

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

---

Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)

Libraries at University of Nebraska-Lincoln

---

Spring 2-25-2020

## Evaluation of College Libraries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan: Condition, Role, and Challenges

Atta Ur-Rehman Marwat

*The Islamia University of Bahawalpur*, attamarwat1@gmail.com

Dr. Muhammad Younus

*The Islamia University of Bahawalpur*, younusiub@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

Marwat, Atta Ur-Rehman and Younus, Dr. Muhammad, "Evaluation of College Libraries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan: Condition, Role, and Challenges" (2020). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 4049.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/4049>

# ***Evaluation of College Libraries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan:***

## ***Condition, Role, and Challenges***

*Atta ur Rehman Marwat*

*Dr. Muhammad Younus*

### ***Abstract***

This study aimed to investigate the current condition of the college libraries. The study also aimed to explore the role of college libraries in the teaching and learning process of the college. The study also focused on exploring the current professional challenges of the college librarians, as well as to explore current problems of the college libraries. A questionnaire survey among the college librarians was conducted to collect the data. The findings reveal that in majority colleges no separate building for the library was available. The physical facilities in the libraries were not satisfactory. There was a shortage of information resources in the libraries. The status of the ICT resources was also not encouraging. Majority libraries did not receive regular library funds. There was lack of Para-professional staff in the libraries. In majority colleges the library committees were not existed. The role of the libraries in the teaching and learning process of the college was to some extent satisfactory. Lack of adequate service structure; lack of training opportunities; lack of pursuing higher qualification opportunities; lack of encouragement from the administration to participate in the professional development activities; librarians performing duties far away from their home stations; and difficulties in their transfer were some major professional challenges for the librarians. Similarly, lack of ICT resources; lack of Para-professional staff; lack of information resources; lack of funds; lack of tools, (i.e. DDC set, AACR II/RDA, Sears List of Subject Heading); lack of adequate write-off policy; and book theft were major problems, that faced college libraries.

**Key words:** College libraries, academic libraries, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, survey of college libraries, librarians problems, libraries problem, prospects of college libraries.

## **Introduction**

A nation is called to be economically developed when its citizens possess a possible high standard of living. The key stair for continuous development of any nation is quality education which is further dependent on academic libraries in tertiary academic institutions (Joel and Ayinla, 2015, p. 36). In developed countries, academic libraries are considered as a tool for intellectual development, which in turn impacts on the society in the shape of economic, political and social development (Joel and Ayinla, 2015, p. 36). The role of libraries in academic institutions is like a heart as it directly equips students with knowledge and skills. High expenditures on academic libraries in the United Kingdom (U. K) have helped U. K. universities to maintain their place as a world leader in higher education. In the U. K., United States of America (U. S. A) and South Africa, research studies reveal that higher education institutions have succeeded in engaging students to use academic libraries' resources which resulted in higher academic outcomes among those students. Quality library services can boost the prestige of the academic institution, and help to attract and retain more students (Society of College National and University Libraries, 2017).

In the educational system of Pakistan, college is an intermediary stage between basic education and specialization. A library established in a college to meet the information, research and recreation needs of its students, faculty, and staff is called college library. It is considered to be an integral part of a college. The college library is the best place for students to improve their knowledge and skills through library books, magazines, newspapers and electronic resources. It provides a suitable environment in the college to students and teachers for completion of their assignments, lectures preparation, conducting research work

or reading good books. The fundamental objective of the college library is to disseminate knowledge, and to provide educational facilities through specific library programs. The college library needs to provide required information and resources to the college community for their reading, reference and research needs. Nothing can be more damaging to an educational institution than to neglect its library as it adversely impacts on all intellectual and emotional development of its students (Mehmood and Rehman, 2015). Generally, a college library should have a proper building with sufficient physical facilities (lightening, ventilation, drinking water, furniture, cooling, and heating arrangements), sufficient library material (book/non-book material and electronic resources) and competent library staff comprising professional, paraprofessional staff assisted with support staff. It should provide technical services (cataloging and classification), circulation services, reference services, train students in the library use, value readers' suggestions for purchasing new books/DVDs and other material, keep stack/shelves well maintained and do write off unserviceable or obsolete material. The concerned college should provide regular recurring grants to the college library to meet the library routine expenses and to purchase new material for the library, and establish a library committee for the smooth functioning of the college library (Mehmood and Rehman, 2015).

