Information Resource Services in the Education College Libraries of Sardar Patel University: A Study

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Abstract- **In the modern era, the library is regarded as the heart of an academic institution. Particularly in teacher education, the role of libraries is vital as they provide the necessary resources for developing prospective teachers' knowledge, research aptitude, and professional competencies. This paper examines the information resource services available in the education college libraries of Sardar Patel University. The study explores the availability of print and digital resources, types of services offered, infrastructural and staffing conditions, user satisfaction, and challenges faced by these libraries. Suggestions have been made for strengthening services to meet the changing information needs of students and faculty.**

Index Terms- Sardar Patel University, Education Colleges, Academic Libraries, Information Resources, User Satisfaction, Library Services

I. INTRODUCTION

Libraries in colleges of education are not simply repositories of books but are dynamic learning resource centers. They support teaching, research, practice teaching, and professional development of student-teachers. According to Ranganathan (1961), libraries must evolve with the needs of their users, and in teacher education institutions, this evolution is especially crucial.

Sardar Patel University houses several teacher education colleges that provide a variety of resources ranging from traditional print materials to modern electronic databases. However, the quality, accessibility, and utilization of these resources vary significantly. This study aims to evaluate the present status of information resource services in these libraries and provide suggestions for improvement.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To examine the information resources available in the education college libraries of Sardar Patel University.
2. To analyze the services provided to users, including both traditional and electronic services.
3. To evaluate infrastructural facilities and staffing conditions.
4. To study user satisfaction and expectations.
5. To suggest measures for improving information resource services.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study employed a survey method. A structured questionnaire was distributed among students, faculty, and library staff of selected colleges of education under Sardar Patel University. Additionally, personal interviews and direct observation of library facilities were conducted. Data were analyzed using percentage and descriptive statistics.

Area of Study: Education colleges affiliated to Sardar Patel University.

Sample Size: 12–15 libraries and 150 respondents (students, faculty, and librarians).

Tools Used: Questionnaire, interviews, and observation checklist.

IV. MAJOR INFORMATION RESOURCE SERVICES

A. Traditional Resources and Services
• Textbooks, reference books, periodicals, and dissertations.
• Circulation service (issue and return of books).
• Reference and bibliographic assistance.

B. Electronic Resources and Services
• E-books, e-journals, online databases.
• Access through INFLIBNET and N-LIST consortium.
• Use of Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC).

C. User-Oriented Services
• Current Awareness Service (CAS).
• Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI).
• Orientation programs for new students.

D. Reading and Research Facilities
• Reading halls, periodical section, and reference section.
• Internet access and computer terminals.
• Limited digital library initiatives.

V. FINDINGS

Most libraries possess adequate print collections, but digital resources are underutilized.
Students prefer e-resources but lack awareness and training.
Budgetary constraints prevent regular acquisition of new materials.
Many libraries are understaffed, leading to limitations in providing personalized services.
ICT infrastructure is uneven across colleges.

VI. SUGGESTIONS

• Increase funding to strengthen print as well as digital collections.
• Organize regular user education and training programs to enhance awareness of e-resources.
• Promote library networking and inter-library loan facilities.
• Ensure adequate staffing with trained library professionals.
• Establish fully functional digital libraries with user-friendly interfaces.

VII. CONCLUSION

Libraries in the education colleges of Sardar Patel University are vital for teacher education. While traditional services are relatively strong, digital services and ICT infrastructure require significant improvement. By integrating modern information services with traditional resources, these libraries can enhance the teaching-learning process and contribute to the professional growth of future teachers. Ensuring adequate funding, trained staff, and user-oriented services will enable these libraries to remain relevant in the digital age.

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