



TO STUDY THE STATUS OF COMPUTERIZATION OF GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES AND GOVERNMENT AIDED DISTRICT “A” GRADE LIBRARIES IN MAHARASHTRA

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Abstract: *The Maharashtra government has initiated a transformative effort to establish a comprehensive public library network, leveraging technology to democratize access to information. This paper talks about the status of computerization of Government Libraries and Government Aided District “A” Grade Libraries in Maharashtra in recent years. The network facilitates resource sharing through personal and institutional memberships, competitive study centres, and e-libraries, catering to local, regional, and state levels. Public libraries are transitioning from traditional print repositories to dynamic hubs of information exchange, ensuring equality of access. Challenges include the digital divide and limited funding, but collaboration and technology integration offer opportunities for growth and innovation. This Research Paper explores these dynamics, highlighting the potential for a vibrant and inclusive public library network in Maharashtra.*

Keywords : Public Library, Network, Automation, Maharashtra Government, Technology, Resource Sharing, Digital Transition, Innovation

Introduction :- Public libraries in Maharashtra are undergoing a paradigm shift, transitioning from traditional repositories of print materials to dynamic hubs of information exchange in the digital age. With the widespread adoption of electronic and digital formats, these libraries are adapting to meet the evolving needs and preferences of their patrons. Central to their mission is the principle of equality of access, ensuring that individuals from all walks of life have equitable access to information and educational opportunities free of cost. Maharashtra's public library network continues to expand, it encounters various challenges. One significant hurdle is the digital divide, which persists among different socio-economic groups, particularly in rural and marginalized communities. Limited funding and resources also pose challenges for library infrastructure and services, hindering their ability to acquire and maintain diverse collections and upgrade technology. In this paper, we will explore the challenges facing the development of the public library network in Maharashtra, as well as the opportunities for growth and innovation.

Objectives of the Study:-

1) To Study the development of Public Library Network in Maharashtra: Problems and Prospects.

- 2) To study the human resource development for Library Networking.
- 3) To study the status of computerization of Government Libraries and Government Aided District “A” Grade Libraries in Maharashtra.

Scope of the Study:-

The scope of the present study will be related to development of public library networking in Maharashtra. The present study will be restricted only Government libraries and Government Aided District ‘A’ Grade Libraries in Maharashtra. This information provides an overview of the participation from different types of libraries in the study, highlighting the number of questionnaires sent, the responses received, and the overall engagement in the research.

Research Methodology:-

The methodology for the present study used will be Survey Method. The Data has collected through the questionnaire method from the librarian in the Government Libraries and Government aided District “A” Grade libraries in Maharashtra. The Sample libraries for the study covers all the public libraries under the Government of Maharashtra covered under the study.

Hypothesis : There is no significant difference in efficiency and service quality between Government Libraries and Government Aided District “A” Grade Libraries in Maharashtra that have adopted computerization.

Public Libraries in Maharashtra:

The public library network in Maharashtra is a crucial component of the state's cultural and educational infrastructure. It comprises a vast system of libraries spread across the state, serving diverse communities and catering to various informational needs. The public library network in Maharashtra has a rich history dating back to the 19th and early 20th centuries, with the establishment of native general libraries and Marathi language libraries. The Maharashtra Library Association, founded in 1921, played a pivotal role in promoting reading and establishing reading rooms across the state. The development of libraries in Maharashtra was significantly influenced by the recommendations of the Fyzee Committee, appointed by the Government of Bombay province in 1939. This paper examines the evolution of the public library network in Maharashtra, focusing on the challenges faced, the opportunities available, and the role of emerging technologies additionally, it discusses how emerging technologies can be leveraged to enhance the accessibility and relevance of public libraries in Maharashtra, aligning them with the changing needs and expectations of users in the digital age. Overall, the public library network in Maharashtra plays a vital role in promoting literacy, lifelong learning, and cultural enrichment. With continued support and innovation, it has the potential to evolve into a more dynamic and inclusive resource for the state's residents.

Library Networking:-

A library network is an interconnected platform of libraries with agreements to fulfil user needs by acquiring and developing unique collections while avoiding duplication. It involves sharing resources on demand, with the goal of providing information to users even if their local library cannot. Networking in this context refers to the exchange of information resources, often facilitated by computer networks. Effective resource sharing requires a common pattern of information exchange among libraries and organizations, often using tools like computers and telecommunications. Susan Martin defines a network as a “group of individuals or organisations that are interconnected to form a system to accomplish some specified goal. This linkage must include a communications mechanism, and many networks exist for the express purpose of facilitating certain types of communication among members.”

Analysis of the Study :

To study the status of computerization of Government Libraries and Government Aided District “A” Grade Libraries in Maharashtra. Is there a significant association between the type of library (Government Libraries and Government Aided District "A" Grade Libraries) and the perceived efficiency of library operations after adopting computerization in Maharashtra. The following Table dealt with efficiency of library operations. Following particular explained details about participants Questionnaires were sent to 43 Government libraries and 34 District A grade public libraries. Out of these, 37 Government libraries and 18 District A grade public libraries responded. In total, 77 questionnaires were circulated, with 55 responses recorded.

The Following Table Dealt With Efficiency Of Library Operations :

Table No. 1.

