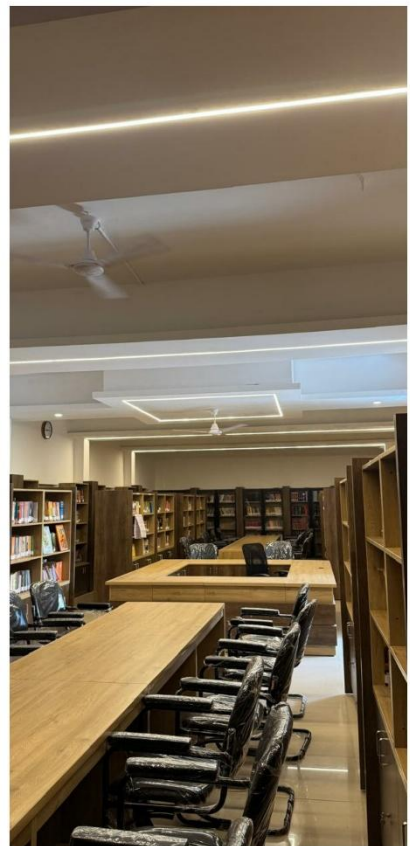
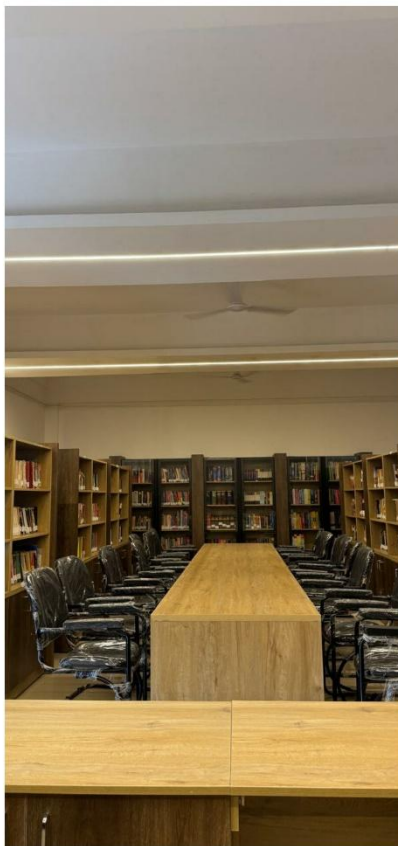


**“FROM BOOKSHELVES TO
KNOWLEDGE HUB: A CASE STUDY ON
LIBRARY RENOVATION”**



Case Study

Transformation Through Knowledge: Establishing an Automated Library at Govt. Higher Secondary School, Karakunnu

Theme for Case study: Building culture of innovation in the school And Empowering Communities and strengthening school- community relations

Introduction

Govt. Higher Secondary School, Karakunnu, situated in Thrikkalangode Panchayath of Malappuram district, Kerala, has been a guiding light of education since its establishment in 1974. From a modest beginning inaugurated by Hon. Minister Chakkeeri Ahammedkutty on 2nd September 1974, the school has gradually grown into a vibrant centre of learning. Today, it caters to more than 2,100 students across high school and higher secondary sections, guided by 100 dedicated teachers and supported by non-teaching staff. Majority of students come from backward and marginalised society. Over the decades the school has grown into a Beacon of Excellence which not only transmits academic knowledge but also nurtures cultural, social and moral values among students

This case study presents the journey of establishing a modern, technology-enabled library, which has transformed the academic environment of the school and empowered and strengthened the school- community relationship.

Historical Background

Before the establishment of Govt. HSS Karakunnu, the region was marked by extreme poverty and starvation which deeply affected the lives of natives and the area was socially, economically and culturally backward. And hence educational opportunities were scarce. The nearest high school was 10 kilometres away. Students often walked more than 20 km daily to attend classes. SSLC pass-outs were less than ten in number; graduates were extremely rare. No postgraduates existed in the locality, and girl students passing SSLC were the rarest of rare.

The arrival of the school lifted the pall of darkness, spreading the light of education and hope across Karakunnu and its neighbouring areas.

