LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE EDUCATION IN INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ORISSA STATE

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ABSTRACT

This paper sketches the emergence of library and information science (LIS) education in India with a special reference to Orissa. It describes the current status, as well as the historical framework on LIS education in India in general and Orissa in particular. This paper attempts to analyze the information available in the LIS departmental website of Orissa’s universities.

Keywords: Library Science Education; Orissa Education, Orissa, India

LIS EDUCATION IN INDIAN SET-UP

India is an ancient civilization with a rich ancestry of cultural heritage. To visualize this, Library always plays an important role and to sprint the Library, LIS education is utmost necessary. LIS education is being imparted in India since as early as 1911 when the first Library School was started in Baroda, in the state of Maharashtra with the direct royal patronage of Sayaji Rao Gaekwad II. Prior to LIS education in Baroda, the first training class in India had been imparted at Imperial Library (Now National Library) Kolkata, in 1901 by John Macfarlac.

In 1915, it gained the first-time university patronage under the umbrella of Punjab University, Lahore (now in Pakistan). Starting from Certificate and Diploma Courses, Indian universities gradually started offering Bachelor’s and then Master’s Degree in LIS. The first PhD in LIS was awarded to Dr. D B Krishna Rao in 1958 by the University of Delhi. India is gradually emerging as a key player in the LIS education scenario.

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Presently in India, LIS education is imparted through more than 118 universities and institutions. A total number of 105 universities provides Bachelor of Library and Information Science (BLIS) courses, 78 universities provide the Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) courses, 21 are offering two-year integrated courses, 16 universities provide M.Phil in Library and Information Science, 46 universities provide Ph.D in Library and Information Science and 2 Universities provide D.Litt Degree. Besides this, the National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR) which was earlier known as the Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC), New Delhi, and Documentation Research and Training Centre (DRTC), Bangalore, provide Associateship courses in Information Science,
which are equivalent to the MLIS degree [1]. The Distance Education Courses run by the National Open Universities started with the exertion of Indira Gandhi National Open University which has started Bachelor’s Degree in 1989 and Master’s Degree in 1996. State Open Universities like Netaji Subhas Open University (West Bengal) and several other universities started offering LIS courses in the distance mode.

Presently the following LIS courses are available in India:

- Certificate course in Library and Information Science (C.Lib.Sc)
- Diploma in Library and Information Science
- B.Lib.Sc. /BLIS (Bachelor Degree in Library and Information Science)
- M.Lib.Sc. /MLIS (Master Degree in Library and Information Science)
- PGDLAN (Post Graduate Diploma in Library Automation and Networking)
- M.Phil (Master of Philosophy) in Library and Information Science
- Ph.D (Doctor of Philosophy) in Library and Information Science
- D.Litt in Library and Information Science

EDUCATION IN ORISSA

The name Orissa is derived from the Sanskrit Odra Vishaya or Odra Desa. Both Pali and Sanskrit Literatures mention the Odra people as Oddaka and Odrah, respectively. Orissa located between 17° 49'N to 22° 34'N latitude and from 81° 29' to 87° 29'E longitude on the eastern coast of India. West Bengal in northeast, Jharkhand in the north, Madhya Pradesh in the west, Andhra Pradesh in the south and the Bay of Bengal in the east bound it. Orissa was separated from Bihar and came into existence on 1 April 1936. The capital was established at the historic city of Cuttack, located at the apex of the Mahanadi delta. In 1956, it shifted to Bhubaneswar [2].

Historically, Orissa has been at the forefront of education and research. The ruins of a major ancient university, Puspagiri, were recently discovered in Orissa. Scholars from faraway lands, such as Greece, Persia and China used to study philosophy, astronomy, mathematics and science at this famed University. Along with Takshashila and Nalanda universities, Puspagiri was among the oldest universities in the world. All three universities were mentioned by the Chinese traveler Huien Tsang, who visited India in the 7th century, but unlike the others, the whereabouts of Puspagiri University were unknown until recently. As of 2009, the ruins of this university have not been fully excavated.

