

Higher Education and Role of Libraries in India

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ABSTRACT

Education is a form of learning in which the knowledge, skills, and habits of a group of people are transferred from one generation to the next through teaching, training, or research. Education is commonly divided into stages such as preschool, primary school, secondary school and then college, university or apprenticeship. Education can take place in formal or informal educational settings.

I. INTRODUCTION

Higher Education in India- History & Present

After independence, the government of India was much busy in grappling with issues and problems of post-partition of the country. However, the government was very clear on the issue that till the human resources was developed and groomed in a manner to bring about socio-economic development it would not be possible for the country to be self-reliant. Then national leaders were well aware of the need of revamping the whole education system. Therefore, the first education commission was established under the chairmanship of the renowned educationalist Radhakrishnan in 1948-49, thereafter Kothari Commission (1964-66) and then the New Education Policy was declared in 1986. The government then decided to view the growth of higher education in the country through five years plans. India has one of the largest higher education systems in the world.

II. TYPES OF LIBRARY

- (a) Academic Library
- (b) Public Library
- (c) Special Library

Role of UGC in development of Higher Education and Library System

The University Grants Commission (UGC) was established by an act of Parliament in 1956. It is an autonomous advisory organization for the promotion and co-ordination of university education and for the maintenance of standards. The UGC directs higher education in India. It has played an important role in the improvement of university and college libraries.

Importance of Library Consortia in present age Higher Education

Due to the crunching financial assistance to the academic libraries especially university libraries and increase in the cost of the information sources, it has been very difficult for the libraries to procure all the information sources needed by their users. Solution to this financial crunch is library consortia especially in relation to electronic resources. Many initiatives have been initiated in India for the formation of library consortia. Many library consortia in India are doing well and many libraries are benefited but at the same time library consortia are not free from problems. Various issues related to consortia like uninterrupted online access, perpetual access to back issues, pricing, licensing, copyright and archival solutions etc are pinpointed and need to be strategically tackled and well addressed to get the best out of the consortia. A consortium is a group of organizations who come together with a combined objective that requires cooperation and resource sharing. A library consortium can be local, regional, state, national or international.

Libraries need consortia because of - Information explosion

- Diversity of user needs
- Financial crunch
- Impossibility of self-sufficiency

Important advantages of library consortia are:

- Consortia-based subscription to electronic resources provides access to wider number of electronic resources at substantially lower cost.
 - Optimum use of funds
 - Facilities to create digital libraries
 - Services like CAS and SDI
 - Cost sharing for technical and training support
 - Electronic journals demand neither library space nor shelving nor can they be stolen
- Standards for Libraries in Higher Education by Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL)**

Principles and performance indicators-

The standards consist of principles and performance indicators.

III. PRINCIPLES

Institutional effectiveness: Libraries define, develop, and measure outcomes that contribute to institutional effectiveness and apply findings for purposes of continuous improvement.

Professional values: Libraries advance professional values of intellectual freedom, intellectual property rights and values, user privacy and confidentiality, collaboration, and user-centered service.

Educational role: Libraries partner in the educational mission of the institution to develop and support information-literate learners who can discover, access, and use information effectively for academic success, research, and lifelong learning.

Discovery: Libraries enable users to discover information in alt formats through effective use of technology and organization of knowledge.

Collections: Libraries provide access to collections sufficient in quality, depth, diversity, format, and currency to support the research and teaching missions of the institution.

Space: Libraries are the intellectual commons, where users interact with ideas in both physical and virtual environments to expand learning and facilitate the creation of new knowledge.

Management/administration: Libraries engage in continuous planning and assessment to inform resource allocation and to meet their mission effectively and efficiently.

Personnel: Libraries provide sufficient number and quality of personnel to ensure excellence and to function successfully in an environment of continuous change.

External relations: Libraries engage the campus and broader community through multiple strategies in order to advocate, educate, and promote their value.

IV. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR EACH PRINCIPLE

1. **Institutional Effectiveness:** Libraries define, develop, and measure outcomes that contribute to institutional effectiveness and apply findings for purposes of continuous improvement.
2. **Professional Values:** Libraries advance professional values of intellectual freedom, intellectual property rights and values, user privacy and confidentiality, collaboration, and user-centered service.
3. **Educational Role:** Libraries partner in the educational mission of the institution to develop and support information-literate learners who can discover, access, and use information effectively for academic success, research, and lifelong learning.
4. **Discovery:** Libraries enable users to discover information in all formats through effective use of technology and organization of knowledge.
5. **Collections:** Libraries provide access to collections sufficient in quality, depth, diversity, format, and currency to support the research and teaching mission of the institution.
6. **Space:** Libraries are the intellectual commons where users interact with ideas in both physical and virtual environments to expand learning and facilitate the creation of new knowledge.
7. **Management/administration:** Libraries engage in continuous planning and assessment to inform resource allocation and to meet their mission effectively and efficiently.
8. **Personnel:** Libraries provide sufficient number and quality of personnel to ensure excellence and to function successfully in an environment of continuous change.
9. **External Relations:** Libraries engage the campus and broader community through multiple strategies in order to advocate, educate, and promote their value.

V. CONCLUSION

Higher education in India has witnessed some creditable achievements in the post-independence era, but at the same time has resulted in bigger problems and issues in the field. Though there is manifold increase in the number of institutions of higher education, the accessibility to higher education in the country has not achieved the desired standards. Library services improve knowledge and skills for positive productivity as a tool for national development. Different types of libraries play a significant role on different styles in educating the citizenry of a nation. The utility of a library in education can at once be felt and generalized particularly when we look into the educational conditions of the poor.

VI. REFERENCES

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