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PRESENT STATUS OF INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY IN COLLEGE LIBRARIES OF PURULIA DISTRICT TO CREATE DIGITAL LEARNING CONTENT IN POST COVID-19

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Abstract

In the age of information explosion, Information and Communication technology (ICT) is progressively replacing the old methods of information collection, storage and retrieval. College Library System is a major beneficiary group of ITC. The study is based on descriptive survey method and data were collected through standard questionnaire from six colleges in Purulia district. The work examines that the ICT infrastructure is not so adequate in all the libraries in the district due to lack of fund allocated for library. To improve the standard of work of the college libraries in terms of modernization with specific emphasis on IT applications, the above factors may be taken into consideration so that the situation may improve and the college libraries of Purulia District may provide IT-enabled services to their students/users. The study demands that expert opinion must be taken into consideration whenever library software and hardware will be selected.

KEYWORDS: College Library, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), ICT resources, COVID-19.

INTRODUCTION

In this pandemic situation we are very much depend on ICT to do our work. The American Library Association (1983) defines IT as “the

application of computers and other technologies to the acquisition, organization, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information. The computers are used to process and store

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data, while telecommunications technology provides information communication tools, which make it possible for users to access databases and link them other computer networks at different locations. The ICT become essential the college libraries for many reasons: to control the large collection, increased volume of library activities, for improved control over

operations, for improved quality services to users, user friendliness, etc., as also to prevent duplication of efforts, for cooperation and shared utilization of information. This paper discusses several matter like, the present state of IT application in the college libraries at Purulia district, West Bengal; availability of skilled manpower, etc.

1	Area	6,259 km ² (2,417 sq mi)
2	Population	2,927,965
3	density	470/km ² (1,200/sq mi)
4	Literacy	65.38 per cent
5	Sex Ratio	955(in 1000 males)

Table 1: Some Important Data of Purulia District

Sl.No	Name of the College	Address
1	Jagannath Kishore College	Ketika, Purulia - 723 101
2	Nistarini College	Deshbandhu Raod, Purulia - 723
3	Mahatma Gandhi College	Lalpur, P.O; Daldali Purulia - 723 101
4	Achhruram Memorial College	Jhalda, Purulia - 723 202
5	Raghunathpur College	Raghunathpur, Purulia 723 133
6	Kashipur Michael Madhusudan Mahavidyalaya	Kashipur, P.O: Panchakotraj, Purulia, 723132

Table 2: College covered under the study

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A lot of work has been published in the field of library ICT infrastructure. Nyamboga (2002) revealed the status of ICT such as availability of computers and network facilities in six Karnataka state university libraries. They concluded that the university libraries in Karnataka that they studied were lagging behind in the application of ICT. Venkatramana (2003) conducted

a survey to evaluate the university libraries of India. The study concluded that IT has been deeply embedded in these libraries and the trend will continue in future. Thapa (2004) have studied the status of automation in special libraries of Jabalpur District in Madhya Pradesh. It aimed at understanding and analyzing the various problems faced by the authorities and the staff during the process of automation

and suggested ways and means to overcome these problems. Mahapatra (2004) studied the problem of IT application in Orissa Libraries and proposed the suggestion and solution for effective implementation of IT application in the surveyed libraries. Frances (2004) indicated the People's Network (PN) aims to ensure the provision of free and open access to Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) through public libraries. It was found that a wide range of people from different age groups and backgrounds use the ICT facilities. The results also indicated that both libraries had been successful in providing access to ICTs for people. Bilawar (2004) revealed the nature of communication technology and modes of mass communication that have had an impact on library services. Wijayasundara (2005) reported in a research study that finding technological, managerial, infrastructure, human, political, social barriers to automation in Srilanka. Igun (2005) identified the challenges faced by the libraries and information centres in Africa in the establishment of electronic publishing, finding that apart from information sources that can be downloaded online, acquisition of electronic books is not possible. Krishnamurthy (2005) studied the digital library services at the Indian Statistical Institute and shares the experience of designing a digital library in the ICT environment to meet the user requirements. Ani (2005) investigated the adoption of ICT in university libraries in Nigeria. The major obstacles that influence effective adoption of ICT were found to be inadequate funds and the limited electric infrastructure in Nigeria. Lohar (2005) presented the situations of college libraries in Shimoga District (Karnataka) have concluded that the situation does not meet the prescribed norms. Chakraborty (2005) found library auto-

