LIBRARY SERVICES TO THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE

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Abstract: As the sighted people have the curiosity to gain information and news from around the world via newspapers, magazines, books, radio, television, and digital media, etc. Likewise, people who are visually impaired also have the same curiosity to learn and gain information from different sources. People who are blind or visually impaired have the same knowledge requirements as sighted people. Hence, Libraries have a moral duty to make knowledge accessible to people of all genders, ages, races, political affiliations, and disabilities. This paper explores the library services provided to visually impaired people.

Keywords: *Braille, print disabled people, Braille books*

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INTRODUCTION

We human beings are social animals as we have a basic need of food, shelter, breath to live a life, the same way we need information from different sources via books, newspapers, radio, television and magazines and internet, etc. But things are not easy for print disabled or visually impaired people in comparison to sighted people. If we talk about the "Disability is an umbrella term, covering impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions. Impairment is a problem in body function or structure; An activity limitation is a difficulty encountered by an individual in executing a task or action; While a participation restriction is a problem experienced by an individual in involvement in life situations." (World Health Organization). (Rayini, 2017). There are about 314 million visually impaired people globally with 45 million blind. India is home to 26,810,557 (26.8 million) disabled persons which constitutes 2.21% of the total population of the country. 5 million persons are visually impaired (disability in seeing) sharing 18.8% of total disabled persons in the country. (Census of India, 2011) (Rayini, 2017).

These people find more difficulties in developing countries than in developed countries. In many parts of India, these people were not allowed to go to schools even. The perceptions of society for these people are very negative in rural areas, especially in the poorest states. People think they are burdens on their parents. Hence, these people not only face unemployment but are badly treated in society too. So in these conditions, some of them have to suffer from mental disorders and they have to manage to beg for food from the streets. Although those who somehow reach the education world have to face different kinds of difficulties in this arduous and competitive world. Where sighted people enjoy the sources of information and environment but these people rarely get in touch with these experiences and information. But things become easier when the invention of the braille writing system has taken place. Louis Braille invented the Braille tactile writing system for visually impaired people, western visually impaired people were benefited earlier but in developing countries, these techniques were not available for a long time but after long decades Braille writing system was adopted by many countries later on. UNESCO also played a crucial role to benefit the visually impaired section of the world. The government from the different countries provided different technologies to make their life comparatively easy in developing countries; Eye Seeing dog is kind of an example which helps the visually impaired people to help in their daily routine. Many technologies like Braille, enlarged prints, web Braille, Braille embosser, talking books, text reader software, etc. these new technologies are adopted by many people. Braille presses are also working for the productions of textbooks, newspapers, magazines, etc. But in developing countries, they have to suffer for their basic needs.

Many countries around the world have already enacted

many laws related to the visually impaired to make their participation in education with different services while The Indian government implemented three laws for people with disabilities, namely

(i)Persons with Disability (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, which provides for education, employment, creation of the barrier-free environment, social security, etc.

(ii)National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, and Multiple Disability Act, 1999 has provisions for legal guardianship of the four categories and creation of an enabling environment for as much independent living as possible.

(iii)Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992 deals with the development of manpower for providing rehabilitation services (MSJE 2009).'' (Rayini, 2017)

In 2005 'Action Plan for Inclusive Education of Children and Youth with Disabilities,' the Government of India's Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Education stated its objective as "Recognizing Education for All Children as a Fundamental Right, to ensure the inclusion of children and youth with disabilities in all available mainstream educational settings, by providing them with the learning environment.

Special Libraries Centre Provides Special Services to library Users

Librarians also discuss the advantages of ICT in information centres and how libraries use ICT to expand global information. Any reader can read information in any format and access it from anywhere using the ICT Platform. Previously, library librarians offered a variety of resources to each reader. Although some of them take this opportunity and some of them ignore it or it may be personal issues. As a result, the librarian's first responsibility is to collect all information and disseminate it fairly to whomever he desires at the appropriate time. However, due to limited resources, librarians might be unable to provide accurate information. The following sections address some of the library's information center's most common resources for visually impaired people.

Barielle books: It is a system of writing and reading books for blind users in which the words and numbers are arranged in dots form by touching and they are identified

each and every meaning of words.