But, unfortunately in the education policies of Pakistan, college libraries are kept at the end of a priorities' list (Samdani, 1993). The literature relating college libraries in Pakistan reveals that greater part of college libraries are faced with lack of staff, lack of furniture, shortage of funds, lack of a conducive library building, inadequate physical facilities, scarcity of ICT tools and resources, disorganized library collection, absence of proper classification and cataloguing of the library collection. The library committees are fake and patrons of the libraries are unsatisfied (Jalib, 1975; Khan and Shafique, 2011; Lodhi, 1979; Mehmood and Rehman, 2015; Shah, 1975, Siddique, 1975; Zulfiqar, 1978). Mehmood and Rehman (2015)

stated that although education policies in Pakistan acknowledge the need for libraries with competent library staff, a conducive library building, and sufficient book collection, but at the time of allocating budget, libraries are kept at the end of a priority list.

### **Problem Statement**

The role of academic libraries is very significant in the maturity of a nation in connection of facilitating quality education, promoting enlightenment and research activities. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa the status of university libraries with respect to resources, services and tools are better than that of college libraries. The college libraries face lack of staff, scarcity of sufficient funds, lack of information resources (both in print and electronic forms), lack of needed equipment for organization of libraries, lack of appropriate library buildings, unsatisfactory physical facilities, lack of ICT resources and lack of plans and policies for organization and administration of the libraries. The professional librarians serving in these libraries are also facing numerous challenges. This study aimed to investigate the current condition of the college libraries. The study also aimed to explore the role of college libraries in the teaching and learning process of the college. The study also focused on exploring the current professional challenges of the librarians serving in these libraries, as well as to explore current problems of the college libraries.

### ***Research Objectives***

- 1 To explore the current physical facilities available for college libraries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- 2 To gain an overview of resources (financial, human, information) available in college libraries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- 3 To identify the role of college libraries in supporting teaching and learning in colleges of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

- 4 To explore the current professional challenges faced by librarians serving in college libraries of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- 5 To explore issues facing college libraries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in performing their functions effectively.
- 6 To suggest strategic measures to improve college libraries' overall condition and performance to achieve their objectives effectively in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

### ***Research Method***

Literature based questionnaire was circulated through email and postal mail among the professional librarians serving in the college libraries of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The validity of the questionnaire was ensure by reviewing the questionnaire on the four experts who were Ph.D doctors (LIS) and were serving in different universities of Pakistan and abroad. There were 221 professional librarians serving in the college libraries of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at the time of the questionnaire survey. Amongst them 187 librarians responded to the questionnaire. The response rate of the study was 84%. Henceforth, 187 questionnaires were sorted and analyzed through SPSS. Descriptive statistics (frequency distribution, percentage, central tendency) was used for the analysis of the data.

### ***Review of related studies***

The college is an institution of higher education. The main objective of the college library is to support college-level education, in the shape of providing effective library and information services to faculty, students and other staff members of the college. The college library is not an independent institution itself. It is a functional section in the greater whole of a college, where books and other information sources are accessioned, organized and administered to fulfill the information needs of the college community (Ranald and Goodrich as cited by Mehmood and Rehman, 2015, p.35).

Shah (1975) in his master's thesis on degree college libraries in the Punjab, Pakistan, reported that the majority of college libraries were faced with numerous challenges, like limited financial assistance, lack of space, lack of staff, poor and disorganized library collection. The study recommended the formulation of a committee for setting minimum standards for the college libraries. Siddique (1975) in his master's thesis on college libraries, noted that there was no uniform books selection policy nor the provision to withdraw outdated books from library collection in the college libraries. The study recommended the rise in college libraries' annual budget and the provision of rules to withdraw outdated books from the library collection.

In 1977 University Grant Commission set a study group to reveal problems of degree colleges. The study reported that grants for college libraries were very poor and there was no connection between enrolled students in colleges and the current price structure of books (cited in Khan, 1981, p. 421).

