



Role of Academic Libraries in Higher Education

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ABSTRACT

Library is regarded as an integral part of an institute as it provides a service institution library service are one of the most widely used and accepted in the modern world. Academic community particularly in a university utilized library service for research and teaching purposes. We cannot deny the role importance of academic libraries in higher education. A quality education is impossible without a quality library. To improve the quality and infrastructure of academic library in India national organizations like Govt. of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), University Grants Commission (UGC), National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC), National Knowledge Commission (NKC), and various educational commissions provides important guidelines for the academic libraries in India to measure the quality of higher education. UGC played a vital role for betterment of library in higher education by establishing information and Library Network Centre (INFLIBNET). We cannot expect quality subject are multi-disciplinary and students or users are guided to the self-learning environment where a well-equipped library can help them to go the depth of the subject and gain knowledge.

Keywords: *Academic libraries, Higher Education, UGC, NAAC, INFLIBNET, Digital technologies*

Introduction:

The role of library in higher education is much more important since library is considered a prime requirement in university education. Academic library is the vital computer which develops the teaching-learning and research activity. It serves as a key factor to accomplish the aims and objectives of the higher education.

Education is one of the largest activities in the world. It is as important as any resource is for a nation's economics and industrial development because it is the key to human resource development. Through education we can achieve knowledge and



information. This is power and this power, is very essential for the development of personality of individuals as well as the nations.

The role of library in the education process at any level, especially at the college level for the overall development of students such as personality, skill communication, career, and creativity is very significant etc. So a well-organized library is essential for the teaching-learning process done in a college, especially when the emphasis is shifted from classroom teaching – centered process. The quality of education is greatly linked with libraries. The information collected and disseminated by libraries decided the quality of the teaching and learning process in colleges. In word of S.R Dongerkery, “A well-stocked and up-to-date library is a sine qua non for every modern educational institution”.

Academic Library and Higher Education:

Library Partner in the educational mission of the institution to to develop and support information-literate learners who can discover, access and use information effectively for academic success, research and lifelong learning Libraries enable users to discover information in all formats through effective use of technology and organization of knowledge.

The Government of India constitutes a number of education commission and committee to develop the level of higher education in India like UGC, AICTE, and Kothari Commission etc. Theses committee and commissions recommended enriching the library facilities to the academics as well as universities.

Standards of Academic Libraries in higher education in India:

The Standards for Libraries in Higher Education are designed are designed to guide academic libraries in advancing and sustaining their role as partners in education students, achieving their institutions’ Objectives, and positioning libraries as leaders in assessment and continuous improvement on their campuses. Libraries must demonstrate their value and document their contributions to overall institutional effectiveness and be prepared to address change in higher education. These standards were developed through study, consideration of new and emerging issues and trends in libraries, higher education and accrediting practices.

a) UGC-University Grants Commission (1953): The role of UGC In noteworthy in enriching the academic in higher education through financing as well the systematic



planning and vital leadership. UGC allocates grants to number of universities for building construction. In addition to this, a liberal financial has been ensured based on a tentative formula of Rs. 15 per students and Rs.200 per teacher and research fellow for the annual purchase of books. The new university libraries are granted a special initial grant. UGC has helped the professionally qualified academic libraries to get better pay scales equal to the teaching members of the university (Bhatt 130) UGC has been allotting more funds for the development of academic libraries. The provision was made to initiate the work for this function in the 5-year plans of the country.

b) INFLIBNET: UGC has established a national information network named INFLIBNET in 1986 at Gandhinagar. Its function is the information communication of the libraries of all universities, higher educational and research institutes of our country. The center INFLIBNET updated the libraries of resources, software development of libraries and conduction training programme etc. are well-managed by this centre. The more considerable step towards advancement in this field is the development of software for university libraries (SOUL) which is available free of cost to INFLIBNET members. The centre has developed shodhaganga, a reservoir of Indian theses which has a database of thousands of these from a member of Universities across India.

C) NAAC: NAAC in its publication library and information Services: Case Presentation (2006) explained its efforts toward quality. It is recommended that NAAC should hold National Seminar on Best Practices in academic libraries every year. The Participation in the conference should be by paper presentation. Selections of Papers for Presentation are subject to peer review. Academic libraries are part of the large academic bodies in higher education. Generation, Organization and dissemination of information and knowledge are subject to constant change since 1980s. Most academic libraries have the facility of internet resources which supplement the print collections of the library. These changes are substantial.

Various Indian Educational commission's Recommendation for Libraries:

1. University Education Commission: established in 1948-49 under the chairmanship of eminent academician and president of India clearly mentioned the importance of library in educational and research field. "The library is the heart of all the University work: directly so, as regards its research work, which derives its life from research works. The aims and objectives of an academic library are;



- To provide the facilities for advanced study and research work.
- To encourage the qualitative academic environment of teaching and research.
- To provide proper guidance and training in order to prepare the students for master and Doctorate degree.
- To improve the quality of education at various level.

2. Kothari Education Commission: (1964-65) was found very much serious about importance of library in higher educational institution stating that, “nothing could be more damaging to a-pawing department than to neglect its library, give to it a low priority”. So role of a library considered much more important for higher educational institutions. All educational programmers are successful implemented with the help and coordination of the library.

3. SR Ranganathan (1948) participated in UGC agenda regarding ‘Role of library in academic development’ following observation of the library.

- “The library is the heart of education’
- Methods & fashion in education changes from generation to generation, but each generation uses the library as a means of realizing its items; hence the library remains the great conservator of learning.
- A library is essential for mainttence of free access to ideas, and to the functioning of the untrammelled mind’

INDEST

The Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) has set up the “Indian National Digital library in Science and Technology (INDEST) Consortium”. The ministry provider founds required for the subscriptions to electronic resources for 38 academic institutions, including the Indian Institute of Sciences, Institute of Managements, and about 60 centrally- funded/aided government institution through he consortium. The INDEST consortium is the most ambitious initiative so far the area of engineering and technology disciplines.

National Knowledge Commission (2005)

National Knowledge Commission has given emphasize on libraries, it has recommended in its report to nation (2006-2009) for the creation of 50 new National universities in India that can provide education of higher standard. To Endeavour to transform higher education proposes the up gradation of infrastructure of libraries in a



regular basic. NKC also proposes the creation of a model library charter, a list services to be performed by libraries, a library network and National Repository for Bibliographic Record. In addition to this, NKC has created National Knowledge Network which helps to connect all universities, libraries, laboratories, hospitals and agricultural institutions to share data and resources across the country.

Hence, the role of library and librarian has basically in the techno-driven world. The advancement in context to sharing resources should be used for the benefit of students and teaching faculty in the best possible manner. The adequate infrastructure in one of the major barrier in India because universities provide connectivity, but how and to what extent is used is more important. Though, the access of required information and reading material is possible through internet technology even from outside the campus, but is also needs proper care and guidance.

CONCLUSION:

The spread of education in society is at the foundation of success in the country which helps in bringing development to the country. There can be no doubt that higher education has made significant contribution to economic development, social progress and political democracy in independent India. Higher education helps in creating human resources for the country; it is a source of dynamics for the economy. It has provided a beginning for the creation of knowledge society. A good academic library plays a vital role in creating the same. The primary objectives of libraries are to organize and provide access to information, and it remains the same although the format and methods have changed drastically.

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