

ABSTRACT

Libraries play a critical role in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set forth by the United Nations in 2015. The SDGs are a collection of 17 goals aimed at achieving a sustainable future for all, and libraries can contribute to achieving these goals in several ways. Firstly, libraries provide access to information, knowledge, and education, which are essential for achieving several SDGs, including quality education (Goal 4), gender equality (Goal 5), and reducing inequalities (Goal 10). Libraries serve as learning and knowledge centers that offer resources, programs, and services that support education, literacy, and lifelong learning. Secondly, libraries contribute to the promotion of sustainable development and environmental awareness, which is crucial for achieving SDGs related to sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11) and climate action (Goal 13). Libraries can host community events and workshops focused on environmental issues, as well as provide resources on sustainable practices. Thirdly, libraries can contribute to SDGs related to economic growth and innovation (Goal 8) by providing resources and services that support entrepreneurship, innovation, and business development. Overall, libraries have an essential role to play in achieving the SDGs by providing access to information, promoting sustainable development, and supporting education, entrepreneurship, and innovation. By leveraging their resources and expertise, libraries can contribute to a sustainable and equitable future for all.

As motors of change driving development, public libraries, with their commitment to information provision and access, are crucial to the realization of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (herein referred to as the UN 2030 Agenda). Officially named ‘Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’, the UN 2030 Agenda was formally adopted in September 2015 by all 193 members of the UN at an historic international summit on sustainable development at UN headquarters in New York City. Coming into force on 1 January 2016, this ambitious document represents an unprecedented programme promoting shared prosperity and wellbeing for all of humanity and the planet. Over the course of the following 15 years – which at the time of this article’s writing approaches the one-third mark of its existence and implementation, with varying degrees of success thus far – all UN members and countries are committed, by consensus, to mobilize resources and efforts to address and achieve the agenda’s comprehensive goals and accompanying targets. Public libraries are important resources that must (continue to) be

consulted, harnessed, and used to secure sustainable development and, ultimately, a more equitable, inclusive, and healthy world. The importance of public libraries to sustainable development efforts are implicitly recognized within the UN 2030 Agenda.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are:

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere, Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable, Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all, Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, Goal 15. Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss For Sustainable Development, Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels, Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. Advancing digital inclusion through access to Information & Communications Technologies (ICT), and dedicated staff to help people develop new digital skills (Advancing Sustainable Development, 2014), Serving as the heart of the research and academic community, Preserving and providing access to the world's culture and heritage, More specifically, libraries has supported the implementation of the SDGs by providing access to information, support for literacy and ICT skills, and access to community space. Some of the existing initiatives of library support to SDGs may include:

- UN Depository Libraries that support dissemination of information and research to help decision makers achieve the SDGs

- Access to health, environmental, and agricultural information that are targets of the SDGs, including Open Access resources
- Media and information literacy programmes for marginalized populations to make an important contribution to achieving universal literacy (Bradley, 2016)

There is no truly sustainable development without access to information and no meaningful, inclusive access to information without libraries. The SDGs provide a road map, but implementation is up to us. Librarians stand ready to work with governments, international organizations, and funders to deliver the programs that will improve the lives of those in our communities. Librarians have the power to help change people's lives and create a better tomorrow.

- ✓ Government should ensure that libraries and information centre are fully integrated into the scheme of activities at both the local and national level.
- ✓ Library and information centers should regularly organize seminars, workshops; symposium that will serve as an educational forum where citizens irrespective of gender, age, and profession can listen to information on social, economic, health agriculture or education to enable them to develop themselves physically and mentally.
- ✓ The government and the parent institution should support the library and information centres financially in order to end challenges of inadequate infrastructure and facilities, poor network distribution and would also assist in the publishing of research findings conducted by researcher.
- ✓ Adequate Staffing with professional qualification needs to be provided so that they will give quality contributions to national development in spheres of life. Engaging in effective lobbying and advocacy programmes:
- ✓ Heads of libraries should endeavor to engage in sustainable lobbying and advocacy programmes. Librarians should acquire lobbying and advocacy skills at all costs to ensure that they contribute their own quota to the reality of the SDGs

