

# Benefits beyond Borders - Improving Status of Museums - Time for Sustainability Initiatives through Inclusive Education Practices

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**Abstract --** This paper examines the need for focusing on applying inclusive education practices in promotion of awareness about museum management & museum administration. India is a culturally rich country with great historical legacy. The need for conserving Indian heritage is imperative because innumerable monuments and historical buildings are in a dilapidated condition. Every citizen needs to understand the significance of conserving nation's historical records, monuments and such other artefacts. Every citizen needs to identify his role as a genuine custodian of nation's historical past. Several countries across the globe have experimented museum management curriculum as a part of the general curriculum and have succeeded in creating awareness among students. The success of such experiments have heralded thought process where in educationists and academicians explored the ways of conserving the historical past of a country through inclusive education directed towards museum management. Museums which are considered as the repositories of a nation's cultural wealth and heritage are diverse in nature and diverse in their working. Invaluable historical relics, objects & ruins are conserved in museums, but the general awareness about the procedural upkeep of these precious possessions is very poor among students. Present curriculum does not support content on museum management. Through applying inclusive educational practices via comprehensive curriculum on museum management, millions of students can become responsive towards historical conservation & museum management.

**Indexed Terms --** Status of museums, inclusive education practices, responsive tradition, historical legacy

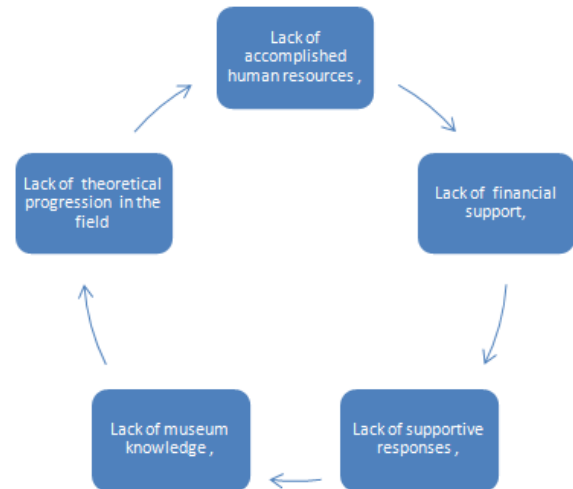
## I. INTRODUCTION

Museums are considered as the repositories of a nation's cultural affluence and heritage. They are varied in nature and dissimilar in their working. Invaluable historical relics, objects & ruins are conserved in museums, but the general awareness about the procedural upkeep of these precious possessions is very poor among youth. Present curriculum does not support content on museum management. Through applying inclusive

educational practices via comprehensive curriculum on museum management, millions of students can become responsive towards historical conservation & museum management.

## II. LACK OF SUSTAINABILITY OPPORTUNITIES

The research studies on museum management & applying inclusive education for sustainability have shown that



## III. BENEFITS OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN MUSEUM MANAGEMENT

Inclusive education in museum management and creation of sustainability helps the nation in general and following in particular

1. Academicians
2. Academic librarians
3. Archaeologists
4. Art Exhibitors

5. Art Conservators
6. Conservation officers
7. Curation officers
8. Gallery curators
9. Historical building curators
10. Heritage building managers
11. Manuscript conservators
12. Museum curators

#### IV. DELIVERANCE OF NEW SKILLS

Deliverance of new skills trainings which can be applied practically towards promotion of historical research becomes possible through inclusive education practices. Practical training to students towards historical research Promoting skill development among students towards taking up historical research Entrepreneurship development towards Job orientation with skill based courses in historical research.