mation and networking do not depend only on the capacity of the computer or the networking server or even the software used since they are only tools. Much depends on the quality of manpower of the libraries and the perfection of the work they do. Walmiki (2009) surveyed the status of ICT infrastructure in six selected university libraries of Karnataka the findings of the study revealed that the libraries greatly vary from one to another as far as the ICT infrastructure is concerned.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. To identify the collection developments of Books and Journals in print and electronic formats.
2. To identify the ICT infrastructure of the college libraries.
3. To identify the status of the automation process.
4. To know users strength and status of the Library professionals.
5. To provide suggestions the betterment of library automation and over all development.

METHODOLOGY

In this study I have applied questionnaire-cum-interview method. During data collection through questionnaire we conducted interview in few cases for enhancing the study and strengthening. For conducting the college library study, we selected the college libraries of Purulia district and the population of the area as sample. The study is conducted on the basis of questionnaire method. A suitable questionnaire was prepared consisting of 6 parts; each part deals with the following aspects;

1. About the College & its Libraries
2. About users' strength & library professional position
3. About the collection status of the library
4. About the purpose of using computers in the libraries
5. About the Areas of library work automated
6. About the ICT infrastructure
7. Collection development of the libraries
8. The respondents answered to each of the questions belonging to the above categories and were further analyzed and calculated for the purpose of study

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Sl.no	Name of the College	Foundation Year	NAAC Accreditation	Courses Offered		
				UG level		PG level
				Hons.	General	
1	Jagannath Kishore College	1948	B+	19	17	1
2	Nistarini College	1957	B++	11	15	
3	Raghunathpur College	1961	B	14	16	
4	Achhruram Memorial College	1975	B	11	14	
5	Mahatma Gandhi College	1981	B	10	16	
6	Kashipur Michael Madhusudan Mahavidyalaya	2001	B	8	15	

Table3: shows basic data of the different Colleges

From the table-3 above it is seen that Jagannath Kishore College is the oldest (1948) college of this Subdivision and offering both UG (19 subjects) and PG (1 Subjects). Six colleges under Purulia district have been arranged

chronologically by year of establishment in Table 1. Out of the six colleges five are evaluated by NAAC. One got B++, one got B+, and four got B grade.

Name of the Colleges	Students	Teaching staff (full+ contr.)	Non teaching staff(full+contr.)	Library Professionals	
				Permanent	Contractual
J.K. College	2900	61	39		2
Nistarini College	2895	63	47	2	1
RNP College	3220	80	22		1
AM College	3035	35	16		1
M.G.College	3854	51	18	1	1
KMMM College	2220	33	22		1

Table 4: Showing users strength & library professional position of the different college libraries

Table-4 showing that maximum number of user strength were in M.G. College (3925) followed by RNP College (3323). Minimum numbers of students were in KMMM (3275).

Sl. No.	Name of the College(s)	p-collection		e-collection	
		Books	Journals	Books(CD)	Journals
1	J.k.College	49,700	178	56	-
2	Nistarini College	32000	233	34	1
3	RNP College	32700	234	22	1
4	A.M. College	22,200	134	4	-
5	M. G College	28,876	156	8	-
6	KMMM College	17,675	121	-	-

Table 5: shows the collection status of the library

From the table above it is seen that print collection of books is mostly satisfactory while print journal is at some extent. But the picture is not so good regarding the e-collection of books and journals.

Name of the Colleges	Telephone	Xerox	Computer	Printer	LAN Facility	Barcode Number	Internet Connection
J.k.College	Y	Y	Y	y	y	N	Y
Nistarini College	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
RNP College	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
A.M. College	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
M. G College	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
KMMM College	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y
Total	6	5	6	5	6	0	6

Table 6: ICT Infrastructure available in the libraries

Table 6 shows that all the libraries had computers, Xerox and telephone and LAN facility. So the basic hardware was present in most of the libraries, but LAN facility and internet facility are very limited.