Orissa's education prospered under Hindu and Buddhist rule. However, it went into a period of decline under the Sun dynasty, after 1568. The Muslims and the Marathas, who occupied Orissa before the British, did little to spread education. Before the creation of modern Orissa, the mainstay of the education system were the Sanskrit Pathsalas, and the Maktabs, which existed in Cuttack, Balasore, Puri, Angul and Sambalpur, local Chatasalis to cater to grassroot level education, as well as advanced centers of Oriental learning [3].

The major universities in Orissa include Berhampur University, Biju Patnaik University of Technology, Fakir Mohan University, Kalinga Insitute of Industrial Technology, National
Institute of Technology, North Orissa University, Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Sambalpur University, Shri Jagannath Sanskrit Vishvavidyalaya, Utkal University and Utkal University of Culture. Although the federal government in New Delhi has so far denied Orissa any educational institution of national importance, Orissa has witnessed the rise of several prominent academic institutions, mainly through private participation. The upcoming educational institutes include Vedanta University are National Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhubaneswar (NISER), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). The overall literacy rate in the state is 63.61% as per census of 2001 with male literacy at 75.95% and female literacy at 50.97% [2].

LIS EDUCATION IN ORISSA

The LIS education in Orissa has come into existence during 1967-1968, when SKDAV Polytechnic for Women, Rourkela introduced a two year post metric diploma course. The course was conducted by the State Council of Technical Education and Training under the administrative control of the Department of Industries, Government of Orissa. Later on the board of secondary education of Orissa, Cuttack started a one year post-matric certificate course in Library Science in 1974, but it could not been continued for more than a year. This paved the way for starting another post-matric certificate course by the Utkal Library Association during 1978-1979, but in 1987 it was discountinued due to certain reason.

Since 1984, the Berhampur University has been running a one year post-matric certificate course at the college of Library and Information Science of Sanjaya Memorial Institute of Technology (SMIT), Berhampur, Orissa. The Shailabla Womens College, Cuttack stood next to introduce Library Science as an optional subject at the intermediate and the graduate levels. Following this, the Kendrapada college, Cuttack, The Carilapatna College, Cuttack, The Chandibali College, Balasore and the Vedavyas College Rourkela started Library Science as an optional subject at the +2 and +3 level respectively. Presently the subject of Librarary Science is being taught as a vocational course at +2 level in some higher secondary school of the state. The Shailabala Women College offer LIS Course at +3 Degree level both at the pass and Honours stage. The Chandibali College has introduced LIS Course as a Foundation course at +3 Degree level. Some other colleges in Orissa are also trying to offer the course at +3 Degree level.

The Bachelor of Library and Information Science (BLISc) was first started in Orissa, by the Sambalpur University in 1976. It was followed by the Utikal University in 1981. Besides, the BLISc course is also being conducted by three affiliated college such as

1. College of Library and Information Science, AWDI, Rourkela, affiliated to Sambalpur University.
2. Pandit Nilakantha College of Library and Information Science, Bhubaneswar, affiliated to Utkal University.
3. The College of Library and Information Science, SMIT, affiliated to Berhampur University.

In addition to these universities Indra Gandhi Nagtional Open University (IGNOU) as a study
center at Bhubaneswar, which is offering BLISc Course, since 1989, at the Khalikote College Berhampuur since 1993 and Gangadhar Meher College, Sambalpur. The MLISc course was first started in the Utkal University in 1983. The Sambalpur University introduced it in 1985. SMIT affiliated to the Behrampur University has started this course since 1993. North Orissa University has started this course during 2003.

The research work leading to the PhD degree in LIS is being carried out following three universities:

1. Sambalpur University
2. Utkal University
3. SMIT, Berhampur University

The growth of the LIS education in Orissa this has been at the following three different levels:

1. Post-metric course through different institutions, run both by the state government and the universities
2. Library Science as an optional subject in the general colleges of the state at +2 and +3 levels.
3. B L I Sc. and M L I Sc. courses conducted by the state universities and their affiliated institutions.

