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National Museum of Pakistan: Case Study

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National Museum Pakistan, Karachi. Case study

ABSTRACT

Libraries and Museums help create vibrant, energized learning communities. As steward of cultural heritage, information and ideas, museums and libraries have traditionally played a vital role in the helping us experience, explore, discover and make sense of the world. Museum play fundamental role in the archaeology, transforming the process of discovery into a long-term resources for reinterpreting the past.

Museums are the main source of the formal and informal education unfortunately in our society we neglected the role of museum as knowledge hub. NMP has valuable and unobtainable collections but mostly general public and students are unaware about these objects. This is very attractive place for students, local and foreign researcher and scholars of archeologist, historian, arts and social scientist to gain knowledge about old these objects. As learning institutions museum are not given respect. The scope of this study is to highlight the important and significant role of National Museum of Pakistan.

INTRODUCTION

Human heritage and its old civilization are being usually transferred from the one generation to another generation. The transformation of objects of old civilization and their culture, customs & any other historical monuments keep in museum. In this context role of museums became very significant.
Museum services are not just for the here-and-now, but also for posterity. The public interest in museums is not just in displays, but also in the fruits of research undertaken on museum collections. Collections may lack glamour, but they form the foundation of everything that museums do, both in research and in public education. Museums have historically been centers of research, education, and public outreach.

PURPOSE

Libraries and museums offer the public unprecedented access and expertise in transforming information overload into knowledge. National Museum of Pakistan, Karachi is very eye-catching place for students, local and foreign researcher and scholars of archeologist, historian, arts and social scientist to gain knowledge from these old objects.

LIMITATION

This study is to cover National Museum of Pakistan, Karachi which is its vast subject because of its contribution in historical research and rich collection to scholar know more about the archaeology, engineering construction, writing history, and culture information of different civilization. Therefore only following aspects of research have been taken into account:-

1. Brief and general introduction of Museum
2. General information of National Museum of Pakistan, Karachi
3. Galleries of NMP, Karachi at glance

METHODOLOGY

Basically the case study has been apply in this research with some other fact finding tools have been used in this research paper, were to complete the information following steps have been taken. A questionnaire form fills by the management. An Interview has also conducted to Mr Zubair Ahmed Madni, Mr Saeed Akhtar Librarian of National Museum of Pakistan, Karachi.
Searching also made through internet. Frequently visits were made for checking and ascertaining the information.

**MUSEUM**

It is evident by the history of mankind that the records of knowledge gained by him increased gradually. Man’s thirst of knowledge and his curious nature lead him from known to unknown and he tried to kept all the records he gained by the passage of time. Increase in knowledge made him more creative. He invented different methods and means to preserve these records. All these records generally preserved by the man of a specific age by himself, but used by the man of another age for the study of the past. Some times not only these records were used to understand the different culture or to study the anthropology but the real evidences buried in the sand or lost in the depth of the sea were also dug out by the archeologists. Need to preserve all these objects in some secure place was felt, hence the Museum emerged.

“A building or place where works of art, scientific specimens, or other objects of permanent value are kept and displayed”

**TYPES OF MUSEUM**

A Museum normally houses a core collection of important objects in it own field. Rapidly changes in all branches of Knowledge as same there are different types of Museum were built in last century. Museum can be distinguish by it’s collection of nature mostly museum are History Museums, Art museum, Science Museum, Military Museum.

**PURPOSE OF MUSEUM**

It is a hub of old human civilization, Archaeological, customs and culture. Archeological museum has following purpose:-

a. Safeguard Human Heritage
b. Access to Artifacts & Specimens

c. Collection of Inspiration for Learning

d. Transformation of Knowledge and Research

e. Promote tourism and culture.

f. Extra curriculum activities

**RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE OF PAKISTAN**

The cultural Heritage of Pakistan is spread over the thousand of years, starting from pre-historic time to the present day. There is plenty of evidence from the pre-historic and historic period to support to this argument, e.g. fossil jaws of apes, circa 14 Millions year ago found from photohar. They belong to “Sivapithecus Pakininsis”, said to be the ancestor of Man. A 2 Million Years old earliest stone hand axe. Now it is displayed in Islamabad Museum, Islamabad.