Name of Colleges	Office work	Housekeeping operations	Information retrieval through Internet
J.K.College	Y	N	Y
Nistarini College	Y	Y	Y
RNP College	Y	N	Y
A.M. College	Y	N	N
M.G.College	Y	N	N
KMMM College	Y	N	N
Total	6	1	3

Table 7: lists the purpose of using computers in the libraries

Table 7 lists the purpose of using computers in the libraries. Almost the six libraries were using computers for performing some official work and only one library using for housekeep-

ing operations (cataloguing, circulation, serial control, etc.). Only three libraries were using computers for providing information retrieval service through internet.

Name of the Colleges	Area of Automation						
	Budgeting	Office work	Acquisition	Cataloguing	Circulation	Serials control	OPAC
J.K.Colege	-		-		-	-	-
NistariniCol-lege	-						-
RNP College	-		-		-		-
A.M. College	-		-		-	-	-
M. G College	-		-		-	-	-
KMMM Col-lege	-		-	-	-	-	-
Total	0	6	1	5	1	2	0

Table 8: Areas of library work automated/being automated

Table 8 lists the areas of library operations automated. All the six libraries were performing all the office works through computer. Only two libraries had automated the functions of serials control. Nistarini College was the only library which performed the entire housekeeping operations except Budgeting and OPAC through computer.

FINDINGS

1. All the college libraries lack different technical sections.
2. Library lacks collection of the learned periodicals and mostly competitive magazines are available.
3. The collections of non-book materials like CD/Cassettes are very few.
4. Libraries main source of finance.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. U.G.C. budget is not regular to the library. 6. State Govt. Budget is also not so adequate. 7. The ICT infrastructure is not so adequate in the library. 8. The library automation policy is not defined. 9. The library lacks skilled man power for automation. 10. Only three colleges have taken some initiatives to automate the libraries. 11. There are five college has the Internet browsing out of six. 12. Due to lack of professional status the library personnel are demoralized to perform their regular duties in efficiently and actively. In course of exchanging views regarding their regular Library operational activities, they opined that the librarianship is a "state less status thankless job". | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Automation policy should be formed with expert opinion. 6. On the basis of the library software purchases, required scope is to be opened to the Library professionals for the efficient implementation of the automation work. 7. Concrete policy to be introduced for total automation programme for retrospective conversion work. 8. Consider for campus-wide LAN. 9. UGC INFONET membership is to be taken without any delay. 10. E-awareness programme for the students should be organized at a regular interval. 11. User attraction policy towards library should be adopted with subscriptions various library collection such as CD, DVD, Cassette, Map, and Globe etc. 12. Necessary action is to be introduced to improve the E-reference services as well as vocational guidance cell. |
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SUGGESTIONS

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Govt. should take responsibility to develop the colleges, so that the students may avail maximum opportunity to education at a minimum cost. 2. Proper and regular allotment of budget should be made to the library by state govt. and UGC. 3. A collection development policy should be formed for the library for print and electronic formats. 4. Lion share of the fund should be devoted for the development of the ICT infrastructure. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. For the cost of the ICT infrastructure special grant may be allotted by the funding authority. 14. The opinion and experience of librarian / asst. librarian should be given due attention for taking any sorts of decision related to the library development. 15. Vacant post of library should be filled on priority basis with skilled manpower having knowledge on LIS and IT. 16. Proper training t the staff to handle the user in post CVID-19 era. |
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17. Introducing more and more ICT based service in the library to the help f the user.
18. 18. If possible to give smart phone to every students in the time of admission from the institution. This cost must be paying the Government of every state.

CONCLUSION

The government-aided general degree colleges of Purulia District are still in the state of infancy with regard to IT applications in libraries. Out of the six libraries only two had completed and

two are processing retro-conversion work while work was in various stages of progress. The libraries had neither proper IT trained manpower, nor were the authorities interested to make them trained by sending them to reputed institutions. To improve the standard of work of the college libraries in terms of modernization with specific emphasis on IT applications, the above factors may be taken into consideration so that the situation may improve and the college libraries of Purulia District may provide IT-enabled services to their students/users.

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