

# COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE FUNCTIONING OF LIBRARIES IN AUTONOMOUS AN NON- AUTONOMOUS COLLEGES affiliated to Acharya Nagarjuna University

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## ABSTRACT:

Colleges fall under different categories- Government colleges, Aided colleges, NAAC accredited colleges, NAAC accredited and autonomous colleges, unaided colleges. The present study is an attempt to compare the functioning of academic libraries of autonomous college and non-autonomous colleges taking into consideration, mainly student support services as parameters. The analysis is based on the well structured questionnaires administered to the librarian, library personnel, and users and the reasons for the lopsided functioning of libraries in non-autonomous colleges.

Key words: Academic libraries, autonomy, parameters, automation, analysis, personnel.

This study was conducted to compare the functioning of libraries in autonomous and non-autonomous degree colleges affiliated to Acharya Nagarjuna University It was based on the assumption that the libraries of autonomous colleges are better furnished and offer more student support services to under graduate students better than the libraries of non-autonomous colleges. As the librarian intends to conduct research on" A Comparative Study of the functioning of autonomous and non-autonomous libraries in degree colleges affiliated to Acharya Nagarjuna University" a small sample of two autonomous colleges and four non-autonomous colleges is chosen for study.

This study tries to assess the infrastructural facilities, library hours, space, collection ,user orientation, student support services offered in the library, application of technology, , physical facilities etc., in the libraries of the degree colleges affiliated to Acharya Nagarjuna University through well structured questionnaires administered to the librarians and through informal personal interviews with the librarians, students and other users.

After reviewing the literature available on the history of libraries after independence and the suggestions made byb different committees on libraries, the researcher made use of the convenient Sampling technique to select the sample for the study. Data was collected using questionnaires addressed to the librarians, teachers and users at random The data Collected was statistically analyzed and interpreted using the Statistical Package. Findings of the study indicated that the non-autonomous colleges are not giving the

importance required to the library They appear to have failed in satisfying the information need of the staff and students.

Out of 207 degree colleges affiliated to ANU offering UG 35 are Aided Colleges. Out of 35 Aided colleges 33 are Co-education colleges and 2 are colleges for women .15 are Government Colleges. Out of the 15 Government colleges 11 are co-education colleges and 4 are women's colleges.. 159 are unaided private colleges. Out of 159, 143 are Co-Education colleges and 16 are colleges for women. Out of them only five colleges are autonomous and accredited too. 18 colleges are assessed and accredited by NAAC, an autonomous body established by the UGC. More than half of the colleges are run by private managements.

Different questionnaires were administered to the librarians and users. Information from Staff at random, users, is gathered by means of informal interviews. The questionnaires served on the librarians contain a few questions on their qualification, their ICT skills, the infrastructural facilities, library hours, space, collection, user orientation, student support services offered in the library.

Globalization insists on quality enhancement in every sphere, especially in educational institutions. More than any other department in higher education, libraries have to shoulder responsibilities, which are very new. Libraries greatly support learning, teaching and research processes in institutions. Till two decades ago, library was accorded a supplementary status. But now its status has undergone a terrific change. With the insistence on learner-cantered educational effort, library has assumed importance, which was never dreamt of.

The University Grants Commission has been extending maximum financial help to the libraries of all the government colleges and the Aided colleges, which have been accredited by National Assessment Council . The colleges, which gain autonomous status and get good grade receive incredible funding. As per the guidelines of NAAC and UGC , institutions have to offer quality education , without which it is impossible to face global competition. Libraries play an important role in offering quality education.

Information from 92 non-autonomous colleges and 5 autonomous colleges is gathered on the qualification of the librarian, efficiency in technology, user friendly nature,

Till a few decades ago, whether the librarian is a highly qualified person or a certificate holder, his/her job was to provide information about the availability or otherwise of a book and its location, which was accomplished with the help of a catalogue. They have been trained in only conventional methods and techniques of providing services and are not adequately conversant with the use of information technology.

85% librarians in autonomous colleges are qualified. 15% posts are not filled and unaided staff ,with BLISc in distant mode are recruited temporarily by the management. 70% librarians have manageable knowledge of ICT. and 30% can neither operate computers nor know the importance of ICT.

80% librarians in unaided colleges have distant mode BLISc but they have no knowledge of ICT and classification of books. About 20% have knowledge of computers and they are used as librarians cum computer operators .

## Table-2 Staffing pattern:

50% libraries in autonomous colleges have one librarian and one attainer. In the other colleges the staff engaged are 5 or below 5.

