



Comparative Study of Library services provided by College Libraries of Upper Assam districts in North Bank

¹Author Dipankar Saikia

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ABSTRACT

College library is the most important adjunct of a college. It aims at realization of institutional objectives. It strives to generate keenness and excitement among the student and faculty and help them to make use of the available reading materials. The main scope of the study is to examine the nature of services provided by Degree college libraries of upper Assam districts in north bank of Assam. The present work is devoted to the comparative survey. The study includes all the management problems of both the institutions like collection development, Library Computer facility, staffing pattern, library building, service offered to the users and other technical services related to it. The investigator has tried to find out the real picture of the college Libraries in a reasonable way. The main objectives of the study is highlight degree college libraries of upper Assam districts located in north bank of Assam and Identify general problems of Library services in concerned Libraries along with proper suggestions as to how to utilize Library Resources.

Keywords:

Library, Library services, Library user, comparative study

¹ Corresponding Author : Librarian, Lakhimpur Girls' College, Assam
Email – dipankarsaikia09@gmail.com , Contact No. 9101989560



INTRODUCTION

College library is an institutional library. Its freshman is all students in the college. Colleges form the integral part of higher education, and the libraries in the colleges are the primary sources for learning process with the shift of emphasis from teaching to learning, libraries must play their role effectively.

The utilization of computer and related techniques make the provision to provide the right information to right reader at the right time in right form and in a right personal way. Digital library activities provide the services very efficiently, adequately and economically.

AREA OF THE STUDY

There are 3(three) districts in Assam which located in north bank of upper Assam. They are Biswanath District, Lakhimpur District and Dhemaji District. Among these districts of Assam the investigator selected 3 numbers of renowned and oldest colleges for survey. They are:-

- i. Biswanath College, (District-Biswanath)
- ii. North Lakhimpur College,(District-Lakhimpur)
- iii. Dhemaji College,(District-Dhemaji)

METHODOLOGY

The following Methodologies has been adopted for set up this study: -

(1) Spot observation:

Spot observation of different college libraries will be undertaken for fulfillment of the study. For collection of data from different surveyed colleges, The Present study used interview and questionnaire method. A face to face interview is also arranged with the Librarians of the Concerned Colleges to acquaint with the problems face by the Library



authority regarding the Library service development. For preparing the paper work the sources are also collected from books, reference books, periodical, articles and other library materials through Internet.

(2) Surveyed Method:

For the purpose of collection of data from different surveyed colleges, a questionnaire has been prepared and administered to the user of the Degree College Libraries. Another set of questionnaire has been prepared and served to Librarians of the Degree College Libraries of North Bank upper Assam districts of Assam.

Survey of the study

Library Staff:

A modern college library has an important place in higher education and the library staffs holds pivotal position in the matter of providing effective services to the users of the library. As such a qualified and trained librarian and an adequate a qualified number of assistance are required to run and administer the library. The professional librarian is also expected to perform teaching and research functions by acting as friend, philosopher and guide.

A library must have a spacious building, an adequate collection of books and other reading materials, but it cannot function well without efficient and qualified staff.

The following table shows the Library staff patterns of different colleges.

Table-1

Sl No.	Name of College	Staff	
		Professional	Non-professional



1	Biswanath College	1	3
2	North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous)	2	2
3	Dhemaji College	1	2

The college libraries of above colleges are very poorly staff. The libraries are run by one professionally qualified librarian and others are not technically qualified. So it is not suitable to run the efficiently. Out of these three librarians nobody is having separate computer knowledge. Nobody having any advance level course to handle the computer to automate their libraries.

Collection of College Libraries:

College library collects text books, reference books, periodicals as well as other types of reading materials. All these materials of libraries are organised for use by classifying and cataloguing and arranging them in a proper sequence. The type and quality of library collection depend upon the type of the college. The collection cannot be built up independently of the interest and the requirements of the students. Students are not different from adults having potentiality for a variety of interests.

Dr. S.R. Ranganathan makes "Five categories" of books apart from the text books.

