A Big Reading Room in a Small Village: the Renovation Projects of Taiwan Public Libraries

Taiwan Government launched a four-year project entitled the Project for Improving Reading Environment and Facilities of Public Libraries (hereafter “the Project”) to renovate village/town libraries from 2009 to 2012. In four years, there are 143 village/town libraries completed their renovation.

The Project received positive responses from statistical data, librarians and patrons. It reveals that the average frequency of patron library visits per month after renovations is higher than before the project began, jumping from 1.44 times to 2.06 times. Also, time spent in the library by patrons increased from 2.44 hours to 3.11 hours. The results also indicate that patron satisfaction has greatly increased, with the highest satisfaction coming from children areas, youth areas, new collection display areas, and self-study areas. Furthermore, an improved reading atmosphere is the primary positive result of the Project.

According to the questionnaire, feedback from patrons are all positive. For example, visits per month at the library increased from 1.44 to 2.06; the time spent in the library increased from 2.44 to 3.11 hours. The results indicate that patron satisfaction has increased, with the highest satisfaction coming from children areas, youth areas, new collection display areas, and self-study areas. Furthermore, an improved reading atmosphere is the primary positive result of the Project.