Khurshid (1977) proclaimed that information resources in college libraries were very limited. In contrast, the students enrollments in colleges were high and growth in the library stock with the ratio of the increased enrollments of students in colleges were grossly inadequate. Zulfiqar (1978) stated that in college libraries, book collection was not fully classified nor properly cataloged due to the absence of professional library staff. He recommended the provision of sufficient funds, a separate library building, and adequate library staff to improve college libraries. Lodhi (1979) also reported that there was not proper procedure to withdraw unserviceable books from the stock in college libraries. Moreover, these libraries had insufficient furniture and their library committees were inactive. Haider (1983) proclaimed that there was no proper procedure for the provision of funds to college libraries in the regular college budget (p. 215). The lack of fund phenomenon even not changed in the 1990s (Haider, 1996, p. 211).

Samdani (1993) proclaimed that lack of separate library building, lack of fund, lack of furniture, lack of technical books/equipments and poor planning were the main factors of the poor condition of college libraries in Pakistan. The author suggested pre-planning of the library building at the time of establishment of a college.

Qazi (2000) revealed that separate library building, lack of staff, lack of fund, shortage of space and absence of classification and cataloguing were the eminent problems in the library of government girls degree college Larkana, Sindh.

Mustaqeem (2002) revealed that libraries of the private colleges for BBA and BCS programs affiliated with the University of Karachi were not computerized and up-to-date. The libraries collections were also not according to the needs of the library users.

Khan (2002) explored the status of libraries of the selected private colleges affiliated with the University of Karachi and found that college libraries were faced numerous problems, including lack of staff, lack of information resources, lack of space, lack of fund, lack of inter library loan and lack of library catalogue. The open shelf system was more users friendly, but its application was not possible in these libraries due to unavailability of proper security system to save the library material from theft.

Ahmad (2002) reported that the library of Sadiq Egerton College Bahawalpur faced problems of inadequate library building, shortage of fund, shortage of books, and lack of staff.

Bavakutty (1982) reviewed college libraries in India and stated that a well-enriched library was as important to a college as a soul to the body. But, in India, due to the low priority of higher authorities, the condition of college libraries was miserable. The status of college librarians was not equal to the teaching staff in colleges. They were considered as

well-paid clerks. Most of their tasks were confined to cataloging and classification of library material. They had no active role in providing scholarly services to the college community and books selection process. They were only responsible for book losses in libraries. They were considered to be the custodian of books. Furthermore, there was no specific college librarians association to struggle for their rights.

Bavakutty (1984) studied college libraries in Kerala, India and found irrational organization of college libraries, insufficient staff and funds, disappointing physical facilities, poor services and lack of recognition of their academic role due to the factors: (a) negligence of higher authorities; (b) lack of correlation between library collection and class teaching; (c) unawareness of students about library resources and services.

Bajpai (1995) evaluated college libraries' services in Delhi, India, and found numerous problems, for example, staff members of the colleges did not return books to college libraries and libraries rules were avoided in this regard.

Chopra (1995) discovered a number of problems facing college libraries in Punjab, India including insufficient funds, shortage of staff, unsatisfactory physical facilities, books circulation and library timing issues.

Mathad (1998) studied budget planning in college libraries Karnataka. The study showed that the fundamental source of the fund in private colleges were their respective college management, whereas in government colleges it was government grant and University Grant Commission (UGC). The financial sources in private colleges were better than government colleges. Moreover, there was no proper budgeting technique adopted for college libraries budget preparation. In majority libraries budget was prepared without the involvement of librarians. Mostly budget was spent on the purchase of books, furniture, and equipment.

Veer (1999) surveyed college libraries of 12 government colleges, 26 private aided colleges and 63 private unaided colleges in Maharashtra, India. The study revealed that majority of libraries' collection was below than 5000 books, while 2.97 libraries' collection was more than 25000 books. The collection ratio for each patron was very different in all three types of college libraries. There were 103 books per user in government college libraries, whereas in private aided colleges this proportion was 50 books per user and in private unaided colleges it was 21 books per user. The government college libraries normally received 6 newspapers daily, private aided college libraries received 7 newspapers and private unaided college libraries received 2 newspapers normally in daily routine.

