Original Article

Use of Library Resources and Services by the PG Students: A Case Study of Bangalore University Library, Bangalore

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Abstract

The NKC in its recommendation of Libraries states that "A library is not a building stacked with books – it is a repository and source of information and ideas, a place for learning and enquiry, and for the generation of thought and the creation of new knowledge". (NKC, 2007). An ideal teacher education college library with qualitative collection of resources, the computerized library operations and other library services including the documentation work, will impart very good library sense among the teachers and students. For this purpose the researcher sought the help and guidance from the Academic section of the Bangalore University for authentic information in this regards. For the study purpose the researcher identified and selected 62 B.Ed. colleges and questionnaires were distributed to the Librarians. Out of which 51 colleges have responded positively and response rate is 82.25%.

Keywords: Library facilities; Library services; B.Ed. college libraries; Bangalore University.

Introduction

The singular purpose of education is to produce a useful citizen. Education should enable a human being to attain the great possible harmony; internal and external, spiritual and material, for the fullest possible development of human potentialities and capacities. Development of an individual – physically, mentally spiritually is well known aim of education. Aim of education should be to make children self-confident and self-dependent, and make them strong physically and mentally. On the other hand the social aim of education it is stated should produce effective individuals in the sense that they realize their responsibilities towards the society.

According to Dash "If the teachers are well educated and trained and if they are intellectually alive and take keen interest in their job, then only, the success is ensured, but if on the other hand, they lack training in imparting education and if they cannot give their heart to their job, the system is destined to fail (Dash, B N, 2004). "Over the period, education system has undergone tremendous changes and these days there has been enormous emphasis on lifelong learning. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) the Autonomous body of the University Grants Commission (UGC) has drafted some quality indicators for Teacher Education. In this context, under the quality aspect 'Teacher and Teaching" it indicates "Students perceive that the faculty display professional and human qualities of role model and of good practice" (Menon and Rama, 2006). It further elaborates on the importance of this indicator as "Mere mastery of content and pedagogy does not make a good teacher. An inspirational teacher has also the traits and behaviours that can inspire". So the focus should be on good teacher education and training system for any nation who aspires to build well educated individuals in the task of nation building.

Objectives of the Study

The following are the specific objectives of the study

1. To identify growth of B.Ed. colleges and LIS professionals background working its libraries in Bangalore.

2. To know the method of access, issue and arrangement of educational resources in B.Ed. colleges affiliated to Bangalore University, Bangalore.

3. To identify the financial sources to manage the education college libraries under the study.

4. To assess the availability of library facilities in education college libraries.

5. To know the library and information services offered to teachers and students by the B.Ed. colleges affiliated to Bangalore University.

6. To examine the state-of-the-art of IT infrastructure facilities to computerize and to participate national or regional level network for resource sharing and networking of Education Colleges libraries.

Methodology

The survey method through a well structured questionnaire as a tool is adopted in this study. The questionnaire was administered to the Librarians of Colleges of Education Libraries affiliated to Bangalore University. The purpose was to determine and to collect data of their libraries, particularly status of library professional staff and their background and application of Information Technology for various library administration and housekeeping activities.

Sample Size, Scope and Limitation of the Study

There are about 91 Education Colleges i.e., colleges offering B.Ed. and M.Ed. courses affiliated to Bangalore University. Majority 81 (89.0%) of education colleges are un-aided, followed by aided Colleges 9 (9.89%) and only one (1.10%) college is administrated by the government. As it is found there is some conditions of stability and continuation of affiliation of the colleges. Taking this in view for the study only active colleges were short listed, identified and selected as fully functioning colleges. It also further examined the criteria like, the student's admission, continuation of affiliation, faculty strength and status, establishment and so on. For this purpose the researcher sought the help and guidance from the Academic section of the

Bangalore University for authentic information in this regards. From among the total of 91 colleges as mentioned in the beginning 62 colleges were selected under the identified criteria and the questionnaires were distributed to the Librarians of respective colleges. Out of which 62 B.Ed. colleges about 51 colleges have responded positively and response rate is 82.25%.

