

## Self-Assessment of Government Autonomous Engineering College Libraries in Andhra Pradesh

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**Abstract** - *This work examines the issues related to self-assess among the government autonomous engineering college libraries in Andhra Pradesh, India. This paper try to assess the particulars of college, library, collection strength, infrastructure, software using for library automation and institutional repository, e-resources, user services, ICT infrastructure availability, tools using for selecting books and journals, total library staff strength in the libraries. Andhra Pradesh has total fifty autonomous engineering colleges as per UGC ([https://ugc.ac.in/subpage/Autonomous\\_Colleges.aspx](https://ugc.ac.in/subpage/Autonomous_Colleges.aspx))<sup>[1]</sup>, out of which, five are government autonomous engineering colleges, and the remaining 45 are under private management. The five government autonomous engineering college libraries selected initial to my research study as a sample size. First structured a questionnaire based on an interview method. Interview questions related to various traditional effective self-assessment techniques of libraries. These libraries visited personally under the survey. The questionnaire is interviewed on the spot visit to the librarians without appointment. The response rate was 100 percent. This article identifies accreditation gaps, functioning hour's gaps, software usage gaps, user services gaps, ICT infrastructure gaps, library services gaps, tools using gaps for print and electronic books selection, tools using gaps for print and electronic journals selection and shortage of professional staff in these college libraries. The study suggests helpful findings for college libraries to make a development of user services, user facilities, accreditations, ICT infrastructure, tools usage and professional staff.*

**Key words:** Self-Assessment, Autonomous engineering colleges, Libraries, Library automation, ICT infrastructure, Books and journals selection tools, Library staff

### Introduction:

Libraries play a significant role of higher education system including engineering education for dissemination of information to the users. Libraries are actually supporting learning and research services of their parent colleges. Libraries act as regular and up-to-date information provider. Self-Assessment will help the library professionals to be more creative at their work, inviting risks, new ideas and concepts. Through this self-assessment plan, necessary changes and adjustments can be brought into libraries, particularly in information technology. The library professionals should be given an opportunity to assess their services and contributions from time to time, which may help them to engage and accept influence of information technology in the libraries and their services. Librarians have to know the books and journals selection tools to acquire them and satisfy large number of users. The major

purpose of self-assessment is to provide the learning opportunity for library professionals to develop an understanding of their own level of skill, knowledge or personal readiness for a task in relation to their works.

### **Eligibility and Role of Autonomous Engineering Colleges**

“The college should have at least 10 years of existence. The college must be accredited by either NAAC with minimum ‘A’ grade or NBA for at least three programmes with a minimum score of 675 individually or a corresponding grade/score from a UGC empanelled accreditation agency.”<sup>2</sup>

Autonomy granted to the college is at the institutional level and is not partial, and shall cover the programmes at all levels such as U.G., P.G. and Ph.D. offered by the college. Research achievements of the faculty and adequacy infrastructure of library books and e-resources are the key criteria for granting autonomy to colleges. Autonomous colleges have anatomy to review existing courses/programmes and, restructure, redesign and prescribe its own courses/programmes of study and syllabus and to formulate new courses/programmes, modernize their curricula or make them globally competent, locally relevant and skill oriented to promote employability.

Self-Assessment of the libraries will help the library professionals to be necessary changes and adjustments can be brought into libraries, particularly in ICT infrastructure, advanced technologies, different user services. Libraries are transformation from print books and journals to electronic books and journals highly. So, librarians shall have knowledge, awareness about different books and journals selection tools, library automation software’s, institutional repository software’s, and its resources. The college libraries shall be responsible to maintain print and electronic books and journals for their users and college having different inspections. Every year college libraries must increase their collection. It is a continuous process. College libraries shall subscribe and facilitate e-books and e-journals and make access to users.

### **Review of literature:**

“Self-assessment tools and tips in enhancing organizational performance go beyond measuring the impact of programs, products and services. The tools and techniques are flexible, and the model can be adapted to any type or size of organization. It is initiating a process of self-assessment, internal change. It will particularly appeal to academics and professionals in organizational development and evaluation.”<sup>3</sup>

“Self-assessment is used for identifying gaps and to provide information for a decision on where the gaps in could be individual analysis. Self-assessment enables to make own evaluation. Effective self-assessment is greater than the sum of the parts from which it is composed and it is a skill that is assumed more than judged.”<sup>4</sup>

“The assessment is part of planning process focusing on identifying and solving performance problems.”<sup>5</sup> Many studies have identified that the capacity to self-assess is essential for safe and effective practice. Here an attempt has made to assess the gaps and shortages in libraries among the government autonomous engineering college of Andhra Pradesh.

**Objectives of the study:**

- To identify the establishment year, autonomous year, NAAC Grade and NBA recognized courses offering among the government autonomous engineering colleges of Andhra Pradesh.
- To study the infrastructure, seating capacity, library functioning hours, books collection strength among the government autonomous engineering college libraries of Andhra Pradesh.
- To find out library management software package using, institutional repository software package using and its resources, ICT infrastructure facilities, user services, tools using for selecting books and journals, professional and non professional staff strength among the government autonomous engineering college libraries of Andhra Pradesh.

**Analysis:**

**Government Autonomous Engineering College Libraries:**

The 5 (five) different Government autonomous engineering colleges located at different places of Andhra Pradesh have been identified and surveyed all the institutes to know the present status of the libraries. The list of the all Government autonomous engineering colleges has been appended in the Table-1.

**Table-1: List of Government autonomous engineering colleges under study**

Name of the college	Acronym	Established	Autonomous	NAAC
			Year	Grade
Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University College of Engineering, Kakinada	JNTK	1946	2011-12	0
Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Anantapur College of Engineering	JNTA	1946	2014-15	0
Andhra University College of Engineering, Andhra University, Waltair, Visakhapatnam	AUCE	1953	2010-11	0
Sri Venkateswara University College of Engineering, S. V. University Campus, Tirupati	SVUC	1959	2011-12	0
Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Anantapur College of Engineering, Pulivendula	JNTP	2006	2013-14	0

**Table-2: Names of the Library, Infrastructure, Courses offering and Seating Capacity**

Name	Name of the Library	Library Separate Building	No. of U.G. Courses	No. of P.G. Courses	NBA Recognized Courses	Seating Capacity
			Offering	Offering		
JNTK	Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Central Library	√	7	17	15	300
JNTA	Central Library	√	6	25	5	100
AUCE	AUCE Library	X	18	29	0	250
SVUC	SVUCE Library	X	6	9	5	100
JNTP	Central Library	√	5	5	0	150

Table 1 show that 2 engineering colleges were established in the year 1946 before independence i.e. JNTK and JNTA. AUCE in 1953, SVUC in 1959. JNTP in 2006. The five engineering colleges have no NAAC accreditation status.

Table 2 shows that 4 library names same as college names and the remaining 1 have separate name. 3 libraries have separate buildings and the remaining 2 are part of the building. The highest under graduate and post graduate courses offering in AUCE and lowest JNTP. Three colleges have NBA recognized courses i.e. JNTK, JNTA and SVUC. Seating capacity is 300 highest in JNTK and lowest 100 in JNTA and SVUC.

**Table-3: Library Functioning Hours**

Name	Opening Hour	Closing Hour	Total Hours	Sunday Timings	Total Hours
JNTK	9:00 A.M.	8:00 P.M.	11:00	9:00 A.M To 1:00 P.M.	04:00
JNTA	8:30 A.M.	8.30 P.M.	12:00	8:30 A.M. To 8:30 P.M.	12:00
	Every Friday Holiday				
AUCE	9:00 A.M.	8:00 P.M.	11:00	Closed	00:00
SVUC	10:00 A.M.	5:00 P.M.	07:00	Closed	00:00
JNTP	9:00 A.M.	8:00 P.M.	11:00	10:00 A.M. To 4:00 P.M.	06:00

Table 3 shows the library functioning hours in the government autonomous engineering college libraries of Andhra Pradesh. Library functioning 12:00 hours is highest in JNTA and lowest 7:00 hours in SVUC. Maximum 4 numbers of libraries are functioning 11 to 12 hours followed by 1 number of library are functioning 7 hours a day. Except 3 libraries JNTUK, JNTA and JNTP all other government autonomous engineering college libraries are closed on the Sundays. It may be mentioned here that the JNTA declared holiday every Friday in a week.

**LMS, IR Software and Physical Document Collection Details:**

**Table-4: LMS, IR Software using and Physical Document Collection Details**

Name	Library Management Software	Institutional Repository Software	Institutional Repository	Books	Journals	News Papers	Total
	Using	Using	Resources				
JNTK	BEES	BEES	Thesis, Projects, Dissertations	50497	272	19	50788
JNTA	KOHA	-	-	85790	32	15	85837
AUCE	SOUL	GREENSTONE	Faculty published papers	64407	75	15	64497
SVUC	-	-	-	39000	50	15	39065
JNTP	SOUL	-	-	29000	22	7	29029

The table 4 shows regarding the use of Library Management Software (LMS) package apart from JNTK, JNTA, AUCE, SVUC and JNTP. Only four libraries are using LMS package for their libraries. Different libraries are using different Library Management Software (LMS) packages. The LMS package BEES in JNTK, KOHA in JNTA, and SOUL in AUCE, JNTP are using. SVUC is not using any LMS package. Availability of institutional repository and software using in the libraries. There are only 2 libraries having institutional repository namely JNTK, AUCE. Among them 1 library namely JNTK are using BEES and 1 library namely AUCE using GREENSTONE software. 3 libraries does not have institutional repository. The institutional repository resources in JNTK include thesis, projects and dissertations. In AUCE are faculty published papers. Library collection status among the government autonomous engineering college libraries. Highest 85837 total library collection is in JNTUA and lowest 29029 are in JNTP.

**ICT Infrastructure Collection Details:**

**Table-5: ICT Infrastructure in the Libraries**

Items	JNTK	JNTA	AUCE	SVUC	JNTP	Total
Server Systems	1	1	4	0	4	10
Desktop Computers	12	15	160	0	32	219
Headphones with Microphones	12	15	120	0	32	179
CD/DVD Readers/Writers	1	5	100	0	0	106
Printers	2	2	2	1	2	9
Scanners	2	1	2	0	1	6
Xerox Machines	2	1	1	1	1	6
Barcode Printers	1	1	2	0	1	5
Barcode Scanners	1	1	6	0	2	10
Closed Circuit Cameras	12	10	15	0	7	44
Vacuum Cleaners	2	2	1	0	0	5
Air Conditioners	10	3	9	0	0	22
Total	58	57	422	2	82	621

From the table 5 it is clear that 1 library do not have any server system i.e. SVUC. Highest 4 numbers of servers in 2 libraries AUCE and JNTP. There are no computers in 1 library i.e. SVUC. Highest 160 number of computers in AUCE and lowest 12 in JNTK. There is no headphones with microphones in 1 library i.e. SVUC. Highest 120 number of headphones with microphones in AUCE and lowest 12 in JNTK. There is no CD/DVD readers/writers in 1 library i.e. SVUC. There are printers at all in 5 libraries. Highest 2 numbers of printers in 4 libraries. Highest 2 numbers of scanners in 2 libraries. Highest 2 numbers of Xerox machine is in 1 library. Highest 2 numbers of barcode printers in 1 library; Highest 6 numbers of barcode scanners in 1 library. Highest 15 number of closed circuit cameras in 1 library. Vacuum cleaners use is very less among the colleges. The air conditioners facility is in 3 libraries i.e. JNTK, JNTA and AUCE. Highest 10 number of air conditioners in 1 library.

**User Services Details:**

**Table- 6: User Services in the Libraries**

Items	JNTK	JNTA	AUCE	SVUC	JNTP
Books borrowing limit for students	4	4	4	2	3
Books loan period for students	15 Days	14 Days	15 Days	15 Days	15 Days
Books borrowing limit for staff	10	4	10	5	10
Books loan period for staff	180 Days	180 Days	180 Days	180 Days	30 Days
Book reservation service	X	√	√	X	X
Internet connectivity	√	√	√	√	√
Digital library	√	√	√	√	√
Uninterruptible Power Supply	√	√	√	X	√
Suggestion box	√	√	X	X	√

Table 6 shows 3 colleges issuing maximum 4 books to students i.e. JNTK, JNTA and AUCE. JNTP issuing 3 books, SVUC issuing 2 books. 4 colleges books loan period for students are maximum 15 days i.e. JNTK, AUCE, SVUC and JNTP. JNTA loan period is 14 days.

Table 6 shows 3 colleges issuing maximum 10 books to staff i.e. JNTK, AUCE and JNTP. SVUC issuing 5 books, JNTA issuing 4 books. 4 colleges books loan period for staff are maximum 180 days equal to one semester i.e. JNTK, JNTA, AUCE and SVUC. JNTP loan period is 30 days equal to one month.

Table 6 shows that 2 colleges have book reservation service i.e. JNTA and AUCE. Remaining 3 colleges have no advance book reservation service. It also shows that all the libraries have internet connectivity and digital library. 4 libraries have UPS facility i.e. JNTK, JNTA, AUCE and JNTP. SVUC have no UPS. 3 libraries are asking and receiving suggestions from users through suggestion box for developing their services i.e. JNTK, JNTA and JNTP. AUCE and SVUC have no suggestion box.

**Tools for print, electronic books and journals selection:**

Libraries have special responsibility to select books and journals. College libraries have librarians responsible for selection of books and journals. Various tools are there in selecting books and journals. The main tools are used here for the study.

**Table-7: Tools using for selecting Print and E-books in libraries**

Items	JNTK	JNTA	AUCE	SVUC	JNTP	Total
Prescribed Text & Reference Books	1	1	1	0	1	4
Subject Bibliographies	1	1	1	0	0	3
Book Reviews	0	1	0	0	1	2
Publishers Catalogues	1	1	1	0	1	4
Vendors & Books Exhibitions	1	1	1	0	1	4
Budgetary Constraints	0	0	1	0	0	1
Based on Quality & Quantity	0	0	1	0	1	2
Collection Development Policy	0	0	1	0	0	1
High Demand or circulation books	1	1	1	0	1	4

Emails by Publishers	0	0	1	0	1	2
Publishers Websites	0	1	1	0	1	3
Faculty & Student Recommendations	1	1	1	0	1	4
Committee Recommendations	1	1	1	1	0	4
Total	7	9	12	1	9	38

From the table 7 it is clear that 1 library do not using prescribed text and reference books, publishers catalogue, through vendors and books exhibitions, high demand or high circulation books, faculty and student recommendations as a tool for selecting and purchasing print and e-books i.e. SVUC. There are not using subject bibliographies as a tool in 2 libraries i.e. SVUC and JNTP. Book reviews as a tool using 2 libraries i.e. JNTA and JNTP. 4 libraries have budgetary limits, 1 library has no budget limit and 1 library has collection development policy for selecting and purchasing books i.e. AUCE. Based on quality and quantity of book and seeing publisher's emails 2 libraries are selecting books i.e. AUCE and JNTP. 3 colleges browsing publisher's websites for selecting books i.e. JNTA, AUCE and JNTP. Based on committee recommendations 4 college libraries selecting books for their libraries i.e. JNTK, JNTA, AUCE and SVUC.

**Table-8: Tools using for selecting Print and E-journals in libraries**

Items	JNTK	JNTA	AUCE	SVUC	JNTP	Total
UGC Approved Journals	1	1	1	0	1	4
AICTE Recommended Journals	1	1	1	0	1	4
Impact Factor Scores	1	0	1	0	0	2
Publishers Catalogues	1	1	1	0	0	3
Journals Distributing Agencies	0	0	1	0	1	2
Budgetary Constraints	0	0	1	0	0	1
Based on Quality & Quantity	0	0	1	0	1	2
Collection Development Policy	0	0	0	0	0	0
High Demand Journals	0	0	1	0	1	2
Emails by Publishers	1	1	1	0	0	3
Publishers Websites	1	1	1	0	0	3
Faculty & Student Recommendations	1	1	1	0	0	3
Committee Recommendations	1	1	1	0	0	3
Total	8	7	12	0	5	32

