



REPORT

Library Visit to Nagar Vachan Mandir

Date: 26/02/2022

Time: 11:00 am – 03.00 pm

Report Prepared By:

Readers Delight club

Report writing on Library Visit



Old Library- Poona Native General Library

- Pune Vachan Mandir is 170 years old library situated in the heart of Budhwar Peth in Pune.
- Founded in 1848, Pune Nagar Vachan Mandir in Budhwar Peth is one of the oldest libraries in India.
- The library was known as the Poona Native General Library and was located in Budhwar Wada at the time of its founding.



स्थापना- ७ फेब्रुवारी १८४८



Pune

Nagar Vachan Mandir

- ❖ **Organized By:** Zeal Group of Management Institutes (ZIBACAR, ZIMCA, ZCOER-MBA Dept.) Library-Readers Delight Club.
- ❖ **Purpose:** Personal Development, Unusual Discoveries, Opportunities to Bond with Like-Minded, Quiet Personal Space, Self Esteem.

- ❖ **Background:** Our college organized library visit for the purpose of the habit of reading or knowing about the very historic place which has scarce books as well as structure of library which very much resembles previous days.

Our college sent the mail to enthusiastic students who were very interested to visit the library in Pune. They provide us the information about where it is situated and how we should and what time we should assemble there. All students reported to the area on time i.e. 10.30 am on 26/02/2022, Sunday. In front of Pune Nagar Vachan Mandir Library in Budhwar Peth, Pune. All teachers guide us about disciplinary behavior which we have to perform over there.

- ❖ **Introduction:** Professor of Adarshalaya School Dr. Prasad Joshi sir come to greet us and took us to the main hall of the library. They had arranged the sitting arrangement very systematic manner. We all went there and took are places then Dr. Prasad Joshi sir felicitated the faculty of our college namely Prof. Bhaskar Lendve Sir, Prof. Sampada Deshmukh Madam, and _____and introduced himself and told us all about that how old that library was.

Then Vice charman of Library Balasaheb Deshmukh was passing by the window suddenly Joshi sir saw him and called him as he is very important person of that library. He introduce us to Mr. Balasaheb Deshmukh that he was coming over in the library since 55 years. We were glad to meet him. He gave us the blessing. After that Joshi sir continue with the history of the library.



Pune Nagar Vachan Mandir was established in an attempt to introduce modern education to the local population during British rule. A number of eminent personalities from Pune such as Justice Mahadev Ranade, Lokhitawadi Gopalrao Hari Deshmukh, Krushnashastry Chiplunkar, and Vishnu Moreshwar Bhide were involved in its establishment. It has been a hub ever since for literature enthusiasts and intellectuals in and around Pune.

Budhwar Wada, in which the library was initially located, caught fire in 1879 and the site was destroyed. After several temporary locations, the library was finally constructed at its current location as a two-storey building in July 1889. The building is now recognised as a Grade I heritage site by the Pune Municipal Corporation.



The library holds a vast collection of books in Hindi, Marathi, and English. These range in subjects and genres from science, history, and psychology to art, social sciences, politics, and children's books. An estimated 70,000–80,000 books and editions of around 70 different magazines and newspapers are found here. The library also has study material for competitive exams for students and a rare collection of reference books. Additionally, it offers a collection of Diwali Ank (a Diwali special magazine published by companies like Punyabhushan, Jatra, Akshardhara, etc.) from various publications every year.



The library spans two floors. The ground floor mainly comprises a reading hall featuring old paintings of leaders like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and V.D. Savarkar hanging on its walls. It also has a display board that is updated every month with a list of new additions to the library's collection.

The first floor features modular cupboards resembling racks that can be easily moved, opened, and closed. All of them contain books and are labelled with numbers that are fed into a computer software that allows the management to help readers easily access the books they need. Each section also has a tracking label pasted on it. These labels have the number of books issued, stolen, or misplaced from a particular section written on them. This floor also has a separate section for special days. The anniversaries of popular personalities in literature or special events are celebrated by placing related books in this section on those days.

The second floor is completely dedicated to English reference books. This floor is not accessible to readers but can be accessed by authorised library personnel. The reference books here are not allowed to be issued by readers either. If needed, they can be checked for availability on the computer, and read in the library. They must be returned on the same day. The English books in this library are limited to reference books only. A separate collection of around 16,000 books in English can be found at the library's extended branches in the city.



Interiors of Pune Nagar Vachan Mandir

Pune Nagar Vachan Mandir also conducts workshops, seminars, and other activities for its readers regularly. The library runs an initiative called Manasi Mahila Manch, wherein the women members of the library can indulge in a variety of activities aimed at improving reading and writing habits. These include reading or writing contests, literature workshops, and guest lectures.

The library has also opened branches in Bibwewadi and Warje in the last few years. The footfall at the main branch is around 300–400 people per day, and all the branches combined have a readership of around 3,000 registered members.



Entrance to Pune Nagar Vachan Mandir.

❖ **Membership:**

The membership fee is Rs 30 per month with a deposit of Rs 100. The fee to access the seminars and other activities organized by the library is Rs 50. This scheme also includes one hour of free internet and 18 hours of reading room occupancy. The fee to access the Diwali Ank collection is Rs 100 for five months. Non-members can also register to access the Diwali Ank collection with a fee of Rs 150 and a deposit of Rs 200. A member can issue three books at a time for the duration of one week. The library remains open from 9 am to 12 pm and 5 pm to 8 pm every day, except on Wednesdays. It also provides delivery services to its members across the city.

With the above information, Joshi sir even treat us to a small breakfast and cup of tea in between the session. When the session gets ended our teachers give a vote of thanks to the Library Members.



They also appreciate the work of Savita Gokhale Madam (Public Face) of the library. All the library members and students were so happy with such a great experience of wonderful things.

❖ Anandashram Sanstha

After such a great experience with Pune Nagar Vachan Mandir, our teachers took us to Anandashram Sanstha. To look for the exhibition of historic books. In the Anandashram there was a huge temple of Shiv Shankar and beside the mandir, there was the collection of old vessels and old things. In that Sanstha various rare books were exhibited we all were surprised with our ancestor's drawing and writing talent. We greatly appreciated our ancestors. We were amazed at the paper and pen they used.

Members of Anandashram Sanstha provide us guidance about the historic pages and writer and their intelligence. They keep a collection of very old articles, compositions, and contributions. We all were very enthusiastic about the old drawing and handwriting and their collection. For a while, we thought we were going back to antiquity.



At the end of the visit, teachers took us to Dagadusheth Ganpati Temple. That day was fabulous. Then we all go to our home and share our amazing experiences with family, friends, and colleagues.