Analysis and Interpretation Data

Year of Establishment of Colleges

The year of establishment of colleges is an important characteristic for assessing its length of service to the budding teachers. It is found from the analysis that 37(70.56%) colleges of education colleges are established after new millennium i.e., 2000. Only 8 colleges were established before 1980 and 7 (13.75%) colleges were established during 1981-2000. Thus based on the above statistics, it can be inferred that the number of education colleges is established after 2001 are large in number compare to all the earlier periods. This is due to compensate with growing demand of the course and to meet the trained teachers for secondary education sector in the state. This growth can also be viewed from the number of schools that have also come-up during the last one decade as there is a steady expansion of primary education due to the "Sarva Shikshan Abhiyana" programme of the Government and the proclamation of free and compulsory education by the Government of India.

Gender-Wise Distribution of Librarians

Out of 51 Education College Libraries 36 (70.58%) are headed by male librarians and remaining 15(29.43%) librarians are women librarians. Here the relevance of this distribution is not very significant, but it can be presumed that male librarians in college of education libraries have been predominant as there might be some reluctance from women library professionals to join the colleges of education.

Distribution of Respondents by Age

It is found from the Tabulated data that the librarians in the age group 31-40 are higher than the other two categories. The majority of them with strength of 36 (70.59%) are in the age group of 30-40 of the total population of librarians. This is followed by12 (23.52%) are in the group of between 41 and 50 years and only 3 (5.89%) are in the age group of above 51 years. It was observed that the age group of education college librarians under the study well compensated in terms year of establishment of Education College libraries,

as the number of colleges started between 1981-2000 higher and this interpretation of comparing the age with the year of establishment is justified. Like the gender categorization results the Age-wise distribution has focused characteristic but is of only academic interest.

The age-wise distribution of data is quite obvious. The number of colleges established after 2001 and gender-wise categorization would reflect some hints on this aspect. Hence the age-wise distribution can be examined separately as it may not be within the purview of this study. Next, the number years of experience possessed by the Librarians is tabulated and explained.

Professional Experience of Librarians

The number of year's service put up by the Librarian is another criterion for which the data has been computed and tabled. It is found from the table that more than half (54.9%) numbering 28 librarians have less than 5 years of experience, followed by 14 (27.5%) respondents are having experience between 6 and 10 years, 6 (11.8%) number of librarians have experience between 11 and 20 years and only a small number of 3 (5.9%) have above 21 years of experience in the libraries. This data can again be correlated to the number of Colleges established in different years.

Type of Library Access

Access to library usage is an important component of library functions and services. Access to library collection and services promotes the use of document/information. Extending easy, convenient and timely access to library collection is an essential requirement. Thus an attempt is made to examine the status of access provision among B.Ed. colleges of the study. Access to certain materials is sometimes restricted to protect them from theft or mutilation, or because of statutory authority or institutional mandate. Therefore in this survey it was sought to know the type of access system being adopted in libraries and the data is given in Table 1. It is noted that 22(43.1%) education college libraries are following open access system followed by 10 (37.3%) both open and closed access and only 10(19.6%) were following closed access.

Table 1: Type of Library Access

Sl. No.	Type of Library Access	Number of Colleges	Percentage
1	Open access	22	43.1
2	Closed access	10	19.6
3	Both	19	37.3
Total		51	100.0

Broken Arrangement

A library is an organized collection of information resources made accessible to a defined community for reference or borrowing. A library's collection can include books, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, films, maps, prints, documents, microform, CDs, cassettes, videotapes, DVDs, E-resources, databases, and other formats. Table 2 reveals that the majority 48(94.1%) of the respondents are not following Brocken arrangement of books and only 3(5.9%) were following Brocken arrangement.

Table 2: Brocken Arrangement

Sl. No.	Brocken Arrangement	Number of Colleges	Percentage
1	Yes	3	5.9
2	No	48	94.1
Total		51	100.0

Methods of Issue of Documents

Through the years, libraries are following different methods for transactions of library documents such as lodger system, issue register, card system etc., It was observed that 24 (47.1%) of the college libraries are using Card system for transaction of books followed by 23 (45.1%) Ledger System and interesting to note that only few libraries 4 (7.8%) are using Barcode system.