### ***Data Analysis and Interpretation***

#### ***Respondents Gender and Professional Qualifications***

The respondents' gender and their professional qualifications are presented in the cross tabulation, as shown in the table 1, The total 109 male and 77 female librarians participated in this survey. Amongst them 93 male and 67 female librarians possessed MLISc qualifications, whereas 14 male and 9 female librarians possessed MS/ M. Phil in LIS qualifications. Similarly no librarian possessed Ph. D in the LIS.

**Table 1**

*Number of participant librarians by qualifications (cross tabulation)*

	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
Certificate in LIS	0	1	1
BLISc	2	0	2
MLISc	93	67	160
MS/M. Phil in LIS	14	9	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>186</b>

### ***Respondents Professional Experience***

Majority respondents (53, 28.8%) professional experience was 11 to 15 years, which stands in the rank first, as shown in the table 2. Similarly (52, 28.1%) respondents professional experience was 6 to 10 years, which stands in the rank two. Moreover (49, 26.5%) respondents' professional experience was up to 5 years, which stands in the rank three. Similarly (15, 8.1%) respondents' professional experience was more than 25 years.

**Table 2**

#### *Participant librarians' professional experience*

	Frequency	Percent	Ranks
Up to 5 yrs	49	26.5	<b>3</b>
6-10 yrs	52	28.1	<b>2</b>
11-15 yrs	53	28.4	<b>1</b>
16-20 yrs	13	7.0	<b>5</b>
21-25 yrs	4	2.2	<b>6</b>
Above 25 yrs	15	8.1	<b>4</b>
Total	186	100.0	

### ***Status of Library Building and Physical Facilities***

This section aims to present an overview of the current status of the library building and physical facilities in college libraries. Respondents were asked multiple questions relating to the library building and physical facilities in it. The respondents indicated that majority library buildings were centrally located in colleges. The lighting system was satisfactory. The furniture was sufficient. The majority libraries have a room/ hall facility for reading books and other material as shown in the table 3. Similarly the respondents also reported that in majority colleges there was not a separate building for the library. The library buildings were not adequate for the library needs and were not expandable according the library needs with the passage of time. In those colleges where libraries were not centrally located, no sign

boards were fixed to find out the library. The cooling / heating system in libraries were not satisfactory, nor were drinking water arrangement available in libraries. The washroom for users was not available in libraries, nor was a separate office for the librarian available.

**Table 3**

*Status of library building and physical facilities in college libraries*

<i>S.No</i>	<i>Statements</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mode</i>
1	Is there a separate building for the library in your college?	76	40.9	0.493	2
2	Is the library building adequate for library needs and further expandable according to the library needs with the passage of time?	48	25.8	0.440	2
3	Is the library building centrally located in your college?	105	56.5	0.497	1
4	In case, if the college library is not centrally located, then sign boards are fixed to find the library?	87	46.8	0.501	2
5	Is the lightening system satisfactory in your library?	135	72.6	0.447	1
6	Are the cooling/heating systems satisfactory in your library?	26	14	0.348	2
7	Is the drinking water arrangement available in your library?	55	29.6	0.458	2
8	Is the furniture available in your library sufficient?	100	53.8	0.500	1
9	Are washrooms for users available in your library?	41	22	0.416	2
10	Is there a separate office for the librarian in your library?	66	35.5	0.480	2
11	Does your library have a room/hall for	97	52.2	0.501	1

---

reading books and other material?

---

1= Yes, 2= No

### ***College Libraries' Collection.***

The respondents were asked to indicate the total number of books/volumes/ items in their respective library collection. Majority respondents (48, 25.8%) reported 1000 to 2000 books/ items in their library's collection, which stands in the rank first, as shown in the table 4. Similarly (28, 15.1%) respondents indicated that their library's collection comprised on the 2001 to 3000 books/ items, which stands in the rank two. In the same way in second rank (28, 15.1%) respondents mentioned the category of others, as their library collection. In this category 8000 to 50,000 books were included. Moreover (11, 5.9%) respondents reported below 500 books/ items in their library collection, which stands in the rank three.

