

CHAPTER – 8

MAJOR FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.0 Introduction

The present study has helped to explore the collection development and ICT application in the libraries of higher educational institutions of Sikkim. The professionals of these higher educational institutions are facing problems towards the collection development and to apply ICT due to various reasons i.e; lack of support from authority, lack of funds, infrastructure. The important factors for slow implementation in collection development and apply ICT application are lack of funds, poor infrastructure. The libraries of higher educational institutions cannot serve its users without having necessary collections of both print and digital and also use of ICT application in the libraries.

Collection development is called the backbone of library. The library with huge collections without new purchase of reading materials cannot provide adequate services to users and ICT application became important tool for effective library services for library management and user's services.

This study is essential for planning of library management and services. Being the higher educational institution, the librarians must be acquainted with the nature of resources available in the world along with the appropriate channels.

8.1 Major Findings

8.1.1. Institutions Profile

- ❖ The Higher Educational Institutions in Sikkim came into existence after 1975 onwards, 16.0% institutions were established during (1970-1980), 32.0% in (1991 – 2000), and 52.0% during (2000 - 2010). There is one Central University which was established in the year 2007. There are many State Government Colleges and Institutions established by the State, Central and Private Establishment.
- ❖ The types of Higher Educational Institutions are Central University, Private University, Government College, Private College, Polytechnic, NIT, Agriculture college. In which 32.0% of the institutions are State Government College, 28.0% Private colleges, 16.0% Private University, 12.0% Government Polytechnic, 8.0% College under Central Govt. and 4.0 % Central University affiliated college are in the state.
- ❖ District wise Distribution of Higher Educational Institutions in Sikkim are 0.0% in North Sikkim, 4.0% in South Sikkim, 72.0% in East Sikkim, and 12.0% in West Sikkim.

8.1.2. Collection Development

- ❖ In the data analysis it was out of selected higher educational institutions 52.0% libraries have below 10 thousands books, 32.0% libraries have 10-20 thousand books, 8.0% have 20-30 thousands books, and 8.0% have more than 30 thousand books.
- ❖ In terms of Journals out of selected higher educational institutions more than 84.0% libraries are subscribing up to 50 Journals, 4.0% libraries are 51-100

Journals, 4.0% 101-150 Journals, 4.0% 151-200 Journals and 4.0% are up to 201-250 Journals.

- ❖ In the higher educational institutions there are 76.0% libraries subscribing up to 5 newspapers, 16.0% up to 6 to 10 newspapers, 4.0% up to 11 to 15 newspapers and 4.0% libraries up to 21 to 25 newspapers for their library.
- ❖ In the higher educational institutions the Non-print materials (Off Line, Books) are available in SMIMS, SMIT, and NIT Library only.
- ❖ More numbers (64.0%) of higher educational institutions have Library Committee/ College Level Committee which is followed by 36 % institution has not any committee.
- ❖ In terms of Book Selection Policy 56.0% libraries of institutions have book selection policy but 44% libraries are not following any book selection policy to select the books in the library and information center.
- ❖ Maximum libraries (68.0%) are purchasing books yearly basis which is followed by 21.0% which go for half-yearly whereas only few libraries 11.0% Sikkim University and NIT, Sikkim are purchasing throughout the year as per recommendation or requirement of the users.
- ❖ Maximum libraries (84.0%) have not adopted any Weed out Policy for discarding old books whereas only 16.0% institution have Weed Out Policy for the libraries to remove old and unusable books from the active collection and keep there documents separately at one place.
- ❖ More than 40 % (48.0%) libraries have Register Catalogue which is followed by 28.0 % Computer Catalogue and 24.0% have Card Catalogue in the library.

- ❖ For the classification of documents maximum libraries (72.0%) are using DDC, which is followed by 4.0% UDC and 24.0% are not using any classification scheme to classify the documents in the libraries.
- ❖ Maximum libraries (64.0%) are following AACR2 method of Cataloguing which is followed by 36.0% are not using any Cataloguing method in the libraries.
- ❖ For the Subject Heading 16.0% libraries are using LCSH which is followed by 12.0% SLSH and maximum (72.0%) are not using any Subject Heading list in the library.

