

Problem And Prospect Of Modernization And Up-Gradation Of College Libraries Of Barak Valley Districts Of Assam

Sufia Khanom Mozumder¹, P. K. Barooah²

¹Research Scholar, Department of Library and Information Sciences, University of Science & Technology, Baridua, Meghalaya 793101, India,

²Department of Library and Information Sciences, University of Science & Technology, Baridua, Meghalaya 793101, India,

Abstract

The aim of this study is to discuss the challenges and opportunities for modernization and upgrading of various undergraduate college libraries in Barak Valley, Assam's southernmost region. The current status of automation, infrastructure, and accommodation for teachers, students, and staff in Barak Valley college libraries was discussed. Participation in Library Consortiums and National Library Networks of various college libraries was also attempted. User feedback on library building planning, architectural modelling, and infrastructure facilities, librarians' and users' perspectives on college library modernization, user perceptions of library personnel's helpful attitudes, and user advocacy, among other things, were studied. Finally, identify the barriers and limitations of modernization issues, and make recommendations and closing statements.

The findings revealed issues and opportunities for college libraries to be modernised and updated. The majority of libraries lack building planning, architectural modelling, up-to-date automation software, skilled labour, and adequate seating for library users in reading rooms.

Keywords: College Library, Modernization, Digital Library, Library Automation, Library consortium, Information Communication Technology.

1. Introduction:

The unprecedented growth of information and communication technology (ICT) and network technology has had a significant impact on various areas of libraries and information centre's. Nowadays, traditional library services such as circulation, reference, acquisition, serial control, indexing, and so on are being shifted to an electronic/automatic format. With the implementation of computerization, libraries are able to fulfill their primary goal of creating, storing, processing, and disseminating information at the local, regional, national, and international levels.

Computerization is the first step, followed by digitization, in the process of modernising libraries. During the digitization process, important rare and old library materials can be transferred to digital form and made available as e-resources. A digital library and library digitization is not the same thing. After the digitization process is completed, we will be able to convert a traditional library to digital. Digitization is the process of converting materials from hard copies to electronic form. Digital libraries, on the other hand, are the logical expressions and augmentations of physical libraries in the automated one. It is well known that ICT allows anyone, anywhere, and at any time to gain access to digital information. In this changing environment, college libraries must also prioritise development of ICT infrastructure and reinvent of day-to-day services and activities. The current study is an earnest attempt to analyse and report on the problem and prospects of modernization and upgradation of the Barak Valley's 18 provincialised oldest general degree college libraries.

2. Review of literature:

Several studies on the modernization of college libraries have been conducted in India and other countries around the world. Every ongoing research work must be linked to previous work in order to have overall relevance and purpose. In any field of study, the existing literature serves as a foundation upon which all subsequent research is built. A literature review entails scanning the pages of any published paper in journals, books, newspapers, websites, and any other media where one may be able to find any topic related to his own research topic. As a result, the researcher conducted a thorough review of the research material relevant to the current study.

The current status of automation in Kerala university libraries is described by **Suku and Pillai (2005)**. The findings summary covers a wide range of topics related to library automation, including IT, infrastructure, and in-house activities. According to **Chakraborty & Maisal (2005)**, library automation and network management are dependent not only on a computer system, an internet server, or software, but also on the skill and quality of library staff. According to **Sinha & Chakaraborty (2007)**, the automation of college libraries in Barak Valley is in its early stages. Only a few of the best colleges in the Barak Valley have begun to automate and network their college libraries. **Gireesh and Rajashekara (2009)** provided an example of how IT professionals in India use e-resources. **Omirin and Olayinka (2007)** discussed the current state of computer library and information centre application. The majorities of public libraries in Nigeria operate manually and lack the necessary technologies to provide easy access to information resources and services. **Bansode and Periera (2008)** highlight the automation condition of various colleges in

Goa, which is comparable to that of college libraries across India. In 2008, **Sangeeta and Sarika (2008)** discussed the current condition of academic libraries in Manipur, specifically college libraries in valley areas, on a variety of topics such as ICT-based services, automation status, and other issues such as problems with ICT applications. It also made some suggestions to help college libraries improve their service conditions. **Begum (2010)** efforts to provide a bird's-eye view of the current status of library automation at East West University, as well as the level of satisfaction of its users following the recent automation / implementation of ICT. In 2011, Wodeyar and Hadagali looked into the state of Technological infrastructure in engineering college libraries in the Hyderabad-Karnataka region. The authors made some recommendations for improving existing ICT-based resources and services. **Sevukan and Deepthi (2014)** investigated the automation status of 25 academic institution libraries in Southern Kerala and found that they were all automated. All libraries discovered that circulation has been the most popular automated module, followed by record keeping, acquisition, OPAC, and serials control. According to the study, the staff of the surveyed library should be sent to training courses to improve their IT skills, thereby increasing the effectiveness of the current system.

