# A Brief Glance at School Libraries and their Management: A Case Study in East Khozestan

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*Abstract*— In educational system, school libraries are a separable port of every school and their role in developing teaching concept and its content enrichment cannot be over looked. Considering school libraries importance as the most basic learning centers, makes school libraries attendants to take some appropriate measures or tactics. For taking appropriate measures it is necessary to collect data about the present situation, recognize and explain short comings and problems in order to reach a favorable result. The present study has been designed to achieve this goal, and its main purpose is creating a vivid and clear picture of the school libraries (especially high school) existing conditions and suggesting some solutions for these libraries optimizing in East Khozestan. In order to achieve this objective, a questionnaire in the form of 64 questions were provided and sent to the all (boys' and girls') high schools, in an intermidatory level. The result-base for analyzing data was the contained information in 64 questionnaires out of 67 questionnaires. The low percentage (7.8%) of high school not having library revealed that the majority of these high schools in this city (East Khozestan) did not have a library. Most of these libraries management (64.1%) was performed by instructors teaching Quran or psychological behavior and only (6.2%) of these high school libraries were managed by librarians. This issue reveals an important problem that unspecialized managers administer and control these libraries in East Khozestan.

*Keywords*– East Khozestan, High School Course, High School Libraries, Learning Centers, Library and Management

## I. INTRODUCTION

During the history of the training and educational organization, high school libraries were institutions rising from its heart. If we consider the main function of the training and educational organization, man cultural heritage transmission from one generation to other generations, high school libraries are surely the instruments of such an important and valuable transmission. The training and educational organization is the core of training specialized and semi specialized human forces and high school libraries are the center of growing and blooming such training. The youths and adolescences potential talents and aptitudes do not grow and bloom unless they will be placed in an educational center in which they think freely and comprehensively and conduct their conceptual and mental powers to correct and right direction

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without domination of teacher-oriented and traditional system force. Although in the modern system, high school libraries are an inseparable part of the training and educational organization, it should be acknowledged that, undoubtedly they have been separated from their main body (training and educational organization).

While high school libraries are considered as a heart for a dynamic high school, there are a lot of shortcomings and deficiencies to reach to favorable forms of libraries as learning centers in Iran. In center years, due to deficiencies, not paying considerable attentions and unfavorable condition in high school libraries, some investigations have been performed in different parts in Iran. It is essential to apply a kind of research to clarify the high school libraries conditions, for the sake of its physical atmosphere, equipment, specialized human force, resources and materials, services and the acquisition, in order to find their weakness and strength. It is obvious to functionalize consequences of such researches lead to a connection between high school libraries and high schools, in a form of creating an active learning center. Establishing active learning centers results in optimizing new training and educating methods to train innovative and self-guidance learners. The present study is an investigation on performed research consequences on high school libraries conditions to find a response to the question that: how are the present conditions of 64 girl and boy high schools in East Khozestan, with a view to physical space, equipment, specialized human forces, materials and resources, the acquisition, services and budget? A high school library is a collection of appropriate books which has an active, constructive and complementary role in training and education. Successful high school library activities are mixed with other educational activities in such a way that it is sometimes called "Instruction Material Center" or "Learning Resources Center" or "Media Center" [1].

Bab-al-Havaji considers modifying high school libraries as one of the basic goals to libraries as a creative learning centers. In his view, students in such a center can achieve an innovative and critical thought along with analyzing and learning comprehension based on continuous mental practices [2]. Fetzer defines library literacy as "learning basic skills on evaluating information". In his point of view, information literacy belongs to the group of abilities by which a person can recognize an information requirement effectively and evaluate it. Learning such skills is possible in a favorable center [3].

The purpose of the present study is explaining the existing situation in 64 girl's and boy's high school in East Khozestan and comparing research results with high school library standards and suggesting alternatives to desirable situation in the high school libraries in this city. In order to do that

previous studies and researches were investigated based on the research main indicators. These indicators include: specialized human force, physical appearance, resources and materials, set or acquisition, budget and services. Every library physical appearance consists of its building and equipment.

Examining suggested researches and reports from 1972 to 2001 on physical conditions and room and atmosphere carried out by [1, 2, 4-12] revealed that most high school libraries did not have a proper situation due to their room, atmosphere and physical conditions. Some of these libraries were even deprived of the most preliminary facilities and equipments which a library should have. The majority of these libraries have got very small spaces and unfavorable conditions. Most country high school libraries were kept away from meeting standards. In many of the understudy high schools, there were no separate places for a library formation. These school libraries consisted of a bookcase located in the school office. These situations revealed that a fundamental and total deficiency and weakness in supplying a least a proper and decent place for library-based institution in training and educational system in Iran.

The performed studies from 1972 to 2001, on specialized and educated human force indicators on the acquisition management and library resources carried out by [1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10-14] indicated that most of the school libraries lacked a specialized librarian and only a few of them had A.A or B.A degrees in library sciences.

One of the most crucial factors in a library evaluation and usefulness is its set or acquisition. A library acquisition is very effective in guiding and students' thought and personality formation.

The research consequences on resources [5, 8, 11-13] and the present acquisitions or sets revealed that, approximately, the ratio of books for every student is 1.5 to 2. In Bab-al-Havaeji's opinion, the most appropriate high school library acquisition or set is twenty versions per student, however; there should be at least one book for every student for depositing in a library [2].

Many performed research results on high school budget showed that budget does not have a consider status in high school libraries or if a topic is allocated to budget. Nothing is obtained schools [12].

