TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGE LIBRARIES OF PUNJAB: AN ASSESSMENT

Nirmal Singh[*]

ABSTRACT

The paper is a survey to explore the resources and services available in Education Training college libraries of Punjab. Data Collected through administration of a questionnaire from 19 colleges, highlights their infrastructure, collection, technical processing, services, finance, Personnel and computer usage. The data is limited to 19 colleges established till 2004.

KEYWORDS

Education Training College libraries-Punjab; College libraries-Punjab; B. Ed colleges-Punjab

INTRODUCTION

Education is fundamental for the progress of a nation aiming at all round development of learners. Colleges being the first doorstep towards higher education and libraries form the hub of their academic activities. Among various types of colleges, the colleges of education are centers grooming future teachers, likely to impart elementary and secondary education to future generations- the foundation of a nation.

Punjab is one of the 28 states of India, located in its North-west, possess 212 Degree (Arts, Science, Commerce and Home Science), 27 Engineering, Technology and Architecture, 06 Medical (Allopathy) and 24 Teacher Training Colleges besides 19 Polytechnic Institutions till September 2004. **(Statistical**

[*] *Nirmal Singh, Librarian, Guru Gobind Singh Khalsa College for Women, Jhar Sahib (Ludhiana)*

Abstract of Punjab, 2005). But prospectus of Joint B.Ed. entrance test, 2004 list 35 colleges of education **(Prospectus Joint Entrance Test for B.Ed., 2004-05, 2004)**. Two more colleges were established by end of July 2004 as reported by the College Cell of Punjabi University, Patiala. Thus, the number increased to 37 (July 2004) and has risen to 180 by end of 2008.(**N.C.T.E, 2008)**. The growth touches to 4.86 more as compared to expansion made during the last few years. In the light of these developments, the present study endeavours to make an assessment of select teacher training colleges of Punjab to reveal their status of resources and services for users to help policy makers to frame guidelines for their adequate development and act as centers of information support and nodal agencies for knowledge and intellectual growth for new generation teachers and mentors of the society.

OBJECTIVES
The objectives of the study are:
- ➢ To understand physical facilities, collection and finance of the libraries.
- ➢ To take a stock of services and personnel of the libraries
- ➢ To understand use and utility of computers in these libraries.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE
A number of studies have been conducted on different types of libraries. However, selective studies on college libraries and colleges of education libraries confined to India are reviewed here.

General College Libraries
Raina (1980) conducted a survey of degree colleges libraries in Kashmir and found that the acquisition process is very slow in

relation to the number of users and period of existence of a college. Readers are not provided with any other service except circulation. **Naidu (1980)** examined the prevailing conditions and causes leading to inadequacies in libraries of colleges affiliated to Andhra University. The author suggests that inspection commissions of universities should formulate norms regarding libraries for affiliated colleges and ensure their implementation in consultation with university librarian. **Raju (1984)** carried out a survey of libraries of 18 colleges in West-Godavari district. He discusses library staff, building, collection, technical processing, services of libraries and other managerial aspects and emphasized on the urgent need to improve library services to meet information needs of users. In another survey **Kumbar (1986)** assessed libraries of colleges affiliated to Gulbarga University, Karnataka. and found that libraries spend more funds on books and comparatively less on periodicals. **Esperanza (1988)** evaluated the Patna Women's college library and deliberates on its 8 sections with a conclusion that library faces the problems of inadequate staff, funds, space and lack of attention by authorities. **Chakaraborty (1988)** executed a survey to assess the functioning of college and academic institutional libraries in Tripura who found that most of the libraries have seating capacity for less than 5% of its users without a uniform staffing pattern in libraries. **Bajpai (1995)** evaluated college library services in Delhi and identified their problems. The author revealed that librarians find it difficult to deal with teaching and non-teaching staff regarding circulation rules. **Chopra (1995)** discusses on the problems faced by college libraries in Punjab on the basis of his personal observations. He grouped these problems into three types i.e. problems related with college management, principals of colleges and library staff. **Joshi (2001)** investigated the veterinary college libraries in Maharastra and suggests that Indian Council of

Agricultural Research and Agricultural universities should regularly organize orientation programmes for librarians.

Education Training College Libraries

In a study of teacher training colleges of India, **Mukerjee (1965)** found that a few institutes possess libraries. The users depend on such university libraries either affiliated or form a constituent of the university. Those having their own libraries are not properly planned. **Singh (1990)** conducted a study of college libraries in Punjab and Chandigarh covering a few B. Ed colleges also and found that library development has not achieved the desired extent. **Swarna Kumari (2004)** carried out a study of B.Ed. college libraries of Andhra Pradesh and analyzed the different aspects of libraries like document collection, acquisition procedures, technical processing, budget, manpower, services, users, buildings, furniture, stock verification and preservation etc. Similarly, **Veer (2004)** conducted a study of college of education libraries of Maharashtra to look into similar aspects of these institutes.