In subcontinent Madras museum is considered to be oldest museum in Indo-Pak which was established in 1818 by the British government. The legacy of our predecessors at the time of our independence, on August 14, 1947, came to us a treasure which may be called as Pakistan’s national heritage. Pakistani Nation can feel of proud it’s glorious Past, Pre Islamic and Post Islamic, period as far back as pre-historic times. Pakistan is equivalent the world oldest civilization like China, India, and Egypt etc.

In Pakistan, Museums are initially working with education ministry but later Department of Archaeological & Museum (DOAM) handed over to Ministry of Cultures. 12 Archeological Museums are controlled by the Federal Government of Pakistan. Besides, these museums near about 13 Archaeological Museums are working with provincial government ministry.
Government of Pakistan has constituted different rules for the protection of antiquities and excavation of archaeological site, the foreigner as well as the local organizations. List of these laws are known as under:-

1. Antiquities Act 1975
2. Excavation Ordinance for the 2001

There are 51 foreigners group and delegations are engaged in the excavation of different archaeological sites in Pakistan. Moreover, These Acts/Rules often antiquities are caught by the customs officials in different airports and ships.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PAKISTAN, KARACHI (PART 1 GENERAL)

National museum of Pakistan is the more prominent institution in the country. It contains a rich collection, of objects which portraits a colorful picture of Pakistani regions. National Museum having outstanding position from its national value.

LOCATION

The National Museum of Pakistan (NMP) is situated in the Burns Garden of and can easily be approached from all parts of the city. The Burns Garden forms a rough quadrangle encircled by Muhammad Bin Qasim Road and Din Muahammad Wafai Road, Sharah-e-Kamal Ataturk Road and Ziauddin Ahmed Road. The Public entrance is towards the S.M. Law College.

BUILDING

Originally, the Museum was established in the historical building of Jinnah Hall (formerly known as Farer Hall). Although it as an impressive building but hardly to meet the requirement of a museum. 1
Presently, Burns garden Building is a multistory building and consisted on four floors and different floors of building have different segment. The area of building is 3,888 sq yard. Only ground and first floor are used for the museum display galleries. The Building is specifically designed for the purpose of museum. There is a green lash Burns garden lawn has an area about 54,000 sq. yards.

**TIMING**

**a. For Museum & Display Galleries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAYS</th>
<th>TIMING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday to Tuesday</td>
<td>10 am to 5 pm</td>
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</table>

Display Galleries are closed 1 to 2 pm for Prayer Break & Lunch

**b. For Administration Office**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAYS</th>
<th>TIMING</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Monday to Saturday</td>
<td>8:30 am to 3 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>8:30 am to 12 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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**VISITORS**

Museum is center point of gathering objects, monuments, antiquities, etc. which often creates interest of general public, students, researchers, scholars and others. Following categories of users visit the museum frequently:-

- a. Students
- b. General public
- c. Foreigners
- d. Government and foreign Delegation/dignitaries
- e. Researcher/scholars
ENTRY FEES

Entry fees of the different category are mentioned below:-

1. Students alongwith teachers Free
2. General Public Rs. 10
3. Foreigners Rs. 200
4. Government Delegation Free
5. Researcher/Scholar* Free

*(Research base information provide by approval of competent authority)

About 2500-3000 students visit the museum monthly. Museum provides educational assistance to the students of Geography, History, Archeology and etc. 800-100 people, plus 150-200 foreigner/tourist and a number of scholars, researchers and historians also visit regularly.

