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Status of College Libraries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

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Abstract

The main theme of this study was to explore the status of college libraries in the District Karak, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. The study aimed to identify the services, reading materials, and technological resources in the college libraries. Structured questionnaire was used to collect data. The researchers personally visited the population cites, and distribute the questionnaire to collect data from the librarians of two Degree Colleges. The data was analyzed manually with the help of MS Word to draw the results. The findings of the study revealed that these libraries provide many of the services such as cataloging, classification, reference services, current awareness services, and user education. Furthermore, these libraries have least number of reading materials, and Information, and Communication Technology-based resources. Recommendations were made upon the findings of the study.

Keywords: College, Library, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

1. Introduction

"The college is an institution of higher education which offers four- or six-years degree in arts and science" (Gour, 2009). The college had a two-year teaching program is known as intermediate college, whereas the institution that has a four-year degree program is termed a degree college and the college with a six-year teaching program is a postgraduate college. ALA (American Library Association) Glossary of Library and Information Science defined a library as, "Library as a collection of materials organized to provide physical bibliographical and intellectual access to a group with a staff that is trained to provide services and programs related to information needs of the target group" (Reitz, 2004). According to the Harrods librarian's glossary and reference book, "Library is the place where a collection of books and other literary material kept for reading, study, and consultation"(Chalcraft, 2006). "A college library is established, maintained and administered by the college to meet the educational needs of its students and teachers" (Gour, 2009). A type of library created and located within a college funded by public funds, a variety of donors, and some forms of philanthropy with vital and relevant student books, literature, internet access, music, art, student activities, computer access, space, rooms, technology, photocopy service, information stand, and various other vital college or educational services a library is inspired to deliver and provide for all students and members of the community where appropriate with accessible opening hours and access to the building. The main function of the college library is to assist and support the study and teaching in the college. It helps the student and teacher of the college in their reading requirements. It provides books and other reading material to the students and faculty with their related field study. Promote reading habits in students and also bring positivity. Make available the books and documents required by a faculty member in the preparation of their instructional courses. Library services mean any activity associated with library information resources, library facilities, assets, staff, or resources including in person, online, via telephone, or correspondence. The library of the college provides many services such as circulation services, reference services, online reservation o book, recommendation of library material, current awareness service, selective dissemination of information, interlibrary loan service, and audio-visual service. Library resources are sources of information, traditionally; these resources are mostly in the forms of books, journals, newspapers, editorials, and encyclopedias but with the advent of the internet, digital sources of information have become prevalent. Resources of the college library include

databases, electronic books, dictionaries and encyclopedias, newspapers, referencing resources, video images, and sound resources.

The Directorate of Higher Education Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) was established in 1979 to manage the fiscal and administrative affairs of 49 government colleges. The department has expanded horizontally and the number of college/field institutions has increased up to a total of 185 Govt colleges of the male and female vertically up to a total of 23 postgraduate colleges with multiple disciplines at master level. The directorate is the sole body responsible for the smooth implementation of the policies /guidelines issued by the department from time to time. (www. the higher education department of KPK). Karak is a district of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Pakistan. It is situated to the south of Kohat District and on the north side of Bannu and Lakki Marwat districts on the main Indus Highway between Peshawar and Karachi - it is 123 km from the provincial capital Peshawar. The district is principally populated by the Khattak tribe, one of the famous tribes of Pashtuns. It has three tehsils in this district, Tehsil Karak, Banda Daud Shah, and Takhti Nasrati.

2. Literature Review

Solarine (2016) established a study on the examination of school libraries at Ogun state Nigeria. The basic objective of this research was to examine the school libraries especially private school libraries. Results show that there is a deficiency of up-to-date facilities in the libraries. They concluded that the library is a living memory of mankind therefore advancement in services and resources are essential. They recommended that all schools should have a library and have a library period in their timetable. Faheem, Jan, and Ali (2015) conducted a study on the school library system in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The basic purpose of this research was to highlight the current status of these libraries. A questionnaire and interview were used for the collection of data. The result shows that no facilities are provided for reading books inside the library and no arrangement had been made in school at any level which attracts students for reading books in the library. They had recommended that our society is passing through a period of an unusual situation and there is a lack of space and a sense of insecurity in the country. Khalid's (2015) study was focus on problems that college libraries are facing in Pakistan. According to the study main aim of a college, the library is to disseminate knowledge and to provide educational facilities through particular programs. It was quantitative research based on

