The impact of 'on time' reminders on defaulters - A case study of Islamia College of Science and Commerce, Srinagar

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ABSTRACT

A sizeable number of books are lost by degree college libraries in India to the drop out students at various levels. This has remained a cause of concern for college librarians. The paper discusses the effect of serving 'on time' reminders to defaulters, adopted at Islamia College of Science and Commerce, Srinagar.

Keywords: Outstanding books; Defaulters; College Library; Reminders; India

THE LIBRARY

The Islamia College of Science and Commerce, Srinagar established in 1961 by the government of Jammu and Kashmir as an autonomous educational institute with a view to offer higher education, is one of the premier educational institutes of the state imparting education at undergraduate and postgraduate level (Islamia Colllege of, 2009). The two main courses offered by the college are B.Sc and B. Com. The BCA and BBA courses were started in 1998 and 2002 respectively and MBA programme in 2005. The college saw a devastating fire in October 1990 which consumed all its structures including the splendid college library (Bhat, 2005). The entire gutted structure stands rebuilt with the generous funding of the government. The college is accredited at B++ level with the institutional score of 84% by NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council (Islamia Colllege of, 2005). The college has a total population of about 3000 students.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF COLLEGE

The library with a collection of about 70000 volumes and 100 serial titles is housed in a double storey building with a carpet area of 6132 sft. The membership of the library is about 3500 which includes students, teachers and college staff. The total staff strength of the library is thirteen which includes four professionals, four assistants and five helpers.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the present study is to assess the impact of on time reminders on returning the outstanding books by defaulter students.

SCOPE

The scope of the present study is limited to the central library of Islamia College of Science and Commerce, Srinagar covering a time period of 18 years (viz., 1991-92 to 2008-2009).

METHODOLOGY

The present library of Islamia College of Science and Commerce, Srinagar made its debut in 1991 after the old one was completely gutted in a tragic fire incident of 1990.During the ten year period of 1991-2001, the defaulter students were not served any reminders for the outstanding books. However from 2001-2002 the reminders are served to the students immediately after the completion of the academic session through normal post. The reminders have also been served to the defaulter students of 1991-2001 in 2002 after a gap of 1-10 years.

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The library maintains the defaulter register containing complete details (Name of the book, Accession no. , Date of issue, Class, student's name and address). The same register is used for obtaining all data related to the study. The data is tabulated, and analyzed to reveal findings in accordance with laid down objectives.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Table 1 depicts the ten year data related to the outstanding books for which the reminders were not served to the defaulter students on time. Out of the ten academic sessions the percentage of return is zero for five academic sessions. During the rest five sessions the percentage of return varies from 3.44% to 28.57%. During this period out of 185 outstanding books against 141 students only 15 (8.10%) books have been returned by the students. The highest number of defaulters (as well as the books) are the Ist year students and least the 3rd year students. The highest returning percentage is for 3rd year students and the lowest for 2nd year students (Table2).

Table 1: Statistics of outstanding books for ten years (reminders not served on time)

S.No	Session	No. of defaulter students	No. of Books outstanding	No. of books returned
1	1991-92	4	4	0 (0.0)
2	1992-93	10	10	0 (0.0)
3	1993-94	6	7	1 (14.28)
4	1994-95	4	4	0 (0.0)
5	1995-96	9	12	0 (0.0)
6	1996-97	21	26	0 (0.0)
7	1997-98	25	29	1 (3.44)
8	1998-99	5	7	2 (28.57)
9	1999-2000	26	34	5 (14.70)
10	2000-2001	31	52	6 (11.53)
Total		141	185	15 (8.10)

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

Table 2: Class-wise statistics of outstanding books for ten years (reminders not served on time

S. No.	Class	No. of defaulter students	No. of Books outstanding	No. of books returned
1	Ist Year	82	108	11 (10.18)
2	2nd Year	35	41	0 (0.0)
3	3rd Year	24	36	4 (11.11)
Total		141	185	15 (8.10)

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

Table 3 depicts the eight year statistics of outstanding books. During this period the reminders have been served to the students immediately after the completion of the academic session. The figures are quite encouraging as the percentage of returned books during this period is 51.83% as against the 8.10% during the previous ten years. The percentage of returned books varies from a minimum of 28.00% to a maximum of 67.64%. Out of 436 outstanding books during this period 252 are outstanding against the students of Ist year, 117 against 2nd year students and 67 against the 3rd year students. The percentage of return is highest for the 3rd year students (62.68%), followed by the 2nd year students (57.26%). The lowest percentage of returning the books is for the students of Ist year (46.42%).

Table 3: Statistics of outstanding books for eight years (reminders served on time)

S.No.	Session	No. of defaulter students	No. of Books outstanding	No. of books returned
1	2001-02	32	41	13 (31.70)
2	2002-03	41	67	44 (65.67)
3	2003-04	42	66	38 (57.57)
4	2004-05	40	62	33 (53.22)
5	2005-06	31	55	29 (52.72)
6	2006-07	45	68	46 (67.64)
7	2007-08	15	25	7 (28.00)
8	2008-09	28	52	16 (30.76)
Total		274	436	226 (51.83)

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

Table 4: Class-wise statistics of outstanding books for eight years (reminders served on time)

S. No.	Class	No. of defaulter students	No. of Books outstanding	No. of books returned
1	Ist Year	173	252	117 (46.42)
2	2nd Year	70	117	67 (57.26)
3	3rd Year	31	67	42 (62.68)
Total			274	436	226 (51.83)

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage.

CONCLUSION

The present study reveals that serving reminders to the defaulter students on time enhances the rate of returning the books considerably. The results also suggest that the Ist year students in Degree colleges are the maximum defaulters and the percentage of returning the books is also minimum for these students. It is recommended that reminders should be served to the defaulter students immediately after the completion of the academic session each year.

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