STAFF

There are near about 122 staff approved by the Establishment division government of Pakistan for National Museum of Pakistan. Grade 18 to 17 superintend rank gazetted officer are appointed as director of the National Museum of Pakistan. Currently, Mr Imrani has working as Director and Head of the Department.

Except, the director, there are three more categories of staff

1. Museum Staff
2. Technical Staff
3. Administrative Staff

EXHIBITION
Exhibitions are also a very important activity of museums. National Museum of Pakistan, have organized different types of exhibition on various National and religious occasions. These exhibitions are arranged on Independence day 14th August, Pakistan day 23rd March, Birth & Death Anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Allama Iqbal and Koran Exhibition in the month of Ramzan.

These exhibitions are helping out introduce the museum and enhance the information and knowledge of general public. It is also an opportunity of marketing of museum.

LIBRARY

National Museum of Pakistan has a small reference library to facilitate scholar, researcher, students as well as museum staff. It has also very rich collection of Persian, Arabic, Sindhi, freedom movement of Pakistan. Library has no proper system of catalogue and classification. No proper attention has been paid on repairing and maintenance of library. Collections are very bad condition and need of binding and fumigation for their long life preservation.

LABORATORY BUILDING

The preservation and conservation is done regularly in museum. A laboratory was established by the Federal Government in 1983. This laboratory is located at the ground floor of National Museum of Pakistan, Karachi. This is the first paper conservation laboratory in Pakistan. Two conservation Laboratories were established one at Lahore Fort museums for objects and another at Texila museums for stone.

National Museum of Pakistan Conservation laboratory expertise in paper conservations and its related material manuscripts, books painting but it’s also supports to preservation and conservation of other museum objects.
QURANIC GALLERY

The Museum has a number unique, remarkable, antique collection of the Holy Quran. Quranic Verses are inscribed by the renown artist on the walls of gallery in different phonetic styles like Arabic, Persian, Nastaliq, Kufi, Turkish and Urdu languages.

The most eye catching volume of Holy Quarn is belonging to the period of Abbasi Caliph Mustasim Billah written by Jalal al Din Yaqut al Mustasimi in Nuskh Script. The different Gems gold, silver, copper are used ornament borders in pages. The Paper on which the ‘Surah’ is written had processed by some chemical technique and even today fragrance of rose. Undoubtedly, this is the finest example of book production of that specific period.

Presently, more than 50 rare copies of Holy Quran and hundred of Excavated from different sites are displayed in the Quran gallery and Islamic Arts, gallery inaugurated by the federal minister of Culture Aftab Jilani on May 24, 2010.

PRE-HISTORIC GALLERY

Pre-history period can be defined as the period before the invention of writing which is known as the Stone Age as well. In Stone Age, shapes and different symbols were used to communicate the message.

In pre-historic gallery, some objects like tools, stone, and bangles statues belonged the Stone Age is kept. Ruins of Moen Jo Daro the oldest civilization were discovered in 1922 near Larkana, Sindh to portray the original culture of this remarkable civilization and the heritage of our society. In a closed case life of Moen Jo Daro was displayed very elegant style which is the focus point of every visitor who enter in this gallery.
PROTO-HISTORY GALLERY

After the invention of writing in Greek the record of knowledge is preserved in writing from this period is known as proto-history and cover the period from (2600 B.C. to 1700 B.C.). Indus valley civilization is belonging to proto history it is also referred as Matured Harappean. This is also a significant period of Pakistani History. The ruins of Harappa were first noted by Charles Massin he made various journeys to Balchistan and narrated his finding. On his finding excavation of the site was started in 1922. According to his finding the historical result of Baluchistan are divided into different region.

History of Cholistan (2100 to 1600), (CHANHUNDARO 2000 to 1500 B.C.), Moen Jo Daro and Harappa and different antiquities object i.e embroidery work, pots, bangles, toys, made form the mud are presented.

The famous statue of “Dancing girl of the Moen Jo Daro” attracts to the visitors in this gallery.

