

CHAPTER 3

ROLE OF NAAC IN DEVELOPMENT OF COLLEGE LIBRARIES

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CHAPTER 3

ROLE OF NAAC IN DEVELOPMENT OF COLLEGE LIBRARIES

3.1 Higher Education in India: Present Status

As per the latest reports of University Grants Commission (UGC), the total number of universities at present is about 412 and that of affiliated colleges is 20,676 with a total enrolment of students of over 11.5 lakhs, which is about 10 percent

“Of the total enrolment in higher education institutions of the whole world. During the last 60 years, the total number of teachers in the universities and colleges has also increased. India is having only 412 universities to cater the needs of 100 crores of population, whereas America is having 2,364 universities to cater the needs of only 27.60 crores of population. Japan is having 684 universities for 12.70 crores of population; Germany is possessing 330 universities for 8.20 crores of population and UK has 104 universities to cater the needs of 5.98 crores of population. Thus, it can be surmised that India is lagging behind when we compare with all other developed countries regarding NAAC.” (Sharma, Sheetal, 2008, p. 19-23)¹

NAAC accredited 140 universities and 3492 colleges as stated on 31st March 2007.

3.2 Higher Education in Maharashtra

Maharashtra has played a significant role in countries social and political life, the state is one of the foremost states in agriculture and industrial production and also in growth of education and culture.

Maharashtra always been forefront of education the very foundation of higher education was laid in Maharashtra in as the country, when the missionaries started the 1st Sanskrit college at Pune in Maharashtra, now known as Deccan college. The University of Mumbai in 1857 was established.

Karmaveer Patil , Bapuji Salunke, Punjabrao Deshmukh followed the foot-steps of their predecessors and contemporaries started schools and colleges and made valuable contribution to progress of higher education in Maharashtra.

In the process of accreditation, NAAC accredited 17 universities and 945 colleges in Maharashtra. Maharashtra is one of the leading state in the assessment and accreditation process of higher education institutions by NAAC.

- a) Shivaji University, Kolhapur: Shivaji University was inaugurated by the President of India Dr. Radhakrishnan, on 18th November, 1962. One of the major objectives behind foundation of this university was to cater the regional needs of South Maharashtra. The university caters about 2,00,000 students studying in 208 affiliated colleges with 34 Post Graduate Departments. An impressive growth indeed from 1962, when the university started with 34 affiliated colleges and about 14,000 students with 5 post-graduate departments on the campus.

In context of NAAC, Shivaji University, Kolhapur got B++ grade and at present 165 colleges are accredited by NAAC.

3.3 Academic Libraries

Academic libraries are those which are concerned with educational system of a country. It means to say that the libraries which are attached to the academic institutions such as schools, colleges and universities are called as academic libraries.

Academic libraries support learning, teaching, research and other educational functions appropriate to their parent institution. These libraries support not only teaching in academic institutions but also their research programmes. Therefore considerable attention has been paid to the planning and development of academic libraries at all levels all over the world.

3.3.1 College Libraries

Colleges form the integral part of higher education, and libraries in colleges are the primary source for learning process. With the shift of emphasis from teaching to learning, libraries must play their role effectiveness.

3.3.2 Objectives

The primary objectives of college library are

- 1) to support implementation of objectives of parent institution i.e. the college
- 2) to supplement the curriculum taught in the institution to which it is attached.
- 3) To give students a wider and deeper understanding of the universe of knowledge.
- 4) To work as an independent agency and encourage lifelong learning beyond the prescribed syllabi so that the students can be more enlightened and knowledgeable.

3.3.3 Functions of College Libraries

According to W.M. Randall and F.L. Goodrich the functions of college libraries are

- 1) The primary function of college library is to assist the parent institution in fulfilling its educational objectives.
- 2) To provide latest collection of text books, course related materials and journals on print and electronic media.
- 3) To maintain good collection of reference books, magazines, newspapers and Internet facilities to provide wider access to information beyond the prescribed syllabi.
- 4) To train the students in the use of library catalogue, reference sources and net-based information access.
- 5) To provide career guidance to students and make them useful citizens of the society.

- 6) To offer variety of services such as newspaper clippings, bibliographies, access to databases (abstract and full text) and the Internet.
- 7) To maintain good ambience and create reading environment for students and faculty.
- 8) To preserve documents for future use following current methods of preservation.

3.3.4 Activities

To perform the above stated functions effectively and achieve the set objectives, the college libraries have to plan, design and manage the following activities.

1) Information Resources :

The book collection should be adequate, comprehensive and to meet the educational needs of students and faculty. It should include all recommended or prescribed textbooks, journals, magazines etc. Standard reference books, career oriented competitive examination books, recreational and general books should be included in collection of college library. Generally the college libraries maintain separate collections under Book Bank Scheme. Keeping in view the advances in information environment, the multimedia information sources and CD-ROM collections are essential for college libraries. They should also provide net-based access to global information.

2) Finances

Finances are essential for the proper growth and development of college libraries. The main sources of income for college libraries are state government grants, UGC adhoc grants and fines, service charges from students etc. The college libraries should plan, design and manage the financial resources with great care.

3) Staff

A college library should be headed by a person with high academic and professional qualifications and experience. The other staff should be recruited on the basis of the size of the library and librarians recommendations.

4) Services

The college libraries offer the following services to students and faculties.

- i) User orientation, education and information literacy.
- ii) Reference ,reader's advisory services
- iii) Lending and Inter Library Loan services.
- iv) Bibliographic services
- v) Career guidance.
- vi) Networked-based services.

5) Infrastructure and Maintenance

Independent or part of a building, the college libraries should be functionally equipped with provisions for proper lighting, ventilation and other accessories including comfortable furniture to give a pleasant reading environment.