SCOPE

The study is confined to 19 libraries, out of 37 libraries established in Punjab till July 2004, constituting 3 Govt. , 15 Govt. aided and a college all under the domain of the Punjabi University. The oldest college among them is established during 1942 and recent one in 2001.

METHODOLOGY

A questionnaire as a tool was compiled and administered among the select colleges by visiting personally to get the data instantly and with more precision. The data is presented, analyzed ,

interpreted and supplemented with tables etc for realizing the objectives.

FINDINGS

The results of the survey based on analysis of data collected are discussed below:

INFRASTRUCTURE

It is revealed that one library has an independent building and remaining 18 libraries are housed in buildings forming part of college premises, with no consideration to the future expansion. During my visit, one of the libraries was found to be used as a classroom. Five libraries have separate reading rooms for users to study while 14 libraries seating arrangement is made within stacks area. The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) requires college libraries to have seating capacity for at least 25% and 10%of their students of B. Ed and M.Ed. programme respectively. **(National Council for Teacher Education , 2008)**. The NCTE has not laid any standards for seating capacity for teachers in libraries. These standards are not met by about 08 libraries.

COLLECTION

Ten libraries report to adhere to book selection policy of the institution but none of them possess any written document thereof. It is found that teachers and principals of colleges play main role in book selection process. The book collection strength of the libraries is grouped into 5,000 cluster each in Table 1.

Table 1 Book Collection of Libraries

Total Number of Books	No. of Libraries
0-5000	01
5000-1000	02
10000-15000	04
15000-20000	05
20000-2500	05
25000-3000	Nil
More than 30000	02

It reveals that a majority of libraries has a collection 15,000-25,000, while 04 libraries possess 10,000-15,000 volumes. Two libraries, Govt.Institutions, cross the 30, 000 volumes and one library has less than 5,000 books, although set up in 2001. Govt. colleges have larger collection than other colleges; perhaps such colleges receive grants from both University Grants Commission (U.G.C) and State Govt. while Govt. aided colleges get grants from the U.G.C. only.

Textbooks comprise major portion of library collection. Fifteen libraries have book banks to help poor and needy students. Few libraries have non-book material in inadequate quantity, mainly CD's that come free with books. There is only one library subscribing to two foreign journals.

BOOK PURCHASE COMMITTEE AND STOCK VERIFICATION

The colleges constitute a committee which name 'Book Purchase Committee'. The respective Principal of the college is the Chairman of library committee in 12 libraries when in two colleges each, either Librarian or a Lecturer heads the committee

and in another two colleges chairman does not exist at all. In one college, it comprises of Principal as convener, lecturers and librarian as members while as in another one it consists of principal, librarian and lecturers as members. Librarians act as the secretary of the committee in 08 libraries and in other 06 libraries, lecturers serve as secretary of the library committee. Committees don't have secretaries in 04 libraries and comprises of only members. It is found that in 12 libraries, the committees act advisory in nature while in 06 libraries, these are executive in nature. Besides, 18 libraries undertake stock verification on regular basis. Eleven libraries undertake stock verification once in two years, while remaining 07 libraries carry out every year.

TECHNICAL PROCESSING and ACCESS

There is one library with a collection, not arranged according to any classification scheme. Eighteen libraries possess either fully or partially classified collection. All the 18 libraries use D.D.C(16th to 21st edition). The libraries catalogue their collection either fully or partially using either AACR-I or AACR-II. Five libraries follow open access system in stacks area and 08 libraries undertake open access partially. Six libraries have close access to collection.

SERVICES

All the libraries report provision of short-range reference service and two long-range reference services as well. The data account that14 libraries offer referral service and 11 libraries Current Awareness Service. Only 04 libraries have organized book exhibitions. Two of these organize   them on important events. One librarian organizes book exhibition on the occasion of Annual Convocation and one stated organization of the exhibition on a college function. Some libraries also invite booksellers to organize

book exhibitions in their libraries on various occasions. The libraries provide orientation service to users. The working hours of almost all the libraries are in tune with the office hours of the institution, as most of them are open for 6-7 hours during a working day.

CIRCULATION AND USAGE

Two colleges libraries put the demand boxes for B. Ed students where students put slips giving details of required books and their identification. Similarly, B. Ed students are required to fill 'reservation slips' to get books of their interest. The other 16 libraries have a practice of lending books instantly on demand. Different Libraries issue different number of books to users during the academic year.(**Table2**)

Table 2   Number of Books eligible to Borrow

No. of Books	No. of Libraries	
	B. Ed. Students	M.Ed. Students
1-3	11	02
4-6	08	11
7-10	None	01

The table reveals that in case of B. Ed students, majority of libraries lend 3 or less books, whereas for M.Ed. students, the number varies from 4 to 6. On the other hand, in case of teachers 08 libraries lend any number of books to them. Six libraries lend 06-10 books to a teacher at a time, while 03 libraries issue 11-15 books to teachers. Most of the libraries lend books to students for 14 or 15 days. Ten libraries allow teachers to borrow books for unlimited period.