3. Objectives of the present study:

The main aims and objectives of the present study are as follows:

- To identify the various challenges that library professionals face when implementing ICT cum library automation and library infrastructure in the selected college libraries of Barak Valley.
- To investigate the present status of automation and library co-operation cum resource sharing of selected college libraries.
- To determine the level of growth and development of ICT and library infrastructure implementation in the selected college libraries.
- To analyze user feedback on library building planning, architectural modelling, and infrastructure facilities
- To analyze user perceptions of library personnel's helpful attitudes and advocacy on the part of users.
- To investigate the librarians' and users' perspectives on the modernization of college libraries.
- To make recommendations for proper ICT implementation and modernization of college libraries.

4. Scope of the study:

This paper examines the issue and prospects for modernising and upgrading some of Barak Valley's college libraries. This study emphasises the availability of Library building infrastructure, automation status, library networking cum consortium, and users' opinions and feedback, among other things. It was finalised to study only the libraries of general degree colleges in all three

districts of the Barak Valley that were provincialised by the Government of Assam before 2013. As a result, the current study's scope is restricted to the libraries of only 18 (eighteen) degree colleges across Barak Valley's three districts:

Table No-1. Description of colleges and their libraries.

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S L N o	Name of College	Abbreviation	NAAC Accredited Grade	Location status	Year of Establishment	Name of College Library	Total No of Staff	Library Area in Sq. ft.
1	Gurucharan College, Silchar	GCCS	A	Urban	1935	B.C. Gupta Memorial Central Library	11	14500
2	Cachar College, , Silchar	CCS	B+	Urban	1960	Central Library	03	2400
3	Women's College, Silchar	WCS	B	Urban	1963	Central Library	03	2200
4	Janata College, , Kabuganj	JCK	C+	Rural	1964	Central Library	04	2480
5	Nehru College, Pailapur	NCP	C+	Rural	1965	Central Library	02	2000
6	Radhamadhab College, Silchar	RMCS	B	Urban	1971	Bipin Chandra Memorial Library	03	5000
7	M.C.D. College, Sonai	MCDCS	B	Rural	1972	Central Library	03	1680
8	West Silchar College, Barjatrapur	WSCB	-	Rural	1985	Central Library	04	1000
9	Karimganj College, Karimganj	KCK	B	Urban	1946	Karimganj College Library	03	8000
10	Rabindra Sadan Girls College, Karimganj	RSGCK	B	Urban	1962	RS Girls' College Library	03	2400

11	Ramkrishna Nagar College, Ramkrishna Nagar	RKNCRKN	B	Rural	1964	Sishir Granthalaya	02	2128
12	Nabin Chandra College, Badarpur	NCCB	B	Rural	1969	Central Library	04	2000
13	Patharkandi College	PKCP	-	Rural	1990	Central Library	02	720
14	S. S. College, Hailakandi	SSCH	A	Urban	1950	Pratap Chandra Nath Central Library	04	7000
15	Lala Rural College, Lala	LRCL	C+	Rural	1964	Central Library	06	3000
16	A. L. C. College, Algapur	ALCCA	-	Rural	1997	S. A. Choudhury Memorial Central Library	03	700
17	M.H.C.M.Sc. College, Algapur	MHCMSCA	-	Rural	1997	MHCM Science College, Library	02	600
18	S.C. Dey College (Katakhal),	SCDCK	-	Rural	1992	S.C. Dey College, Library	03	750

Table -1 show the year of establishment and name of Library of each college subjected to study. GCS and KCK are two oldest colleges both of which were established in pre-independence India. Eleven colleges are established between 1950 and 1972 out of which three colleges one in each district established in the same year 1964 and rest five colleges established before 1997. All the respondent colleges which are established on and before 1972 have assessed and accredited by NAAC. Only two college's viz. SSCH and GCS obtained A grade in their respective last cycle of NAAC accreditation.

Table-1 shows that the GCS library has the most library staff, 11, compared to other college libraries. The college libraries of RKNCRKN, and PKCP have the fewest library staff (two in each). The library space at GCS is the largest (14500 sq ft), while the library space at MHCMSCA is the smallest (600 sq ft) of all the colleges.

5. Description of study area:

Barak Valley is located in the southernmost part of the Indian state of Assam, covering a geographical area of 22,244 square kilometres and consisting of three districts: Cachar, Karimganj, and Hailakandi. The valley is named after the major river, the Barak, which flows through it.

6. Methodology & data analysis:

The research was carried out on selected degree college libraries from all three districts of Barak Valley, Assam. The primary data for this study was collected using the survey method. A structured questionnaire was developed and communicated to all librarians or library in-charges at 18 degree college libraries, and another set of questionnaires for users (Students, Teachers, and Staff) of 18 selected degree college libraries. Personal visits to degree college libraries were made by the investigator, and observed the current collection development, staff positions, library automation, availability of library infrastructure, and various aspects of library service modernization, among other things. Furthermore, the researcher conducted face to face interview with librarians at these institutions in order to learn about the various aspects of infrastructure development and modernization of library services provided by these college libraries. The investigator receives responses from all librarians and 77.86% of library users. The raw data from the research area was tabulated and statistically analysed using IBM SPSS software version 22.

6.1 Distribution and receipt of questionnaire (librarians)

Questionnaires were distributed to all college librarians/in-charge librarians, and they all responded.

Table 2 Distribution of the respondents by gender N=18

Category of Users	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percent
Male	11	61.12	61.12
Female	7	38.88	100.00
Total	18	100.0	

(Source: Computed from returned questionnaires)

Table-2 shows the gender wise no of respondents.

Table 3 Distribution of respondents / colleges based on their status location.

Category of College	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Urban	7	38.89	38.89
Rural	11	61.11	100
Total	18	100	

6.2 Distribution and received of questionnaire (users community)

A total of 420 questionnaires were distributed to the various user groups of 18 colleges in Barak Valley, South Assam, which included students, staff, and faculty members, and 327 completed questionnaires were returned.

Table 4 Number of response received from users (N=420)

Questionnaires Distributed	Received	Missing	Percentage
420	327 (77.86 %)	93 (22.14 %)	100%

(Source: Computed from returned questionnaires)

Table 4 shows that 77.86% of the total questionnaires were returned, indicating a very positive response from the respondents.

Table 5 shows the ratio of students and teachers to library seats, as well as the ratio of library staff to students in college libraries.

SL. No	Name of College	Students	Student seating capacity	Ratio of total students and no of seat in library	Number of the Teachers	Teachers seating capacity	Ratio of teacher and seat available in library staff	Ratio of Total students and Library Staff
1	GCS	3862	150	26	102	30	3	351
2	CCS	2500	35	71	62	10	6	833
3	WCS	710	50	14	34	15	2	237
4	JCK	1043	50	21	25	10	3	261
5	NCP	1386	100	14	23	20	1	693
6	RMCS	1400	50	28	35	20	2	467
7	MCDCS	1265	50	25	38	20	2	422
8	WSCB	585	50	12	24	10	2	146
9	KCK	3030	60	51	67	12	6	1010
10	RSGCK	1213	60	20	34	15	2	404
11	RKNCRKN	680	50	14	25	10	3	340
12	NCCB	2591	75	35	49	15	3	648
13	PKCP	900	10	90	25	5	5	450
14	SSCH	3876	70	55	48	20	2	969
15	LRCL	850	60	14	24	20	1	142
16	ALCCA	692	40	17	24	10	2	231

17	MHCMSCA	593	30	20	19	10	2	2	297
18	SCDCK	604	40	15	19	25	1	3	201

Let us define student density, teacher density, and staff ratio in a library. Student density is the ratio of total students to the number of seats in a library, teacher density is the ratio of total teachers to the number of seats in a library, and staff ratio is the ratio of total registered students to the number of total library staff in a library. That is the staff ratio is defined as the number of students per library staff member.

The greater the density of students in a library, the greater the scarcity of library seats. Student density is highest in PKCP, at 90, indicating a sufficient shortage of student seats in the PKCP library, and lowest in WSCB, at 12, indicating a good amount of student seats in the WSCB library. The scarcity of teacher seats in a library increases with the density of teachers in the library. Teacher density is greatest in CCS and KCK, each with six, indicating that there is a sufficient shortage of teacher seats in their libraries, and smallest in NCP, LRCL, and SCDCK, each with one, indicating that there is a seat in these libraries for each teacher. The highest staff ratio is 1010:1 in KCK, and the lowest is 142:1 in LRCL. That is 1010 students versus a single library staff member in KCK and 142 students versus a library staff member in LRCL.

Table 6 displays the number of colleges that have a Departmental Library in addition to the Central Library.

	No of colleges having Departmental library						G. Total
	Urban			Rural			
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	
Numbers	6	1	7	4	7	11	18
Percentage with in location	85.71	14.29	100	36.36	63.64	100	
Percentage	33.33	5.56	38.89	22.22	38.89	61.11	100

Table -7: Departmental Library Availability and Library Rules and Regulations N=18

SL	Indicators	Option	No of College Library	Percentage	
01	Does the college have departmental libraries other than the Central library?	Yes	10	55.55%	100%
		No	8	44.45%	
	Does the library have any rules and	Yes	16	88.89%	100%

02	regulations?	No	2	11.11%
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Table-7 shows that 55.55 % of colleges have departmental libraries, and 88.89 % of libraries have library rules and regulations for users, whereas 44.45 % of libraries have no departmental libraries other than the central libraries, and 11.11 % of libraries have no library rules and regulations.

Table -8 Library access system

SL	Indicators	Open Access	Close Access	Both System	%
01	Library access system, N=18	13 (72.23 %)	2 (11.11%)	3 (16.67 %)	100

Table 8 depicts the access system of the Barak Valley college libraries. According to Table -7, 72.23 % of libraries have an open access system, 11.11 % of libraries have a closed access system, and 16.67 percent of libraries have both systems.

Table 9 Status of library building, infrastructure and furniture N=18

Sl. No	Indicators	Yes	%age	No	%age	Total Percentage
1	Has the library its own building or a hired building	15	83.33	3	16.67	100
2	Does your library planning reflects security measures?	10	55.56	8	44.44	100
3	Does the library have proper water supply?	10	55.56	8	44.44	100
4	Does the library have sufficient ventilation system?	9	50.00	9	50.00	100
5	Is there any air conditioner in the library?	2	11.11	16	88.89	100
6	Does it have sufficient accommodation for library staff?	9	50.00	9	50.00	100
7	Does it have sufficient accommodation for users?	7	38.88	11	61.12	100
8	Does the library have fire control system?	8	44.44	10	55.56	100

9	Does the library have sufficient furniture and equipment?	4	22.22	14	77.78	100
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For every college library a separate building or accommodation are necessary. A library building should be designed and well equipped with at least a minimum of infrastructural facilities and technologies. These include sufficient space for readers, staff, library materials, (books, magazines, journals etc.) and other purposes. Table-9 shows that 83.33% college library have separate building. For the question of water supply and security measure 55.56 % of the respondents gave positive remarks, air conditioning system available only in 11.11 % of libraries. Sufficient accommodation for library staff available in 50% of libraries, 38.88 % libraries have accommodation for users. Among the respondents, 44.44 % said they have a fire control system, 22.22% libraries have sufficient furniture and equipment. It indicates that overall College library conditions are not so good.

6.3 Status of library automation

Table-10 displays the responses received from selected college libraries under study on the topic of library automation. Table-11 displays data on the level of library automation in college libraries located in rural and urban areas.

Table 10 status of library automation of surveyed college libraries

S L. N o	Colleg e Librar y	Status of Automation	Commen cement of Automati on	Automati on Software
1	GCS	Partially automated	2006	Soul 1.0
2	CCS	Partially automated	2009	Soul 1.0
3	WCS	Partially automated	2009	Soul 2.0
4	JCK	Partially automated	2014	Soul 2.0
5	NCP	Manual	-	-
6	RMCS	Completely automated	2008/2011	Soul 2.0
7	MCD CS	Initial stage	2013	Soul 1.0

8	WSCB	Manual		
9	KCK	Initial stage	-	Soul 1.0
10	RSGC K	Partially automated	-	SHELF software
11	RKNC RKN	Initial stage	2017	Soul 2.0
12	NCCB	Partially automated	2010	Soul 2.0
13	PKCP	Manual		
14	SSCH	Partially automated	2005	Exolib
15	LRCL	Manual	-	-
16	ALCC A	Manual	-	-
17	MHC MSCA	Manual	-	-
18	SCDC K	Partially automated	-	Soul 2.0

Table-11 status of library automation college libraries Located in rural and urban areas

	Urban				Rural				Grand Total
	Automa ted	Partially Automa ted	Manu al	Tota l	Autom ated	Partially Automa ted	Manua l	Tota l	
Number s	1	6	0	7	0	5	6	11	18
Percent age	5.56	33.33	0	38.8 9	0	27.78	33.33	61.1 1	100

Tables 10 and 11 show that on the date of the survey, only one (5.56 %) college library is fully automated. Eleven college libraries (61.11 %) are partially automated, while six college libraries (33.33 %) still run their routines manually. Only ten libraries (55.56 %) use soul for library automation, while two (11.11 %) use other software.

Table 12 Influencing factors that led to automate the library

Indicators	N	Yes	%	No	%	Missing	%	Total %
Availability of fund for the purpose	12	6	50	3	25	3	25	100

College authority advised you to to automate the library		3	25	5	41.67	4	33.34	100
To reduce manual work		5	41.67	4	33.34	3	25	100
To improve the quality of library services		4	33.34	5	41.67	3	25	100
Users demand for Computerized library services		7	58.34	3	25	2	16.67	100
Any other, please specify								

Because of the availability of funds, 6 (50%) of librarians have started automating. Only three (25%) of librarians said they began automating on the advice of college authorities. 5 (41.67%) of librarians reported that they have begun to automate in order to reduce manual labour. 4 (33.34 %) of librarians reported that they have begun automating library services in order to improve the quality of library services. Because of user demand for computerised library services, 7 (58.34 %) librarians have begun automating their services.

Table 13 If automation is not initiated in your library, please mention the reasons

Indicators	N	Yes	%	No	%	Missing	%	Total %
Lack of fund	6	4	66.67	0	0	2	33.33	100
Lack of ICT trained staff		5	83.33	0	0	1	16.67	100
Lack of infrastructure		5	83.33	0	0	1	16.67	100
Lack of cooperation of Authority		2	33.33	3	50.00	1	16.67	100

According to Table 13, 66.67 percent of librarians said they had not begun the automation process due to a lack of funds. 83.33 % of librarians stated that they had not begun the automation process due to a lack of ICT trained personnel. 83.33 % of librarians said they had not begun the automation process due to a lack of infrastructure. Only 33.33 % of librarians reported that they had not begun the automation process due to a lack of cooperation from the relevant authority.