## II. RESEARCH METHOD

The method of the present study is a descriptive statistical. To do that a questionnaire of mixed type containing 64 questions was prepared. The present research statistical population includes 32 girl's high school and 32 boy's high school libraries. In order to measure questionnaire was applied. The result of alpha Cronbach for the whole questionnaire was 85%. Analysis and data processing were done by SPSS software. Data analysis was performed by descriptive statistical methods.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Nearly 7.8% of the total sum of the under studied high schools in East Khozestan lacks libraries. This means that more than 900 of total student population are studying in high schools lacking libraries. 92.2% of these high schools contain a space or room for establishing a library. The total width of these libraries, in the present study is estimated about 1565 square meter. Considering the total student population (24896), there is only 0.06 square meter space or room for every high school student. In the majority of these libraries, the highest amount of frequency percentage is located in area between 12 to 30 square meters. While there should be 1.5 to 2 square meters space or room for every student based on high school library standards. Comparing the present research results with high school library standards indicates that the allocated space or room for every high school student in East Khozestan is very small. The allocated space or room for every student in this research is estimated as 0.06 which is compatible with 0.08m2 [15], 0.1m2 [9], 0.07m2 [12] findings.

High school libraries in East Khozestan are encountered with shortage of tables chairs and other library equipments. Considering the whole population in the present study, (24894), the total number of required chairs, appropriate for the mentioned population, based on standards should be about 2490 chairs and 623 tables. Whereas, it was revealed that there were only one chair for 50 students and only one table for 218 students. According to the present standards, the number of chair and table all over the country is lower than the standard limit. Only 6.2% of the whole under studied libraries have been managed by librarians 64.1% of high school libraries in East Khozestan have been controlled by educational instructors. The present study findings are compatible white researches performed by Izadi yeganeh [12] 1.6% and Salehpoor [11] 1.4%. Only 12.5% of these libraries supervisors have passed a very short–term library trainings. 56.3% of high school library supervisors in East Khozestan have a B.A degree and the rest have lower degrees. Furthermore, 32.8% of these supervisors' of libraries have the license in the field of Farsi literature, however; they work as educational or training instructors in high school in East Khozestan.

The set or acquisition of the present research libraries contain 95898 books, 1818 references, 27 newspapers and a computer. The obtained findings revealed that in the whole statistical population, there are only 3.9 books for every student. There have been 2 books per student in Isfahan, 2.7 books in Tehran, 2.8 books in Shiraz and 3.3 in Khoozestan. The existing numbers show a very significant difference between comparing the country standards and these statistics, It should be mentioned that the country standards consider 10 book volume for every student [10].

The investigation revealed that there is not any committee for book selection in any high school libraries in East Khozestan. Educational and training instructors select 43.8% of library materials. Student use books in 79% of the total under studied high school. Only 3.1% of libraries use scientific and standard subject classification for organizing resources and materials.

85.9% of the total high school libraries in this study use registration notebook and only 3% of understudied libraries

use catalogs for registering book characteristics or features.

68.8% of these libraries do not have any connection and collaboration with other libraries throughout the East Khozestan. 59.4% of the understudied libraries lack certain budget. 87.5% of these libraries possess student members and 12.5% don't have student members, considering the total number of the high schools. Only 7490 student of the total statistical population in these high schools of (24896 person) use library, this means that about30.1% of the total population use library, and it is trivial, considering the total. 29.7% only borrow books on 2 topics not more than.

28% of high school libraries in this study work according to the formal working hour of the high school. 20.3% of these libraries offer services during break time to the members. 34.4% of these libraries are managed by a close system and 54.7% are administered by open system. The present study finding did not confirm the study findings performed by Modir Amani and Farjam [10] which estimate 81% of the high school libraries in close system in Khorasan province. The obtained results are based on an open question in this understudy population. The findings show that there are some deterrent factors causing a lot of problem due to developing high school libraries quality and quantity features in East Khozestan.

These factors include: the shortage of equipments, financial deficiency, lack of specialized human force, lack of time, lack of resources, improper library space or room, students' lack of motivation for studying, supervisor lack of information about the library condition, using old-fashioned books in the library and not trying to use up –to-date resources.

By considering the analyzed data about the finding, it is recognized that the most crucial weakness, is due to in appropriate allocated space or room to high school libraries in East Khozestan (39.1%). based the most frequency percentage, the second highest rank refers to indicators such as; lack of proper atmosphere, lack of resources, financial shortage and lack of specialized human force.

## IV. CONCLUSION

The obtained results of investigating East Khozestan high school libraries conditions, revealed that approximately. There were 1000 students deprived from having a library in the high schools where they studied. There were not any tables, chairs, and shelves. The study hall did not have enough light for studying and there were not any heating and cooling equipments in these libraries. A majority of these libraries were managed by educational instructors. There was not any scientific and standard classification in most high school libraries in East Khozestan. Most libraries members did not use library because of its improper library service. The ratio of allocated resources and space per person to every student in high school libraries in East Khozestan based on research findings was very trivial and insignificant. There was not any budget amount allocated to high school libraries on behalf of education and training organization in East Khozestan. There was not any resource selection committee for making appropriate acquisition. Therefore acquisition quality was not based on student needs and choices. According to statistics,

book demand and borrowing rates and other in formative documents in the present research indicated that in many cases, there were not any correlation and harmony between on specific subject and students needs. Based on high school library supervisors viewpoints in East Khozestan, there were some suggestions in the preset study as follow: the first priority is allocated to improving acquisition quality by buying up-to-date books based on students need and requests. In order to execute this priority it is necessary to allocate appropriate budget in a separate section. Employing librarians as specialized forces and implementing regular educational plans, becoming familiar with resource management and library for unspecialized supervisors are ways resulting in optimizing and improving high school library conditions in East Khozestan.

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