

USE OF LIBRARY RESOURCES BY THE STUDENTS OF PRIVATE ENGINEERING COLLEGES: A CASE STUDY OF ODISHA

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ABSTRACT

Libraries have played an important role in providing a variety of learning resources for study and research to the students. The present study is case study of use of library resources by the students of private engineering college libraries of Odisha. It discusses the objectives, scope and limitations of the study. Data collected through questionnaires are tabulated, analysed and interpreted as per the scope of the study. The major findings of the study reveals that libraries are less used by students, collections of these libraries are not up to the satisfaction level of students, the students need more e-resources, library staff cooperation need to be developed etc. The study concludes with the remarks that with the combine efforts of LIS professionals, library authorities and management the present situation of private engineering college libraries of Odisha can be improved by which these libraries will be able to provide better services to their students.

Keywords: Library, library resources, Engineering College, BPUT, Odisha.

INTRODUCTION

The academic institutions so also academic libraries are established and maintained mainly for the students. Accordingly all activities of academic institutions are centered on their students. Hence the collections and services of academic libraries should be planned and developed in such a way that these can meet the information needs of their users satisfactorily. The academic libraries are served as the main centers of learning beyond the formal class room teaching which are of few limited hours. Therefore, libraries are treated as heart of academic institutions. But there exist a wide gap between the theory and reality. Libraries are treated as neglected unit of an academic set up and neither these are properly financed nor provided with required library staff. As a result the libraries activities and services are hampered to great extents which in turns affect the quality of education as whole. The situation is worse in case of private academic institutions and libraries. The present study is an attempt to make study on the use of library resources by the students of private engineering institutions of Odisha.

Review of Literatures

A limited numbers of literatures are available on the use of library resources by the students in various journals and other similar publications. However few relevant literatures are reviewed for the present study and presented below.

Chinnadurai and Balamurugan (2014) have studied about the use of Library Resources among the Post graduate students in Engineering college Virudhunagar District, Tamilnadu. This study analysis found that more the 97% of students were using library for study activities, while 2.5% do not feel so. 30.84 % of students were using the text books as the most consulted source whereas 40.83 % were using electronic resources, 28.33 % of users were suing print journal, Internet and other sources. 95% students aware of search engines, where as only 5% do not aware. 83.33 % of students opined that 'Google & Yahoo' were the most sought search engines they have used. Also, the results indicated that the library and its resources can be expected to be used by the coming day generations and they are eager to learn everything.

Kabiraj and Roy (2013) analyzed the user study of college Libraries under University of North Bengal, West Bengal. This study examines the user survey of five college libraries under University of North Bengal, West Bengal. The study demonstrates and elaborates the various aspects of library collections uses within the available resources, frequency and purposes of visit, adequacy of library hours, use of library services & collections, ways of document searching and user's satisfaction with the overall performance of the library.

Singh (2013) analyzed that the use of e-resources and services by students, research scholars and faculty members of IIM Bangalore. It examined the user's awareness of the different types of e-resources available in the IIM Bangalore Library, purpose and frequency of using e-resources by the users, the factor affecting resource utilization, impact of e-resources and services on the academic work of the users, suggest the ways and means for the effective use of e-resources and services available in the IIM Bangalore Library, etc.

Shrestha (2008) have studied to find out how the integration of the internet has affected the information searching habit on graduate level students and their knowledge about the library resources and services made available to them. The study had collected empirical data on the information searching behavior of the students of 3 colleges taken under study they are Thapathali college, NCCS(National college of computer science) and Kathmandu University. These data had been gathered from 25% pf the actually targeted group of study. The finding of the study indicated that, by the proper guidance in the use of library resources and services is necessary to help students meet some of the information requirements.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The basic objective of the study is to study the use of library resources by the students of private engineering colleges of Odisha .However the other objectives of the study are as follows.