Talking books-(2) Talking books- these are audio versions of books that could be recorded on cassettes, CD-ROM,DVD and on the internet as e-books. Talking books are preferred by the majority of the visually impaired (Getz,2003).

Talking newspaper- Same as talking books but one difference on the daily basis news recorded in cassettes, CD-ROM,DVD through network as electronic formats

Large printed materials- In this service, documents are printed in enlarge size for visually impaired users to read documents accurately.

Screen magnifier- This software is actually for text and graphics that display enlarge on the computer screen.

Screen reader: In this, visually impaired users read the text of content of the particular documents.

Voice recognition software: It allows the blind users to data in the electronic device through voice.

Essential library services for visually impaired readers in Library

There are different types of libraries which are national libraries, academic libraries, public libraries, and special libraries but in every library, they have separate Bareilly libraries. Most of the readers utilize each library's services very properly because their five sense organs are active and participate very actively. Visually impaired readers also need resources to gain their updated knowledge for their particular work, it may include writing papers, articles, handling project work, or sharing knowledge from one place to another.. But apart from this technology has given much software which is used worldwide by the visually impaired. Although, librarians play a vital role to provide and direct them to the best access of resources. Some tools that are helpful for visually impaired students which web based software:

Job Access with Speech (JAWS)- The most popular and cheapest application design for visually impaired users to operate independently and to read digital resources i.e. JAWS. These tools appeared on monitors with suitable windows 7, 8, 10 helpful for visually impaired users while reading the text display on the screen. Visually impaired persons use this technology in libraries and information centers to read and print text in digital form. It is very

helpful for low economy users to take an opportunity to read many books, journal reports, etc. in libraries. The JAWS only needs to be installed on monitors and every visually impaired person to operate independently even this tool to overcome the various challenges. In the popular software being used to read the text that appears on the monitor.

2 Non-Visual Desktop Access (NVDA)- It is free source software and text display on screen reader. In this tool, a visually impaired person can read the text in a computerized voice. It has a maximum of 48 languages so anyone can access information easily. It is very light in weight and only needs to install on Microsoft windows and run it very smoothly. It is beneficial for accessing web pages and also helpful for maintaining the preparation of the documents such as writing, making excel sheets, receiving mail, and web browsing.

3.Voice Over-

It is a screen reader device. It provides readers who are visually impaired students navigate text documents available on-screen in the audible form which speaks in a loud voice even display everything such as message, calling, battery level wifi connected just like a smartwatch.

4. ORCA

This software is a free and open-source scriptable screen reader which gives access to many application tools. It has maint extensible, flexible technology and supports AT-SPI for Linux operating systems. It enables access to a graphical desktop through speech and braille.

5.Web Anywhere

This software is defined as a network-based enabled screen display reader and is available free. it runs directly to the web browser even no need to spend time in installation. It works nicely after the installation of recent versions of Adobe Flash and embedded sound players like Windows Media Player and QuickTime. Since it is released on the web so you always get the latest version of it.

6. Spoken Web

This is a system for the creation of and access to 'VoiceSites', 'VioLinks' to create a 'spoken' network of information. By this Virtue, it enables the illiterate and the underprivileged with the power to access information. Those people who don't have computers in their homes can access them with the help of any landline phone or mobile phone. Hence, it can be used by numerous people who are illiterate and want to access information through speech. Serotek, Emacspeak is a few of the other screen reading software available for visually impaired people to access the information.

CONCLUSION

Technology has advanced in the twenty-first century, allowing visually impaired students to explore their thoughts and ideas in the modern world with greater versatility and direction. Many libraries and information centers provide a free forum to those who want to access information and assistive technology resources, both proprietary and non-proprietary so that people with visually impaired can maintain their knowledge on the tip of their finger independently. Those visually impaired people who are economically disadvantaged can easily reap the benefits of library services while also maintaining management services such as free access to electronic resources, also known as braille books and devices. Before this, the management librarian made ramps and seating arrangements available for accessing e-resources, as well as helping visually impaired students develop their communication skills, which are also based on technology and support for screen reader audio-video low vision devices.

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