Utilization of College Libraries – A Study Among the Post Graduate Students of Arts and Science Colleges Under Bharathiar University Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

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ABSTRACT
In this paper an attempt has been made to describe a survey of the Utilization of college libraries – A Study among the Post Graduate Students of Arts and Science Colleges under Bharathiar University Coimbatore. A questionnaire method is used to identify the impressions of postgraduate students towards the awareness of library utilization, services, adequacy of library resources, and their views on library services. The paper also examines the utilization levels of users about College libraries etc, and services provided by the library. Further an attempt has also been made to highlight the findings of the study and a few suggestions have been given based on the analysis of the data.

KEYWORDS: Utilization, College Library, Post Graduate Students, Bharathiar University

Introduction

The college library has been rightly called the `heart' of the college. It is an organic unit operation with the great whole of the college itself. Its functions should hence be determined by the objective of the college. The college library has been brought into existence to share this responsibility with the teacher.

Indian college libraries have to play a major role in the achievement of the ideals of our constitution of India. No college can develop or produce standard academic work without a strong library at its center. The library's quality is a major factor in determining the quality of the education that an institution can provide good library and the quality of the faculty it can recruit.

Profile Bharathiar University

The Bharathiar Universality was established in Coimbatore by the Government of Tamil Nadu, in February 1982, under the provision of the Bharathiar University Act 1918, and the Tamil Nadu Act of 1982, with jurisdiction over the revenue districts of Coimbatore, Erode and The Niligiris.The postgraduate departments of the Madras University, which were functioning at that time, formed the nucleus of the Bharathiar University. The University was accorded recognition by the University Grants Commission, for the purpose of award of Grants in May 1985.

The University is named after the great national poet, Subramania Bharathiar, who `nursed an unconquerable hope' for the freedom of his country and dreamt of a Grand Vision for Free India. It will be conceded that there couldn't have been a more fitting and a more lasting tribute to the memory of the great poet of Freedom and Vision, than this University, which has been making rapid strides in the field of higher education since its establishment. The motto of this University has been stated after the words of the great poet, Bharathiar himself, which means, "Educate to Elevate". And this University, to translate it into reality has been taking every effort the poet's dream of elevating this world, by imparting multidisciplinary education and training and transforming educational institutes into "temples of learning".

The university is situated at the foothill of Marudhamalai, a mountain that forms part of the western Ghat range, in a sprawling campus of one thousand acres, fifteen kilometers from the city of Coimbatore. As for, the university has 109 affiliated colleges of which 71 are Arts and Science Colleges, 26 are Engineering Colleges, 2 are Colleges of Education, 8 Management Institutes, one College of Physical Education and one Air Force Administrative College. In addition, there are 19 Research Institutes of the State and Central Governments, which are affiliated to this University. And all these institutions cater to the educational needs of 1,01,881 students and Research scholars.

Need for the Study

The present study focuses on the Utilization behavior of the postgraduate students of Bharathiar University, Coimbatore. In which an attempt has been made to know the true complexion of the existing situation, facilities, resources and services of arts and science college library and its utilization by the postgraduate students. And also to find out the utilization of college libraries by postgraduate students.

Objectives of the Present Study
The present library survey has following specific objectives

1. To find out the information needs of the postgraduate students.
2. To identify the factors which contribute to the utilization of libraries.
3. To analyses the utilization of library facilities by the Post graduates students of Arts and Science Colleges under Bharathiar University.
4. To suggest suitable policy recommendations.

Statement of the problem

In the contemporary scenario, there are various degrees available in the colleges and universities. And in the university and college libraries the textbooks and reference books are plenty in number. But in most of the department libraries. So the most valuable or more important books are transferred from the main library to the department libraries. So the students from other disciplines or colleges could not get the rare books in the libraries.

As per the colleges are concerned, they are not in a position to provide such costly or rare books and journals in the college libraries. So the students are not able to use the rare and costly books. So the utilization is lacking among the students.

Importance and Scope of the Study

In the present day situation with the ever-increasing number of enrolment of students in the classroom, even though teachers are communicating to the students, in order to understand the subject well, the students have to refer the books in a library also. Therefore, the library acts as the connecting link between teacher and the taught.

The college library works as "the workshop of the scholars" and "the laboratory of the learned". Instruction of teachers should animate and guide students in right direction to read correct books and broaden their, knowledge. Books act as "instructors of instructors". A teacher who wants to teach better must keep himself up-to-date and aware of the information available in his subject.

A library should procure high standard current periodical literature and good reference books. Lending procedure of books to teachers and students should be efficient and the reading room space should be adequate. Most of the college libraries follow open access system. In this context a study on the utilization of libraries may help to provide more insight into the topic. The scope of the study is limited to the selected arts and Science College under Bharathiar University.