Table 3 furnishes data regarding average number of visitors of the library. It reveals that large number of libraries is visited by 41-

120 users, whereas three libraries are visited by less than 30 users. Four libraries are visited by more than 120 students on an average.

Table 3   Average Number of Visitors to Library

Particulars	No. of Libraries
0-40	03
41-80	06
81-120	06
More than 120	04

FINANCE

Eleven libraries, out of 13, have received grants from U.G.C during the period 2002-2007. On the other hand none of the libraries got any financial assistance from state Govt. for purchase of reading material during the period. It is disappointing that none of the colleges, except one, has a provision for library budget. Only University College of Education, Bathinda has an annual budget of Rs. 50,000/ year for purchase of reading material. The other sources of finance for these libraries are library fee, library development fund and amalgamated fund etc.

PERSONNEL

It is found that 18 libraries have posts sanctioned for librarians while as one library has a post of assistant librarian , which is lying vacant since the establishment of college in 2001 but is managed by a library assistant. Two Govt. colleges have two posts of librarians each. Out of these, in one college a post is lying vacant and one librarian is managing the library. One college had appointed a librarian on an adhoc basis. 13 libraries have

sanctioned posts of restorers, while remaining 06 libraries didn't follow such policy. Similarly only 11 libraries have sanctioned posts for library attendants. Educational Qualification of librarians has a greater impact on the organizational health of libraries. The academic and professional qualification of librarians can be deciphered from the table below.

Table 4   Educational Qualification of Librarians

Qualification		No. of Librarians
Academic	**Professional**	
M.A.	Ph.D.	01
M.A., Ph.D.	B.Lib.& I.Sc.	01
M.A., M.Sc.	M.Lib.& I.Sc.	04
M.A., M.Sc.	B.Lib.& I.Sc.	06
B.A., B.Sc.	M.Lib.& I.Sc.	03

It is evident from the table (Table 4) that out of 15 librarians (including adhoc) serving 14 libraries, 06 possess Master's degree in Arts/ Science and Bachelors degree in Library and Information Science, while another 04 librarians possess Master's degree in Arts/Science in addition to Master's degree in Library and Information Science. Three librarians are having Bachelors degree in Arts or Science and Master's degree in Library and Information Science. One librarian is Ph.D. in History and Bachelor's degree in Library and Informaticn Science and other librarian posses Ph.D. in Library and Information Science and Master's degree from other discipline. It is observed that all the B.Lib. degree holder librarians appointed more than 20 years ago and the ones who were recently appointed has Master's degree in Library and Information Science.

USE OF COMPUTERS

The study discloses that 10 libraries have computer facility where two libraries are using local software, two CDS/ ISIS and WINISIS one SOUL. One library has introduced 'Alice for Windows' but two libraries, didn't make use of any software. However, out of these, one library has compiled database of books and periodicals in 'MS-Word' and another one in 'Microsoft Access'. One library has acquired computer sysytem without putting it to any use of it. It is clear that libraries use computers primarily to perform housekeeping operations. Only five libraries had Internet facility for users. Eight libraries have set up photocopying facility, for students and teachers levying different charges.

CONCLUSION

The analysis makes it clear that overall picture of these training college libraries is not satisfactory. Libraries are not properly housed, which pose problems for future expansion. Size of collection of different categories of college libraries is hampered by finances available for the purchase of reading material. In large number of libraries, reference collection is found to be very small, which needs immediate attention. Libraries don't have a proper book selection policy, to keep the things on right track. While interacting with librarians, it was noted that many of them are unaware of the many innovative services etc. This indicates the urgent need to update Personnel in professional skills.

In some libraries, posts of librarians are lying vacant which has impact on the organization and services of these libraries. In many libraries, supporting staff is inadequate and the personnel serving at a lower hierarchy are less qualified and even in cases illiterate which is deteriorating the quality of library services. While interacting with librarians, few disclosed that they are not given

the status equivalent to teachers. Partial cataloguing of the collections creates problems in document recall. Nearly 42.10% of college libraries have taken steps to use computers for automation and rest have yet to join their hands to an appropriate technology which is need of the hour. Further, the norms and standards of NCTE for library building, collection, staff etc. are not well drawn and need to be revision to make more elaborate so that the libraries can work effectively and efficiently.

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