In 20 % well established un-aided colleges, libraries have one librarian and two Personnel. there is no question of asst librarian and library personnel. 80% libraries of unaided colleges have no need of library personnel as the collection of books is not much and students usually do not visit library.

100% libraries of autonomous colleges maintain the library in a separate wing or building. Infrastructure of the library also is praiseworthy. They subscribe for national international journals, allot funds for purchase of books, provide internet service, and reprographic facilities, Though there is degree of difference in the infrastructure of the libraries, they have been receiving financial assistance from the UGC and following NAAC guidelines. As it is a period of transition, they find it difficult to rise to the expectation level on the UGC/NAAC.

50% of the Libraries of autonomous colleges do not seem to take interest in a) the Constitution of Library Committee b) providing User Orientation c) Compiling of student/teacher attendance statistics d) showing user friendly nature etc, which have nothing to do with the finances.

50% of the Libraries of autonomous colleges have failed to provide open access, which shows they do not have sufficient man power.

75% of the libraries of non-autonomous institutions do not provide a) User Orientation, b) constitute Library Committee, c) compile student/teacher attendance statistics d) display new arrival of books e) maintain reference section, f) provide reprographic facilities g) internet facility h) automation and many more things as those colleges have neither the infrastructure nor the need to provide them as the students do not have any idea of globalization and heavy competition.

Only 25% libraries provide some of the above mentioned basic student support services.

As far as the infrastructure of the libraries of non-autonomous colleges are concerned, most of them present a bleak picture, which was described by Bashiruddin in 1967. "libraries were hopelessly inadequate to serve the curricular needs of a modern university. They were ill-housed, illstocked, and ill-staffed and were totally lacking in standard literary and scientific journals. Service was in the hands of personnel that had hardly any notion of the objectives of university education. The annual appropriation for book purchase seldom exceeded the ten thousand mark" 70% libraries of the non-autonomous colleges do not seem to bother about providing library facilities to the students. 30% present makeshift libraries. They have very few text books, no books for reference and usually students do not visit the library, as they were never made aware of its importance.

Even autonomous libraries do not have sufficient library personnel. Librarians, who are supposed to be user-friendly are always busy issuing books and supervising students, who go to different shelves, as they provide open access. In one autonomous college, after the retirement of the librarian, no one is posted and the institution runs the show with an unaided member, without the needed qualifications. Though the researcher has noticed a perceptible progress in the functioning of libraries and improvement in the skills of librarians, he feels that a lot more has to be done to set right the loopholes found during investigation.

Academic librarians need to go an extra mile. They need to understand the information and knowledge needs of users. It is essential for the libraries and librarians to accept the transformation that is the result of globalization, privatization and liberalization.. The librarians, who used to be mere custodians of the library are supposed to play a very significant role in the backdrop of learner centered learning. Teacher is relegated to a secondary place whereas librarian's role has become a very important one.

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council has been insisting on the proper maintenance of libraries in the educational institutions. Library has to satisfy the students of all classes. It has to cater to the needs of the students of different IQs. Due to globalization students have to face heavy competition and unless teachers update their knowledge, they will not be in a position to guide the students properly. Our Library takes care of the needs of the staff members by providing reading room for staff members It gets the Journals/periodicals required by taking indents from the staff members of different subjects.

To make the library the hub of academic activity, to guide the reading habits of the students properly, to see that the library works as a centre of free and supervised study, the services of highly qualified and efficient librarians are required. Unfortunately most of the librarians are conventional and have no knowledge of technology and its impact. Unless this is rectified by giving training to the librarians, the system cannot work properly.

Similarly the UGC or any other higher authority has to insist on the establishment of good academic libraries with all the provisions. It can be done by providing financial assistance to the unaided sector too for the establishment and maintenance of libraries. Or else, it has to put its foot down and see that the unaided colleges, which are commercial, establish libraries properly and appoint qualified and competent librarians.

The researcher does not mean that all the libraries of autonomous colleges are functioning efficiently. Supervision at every step is needed. The librarians need to be trained in the usage of technology. What Raja Gopalan in his Presidential address to the Indian Library Association in 1987 is not far from truth. He says "it is generally acknowledged that our libraries are underutilized in relation to investments being made in them. Non-use and low-use of libraries amount to wastage of facilities being made available. Maybe the literacy rate, lack of reading habits, etc., are the causes for low use from the side of patrons." It is the combined responsibility of teachers as well the librarians to motivate the students and make them use library by hook or crook.

The need to train the librarians in the technology is felt .

There is a need to fill the posts in the Aided colleges.

## References

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