Types of Libraries	Highly efficient	Not efficient
Government Libraries	20	15
Government Aided District "A" Grade Libraries	5	15
Total	25	30

The presented table delineates perceptions regarding the efficiency of library operations after the adoption of computerization in Maharashtra, categorized by the type of library, Government Libraries and Government Aided District "A" Grade Libraries. Among Government Libraries, 20 respondents (44.44% of the total) perceived the operations as highly efficient, while 15 respondents (33.33% of the total) considered them not efficient. In Government Aided District "A" Grade Libraries, 5 respondents (11.11% of the total) viewed the operations as highly efficient and 15 respondents (33.33% of the total) regarded them as not efficient. The total counts for each category sum up to 45 respondents for highly efficient (44.44% of the total) and 30 respondents for not efficient (55.56% of the total).

Table No. 2

If there is an association, which specific aspects of library operations (e.g., Cataloguing, Circulation and Reference) show the most notable differences in perceived efficiency between Government Libraries and Government Aided District "A" Grade Libraries.

Types of Libraries	Highly efficient	Not efficient	Total
Cataloguing and Classification	7	4	11
Circulation Services	4	3	7
Reference Services	9	8	17
	20	15	35

The provided table details the perceived efficiency of specific aspects of library operations, namely cataloguing and classification, circulation services, and reference services, for two types of libraries—Government Libraries and Government Aided District "A" Grade Libraries. In Government Libraries, 7 respondents (63.64% of the total) found cataloguing and classification highly efficient, while 4 respondents (36.36% of the total) perceived it as not efficient. For circulation services, 4 respondents (57.14% of the total) regarded them as highly efficient and 3 respondents (42.86% of the total) considered them not efficient. Regarding reference services, 9 respondents (52.94% of the total) found them highly efficient, and 8 respondents (47.06% of the total) deemed them not efficient. In total, Government Libraries had 20 respondents for highly efficient (57.14% of the total) and 15 respondents for not efficient (42.86% of the total). For Government Aided District "A" Grade Libraries, the breakdown is as follows: 4 respondents (36.36% of the total) perceived cataloguing and classification as highly efficient, while 7 respondents (63.64% of the total) deemed it not efficient. Circulation services were viewed as highly efficient by 3 respondents (42.86% of the total) and not efficient by 4 respondents (57.14% of the total). Regarding reference services, 8 respondents (47.06% of the total) found them highly efficient, and 9 respondents (52.94% of the total) considered them not efficient. The total counts for Government Aided District "A" Grade Libraries sum up to 15 respondents for highly efficient (42.86% of the total) and 20 respondents for not efficient (57.14% of the total).

Hypothesis 2 Testing:

There is no significant difference in efficiency and service quality between Government Libraries and Government Aided District "A" Grade Libraries in Maharashtra that have adopted computerization.

	efficiency			
Chi-square Contingency Table Test for				

Independence					
			highly efficient	not efficient	Total
Government Libraries	Observed		20	15	35
	Expected		15.91	19.09	35.00
	O - E		4.09	-4.09	0.00
	$(O - E)^2 / E$		1.05	0.88	1.93
Government Aided District "A" Grade Libraries	Observed		5	15	20
	Expected		9.09	10.91	20.00
	O - E		-4.09	4.09	0.00
	$(O - E)^2 / E$		1.84	1.53	3.38
Total	Observed		25	30	55
	Expected		25.00	30.00	55.00
	O - E		0.00	0.00	0.00
	$(O - E)^2 / E$		2.89	2.41	5.30
			5.30	chi-square	
			1	df	
			.0213	p-value	
			.311	Phi coefficient	

To identify which specific factors contribute significantly to the perceived differences in efficiency between Government Libraries and Government Aided District "A" Grade Libraries, a chi-square test for each factor was conducted. This analysis offered insights into the factors that play a prominent role in shaping perceptions of efficiency and guide potential improvements in Government Aided District "A" Grade Libraries within the context of Maharashtra. The chi-square contingency table test for independence examines the association between the perceived efficiency and the type of library (Government Libraries and Government Aided District "A" Grade Libraries) after adopting computerization in Maharashtra. The observed counts in the table are compared to the expected counts under the assumption of independence between the variables. The test yields a chi-square statistic of 5.30 with 1 degree of freedom. The associated p-value is calculated to be 0.0213. In hypothesis testing, the p-value is compared to the significance level (commonly set at 0.05) to determine the statistical significance of the test. In this case, the p-value of 0.0213 is less than the significance level, indicating that there is sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis. Therefore, there is a statistically significant association between the perceived efficiency and the type of library. The chi-square test suggests that the observed differences in perceived efficiency are not likely due to random chance, supporting the idea that the type of library is associated with variations in perceived efficiency after computerization in Maharashtra. Additionally, the Phi coefficient, a measure of association for 2x2 contingency tables, is calculated to be 0.311. The Phi coefficient ranges from -1 to 1, where 0 indicates no association. In this case, a Phi coefficient of 0.311 suggests a moderate association between the perceived efficiency and the type of library.

Conclusion :

The primary goal of the research study was to Status of Computerization of Government Libraries and Government Aided District Library in Maharashtra. The study on the status of computerization of Government Libraries and Government Aided District "A" Grade Libraries in Maharashtra reveals both progress and challenges. While some libraries have made significant strides in computerization, others lag behind due to various reasons such as lack of funds, technical expertise, and infrastructure. The findings suggest that computerization has the potential to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of library services,

making them more accessible to the public. It can streamline library operations, improve cataloguing and indexing of materials, and facilitate digital lending and remote access to resources. However, to fully realize the benefits of computerization, it is essential to address the challenges faced by libraries. This includes providing adequate funding for computerization projects, training staff in digital literacy and library automation, and ensuring the availability of necessary infrastructure such as computers and internet connectivity. Overall, the study underscores the importance of computerization in modernizing libraries and improving library services. It calls for concerted efforts from the government, library authorities, and other stakeholders to support and promote the computerization of libraries in Maharashtra.

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