**Table 4**

*Total number of volumes/books/items in college libraries' collection*

	Frequency	Percent	Ranks
Below 500	11	5.9	3
1001-2000	48	25.8	1
2001-3000	28	15.1	2
3001-4000	6	3.2	5
4001 to 5000	6	3.2	5
4001 to 5000	7	3.8	4
6001 to 7000	7	3.8	4
7001 to 8000	7	3.8	5
Others	28	15.1	2
Total	186	100.0	

### ***Status of Print News Papers.***

Print news papers are an important part of the college libraries to keep the library users informed about the current affairs. The respondents were asked to indicate the number of

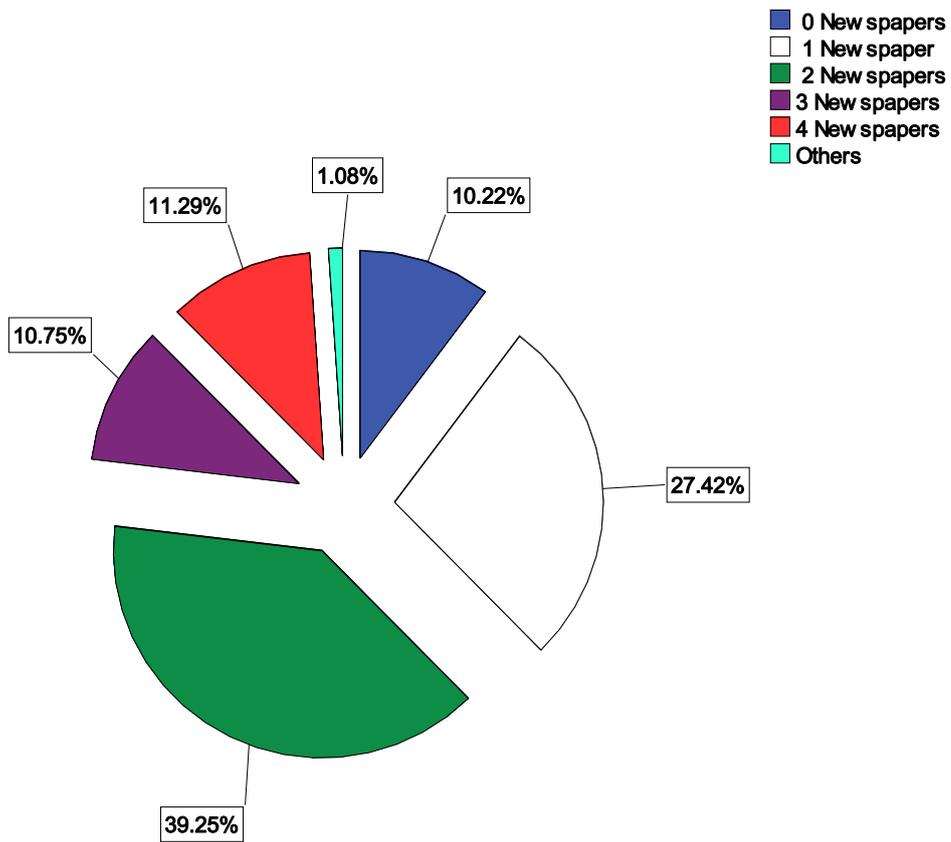
print news papers that regularly receive to their libraries. Majority respondents (73, 39.2%) reported two print newspapers that regularly receive to their libraries, as shown in the table 5. In the second number (51, 27.4%) respondents reported one print newspaper that regularly receive to their libraries. Only (21, 11.3%) respondents highlighted four print newspapers that regularly received to their libraries.