Table 3: Methods of Issue of Documents

Sl. No.	Methods of Issue of Documents	Number of Colleges	Percentage
1	Ledger system	23	45.1
2	Borrowers card system	24	47.1
3	Bar code system	4	7.8
Total		51	100.0

Overdue Charges

Library is a democratic institution. All users of the library have to equal access to documents for timely use of such documents. Library documents should not be monopolized by a user or section of library users each user must get equal access to such documents. To avoid delay in receiving the documents also to provide equal access to documents the penalty to library users through library fine or overdue charges should be collected. It is interesting to note that 28(54.9%) education college libraries under the survey charging overdue charges for lately returned books and remaining 23 (45.1%) were not charging any overdue. Further it is observed from the table 23 among the fine collected colleges (28) they are charging Rs.50/- paisa per day and few libraries collecting Rs.1/- per day.

Methods Used to Recovery of Loss of Books

The attempt is made in the following sections to examine the methods and procedures followed in B.Ed. College libraries to recover the loss of books. The maximum number of education college libraries 33(64.7%) were following asking the user to replace a new book with same title and author, this has been followed by collecting the actual cost of the book (23.5%), and only few libraries (11.8%) are collecting double the cost of the book.

Financial Management and Financial Resources

Finance is an essential resource to carry out any work of the library. Every work/activity of the library requires support of financial resources. Libraries use to mobilize the financial resources through various sources such as library cess, library fees, and grants from the government/private organization. An attempt is made in the following sections to study and examine the sources of finance for B.Ed. college libraries selected for the study.

Source of Library Finance

The financial assistance is required for staff salary, purchase of books, journals, furniture, maintenance etc. The sources of finance to academic libraries are coming from multiple sources such UGC, State Government and parent institutions. From the study it reveals that most of the 44 (86.3%) education college libraries are received the financial assistance from the parent institutions, 20 (39.2%) libraries are added library fine to compensate with library finance and only few libraries (9.8%) are received grants from UGC.

Table 4: Source of Library Finance.

S. No.	Sources of Finance	Number of Colleges	Percentage N=51
1	UGC	5	9.8
2	State Government	6	11.8
3	Trust	44	86.3
4	Donations	5	9.8
5	Library fees	20	39.2
6	Overdue charges	13	25.5

Library Building

The study relates to opinion about the separate library building. Out of 51 surveyed education colleges only 2 (3.9%) libraries are having separate library building and remaining 49 (96.1%) colleges are not having separate library building. Further the librarians are asked to give their opinion (Table 24) with regard to whether the library building is functionally planned for the requirements of library staff as well as users. 32(62.7) librarians are expressed that the library building is functionally planned and 19 (37.3%) of them said No. As per as total comfort and ambiance of library building is concerned 32(62.7) librarians are in positive aspects and remaining 19 (35.3%) of them said not comfort for well functioning of library activities.

Library Committee

Library committee is a pre-requisite component of any library. The guidelines responsibilities of the committee helps in not only guiding for development of library functions, services and other activities, it also helps in monitoring the activities of library and to suggest to the authorities for necessary support for improvement of library work and services. The following section examines the existence of library committee in B.Ed colleges under study. Table ….. shows that the majority of the libraries 54.9% are not having the Library Committee, and only 45.1% are having library committee. The majority of the respondents 60.86% replied that librarian is a member secretary and only 39.14% are not.

Only 23 Education college libraries are having library committee for library collection development and decision making of all library activities. Among the availability of library committee 14(27.5%) libraries to act as an Advisory Committee followed by recommended committee 6(11.8%) and only 3(5.9%) libraries are function like executive committee to execute all types library related activities.

Library and Information Services

Library is a service organistion which has to offer number of support services in providing timely information to the users. Users need for information is vary. Accordingly library has to develop appropriate information service to meet the information needs of users. Keeing this in view, an attempt is made in the following section to examine the types of information services offered by the B.Ed. college libraries under Bangalore University. Library and information services offered by the education college libraries are presented in table 30. The majority of the libraries 42(82.4%) offers circulation service, Followed by the reference service 39 (76.5%), News paper clipping service 30 (58.8%), Reprography service 23 (45.1%). The online searching and e-mail services are 19 (37.3%). Inter Library Loan service only 3(5.9%), SDI 7(13.7%),

Table 5: Library Committee.