1. Reference books
2. Normal form of books expounding ideas in diverse fields
3. Description and informative books such as biographies, travels etc.
4. Re-creative books

5. Inspirational book

The three selected degree college libraries of the different districts have not a very rich collection. Because of the budgetary condition of college libraries are not satisfactory one for the professional person. A fee which is collected from the students is the main source of income. UGC grant for library also not in a regular basis and state governments also has no provision of grant for the development of college libraries. The following table shows the Library Collection of Different Colleges.

Table-2

Sl. No.	Name of Colleges	Total Books
1	Biswanath College	45000
2	North Lakhimpur College(Autonomous)	21500
3	Dhemaji College	22467

Library Users:

Students, teachers and non-teaching staff are the user of a college library. Among them students are the main users of the library. Teaching staff are not very frequent user of the libraries and the non-teaching staff rarely visited the library.

The total numbers of registered readers are given below:

Table- 3

Sl. No.	Name of the College	Total Number of User		
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17

1.	Biswanath College	1980	2100	2250
2.	North Lakhimpur College(Autonomous)	1309	1350	1390
3.	Dhemaji College	800	800	1200

Library services:

The services offered by the college libraries of Sonitpur district are unable to satisfy the users need. No one college having services with their users' requirement. Most of the colleges running with their traditional service, classification, cataloguing etc. other services like abstracting, enduring, reprography and list of recently added books are not provided all the college libraries.

The services provided by the college libraries of Sonitpur and Biswanath Districts: will be discussed here briefly with tables.

Table-4

Sl. No.	Name of the college	I & R	XEROX	ILL	R.S	Internet
1	Biswanath College	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
2	North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes



3	Dhemaji College	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
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- i) I & R – Issue and Return.
- ii) I L L – Inter Library loan.
- iii) R S – References Service.

FINDINGS

The major findings are given below:

- 1) All the college libraries of North Bank upper Assam districts of Assam have a qualified librarian but other staff of the libraries is technically very poor. Only North Lakhimpur college library have an Assistant Librarian who has professional qualification in library science.
- 2) A majority of the libraries initiated their automation process in the year 2016 and 2017.
- 3) Collection development of College Libraries of Sonitpur and Biswanath Districts is poor.
- 4) A majority of libraries lack of staff required for automation.
- 5) Concerned college libraries generally used the same library software i.e. SOUL (Software for University Library).
- 6) Traditional barriers such as insufficient fund, lack of trained staff, and lack of space are faced by a majority of the library.
- 7) The entire provincialised degree college of concerned Districts has a separate library building but the reading room is very small to user needs.

From the discussion and analysis of college libraries of North Bank upper Assam districts of Assam, in the earlier chapter, the environment is not well developed due to so many causes.



SUGGESTIONS

For healthy libraries, following recommendation are suggested:

1. Parent institutions should provide sufficient funds as per the norms given by S.R. Ranganathan (1965) or by Kothari Commission (Gupta, 1992).
2. Resource sharing should be done for maximum utilization.
3. Neighbouring college libraries should procure same hardware and software so as to connect its order for the purpose of resource sharing.
4. More and more library personnel should be trained in computer application.
5. Accessing of information of Internet is now a common phenomenon meeting different needs for individuals, business, houses and corporate bodies. Such facilities may be extended to the needy person through college library system.
6. Users should be made aware on the availability of library services in respective areas enlightened on the use of library and library services in the state.
7. Every college should provide Digital Library services.

CONCLUSION

Library professionals must upgrade their skills in order to meet the growing expectation of users from libraries. Thus the investigator finds that most of the college libraries of North Bank upper Assam districts of Assam are not able to fulfill their obligation to the objectives of higher education. They failed to make the student and the facility feels at home and happy. One of the most important set back is the lack of co-operation among the libraries of the colleges. They never recognize that the libraries have taken the responsibilities of our educational development. It's high time to recognize it and provide better services by keeping the channels of communication open then only the value of college library could be understood.



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