**Table 5**

*Status of print news papers in college libraries*

	Print Newspapers						Total
	0	1	2	3	4	Others	
Frequency	19	51	73	20	21	2	186
Percent	10.2	27.4	39.2	10.8	11.3	1.1	100.0
Mean							1.89
Std. Deviation							1.155

**Figure 4.1 Status of print news papers in college libraries**



### *Status of Print Magazines*

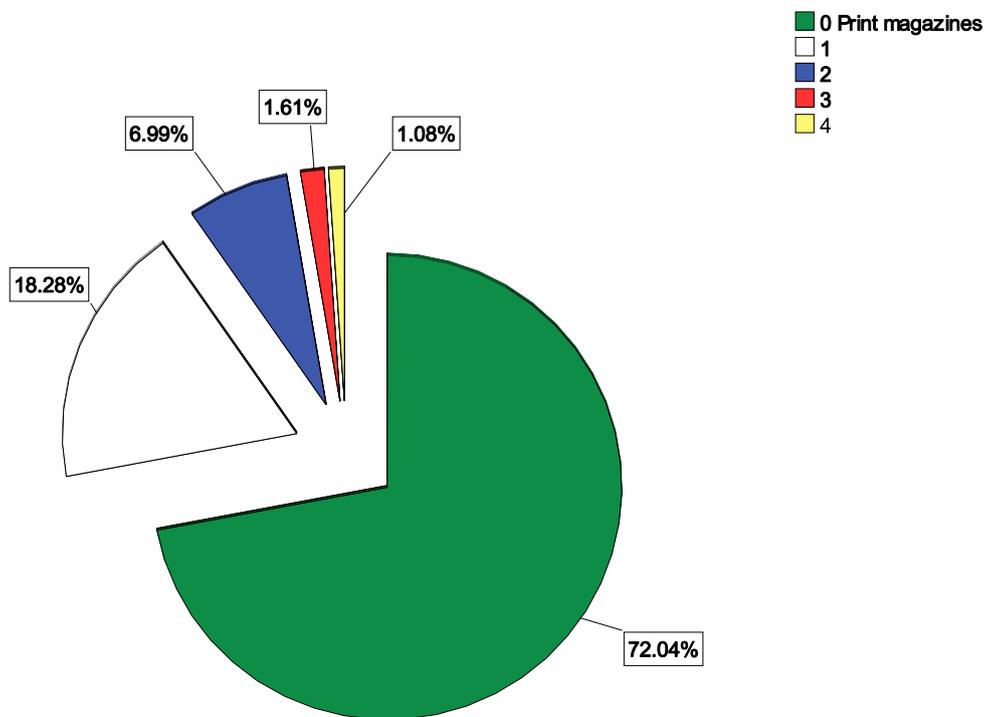
Magazine is a periodical publication, containing on the variety of contents. In college libraries print magazines are very important. It not only keeps the users up-to-date, but also provides a source of leisure reading. Respondents were asked to indicate the status of print magazines subscription. Majority respondents (134, 72%) out of 186 reported that they had not subscribed any type of print magazine for their libraries. Only 34 (18.3%) respondents highlighted that they had subscribed one print magazine for their college library (table 6). Similarly 13 libraries have subscribed two, three libraries have subscribed three and two libraries have subscribed four magazines.

**Table 6**

*Status of print magazines in college libraries*

	Print Magazines					Total
	0	1	2	3	4	
Frequency	134	34	13	3	2	186
Percent	72.0	18.3	7.0	1.6	1.1	100.0
Mean						0.41
Std. Deviation						0.782

**Figure 4.2 Status of print magazines in college libraries**



### *Status of Print Subject/ Research Journals.*

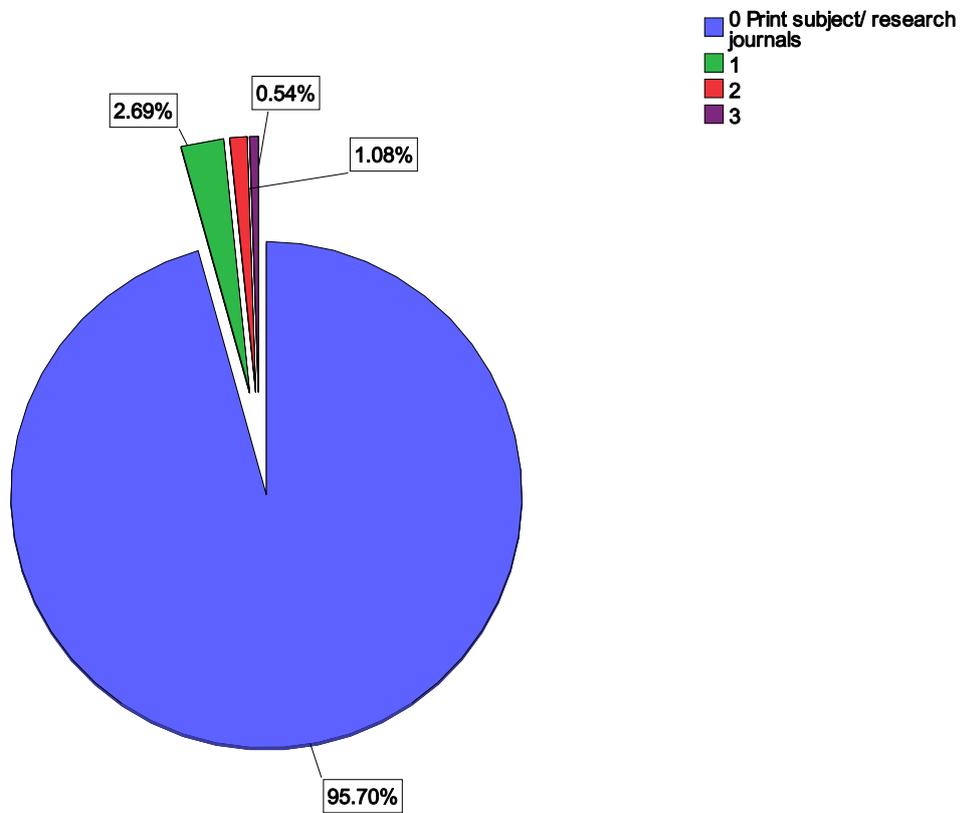
In majority colleges of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bachelor of Studies (BS) program have been started, therefore subject/ research journals are very essential for the college libraries. In this regard, the respondents were asked to indicate the status of print subject/ research journals in their respective libraries. Majority (178, 95.7%) respondents out of 186 reported that they had not subscribed any subject/ research journal for their concerned libraries (table 7). Only one college had subscribed 3, two colleges had subscribed 2, and 5 colleges had subscribed 1 subject/ research journal for their libraries.

**Table 7**

*Status of print subject/ research journals in college libraries*

	Print subject/ research journals				Total
	0	1	2	3	
Frequency	178	5	2	1	186
Percent	95.7	2.7	1.1	.5	100.0
Mean					0.06
Std. Deviation					0.339

