

**Status of Computerisation of academic Senior college
libraries in Sindhudurg District.**

A Minor Research Project

Financial Assistance by
University Grants Commission, New Delhi

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Summary of the Project:

Automation and networking of libraries are still in their formative stages in India and it will take longer period for automation of libraries in Sindhudurg district, where colleges are situated very rural and remote areas. Their full impact on libraries and library resources will be known in the course of time. INFLIBNET, DELNET, and other metropolitan networks are providing training facilities for computer applications.

There is tremendous impact of ICT in every field of human activities. No field remained uninfluenced by the ICT. There is no exception in use of ICT in each field of knowledge based institutions, organizations, and library.

Automation saves efforts, time and resources involved in manual operation of the libraries. Library is a heart of any educational institution and it is essential to improve the existing system of the library services by using the ICT in libraries. In an automated library system the information dissemination rate will be catalyzed by use of ICT. INFLIBNET is the dream project of UGC established in 1988 and directed towards the modernization to library and Information Centers and establishing a good mechanism for information transfer and access to support scholars and academic pursuits. The main purpose of this study is related and directed towards the little fulfillment of this project.

In this regard it is found that, no matter whether college is situated in rural or urban setup, remote area, facing lot of critical problems, financial problems etc. the libraries of the senior colleges in Sindhudurg district are trying to update with new technological tools to cope with the new challenges put by the technology in this information era. It will take longer time to reach the goal, but step is laid in the right direction.

Contribution to the Society:

Library is heart of the institutions and human community is also one of the institutions who need it. For the development of human community it is necessary to develop the libraries. To become a better citizen it is essential to provide the better educational facilities. Students are the future of the nation, so it is necessary

to provide better services to the student in order to build their future. In this regard it becomes indispensable to adopt the technological changes in order to provide effective and efficient services to the user. The project is fruitful in this regard.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

Automation and networking of libraries are still in their formative stages in India and it will take longer period for automation of libraries in Sindhudurg district, where colleges are situated very rural and remote areas. Their full impact on libraries and library resources will be known in the course of time. INFLIBNET, DELNET, and other metropolitan networks are providing training facilities for computer applications.

The Indian Library Association, IASLIC, and NISSAT have jointly helped academic libraries in the choice of software, hardware and in manpower training. Every year, INFLIBNET organizes a conference- CALIBER (Convention of Automation in Libraries) – to discuss issues related to the computerization of academic libraries. In the first convention of CALIBER, held at Ahmadabad in February 1994, the Chairman of INFLIBNET, Professor Yashpal, said that the Government of India should provide more funds for the speedy networking of higher education, research and libraries. According to him, the progress of INFLIBNET is far from satisfactory, and so the UGC should provide funds for hardware and software to accelerate the pace of library automation and networking.

The plans prepared by the decision-making bodies should be more realistic, so that they can easily be achieved. Overall planning for all regions and libraries are not suitable. So the local requirements, the existing real conditions are to be taken into considerations during policy making. The survey of the real and existing conditions should be made before financial assistance. Then timeframe should be set for step-by-step development of the libraries. If above facts will taken into account, before designing any information policy, then the ultimate result will be fruitful.

Recommendations:

1. There should be some specific financial assistance by the UGC for the rural college libraries irrespective of the student's strength which is necessary for the development of the library in order to provide good library service to the students and for stepping towards the fulfillment of vision and mission of UGC-INFLIBNET.
2. There should be financial assistance provision by the UGC for un-aided college libraries also, because they face lot of problems and can unable to provide minimum library services to the students. It will also helpful to achieve the mission of INFLIBNET and 'National Knowledge Commission' which aims at strengthens the libraries.
3. Most important need is that, there should be change in staffing pattern of the academic library and educational qualification of the library supporting staff. At least two supporting staff should be there and having bachelor degree of library science. This is most important for the development of the libraries.
4. There should be need of uniform library software installation policy in academic college libraries in order to fulfill the mission of INFLIBNET.
5. To fulfill the objective of the UGC-INFLIBNET project there is a need of Installation of SOUL software in all academic college libraries, training for library staff, financial assistance, and 01 technical assistance centre at every district.