Methodology

For this study to collect the comprehensive and relevant data, a questionnaire method was applied. A list of questions was formulated keep-

ing in view, the objectives of the study and personally distributed to the Post Graduate students, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore. The population of the sample is Arts and science college students at MIB/MFC,M.Com/M.C.A, M.Sc,MCA.,MSW, & Others M.Sc were approached to fill up the questionnaires. Totally 150 questionnaire were distributed, out of which 100 were received back, with response.

Data is collected from both primary as well as secondary sources. The primary data is collected directly from the respondents with a well-designed questionnaire. Primary data is basically to understand the utilization of college libraries by the students. The questionnaire includes information-related infrastructure, library timing, and utilization of books, journals/magazines, reports and back volumes.

Among the total number of arts and science colleges under Bharathiar University (72), twelve colleges have been selected on a random basis for the study. The study was conducted among the Postgraduate students. A sample of 150 respondents are selected from these twelve colleges on the basis of simple random sampling.

Apart from the primary data, secondary literature has been used. This includes journals/magazines, college magazines, reports, and college library records. The secondary literature has helped the researcher to frame a theoretical background to the study as well as setting the objectives. The records are basically used to understand the existing facilities of libraries.

Scope and Limitation
The scope of the present study is confined to only the postgraduate student.

This study concentrates around the affiliated college of Bharathiar University only. There is the geographical limit, which hinders the wide scope of the study.

The study limits its survey within the range of postgraduate students of Arts and Science colleges. The dissertation entertains the view of library users at a particular period of time. As the study is conducted in a period of one year, it has its own time limit also. The studies could have been improved much with adequate resources and time.

Drawback in Utilization
In most of the colleges any one of the classrooms is converted into libraries. Separate building in a peaceful atmosphere could be allotted for libraries to enhance the better functioning of library. Inter-library loan is not properly administrated to the readers in many libraries and so there is a lack of accessibility to the resources.

Non-book materials such as gazettes, government reports, travel guides are not given due importance in academic libraries as more concentration is given only to curriculum based books. This should be avoided and such concentration can also be given to these things to maintain a balance between curricular and co-curricular activities.

Lack of proper orientation and personal contact of the reader with the librarian also hinders the effective utilization of the library. Geographical sources are reference tools that provide information about places. They take the users to all parts of the world. However, there are hardly very few libraries, which do not have atlas, a small collection of maps.

Analysis and Interpretation of the Data
Table:1 Purpose of Utilizing the Library

Purpose of Utilization	Rank Order
Improve Knowledge	1
Academic	2
Employment	3
Entertainment	4
Others	-

The major purpose of utilization of library by the students is for improving knowledge. It is followed by academic, employment, and entertainment.

Table: 2 Utilization of Books in the Library

Books	Very High	High	Neither High Nor Poor	Poor	Very Poor
Subject Books	27 (34.17)	47 (28.48)	21 (17.35)	5 (15.15)	-
Reference Books	25 (31.64)	40 (24.24)	31 (25.61)	4 (12.12)	-
Textbooks	14 (17.72)	50 (30.30)	30 (24.79)	7 (21.21)	-
Foreign Books	13(16.45)	29(17.57)	39(32.23)	17(51.51)	2(100)
Total	79	165	121	33	2

It is clear from the Table 2 that, the students' utilization regarding subject books and reference books are found high.

Table: 3 Opinions Regarding the Utilization of Journal / Magazines

Periodicals	Very High	High	Neither High Nor Poor	Poor	Very Poor
Indian Journal	16(36.36)	66 (38.37)	13(11.40)	4(6.34)	1(14.28)
Foreign Journal	5(11.36)	35(20.34)	39(34.21)	19(30.15)	2(28.57)
Indian Magazine	18(40.90)	53(30.81)	21(18.42)	6(9.52)	2(28.57)
Foreign Magazine	5(11.36)	18(10.46)	41(35.96)	34(53.96)	2(28.57)
TOTAL	44	172	114	63	7

The preference of the students on journal show that, they mostly prefer Indian journals and Indian magazines.