LATE HARAPPEN GALLERY

In this gallery the objects and statue are kept of late harappan. However the statue of a Moen Jo Daro Presit King is also kept in this gallery. The most significant unique feature of this statue is that he has shown wearing a Sindhi Ajrak, which is a most popular tradition of the sindhi culture even today. It also reflects that sind has very old culture heritage.

Finding from the LOEBANR II 1700- 1400 B.C. and Zarif Karuna 1600-1200 B.C. periods are also kept in this gallery. Some Portraits are also displayed on the wall out side of this gallery.

GANDHARA GALLERY
“Gandhara is the ancient name of a territory comprising the Peshawar and Rawalpindi districts of northwestern Pakistan. A cross road of commerce meeting ground of three culture world India, Central Asia, and middle East- Gandhara developed a distinctive electric style of art in which some of the earliest image of the Buddha were made. During the Alexander the Great’s attacked of north India (327-325 B.C.) Excavation at Taxila reveal that after the Asoka the area was successively occupied by the Greeks, Central Asia, Scythians, Parthians, and Kushans.

Buddhism was adopted as the state religion which flourished and prevailed here for over the 1000 years, starting form the 2nd B.C. until the 10th century A.D. in this time period Taxila, Swat and chrsaddah (old Pushkalavati) became the three important centers of the culture, trade and learning Hundreds of monasteries and stupas were built together with Greek and Kushan town such as Sirkap and Sirsukh both in Taxila. From this center of a unique art of sculpture originated which is known as Gandhara Art all over the world. Today the Gandhara sculptures occupy a prominent place in the Museum of England, France, Germany, U.S.A, Japan, Korea, China, India and Afghanistan together with many private collections of world over as well as the museum of Pakistan.

Rich collections of Ghandhara art are also display in National Museum of Pakistan, Karachi. Some Stupas and Buddha are also displayed that it creates an as atmosphere of a temple. These Stupas are also kept in open cases even visitors are all to touch and take snaps (with permission).

ISLAMIC ART GALLERY

Islamic art gallery has very rich collection from Muhammad Bin Qasim 712 A.D. to last Mughal Empire Budhar Shah Zafar 1836 A.D. This gallery provides a clear picture of the history of Muslim rulers who ruled in sub-continent near about 1100 years i.e. Muhammad Bin Qaism,
Qutub uddin Abic, Muhmud Ghazanivi, Baber, Jahnagir, Shah jahan, Akbar, Sultan Nisar, Aurgang Ziab Alamgir and others. Significant objects of Muslim culture consists of calligraphy, painting, Handy crafts, Vases, architecture, pots, toys, tools, weapons use in war, embroidery dresses of Islamic period etc. Presently, Islamic art gallery is renovated by the ministry.

**COIN GALLERY**

Among the other relics of the past, coin occupy an eminent place. These are of the basic sources of history. They are reflected the political, social and cultural activities of a nation. The Numismatic Department of the National museum of Pakistan possesses about the Ninety thousand of ancient Coins in its collection belonging to different periods. The credits acquisition of these invaluable treasures goes to entirely to Museum Acquisition committee, an honorary powerful body constituted by the government of Pakistan for the purpose. The history of coinage is traced back to about 6th century B.C.

**FREEDOM MOVEMENT GALLERY**

Freedom gallery is decorated from the portrait of the freedom movement prominent leader from Sir Syed Ahmed Khan to all including female renowned leader like Fatima Jinnah, Begum Shaista Ikram, Begum Rana Liaquat Ali and etc.

Some personal belonging of founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muahmmad Ali Jinnah are also display in this gallery. In personal belonging of founder of Pakistan are Note Book, vase, Indian Map, Cigarette, Key Lockers. Coat, Pants, shirts, also kept in separate case. Sofa set along with table also display in this gallery which is used by Quaid-e-Azam.