8.1.3. Library Automation & ICT Infrastructure

- ❖ Computers are available in 96.0 % libraries and printers are available in 92.0 % libraries. Photocopier is available in 72.0 % libraries and Internet facility is available in 60.0 % Libraries.
- ❖ Maximum libraries 88% are working on operating systems Windows which is followed by 4.0 % Linux, 4.0%) Windows & Linux and 4% not any.
- ❖ In the type of Internet service 40.0% have BSNL Broadband Connectivity which is followed by 8.0% modem and 2.0% BSNL Lased line, 2.0% VSAT (Nayuma Cable) and 40.0%) libraries have not any Internet connectivity.
- ❖ In view of Library Automation status 44.0% libraries are still not using any library application software for library automation, whereas only 32.0% institutions are fully automated and providing computerised library services and 24.0% libraries are partially automated their library housekeeping operations.

- ❖ There are only 24.0% libraries have membership with DELNET and 12.0% have INFLIBNET membership and maximum number 64.0% libraries are not connected with any Library Networks.

8.1.4. Library Working Hours & Services

- ❖ Maximum libraries 80.0% are opened 5-10 hours which is followed by 12.0 % 10-15 hours and 8.0% are opened less than 5 hours. Library of SMIT, SMIMIS and HPI Institute are opened for 10-15 hours per working days.
- ❖ Maximum Libraries 88.0% are not working on Sunday/Holiday which is followed by 12.0% libraries working on Sunday/Holiday. SMIMS, SMIT and NIT are working on Sunday/ Holiday also for its users.
- ❖ Maximum Libraries 96.0% provide Circulation Services, 60.0% libraries provide reprographic services, 48.0% libraries provide internet services, 20.0% provide reservation services, 32.0% libraries provide CD-ROM Search Services, 52.0% provide reference service, 36.0% provide book bank service, 52.0% provide Newspaper Clippings, 32.0% libraries provide E-Journal service, 20.0% libraries provide WebOPAC, and 52.0% libraries have Thesis/ Dissertation Services to the users of its community.

8.1.5. Library Professionals

- ❖ The study shows that female (60.0%) is more than male (40.0%) Librarian/ In-charge.
- ❖ The study reveals that majority of the Librarian/ In-charges qualifications are MLIS (52.0%) which was followed by BLIS (24.0 %), PG-Others (12.0%), Ph.D. (8.0%) and DLIS (4.0%) holders.

- ❖ The survey findings reveals that the maximum numbers of the Librarian / In-Charge were (36.0%) 0 to 5 years experience which was followed (16.0%) 6-10 years, (24.0%) 11-15 years, (1.0%) 16 - 20 years, (24.0%) 21 - 25 years, (4.0%) 26-30 years and (8.0%) 26-30 years experiences.
- ❖ The study reveals that majority of the library professionals are working as Librarian / In-Charge (96.0%) which was followed by Deputy Librarian (4.0%), Assistant Librarian (20.0%), Professional Assistant (0.0%), and Semi-Professional Assistant (4.0%).
- ❖ The survey findings shows that the maximum number of libraries (64.0%) has not any promotional activities which are followed by 36.0% have the activities for the staff development.
- ❖ Most of the libraries (76.0%) have not organised any library training programmes which is followed by only 24.0 % organised library training programmes for the staff career development.

8.1.6. Problems faced in Collection Development and ICT Application by the Libraries

- ❖ In the study 52.0% librarians feel lack of adequate staff, whereas 20.0% no and 28.0% have given no responses for collection development.
- ❖ Most of the librarians (60.0%) felt lack of administrative support, which followed by 24.0% No and 36.0% have given not given any response.
- ❖ For raising cost of library materials 40.0% expressed yes, 20.0% no, and 40.0% have not given any response.
- ❖ About constant changes in curriculum 32.0% say yes, 28.0% no and 40.0% have given no responses.

