



UTILIZATION OF LIBRARY COLLECTIONS OF DEGREE COLLEGES LOCATED IN ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES RESERVED FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES IN UPPER ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

The backbone of all library services is collection development. Library collection development and library services are interrelated. If library has no any collection then it is not possible to provide services to the required users. On the other hand if library staff does not provide library services even if library has a rich collection then that collection is meaningless. Collection development includes assessing users' needs, evaluating the present collection, determining selection policy, co-ordination of items, weeding and storing parts of the collection and planning for resource sharing. The objective of this paper is to understand the utilization of library resources among users of degree colleges of those areas of Upper Assam inhabited by tribal people. The paper also trying to find out the measures adopted for development of Library collections and to give suitable suggestions for remedial actions for better services.

Keywords:

Library collection, Library services, Utilization, Schedule tribe, Assembly constituency.

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INTRODUCTION

Library is the heart of the Institution. It aims to provide quality knowledge and the useful resources to the users. Its aim being to enable to the users to make the most effective used of the resources and services of the libraries. In short a library is a place where the experience of the past can meet the needs of present. The library was thus expected to collect, arrange and preserve reading material and make their available on demand. The second possible method is one where the students require text books to read in additions to lecture notes. On the other hand the third type of teaching philosophy is one where in the students and the faculty play active role and both need to open up the wide vistas of a subject with the help and guidance of librarians. It is certain that University and Colleges need this third type of library and information services.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the study are as follows:-

1. To know the present scenario of selected degree college libraries located at upper Assam assembly constituency reserved for ST of Assam.
2. To know the various types of resources and services.
3. To find out the measures adopted for development of Library resources.
4. To give suitable suggestions for remedial measures for better services.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature survey is essential in order to aware of the findings and principle of different as put involved in college library management. The different forms of literature both macro – micro, viz. books, periodicals, articles, proceeding, reports etc., covering all possible organizational, administrative and managerial, technical and other relevant fields of college libraries of upper Assam assembly constituency reserved for ST in Assam.



Libraries are an important component of modern social apparatus for the management of public knowledge. The existing library practices and procedures social and bibliographical pressure emerging in the late 1950s and early 1960s libraries began in automation. The whole automation process in our society began with a librarian Dr. John Shaw Billing, Herman Hollerith a Census bureau of U.S.A. Employees who invented punched Machinery attributes the idea to a suggestion by Dr. Billing, the then Librarian of Surgeon General's Library. Rapid developments in computer and communication technologies have been catalyzing the development of automated library system.

Broun, writing of the reorganization of the book line academic library, wisely observes that the programme depends on the understanding and co – operation every member of the staff. Not only routines and techniques but also the habits and thinking of the staff members require re-organization. According to Detroit those of that the co-ordination of technical services may be highly important factor in technology has changed the way of life so the functions and services of the library would be highly sophisticated and should be modernized and computerized with internet facility.

The following primary & secondary literature have been consulting during work of study.

- Bharna, Dr. Chetan, "LIBRARY PROGRESS" status of college libraries in: An analytical study". No.1, vol-26, 2008. In this article the author discusses about the status of college libraries with reference to collection development.
- Bharna, Utpal, KELPROP BULLETIN, "Collection, organization and use of Carmel Hill Philosophy College Library Trivandrum; An investigative study" No.2, Vol-9, 2005. In this article the author discussed about the collection and organization of Carmel Hill Philosophy College Library.
- Sarma, Bhupendra Nath, Changing Trend of Librarianship in Assam, "Collection Development" A Strategy Policy and Observation in College Library", No.1, Vol-1,

1997. In this article the author described about the techniques and ways of collection development in college library.

METHODOLOGY

In order to collect the necessary data and information and getting the actual picture and image of the surveyed colleges of concerned region of Assam, the methodology and the technique applied are survey, interview method and questionnaire technique.

Basically Upper Assam consisting 10 districts, that includes Biswanath, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Dhemaji, Golaghat, Charaideo, Lakhimpur, Majuli, Sivasagar and Tinsukia. While Charaideo and Majuli are the newest districts. There are 4(four) assembly constitutes reserved for STs in upper Assam. They are 99 no. Majuli assembly constituency, 112 no. Dhakuakhana constituency, 113 no. Dhemaji constituency and 114 no. Jonai constituency. The investigator has selected total numbers of 4(four) Degree Colleges for survey in above said four assembly constituencies reserved for ST in Assam. Each assembly constituency bearing one Degree College, which was established at first and renowned among other Colleges of the region. They are:-

1. Majuli College (Situated in 99 number Majuli assembly constituency)
2. North Bank College (Situated in 112 number Dhakuakhana assembly constituency)
3. Dhemaji College (Situated in 113 number Dhemaji assembly constituency)
4. Silapathar College (Situated in 114 number Jonai assembly constituency)

Details about selected College Libraries for survey:

Majuli College:

The Majuli College has a campus of 3.87 acres located in a semi-urban and tribal surrounding, which offers U.G. courses in 10 subjects in Arts and 05 subjects in Science leading to B.A. and B.Sc. Degrees of Dibrugarh University. The College also runs the



Higher Secondary course.

