A SURVEY OF COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN ANDHRA UNIVERSITY AREA

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ABSTRACT

This paper deals with the existing conditions of 216 degree college libraries in Andhra University Area. The author used a questionnaire tool to get data from the college libraries covered under the study. This survey attempts to measure the library resources and services, physical facilities and ICT facilities in the college libraries. Further the study aims to find out the solutions for the improvement of the college libraries.

Key Words: Library surveys, Academic libraries, College libraries.

INTRODUCTION

Recording and storage of knowledge is essential not only for the present generation but also for future generations. In ancient times, people used to store the knowledge in their brains and whenever it was required, they used to recall the same. But as time passed, the quantity of knowledge increased, which made it difficult to store and to remember and the man was forced to develop the record system on materials. The recorded thought is to be organized in such a manner, so that it can be disseminated in minimum loss of time. This led to the birth and development of libraries.

Library is the essential of any academic institution and can hold the knowledge hidden in documents. The college library is an indispensable agency for imparting education to the people and capable of enabling them to learn more and more. It enhances the spirit of learning throughout life.

In the present days, explosion of knowledge in every field accompanied by growing pressure for services of various kinds on the libraries in academic institutions, the utility and role of libraries in academic institutions has been growing steadily in recent times. However, a good number of college libraries facing problems like inadequate financial resources, insufficient staffing, lack of physical facilities, uncooperative attitude of supporting staff and
management, lack of professionalism on the part of the librarians etc. This makes the user unhappy in serving them to the desired extent. Micro studies enquiring into various facets of the functioning of college libraries are likely to focus light on the deficiencies in their working and could therefore be helpful in evolving stable suggestions for improving college libraries.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Hingwe (1969) makes a study of 44 libraries of the constituent and affiliated colleges of Poona University in order to find out the adequacy or otherwise of the library facilities for the teaching programme.

Girija Kumar (1980) makes a study of college libraries, administering questionnaires to various user-groups with a view to formulate standards for the college libraries in the country.

Sreepathy Naidu (1980) surveys college libraries affiliated to Andhra and Osmania Universities in order to formulate certain standards and norms that would help achieve and facilitate effective functioning.


Kumar (1986) studies about the potentiality, existing situation and status of the libraries of college affiliated to Gulbarga University and make a number of observations and suggest various measures for improving the working of the libraries.

Joshi (2001) was gathered information about Veterinary College Libraries in Maharashtra through questionnaire. Book collection was found inadequate to meet information needs of the users and its growth was very slow. Journal subscription was not satisfactory, libraries were understaffed.

Varalakshmi (2003) evaluated the Indian Library Standards and made a comparison with other available standards. Based on the comparison she suggested that the library should develop a strategic plan, a library advisory committee with the librarian as convener, enhancement of financial resources, introduction of computer based services, long and short run financial plan on revenues from state Government grants, fee for library service, open access, importance of non-print media, multimedia, organization of materials on DDC and AACR, part of network, 1500sq. ft. minimum space of library building, a minimum of 10 hours opening of library and weeding of out-dated and worn out materials once in 5 years. A survey was conducted by Sharma and Singh (2011) studied the status of college libraries Karnal (Haryana) pertaining to the library collection, membership, library finance, networking; automated system, internet facilities and other library services provided in these libraries. The study is based on the survey of college libraries located in Haryana and presents the analytical and comparative study of physical infrastructures, ICT facilities and services.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY
The following are the specific objectives of the present study:

1. To identify the differences in existing conditions of college libraries under different managements;
2. To examine the Organisational set-up, physical facilities, their staffing pattern and finance of the college libraries;
3. To examine the library automation in Degree College Libraries;
4. To examine the satisfaction of degree college librarians with regard to their job;
5. To make feasible suggestions on the basis of the findings for improving the working of degree college libraries.

METHODOLOGY

The following methodology has been adopted for collection of data about degree college libraries.

SAMPLE SELECTION

The entire area of Andhra Pradesh is divided into three subareas viz., Andhra University area, Sri Venkateswara University area and Osmania University area. The Andhra University area covers the districts of Prakasam, Guntur, Krishna, East Godavari, West Godavari, Visakhapatnam, Vijayanagaram and Srikakulam. There are 519 colleges in the study area. Among them 296 colleges are affiliated to Andhra University and the remaining 223 colleges are affiliated to Acharya Nagarjuna University. Copies of the questionnaires were distributed personally and through post of the librarians of all these colleges. However, the investigator obtained responses from 216 librarians only (i.e., 58.28 percent of total colleges). Annual reports of these two universities have also been utilized for getting the required information.

COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OF DATA

Survey method of research has been used in the present study. A questionnaire was designed for collection of data from the librarians. As the respondents were highly conversant with English languages, questions were prepared in English language. The questions were prepared in a very simple language so that the users could understand them easily and could fill them fast. The questions were of the type of specific informative, which call for a specific item of information or questions with yes or no answers or multiple answers. The questionnaire consists of questions pertaining to the acquisition, collection, classification and cataloguing, physical facilities, library automation, stock verification, circulation of reading materials and also their suggestions to improve college libraries.

After collecting the data from the librarians, the data were analyzed according to the objectives and hypotheses formulated. First, the data was recorded on data sheets and then fed to the computer. However, a few calculations were done with the help of calculator.
LIMITATIONS

The present study is concerned with examining the working of Degree College libraries under the Andhra University Area only and the remaining all academic colleges are excluded in the present study. The area is confined to all the degree colleges, affiliated to Andhra University and Acharya Nagarjuna University only.

FINDINGS

Based on the analysis of the data collected, the following findings have been drawn with regard to degree college libraries.

**Library building and furniture**

- Most of the librarians (90.28%) replied that there is no separate library building.
- A high percentage of the librarians (35.65%) replied that their libraries can accommodate up to 25 readers.
- Majority of the librarians (64.81%) replied that their libraries do not have adequate library furniture to meet the requirements of users.
- Most of the librarians (77.78%) replied that their libraries have possessing of ventilation.

**Organizational set-up**

- Most of the librarians (74.07%) responded that their libraries have library advisory committees.
- All the librarians replied that their library advisory committees consist of the Principal, Heads of the Departments, two student members and the Librarian.

**Library Staff**

- Majority of the libraries (62.04%) have a total strength of 3 or less than 3 members.
- Majority of the librarians (68.06%) replied that the present staff is inadequate for proper functioning of the library.

**Finance**

- The main common source of income for all college libraries is the special fee collected from the students at the time of admission.
- Most of the libraries will take into account the availability of funds from different sources while preparing the budget.

**Library collection**

- Most of the librarians (71.76%) replied that they are maintaining various categories of book collection in their libraries.
- Majority of the librarians (61.94%) replied that they have divided their collection into textbooks, reference books, book bank books and general books.
A high percentage of the librarians (44.91%) replied that their libraries have the collection below 5000 books.

A high percentage of the librarians (47.69%) replied that their libraries are subscribing 20 or less than 20 periodicals.

**Acquisition**

- A high percentage of the librarians (44.91%) replied that they are procuring books from outside / local book sellers only.
- Majority of the librarians (51.85%) replied that they are acquiring periodicals directly from publishers.
- Most of the librarians (83.33%) replied that they are maintaining a separate file for invoices of books purchased in different years.

**Processing**

- Majority of the librarians (53.70%) replied that they do not classify the books in their libraries.
- All the librarians replied that they are following Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC).
- Majority of the respondents (60.65%) replied that they are not cataloguing of library collection in their libraries.
- All the librarians replied that they are following either AACR-1 or AACR-2 code for cataloguing of documents in their college libraries.

**Circulation**

- A high percentage of librarians (44.91%) replied that on an average the books from 26-50 are being issued per day.
- A high percentage of the librarians (42.13%) replied that on an average the books that are being returned by users per day are 25 or less than 25 in their respective libraries.
- Majority of the librarians (55.09%) replied that they are issuing books for a period of two weeks for students.
- Majority of the librarians (72.22%) replied that they are using ledger system for issue and return of books in their respective libraries.

**Readers’ Services**

- A high percentage of the librarians (47.69%) replied that the number of users visited the library are 50 or less than 50 per a day.
- Most of the librarians (74.07%) replied that they are not conducting user Orientation programme for the fresher regard to use of the library.
- Majority of the librarians (53.70%) replied that they are providing reference service in their libraries to the students and the staff members.
- Most of the librarians (78.24%) replied that they are following closed access system in their libraries.
Stock verification

- Majority of the librarians (66.20%) replied that they are doing the stock verification every year.
- Majority of librarians (56.02%) replied that they are using Accession Register method for stock verification.
- Most of the college librarians (82.41%) replied that they are responsible for the loss of books in their libraries.
- Majority of the librarians (52.31%) replied that they are reported the loss of books for the last year.