- ❖ Conversion of foreign currency 44.0% given no response, 40.0% no and 16.0% says yes.
- ❖ Few institutions have made some comments i.e; NGC Library states that there is no separate budget for library development, NIT have space problems, SU faced lack of support from teaching faculties in collection development.
- ❖ In the survey it was found that 8.0% professionals are agreeing with in sufficient funds whereas 40.0% states no and 52.0% no response about the fund issues.
- ❖ In the terms of lack of trained staff findings shows that 36.0% are agree with lack of trained staff, 20.0% no and 44.0% given no response.
- ❖ In response with less interest to adopt ICT tools there were 12.0% say yes whereas 28.0% no and 60.0% given no responses.
- ❖ Showing the interest of concerned authority 28.0% feel lack of support from authority, 24.0 % have no and 48.0% have given no responses.
- ❖ In terms of lack of commitment in the library professionals data show that 20.0% are yes, 20.0% no and 60.0% have given no response.

8.1.7. Library Users and Satisfaction Level

- ❖ Out of 25 libraries maximum numbers of users are in SMIT, SMIMS library.
- ❖ The findings of the study reveals that 65.0% users visit library every working day, 18.0% visit weekly, 8.0% fortnightly, 5.0% monthly and 3.0% not regularly to the library.
- ❖ In the findings of the study also reveals that 56.42% users visit library for learning to prepare notes or assignments, 21.4% visit for keep up to date on

subject of interest, 13.62% for career development and growth 6.61% for academic purpose and 1.95% for teaching purpose.

- ❖ Majority of respondents search the material by personal visit in the Shelf Area in the Library, whereas no catalogue and less Computerised databases.
- ❖ The findings of the study reveals about the satisfaction level which shows 72.37% of respondents state that reference materials are not adequate, which is followed by 14.01% states partially adequate and 13.62% states that adequate in their library. Similarly, for textbooks 72.37% states that adequate, 15.56% respondent states partially adequate and 12.06% respondent responses are not adequate text books in the libraries. In the case of Periodicals maximum respondent (86.38%) state that not adequate which followed by 8.95% partially adequate and 4.67% state the adequacy in the libraries. In the case of E-Resources 92.22% state that not adequate which followed by 5.06% state partially adequate and 2.72% state adequacy in their library and information center. For CD/DVD maximum respondent 89.98% responded that not adequate which is followed by 6.61% state adequacy and 3.50% says partially adequate in the libraries.
- ❖ Majority of respondent states that less ICT Applications are used in the libraries.

8.2 Summary of Findings.

In the study it has been made here a number of findings, observations, suggestions and recommendation have been drawn and are summarised here with reference to the stated objectives of the study in chapter one.

8.2.1. Objectives -1 To assess the status of Collection Development of Libraries of Higher Educational Institutions of Sikkim State.

Collection is the holding of materials in the library. The total holding of libraries of higher educational institutions has been shown in Table-17 and Figure - 10, it has been observed that maximum numbers (52.0%) of libraries of higher educational institutions have less than 10 thousand books, 8 libraries (32.0%) have 10001 to 20 thousands books, 8.0% have 20001-30 thousands, 4.0% have 30001 to 40000 books and 4.0% have more than 50000 books. In the libraries of these institutions it was found that very less institutions have non-print materials.

8.2.2. Objective – 2 To examine the Collection Development Policies adopted by the Higher Educational Institution Libraries in the Sikkim State.

Collection Development depends on well collection development policy followed by the libraries of institutions. In the study it has been shown in Table – 22 and Figure – 14, it has been observed that out of 25 libraries of higher educational institutions, maximum numbers 14 (56.0%) libraries have book selection policy and 11 (44.0%) libraries do not have any book selection policy.

In the study it has been shown in Table -24 and Figure -16, it has been found that out of 25 libraries maximum number of libraries have no weed out policy and 4 (16.0%) libraries have only weed out policy.

8.2.3. Objective – 3 To assess the status of ICT application as a tool for the modernisation of Libraries of Higher Education Institutions.

ICT Application is useful tool in library and information centres for the development of new information services and automation of library. It is useful for improvement of

efficiency of library services. In analysis, it has been seen in Chapter – 7 Table – 29 that maximum libraries (96.0%) have Computer and one library has no computer. In the survey, it is found that 12.0% libraries have their own server whereas maximum 88% have not their own library server.

8.2.4. Objective – 4 To find out the basic infrastructural facilities available in the Higher Educational Institutional Libraries of Sikkim.