- To find out the frequency of library visit by the students of private engineering colleges of Odisha
- To determine the basic purpose of library visit
- To identify the major problems encountered by the students and
- To examine the overall satisfaction level of students in using the library resources and services.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The scope of the present study includes the use of library resources by the students of Private engineering colleges of Odisha state only. However the limitations of the study are:

- The study is limited to private engineering college libraries of Odisha state only and not any other government/ university libraries of the Odisha State.
- Among various types of users of these private engineering colleges such as faculty members, research scholars, students, staff etc, the study is limited to students (Final year B.Tech.students) only.
- Among various aspects of libraries, the study is limited to use of library resources only and not any other aspects of the library

METHODOLOGY FOLLOWED

The present study covers the library users (final year B.Tech students) of private engineering colleges of Odisha. Hence, to fulfill the objectives of the study, a structured questionnaire covering the relevant aspect of the study were distributed among the respondents i.e.final year B.Tech students of Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Sc Engineering,

Electrical Engineering, Electronics & Communication Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. Further random sampling techniques were used for distribution of questionnaire as it was not possible to collect data from all the target respondents under the scope of study. Besides in some case personal interactions with the respondents, verification of library record were made to get first hand information on the topic.

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

District wise distribution of engineering college

The district wise distributions of private affiliated engineering colleges of Odisha are tabulated as below.

Table-1 District wise distribution of engineering college in Odisha

Sl. No.	Name of the district	No. of college (s)	Percentage (%)
1	Khurda	56	59.57
2	Ganjam	8	8.51
3	Balasore	5	5.33
4	Cuttack	5	5.33
5	Rayagada	5	5.33
6	Sundergarh	3	3.19
7	Bargarh	2	2.13
8	Koraput	2	2.13
9	Angul	1	1.06
10	Bhadrak	1	1.06
11	Dhenkanal	1	1.06
12	Gajapati	1	1.06
13	Jharsuguda	1	1.06
14	Mayurbhanj	1	1.06
15	Puri	1	1.06
16	Sambalpur	1	1.06
Total		94	100

Table-1 gives a overview about the district wise distribution of private engineering colleges in Odisha, which shows that out of 94 private engineering colleges of Odisha, 59.57% colleges are situated in Khuda district only followed by Ganjam (8 colleges) and Balasore, Cuttack and Rayagada with 5 colleges each. Further Sundargarh district has 03 colleges and both Bargarh and Koraput district have 02 colleges each. Again it shows that 8 districts have only one affiliated private college and rest 14 districts have not a single affiliated college in their district.

Classified data on Respondents

On the basis of branches (departments) of study, the respondents of the present study have been grouped as follows:

Table-2 Classified data on Respondents

Branch	Distributed questionnaire	Received questionnaire	Percentage (%)
Chemical Engineering	200	134	67
Civil Engineering	200	158	79
Computer Sc. Engineering	200	166	83
Electrical Engineering	200	187	93.5
Electronics & Tele Communication Engineering	200	119	59.5
Mechanical Engineering	200	115	57.5
Total	1200	879	73.25

The analysis of data of Table-2 shows that out of 879 respondents who responded with the filled in questionnaires, as high as 187 respondents (93.5%) belong to Electrical Engineering department, followed by 166(83%) belong to Computer Sc. Engineering, 158(79%) belong to Civil Engineering, 134(67%) belong to Chemical Engineering and 119(59.5%) belong to Electronics & Telecommunications Engineering. Further lowest numbers of respondents i.e. 115(57.5%) belong to Mechanical Engineering. It indicates that maximum respondents were from the Electrical Engineering and minimum respondents were from Mechanical Engineering branches.

Frequency of library visit

The analysis of data of Table-2 reveals the frequency of library visits by the respondents depicted in Table-3. It shows that maximum number of respondents i.e. 320 (36.41%) were visiting the library thrice in a week, followed by 145 (16.5%) once in a week and 141 (16.03%) twice in a week. Further, 92 (10.47%) respondents were visiting the library once in a month and 77 (8.76%) when feel. It was surprising to note that only 11.83% (104 out of 879) respondents were visiting the library almost daily, which indicates poor use of these libraries.