Table: 4 Utilization of Reports, Back Volumes, Non-Book Materials

Course/ Opinion	Very High	High	Neither High Nor Poor	Poor	Very Poor
Reports/ Theses Dissertations	13 (12.87)	36(15.06)	38(13.01)	12(4.16)	1(0.55)
Govt. Reports	5(4.95)	24(10.04)	41(14.04)	26(9.02)	4(2.22)
University Question Bank	18(17.82)	37(15.48)	23(7.87)	20(6.94)	2(1.11)
Conference/ Seminars Papers	3(2.97)	27(11.29)	26(8.90)	37(12.84)	7(3.88)
Back Volumes	6(5.94)	39(16.31)	35(11.98)	19(6.59)	1(0.55)
Dailies/ Newspapers	48(47.52)	38(15.89)	4(1.36)	5(1.73)	5(2.77)
Maps	5(4.95)	9(3.76)	34(11.64)	32(11.11)	20(11.11)
Slides	-	9(3.76)	32(10.95)	31(10.76)	28(15.55)
Video Cassettes	1(0.99)	5(2.09)	18(6.16)	38(13.19)	38(21.11)
Audio Cassettes	-	5(2.09)	21(7.19)	36(12.5)	38(21.11)
CD's	2(1.98)	10(4.18)	20(6.84)	32(11.11)	36 (20)
TOTAL	101	239	292	288	180

Opinion regarding the utilization of reports/back volumes is depicted in the table 4.

EFFECT OF UTILIZATION FACTORS ON COLLEGE LIBRARIES
[LIKERT SCALE]
An attempt has been made to analyze the attitude of students in utilization on Libraries by taking into account of various factors such as utilization of library, infrastructure, library visit timing, utilization of books, utilization of journal/ magazines, utilization of reports/back volumes, and external support. This has been analyzed with the help of Likert Scale.

LIKERT SCALES SCORING

FACTORS	SCORING
Infrastructure & utilization of library	3.86
Library Visit, timing & utilization	3.45
Utilization of books	3.49
Utilization of Journals/Magazines	3.56
Utilization of reports /Back volume	2.83
External source	3.38

The attitude of the respondents regarding the different factors of utilization is measured with help of Likert scale at 5-point scale. Here 3 is considered as neutral and any score above 3 indicates the favorableness of respondents towards the factor and below 3 shows their unfavorableness. It is clear that, the attitude towards utilization reports/back volumes is found unfavorable.

Major Findings
The study is basically to understand the utilization of libraries by the postgraduate students of different colleges under Bhararthair University. Twelve colleges have been selected and 100 respondents are identified through simple random sampling.

- The over all utilization of libraries by the postgraduate students is found positive and are utilizing these facilities quite oftenly. However, there are around 40 percent students who are not utilizing this facility properly.
- The major purpose of utilization is to improve the knowledge, which is followed by academic. For this, they read newspapers and journals mostly.
- An infrastructure facility is found quite well. The library environment is quite conducive to learn according to most of the respondents (69%). With respect to reading rooms, seating arrangements, location of books, utilization of books, the responds are satisfied. However, there is a need to improve the library space facilities, the computerization of libraries, providing the internet facilities. Opinion in this regard is either partially satisfied or dissatisfied. With respect to utilization of books majority prefer textbooks. Computerized to a large extend help in locating books easily.
- Majority of the students (64%) prefer after the class hours as their time of visit in the library, and the present timing is found convenient (57%). The students prefer to spend 20-60 Minuets in the libraries daily. This opinion is according to 72 percent of the total respondents. However, it is a matter of worry that, most of the colleges do not have any library hours.
- With respects to number of books issued, 39 percent is satisfied and 40 Percent is partially satisfied. Students do not utilize the

book reservation facility effectively, which is a matter of worry. Their satisfaction with respect to number of copies of books in the libraries is not high. However, in the case of journals, most of the respondents are satisfied (59%). The respondents are also satisfied with the quality of books.

- The students general refer Indian journals/magazines and foreign Journals/magazines. In both case utilization is found good.
- The utilization of Government reports/back volumes, conference papers, is a poor.
- The external support in utilization of the library facility is found good. This includes lectures' support, assistant from library staff. Majority of the libraries never face any indecipline problems inside the libraries. This is according to 66 percent of the respondents.
- Likert scale score show that students are utilizing the libraries in a good manner. However, their preference towards utilization of reports and back volumes is not impressive (refer also likert scale in the report).

In short, this study reveals that students are utilizating the libraries in a good manner. However, certain aspects such as improvement of computer facilities and internet facilities can improve its utilization.

Suggestions
- Non-availability of computer facilities in the major problem found in many libraries. Effective steps from the authorities such as releasing funds, provide space, and create awareness among the students must be required.
- Internet becomes a part of every body's life now days and serve as major sources of providing knowledge. It is an important factor that the authorities must consider this and provides for the betterment of library utilization.
- There is a lack of government reports and other important non-book materials in the library. So the above state materials must be provide to the libraries to enhance the students' knowledge.
- Library timing is a very important factor, which inhibits the utilization of the library. Most academic libraries work only during college hours. Consequently students hardly get one or two hours for using the library. This is not sufficient for an effective user of a library. So necessary steps should be taken to increase the library timings.

Conclusion
The study concludes that the post gradates students are utilizing the library facilities in a good manner. However, providing computerization and Internet facilities will help the students to utilizes libraries in an effect way.

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