Some personal belonging of First Prime Ministry of Pakistan Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan has also kept in a display case wrist watch, lighter, stick, flag, cuff buttons.
There are few books about freedom movement are also kept in this gallery like “Asbab Baghat ul Hind” by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan India Muslim League Report 1914 other related. There are some frame pages closed in another case where student of All India Muslim League of Allahabad and Bihar wrote Pakistan Zindabad form their blood.

ETHNOLOGY GALLERY

Ethnology gallery has collection about different ethnics groups and tribesman which live in this region. Culture of our provinces /tribe and their lifestyle are displayed.

POSTAL STAMP

Museum has a good collection of postal stamps but these stamps are not shown in any gallery. All these stamps are kept in a store of Museum and display only different occasions like Independence Day, Pakistan Day, Defence day, Quaid-e-Azam day and Iqbal day etc.

FINDING

National Museum of Pakistan limited resource doing a remarkable job. The organization and systematic display of valuable historical objects is done impressively.

Although like all other resources items is marked as shortage of funds. But the staff have fulfill their responsible and to guard the heritage of the nation with loyalty. We as a nation with the service of National Museum with can proudly claim to be a conniver, nation from the beginning of the pre-historic period of mankind to ethnological age. In their Nine galleries, the collections of unobtainable and exists Quran Hakiam, Coins, Objects, antiquities, toys, tools, Stupa from Moen jo Daro, Taxila, and Harrapa (Civilization of Indus Valley), Pakistan Freedom movement, Picture, Portraits and other valuable and obtainable objects are displayed.

According to their experts proud of history it is in fact with all shortcoming and (not may) serving the student, scholars, and researcher as an institutions of this kind should serve.
However, the most attemptable point is that National Museum of Pakistan needs publicity, even there is no official website developed yet. Sincerely lack of Printed information material i.e. brochure, booklets, guide books is obvious.

CONCLUSION
The conclusion of this case study is indicating the following:-

STRENGTH
1. It is a federal government organization therefore it has a legal existence and support.
2. As Pakistan belongs to a center of old civilization Moen jo Daro, Harappa, and Taxila, further ruins of there are found National Museum of Pakistan. Objects a valuable and rear some of them can not be found any where else in this world.
3. The present building is a sustainable feature in protection and security of the valuable objects.

WEAKNESS
1. Timing is not suitable for the general public 10 to 5 mostly public are engaged in offices and students are in school colleges etc.
2. Ignorance of Government officials.
3. Lack of Publicity.
4. Insufficient equipment and resource for laboratory.

OPPORTUNITY
1. Interest of People specially the students in history maker a good opportunity to the great support.
2. Evolving of a global society restriction the researcher and scholars from the other parts of their world to tear out the roots of civilization in National Museum of Pakistan.

THREAT
1. Shortage of funds is a reason for the poor condition.
2. Shortage of skill staff and experts.
3. Fear of damage because of poor maintenance.
4. Lack of facilities for the users.

RECOMMENDATION

To cover the weakness and to utilize the opportunities and challenge the threat the following steps are recommended:

1. As it is a Government organization the Department of Archeology and Museum (DOAM) must pay due attention to the museum.
2. Funds must be increased periodically the balance of inflation and growing needs of the museum.
3. Number of staff must be increased.
4. Training must be provided to growing and developed the available human resources.
5. There is a land available area present building construction must be made in from of Halls to extend the display space.
6. Timing must be revised according to convince of the public.
7. A plan for the publisher material publication of guide books, pamphlets, newsletters, and documents must be developed and updated them.
8. Website must be developed to introduce the passions of National Museum of Pakistan.
9. Measures should be taken to increase of Income of the Museum like the construction of an auditorium on the land of Museum will produce the regular income in form of Rent.
10. Last but not least is that 18th May observed the world museum day has celebrated all over the world but there is no enthusiastic participation shown by the National Museum of Pakistan. Cultural Program must be arranged and free for all open this day.

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