the survey method. The cluster sampling technique was used to get data from different college librarians. A questionnaire was sent to librarians through postal address email. A college library is a suitable place for students to grow or develop his /her capability to locate and tile information necessary in problem-solving. But a lot of problems exist in these libraries. This paper recommends that government should solve these problems of college libraries especially in Punjab province and generally in Pakistan. Alone (2014) evaluated whether or not community college libraries have in place particulars essential to promote the digital libraries branch to meet the pending and public. The relationship between the college library community and the digital branch library (website define questionnaire was usual for data collection. The finding of the stonily point out all criteria where present representing was inconsistent and weak. The study recommended feature research in this as an area for improvement. Mufazil and Nazir (2014) evaluated library collections, facilities, services library collections, and services of degree colleges of Srinagar, Kashmir. The main objective of the study was to examine the satisfaction of users with different types of services provided by the college libraries. The questionnaire was distributed among the users as a tool of data collection. The major finding revealed that the users mostly use books and the libraries provided good numbers of textbooks. The study recommended that there should be a user-friendly environment.

Sahu (2013) examined information distribution by using public networking places among library experts in the engineering colleges. This research shows that social networking places are a central portion of their social life. The objectives of this study were to confine the attitude of library experts in the engineering colleges of Odisha. The results show that the maximum of the library experts who contributed to the survey was male. They had concluded that the effect of information technology had largely affected the property of the distribution of information facility of the library. Bhatt (2012) explore the study on an analytical report of the medical college libraries of Gujarat in the age of information technology. The objective of the study was to determine the present status of library services in the medical college libraries of Gujarat. A questionnaire and interviews were used for the collection of data. The result shows that there are thirteen (13) medical colleges that run this program in Gujarat. The study had concluded that there is a lack of ¬e-resources in these colleges due to the non-availability of the fund. Dhanavanda, Esmail, and Nagarajan (2012) researched the approach and perception of information communication technology services or resources in medical libraries and collect data

from 150 faculty members. They concluded that most of the members of faculty of every college visit the library daily. Kumar (2010) conducted a study on the use of ICT in college libraries in Karnataka India. The purpose of this study was to examine the use of information communication technology (ICT) in thirty-one (31) college libraries in Karnataka. The informal interview observation and a questionnaire were used for data collection. The results show that the application of ICT in Indian college libraries had not reached a high level due to the lack of manpower and budget as well as a lack of skilled staff. Dudley (2009) studied the libraries' increasing resources. This study aimed to demonstrate the academic needs of both students in online degree programs and traditional campus-based students. A survey-based approach was used for the purpose to get information about Bryant and Stratton college's virtual library. Students know about the use of the electronic resources of academic research quality proliferate across the web and library websites promote hyperlinks to these resources of a collection. Biswal and Sahu (2009) constructed the research on the utilization of ICTs by medical college students, Burla India. This research aimed to interrogate the use of the state-of-the-art library of medical colleges. A questionnaire was used for the data collection. The results show that (77.34%) students have opinions that information communication technology should be involved in the MBBS student's curriculum. They had concluded that there is a lack of support of medical college libraries at the national level including the deficiency of interlibrary loans.

    Mulla and Chandrashekara (2009) conducted a study on the actual use of OPAC in the libraries of engineering colleges. This research aimed to analyze the significance of online public access catalog facilities in the libraries of engineering colleges in Karnataka. Structured-questionnaire was used for the collection of data from the respondents. The result of the research was to calculate the fruitful use of an online public access catalog in the libraries of engineering colleges. The study suggests that it is necessary to provide training to users to learn fundamental skills in searching. They concluded that an online public access catalog is very essential service for any library system. Partap and Joshi (2009) examined the study on the status of college education libraries in special districts of Punjab. This research aimed to determine the availability of physical Infrastructures like space furniture and IT infrastructure. A questionnaire was used for the collection of data and the questionnaire was divided into 20 libraries and responses of 18 libraries (90%) were received. The study reveals that the power of the library staff in the libraries is an important matter of interest. Swain and Panda (2009) established the

report on the utilization of electronic resources in business school libraries of the Indian state. The objective of this study was to point out the issues faced by the information professionals in retrieving electronic resources. A structured questionnaire was used for the collection of data. They had concluded that the electronic resources based on the internet are used very best. They had suggested that we should create a boundary for digital ILL services to the users on demand. They had recommended that library experts should come ahead to know about the difficult situation in a positive way. Mesbah-ul-Islam et al. (2008) carried out a study on the problem of college libraries in Bangladesh. The main objective of the study was to determine manpower needs in libraries. Data was collected using a structured questionnaire. Informal interviews were also arranged for getting topic insight. Findings of the study revealed that the responsibility to upgrade the status of the library profession depends not only upon government or library leaders but the professional attitudes and good performance of the librarians themselves. College library staff should form an association of college library professionals for their professional development and to maintain cooperation at the national and international levels. Ullah and Farooq (2008) examine libraries that produce quality learners. The purpose of this study was to get the feelings of school teachers about the importance of libraries. Data was collected through a questionnaire. Results show that both male and female students are in favor of using the library. They concluded that government should take immediate action for developing quality libraries in schools in which trained staff, computer facilities, and updated material exists.

