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Role of Information Literacy in India

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Abstract—*Information literacy is the vital process in modern changing world. Information technology is taking a new shape day by day. Information is greatly generating. For that, people should be enabled to interpret and make informed choice as user of information sources. Information literacy makes the person capable to recognize when information is needed and how to locate, evaluate, and use effectively of the needed information. Here, is discussed the information literacy programmes in India. Now, India has become the Information Technology Powerhouse and to become the people enabled, there is the need of information literacy in India.*

Keywords: *Information Literacy, Information Literacy Competencies, Information Literacy programmes.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Information Literacy is the vital process in the modern changing world, which is mostly used for higher education particularly, at the university level education. In our information-centric world, students must develop skills early on so they are prepared for post-secondary opportunities, whether in the workplace or in pursuit of higher education.

Information literacy "enables people to interpret and make informed judgments as users of information sources, as well as to become producers of information in their own right. Information literacy means information awakening in person about the needed information. Information literate people are able to access information about their health, their environment, their education and work, empowering them to make critical decisions about their lives, e.g. in taking more responsibility for their own health and education". Government of India has planned to run many programmes to make people information literate. There are projects like e-government project playing an amazing role in information literacy and the social, economic, and cultural relevance and its immense potential to improve the society in which it functions.

2. INFORMATION LITERACY COMPETENCIES AND PROGRAMMES IN INDIA

Such projects are also needed in rural areas in India. In addition, standard institutions in India are also running information literacy programmes at their institution level to create awareness about changing the role of information technology. UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization Estd. in 1946) is playing a greater role in information literacy not only in India but also in the whole world. To further these efforts information literacy should be introduced within national curricula at all levels including lifelong learning programmes...

The American Library Association's (ALA) Presidential Committee on Information Literacy, Final Report states, "To be information literate, a person must be able to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information" (1989).

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

i. To know Information Literacy Programmes at the National Level.
ii. How the Information Literacy Programmes are playing a significant role in India.
iii. To analysis the Information Literacy Programmes at state level.
iv. To know e-governance initiatives are playing an outstanding role in Information Literacy

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

i. Surfing on the Internet with the Keyword "Information Literacy Programmes"
ii. Find a list of "Information Literacy Programmes"
iii. After browsing all the individual sites, found Information Literacy Programmes at National and International Level. However, it is selected Information Literacy programmes at National level working for the people to become the IT Literate in colleges, in rural areas by Government, community information centers. In this way, Information Literacy programmes are selected for the Study and their links, resources for Information Literacy programmes represented in this paper.

5. THE NEED OF INFORMATION LITERACY IN INDIA

i.   To develop information literacy skills in learners.
ii.   To become independent learners.
iii.   To make the common people part of IT revolution. World Wide Web has taken the new shape. Hence, there is need to promote information literacy.
iv.   To provide knowledge and motivate people to acquire IT ability.
v.   To help librarians to develop, assess and improve their information literacy Programmes.

6. USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

The modern world is known as Information Technology. Information technology skills enable an individual to use computers, software applications, databases, and apply related technologies to achieve a wide variety of academic, work-related, and personal goals. Among these are information literacy focus on content, communication, analysis, information searching, and evaluation; whereas information technology "fluency" focuses on a deep understanding of technology and graduated, increasingly skilled use of it. For the effective teaching and learning, we use demos, tutorials, course materials in electronic form as interactive and ordinary CDs, animated and multimedia programmes running on cable TV network, FM, All India Radio, local Newspapers that attract the learners.

7. ROLE OF INFORMATION LITERACY IN INDIA

In the recent decades India has tried to increase the population of information literate and educated citizens through organizing different programmes like, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), National Literacy Mission and so on and established the community information centre and village knowledge centers are the recent additions to this effort that would transform India into an information society, where information and knowledge resources are considered as critical ingredient for development. Here, information literacy can play a vital role in educating the users of libraries on various information and documentary resources, where to start searching of information, what where and how to access them, how to assess and compare retrieved information, how to communicate their information or findings to the general masses and experts, and so on. To provide right information to the users, public librarians should be trained to develop information literacy competency and should able to educate the user that will make user information literate. In the Indian context, it has been noticed that libraries have well-trained information professionals who are increasingly ICT-literate and can work with government to create content and provide information services to the masses.

i.   Implementing Information Literacy programs to users of the all types of libraries
ii.   Integrating Information Literacy across the Curriculum at all levels of education
iii.   University Grants Commission (UGC) may take the proper steps to induct the component of Information Literacy in higher education, so also the related bodies in engineering and other profession courses. In addition, the professional societies, academics and associations like ILA, SIS, IASLIC and IATLIS can make efforts to bring together the professional expertise along with academic and media experts to design and develop the viable Curriculum for various levels of education
iv.   Collaborating teachers, librarians and media experts to design and promote Information Literacy programs
v.   Carrying out surveys and studies on the usefulness of Information Literacy at Regional, State and National levels
vi.   Forming a National Information Literacy Forum to enable people from all walks of life to interact, discuss and bring out policy guidelines to strengthen the Information Literacy movement across the country
vii.   Frequently conducting workshops/seminars/ symposia in order to enable broader and thorough discussion on the concept of Information Literacy and bring out more literature of national importance
viii. Conducting programs like training the trainer in order to upgrade the Information Literacy knowledge and skills of both librarians and faculty
ix.   Organizing brain storming sessions for wider discussion on the concept of Information Literacy and bring out policy statements
x.   Designing the National Information Literacy Policies, Standards and Guidelines by suitably reviewing existing educational policies
xi.   Designing National Information Literacy Portal, through which information on Information Literacy ideas, projects, initiatives, activities, education resources, programs, tutorials, self-assessment tests etc., will be shared and organizations network

8. CONCLUSION

With the modern day technology, changing day-by-day people should be enabled to access the information and using it. For this, by government of India and academic institutions, organizations should conduct workshops, seminars, programmes to make more and more people IT literate. Some e-government programmes have been initiated and community centers have been opened to provide both the services to the people and enhancing their IT awareness.

Information and Communication Technology provides a dynamic way to connect people with their government, provides access to information easily, efficiently, and cost

effectively. Such types of government projects are needed in rural areas of India where ICT has a significant role to play.

Libraries in general and public libraries in particular have a great role as e-government content creators and disseminators. The information literacy programmes are running at school level, Higher Learning Institutions and for LIS professionals. India essentially needs to transform into complete knowledge society and hence the efforts be concentrated to develop the absorbing, analyzing and integrating abilities of the people and to make them understand how to use information to bring real value to everything they undertake. Information literacy has become a global issue calling for greater attention.

As a result, several countries have taken initiatives in starting national as well as international programmes.

These programmes are addressing many issues relating to technology and information skills. People will need information skills for the personal, professional and even for the entertainment activities.

In the context of India, it is essential for librarians, teachers, technologists, media experts, and policy makers to make all possible efforts to start the Information Literacy movement with a big bang.

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