The Role of Libraries in Shaping the College Students

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Abstract

Library is not only depository of knowledge but also information dissemination center, it collects variety of information sources in the form of print, non print and electronic sources and disseminates information in them by different library services. Academic library play a pivotal role in providing valuable services to its users viz. students, faculty etc. In academic libraries, librarians play a role of a teacher. The college librarian understands the information needs of students, helps them how to access the resources and motivates them towards their resources. This paper discusses the role of libraries in shaping the college students. The survey method was used to conduct the study and questionnaire was used as a data collection tool. The stratified random sampling technique was employed to choose the students. The study reveals that libraries plays and important role in shaping the students. Some students are facing problems to use the library efficiently and effectively and the study made some recommendations and suggestions to counter the problems.

Keywords: Library, Academic Library, College Students

Introduction

Libraries are synonymous with education, providing countless resources, namely books, internet access, printing facilities, and educational and professional training programs that can fuel economic, social, and cultural development. Library and Information Science helps to provide required input in all the fields in the form of knowledgeable manpower to utilize all other resources. An academic library is a specialized repository of knowledge and information within educational institutions, primarily universities, colleges, and research centers. Unlike public libraries, which cater to a broader audience, academic libraries are tailored to meet the specific needs of students, faculty, researchers, and other academic community members. These libraries play a crucial role in supporting the educational mission of their institutions by offering a wide range of resources that facilitate teaching, learning, and scholarly research. Books, journals, periodicals, and research papers covering various subjects and disciplines are

at the heart of an academic library's collection. These resources provide students and scholars with foundational academic study and research materials. Beyond traditional print materials, academic libraries have evolved to incorporate electronic databases, e-books, online journals, and multimedia resources, expanding their reach and adaptability in the digital age. These resources are carefully chosen and organized to ensure easy access and retrieval, empowering users to explore their areas of interest comprehensively. Colleges, Universities, Institutions etc are spending huge amounts of money on collection of information sources to meet the requirements of users. User studies on usage of the library and information centers would help to find out drawbacks in libraries this in turn assist to overcome the problems in the library to provide effective and efficient services. User studies are more or less evaluative studies and gives proper direction to bring quality collection and services.

Literature Review

The Library as an institution exists for the benefits of a particular social group. It may be the citizens of a community member and students of an educational institutions or some larger or more specialized group. The library is a resource learning center and it is a service oriented Organization. User satisfaction is the important service of Library. Library is an essential prerequisite for successful implementation of higher educational programs. Library in colleges help the users in studies, research work, providing references, question bank, etc. Those who have a love for knowledge frequent to the Libraries and make use of materials available there. Many scholars have surveyed to get acquainted with role of library in shaping the students. Tadasad and Talikoto (2000) carried out a survey on awareness and utilization of resources and services of City Central Library, Gulbarga and found that majority users are satisfied with information services and visit library to borrow and return books. Mohindra and Kumar(2015) reported that majority 86.36 % of respondents visited the library for study purposes, followed by 129 (58.63 %) to borrow books, 51(23.2 %) respondents are using library web-pages daily, 71.49 % were of the view that library service attributes are helpful towards their academic success.

Methodology

The survey was conducted among the students of different colleges of Cooch Behar district. This study used random sampling technique to select 800 students of different colleges. A total of 500 questionnaires were distributed and got returned 451 filled in questionnaires. The response rate is 91%.

