

SUMMARY OF MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT
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TITLE OF THE MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT
A USER STUDY OF COLLEGE LIBRARY WITH REFERENCE TO SPECIAL
NEEDS OF THE USER.

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SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION:

The importance of the library in higher education has been often emphasized by various educationist, commissions and committees of libraries. In the storm of emerging changes forced us to judge ourselves. It is worth dawning whatever libraries of colleges situated in Nashik city and accredited with 'A' grade by NAAC are prepared to serve for their users especially special students and satisfy their academic demands.

1.1 Therefore, the **problem is-**
A User study of the college libraries with Special Reference to Special Needs of the User

1.2 Objectives:

- To know the status of the 'A' grade college libraries situated in Nashik city, Maharashtra.
- To identify the special needs of the users from these college libraries in concern with the library collection, infrastructure and services.
- To assess the satisfaction of these users who are with special needs.

1.3 Scope:

- 31 colleges situated in Nashik city.
- The present study covered 'A' grade accredited college libraries
- At present, there are four 'A' grade colleges in Nashik city.
- 53 special students are participated in this study.

1.4 Hypothesis:

- These colleges have well established library.
- These libraries have users with special needs.
- The users of the college library with special needs are fairly aware of their library services.
- These libraries provide sufficient and suitable services to those users who are with special needs.

1.5 Methodology.

- Descriptive Method of Research
- Survey Technique
- Data Collection Method:
Primary Sources: Pre-structured questionnaires and interview.
Secondary Sources: College prospectus, College Websites, books, journals and magazines, Internet etc.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

- Total 112 documents are reviewed by the researcher.
- Within this 92 primary sources (Journals and Websites) and 20 (books etc.) secondary sources reviewed.
- Academic library, College library in relation to Collection, Infrastructure, Services, User Study, Special Users and Services, Special Needs, Accreditation these topics are considered for literature search.
- This elaborated the various factors and trends of academic, particularly college libraries and enhanced to summarized and evaluate the comprehensive view of the previous research.
- This helped to design the questionnaires.
- The literature review inference is that the present study is a unique one.

3. COLLEGE LIBRARY AND IT'S ROLE:

The fundamental objectives of a college library are educational one. It acquires documents, which contribute and support the teaching-learning programmes. A main objective of college library is to serve the students and the teachers of the college in such way that with each step they get nearer to their programmes of higher academic pursuits.

There are various factors considered in this chapter related to College library. These are College library infrastructure, collection, basic services and their standard. A role of circulation service and reading habit these issues are also focused. There is a significant role of new technologies in college library. This issue also discussed.

As the college library plays a vital role in higher education system the responsibilities of the college library are manifold. These are-

- To serve the objectives of the parent institution.
- To provide opportunities for the well being of the individual student through their own studies with their own tastes.
- To provide an access to a wide range and variety of documents.
- To support and supplement the teaching-learning process of the institution and to promote and spread knowledge.
- To prevent the degradation of the system it has to formulate innovative programmes and display keen interest to become effective instrument of education field.

Role of NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) institution, grading system, weight ages for core indicators these factors related to the present study are also elaborated in this chapter.

In concern with the disabled students various schemes are there by State Government and Central government. Some schemes like HEPSN, National Scholarship Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship etc. are mentioned.

Taking in to consideration the population of disabled in India and data of NCPEDP's (National Center for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People) in higher education, role of the college library for special users are described with the points of college infrastructure, collection and services.

An ideal college library not only develops collection of printed books, but also develops collection of non-book material. Such a library provides various services of suitable to the needs of college students and teachers especially for special students.

4. COLLEGE LIBRARIES PROFILES:

User study of "A" grade college libraries situated in Nashik city is the subject of present study. In educational scenario of Nashik city at present there are five colleges have "A" grade. One college is added in this after the study was started and in process therefore researcher considered four colleges for this study. These colleges are namely,

- Hansaraj Pragji Thakersey Arts and Ravjisa Yamasa Kashatriya Science (HPT & RYK) College, Nashik
- Bhikusa Yamasa Kshatriya (B.Y.K.) College of Commerce, Nashik.
- Karmaveer Raosaheb Thorat Arts, Bhausaheb Hire Commerce & Annasaheb Murkute Science (KTHM) College, NASHIK
- Karmaveer Shantaram Bapu Kondaji Wavare Arts, Science and Commerce College, CIDCO.