Library Automation

- Most of the librarians (62.96%) replied that they do not having computers in their libraries.
- Most of the librarians (55.56%) replied that they do not have Internet connection in their libraries.
- Most of librarians (81.02%) replied that their libraries are automated and also using library software package in their libraries.

Librarian and his environment

- Majority of the librarians (55.56%) replied that they do not have any designation as “Lecturer in Library Science”.
- All the college librarians are getting co-operation from their Principals.
- Most of the librarians (84.72%) replied that their principals are inviting them for the staff meetings.
- Majority of the librarians (52.78%) were satisfied with co-operation from the faculty members in their colleges.
- One thirds percentage of the librarians (33.33%) was satisfied with their jobs.
- A high percentage of the librarians (32.87%) were satisfied with their academic status.
- A high percentage of the librarians (36.57%) were dissatisfied with the opportunities for promotion.
- Majority of the librarians (56.02%) replied that the higher authorities are not sponsoring them to attend conferences / seminars / refresher courses for professional development.
- Majority of the librarians (60.19%) replied that they are dissatisfied with their present scale of pay.
- Most of the librarians (70.83%) replied that they are utilizing professional knowledge in their libraries.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations made by the investigator on the basis of analysis of the data of the study are given for improving the efficient working of Degree college libraries.
Library Building and Furniture

Analysis of data revealed that most of the colleges (90.28%) are not having separate building for the library. Hence, the researcher feels that the higher authorities should take necessary steps for getting a separate building for the library with good physical facilities and latest equipments.

Library committee

The study reveals that all government and aided colleges are having the library committees. Some of the unaided colleges (25.93%) are not having library committees.

Hence, the researcher feels that the Library Committee should be constituted in all colleges with Principal as Chairman, Librarian as Secretary, drawing other members from different faculties and a few students to give due representation to the users.

Library staff

It is evident from the study that a significant percentage (31.94%) of college librarians expressed that the present staff is inadequate for proper functioning of the library. Inadequacy of staff and lack of professionally qualified people are badly affecting the quality of service provided by the libraries. Hence, the government, aided and unaided colleges should take steps to appoint sufficient staff members in the libraries.

Finance

Financial condition of college libraries is not satisfactory. Hence there is need for establishing standards for fixing the budget for the degree college libraries. The Radhakrishnan Commission suggested Rs. 40.00 per student and Rs. 300.00 per teacher and the Kothari Commission suggested Rs. 25.00 per student and Rs. 300.00 per lecturer. However, the investigator feels that every college library must follow either Radhakrishnan suggestion or Kothari Commission suggestion.

Processing

Nearly half of the college libraries (46.30%) are not doing technical processing of books. Hence, the researcher suggested that the Librarians should be classified and catalogued their collection.

Circulation

Analysis of data revealed that there is no limit in the number of books issued to the lecturers in most of the college libraries (45.37%). Hence, the researcher feels that the higher authorities should take necessary steps for limit in the number of books issued to the lecturers. Necessary rules in the regard should be framed and communicated to the lecturers for information.
Readers’ Services

Analysis of data revealed that most of the librarians (74.07%) are not providing orientation programme to the fresher regarding the use of the library. Hence it is suggested that the library should provide orientation programme to the users regarding the use of the library.

Stock verification

Stock Verification is necessary to trace loss of books and to know about their physical condition. Though it is an important aspect of library administration, it is not being taken up with the required seriousness in all cases. Hence, the researcher feels that the stock verification function must be performed regularly once a year because it is always easier to convince the authorities for a smaller loss at short intervals than to convince for a greater accumulated loss of 3 to 4 years.

Library Automation

All the college librarians are having computer knowledge, but majority of the librarians (81.94%) replied that they don’t have any personal computer in the library. Hence it is suggested that they should be provide at least one personal computer for the library.

Librarian and his Environment

Majority of the librarians (55.56%) are not getting designation as Lecturer in library Science. Hence it is suggested that every college librarian should be given designation as Lecturer in Library Science.

Some of the college principals (15.28%) are not inviting the librarians for staff meetings regularly. Hence it is suggested that they should be invited for the staff meetings regularly.

Most of the unaided college librarians are not satisfied with their present scales. They are getting only consolidated pay. Some private aided college librarians are also not getting pay on par with the lecturers. Hence it is suggested that the Government should take necessary steps so that librarians should get salary on par with the lecturers in private aided and unaided colleges.

In the present existing conditions librarians are not able to utilize their professional knowledge in libraries. Hence, the authorities should create such as environment so that they can utilize their professional knowledge enabling them to have better job satisfaction.
REFERENCES


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