Name of College	Number of respondents
ABN Seal College	113
Cooch Behar College	127
Cooch Behar Govt. Engineering College	93
Indian Institute of Legal Studies Cooch Behar	51
Maharaja Jitendra Narayan Medical College and Hospital, Cooch Behar	67

It consists of 2 sections where Section A about the general information such as name, gender, department, college name while Section B is specific close-ended questions relating to library services used by them, hour spend in library, improvements in library. In addition, the questionnaire was distributed to them online via email, whatsapp group, social media sites. To collect data of respondents for this study, students will take about 5-10 minutes to answer this survey. Data collected using Google form responses were calculated which the results below were showed using the pie chart. The detailed results are tabulated in the following section.
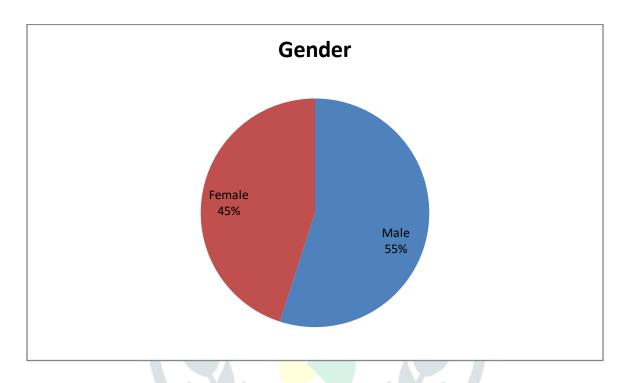
Figure 1: Gender of the respondents

Table 1: Gender of the respondents

Gender	Number of respondents	Percentage
Male	248	55%
Female	203	45%

Figure 1 shows the gender of the respondents. It is found that most of the respondents were male which carried the percentage of 55% and the remaining was female with the percentage of 45%. Therefore, as we can expect most of the colleges in Cooch Behar district are dominated by male students rather than female students.
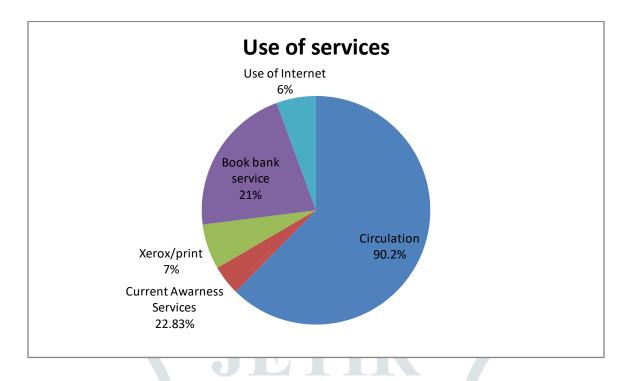
Figure 2: Use of services among respondents

Table 2: Use of services

Services	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Circulation	312	90.2%
Current Awareness Services	21	22.83%
Xerox/print	32	7%
Book bank service	107	21%
Use of internet	28	6%

Figure 2 shows the services used among students. It is found that most of the respondents are users of Circulation whereas Current Awarness Services(CAS) is being used by least. Use of internet is also popular among respondents. Book Bank service and Xerox services are also utilized by many respondents.
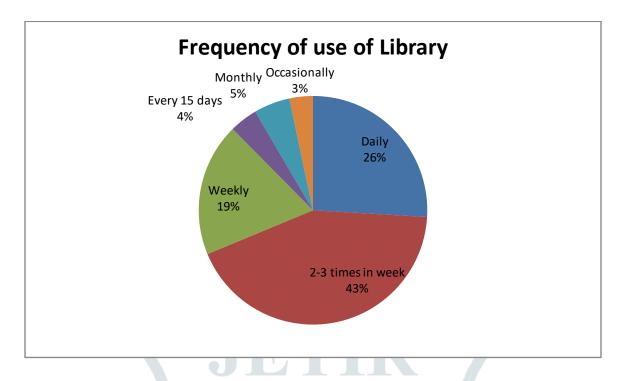
Figure 3: Frequency of use of Library

Table 3: Frequency of use of Library

Frequency	Number of respondents	Percentage
Daily	117	26%
2-3 times a week	193	43%
Weekly	85	19%
Every 15 days	18	4%
Monthly	23	5%
Occasionally	15	3%