With the introductory part of the college library, profile covered following points:

- ✓ Objectives of the College Library
- ✓ Library: At a glance
- ✓ Library Collection
- ✓ Library Facilities
- ✓ Unique features of Library
- ✓ Library Transaction
- ✓ Library Working hours

5. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

Total 53 disabled/special students are covered in this study. In the duration of 2012 -14. College-wise special students in number is as follows-

- H.P.T. ARTS & R.Y.K. SCIENCE COLLEGE: 02
- B.Y.K. COLLEGE OF COMMERCE: 04
- K. T. H. M. COLLEGE: 38
- KSKW ARTS, SCIENCE AND COMMERCE COLLEGE: 09

Total 53 students are covered in this study. Within this population 17(32%) students are blind and 36 (68%) are handicapped.

❖ **ANALYZED DATA:**

✚ **Preliminary Information:**

There are 13(24.5%) special students from junior classes and 26 (49%) special students from senior classes and 14(26.5%) special students are from Post graduate classes. Total 26 (49%) special students are from Arts faculty, 21(40%) special students are from Commerce faculty, four (7.5%) from Science faculty and two (3.5%) from Professional courses. 50(94.33%) special students are studying in Marathi medium and only three (5.66%) are studying in English medium.

Reveled data was analyzed under following subtitles:

✚ **Library Usage:**

- Out of 53, 14 (26.5%) special students are use library daily, 16 (30%) special students are use library for twice in a week, 6 (11.5%) students used library after eight days and 17 (32%) special students are not using their college library.
- Total 36 (68%) special students are visited their college library for the study purpose. They use the study room. 35 (66%) special students visit to library for borrowing books from Issue counter. 22 (41.5%) special students visit to complete their home work. There are nine (17%) special students use their library to read news papers and four (7.5%) special students use Internet from library. 17 (32%) special students have not responded to this question. As these students may are the blind.
- Maximum i.e. 49 (92.5%) special students read for examination purpose. Minimum i.e. 13(24.5%) special students read for entertainment and 25 (47%) special students noted their purpose for reading is to prepare competitive examination.

✚ **Library Services:**

- Majority i.e. 50 (95%) special students preferred open access and three (5.5%) special students preferred for closed access.
- There were 47(89%) special students noted existing library time of their college library is convenient for them and three (5.5%) special students noted that this time is not convenient for them.
- Majority of i.e. 46(86.79%) special students expressed that they have no any extra or special facility and service provided by their college library. Only six (11.32%) special students marked that they get book bank facility.

✚ **Library Collection:**

- Out of 53, 32(61%) special students expressed that they are satisfied with their library collection and 12(22.5%) special students noted that they are not satisfied with their college library's existing collection. Nine (16.5%) special students not responded to this question.
- Total 40(75.5%) special students use books to get the information 25(47%) special students use newspapers, 26 (49%) special students use journals and magazines, 20(38%) special students use Internet, eight (15%) special students get information from Television.

✚ **Library Accessibility:**

- The option 'College library' was selected by 30 (56.60%) special students as a first preference, one (1.88%) student selected as a second preference and six (11.31%) special students selected as a third preference. 'Public library' this

option was selected as a second preference by 18 (34%) special students, two (3.77%) special students each selected as third and fourth preference. For 'Personal reading material' five (9.43%) special students have given first preference and 10(19%) special students have given second preference, 13 (24.5%) special students have given third preference and one (1.88%) student has given fourth preference for this option. 'Borrow from friends' this option was selected as a first preference by 11(21%) special students, 13 (24.5%) special students selected as a second preference, four (7.54%) special students have given third preference and one (1.88%) student has given as a fourth preference. Five (9.43%) special students have given first preference and two (3.77%) special students gave second preference to 'Other libraries'. They specify other libraries as National Association for Blind (NAB), Mumbai and Nashik, Niwant Sanstha, Pune, Brialle Library, Pune. One (1.88%) special student has not responded to this question.

- Total 45 (85%) special students gets information about reading material from recommendation given by their teacher. 24(45.28%) special students get information through recommendation given by Librarian. 32(60.37%) special students noted that they get information from library display. 27(51%) special students noted that they get information about reading material from their friends/ parents. 9(17%) special students get information from advertisement and 7(13.20%) students noted that they get information from other sources like other institutions, NGO's etc.

Library Infrastructure:

- In concern with the infrastructure, 24(45.5%) special students are expressed that seating arrangement and light in college library is suitable for them. 22 (41.5%) special students are expressed that existing seating arrangement is not suitable for them as they are handicapped and could not use furniture comfortably. Seven (13%) special students have not responded.
- In response, 35(66%) special students noted that they need supportive system/sources for the use of college library.