**The courses are as follows:** Table (1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S NO</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Course Duration</th>
<th>Entry Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Certificate Course</td>
<td>one year</td>
<td>10+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Diploma in LIS (Polytechnic course for women)</td>
<td>two years</td>
<td>10+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Library Science as a vocational course</td>
<td>One year</td>
<td>10+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Library Science as a subject at Degree level</td>
<td>Three years</td>
<td>10+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bachelor of Library and Information Science (B L I Sc.)</td>
<td>One Year</td>
<td>Degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Master of Library and Information Science (M L I Sc.) - Integrated</td>
<td>Two Years</td>
<td>Bachelor of Library &amp; Information Science (B L I Sc.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Research programmes**

1. M Phil Degree in Library and Information Science
2. Ph.D Degree in Library and Information Science
3. D.Litt Degree in Library and Information Science

These LIS courses meet the needs of the state and the nation as whole with regards to the qualified personnel.
Professional activities

The academic and professional activities of individual teachers have contributed a lot towards the development of LIS education in Orissa. Besides their teaching work, the teachers are actively engaged in their personal research, contributing research papers to the professional literature and actively participating the professional seminars and conferences. Most of the LIS teachers after having completed their Ph.D. programme, have accepted the enrollment of Ph.D. Scholars under their guidance.

LIS Departments in the universities of Orissa: A Web study
Investigators have made a humble attempt to visit the website of the LIS department of all the four universities and collected the available information and presented in the table (2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Available</th>
<th>Dept of LIS, Sambalpur University</th>
<th>Dept of LIS, Utkal University</th>
<th>Dept of LIS, North Orissa University</th>
<th>SMIT, Berhampur University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Staff</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Staff</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses Offered</td>
<td>Ph.D., M.Phil., MLIS, PGDLAN</td>
<td>MLIS, Ph.D.</td>
<td>MLIS</td>
<td>Ph.D.(Part Time), MLIS, BLIS,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Area</td>
<td>2200 Sqft. (Approx.)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book and Journal Information</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UGC-DRS-SAP Identified</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information on Workshop/Seminar/Project</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Publications Information</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The above table indicates that the website of LIS Department of Sambalpur University is more informative as compared to other three. However, the investigators found that the websites are not frequently updating, which obstruct the availability of latest information on LIS education.

MARKET TRENDS OF LIBRARIANS OR INFORMATION SPECIALISTS IN ORISSA

One of the reasons to keep up with the new trends of information society is to provide the students wider chance of employment and job opportunity. The teachers sensed that the job market is in need of information services staffs, but it also needs staff with new information technology competency. They also sensed that the up to cutting edge technology may bring good opportunity, but, the basic foundation of humanity and liberal arts and/or managerial skills will be needed after the entry level for LIS professional. Market trends of librarian or information specialists pointing at the “Information Contents” and its related knowledge and skills. With up to date information skills, the libraries may not be able to utilize their intelligence learned from schools, thus, recent graduates now turn their directions to corporate sector, private firms, and working as information specialist which pays better than libraries of different kind [4].

CONCLUSION

Since the authors are from Orissa state and have been involved in different LIS education activities, based on this, some suggestions have been made to improve the quality of LIS education. These are:

1. Latest IT infrastructure should be implemented in the computer laboratory of LIS department so that students will be well versed with those technologies and compete with today’s LIS-IT market.
2. The syllabus at all levels should be updated regularly and areas of Information science should be correlated with those of Library science.
3. National centre for education and research should be established to plan and coordinate cooperative programmes, like exchange of personnel, curriculum planning, extension lectures, continuing education programmes, etc.
4. The quality of teaching staff should be improved.
5. Seminars, tutorials, assignments and field tours should be effectively integrated with curricula involving outside experts and agencies.
6. To improve quality of research, talented scholars should be provided financial assistance by research organisations.
7. Interactive and informative website should be created for the LIS departments who are giving LIS education, to interact more students towards LIS education.

References: