

**THE PROBLEM OF UNDER-UTILIZATION OF LIBRARY RESOURCES
IN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE TRIBAL
PREDOMINANT GADCHIROLI DISTRICT**

Anil Bhoyar

Vidyabharati Mahavidyalaya,
Kurkheda – 441209
e-mail: abhoyar321@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

'Centre's of higher education' imply Universities and Colleges. It will not be improper to say that Universities and Colleges are educational centre's of the young generation. Today tremendous changes are taking place in higher education all over the world. With the introduction of globalization and free market economy the changes are being accelerated in all fields. Its impact is also inevitably felt in the higher educational systems. Libraries are considered the most important part of any educational institution. Its crucial role is beyond description. Completion of studies initiated in the classroom is possible only in the library and in this way it will be closely connected with life since most books are written out of experience from life. After understanding the lessons in the class-room the curiosity of students is aroused for greater levels of knowledge. Satisfaction of that curiosity is possible only in the library. This curiosity is the spur of progress to achieve in numerous fields. Today, library, the 'temple of knowledge' is highly saturated with numerous kinds of books and periodicals and electronic items. But the tragedy is that the library resources are not properly utilized in a large number of institutions. The present study undertaken in some 35 colleges examines the problems of under-utilization of library resources in Higher Educational Institutions in tribal area predominant in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra. The study is done class-wise. In this, a study of materials used by students, professors and non-teaching staff is undertaken.

Key-words: Under-utilization, library, resources, predominant, materials, globalization, tribal, development, hypothesis, economy, recommendations

INTRODUCTION:

Universities and colleges constitute the main centers of higher education. It will be not be unrealistic to say that today universities and colleges are educational centres meant primarily for the new generation, the young people. Today unprecedented changes are sweeping the higher educational field all over the world. Since the ushering in of globalization and free market economy, changes are taking place at a frightening speed in all fields. Its effect is felt on higher education arena as well.

Libraries are the *sine qua non* of any educational institution. It has been emphasized time and again. Only libraries can complete the learning started in the in the classrooms. Compared to the rich store of knowledge contained in the numerous books in the library what is taught in the class is but a trivial bit. If good teaching excites the curiosity of students, their quenching can be done

only in the library. It is this curiosity that has to goad the students on to future activities. There is too much difference in what we say and do in our nation and other countries. What is the rich legacy left to us by our forefathers? Where is the world heading for today? To find answers to these and many more questions we must go to the library. There is no such other place like library to broaden our view or to enlarge our mind. Library, no doubt, is the 'temple of knowledge'. In his report of the Commission, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan remarked that libraries are the focal points of all activities in educational institutions and the libraries are playing a crucial role in research and learning activities. There is the necessity of extensive study for the holistic development of students during higher education.

But the text books prescribed in the syllabus are inadequate. Hence, only with the assistance of a good number of books from the library a complete study of subjects is possible. Mere textbooks prescribed in the syllabus will not do that. Reference books, periodicals, and all those books giving extra knowledge are to be resorted to. It is the duty of colleges and librarians to make available and maintain all these learning resources (reading literature and audio-video items). The quality or standard of the library is determined by 1. Available resources 2. Services and facilities offered and 3. The readers who use these facilities. Any library can not be self-sufficient without vast generation or procurement of reading literature. It has become now necessary to take the aid of library and its information centre which has been facilitated by the use of computers in the library.

Gadchiroli district in the Vidarbha region is noted for the predominance of *adivasis* or aborigines or tribals. It is 'backward' from the viewpoint of development and the state of education is in its infancy. Colleges in this district are the only places of higher education. It is necessary to consider the learning resources available in this district, the services provided in HEIs, the readers' utilization of these resources and their problems.

BACKGROUND OF TRIBAL AREAS IN MAHARASHTRA:

According to the Govt. of India census, 15 districts in Maharashtra 16 cities and 5809 villages are counted as adivasi areas and their area is 50757 sq. km. This area is 16.5% of the total area of the state. In this area come Thane, Nasik, Dhule, Nandurbar, Jalgaon, Ahmednagar, Nanded, Amaravati, Yavatmal, Gondia, Nagpur, Akola, Gadchiroli and Chandrapur districts.

According to the census of 2001, the Adivasi population in the State was 85.77 lakh, next only to that of it in Madhya Pradesh (154 lakh). The ratio of Adivasis in comparison with the rest of the population in the state is 9%.

From the administration purpose Maharashtra State is divided into 6 divisions - Mumbai, Konkan, Pune, Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur. In the Nagpur Division come the 6 districts - Nagpur, Wardha, Bhandara, Gadchiroli, Gondia and Chandrapur. Of these 6 districts, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli and Gondia are considered adivasi districts, and some tahsils of Nagpur and Bhandara districts are also included as adivasi areas.

BACKGROUND OF GADCHIROLI DISTRICT:

The area of this district, separated originally from Chandrapur district on 26th August, 1982, is 14412 km. (180-43 and 210.50 in north and 79045 and 80053 in east) and the district is situated in the North-East corner of the Maharashtra, to the north Gondia district, to the east Bastar,

Chandrapur and Adilabad districts, to the south Adilabad, Karimnagar districts are bounded by natural barriers like rivers and mountains. According to 2001 census the population of the district is 969960 and out of that 4190809 are men and 479151 ladies. The ratio of ladies is 876 per 1000 men. There are 1688 villages. The rate of literacy is 60.29% (men 69.72% and ladies 50.64%).

The Geo-surface condition of the district is mountainous and there are mountains like Sirikonda, Bhamragad, Surajgad, Aheri and Dandkaranya Mountains.

The Pranhita, the Wainganga, and the Wardha are the main rivers which flow from west to east out of which the Wainganga and the Wardha join the Pranhita river. The Wainganga originates from Maikal Mountain (Durg District, Chhatisgad). Near Amgaon this river enters the district. By this river a very large plain is formed. Through the district flow such rivers as the Gadhavi, the Khobragadi, the Kathani, and the Migdola. The Nibra, the Kothari, and the Bandiya are the tributaries of Pranhita. The Pranhita afterwards join the Indravati.

Rice is the main crop. In addition to this Jowar, Tur, wheat and such crops are also cultivated in this area. The number of lakes is more compared to that of the rivers in the district. There are 1673 small and large lakes are recorded. Itiadoh is the only dam in the district and it gives benefit to Wadsa and Armori tahsils. 78.80% area of the district is under forest cover. Revenue from teakwood, *tendu* (tobacco) leaves and bamboo is quite significant. The total area of the district is 1491500 hectares. Of this 1184100 hectares come under forest and 193400 hectares come under cultivation. Area under irrigation is 65708 hectares. In Gadchiroli district in 2008-09 Education Session 34 colleges were functioning. In these are included Arts, Commerce, Science, Education, Physical Education and Law colleges.

REASONS FOR SELECTING THE SUBJECT:

When education is resorted to for improved efficiency, it is necessary to do deep reading and great thinking. Through constant reading the limits of knowledge are widened. Today expansion of many branches of knowledge is taking place on a large scale. A student can pass the examination on the basis of textbook. But on this basis he can not get deep knowledge of the subjects he studies. For that, the books which impart deeper knowledge of the subjects other than text books, and recommended books are necessary. The students have no such inclination for library research because during school education they are unacquainted with the library. Because of this they shy away and desist from making the best use of library during their college time. In this period it is necessary to create a passion in the minds of students for books and other materials of the library. For this, it is necessary to train students in college to learn the primary lessons about how to search and find out books from the library to prepare for their lessons, to search for the reference books in the library and to find out what information is available in different reference books, or periodicals. Librarians in many colleges organize orientation programs. Since Gadchiroli district is backward and having tribal students in large numbers, this subject is selected for studying the problems and finding out to what extent the resources of the libraries are used.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

Gadchiroli district has a preponderance of tribal population. The libraries are not optimally used in this district because of the non-intellectual background. So the topic selected for the study is that of the problems related to the libraries especially in relation to the under-utilization of

learning resources and other facilities of the libraries of the district. The study will also help to find the way for the development of the libraries through better utilization possibilities. Some 31 libraries of the colleges of the district were taken for the study.

PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE TOPIC SELECTED:

Many services are given in the college libraries. Those cover mainly exchange of books, reading room facilities, periodicals, reference books service, internet service etc. Through this study the particulars of books, availability of text books; reference books etc, in the colleges of this district will be detailed. By means of this study, a complete list of reference books is given. Again, it will be known immediately which reference is available in which college.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following are the objectives of the study taken up:

1. To find out the availability of materials in the libraries of Higher
2. Educational Institutions (HEIs).
3. To take stock of the materials available in libraries of HEIs, and
4. To find out the standard of the facilities given in libraries of HEIs.

HYPOTHESIS

The following hypotheses are made for the present research.

1. Sufficient materials are available in the libraries of HEIs of
2. Gadchiroli district.
3. Service and standard of facilities is in conformity with that of NAAC.
4. There is under-utilization of library resources in the district.
5. E-media has made an impact on the reading of books.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study of 35 college libraries in Gadchiroli district was taken in connection with “The Utility of Modern Information Service in the Libraries of Gadchiroli District -A Study”. In this chapter various facets of study were done. For this purpose collection of data, analysis and classification of data, observation and joint-observation were made. All these are recorded in the concerned chapter and the focal points of the study are as under:-

1. Growth of Library- College library (Taluka-wise)
2. Available materials in library
 - (i) Infrastructure (building, section, tools and equipment)
 - (ii) Development of Books collection
 - (iii) Economic Resources
 - (iv) Human Resources.
3. Modern Information Service Available in the library
4. Nature of the Users
5. Needs of the Users

6. Utilization of modern information service.

The above study points are taken for study in the Research Project in tables after analyzing the facts. Observations about them are recorded and the following conclusions are recorded.

1. Growth of Library:-

In Gadchiroli district there are as many as 12 tahsils. Also there are 35 college libraries functioning. The first of these libraries (out of these 35 college libraries) was established in the year 1981. In 1981 there was only one college library in the district. The name of that college is Mahatma Gandhi Arts, Science and Late N. P. Commerce College, Armori. In Gadchiroli Taluka there are as many as 10 colleges and their libraries are functioning. In Aheri and Chamorshi tahsils there are 5 each libraries, in Armori and Wadsa tahsils there are 3 each libraries, In Sironcha and Mulchera tahsils 2 each libraries, In Etapalli, Kurkheda, Korchi, Dhanora, Bhamragad tahsil 1 each libraries functioning respectively.

In this way, in Gadchiroli district, colleges and libraries in the faculty of Arts, Science, Physical Education, Social Science and Law are working and the growth of college libraries is satisfactory.

2. Available Resources in the libraries:

- i) Infrastructural resources
 - 1) In most cases, college libraries were found functioning in own buildings.
 - 2) There was maximum use of the Joint Section in the library department.
 - 3) Only in one library, computer was found to be used for modern information service.
- ii) Books Collection:-
 - 1) 17 colleges have 5000 or more books.
 - 2) Only in one library C.D or electronic medium is used.
- iii) Economic Resources.

Grant by Government was given to some 17 college libraries.
- iv) Human Resource

Only in 3 libraries i.e. at Anuket Social Work College, Wadsa (Desaiganj), Fule Ambedkar Social Work College, Wadsa (Desaiganj), and Fule Ambedkar College, Gadchiroli, the posts of librarian, professional assistant, library assistant and library attendant are not vacant.

3. Modern Information Service available in library

In Gadchiroli District out of 35 college libraries only in one college, (namely, Vidyabharti Arts and Commerce College, Kurkheda), modern information service is given in diverse aspects and in the period of examination, and holidays also emergency services are supplied. Only this one library, from the point of view of modern information service, is partly computerized and in this library it is seen that there is use of image writing. Further, it is in this college the library command, named LIBMAN, is available.

4. Aspects of users:-

In this mainly following factors are included.

i) **Students:-**

This factor has most number of inclusions of users. Their number is 8336 and out of these 1198 users are from Mahatma Gandhi Arts, Science and late N. P. Commerce College, Armori.

ii) **Teachers:-**

This factor is on second number in the aspect of users and this number is 218. Out of this most of teacher users are at Adarsa Arts and Commerce College, Wadsa.

iii) **Non-Teaching Staff:-**

This factor is on third number in the aspect of users and this number is 277 and out of this most of the employee users are at Aniket Social Work College, Wadsa.