6.4 Library automation obstacles:

Factors which are responsible for delaying the automation process in college libraries of Barak Valley are shown in the following Table 14 and Figure 1 below:

Table 14 Barriers of library automation of surveyed college libraries, N=18

Sl No.	Barriers of Library Automation	Yes	Percentage
1	Shortage of funds	15	83.33
2	Lack of building space	11	61.11
3	Lack of ICT trained staff	14	77.77
4	Lack of cooperation of authority	7	38.88
5	Lack of cooperation of library staff	11	61.11
6	Lack of suitable library software	6	33.33
7	Lack of willingness of staffs	7	38.88

Figure 1 Barriers of library automation

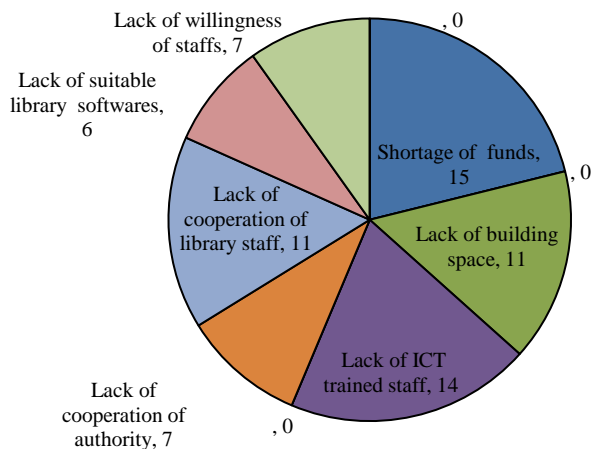


Table-14 shows the barriers to library automation in the colleges surveyed. Fifteen of them (83.33 %) believe that a lack of funds is the primary reason for the automation process's failure. The next major barrier identified by them is a lack of ICT trained staff (77.77 %), followed by a lack of building space and a lack of cooperation from library staff (61.11 %).

6.5 Participation in library consortium and national library networks

Library consortium: A library consortium is a group of libraries or information centres that work together to achieve a common goal, which usually necessitates cooperation and resource sharing, and must have a well-defined common goal in order to be successful. A library consortium can be formed at the local, regional, state, national, or inter-institutional levels. Table-15 and Figure-2 show the status of these colleges' membership in national consortia. Ten participating libraries in the study use N-List and INFLIBNET to access e-resources. In addition to the other two libraries,

only SSCH Library participates in the DELNET consortium for access to e-journals. There are 8 (44.4 percent) libraries that do not have access to any consortium.

Table 15 Status of Library Consortium and National Library Networks

SL. No	College Library	DELNET	N-List	INFLIBNET	Any other's
1	GCS		√	√	
2	CCS		√		
3	WCS		√		
4	JCK		√	√	
5	NCP				
6	RMCS		√	√	
7	MCDCS				
8	WSCB				
9	KCK		√	√	
10	RSGCK		√	√	
11	RKNCR KN		√		
12	NCCB		√	√	
13	PKCP				
14	SSCH	√	√	√	
15	LRCL				
16	ALCCA				
17	MHCMS CA				
18	SCDCK				
Total		1	10	7	0

Figure 2 Statuses of Library Consortium and National Library Networks

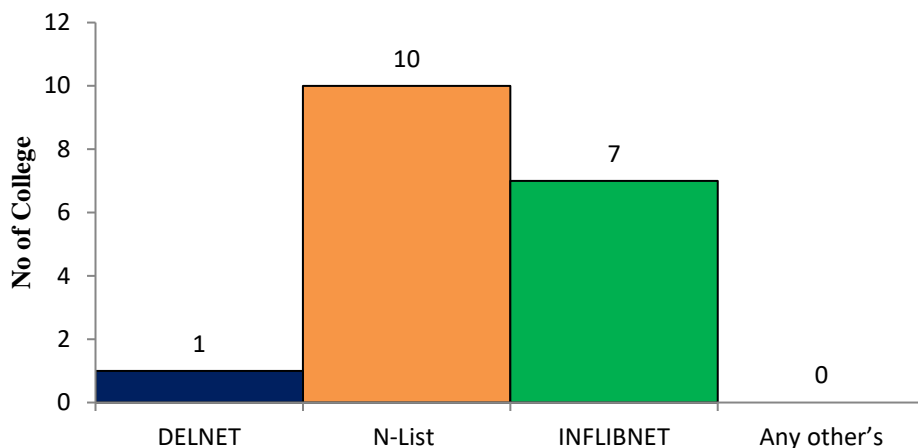


Table 16 Status of library co-operation and resource sharing

Indicators	N	Yes	%	No	%	Missing	%	Total %
Does your library participate in any national resource sharing and networking	18	4	22.22	10	55.56	4	22.22	100
Does your library participate in regional cooperation?		3	16.67	15	83.33			100
Does your library participate in any social network?		11	61.11	7	38.89			100
Does your library participate in any consortia?		10	55.55	8	44.44			100

Table 16 depicts the status of library cooperation and resource sharing at the selected Barak Valley colleges. Four of them (22.22 %) said they were involved in national resource sharing and networking activities. Only three colleges (16.67 %) stated that they are involved in regional cooperation. Eleven (61.11 %) colleges reported that they are involved in social networking. Ten colleges are associated in library consortiums.

Table 17 Opinion of the librarian / library in charge regarding the modernization of college libraries in Barak Valley, Assam

SL	Indicators	N	Yes	%	No	%	Total
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No.							%
1	Library should be keep open after the class hour	18	4	22.23	14	77.77	100
2	Duration of book loan period should be increased [i.e.for up to one semester]		4	22.23	14	77.77	100
3	College library should have books on various disciplines		13	72.23	5	27.77	100
4	Library should have a recreational corner with a facilities of TV, Computer, etc.		14	77.77	4	22.23	100
5	Librarian and library staff should always be professional		13	72.23	5	27.77	100
6	Librarian's should have academic status like developed countries		18	100	0	0	100
7	Library professionals should be provided Competitive salaries within the College		18	100	0	0	100
8	More technological facilities should be provided in the library		16	88.89	2	11.11	100
9	Library should have proper planning for smooth operation		17	94.44	1	5.56	100
10	Library should have open access system		16	88.89	2	11.11	100
11	A certain portion of the college budget should be spent for library development		17	94.44	1	5.56	100

The librarians of the sample college libraries were asked for their thoughts on eleven indicators for college library modernization. According to Table 17, 100 % of librarians believe that librarians should have academic status similar to that of developed countries, and that library professionals should be paid competitive salaries within the college. According to 94.44 % of librarians, and Library should have proper planning for smooth operation, and a portion of the college budget should be spent on library development. 88.89 % of librarians stated that, “more technological facilities” should be provided in the library, and the library should have an open access system. The percentage of librarians who believe that librarians and library staff should always be professional is 72.23 %, and 72.23 % of college librarians believe that college libraries should have books on a variety of subjects. 77.77 percent of librarians agreed that the library should have a recreational area with a TV, computer, and other amenities. Four (22.23 %) librarians agreed that the length of the book loan period should be extended, i.e., for up to one semester, and that the library should remain open after the class hour.

7. Library users' perceptions and opinions about the availability of library buildings, architecture, and infrastructural facilities, library professionals' attitudes toward library users, and library users' opinions about the modernization of selected college libraries.

Tables 18 to 19 below, show library users' perceptions and opinions about the availability of library buildings, architecture, and infrastructural facilities, library professionals' attitudes toward library users, and library users' opinions about the modernization of college libraries.

Table 18 Library building, architecture, and infrastructural facilities

Item	Ranking	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Location of the library is very convenient to the users	1	327	2	5	4.1529	0.85865
Building exterior view is excellent [i.e. color, design and architectural view]	2	327	2	5	3.5443	1.02889
Library internal environment is pleasant [i.e. AC, Generator is installed]	3	327	1	5	3.0979	0.99519
CloseCircuit Cameras/RFID Technology are installed to protect library materials	4	327	1	5	3.0214	1.43237
Library internal environment is hygienic [i.e. sufficient ventilation (Exhaust Fan), humidity and dust controlling system, entrance of daylight, and sound control etc.]	5	327	1	5	3.0153	1.20953
Library furniture like chair, table and book shelves are standard	6	327	1	5	2.7187	1.36129
Silent reading facilities with separate reading rooms Teachers and students	7	327	1	5	2.6483	1.4406
Silent reading facilities with separate reading rooms male and female	8	327	1	5	2.5229	1.28891

Library provides pure drinking water for users	9	327	1	4	2.419	1.19509
Sufficient space for reading	10	327	1	5	2.3333	1.24667
Sufficient space for safekeeping area	11	327	1	5	2.318	1.23214
Library provides wash room and water supply properly	12	327	1	4	2.2141	1.1631
Library provides separate rooms for access computers/internet for teachers, students, male and female etc.	13	327	1	4	2.1407	1.06179
Group study facilities	14	327	1	4	2.0673	1.19882
Valid N (listwise)	327					

Scale: 1 = Strongly Disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Fairly Agree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly Agree

In addition to ensuring the specific requirement for the development of the college, special attention should be given towards library building planning, architectural modeling, and infrastructural facilities. To find out the existing scenario of the college libraries of Barak Valley 14 indicators has been placed towards the users for accurate response so that their opinion can be visualized. To achieve objectives a **five-point Likert Scale** was applied to assess the response made by the users. The Table–18 illustrates that the mean scores of the all indicators are less than or equal to 4.2 which indicates that the respondents are not ‘Strongly Agree’ with the basic and infrastructural facilities in the libraries. Simultaneously, respondents are ‘Fairly Agree’ in most of the cases which divulges the facilities are available in the particular college library not in all types of the libraries. Respondents are ‘disagreeing’ with the following indicators, ‘Silent reading facilities with separate reading rooms male and female’, ‘the library provides pure drinking water for users’, ‘sufficient space for reading, sufficient space for safekeeping area’, ‘Library provides wash room and water supply properly’, ‘Library provides separate rooms for access computers/internet for teachers, students, male and female etc.’, ‘Group study facilities etc.’