Table-3 Frequency of library visit

Frequency	Chem. Eng.	Civil Eng.	Comp. Sc Engg.	Elect. Eng.	E&TC Engg.	Mech. Eng.	Total
Almost daily	22 (16.42%)	27 (17.09%)	11 (6.63%)	24 (12.84%)	9 (7.56%)	11 (9.57%)	104 (11.83%)
Thrice in a week	52 (38.80%)	69 (43.67%)	32 (19.28%)	76 (40.64%)	49 (41.18%)	42 (36.52%)	320 (36.41%)
Twice in a week	24 (17.91%)	20 (12.66%)	18 (10.84%)	31 (16.58%)	23 (19.33%)	25 (21.74%)	141 (16.03%)
Once in a week	19 (14.18%)	22 (13.92%)	61 (36.75%)	24 (12.83%)	8 (6.72%)	11 (9.56%)	145 (16.5%)
Monthly	8 (5.97%)	13 (8.23%)	20 (12.05%)	15 (8.02%)	19 (15.97%)	17 (14.78%)	92 (10.47%)
When feel	9 (6.72%)	7 (4.43%)	24 (14.45%)	17 (9.09%)	11 (9.24%)	9 (7.83%)	77 (8.76%)
Grand Total	134 (100%)	158 (100%)	166 (100%)	187 (100%)	119 (100%)	115 (100%)	879 (100%)

Further the analysis of data depicts that respondents belongs to Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering ,Electrical Engineering ,E & TC Engineering & Mechanical Engineering visit the library “Thrice in a week” with response rate of 38.80%,43.67%,40.64%,41.18% and 36.52% respectively. But the respondents of Computer Science Engineering visit the library “Once in a week” with 36.75% or response rate.

Average time spend in the library per week

The present study further attempts to examine the average time spend by the respondents per week and the data collected on this were tabulated in Table-4, which shows that maximum number of respondents i.e. 279 (31.74%) were spending 16-20 hours per week in the library, followed by 6-10 hours 192 (21.84%), 147 (16.72%). Further it shows that 100 (11.38%) respondents were spending less than 5 hours and 49. (5.58%) respondents were spends more than 25 hours per week in the library.

Table-4 Average time spend in the library per week

Average time	Chem. Eng.	Civil Eng.	Comp. & IT	Elect. Eng.	ETC	Mech. Eng.	Total
Less than 5 hours	11	15	29	24	12	9	100 (11.38%)
6-10 hours	8	12	77	44	27	24	192 (21.84%)
11-15 hours	30	29	23	28	18	19	147 (16.72%)
16-20 hours	54	65	11	64	41	44	279 (31.74%)
21-25 hours	23	26	18	20	13	12	112 (12.74)
More than 25 hours	8	11	8	7	8	7	49 (5.58%)
Total	134	158	166	187	119	115	879 (100%)

Purpose of library visit

The data analysis of Table-5 indicates that the main purpose of visiting the library by the respondents as per their responses were for issue/return of books (23.54%),followed by for reading purpose (17.04%) and for accessing e-resources(15.22%).This indicates that more respondents prefer reading than accessing e-resources. The other purpose of visiting library were to refer dissertations/project works/old question papers, for Internet surfing, to complete class room assignments and to use audio-visual materials with a response rate of 12.39%,12.04%,10.47% and 9.30% respectively.

Table-5 Purpose of library visit

Purpose of library visit	Chem. Eng.	Civil Eng.	Comp. & IT	Elect. Eng.	ETC	Mech. Eng.	No of Response
For reading purpose	80	98	72	128	85	79	542 (17.04%)
Issue/ return of books	108	133	142	166	99	101	749 (23.54%)
To refer dissertations/ project work/old questions papers	59	61	78	74	59	63	394

							(12.39%)
To use audio-visual material	55	46	44	69	39	43	296 (9.30%)
To complete class room assignments	48	65	63	71	46	40	333 (10.47%)
For Internet surfing	60	53	76	96	64	34	383 (12.04%)
To access the e-resources	77	67	89	108	88	55	484 (15.22%)
Total no of responses	487	523	564	712	480	415	3181 (100%)

Satisfaction with various aspects of library

To evaluate the satisfaction level of respondents on various aspects of library ,the respondents were asked to grade as excellent, good, average and poor on various aspects of library such as physical facilities, collection of library resources, library opening hours etc and their responses were tabulated in Table-6.