Maintenance of library is an aspect for proper utilization of library resources and services. Annual stock verification and rectification keep the library stock in good condition. It helps to weed out unwanted and soiled books, repair the damaged collections and replace the mislead one.

3.3.5 The Place of the Library in NAAC's Accreditation Process

In the seven-criteria identified by NAAC for accreditation of the institution the library is included under support services. The criteria identified for the assessment of the library includes:

- 1) Infrastructure Facilities available in Libraries.
- 2) Staff of the Library Advisory Committee.
- 3) Staff structure of the library.
- 4) Funding of the library.
- 5) Method of monitoring adequacy of library facilities.
- 6) Open access to library collection to the users.
- 7) Computerization of library house-Keeping jobs.

- 8) Inter Library Loan facility and Resource Sharing Programmes of the library.
- 9) Collection development policy for books, audio-visual material and digital resources.
- 10) Availability of Book-bank facility.
- 11) Internet availability.
- 12) Availability of Reprography Services.
- 13) Extent of use of the library by students, faculty and extension of services of the library to the public.
- 14) Extension activity of the library.

In the Self Study Report (SSR) of the colleges, the points above referred are informed in detail. These information is validated by the Peer-team on their visit to the college. The Peer-team asked the questions to the librarian and library staff. Documentary proof of evidence for various facilities and services offered and used by the readers is also asked for. (Mahajan, S.G., 2004, p. 268-274)²

3.3.6 Guidelines on Quality Indicators in Library and Information services

The NAAC has recognized the importance of Library and Information services in higher education institutions very well. NAAC evaluate the quality of learning resource center as part of the assessment of the quality of higher education institutions in the country. The NAAC has developed a set of guidelines to facilitate assessment of the Library and Information services of academic institutions. These guidelines are derived from an understanding of the global developments in the activities and services of Libraries.

The guidelines presented by NAAC are as below:

1) Management of Library and Information Services

The main objective of the library is to support the academic programmes offered by colleges. It includes the collection and its services in meeting the curriculum requirements of its users. The library also should attempt to attract

more users. The ultimate objective of the library is the optimum usage of the libraries collection and its services. The parameters which facilitate the quality enhancement of the libraries were considered throughout the following questions is necessary to answer

- i) Does the library function on days such as on Saturday, Sunday and holidays to facilitate use by students and faculty?
- ii) Does the library have extended working hours before and after the class hours?
- iii) Does the college have a Library Advisory Committee and its role?
- iv) Are the qualifications, experience and pay of the librarian is equivalent with that of the academic staff. It should be as per UGC and Government norms.
- v) Has the librarian participated in refresher courses and national and regional workshops/ seminars?
- vi) Does the library has minimum infrastructure facilities such as utilities, staff area , reading hall, periodical section, circulation counter, service area, information display.
- vii) Ratio of the seating capacity to the students and faculty members.
- viii) Availability of the generator facility.
- ix) Measures for overall maintenance and cleanliness of the library.
- x) Internet facilities.
- xi) Automation of library such as fully, partially automated.
- xii) Financial sources of the library excluding the state, central and UGC grants.
- xiii) Policy for collection development, stock verification and training of library staff.

2) Collection and Services Provided to Users

Collection of libraries includes print, online, electronic resources. A college library needs to have the quantity of resources recommended by UGC

and government. The collection of a college library may answer the following, for maintaining the quality of the resources.

- 1) Mention the total collection of documents.
 - i) Books
 - ii) Text Books
 - iii) Reference Books
 - iv) Current Journals i.e. Indian or foreign.
 - v) Peer reviewed journals
 - vi) Back volumes of journals
 - vii) E-information Resources i.e. CDs and DVDs, databases and online Journals.
 - viii) Special collection which includes competitive examinations, Rare books and audio-visual materials.
 - ix) Book Bank
 - a) Ratio of the library books to number of students enrolled.

2) Services

The library offers widely ranges of services to meet the user's needs; college libraries may answer the following basic questions for ensuring appropriate services to the academic community.

- a) Does the library provide the following basic services?
 - i) Circulation Service
 - ii) Clipping Services
 - iii) Bibliographic compilation
 - iv) Information display and notification services
 - v) Reference and referral service
 - vi) Photocopy and printing services
 - vii) User orientation and information Literacy
 - Viii) Resource sharing / Inter Library Loan
 - ix) Internet/ digital resources availability
 - x) Any other

3) Extent of the Use of Services

Performance evaluation of college libraries needs to be carried out at regular intervals in order to sustain and enhance their quality. Normally it is done of use of students. The following parameters would help in assessing the extent of use of library and its services.

- i) Average number of books issued /returned per day.
- ii) Number of reference enquires by users on an average per month in percent.
- iii) Number of services delivered per month.
- iv) Average number of users who visited documents consulted per month.

4) Best Practices for College Libraries.

Listed below are some of the best practices that can enhance the academic information environment and usability.

- i) Computerization of library with standard digital software.
- ii) Inclusion of sufficient information about the library in the college library
- iii) Compiling student/ teacher attendance statistics and locating the same on the notice board.
- iv) Displaying newspaper clippings on the notice board periodically.
- v) Career/ Employment information services.
- vi) Internet facilities to different user groups.
- vii) Information Literacy programs.
- viii) Suggestion box and timely reply.
- ix) Displaying new arrivals and circulating a list of these to academic departments.
- x) Conducting book exhibitions.
- xi) Organizing book talks.
- xii) Institutions annual best user award for students.
- xiii) Organizing competitions annually.
- xiv) Conducting user surveys periodically. (NAAC, 2005, p. 1-8)³

3.3.4 References

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3. National Assessment and Accreditation Council (2005). Guidelines on Quality Indicators in Library and Information Services: Affiliated/ Constituent Colleges, Bangalore: NAAC, 1-8.