

## **Role of Library in a Practical Based Design Education: with Special Reference to Raffles Design Institute in Colombo, Sri Lanka**

**Gunarathne. D.G.R.L.**

ruchiragunarathne@raffles.edu.lk

### **Abstract**

*The contribution of academic library for development of student's education and the learning outcomes should be much appreciated. Library is the heart of all the colleges, Institutes and Universities as well as in the Raffles Education Cooperation which is non-governmental entity. There are different kind of educational institutes in world which produce best students for the society. The Raffles Design Institute is playing competitive role in the design field with every aspects. The library is heart of the institute and it is well organized with new technology and has a best attractive place in the premises which offer facilities for the students for conducting their studies well. Objectives of the study are to identify the importance of the library in practical based design education, to examine student's response and requirements for the library and to explore satisfaction of students about the library.*

**Keywords:** *Raffles design institute, User education, Library collection, Interior design, Fashion design, Information services*

### **Introduction**

Raffles Education Cooperation Limited is a premier private education provider, owner and manager of education assets and facilities, an education-linked real estate investor and developer. Since establishing, its first college in Singapore in 1990, Raffles Education has grown to provide a full spectrum of education services through a vast global network of 30 colleges and universities in 29 cities across 13 countries. The RDI – Raffles Design Institute (pvt) Ltd. acts as the main resource center through which all library development activities are coordinated. RDI-Library is constantly updated to accommodate resource materials relating to new developments in subjects relating to the core teaching and learning areas. The library is being augmented continuously to cater to the increasing number of students and for the propagation of knowledge.

The RDI Library is constantly updating and introducing special services for students. It has currently collection of books on design and marketing subjects. The subjects are fashion design, Interior design and the business program. The library maintains an e-library collection mainly Gale, JSTOR, e Brary, etc... And magazines as well. The library primarily works through KOHA library system.

Raffles offers mainly design-based subjects. How it makes the library an attractive place for