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College Library System in Pakistan: A Survey of Government College Libraries of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

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Abstract:

This paper discusses the current status of Government College libraries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. The major areas covered are: total collection of the college libraries with percentage of collection used per annum, the annual budget allocated to libraries, visits of the library users' per day, number of colleges in which library science is being taught as an optional subject and attitude of the librarians towards library automation. The paper also highlights the views of librarians about various limitations in government college libraries of the province. Provision of sufficient funds, periodic trainings, introduction of Library Science education, and application of emerging technologies in college libraries are the tools with help of which college library system should be improved. Pakistan Library Association, Higher ups of Higher Education Department-Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, eminent library experts and policy makers have to play their timely role in this connection.

Keywords: *College Libraries- Pakistan, Library system-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Library budget.*

Introduction:

Generally there are two types of colleges in Pakistan: general education colleges and technical education colleges. A general college is an educational institution where two years (intermediate), four years Bachelor of Science (BS), two years Bachelor Arts / Science (BA/BSc) and post graduate courses MA/MSc (Master of Arts / Master of Science) are offered to the students. The library provided to such a college is called college library. A college library is considered as an integral and dynamic part of curriculum. The motto behind the existence of a library is to make the learner of various categories able to cope with the challenging needs of modern era. The learners' community of a college is composed of intermediate, graduate, and post graduate level students, teachers, ministerial and other supporting staff. The libraries

attached to professional colleges contain collections on specific subjects mostly relevant to the curriculum of the institution. These include Law college library, engineering college libraries, Agriculture and Forest college libraries, Elementary college libraries, Polytechnic and Commerce college libraries.

In Pakistan, a Government College is affiliated to a degree awarding institutions/university and it has no authority to award a degree on its own. The college provides teaching, accommodation and co-curricular facilities to the students and the university conducts examinations and awards degrees. There are two types of government colleges in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: degree colleges and post graduate colleges. These colleges vary in size, strength of students, staff members and facilities. There are separate male and female colleges. They fall under the thumb of Ministry of Higher Education, Archives and Libraries, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. During the last decade or so, government colleges in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have under gone a mushroom growth due to increasing awareness among the public and which raised the graph of literacy.

The college library in Pakistan especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has not yet become the hub of educational activities. The students and teachers make little use of library resources and services. The basic reason for this being lack of library culture and user education. Most of the colleges' principals are not aware of the academic role and value of the college library in supporting the teachers and students for achieving educational goals and objectives. There is a dire need of educating the teachers' community along with students.

In a developing country like ours, where students and teachers are unable to buy personal books and reference materials, the role of college library assumes greater importance. It is an important segment of a college because it is a major source of information for this particular class of readers.

Literature review

Review of relative literature is an integral part of research many printed and online sources were consulted for literature review. These include Library and Information Science (LIS) Journals published in Pakistan and abroad, e-journals, Pakistan Research Repository (PRR), Social Sciences Research Network (SSRN), HEC (Higher Education Commotion) National Digital Library and search engines such as Scholar Google, Yahoo, AltaVista, LISTA (Library and Information science & Technology Abstract) and , DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals).

There is a dire need for changes in the selection and recruitment policies of the college librarians (Saima Qutab and Farzana Shafique, 2011). Libraries are built to acquire, preserve, process, access, retrieve and disseminate information to their patrons. It is also stated that no change has occurred in the objectives of the libraries (S.Gopinath and A. Pathak, 2001). Large majority of the college libraries suffer from grossly inadequate book stock, annual library budget, unsatisfactory physical facilities and lack of recognition of their important academic role (M.Bavakutty, 1986). The success of any library depends on the quality and quantity of its resources and services (Syamalamba Rani, 2008). The high ups, principals and librarians of the colleges must initiate automation in order to facilitate the users in effective manner. Librarians also need to improve their skills in a far better way to cope with modern challenges (Sadanad Y.Bansode and Shamin Perier,2008). There is acute shortage of library halls and big reading rooms in most of the colleges in India. There is no proper system of lighting and cross ventilation in college libraries (Susheela Kumar, 1978). Lack of clerical workers is a great issue in college libraries. More time and energy of the librarians are wasted in performing clerical duties (A. R. Rowland, 1963). Various facts of libraries were explored such as; Library staff, building, collection, book, banks, budget and technical services etc, he reported that DDC (Dewey Decimal Classification) scheme were popular among libraries questionnaire are very useful for data collection (Raju, 1984). Some main problems as the lack of opportunities for proper training, appropriate guidance, availability and access to information sources, financial assistance and sponsorship and encouragement of libraries and library staff were listed (Asghar Muhammad, 1992). The college libraries was analyzed in terms of the ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries) standards for College Libraries (1975), he concludes that most of the libraries do not meet the Standards' criteria for collection size and development, staff, and budget, moreover he suggest that detailed surveys of library characteristics and fuller financial support for library operations are needed to enhance both this kind of analysis and libraries and their standards in the future (Carpenter, R. L. 1981). Institutional Repository Service Quality and Users' Loyalty to College Libraries in Taiwan and its Mediating & Moderating Effects analyised, they stated that evolution of IT (Information Technologies) has produced changes in learning, creating ubiquitous learning. This paper presents a case study on institutional repository service quality and users' loyalty to College Libraries in Taiwan. They Suggest that it will be the key factor that the function and transmission pattern of entering to use institutional repository by