Key Strengths & Weaknesses of The School (SWOT Analysis)

Strengths

- Infrastructure & Smart Classrooms:
 - High School (HS) section is equipped with 29 Smart Classrooms, ensuring ICT-enabled learning.
 - Higher Secondary Section (HSS) has 16 Smart Classrooms, fully aligned with required specifications. High-tech classrooms with internet connectivity.
- Laboratories & Innovation Facilities:
 - Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) for budding scientists to experiment and innovate.
(School was recognized as the Best Tinkering Lab in the Innovation Fest 2025 highlighting its commitment to innovation and creativity).
 - HSS section has 4 subject-specific laboratories.
 - Room for National Service Scheme Activities.
 - Room for Aptitude Test under **K - DAT**
- Supportive Facilities:
 - Kitchen and dining hall providing nutritious meals.
 - Co-operative store to meet student and staff needs.
 - IED resource room and Counsellor's cabin for inclusive education and student well-being.
 - School bus for transportation.
 - Drinking water facility.
- Staff & Leadership Facilities:
 - Two well-furnished staff rooms for collaborative teacher work.
 - Principal's cabin to ensure effective administration.
- Community-Oriented Infrastructure:
 - Well-equipped auditorium with modern facilities for cultural and academic events.
 - Vast playground with stadium for sports and physical activities.
 - Open gym promoting health and fitness.

- Milma booth serving dairy products, connecting school to local cooperative sector.
- Sanitation & Inclusivity:
 - Adequate number of toilets and urinals for boys.
 - Girl's friendly toilets with incinerator and vending machine
 - Disabled-friendly Toilets and ramp for differently abled students, ensuring hygiene and inclusiveness.

Weakness

- Transport Facilities
 - Only one school bus is available, which is insufficient to cover the wide area of the Panchayath.
 - Students from remote area are not ready to come to our school due to lack of adequate transport facility.
 - Many students still depend on private transport or public buses, which may affect punctuality and attendance.
- Infrastructure Limitations
 - Limited number of classrooms to accommodate the growing student strength.
 - Library is functional but requires more updated books, journals, and digital resources.
 - Lack of ladies resting room, conference hall, Activity room.
 - Lack of drinking water facility in all blocks.
- Technology
 - Number of computers are not sufficient for the total student population.
 - Lack of sufficient number of projectors
- Student Support Services
 - Only one IED resource room, which may not fully meet the needs of all differently-abled students.
- Extracurricular & Co-curricular Activities
 - Sports facilities are inadequate (No Tennis or volleyball court, lack of modern equipment, lack of PET).

- Arts, music, and cultural activities may not have enough dedicated space or trainers.
- Staffing Issues
 - Shortage of subject-specific Permanent teachers (especially in higher secondary optional subjects).
- Financial Constraints
 - Limited budget restricts expansion of facilities and modernisation project

Opportunities

These are external chances or favourable conditions that the school can make use of:

1. Government & Educational Support

- Government schemes like *Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan*, Digital India and *Skill Development Programs* can be used to upgrade facilities.
- Training programs for teachers through SIEMAT and SCERT can enhance quality of teaching.
- Training programs conduct at school.



2. Community & Alumni Involvement

- Strong local community support (Panchayath, PTA, Well-wishers, Clubs) can be mobilised for infrastructure development.
- Alumni network can be tapped for scholarships, career guidance, and sponsoring facilities.

3. Expansion of Digital Learning

- Increasing use of ICT, e-learning platforms, and smart classrooms.
- Opportunities to integrate *AI tools, virtual labs, and online resources* into teaching.

4. Skill Development & Vocational Training

- Scope to introduce job-oriented courses, skill-based training, and tie-ups with nearby ITIs/polytechnics.
- Atal Tinkering Lab can be further developed into an *innovation hub* for neighbouring schools.

5. Collaboration & Partnerships

- Possible tie-ups with NGOs, higher education institutions, and private firms for student projects, internships, and exchange programs.
- CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) funding opportunities from local industries.

6. Cultural & Sports Growth

- Students' participation in *state and national-level arts/sports fests* can bring recognition.
- School can become a cultural centre of the Panchayath with local support.

7. Global Exposure

- Access to international-level online competitions, Olympiads, and innovation challenges.
- Exchange programs and collaborations through online platforms with schools abroad.

8. Sustainability & Green Campus

- Scope for eco-friendly projects: rainwater harvesting, solar energy, organic farming.
- Can become a model *green school* in the district, inspiring others.