Table 19 Attitude of the library Staff

Item	Ranking	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Behavior of the circulation staff is amicable	1	327	2	4	3.1988	0.60691
Librarian is very much cordial to increase service	2	327	1	4	2.9266	0.8182

quality						
Behavior of the supporting staffs are very good	3	327	2	3	2.8716	0.33509
Library staff overall cooperation is satisfactory	4	327	2	3	2.7951	0.40424
Library personnel helps to get materials easily	5	327	2	4	2.7768	0.66624
Library staffs are very much professional	6	327	2	3	2.3517	0.47823
Valid N (list wise)		327				

Weight: 5=Strongly agree; 4= Agree; 3=Neither agree, nor disagree; 2=Disagree; 1=Strongly disagree

Respondents of various categories were asked about the attitudes of the library professionals towards the library users to assess the professionals, cooperative and helping attitudes of the library personnel. **A five-point Likert Scale** was used to determine a common notion about the facts. The Table-19 reveals that “behavior of the circulation staff is amicable” placed at rank 1st with mean scores=3.1988 and standard deviation=0.60691, which means that respondents are very much agree with the statement. “Librarians are very much cordial to increase their service quality” placed in rank 2 with mean scores=2.9266 and standard deviation=.8182, and it means respondents are neither agree nor disagree with the statement. “Behavior of the supporting staffs is very good” placed in rank 3 with mean scores=2.8716 and standard deviation =0.33509. “Library personnel helps to get materials easily” placed in rank 5 with mean scores=2.7768 and standard deviation=.66624, “Library staff overall cooperation is satisfactory” mean scores =2.7951 and standard deviation=.40424, means that respondents are neither agree nor disagree with these statements. Library staffs are very much professional mean scores=2.3517 and standard deviation=.47823, which means that respondents are very much disagree with the statement.

Table 20 Advocacy from the part of the users

Indicators	N	Yes	%	No	%	Missing	%	Total %
User can complain for anything to the library authority	327	208	63.6	114	34.86	5	1.53	100
User has opportunity for selecting library resources [books, journals, etc]	327	234	71.56	85	26.00	8	2.45	100

Sometimes users' claimed about their little role in the development of the library services and activities. Respondents were asked about the procedures to know the actual practice among the college libraries. Table 20 indicates that 63.60 % of the users told they have authority for complaining anything to the library administration; 71.56 % users said they have opportunity for selecting library resources like books, journals, etc.

Table 21 User's opinion for library modernization

Item	Ranking	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
To protect learning resources users have a great responsibility	1	327	4	5	4.7492	0.43412
More technological facilities should be provided in the library	2	327	4	5	4.4587	0.49906
A certain portion of the college budget should be spent for library development	3	327	3	5	4.4159	0.57408
College library should have books on various disciplines	4	327	3	5	4.2446	0.83341
Reading room capacity should be increased	5	327	2	5	3.737	0.85333
Library should be open shelve system	6	327	3	4	3.5413	0.49906
Librarian and library staff should always be professional	7	327	3	4	3.4587	0.49906
Library should have regular power supply	8	327	2	4	3	0.54828
Duration of book loan period should be increased [i.e. for up to one semester]	9	327	2	3	2.789	0.40865
Library should organized user education program	10	327	2	4	2.7615	0.48724
Library should have a recreational corner with a facilities of TV, Computer, etc.	11	327	2	3	2.7492	0.43412
Library should be keep open after the class hour	12	327	2	3	2.5015	0.50076

Valid N (listwise)		327				
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Weights: [Strongly Agree=5, Agree=4, Undecided=3, Disagree=2, Disagree strongly=1]

Respondents were asked to give their opinion for modernization of the present conditions of the college libraries of Barak Valley with pre-defined twelve indicators. A **five-point Likert Scale** was used to know their opinion and ranking the order. Table-21 reveals that “To protect learning resources users have a great responsibility” ranked 1st with mean scores= 4.7492 and standard deviation=0.43412, the statements “More technological facilities should be provided in the library” ranked 2nd with mean scores= 4.4587 and standard deviation=0.49906, “A certain portion of the college budget should be spent for library development” ranked 3rd with mean scores= 4.4159 and standard deviation=0.57408 and “College library should have books on various disciplines” ranked 4th with mean score= 4.2446 and standard deviation=0.83341 and for these four indicators discussed above users are strongly agreed. The three indicators “Reading room capacity should be increased, mean score=3.737”, “Library should be an open shelf system, mean score=3.5413”, “Librarian and library staff should always be professional, mean score=3.4587”. For these three indicators, users are agreeing. Users are undecided for following four indicators. “Library should have regular power supply, mean score= 3.0” “Duration of book loan period should be increased i.e. for up to one semester, mean score=2.789” , “Library should organized user education program, mean score= 2.7615”, “ Library should have a recreational corner with a facilities of TV, Computer, etc., mean score= 2.7492.” Library should be keep open after the class hour (rank=12, mean scores=2.5015) users are disagree with this indicators.

