

An Enjoyable Learning Times

Adilakshmi R

Assistant Librarian (Retired) Bangalore University. (acbsms@gmail.com)

I studied B.Lib.Sc., during 1975-76 and the entry was by chance. My interest was to go for M.Ed course after IT studied B.Ed. I missed the seat by one mark for M.Ed Course. During that time, the candidates were intimated about getting the seat by post with a week's time to join the course.

We always remember the teachers who taught us which include : Prof. P K Patil, Prof. H A Khan, Prof. Nagappa, Prof. TV Subramanyam, Prof. Raghavan, Prof. N B Pangannayya, Prof. Shalini Urs. Out of these seven professors, it is very sad that we are missing three of them as the will of nature desired.

The intake for this course was thirty students and we were twenty eight students, most of them were Master degree holders from different branches. Out of twentyeight students, nine were girls, namely Rajalakshmi, Janaki, Ushadevi, Gangamma, Sandhya, Aruna, Savithri, Chudamani and myself.

The one year B.Lib.Sc. course was a semester scheme i.e. two semesters. I got the highest marks in Cataloguing Practicals. During my stay in the department, the girls used to be together always and did combined study, made notes by referring books that were available in the library, ate together and went to canteen together. The treat used to be from the person who had more money in her pocket that day. We all thoroughly enjoyed our stay in the department.

All the teachers were very friendly, taught the

subject well and had great concern for students. Prof. Shalini Urs is remembered very frequently, because she used to tell us not to call her as Teacher/Miss. She had just entered as teacher for the



second semester course immediately after her Master's degree. She used to feel shy, if we called her teacher. She used to be with us after the class hours, discuss and chat during leisure hour.

During our course, we were supposed to go to other libraries once in a week for work experience. For this, five or six students were grouped together. Each group used to go to the allotted library and work there. The libraries that were allotted were CFTRI, CIL, Regional College, University Library etc. We had good exposure for having worked in different libraries.

Apart from work experience, we used to have weekly lectures from eminent personalities. Some lectures used to be very beneficial and knowledgeable. We benefited a lot from work experience and weekly lectures. Educational/ Study tour was part of B.Lib.Sc. course.

We had the opportunity of visiting some of the reputed libraries along with our teacher Prof. Pangannayya. To mention a few -- Bhaba

Atomic Research Centre (BARC); Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR); Mumbai; Bombay University Library; International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT); Osmania University Library, Hyderabad; British Council Library, Connemara Library, Madras University Library, Indian Institute of Science Library, INSDOC, NAL, ISRO, Bangalore. We would not have got the opportunity to visit some libraries individually, except for BARC and TIFR. Educational tour helped us to know, study and have practical knowledge of different kinds of libraries that were existing. Further, study tour helped us in our professional career, personality development, exchange of ideas and co-operative living.

Soon after B.Lib.Sc, I got my first job at Sarvodaya College of Education, Virajpet. I worked there for

two years and then joined S.L.N. College of Arts and Commerce, Fort, Bangalore. While working for S.L.N. College, I got a few offers for higher posts outside Bangalore, but I could not go as there was a commitment to stay at Bangalore. After serving for 4.5 years at SLN, I got a job in Bangalore University

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Library in 1982 and served there for 30 years. I did M.L.I.Sc course in 1986-87 on deputation. Now, I am retired from the services.

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Libraries are reservoirs of strength, grace and wit, reminders of order, calm and continuity, lakes of mental energy, neither warm nor cold, light or dark.... In any library in the world, I am at home, unselfconscious, still and absorbed.

Germaine Greer