The response to the Frequency of using Library scattered from daily to occasionally. The above data in (Table 3) shows that 117 (26%) respondents visiting the library daily followed by 193 (43%) 2-3 times in a week. 85 (19%) visiting library weekly, 23(5%) visiting library once in a month. alternate day. While 18(4%) and 15 (3%) visiting library fortnightly and occasionally respectively. It is found that majority visiting 2-3 times in week.
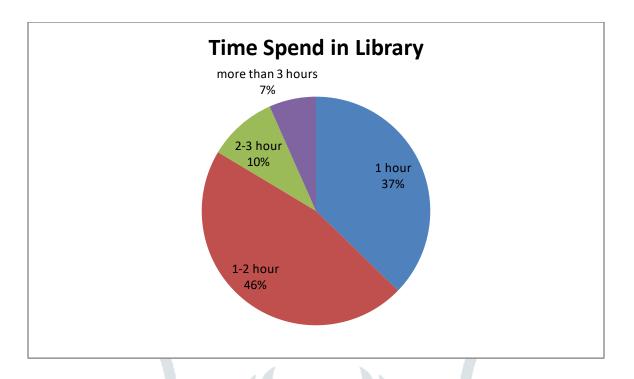
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Figure 4: Time spend in library

Table 4: Time Spend in Library

Time	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1 hour	168	37%
1-2 hour	209	46%
2-3 hour	44	10%
More than 3 hour	30	7%

Data in the (Table 4) shows that 168 (37%) users spending one hour time in the library followed by 209 (46%) respondents spending their time between 1-2 hours. 44(10%) users spending 2-3 hours in the library while 30(7%) spending more than 3 hours.

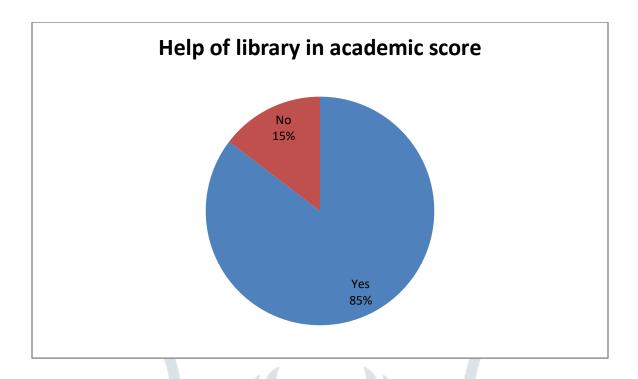Figure 5: Does library helps in getting good academic score

Table 5: Frequency of Student on Readings

Yes/No	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	385	85%
No	66	15%

From figure 5 it is clear that 85% strongly believe that library plays and important role helps them improving their academic score.

Suggestions received by the students

Many students (70%) are satisfied with the services received by the library but most of them suggested that they would have got a better score had they been introduced to the Library Science and the facilities available in the Libraries. Library also helps them as store house of old question bank and books, which helps them to gain much knowledge. 60% are happy with the free internet service provided in the library which helps them in their project.

From the opinions collected from the students the researcher could elicit the following conclusions.

1. Introduction to Library Science is a boon to student community.

2. It creates and maintains a constancy of purpose towards services in Library.

3. It breaks down the barriers between departments and enlightens the student.

5. It helps the students to strive hard towards their goal.

6. Using Library drives out the fear and inhibition of the students and develops leadership qualities.

Conclusion

It is evident that most students of Cooch Behar District have taken advantage of college library to enhance their academic score. An Information center or systems can be successful if the user community is actively involved in the design of the system from the initial stages. Similarly the detailed knowledge of Information Services can be identified only through study of the Library Science as a subject by the User. User needs should be considered for the improvement of the existing facilities. Thus Library Science as a subject by the user may be said to be indispensable for the effective and efficient utilization by the user. Library must always be upgraded with advancement of technologies. Increase of Library budget would definitely help library to serve more years to thousands of users of the college at present and future also.

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