4. Needs of Users:-

i) **Students:-**

From the Modern Information Service point of view, it is seen that 150 students (users) are using the Internet out of most of 416 users found according to percentage ratio in all faculties.

ii) **Teachers:-**

Again, the student users in view of modern information service, it is seen that 30 teacher-users out 152 users found according to percentage ratio in all faculties have realized the important need of internet as Modern Information Service.

iii) **Non-teaching Staff-**

20 non-teaching staff (20 out of 166 users) found according to percentage ratio have expressed the necessity of Internet as Modern Information Service.

Above mentioned three users have given upper hand to Internet from the view point of Modern Information Service and suggested that it is necessary that this service must be made available in all libraries.

5. Usefulness of Modern Information Service.

Most of user-factor using Modern Information Service means students who use this service. They expressed their view that in the library usefulness of Internet and Modern Information Service is indubitable in view of the need of the times. With this teacher and non-teaching staff users have also given upper hand to Internet and have opined that in every library e-mail, image writing, O-pac, digitalization, e-book, e-journal, RFID, BYFY, Networking, Online Data, CCTV, inflibnet, Catalogue, OCVLC, Inter library Service through internet, Command and other facilities such as well-furnished buildings, trained employees, modern apparatus and such modern services are highly useful from the view-point of user's need.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) It is necessary to make modifications in infrastructure to increase the usefulness of Modern Information Service in library.
- 2) FSI area of library building is to be increased to make extension to modern devices/apparatus as well as to accommodate computer, Xerox Machine etc.

- 3) Augment book collections of the library, to result in substantial increase in the number of reference books, periodicals which must all be systematically classified.
- 4) Try in view of all these to make available development grants from the government in order to initiate and sustain development in the library.
- 5) Recruit more employees, give training to employees, organize programs as seminars, workshops etc. for the employees.
- 6) Make available computer services to all sorts of readers to avail themselves of e-books, e-journals etc. and to make use of Modern Information Service.

From the above it is clear that Modern Information Service to users of library in Gadchiroli district is extremely important, but these facilities are not supplied to them. In the changed conditions of today it is highly significant to supply Modern Information Services for the benefit and development of the readers. For that no less than concerted effort on the part of the library, college, management and Government is imperative.

REFERENCE

1. Jain, Deshpande, Dakhole (2001) Shulabh granthalayashashtra: Nagpur, Visahwa Prakashan.
2. Thapaswi, M.U.(1995) Granthalayat Sanganakacha Upayog, Nashik Y.C.M.V. Publication.
3. Natu S.R. (1995) Mahiti Sewa ani Sanghatana, Nasik :Y.C.M.V. Publication.
4. Phadke, D.N. (2007) Granthalayache Adhunikikaran and Sanganikikaran, Pune: Universail Prakashan.
5. Bodhankar and Aloni (1999) Samajik Sanshodhan Paddhati Nagpur:Sainath Prakashan.
6. Bhandarkar, P.L. (1981) Samajik Sanshodhan Paddhati Kulkarni Prakashan
7. Meshram,Suresh (2000) Pratyakshiuk samajik Sanshodhan Nagpur, Matru Sewa Sangh Prakashan.
8. Tripathi, Lal and Kumar (2001) Granthalaya Evam Suchana Vudhyan,New Delhi, S.S. Prakashan.
9. Kumar K. and Sharma J. (2007) E- Shikvinara, Shiknara, Kendriya Shiknat Granthalaya ani Mahitishashtrachi Vyavsayikta Niyatkalik Volume 32.No.1Page 115
10. Kumar B. D. and Sharma J. (2007) Dharvad Yethil Krushi Vidyapithatil Upyuktatecha Vachakanchya drushtine Abhyas” Desi Dak Bulletin Volume
11. Kumbhar S. S.&Mallayah T.Y. (2008) Granthalaya Talikevishayi 2008 Vachhakanchya Garaja Va Badalnarya Garja Yamadhe Mangalore Vidhyapithatil Vachakanchya Sanganakiya Talikechi Upyuktata Anal of library and Information Studies, Volume 55 Page 7-16.

---@@@---