8. Findings:

Following a critical examination of the current status of library automation, infrastructure, and accommodation for teachers, students, and staff in libraries, participation in library consortiums and National Library Networks of Barak Valley college libraries, and modernization barriers and limitations. Some of the findings are as follows:

- NAAC has assessed and accredited all of the respondent colleges that were founded in or before 1972. Only two colleges, SSCH and GCS, received a ‘A’ grade in their most recent NAAC accreditation cycle.
- GCS has the most library staff, while the college libraries of RKNCRKN and PKCP have the fewest (two in each).
- Student density is highest in PKCP, at 90, indicating a sufficient shortage of student seats in the PKCP library, and lowest in WSCB, at 12, indicating a good amount of student seats in the WSCB library. Teacher density is greatest in CCS and KCK, each with six, indicating that there is a sufficient shortage of teacher seats in their libraries, and smallest in NCP, LRCL, and SCDC, each with one, indicating that there is a seat in these libraries for each teacher. The highest staff ratio is 1010:1 in KCK, and the lowest is 142:1 in LRCL. That

is 1010 students versus a single library staff member in KCK and 142 students versus a library staff member in LRCL.

- Departmental libraries are found in 55.55 % of colleges, and library rules and regulations are found in 88.89 % of libraries.
- An open access system is used by 72.23 % of libraries, a closed access system is used by 11.11 % of libraries, and both systems are used by 16.67 % of libraries.
- A separate building houses 83.33 % of college libraries. When asked about water supply and security measures, 55.56 % of respondents said yes; however, air conditioning systems are only available in 11.11 % of libraries. In 50 % of libraries, adequate accommodation for library staff is available; in 38.88 % of libraries, accommodation for users is available. 44.44 % of respondents said their libraries have a fire control system, and 22.22 % said they have enough furniture and equipment. It suggests that the overall condition of the college library is poor
- Only one (5.56 %) college library is completely automated. Eleven college libraries (61.11%) are partially automated, while six college libraries (33.33%) continue to run their routines manually. Only ten libraries (55.56%) use soul for library automation, while two (11.11%) use other software.
- Due to a lack of funds, 66.67 % of librarians said they had not begun the automation process. Because of a lack of ICT trained personnel, 83.33 % of librarians stated that they had not begun the automation process. Because of a lack of infrastructure, 83.33 % of librarians said they had not begun the automation process. Only 33.33 % of librarians said they had not begun the automation process due to a lack of cooperation from the appropriate authority.
- Four (22.22 %) college librarians said they were involved in national resource sharing and networking activities. Only three colleges (16.67 %) stated that they are involved in regional cooperation. Eleven (61.11 %) colleges reported that they are involved in social networking. Ten colleges are associated in library consortiums.
- In terms of networking, it was discovered that the most of the college libraries in this study were connected to INFLIBNET and the N-List service. Only one college library, the SSCH library, is connected to DELNET.

9. Suggestions:

The survey results show that the overall situation of college libraries in the Barak Valley is unsatisfactory. As a preliminary step toward modernising college libraries in Barak Valley, Southern Assam. A few ideas are provided below.

- Librarians and college administrators can use creative thinking to raise funds in order to improve ICT infrastructure in their colleges from the UGC, state governments, tea gardens, and public sector organizations, among others.

- Most importantly, policymaking is critical in this regard. Librarians can develop short and long-term action plans for ICT development in libraries with proper support from college administration.
- It is necessary to provide training and workshops for library and information personnel on the application and use of ICT in college libraries. Professionally trained human resources are essential for the successful implementation of modernization.
- All technological barriers should be removed in order to modernise college libraries. The main barriers are a lack of confidence in implementation, a lack of competencies, and a lack of resources. For a successful implementation, software, hardware, effective career development, and technical assistance are all examples of ICT resources that should be considered.
- With the cooperation of the college principal, all administrative barriers should be removed. The distribution of funds and the prioritisation of library purchases should be encouraged. The purchase of learning resources should be the top priority.

10. Conclusion:

Modernization of college libraries is a comprehensive task. The whole process needs sufficient infrastructural facilities in terms of physical and logistical considerations. Building structure and architectural design should reflect the essential aspects of a modern college library. Sufficient space should be allocated for both physical and digital resources of the college library. Separate space should be allotted for executives, staff, photocopy corner, cyber centre, washroom facilities, computer work station, student seating, seating for researchers, seating arrangement for teachers, space for strategic arrangement of all types of furniture and equipment, server and IT facilities, and so on. The necessary technologies, skilled labour, and administrative support should be made available.

Barak Valley college libraries should seek a local level resource sharing mechanism to share their existing rare and reference collection in printed resources through the creation of a local union catalogue. They should also participate in more and more consortia in order to make e-resources available to their users. A suitable mechanism should also be used to share valuable trained manpower resources. Finally, because power availability is a major issue throughout the Barak valley, the college administration should invest in a solar system through available government programmes.

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