#### V. VALUES ADDED COURSES

Higher education can support new initiatives in applying inclusive education practices in museum management through introduction of certificate courses. Certificate Course or add on courses can be supportive to academic learning as it helps in

1.	Art gallery management
2.	Historical Artefact Museum / Office / Library Management
3.	Historical Buildings Survey & Conservation Management
4.	Manuscript Conservation & Management ,
5.	Museology management ,
6.	Museum and Curation management
7.	Numismatic gallery Management

#### VI. CHALLENGES OF SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES

Poor awareness and inclusive education initiatives have been detrimental in the process of historical research. The declining rates of enrolment to social science subjects often hamper the progress of the

subject and love to pursue history as a major subject is declining. Higher education sector can support historical research through new and pioneering short term certificate courses & add on courses. Historical research has to be promoted because the lack of historical knowledge is leading to erroneous interpretation of history and also deliberate destruction of historical monuments. The awareness created through employment in this filed can support,

1. Documentation of the heritage sites is needed because all the community is responsible for knowing the list of documented heritage sites in and around their locality. Each individual needs to know the whereabouts of heritage monuments. Chronological listing of Documentation of all structures which are archeologically and historically significant. Documenting the aesthetic and architectural significance of all such structures will add to the awareness among all stake holders.
2. Formulating conservation plans through local and state level governing authorities will also support sustainable museum management policies which can be comprehended by all people.
3. Developing a strong and transparent heritage policies and regulations
4. Supporting heritage management with legal interventions to protect India's heritage whenever and wherever necessary
5. Provide expertise in the field of conservation, restoration and preservation of specific works of art
6. Encouraging capacity-building by developing skills through training programmes specially youth
7. Initiating emergency response measures during natural or man-made disasters
8. Creating special cell for supporting the local administration whenever heritage sites are encroached or destroyed
9. Fostering collaborations with private conservation offices / NGOs / curation inventories is very much needed
10. Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) and partnerships with government and other national and international agencies are considered as key aspect in Heritage management.

11. Generating National and International academic sponsorships for conservation and educational projects through scholarships and fellowships is also necessary.

VII. CONCEPT OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

The concept of inclusive education values diversity

1. Appointment of museum curation specialists: There is a need to arrange for specially trained museum curators in schools and colleges.
2. Parental involvement: Parental involvement is also necessary. Creating awareness for parents about conserving historical possessions. Parents have to be motivated to visit museums in and around their localities to know more about managing National identity through conserving of Nation’s historical belongings in good condition.
3. Need for inclusive curriculum: An inclusive curriculum with locally relevant themes needs to be inserted
4. Awareness training for teachers: Schools teachers also needs to be educated with suitable training in museum management and curation practices
5. Strengthening with Supportive funds: Schools and colleges need to be given suitable funds and sustainable financial support for such activities.
6. Role of stake holders: Enabling the community towards preparing community members towards All stake holders are responsible for needs to be aware of the legislations covering museum conservation protection legal mandates for inclusion

VIII. THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

The role of government is very imperative. Government needs to prioritize protection of relics, sculpture, heritage artefacts, monuments and such other objects of historical nature through involving all stake holders. People often think that conservation of monuments is the sole responsibility of the Government authorities. But all stake holders have equal accountability in conserving national heritage. Besides, monitoring government allied agencies which are answerable for implementing museum protection legislation work efficiently. Government

needs to invest substantial resources in applying museum management practices through

1.	Learning materials providing
2.	Equipment providing
3.	Revising curricula
4.	Providing training to teachers
5.	Improving infrastructure
6.	Implementing inclusive museum education courses universally

IX. FUNDING MECHANISM

If government can make arrangement for providing inclusive museum education at all level of education, it can prevent redundancy and parallel costs systems of museum running across the country. This cuts the costs of employing curator staff training infrastructure maintenance etc. An effective utilization of funds allocated for museum management is also necessary. Funding mechanisms needs to be reformed

1.	Advocating the recognition of children’s rights to be a part of school curricula.
2.	Funding empirical research
3.	Including financial support for curation organizations
4.	Support sustainable services like networking and learning opportunities for schools
5.	Strengthening civil society groups to create awareness among children
6.	Engaging civil society in policy making and museum management is needed
7.	Provision for technical support
8.	Strengthening to create awareness youth /parents /academicians
9.	development of key inclusive education related laws
10.	framing of policies at national level towards inclusive museum education

NGOs have a greater role as they need to support government and educational institutions with pilot models of successful inclusive museum management practices.

X. CONCLUSION

Thus deliverance of new skill trainings which can be applied practically towards promotion of historical preservation becomes possible through inclusive education practices. Practical training to students across all levels of schooling will be supportive to museum management custodianship. Promoting historical sense through museum management education will motivate students towards historical research as well.

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