The Vision

As the Principal, I strongly believed that a well-equipped library could change the learning ambience of the school. A good library, I felt, would not only benefit our students but also serve as a knowledge hub for the entire panchayath. A good library develops regular

reading habits extending beyond textbooks. It will be a centre of self-study and group discussions and research. Student aspiring for higher studies and competitive examinations gain access to resources unavailable in rural areas. Teachers can utilise it for academic enrichment, project guidance and advance reference. It also empowers and strengthens school and community relationships.

The Challenges

- Despite the academic progress over the decades, the absence of a functional library remained a major handicap.
- The High School section had a small collection of books in a dark room without proper light, seating, or journals. A teacher-in-charge acted as the part-time librarian, making access highly irregular.
- The Higher Secondary section had no library at all; a few books were kept in shelves, largely unused due to lack of a librarian and facilities.
- This deprived students of exposure to knowledge beyond textbooks and weakened the learning culture.
- Mobilisation of fund for the construction of a library was highly challenging.

Planning and Execution

A meeting of the PTA Executive Committee was convened where I presented this vision. The idea immediately received strong support, and all members expressed their willingness to collaborate.

The first major breakthrough came from the District Panchayath Division Member, Mr. Unnikrishnan, who assured financial support. Although fund for construction of library building was not possible, District Panchayath sanctioned ₹15 lakhs for interior furnishing and equipment, provided we prepared a suitable space for the library.

With determination, the Staff Council and PTA decided to convert the old Botany and zoology laboratories into the new library. Under **KIIFB** infrastructure development project a room with 40x20 specification had already been constructed earlier. The committee decided to shift Botany and Zoology labs to this room. But as the Hall was empty, next tiresome job was to furnish the lab and to instal necessary equipment in the lab.

We applied for allotment from education department for furnishing lab and purchasing lab equipment (G.O (Rt) No 3364/2022/G,Edn Dated 02/06/2022). And Government sanctioned 4 Lakhs. Using the fund, we furnished the New Biology lab and purchased enough laboratory equipment and accessories.

An amount of Rs.2 lakhs was estimated to transform the old Botany and Zoology labs into a spacious library by demolishing wall in between two rooms, plastering, tiling, and painting, there by we will get a hall of 60x20 dimension.

To mobilise funds for construction work, we sought support from PTA, staff and alumni networks.

Role of Alumni and Community Participation

One of the most significant turning points was the involvement of our alumni network. Two dedicated WhatsApp groups were created, attracting over 2000 former students. I personally shared the vision with them, promising that the library would serve not only our students but also university students and aspirants of competitive exams like IAS, KAS, NEET, and JEE. Their overwhelming response helped us mobilise substantial financial resources within weeks. Additionally, well-wishers and local organisations like the Social Clubs in the area, extended financial help.

Receiving contribution from Alumni



Receiving contribution from Social Clubs



Library Committee Visit

In order to gain deeper insights into the functioning, organization, and best practices of libraries, the Library Committee undertook a study visit to reputed libraries such as the Calicut University Library, Majmu Educational Complex, Malappuram and the Feroke College Library, Calicut.

The purpose of this visit was to:

- Understand modern methods of cataloguing and classification.
- Explore digital library facilities and e-resources.
- Study user-friendly practices for students and researchers.
- Learn about infrastructure, seating arrangements, and accessibility.
- Identify innovative practices that could be adapted to our own library.

This exposure inspired the committee to bring transformative changes to the school library and adopt a vision to make it modern, resourceful, and student-centred.

Renovation and Modernization of the Library

The transformation of the old Botany and Zoology labs into a spacious library hall with a dimension of 60 x 20 ft was successfully completed at a cost of ₹1.75 lakh, which was significantly lower than the initially estimated amount. Financial support from the District Panchayath Rs. 15 lakh is utilised for furnishing and beautification of the library.

To ensure smooth and efficient functioning, a computerised system with barcode scanners and library management software was installed. This marked a major shift towards digital library services, making the process of issuing and returning books more accurate and time-saving.

A full-time librarian was appointed to manage resources and provide professional guidance to students and teachers. The library is also equipped with a **conference and discussion facility** that can accommodate up to 32 persons at a time, encouraging collaborative learning and academic discussions.

Currently, the library houses a rich collection of **12,000 books** across diverse subjects. To ensure continuous enrichment of resources, it was decided that **each student should contribute one book on his or her birthday**. This unique initiative not only develops a culture of sharing knowledge but also creates a sense of personal belonging among students towards the library.