3. Scope of the Study

The college libraries have become an important part of the student's life especially college students which mostly used a library to complete their assignments, presentations, and their information needs. The College library has a huge number of resources on education entertainment. On another side there are good sources of education; news social sites which provide positive contributes among students' academic career. It will help to guide them and put students in the right direction regarding library use for academic purposes.

4. Objectives of the study

 i. To determine the services provided by the college libraries in the District Karak, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

ii. To identify the reading materials in the libraries.

iii. To explore the physical and technological resources of these libraries.

5. Significance of the study

This study will be beneficial for students as well as for institutions. It will help policymakers about the maximum utilization of the college library for academic purposes. It will also work for individual staff and students to understand their particular information or reading needs. This study will also point out the importance of college libraries in academic achievement.

6. Methodology

The study is based on a descriptive research approach. Two Government Colleges were surveyed in the study. A structured questionnaire was used to collect the data. The researchers personally visited the population cites and handed over a questionnaire to the librarians of two Government Colleges of Tehsil Takhti Nasrati, District Karak, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. The collected data was scrutinized, edited, and filtered with the help of MS Excel and MS Word, and Mobile Calculator. Tables were used to present the acquired result and interpretations were made based on the objectives of the study.

7. Data Analysis

7.1.Library Professionals

The result acquired from the data that there is one librarian in each library. Mr. Naveed Ahmad is the librarian of Government Degree College Takhti Nasrati, who has done their Master (16-Years) in Library and Information Science from the University of Karachi. He has achieved two years of experience in the respected profession. Mr. Waheed Ullah is working as Librarian in the Government Degree College Ahmed Abad. He has completed his Master's (18-Years) in the field of Library from Sarhad University, Peshawar. He got seven years' experience in the field of librarianship.

Table 1: Library Professionals

Sr. No	Librarian	Qualification & Institute	Experience	Name of College
1	Naveed Ahmad	MLIS, University of Karachi	2 Years	GDC Takht-e-Nasrati
2	Waheed ullah	MS.LIS, Sarhad University Peshawar	7 Years	GDC Ahmad Abad

7.2. Library services

Table 2 indicates that half of the services (prescribed in the questionnaire) were provided by these libraries. Both of the libraries provide the service of cataloging and classification, circulation service, reference service electronic service, and user education. The library of Government Degree College, Ahmed Abad provides current awareness service, and internet facility, while the other library has lack of these services. It was also found that some of the services which were absent at both the libraries were news-paper clipping service, fresh arrivals, and photocopying services.

Table 2: Services offered by the Libraries

Sr. No	Service offered	GDC Ahmad Abad	GDC Takht-e-Nasrati
1	Cataloging and classification	YES	Yes
2	Circulation services	Yes	Yes
3	Reference services	Yes	Yes
4	Electronic services	Yes	No
5	News-paper clipping services	No	No
6	Fresh Arrivals	No	No
7	Current Awareness Services	Yes	No
9	Photocopy Services	No	No
10	Internet Services	Yes	No
11	User Education	Yes	Yes

7.3. Reading Materials

Table 3 demonstrate that the majority (1,600) of the print books were found in the library of Government Degree College Ahmed Abad while there are 1,180 books in the other library. The data reveals that library GDC Ahmed Abad has subscribed for two daily newspapers and GDC Takhti Nasrati received three newspapers on daily basis. Both the libraries received weekly and monthly magazines. Findings of the study also show that none of the libraries has research reports, theses, E-resources, and subscriptions for research journals.

Table 3: Reading Materials in the Libraries

Sr. No.	Reading Materials	GDC Ahmad Abad	GDC Takht-e-Nasrati
1	Books	1600	1180
2	Journals	No	No
3	Magazine	Yes	Yes
4	News papers	Two	Three
5	Reports	No	No
6	Reference material	No	No
7	Theses	No	No
8	E-Resources	No	No

7.4.Financial Status of the Libraries

The result from Table 4 determines that only the library of GDC Ahmed Abad received an annual budget of 0.2 Million from the Government in the session of 2017-18 while other has not recipient of the Government budget. The data also reveals that both of the libraries didn't receive any budget from the Government in the session of 2018-19 and other sources.