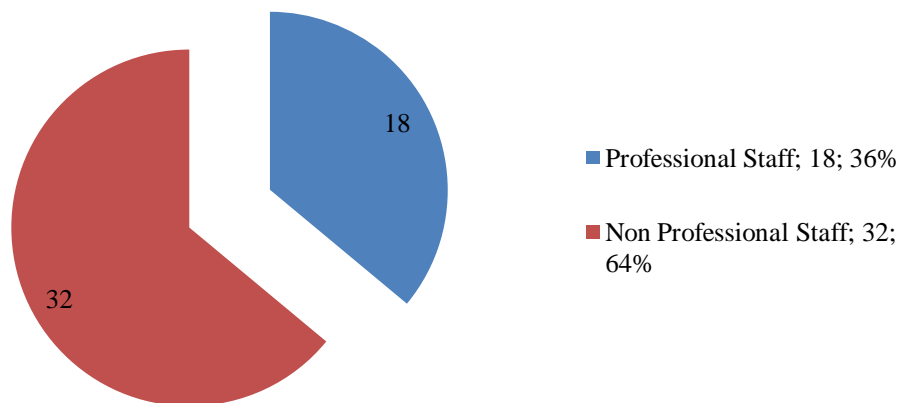
From the table 8 it is clear that 1 library do not using UGC approved and AICTE recommended journals as a tool for selecting and purchasing print and e-journals i.e. SVUC. There are using impact factor scores as a tool in 2 libraries i.e. JNTK and AUCE. Publishers catalogue, email by publishers, publishers websites, faculty and student recommendations, committee recommendations as a tool using in 3 libraries i.e. JNTK, JNTA and AUCE. 4 libraries have budgetary limits, 1 library has no budget limit for selecting and purchasing journals i.e. AUCE. Based on journals distribution agencies, high demand or users asking journals, quality and quantity of journals as tool 2 libraries are selecting journals i.e. AUCE and JNTP. No college library has collection development policy for journals.

**Professional and Non Professional Staff Strength:**

**Table-9: Staff Strength in the Government autonomous engineering colleges Libraries**

Name	Professional Staff	Non Professional Staff	Total	Number of seminars/ conferences/ workshops organized by the library
JNTK	4	8	12	2
JNTA	4	8	12	2
AUCE	5	10	15	2
SVUC	2	2	4	0
JNTP	3	4	7	0
Total	18	32	50	6

From the table 9 (figure 1) shows that there is total 50 number of staff among the government autonomous engineering libraries including both professional and non professional. Where 18 (36%) are professional staffs and 32 (64%) are nonprofessional staffs. These libraries are having professionally qualified library professionals at different positions e.g. librarian, in-charge librarian, library assistant grade – I, junior library assistant Grade – II, assistant librarian, library assistant etc. Highest 15 numbers of staff are in AUCE and the lowest 4 in SVUC library. Figure 6 shows that library professional’s staff strength among the colleges. Highest 5 number of library professionals staff in AUCE and the lowest in SVUC library. 3 libraries organized seminars or conference or workshops i.e. JNTK, JNTA and AUCE.



**Figure-1: Staff Strength in Government autonomous engineering colleges Libraries.**



### **Major findings:**

The Andhra Pradesh Government Universities have NAAC status, but not have University running engineering colleges. Autonomous engineering colleges must be accredited by either NAAC or NBA. 2 colleges have no NAAC or NBA accreditations i.e. AUCE and JNTP. JNTP engineering college library running without library professional doctorate, remaining four college libraries have doctorate professionals. Professionally qualified library professionals are having more knowledge, skills and competencies in the changing information world. Sufficient budget should be made available by the authorities for developments of ICT infrastructure, physical or digital resources. Vacant posts of libraries need to be filled up and new posts should be created as per requirement.

### **Conclusion:**

Autonomous engineering college libraries are the most important place for getting the required literature and information by the scientists, research scholars, students etc. The study was found that majority of government autonomous engineering college libraries facing major problem of insufficient infrastructure, ICT facilities and professional qualified library staff. The variation of infrastructure, ICT facilities, user services and professional qualified library staff are very high from college to college. The authority should take necessary initiative for the setup of the libraries. Proper staff strength, uniform library services and facility should be maintained in the colleges. The libraries should try to provide more and more library services to their users.

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