Sl. No.	Availability of Library Committee	Number of Colleges	Librarian is a Member Secretary	Role of Librarian in Library Committee	Number of Colleges
1	Yes	23 (45.1%)	14 (60.86%)	Convener	20
2	No	28 (54.9%)	9 (39.14%)	Member	3
Total		51 (100%)	23 (100%)	Total	23 (100%)

indexing and abstracting services 9 (17.6%) respectively. Further e-journals 6 (11.8%), and CD-ROMs database service 8 (15.7%) respectively.

Table 6: Library and Information Services Provided by the Libraries N=51.

Sl. No.	Library and Information Services	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Circulation service	42	82.4
2	Reference service	39	76.5
3	Inter Library Loan service	3	5.9
4	Current Awareness service	23	45.1
5	SDI Service	7	13.7
6	Indexing and abstracting service	9	17.6
7	Reprography service	23	45.1
8	Bibliography service	17	33.3
9	Newspaper clipping service	30	58.8
10	E journals service	6	11.8
11	Online Searching service	19	37.3
12	CD ROM Databases service	8	15.7
13	e-mail service	19	37.3
14	intranet - LAN service	9	17.6

User Education Programme (UEP)

The study reveals that all most half of the 26 (51%) education college libraries are conducting user education and orientation program to know about varies library collection, services and other infrastructure facilities available in the library. However, remaining libraries 25 (49%) are not conduction such programme for better utilization of library. For this purpose libraries are following different methods of conducting user education programme more prominent among the Education College libraries are library instructions (39.2%) and personal guidance (31.4%).

Table 7: Distribution of Respondents by Conducting of UEP.

S. No.	User Education Programme	Number of Colleges	Percentage
1	Yes	26	51.0
2	No	25	49.0
	Total	51	100.0
Methods of Conducting to UEP			
1	Lecture	11	21.6
2	Video	1	2.0
3	Library Publication	1	2.0
4	Assistant service to user	12	23.5
5	Library Instruction	20	39.2
6	Extension activity	3	5.9
7	Display exhibition	6	11.8
8	Personal guidance	16	31.4

Library Extension Activities

In addition to the provision of traditional library services, Librarians were asked to state the nature of extension services offered. The data is provided in the table….. It is found that majority of the libraries 37 (72.5%) display of new arrivals, followed by 32 (62.7%) of the libraries having suggestion box, 26 (51%) having library signboards, 20 (39.2%) conducting library exhibition, 12 (23.5%) arranging library tours, and only 9 (17.6%) conducting information literacy programmes though it vital components of information and knowledge society

Table 8: Library Extension Activities.

Sl. No	Description	Number of Colleges	Percentage
1	Library Exhibition	20	39.2
2	Display of New Arrivals	37	72.5
3	Library Tours	12	23.5
4	Library Signboards	26	51.0
5	Suggestion Box	32	62.7
6	Information Literacy	9	17.6

Conclusion

In this chapter the Librarians point-of view and the organizational administrative, services and the

adoption of ICT aspects of the libraries of the selected colleges of education have been presented. The libraries selected 51 colleges still need improvement in organisationsal aspect. In particular despite the mandate by the regulatory organizations like NCTE, UGC and NAAC the libraries have failed to recruit full complement of permanent and full time staff to manage the libraries. The collection management and development is entrusted to the library committee as well and in most cases it is advisory and recommendatory.

The use of ICT and Library automation needs to reach a desirable level of satisfaction. Even after nearly two and a half decades of diffusion of library automation technology in the academic libraries it is disappointing to know that only 40 to 50 percentages of libraries have automated their functions. Use and connectivity internet is yet to reach a satisfactory level of application in the libraries of colleges of education. The summing here is not a conclusive one as more findings and conclusions would be presented at the end of the study as still the user survey part is to be investigated and analysed and that is carried out in the next chapter.

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