which the users will be fell easy to use the Institutional Repository Service at there's home (Chuang, C. F., & Cheng, C. J, 2010). Motivational aspects of information literacy skills instruction in community's colleges' library have been explored. In this study they take the observed and interviewed of seven community Librarians and Students. It is concluded that majority of strategies used were to gain and maintain students' attention. The range of strategies rather than the number of strategies appeared to positively affect student motivation (Small, R. V., Zakaria, N., & El-Figuigui, H, 2004). The diversity in Liberal Arts College libraries in the United States has been studied, it revealed that diversity has been identified as a priority in librarianship, they suggests that the majority of the programs related to diversity in academic libraries have been implemented in large, research university libraries (Winston, M. D., & Li, H. 2000). The status of approval plans in college Libraries were evaluated as a method of acquiring printed books for their collection. The results indicate that recent trends over a five-year including shelf ready books, e-notifications, and virtual approval plans as well as impending use of approval plans for e-books and e resources the findings of research show a correlation between the size of the library book budget and the likeli¬hood of having an approval plan (Jacoby, B. E, 2008). The Authors has studied libraries home page of fifty Ph.D; granting Institutions and fifty Library home pages of two-year colleges to determine the home pages' purpose as manifested by their content and its placement within the structure of the website. By visiting at the library Web pages of contrasting academic institutions for site Structure, Annotations, Total Web Sites Containing Resources, Links on web pages, Main Screen and News & updates. Key finding of study drawn varies aspects of the site that reflect institutional character. They further identified a core common content that exists across academic library Web sites independent of the parent institution (Cohen, L. B., & Still, J. M., 1999). Financial benchmarks of College Libraries was ranked by conducting a research on the topic; How much do the "best" colleges spend on libraries?; Using college rankings to provide library financial benchmarks. Recent ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries) guidelines and standards urge academic librarians to compare selected input and output measures with peer institutions for assessment. This research provides an example of a comparison, using of a freely available statistical tool from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). NCES data tool were applied to Liberal Arts colleges chosen by United State. News and World Report (USN&WR) as the "Best Liberal Arts Colleges" provides one strategy for choosing financial

benchmarks to target, as well as staffing and output measures for comparison. Using liberal arts colleges ranked in the top third by USN&WR, about $2,000/ FTE (Full-Time Equivalent Staff) would be the 2004 reported amount that the "best" colleges spent on library resources (Jones, D. Y, 2007). The topic "*Application of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and related manpower problems in the college libraries of Burdwan*" was investigated. Authors report that application of information and communication technologies in academic institutions in West Bengal has increased in the recent years. But the computerization work of general degree college libraries of Burdwan Sadar (North and South) is very slow due to certain problems. Trained manpower is one of the major problems. This article examines the situation of IT application and related manpower problems in government-aided general degree college libraries of Burdwan Sadar (North and South), West Bengal (Mondal, A. K. & Bandyopadhyay, A. K., 2010). A study was conducted under title "*Technological change in the workplace: A statewide survey of community college library and learning resources personnel*". Its belief that techno-stress caused by change is affecting library personnel, although research on its impact in two-year colleges is practically nonexistent. This investigation examined how employees in Florida community college library and learning resource centers are dealing with technological change in their work environment. The results of the investigation indicated that staffs are reacting positively. However, greater attention needs to be directed toward improving their inclusion in decision-making, revising job descriptions, and experimenting with alternative reward systems (Poole, C. E., & Denny, E., 2001). The authors have conduct a survey of library automation in college libraries in Goa state, India with the objective to studied the statues of automation, area of library automation in college Libraries, automation staff and problem faced by the staff in automating there college libraries. A majority of the college libraries do not possess qualified librarians as per the guidelines given by the University Grant commission (UGC) and the state government, 25% of the librarians are qualified for the librarian position. Twenty-three college libraries have undertaken automation. The libraries initiated their automation process in the year 2005 and 2006. Traditional barriers such as insufficient funds, lack of trained staff, and lack of space are faced by majority of the libraries (Bansode, S. Y., & Periera, S., 2008). Author used the survey method to inspect the "Library instruction in the medical school curriculum: a survey of medical college libraries" in which he studied Courses offered most often, student level, Library instruction programs, programs frequency, author were received fifty-five completed

surveys accompanied by copies of instructional material from various institutions. Some schools checked more than one response. Analysis of the fifty-five responses revealed that 75% offered formal library instruction. For 49% of those respondents, and 36% of the overall sample, library instruction was a required part of the curriculum (Earl, M. F., 1996).

