

# Library program on the air

By MD. FARUQUE AHMED

The simple definition of a library is a collection of books. We cannot conceive of our existence in modern times without books and libraries. Through books men communicate their vision and experiences from generation to generation.

They are stepping stones to the future as well as bridges to the past. Through books, scientists have unlocked the secrets of nature and the philosophers have searched for the meaning of life. Books are important weapons in the never ending struggle for peace and freedom. Libraries are also necessary to help advance in understanding democracy.

Eighty per cent of our population live in rural areas and they have either too inadequate or no library facilities. It is one of the basic principle of democracy to make knowledge free as far as practicable to every person.

The best education in modern days consists in the largest employment of the knowledge of the world both in process and in progress and libraries exist for this purpose.

Because of the explosion of knowledge the value of information is now more important than ever before and it is regarded as vital raw materials and basic source for managing other resources.

Information on various subjects is recorded in variety of documents—both printed and non-printed and is scattered in different parts of the world. Books and libraries can answer almost all the queries under the sun.

Hence books and libraries are required everywhere by everybody no matter

whether he is a space administrator or cultivator. The higher the civilization the greater is the importance of books and libraries. The men on the job must know what development is being done in his field, he must know what his colleagues in other countries are doing. He must have library at hand for necessary information. With the growth in the complexity of life administration itself has become impossible without books, libraries and librarians.

One of the best means of reaching people with information about books and libraries and stimulating their interest in reading is by means of effective and efficient Library programme by Radio and Television.

Our radio and television network can cover approximately 95 per cent and 85 per cent respectively with single language 'Bengali' for communication. It is really a feasible and economic proposition for us. If we want to create and develop a permanent interest in reading in us which will give us invisible but invaluable wealth in turn and will also help us to live with honour and dignity in the comity of nations, we have to create some atmosphere conducive to the cultivation of reading by means of effective and efficient Library programme by radio and television.

The objectives of the programme may be the following:

1. Inform the listeners about the importance of books and libraries.
2. Inform about worthwhile and interesting books, articles and other reading materials.
3. Give the listeners by

means of summaries, reviews and excerpts, or ideas of the contents, uses and purposes of the publications featured on the programmes.

4. Encourage to buy books as far as practicable.

5. Encourage to develop a permanent interest in reading.

6. Encourage the listeners to become discriminating users of books and libraries.

7. Inform the listeners about the therapeutic value of reading.

## PROGRAMS

The following kinds of programmes may help us to achieve the above objectives:

A 15 minutes library programme on each weekday (Saturday through Friday) preferably immediately after national news (Bengali) because most of the listeners turn off their radio and Television after the news in Bengali.

1. The Book Chat: Reviews of books on biography, history, adventures, geography and other most inspiring and encouraging books with a view to developing good reading habits and building appreciation for good books. Information about important national and international publication may be included.

2. The Magazine Rack: Presentation of interesting and significant articles published in recent magazines.

3. March of Science: Reviews of popular books on scientific advancements preferably by a relevant subject specialist. These will give listeners experience in tracking down science interests through reading, conversation and discussion.

4. Bag of Tales: It should devote to the reading

of famous old and new stories to delight and nourish a taste for good literature and to read better books.

5. Far Land: Reviews of books containing habits and customs of foreign land.

6. Running and Reading: Excerpts from selected poems, plays, novels, preferably with happy endings will help us to develop a permanent interest in literature reading.

Vocational information is another which may receive attention.

7. Orientation: Instruction and orientation in the effective utilization of library resources can never be ignored. With a view to helping the listeners to become independent and efficient users of library resources, to familiarize them with the methods and techniques of locating information, to make them understand the purposes of catalogue cards, to have a general knowledge about reference tools and the possible use that can be made of each tool, to stimulate a desire in them to know how to make further exploration and use of resources, how to go on garnering record materials to compile bibliographies and to give citation to a research paper.

Libraries, whose business is to provide access to materials containing information for those who seek it and are ready to take the trouble to get the benefit, must bestir themselves to a greater activity in this service.

We, the librarians, by job preparation, training and experience are

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## Library

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instinctively in favour of anything which helps and encourages people to achieve a fuller life.

The status of a nation depends on the welfare and achievements of the masses and everything regarding welfare and achievements of the people depends on their education. Again, now-a-days education without books and libraries is unthinkable.

Books are the most useful media of communication. They can change the course of history, they can direct the thinking of the people and they can bring prosperity in the country.

The matter should receive a careful and thorough consideration by all. If we want to introduce a library programme, it will involve a huge amount of money, no doubt. But the cost for library services should, be regarded as capital investment, and not a liability or an unnecessary expenditure.