Library Staff:

- According to the option one 'Librarian' 15(28.30%) special students noted first preference, seven (13.20%) special students noted second preference and 15(28.30%) special students noted third preference. For the option 'Library staff' first preference given by six(11.32%) special students,15(28.30%) special students given second preference and 12(23%) special students given fourth preference, For the option 'Classmate/friends' 16(30.18%) special students choose first preference, 12(23%) students choose second preference, six(11.32%) students choose third preference and one(1.88%) special student choose fourth preference. Last option was 'Teacher'.16(30.18%) special students have given first preference, 15(28.30%)special students given second preference, and three(5.66%) special students have given third preference to this option.

Suggestion:

- In relation to infrastructure, collection, facilities and services 44(83%) special students gave their suggestions. Nine (17%) special students not responded to this question.

6. OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS:

Major observations of this study are as follows:

- Majority i.e. 49% special students preferred Arts faculty and 94.33% students' preferred Marathi medium.
- 32% special students are not using their college library. May be these students are disable to use library.
- All i.e. 68% special students who visit college library they are using library for to study in reading room and less than 66% special students use library for issue/return book.
- Majority i.e. 92.5% special students read for examination purpose and less than i.e. 47% students read for the preparation of competitive examination.
- Majority i.e. 95% special students preferred open access for the library and 89% special students noted that existing college library time is convenient for them.
- 61% special students are satisfied with their college library collection and remaining 39% special students are either not satisfied or may be have not responded. Reason for this may be they have never come in library or may be disabling to use this library due to the arrangement of racks which is not suitable for them.
- 75.5% special students use books to get the information. Over all use of journals, news papers and Internet is too less.
- Above 56% special students have given first preference to college library to get information sources and 21% special students borrow the sources from their friends.
- In spite of these colleges availed 'A' grade, 45.5% special students expressed that the existing seating arrangement and light is suitable for them and 41.5% special students noted that the existing arrangement and light is not suitable for them. 13% special students have not responded this question.
- 85% special students get information about reading material from recommendation given by their teachers. Above 60% special students get information about reading material from library display.
- 66% special students noted that they require supportive system/sources for to use library.
- Above 28% special students have given first preference to 'Librarian' for getting help for information and services, 11.32% for 'Library staff' and above 30% special students choose first preference for each 'Classmate/friend' and 'Teacher'.
- Above 86% special students remarked that their college library is not providing any special/additional facility or service to them.
- 83% special students have given their suggestions in respect of college library infrastructure, collection, facility and services.

Suggestion:

To fulfill their demands and serve for them is a great challenge for the college librarian.

- College Librarians or authorities should try to remove the obstacles encountered by those patrons in their pursuit of information.
- The arrangements in stack rooms should be such, shelf height of the book racks should be such that they promote browsing and free movements.

- Librarians should assist such patrons with sympathetic attitude; keep good interpersonal relations with effective communication skill.
- Library materials such as with large-print format for those with poor eyesight, Braille and audio-cassettes for visually handicapped people and the Bliss system for persons with motor impairments have to be acquired, organized and developed.
- Social linkages with NGO's or voluntary and government organizations.
- College should run Higher Education for Persons (disabled) with Special Needs (HEPSN) Scheme on to create awareness among functionaries of Higher Education about specific educational needs of persons with disabilities. College library should be a part of this scheme.
- Some of the most popular books and long runs of epics can be recorded in tapes or audio CD's and made available to blind students.
- Though it may not be possible to provide Braille books on large scale, as they are very costly. The department can acquire some books and others can be procured on inter-library loan from the specialized libraries for the blind.
- Some of the most popular books and long runs of epics, textbook or subject books can be recorded in tapes through the other cooperative students or N.S.S. (National Social Services) volunteers of the college and made available to the blind students as well as other special students.
- A comprehensive survey is to be conducted to know the adequacy of library facilities for the special students.
- Recently K. T. H. M. College is awarded 'College with Potential for Excellence' (CPE) and received 1.5 million special grants for to develop infrastructure. College should make available some fund for their special students to build up Braille books, audio books and separate well equipped 'Blind Room' for blind students.
- The supportive system/sources like Kurzweil ReadingMachine, Print-to-Braille translator should be acquired by the National Library for the Blind Enabling them to read any print book in a library should be acquired by the National Library for the Blind Enabling them to read any print book in a library .
- These students are not familiar with effective methods and strategies for successful learning, which leads to the feelings of frustration and helplessness in case of failure. Libraries should give ample opportunities to develop themselves and foster them in many respects and open their dreams of life.
- Total three objectives are tested and all these three are satisfied successfully in this study.

 **Topics for further research:**

Study of the special students, their exclusion, marginalization and unfair treatments are the threats and study of this with special direction will be essential, important and more beneficial for the academicians and authorities of the government policy makers, UGC and NAAC.