Objectives of the study

- ✓ To calculate the ratio of library users with the total strength of the college
- ✓ To assess the total collections of these college libraries
- ✓ To know the services being offered by the libraries
- ✓ To examine the annual allocated budget
- ✓ To determine the number of colleges involved in teaching of library science
- ✓ To know the attitude of librarians towards automation of college libraries

Methodology

Survey method has been adopted to accomplish the objectives of the study. A questionnaire was designed and distributed to 196 librarians of government college libraries of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for data collection. Physical visits, Phones, Short Message Services (SMS) and e-mails were used as follow-up tools. Being a part of College Library system (Ex-Librarian) in Department of Higher Education, Archives and Libraries, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, it was painless for the researcher to contact the librarians as most of the respondents were personally known to the writer. As a result, 165 questionnaires were returned. The response rate was recorded as 84%. The collected data were tabulated and processed. The inferences were drawn from the analyses and conclusions were arrived.

Analysis of data

There are 196 government colleges in the Department of Higher Education, Archives and Libraries, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The gender-wise distribution is as under:

Table I: Gender-wise Distribution of Government Colleges

College Type	Boys	Girls	Total	Percentage
Degree Colleges	111	65	176	89.80

Post Graduate Colleges	15	05	20	10.20
Total	**126**	**70**	**196**	**100**
Percentage	**64.29**	**35.71**	**100**	

The analysis of Table I indicates that there are 176 (89.80%) degree colleges and 20 (10.20%) belongs to post graduate level in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It is also shown that 126 (64.29%) are boys colleges while 70 (35.71%) are reserved for educating the girls. About two third of the population are imparting education to the male community of the province. It is reflected that more attention is needed for the promotion of female education at college level.

Library users are the main ingredient of college library system as the whole library setup is built for the facilitation of library users. The rate of flow of library users indicates the reading habit of a community. For better library services, it is necessary to know the existing flow of library clientele. These facts and figures will be a useful tool for the further improvement of the system. For this purpose, it is asked from the librarians to provide the per day visits of the users in the library.

Table II : Ratio of library users with total strength of the colleges

Ratio in percentage	No. of colleges	Percentage
1-25	155	94
26-50	10	6
51-75	0	0
76-100	0	0
Total	**165**	**100**

Table II presents the percentage ratio of potential library users with total strength. It was computed that majority 155 (94%) out of 165 responded librarians have given the figure, the average result (5.5%) of which lies in the percentage ratio 1-25. Only 6% have provided the data which exhibits the ratio lies in 26-50.

Table III : Total collection of the college libraries

Collection	No. of colleges	Percentage
Below 5000	127	77

Between 5000 and 25000	30	18
Between 25000 and 50,000	08	05
Above 50,000	00	00
Total	**165**	**100**

Library collection means all the learning resources available for the consultation and reading of the users. These include books, journals, reference materials, newspapers, text books, maps, CDs, digital objects and other non-book material. The standard of a library can be determined from the quality of their collection. The respondents were asked to report about the quantity of the resources available in the library.

The analysis of Table III reflects that majority 127(77%) out of 165 government college libraries have less or equal to 5000 library collection. 30(18%) out of 165 libraries have more than 5000 and less than 25000. Only 08(5%) college libraries claimed more than 25000 library books.

The collection of the library is said to be standard and up to the level of the readers if it has a reasonable usage. In order to get information about this important segment of the library, the librarians were given a question "collection being used per annum". The responses of the librarians were recorded in Table IV.

Table IV : Collection being used per annum

Collection used (%)	No. of Colleges	Percentage
1-20	135	82
21-40	30	18
41-60	00	00
Above 60	00	00
Total	**165**	**100**

Table IV contains data about the collection being used by the college libraries per anum. 135 (82%) out of 165 college librarians reported that only 13% of the total collection being used by the users per anum. Only 30(18%) of the libraries have reported between 21 to 40 % of the total collection used per anum. The analysis reflects very crucial position of collection being used by the readers.

