

## **A study on achieving sustainable libraries using Buddhist teaching: with special reference to selected SDGs**

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### **Abstract**

Libraries are at the heart of any education institution, and it works as a community center in society. IFLA involved, guided and facilitate to among their stakeholders to achieve the UN 2030 agenda. The libraries enable to access information and resources, giving people the opportunity to improve the quality of their life while teaching new skills and improve their competencies. (Kruszewska, 2019) This paper highlights the Buddhist teaching to build sustainable libraries and also fulfill new library development which means taking part of the sustainable development concept. The main objective of this study is to discuss the guidelines given by Buddhist literature to develop sustainable libraries. There are some guidelines according to the western practice to achieve sustainable libraries. This paper tries to find out Buddhist teaching to achieve sustainable development and use for those to create sustainable libraries. The important teaching was revealed that will be helpful to achieving sustainable libraries.

**Keywords:** *Libraries, Sustainable Development, Buddhist teaching, Buddhist literature, sustainable libraries*

### **Introduction**

The Library is a focal point of the society and also a community center. Its main role is communicating knowledge to each other's at every level. At present, all over the world people are discussing ways and means of achieving sustainable development. Development is a positive manner. According to the Brundtland commission report in 1987, Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (International Institute for Sustainable Development) Sustainable development has three conceptual pillars. Those pillars are economic sustainability, social sustainability and environmental sustainability. (Maddumage, 2008)

But without thinking on nature, energy, humans there are number of problems affected by people. The United Nations has introduced seventeen goals. Now a day's library personnel give their attention to the achieving sustainable libraries. In sri Lankan context early period of libraries beginning background with Buddhist temples. Green growth with environmental friendliness. In this regards Buddhist theories and practices well support for sustainable libraries. According to Sinhala culture there are some sustainable principles can be seen in Literature also.

### **Objectives**

This study aims,

- To discuss factors in Buddhist literature to achieve sustainable libraries.
- To explain how to utilize and build libraries according to the buddha teaching.

## Research problem

The present study will try to describe how to build sustainable libraries using Buddhist teaching. There are some guidelines introduced by western practice. Buddhist teaching has 2500 years of history and what are the teachings in Buddhist literature? Can we build sustainable libraries using this teaching?

## Methodology

In this study based on descriptive methods. Mainly, Tripitaka books have been used for primary data. Secondary data were used in printed books, journals and internet resources. Based on Buddhist literature try to identify sustainable teaching related to the selected SDGs such as no poverty, quality education, good health and wellbeing, decent work and clean energy.

## Discussion

There are some key features that can be identified in Buddhist literature. According to the sustainable development goals librarian could build sustainable libraries using Buddhist teaching such as many Suttas clearly explain and find out many examples. As human resource managers in libraries, librarians can fulfil staff members' happiness. If the staff worked happily it would be an effective and efficient service for users. Morality is core to the Buddhist world view and is evaluated by skillfulness. In the field of library and information science discuss the competencies of staff. It's a very important factor. According to Buddhism, sustainable doesn't mean sustainable development in the modern sense. Rather, it is the ensuring of the appropriate mental wellbeing. Cultivation of Buddhist meditation activities among library staff members for mental wellbeing. In Sri Lankan context, some libraries organized those activities for library staff members as well as other staff members. In the libraries, knowledge management is very important for accessing information. Classification introduced by Buddhist literature for access to Dhamma.

If the staff members in libraries practice Noble Eightfold Path also will help to develop sustainable libraries. The paticcasamuppada explains the view of the environment. Human made ecological disturbances. Buddhist teaching on non-harming and non-killing. Specially protecting biodiversity and avoiding harm. As a community center library could convey a good message to society on how to adapt sustainable goal to our lives. The buddha paid his gratitude to the sacred bodhi tree and Vanaropa sutta in samyukta nikaya also well explained how to protect the environment. (Chandawimala Thero) Environment sustainability is a necessity for libraries. There is a strategy developed by librarian green libraries. Green libraries would help to save energy, reduce stress of users, save green environment etc. Kutadanta sutta in Digha nikaya and sigalovada sutta well explained decent work (goal no 8). It says how to assign duties according to the skills of the employee. This factor is also very important to the library's human resource management with a sustainable future. (Thi, Dhammahoso, & Piyabhani, 2019)

According to the Sumangalavilasani, Buddhist education explained four way of teaching. Those are Aththajjasaya, Parajjasaya, Attuppaththika, Pujjawasika (Sumangalawilasani, 1918) Librarians could follow the above steps and create quality and satisfied user service to their users. It can be used for understanding user

behavior patterns and assisting them according to their information needs.

The four principles of social conduct are the foundation for sustainable development. If each other's in libraries could follow principles such giving, pleasant language, engaging in meaningful, equality (Maddumage, 2008)

### **Conclusion**

The study revealed that the many Buddhist teaching in literature can be used for achieving sustainable libraries. As Buddhist country those principals with us and needed to be practical. Its timely needed apply those teaching as some libraries already arrange such programme preaching dhamma, meditation programme, green library concept, etc.; The positive attitude towards achieving sustainable libraries using Buddhist teaching needed.

### **Recommendations**

Libraries should arrange awareness programme for library staff to acquire knowledge Create awareness campaigns for library users to apply Buddhist teaching to build a suitable life.

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