Furthermore, newspapers and journals began to be subscribed regularly under sponsorship support, thereby providing students with updated information, research material, and exposure to current affairs.

In addition, alumni and well-wishers generously contributed towards purchasing accessories and extra facilities, further enhancing the quality and utility of the library. Their support played a vital role in transforming the library into a vibrant learning hub for students. An alarm system is proposed to be introduced in the library by installing security chips, ensuring that no student can take a book out of the library without proper permission.

Inauguration and Functioning

The library was inaugurated with pride and began functioning as a state-of-the-art facility. It is spacious, well-lit, and technology-enabled. Separate reading areas are provided for high school and higher secondary students. Digital cataloguing, scanning, and issuing of books have made library use efficient and student-friendly.

Inauguration video Link

- https://drive.google.com/file/d/14G2GN28C1cfnAPZZ51fmG4hJo_BuKlO_/view?usp=drive_link
- https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uLNRksqYQTS_iPVAdjMh2GiaI10hDDs-/view?usp=drive_link
- https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uFqkFFRsMPjO3b36j6sa-WLW6FiUiwf3/view?usp=drive_link

Impact of the Renovation

- **Improved Reading Habits:** The attractive and well-furnished environment encouraged students to spend more time in the library, cultivating regular reading habits.

Academic and Co- curricular activities

Group discussions, News reading, preparing g Bulletin Board, review writing competitions, story discussion, Amma vayana, Reading Festival, interview with writers, Kavya Silpam are some of the activities we could conduct based on reading.

- **Enhanced Digital Literacy:** The introduction of a computerized system familiarized students with modern technology and digital cataloguing methods.
- **Research and Reference Culture:** With easy access to books and a smooth issuing system, students became more engaged in project work, reference studies, and self-learning.
- **Professional Guidance:** The appointment of a full-time librarian ensured expert support for students and teachers in selecting resources and enhancing research quality.

- **Collaborative Learning:** The conference facility, accommodating 32 persons, promoted group discussions, debates, and seminars within the library.
- **Community Support:** The involvement of alumni and well-wishers created a sense of ownership and strengthened the bond between the school and its stakeholders.
- **Model Library for Others:** The modernized library now stands as an example for neighbouring schools, inspiring them to adopt similar innovations.
- **Support for Higher Education & Competitive Exams**
 - Students aspiring for higher studies and competitive exams gained access to resources previously unavailable in rural areas.
- **Bridging Rural–Urban Gap**
 - The facility brought world-class learning opportunities to a rural setting, reducing inequality in education.

- **Teacher Enrichment**

Teachers utilise the library for academic enrichment, project guidance, and advanced reference, benefitting classroom teaching.

QUOTES ABOUT OUR LIBRARY

- *Our library is the heart of our school—beating with ideas, stories, and dreams.”*
- *“Every book in this library is a new teacher waiting to guide us.”*
- *“This library opens doors to both academic excellence and creative imagination.”*
- *“A library is not just about books; it is about building futures.”*
- *“Our library is a safe space where curiosity meets knowledge.”*

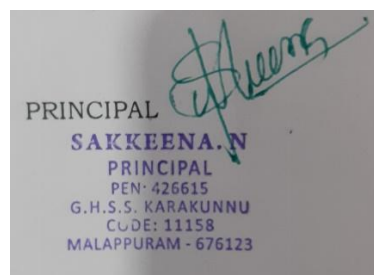
Student Motivation

- *“A student who reads today leads tomorrow.”*
- *“Books borrowed from this library will return as wisdom in life.”*
- *“Our library is the place where gadgets rest and minds awaken.”*
- *“Readers are not born; they are nurtured in libraries like*

Conclusion

The establishment of an Automated library at Govt. HSS Karakunnu which completed within a time span of one and half years , is not merely an infrastructural development but a transformative movement. This Library stands as one of the largest and technologically advanced automated libraries among Higher Secondary Schools in Kerala. The Library, I am confident, will also play a crucial role in de-toxifying students from excessive dependence on digital gadgets by cultivating meaningful reading habits. It reflects how vision, community participation, and collaborative efforts can overcome limitations of resources and bring lasting educational impact.

What once started as a dream has today become a shining example of how a school can inspire an entire community by spreading the light of knowledge.



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