Table V : Allocation of budget per annum

Allocation of budget per year	No. of colleges	Percentage
Below 50,000	22	13
Between 50,000 and one Lac	00	00
More than one Lac	00	00
Irregular	143	87
Total	**165**	**100**

Table V reveals that majority 143(87%) out of 165 college librarians reported that there is no regular system of reservation of annual budget for government college libraries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A few 22(13%) were of the opinion that they receive less than Rs 50,000/- annual budget for building the collection of their respective libraries.

Satisfaction with present allocation of budget

Finance is the backbone of any institution. A question was asked from the librarians "whether they are satisfied with present allocation of budget to college libraries or not? They were also given the query to opt for annual budget". The responses of librarians in this connection were recorded in Table VI.

Table VI : Satisfaction with present allocated budget

Attitude of librarian	No. of colleges	Percentage
Satisfied with present budget	03	02
Not satisfied	162	98
Total	**165**	**100**

The above Table elucidates that majority 162 (98%) of the college librarians are not satisfied with the present allocation of library budgets. They demanded for regular average 100,000/- (0.1million) annual budget for the collection of libraries under study.

Teaching of Library Science in colleges .

Teaching of library science in colleges provides a base to the students to know libraries and their services and resources in depth. The librarians were asked to report "whether the subject of Library Science is being taught in colleges or not?" The feedback of this query was tabulated as follow.

Table VII : Teaching of Library Science in colleges

Status of library science	No. of colleges	Percentage
Yes	40	25
No	125	75
Total	**165**	**100**

Table VII reported that only 40 (25%) out of 165 college librarians are teaching the subject of library science at intermediate level. Majority 125 (75%) of them have not yet started the teaching of library science at their colleges. A good number of the librarians reported that they are teaching other subjects to the students.

Attitude of Librarians towards library automation in colleges

Library automation is the cry of the day. The situation regarding automation in college libraries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is dismal. There is acute deficiency of this trend. An effort was made to know the attitude of librarians toward library automation in colleges. The responses are recorded in Table VIII.

Table VIII : Attitude of librarians towards library automation in Government colleges

Attitude towards library automation	Yes	No	Percentage
In favors of Library automation	165	00	100
No need of this practice	00	00	00
I don't know about automation	00	00	00
Total	**165**	**00**	**100**

Table VII Shows that all college Librarian were in favor of library automation. They stressed that modern facilities in college library is very important for the fulfillment of changing demands of the users.

Response of College Librarians towards an open ended Question

The respondents were given an open ended question for the expression of their views about college libraries. The suggestions and demands of the college librarians can be sum up as follow:

- The post of Library Assistant/ clerk may be introduced in all colleges of the province.
- Periodic refresher courses/ trainings on modern library technologies may be conducted.
- Separate library building with appropriate reading rooms is also the demand of a good number of college librarians.
- Librarians may be given the status of teaching faculty of the colleges.

Findings of the study

1. The ratio of library users with total strength of the college is 5.5%.
2. Majority of the college libraries have less than 5000 library collections. Only 13% of the total collection is being used per year.
3. A large number of respondents reported that there is no regular annual budget for college libraries. The college librarians were not satisfied with allocation of budget for college libraries by Higher Education Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
4. Majority of the college librarians are not involved in the teaching of the subject of library science at college level.
5. All respondents were in favor of library automation.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The standard of government college libraries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is not up to the mark. The rate of flow of users to the libraries is very alarming. The collection used per annum is minimal. There is acute shortage of basic resources like collection, finance, human resource and space. The situation can be improved by taking the following suggestions into consideration:

- Introduction of user education program for the students, teachers and other supporting staff. This practice will create library awareness among the users. As a result, rate of potential library users and use of collection will be increased.

- The provision of library budget may be enhanced. There is a dire need of regular budget for this important segment of colleges. It is demanded that Rs 100,000/- may be allocated per year regularly for the purchase of library materials with a reasonable increase.

- Refresher courses, trainings, workshops, seminars and conferences should be arranged to equip the college librarians with latest trends in librarianship. Pakistan Library Association (PLA), Higher Education Commission (HEC), Higher Education Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and eminent library scientists of the province can play a leading role in this chain.

- The post of library assistant should be created for each college library because there is no attendant and assistant in most of the college libraries in the province. It is also suggested that college librarians should be given the status equivalent to a college teacher.

- The subject of library science should be introduced at all levels of college education. There is a great demand by the students to start this subject at degree and Bachelor of Science (BS) level as well. For this purpose, Department of Library and Information Science University of Peshawar (being the mother institution of the subject) should take the initiative and can play a vital role in this direction.

- To cope with modern challenges, library automation is the need of the day. The libraries of government colleges should be provided necessary technology-based infrastructure to facilitate their users in a more effective way. Networking of all college libraries should also be established to share their resources and services. Internet connections should also be provided to the college libraries to access e-resources, HEC digital library and other online databases.

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