Role of National Library

The genesis of the National Library of India can be traced back to the establishment of the Calcutta Public Library in 1835. The Imperial library was established in the year 1891 by amalgamating several secretariat and record room libraries. The Calcutta Public Library and

the Imperial Library were merged and declared open for public on 30th of January 1903. The Imperial Library was renamed, through an enactment of Parliament as The National Library in the year 1948 and was shifted to its present location at Belvedere Estate. The National Library inherited a rich and valuable collection in the shape of the collections of the Home Department, East India College, Fort William, and the Library of the East India Board in London. Copies of each publication published in Bengal province was deposited in Calcutta Public Library under Press Registration of Books Act, 1867. The National Library being a Depository Library also acts as a permanent repository of India's publication output, as such India's largest public library offer both reading and lending services to larger sections of the society. As there is a service element besides its normal activities, the National Library is also bound to change into hybrid nature to make its collection development more comprehensive and dynamic.

National Library of India is in the process of transforming its resources and services suitable for the modern Knowledge Society. An E-resource Centre with about seventy think line clients and a network printer will be opened soon to give opportunity to a greater number of users at a time. Besides, the City Hub, proposed to set up at the heart of Kolkata will another state-of-the art library for access of the entire electronic resources owned and created by the library. The importance of public libraries to sustainable development efforts are implicitly recognized within the UN 2030 Agenda. It envisages: a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want, where all life can thrive. A world with universal literacy. A world with equitable and universal access to quality education at all levels, to health care and social protection, where physical, mental and social well-being is assured. (United Nations, 2015a).

The study is basically interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary. References in connection with "role of public libraries in "Peace" and Social Cohesion" collected from diverse sources. The connection string of all reflections was peace. The researcher began the research process by reviewing the literature from different resources on peace and social cohesion relatively as well as its concurrent disciplines such as Peace Studies, Conflict Resolution, etc. Existing literature in this area i.e., peace education clearly reflects a variety of papers with different focus, methodology, sampling, and analysis techniques, while all the time the attempt had been made to recognize the role of public libraries in peace and social cohesion. There has been a lot of research on peace education as an area though many of them are in Peace and Conflict studies. Research on "recognizing the role of public libraries in peace and social

cohesion” in the discipline of Library and Information Science as well as Peace and social Studies is not available. The search for published research in this area was mainly drawn from Peace and Social Studies. It is no surprise that SDG 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements enjoys high popularity in European libraries. Fighting against discrimination also includes migration policies and literacy programmes for immigrants.

A strong library system is a cornerstone of a strong community. It provides positive social impact on communities by contributing to education, literacy and lifelong learning for residents. In what ways do public libraries support personal development, adult learning, and community empowerment? In what ways do public libraries promote well-being and act to maintain a sense of social cohesion in communities? While many researchers (Buschman, 2003; McCabe, 2001; Matarasso, 1998) have speculated on the importance of public libraries and proclaimed to be significant in the promotion of learning, there is little strong empirical evidence to confirm the role they may play in promoting well-being through lifelong education, and as sites of socio-cultural development. Lifelong learning has become important to all people in this information age due to free access to information. For adults, particularly newcomers, who could not continue their education in the formal educational institutions, public libraries are important alternative sites of learning and offer adults flexible learning opportunities and supporting the learning process (Abumandour, 2020). Public libraries serve as community hubs for learning experiences through the coordination of support services, computer literacy classes, free access to internet, books, and other educational materials. The value of the public library is well understood. Public libraries support the information, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of adults in communities through access to books and online resources. Quality library facilities not only enhance the quality of life, but also a chance to progress, seize opportunities and gain more satisfaction and enjoyment, and support the engagement with development of social well-being of the community (Brewster, 2014; Lippman et al. 2011).

The aim of the paper is to expand on an existing work on library use through an analysis of public libraries as sites for promoting lifelong learning. In addition, the paper explores the extent to which public libraries can be regarded as sites of control. In recent years a new perspective was added to the conversation about the role and value of public libraries, because of the establishment of a global Agenda for Sustainable Development. The agenda,

which was adopted in 2015 by all member states of United Nations (UN), offers a common framework to help create a better world. It presents 17 universal Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) - and 169 underlying targets - that reflect mayor global problems and policy areas in which positive change is needed. In September 2015, the United Nations, through her General Assembly developed a 2030 blueprint for Sustainable Development that contains 17 agenda.