The students are largely from the nearby rural areas with more than 50% belonging to the ST/SC and OBC category. The College was established on September 17, 1962. Majuli College is the premier institution of higher education situated at Kamalabari in Majuli, the only island district of Assam which offers both Arts and Science streams.

North Bank College:

North Bank College is the second oldest institution of higher education in the undivided Lakhimpur District of Assam was established in 1961 in between two rivers, the Brahmaputra and the Subansiri located at the north bank of the river Brahmaputra. The College was affiliated to Dibrugarh University and brought under the deficit system of Grant-in-aid in the year 1972. Though initially the College was started as an Arts College, Science stream has also been introduced in 1996 considering the growing importance of science and technology of the present competitive world.

Dhemaji College:

Dhemaji College is the oldest and one of the premier institutions of higher studies in the district of Dhemaji. At present it imparts education from Higher-secondary to Bachelor Degree level in Arts and Science streams along with different parallel oriented courses with an experienced and efficient teaching staff. The College was established in 1965. The college has an Automatic Weather Information Centre under the sponsorship of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Bangalore and Assam Science, Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC), Guwahati. Apart from this, one Automatic Weather Information Centre is installed in the college campus which was sponsored by the ASTEC and Department of Science and Technology, Government of Assam.

Silapathar College:

The Silapathar College was established in 1979. It is located in the heart of the rapidly

growing township of Silapathar which is surrounded by villages of tribal and backward communities. The institution is has permanent affiliation to the Dibrugarh University. The college was brought under deficit system of grant-in-aid in 1992 and was later provincialised in 2005 by the Government of Assam. The college was recognized under 2(f) and 12(b) of UGC Act 1956 and was first accredited by NAAC in 2005 with 'B' Grade. The college was re-accredited by NAAC in November, 2015 with 2.62 points (CGPA).

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

The topic covers four college libraries to get a new picture and images of utilization of library resources among users located at assembly constituency reserved for Schedule Tribe of Upper Assam. The survey covers met all the librarians and discussed about the development and challenges of library collection and users satisfaction among their college libraries.

According to the topic the questionnaires enclosed nineteen (19) related question and found some satisfactory answers but sometimes answer from the librarians are found unsatisfactory. Except a few librarians most of the librarians are not much interested to fill up the questionnaires with pleasure with the help of data received through questionnaire. Various charts and tables provide a true picture of information in which we are interested.

Table 1: Year of establishment with stream:

Sl. No.	Name of the college	Year of establishment	Stream		
			Arts	Com	Sc.
1	Majuli College	1962	✓	✗	✓
2	North Bank College	1961	✓	✗	✓
3	Dhemaji College	1965	✓	✗	✓

4	Silapathar College	1979	✓	×	✓
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Nature and type of library staff:

The staff in a college library is categorized as: -

- (i) Professional
- (ii) Non-professional

The professional staff includes the librarian and Assistant librarian. On the other hand the non- professional staff includes clerk, typist and library bearers.

Table 2: Library staff

Sl. no.	Name of the college library	Nos. of Staff
1	Majuli College	(a) Professional – 1 (b) Non-professional - 2
2	North Bank College	(a) Professional – 1 (b) Non-professional - 2
3	Dhemaji College	(a) Professional – 1 (b) Non-professional – 2
4	Silapathar College	(a) Professional-1 (b) Non-professional-3

Table 3: Services provided by Libraries

Sl.no	Services	Majuli college	North Bank college	Dhemaji college	Silapathar college
1	Lending	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	Xerox	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	Readers advisory Service	No	No	No	Yes
4	Reservation of Books	No	No	No	Yes
5	Book Bank	No	No	Yes	Yes
6	Newspaper clippings	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
7	Display of Books	No	No	Yes	Yes



8	Current Awareness Services	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
9	Selective Dissemination of Information	No	No	No	No
10	Open Public Access Catalogue	No	No	Yes	Yes
11	Internet services	No	No	Yes	Yes

Table 4: Library Collections:

Sl. No.	Name of the College	Books	Periodicals
1	Majuli College	5757	7
2	North Bank College	7690	9
3	Dhemaji College	28634	23
4	Silapathar College	22000	24

Table 5: The total numbers of registered readers:

Sl. No.	Name of Colleges	Registered readers
1.	Majuli College	1062
3.	North Bank College	1620
4.	Dhemaji College	1700
5	Silapathar College	1011