Table 4: Financial Status of the Libraries

Sr. No.	Query	Quantity	
1	Annual Budget by Government	2017-18	2018-19
	GDC Ahmad Abad	0.2 Million	Nil
	GDC Takht-e-Nasrati	Nil	Nil
2	Annual Budget by any other source	Remarks	Quantity
	GDC Ahmad Abad	No	No
	GDC Takht-e-Nasrati	No	No

7.5. Infrastructural Resources

Table 5 shows the infrastructural sources in these libraries. The data reveals that the maximum (30) number of the chairs were there in the library of GDC Ahmed Abad and 15 chairs in the library of GDC Takhti Nasrati. The majority (16) number of cupboards were found in the library of GDC Takhti Nasrati while only four cupboards in the library of GDC Ahmed Abad. The results also show that the library of GDC Ahmed Abad has three reading tables and the only reading table was found in the other library. The library of GDC Ahmed Abad has newspaper stands while the other has only one. The majority of the office tables were found in the library of GDC Ahmed Abad while the library of GDC Takhti Nasrati has only an office table. Furthermore, both of the libraries have lack catalog cabinets.

Table 5: Infrastructure in the Libraries

Sr. No.	Resources	GDC Ahmad Abad	GDC Takht-e-Nasrati
1	Chairs	30	15
2	Cupboards	4	16
3	Reading Tables	3	01
4	News-Paper Stands	4	01
5	Office Tables	7	01
6	Catalogue Cabinets	_	_

7.6. Technological Resources

Table 6 indicates the technological resources in these libraries. The data shows that there are two computers in the library of GDC Ahmed Abad while only one in the library of GDC Takhti Nasri. One printer was found in the library of GDC Ahmed Abad and the other has lack of printer. The data reveals that only one scanner was there in the library of GDC Ahmed Abad while no scanner was found in the other library.

Table 6: ICTs Equipment in the Libraries

Sr. No	ICTs	GDC Ahmad Abad	GDC Takht-e-Nasrati
1	Computers	02	01
2	Printer	Nil	01
3	Scanner	01	Nil

8. Major findings of the study

1. This study finds that the library of GDC Ahmed Abad is administrated by a professional librarian having M. Phil. in library and information science with seven-year experience while the library of library GDC Takhti Nasrati is controlled by a library professional with qualification of Master in Library and Information Science.

2. The finding of the study reveals that the maximum number of the services were provided by both libraries such as cataloging, classification, issue and return, reference service, user education, and current awareness services.

3. The result also shows that both of the libraries have lacked some services i.e., internet facility, fresh arrivals, selective dissemination of information, newspaper clapping, and photocopying services.

4. The study finds that both of the libraries have a collection of books but lack research journals, theses, reports, and electronic databases.

5. The result reveals that both the libraries have a subscription of daily newspapers and weekly, and monthly newspapers.

6. Furthermore, the finding determines that these libraries have good infrastructure regarding chairs, cupboards, office tables, and newspaper stands.

7. The study also finds that both of the libraries have to lack technological resources such as computers, scanners, and printers.

9. Conclusion

As college libraries are for helping students and faculty. For this purpose, a library should have all the needed services. The study concluded that government colleges of Tahsil Takht-e-Nasrati library have lacked all the needed facilities. In these libraries most of the important services like current awareness services (CAS), selective dissemination of information (SDI), photocopy

services, fresh arrival, and the most important service of this modern age, the Internet services are not available. The basic reason for the unavailability of these services is that an insufficient budget is provided to these libraries. The government does not pay much attention to libraries as they need. That's why the libraries are below average. According to our survey, the second reason for the bad status is that most of the students are unaware of the importance and use of the library. It may be due to the lack of user interest in using the library or due to the librarian who doesn't educate the student about the use of the library.

10. Recommendations of the study

1. The Directorate of Higher Education, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa should make a policy to increase the number of library staff in the Degree, Graduate, and Post-graduate Colleges.

2. The Provincial Government and College Administrations should take positive initiatives to develop the libraries according to the need of the day.

3. The libraries should be fully equipped with infrastructural resources to boost efficiency of the libraries.

4. The college library should ensure a large number of collection and digital resources for the students in the concerned fields.

5. The libraries should provide electronic databases, the latest research reports, theses, and journals.

6. The libraries should enhance more technological resources to increase the services of the libraries.

7. The library staff should also ensure to provide several good library services for the users of the library in a very efficient way.

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