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in/ |
| 7. | E gyankosh | http://egyankosh.ac.in/ |
| 8. | e shodhsindhu | https://ess.inflibnet.ac.in/ |
| 9. | Gyandarshan | https://www.ignouonline.ac.in/gyandarshan/ |
| 10. | Gyanvani | http://www.radioindia.in/gyan-vani-educational-fm-radio-of-india |
| 11. | Diksha | https://www.india.gov.in/spotlight/diksha-national-digital-infrastructure-teachers |
| 12. | Shodhganga | https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/ |
| 13. | Vidwan | https://vidwan.inflibnet.ac.in/ |
| 14. | Sakshat | https://sakshat.ac.in/ |

Conclusion :

The paper has outlined various methods adopted by the libraries to overcome the challenges posed by covid19 pandemic and lockdown situation. It is the need of the hour for every librarian to keep themselves updated in the covid 19 situation in order to serve the users. It seems that government of India not in favor of reopening school and colleges until the complete eradication of covid 19 from India.so the trend of online learning will only be the most possible solution. In such situation libraries also have to innovate new service, methods and tools for providing information to their users. The foremost objective of each library should be that each user must get authentic, reliable and useful information at his or her own place.

References :

- WHO. WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard. Retrieved on 16th March 2021 from <https://covid19.who.int/>
- DNS Kumar (29 April 2020). Impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education. Retrieved on 16th March 2021 from <https://www.highereducationdigest.com/impact-of-covid-19-on-higher-education/>
- MHRD online. Online Learning Resources of MHRD. Retrieved on 18th March 2021 from https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/upload_document/Write_up_online_learning_resources.pdf
- Pravat Ku Jena. Online learning during lockdown period for Covid-19 in India. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Educational Research. 2020c; 9, 5(8):82-92.