From the above deplorable condition of college libraries of areas of upper Assam



inhabited by schedule tribes, it is found that the present status and position of these college libraries is not good at all. In this ICT era it is very glimpse matter that without a proper qualified librarian how the library is running and how far services will be provided to the users, some steps should be taken up to improve the services for users of the library. Users should make aware of the benefits of the library service. The induction of information technology has making an impact on the structure of the library organization affecting the very character agencies have changed. The impact of information has been wide ranging on the nature and extent of library service.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENATIONS

Problems faced by the libraries located at assembly constituency reserved for schedule tribe of Upper Assam:

The problems faced by concerned college libraries are listed below:-

1. Inadequate Physical Facilities: The library buildings are miserably poor and totally inadequate for the proper functioning of the library as they do not have separate building.
2. Inadequate Collection: College libraries of surveyed areas have comparatively less collection than the college libraries of other parts of Assam.
3. Shortage of Fund: It is often found that college libraries continued suffer from lack of proper financial support.
4. Apathy of the Management: It is found that the college authority do not have interest in the development of libraries. The libraries therefore have to face various problems due of managements.
5. Lack of Library Awareness: Students as well as teachers are unaware of the potential of the library in supporting their educational programmers. This has been most basic and serious hurdle in the way of development of college libraries.
6. Inadequacy of Services: Open access in not practiced in the majority of libraries, which is the main drawback of acquiring reference. Inter library loan services is not available.
7. Inadequacy of Qualified Manpower: Most of the college libraries are understaffed



irrespective of the grades of the college. Each college should have a librarian, a qualified an assistant librarian, a qualified library assistant and other manpower.

The following measures are suggested for improving of collection:

1. There should be regular fund for the library budget.
2. Number of staff with professional qualification should be increased particularly in libraries,
3. It is found that except a few colleges, most of the colleges could not have standard library building. With UGC grant, each college should build up a proper library building in order to accommodate a proper collection and make use of that collection efficiently by both students and teachers.
4. In order to organized different sections like periodicals, reference, rear books, newspapers, audio-visual, textbooks, photo printing, local history and cultural collections etc., spacious building is must and operation of the different section also is must.
5. In order to fulfill the five laws of library science and also the primary objective of academic librarianship, open access system is essential. So all the libraries should adopt open access system with proper infrastructure facilities and staff.
6. The college library collection should be a comprehensive one representing all categories of reading materials.
7. All types of reference materials should be subscribed; most of the students and teachers depend upon the reference materials in their respective field of specification. So, it is necessary to bring these materials to the hand of the user as soon as they are published.

Collection on bibliography, dictionary, reference resources, encyclopedia, bibliographical reference materials are very important for users and directory, almanacs, gazetteers, had book and manuals of different subjects should be kept up-to-date. Again year books, census reports and similar statistical reference books are also needed. The collection may perhaps up to reader's satisfaction.



Library should acquire tools for user i.e. indexing tools, catalogues of all publication and union catalogues of periodicals for easy location of the required materials for individual workers.

8. Most of the reading materials are now-a-days costly, the librarian should be alert in the time of selection of these materials. Sound and solid selection for reading materials, based on mutual co-operation among students, teachers and library staff is the better way for the improvement of the library. The fund should be utilized equitably for buying all the different categories of materials like books, reference books, periodicals, audio visual materials and also in all the subjects in the respective colleges.
9. They should prepare cataloguing for books and reference source and periodicals properly and should keep them up to date.
10. Proper physical arrangement in the shelves is suggested for the collection.
11. All the existing collections of the libraries are not allowed to each and every user at the library. Most of the documents are kept in lock and key. So it is to be kept open to all readers, who seek information.
12. There should be separate documentation section if possible; it assists users in their work in the findings of micro-literature.
13. Libraries should keep an audio visual collection concerning micro-film, tape, disk, records, CD ROM etc.
14. Libraries should maintain co-operation and direct telecommunication with other national and international libraries.
15. It is observed that the college libraries are not properly used by both students and teachers. It can be said that the reason behind no-use of the libraries is the examination oriented system of education in Assam. As there is no scope for regular evaluation of students based on tutorial and seminar and other works.

CONCLUSION

It is pragmatic picture that most of provincialised degree colleges of libraries located at



assembly constituency reserved for schedule tribe of Upper Assam have been facing acute financial problem. Lack of sufficient library staff is another major problem of these colleges. The study reveals that though all four provincialised degree college libraries of concerned areas of Assam which are located in tribal areas have not own library building. They are attached with administrative building or other college buildings. Digital library is now regular phenomenon in day by day. But Libraries are not digitized. Still now most libraries do not access N-LIST programme from INFLIBNET .It is summed to survey that no college libraries provided to users fully computerization services. If all the local libraries used computers and connect each other than library network is possible among college libraries.

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