Table-6: Overall satisfaction with various library services

Library services		Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Total
Physical facilities of library	#	87	217	387	188	879
	%	9.89	24.69	44.03	21.39	100
Collection of print resources	#	43	128	297	411	879
	%	4.89	14.56	33.79	46.76	100
Collection of e-resources	#	59	149	322	349	879
	%	6.71	16.95	36.63	39.71	100
Library opening hours	#	100	215	399	165	879
	%	11.38	24.46	45.39	18.77	100
Computer facilities	#	55	212	395	217	879
	%	6.26	24.12	44.94	24.68	100
Internet facilities	#	62	198	360	259	879
	%	7.05	22.53	40.96	29.46	100
Rules and regulations of library	#	188	322	286	83	879
	%	21.39	36.63	32.54	9.44	100
OPAC/ Web OPAC facilities	#	34	366	299	180	879
	%	3.87	41.64	34.01	20.48	100
Library staff cooperation	#	79	399	246	155	879
	%	8.99	45.39	27.99	17.63	100

The analysis of data of Table-6 reveals that the respondents satisfaction level on rules and regulations of library,OPAC/Web OPAC facilities and Library staff cooperation were “Good” with a response rate of 36.63%,41.64% and 45.39% respectively. Further respondents satisfaction level were “Average” on aspects such as physical facilities of library,library opening hours, computer facilities and Internet facilities with a response rate of 44.03%,45.39%,44.94% and 40.96% respectively.Respondents satisfaction level were “poor” on collection of print resources(46.76%) and collection of e-resources(39.71%) which is a matter of concern for libraries.

Availability and use of library collections by the students

The analysis of data in Table-7 shows that all libraries have all types of resources listed in the table, which indicate towards sound collection of these libraries. However, regarding use of these resources, the analysis reveals that all respondents use print resources i.e. print books ,print periodicals, back volume of journals and Theses and Dissertations. But surprisingly ,the same resources in electronic forms i.e. e-books, e-journals, Online journal Archive(back volume of journals),Electronic Theses and Dissertations are less used by respondents. It indicates that either the resources available in electronic format in these libraries are not as per the demands of the users or there may be poor infrastructure faculties to access these resources.

Table-7: Availability and use of library collections by Faculty members

S.N	Library Collections	Available (Pl specify Yes or No)	Use by Respondents (# of Responses)	Percentage
1	Print Books	Yes	879	100
2	Print Periodicals	Yes	879	100
3	Back volume of Journals	Yes	879	100
4	Theses/Dissertations	Yes	879	100
5	E-Books	Yes	655	74.52
6	E-Journals/database	Yes	721	82.03
7	Online journal Archive(back volumes of journal –online)	Yes	687	78.16
8	Electronic Theses/Dissertations/ Institutional Repository	Yes	387	44.03
9	Study Materials freely available on Internet	Yes	810	92.15
10	Educational CDs/DVDs	Yes	633	72.02

Preference of print and e-resources

The present study also attempts to find out the respondent’s preference on print or e-resources and the collected data are analyzed and depicted in Table-8. It shows that maximum 386 (43.91%) respondents preferred e-resources while 292 (33.22%) preferred both print and electronic resources and only 201 (22.87%) respondents preferred print resources only respectively.

Table-8: Preference of Print and E-resources

S.N	Resources	# of Responses	Percentage (%)
1	Print	201	22.87
2	E-Resources	386	43.91
3	Both	292	33.22
Grand Total		879	100

Satisfaction level in using library

To evaluate overall satisfaction level of respondents on use of library, the respondents were asked to grade their satisfaction level and the collected responses were arranged in Table-9.

Table-9 Satisfaction level in using library

Satisfaction level	Chem. Eng.	Civil Eng.	Comp. & IT	Elect. Eng.	ETC	Mech. Eng.	Total
Highly satisfied	17	21	28	32	22	20	140 (15.93)
Satisfied	31	33	27	23	27	24	165 (18.77)
Moderately satisfied	53	66	72	69	43	40	343 (39.02)
Dissatisfied	22	28	32	40	18	20	160 (18.2)
Highly dissatisfied	11	10	7	23	9	11	71 (8.08)
Total	134	158	166	187	119	115	879 (100)

The analysis of data in Table-9 shows that the overall satisfaction level of respondents on library is “Moderately satisfied” with a maximum number of response i.e. 343 out of 879 (39.02%), followed by “Satisfied” with 165 (18.77%) responses, “Dissatisfied” with 160 (18.72%) responses and “Highly satisfied” with 140 (15.93%) responses. Also 71 respondents (8.08%) were highly dissatisfied in using their library.