In the survey, it is observed that 92.0% libraries have printer and 8.0% have not printer, only 40.0% libraries have scanner and 60.0% have not scanner, 20.0% libraries have laptops and 80.0% have no, 60.0% libraries have internet connectivity whereas 40.0% there are not internet connectivity, 72.0% libraries have photocopy facility and 28.0% have not this facility in the libraries.

Objective – 5 To study the extent of computerisation activities of Library housekeeping operations for organisation and information dissemination.

In analysis in Table -33 and 34, it has been found that out of 25 libraries 11(44.0%) libraries are not automated, 6 (8.0%) are full automated and 8 (24.0%) are partially automated.

Objective – 6 To explore some of the difficulties encountered by Libraries while automating their housekeeping operations.

In analysis in Table-48, it has been found that 40.0% library are facing lack of sufficient funds for automating the libraries , 36.0 % are lack of trained staff, 12.0% less interest to adopt, 28.0% lack of support from authority, 20.0% are lack of commitment of library professionals.

As per objectives of the study the present study has been conducted as the findings are meeting the objectives of the study.

8.3 Suggestions

On the basis of analysis, findings, observation, feedback received from the respondents the following suggestions are for the improvement of library collection, ICT Application and services of higher educational institutions in Sikkim;

- ❖ In consideration of the users, librarians, academic community a balanced collection should be adopted and developed.
- ❖ Appropriate Policy for collection development of both printed and electronic needs to be drafted in view of the changing formats of the learning resources.
- ❖ Libraries which have already written selection policy of documents can amend the same with necessary changes regarding e-resources and other which do not have a written collection development policy should plan and have their policy document drafted looking into their future demands.
- ❖ There should be sufficient funds to improve to collection development capacity of higher educational institutions and also staff should be trained to avail the benefits of the collection capacity.
- ❖ Proper book selection policy at state level should be framed to ensure right information to the right users at the right time.
- ❖ There should be more subscription of journals and newspapers in these institutions and the library should maintain back volume of periodicals.
- ❖ While developing collection of printed reading materials for new departments, the titles are duplicated which needs to be reduced and available grants may be diverted for the procurement of the new relevant publications.

- ❖ To save the time of users, proper ICT infrastructure should be adopted in the institution for dissemination and delivery process.
- ❖ To develop adequate ICT infrastructure in academic libraries with the assistance of INFLIBNET and other parent bodies/ funding agencies.
- ❖ Library and Information Professionals should be given basic and advanced ICT training for managing the computer based library and information services, therefore the regular user awareness programme / training programme for access to e-resources and to give the services to the users.
- ❖ Immediate attention should be given for computerisation of higher educational libraries in the state. They can be taken assistance support from INFLIBNET centre to initiate computerisation, automation and networking of higher educational library of the state.
- ❖ The library staff should be recognised duly and encouraged as per with faculties for all purposes and should be provisions for promotional activities enriching the thoughts to attend conference, workshop, seminars etc.
- ❖ At present time of information explosion in academic, it is not possibility of a particular library to be self sufficient to fulfil the needs of users. Therefore, all the higher educational libraries of Sikkim should make attempts to have library networks at local level for resource sharing and interlibrary loan facility and also to join national consortia.
- ❖ The authorities of higher educational institutions should provide ICT materials to the libraries for development and to be modern libraries.
- ❖ Proper and regular allotment of budget should be made to the library by state govt. and UGC for development of library of higher educational institutions.

- ❖ The institutions authority should provide the autonomy, freedom and financial powers to Librarians to look after the growth and development as well as the functions of the libraries.
- ❖ Library User (students, researcher, faculty, staff) must be given orientation and regular and extensive user awareness training time to time for maximum utilisation of resources.
- ❖ Implementation of Library Legislation in the state should be taken consideration by the state govt.
- ❖ Database of Resources in local language should be developed.

8.4. Recommendation

On the basis of survey, data analysis, findings by the investigator feel that there is need of resource sharing among the libraries at local level and therefore it is being a recommendation of a model of library network in Sikkim which may be called as Sikkim Library Network (SILIBNET). The model is based on the Design and Development of Library Network of Bihar and Jharkhand Library and Information Network (BIJLIBNET - designed and developed by Sinha, 2015), with appropriate modification as per the status of Libraries in Sikkim. The design modal has been described in the chapter - 8A.