The agenda were designed to give a clear road map for achieving sustainable development for all the member countries. The Sustainable Development Goals are all inclusive as people of all backgrounds including persons with disabilities are within the framework. The agenda were adopted in 2015 to cover 15-years lifespan (2030). At the targeted year, it is believed that all nations of the world would have been a better place for all. The Goals are meant to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all nations. They also focus on some of the global challenges which include poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice (United Nations, 2021). To create a more sustainable world and to engage with sustainability-related issues as described in the SDGs, individuals must become sustainability change-makers. They require the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that empower them to contribute to sustainable development. Education, therefore, is crucial for the achievement of sustainable development. However, not all kinds of education support sustainable development. Education that promotes economic growth alone may well also lead to an increase in unsustainable consumption patterns. The now well-established approach of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) empowers learners to take informed decisions and responsible actions for environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society for present and future generations. ESD must be understood as an integral part of quality education, inherent in the concept of lifelong learning: All educational institutions – from preschool to tertiary education and in non-formal and informal education – can and should consider it their responsibility to deal intensively with matters of sustainable development and to foster the development of sustainability competencies. ESD provides an education that matters and is truly relevant to every learner in the light of today's challenges.

The Contribution of the National Library in Achieving the SDGs

Around the world, access to opportunity begins with access to information and knowledge. Public access to information enables people to make informed decisions that can improve their lives. Communities that have access to timely and relevant information for all are better

positioned to eradicate poverty and inequality, improve agriculture, and provide quality education, and support people's health, culture, research, and innovation (IFLA, 2014). As stated in target 16.10: a well-informed society contributes significantly to the development of the nation as the availability of information resources would promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (Bradley, 2014). Library services contribute to improved outcomes across the SDGs by: Promoting universal literacy, including media and information literacy closing gaps in access to information and helping government, civil society, and business to better understand local information needs, providing a network of delivery sites for government programmes and services. Another important outcome can be realized through excellent mapping, implementing cultural programmes, engaging in teamwork, and conducting community outreach services by volunteering. Public libraries take responsibility for community outreach programmes dealing with various matters such as implementing green environment drive, social activities, and entrepreneurial information services.

When conducting research, you're taking information and data and organizing it in a way that allows you to make informed decisions. It's important to know what research methodology is so one can understand why it's important, as well as how to choose the right one for your research. There are three main types of research methodology: qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methodologies. Qualitative research is conducted using interviews, focus groups, and surveys. It's often used to gather information about people's thoughts, feelings, and experiences. Quantitative research is conducted using measures such as surveys, interviews, and focus groups. It's used to gather data about how people behave, think, and feel. Mixed methodologies involve the use of both qualitative and quantitative research. This allows researchers to get a more complete picture of a situation or problem. Research methodology helps us learn about the world. Every day, we learn something new about the world around us. We learn about the people and things around us, and we learn about the world around those people and things.

To learn about the world, we need to use research methodology. Research methodology helps us learn about the world by using different ways of gathering information. Survey research is the most common form of research and it's usually done by asking people questions about the things they know. This type of research is usually done by asking people questions about the

things they know about their own lives or the lives of the people around them. Observational research is done by watching things happen and then trying to learn what happened. This type of research is usually done by watching people in natural settings or by asking people to carry out experiments. Experimental research is done by trying different things to see what happens. This type of research is usually done by doing experiments in a lab. Research methodology is used to study human behavior.

There are many reasons why research methodology is important. It can help us understand human behavior, which is necessary for a variety of reasons. For example, research helps us develop new products and services, understand the effects of certain policies or actions, and determine the effectiveness of advertising campaigns. There are a few different research methods, and each has its own advantages and disadvantages. Some research methods are more reliable than others, and some are more expensive. Ultimately, the type of research methodology that is used depends on the goals of the study. Research methodology is also used to study the natural world. Research methodology is used to study the natural world to gain a better understanding of the natural world. The main types of research methodology used in the natural world include observational, experimental, and quasi-experimental research. Observational research is conducted without manipulating the variables of the study. Experimental research involves the manipulation of the variables of the study. Quasi-experimental research is a type of research that falls between the two, involving the manipulation of some variables but not all. Overall, libraries have an essential role to play in achieving the SDGs by providing access to information, promoting sustainable development, and supporting education, entrepreneurship, and innovation. By leveraging their resources and expertise, libraries can contribute to a sustainable and equitable future for all.