Problem encountered in library

Table-10 reveals about the problems encountered by the students of private engineering colleges of Odisha. It shows that main problem faced by the respondents was non availability of required study materials (83.96%) followed by frequent power cut (67.13%), lack of time (52.68%), Library environment is not congenial (44.15%) and inconvenient library hours(37.43%).Further a sizable numbers of respondents were opined that “ non-cooperative library staff”(31.29%) were main problems for using library resources for them.

Table-10 Problem encountered in library

Problems	Chem. Eng.	Civil Eng.	Comp. & IT	Elect. Eng.	ETC	Mech. Eng.	Total
Inconvenient library hours	48	54	65	60	49	53	329 (37.43)
Lack of time	72	78	88	101	66	58	463 (52.67)
Required study materials (print and electronics) are not available	102	133	149	166	98	90	738 (83.96)
Library environment is not congenial	69	87	79	66	45	42	388 (44.14)
Non-co-operative library staff	38	49	55	61	38	34	275 (31.29)
Frequent power cut	87	99	111	135	81	77	590 (67.12)
Others	17	23	37	30	21	19	147 (16.72)

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The findings of the study can be summarized as follows.

- Maximum numbers of Private engineering colleges exist in Khurda district of Odisha. It is due to the fact that since the state capital “Bhubaneswar” comes under Khurda district, maximum private engineering institutions have been established in and around Bhubaneswar.
- Maximum numbers of respondents i.e. 36.41% visit the library thrice in a week, whereas about 15% respondents visit the library once or twice in a week. Further only 11.83% respondents’ visit the library almost daily, which indicates poor use of these libraries.
- Issue/return of books are main purpose of visiting the library by respondents ,followed by for reading purpose and accessing e-resources This indicates that more respondents prefer reading than accessing e-resources.
- The respondents satisfaction level on rules and regulations of library, OPAC/Web OPAC facilities and Library staff cooperation are “Good” whereas it is “Average” on aspects such as physical facilities of library, library opening hours, computer facilities and Internet facilities and are “poor” on collection (both print and e-resources).Since the collection of libraries are graded as “poor” ,the libraries need to address their collection development policies properly.
- All respondents use print resources i.e. books, periodicals, theses etc but surprisingly ,the same resources in electronic forms i.e. e-books, e-journals, ETD etc are less used by respondents. It indicates that either the resources available in electronic format in these libraries are not as per the demands of the users or there may be poor infrastructure faculties to access these resources.
- The respondents prefer e-resources than print resources and nearly 35% respondents prefer both types of resources. This is quite contradictory with the previous finding on the purpose of library visit which shows that respondents prefer reading than accessing e-resources. But it may be impact of ICT and various popular tools like computers ,laptops, tablets, smart phone on them for which they want to prefer e-resources if it is available to them.

- g) The overall satisfaction level of respondents in using their library are “Moderately satisfied” with nearly 40% response. However the satisfaction level of about 8% respondents are “highly dissatisfied” which seems to be high.
- h) The main problem faced by the respondents was non availability of required study materials. This finding also support the previous findings on satisfaction level on collection of print and e-resources as “poor”.

Conclusion

The present study reveals a gloomy picture of the private engineering college libraries of Odisha, particularly on collection of print and e-resources, which the students consider as main problem in using their library. Hence proper collection development policies need to be framed as per the actual need of the students, for whom libraries are established and maintained .It is also fact that the impact of ICT is well felt on the information seeking behavior and attitude of the students of private engineering colleges and their preference towards e-resources are increasing gradually than print resources. Accordingly the private engineering college libraries need to develop their e-resources collections as per requirement and develop required infrastructure facilities to access these e-resources. The library staff cooperation is also highly essential to motivate students to visit libraries and use the available library resources. Therefore the LIS professionals should try their best to cooperate students in finding their required information and thereby can play an important role in making libraries as a pleasant place for reading and learning. The private engineering college authorities and management also need to provide adequate fund to their libraries, so that they can build their collection properly and provide required facilities and services to their students. However with the combine efforts of LIS professionals, library authorities and management the present situation of private engineering college libraries of Odisha can be improved by which these libraries will be able to provide better services to their students.

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