**Figure 4.3 Status of print subject/ research journals in college libraries**



### *Status of Computers.*

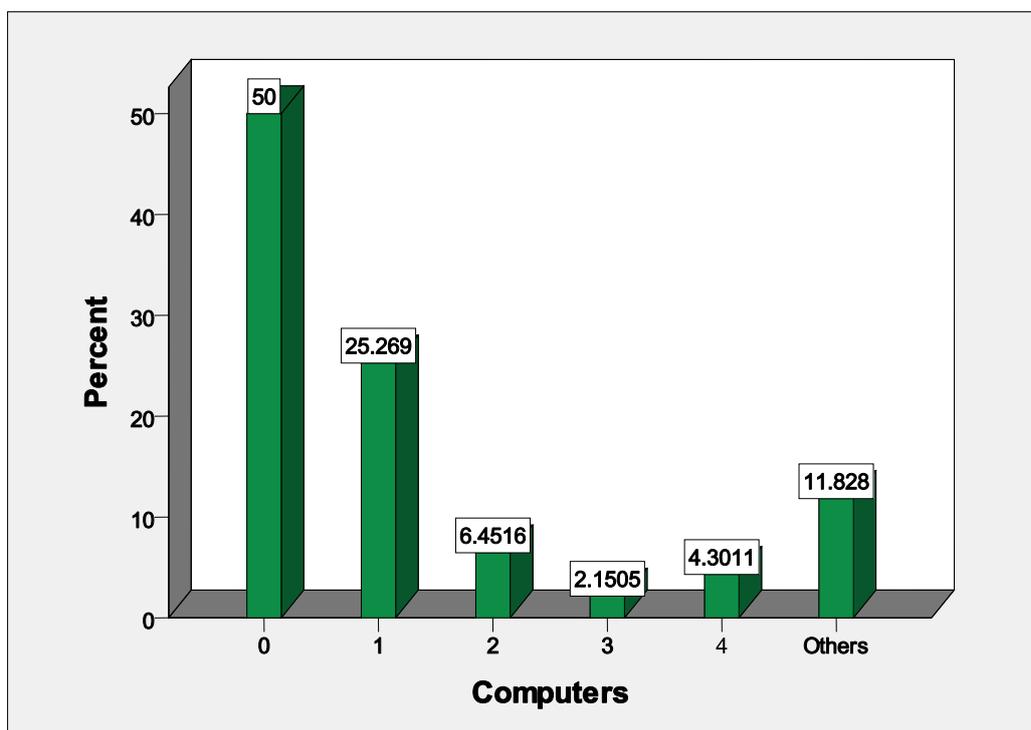
Computer is the basic foundation to provide information services in the electronic format. In the present age of information nearly all the library functions, e.g. cataloguing, classification, book processing etc. are performed with the help of computers. The respondents were asked to mention the number of computers in their libraries. Fifty percent of the respondents indicated zero computers in their libraries (table 8). Similarly 47 (25.3%) respondents indicated 1 computer, while 22 respondents indicated the category of others. In this category 5 to 25 numbers of computers were included. Moreover three respondents reported 25 computers in their libraries.

**Table 8**

*Status of computers in college libraries*

	Computers						Total
	0	1	2	3	4	Others	
Frequency	93	47	12	4	8	22	186
Percent	50.0	25.3	6.5	2.2	4.3	11.8	100.0
Mean							1.21
Std. Deviation							1.703

**Figure 4.4 Status of computers in college libraries**



***Status of ICT Tools.***

In the present age of information ICT tools are very essential for every type of a library. Respondents were asked different questions relating to the ICT tools for the purpose to explore the status of ICT tools. The status of ICT tools was very unsatisfactory in college libraries. In the majority college libraries there was no internet connection. Only 78 (41.9%) libraries out of 186 were having the internet connection (table 9). In majority libraries the speed of the internet was also unsatisfactory. Only 54 (29%) libraries out of 186 reported that the speed of the internet was satisfactory. In majority libraries HEC national digital library was inaccessible. Only 55 (29.5%) libraries out of 186 showed that the HEC national digital library was accessible in their libraries. Similarly only 29 (15.6%) libraries meet the basic prior requirements of HEC national digital library of having 10 computers and 4 MB internet speed. In majority libraries there was no any alternative system for electricity to cope with the electricity load shedding. Only in 41 (22%) libraries there was an alternative system for

electricity. Similarly only 17 (9.1%) libraries reported that they have an essential ICT tools.

The photo copier machine was available only in one library out of 186.

**Table 9**

*Status of ICT resources in college libraries*

S.No	Statements	Frequency	Percent	SD	Mode
1	Does your library have the Internet connection?	78	41.9	0.495	2
2	Is the speed of the Internet satisfactory?	54	29	0.455	2
3	Is the HEC National Digital Library accessible in your library?	55	29.6	0.458	2
4	Does your library meet the requirement of having 10 computers and 4 MB Internet speed for accessing the HEC National Digital Library?	29	15.6	0.364	2
5	Does your library have any alternative system for electricity to cope with the electricity load shedding?	41	22	0.417	2
6	Does your library have necessary ICT tools?	17	9.1	0.290	2
7	Is the photocopier machine available in your library?	1	0.5	0.219	2

The status of printers in college libraries was also very unsatisfactory. In majority libraries the printers were not available. In the 173 (93%) libraries out of 186 there was not a single printer available as shown in the table 10. Similarly in the 11 libraries one printer and in the two libraries two printers were available.

**Table 10***Status of printers in college libraries*

	Printers			Total
	0	1	2	
Frequency	173	11	2	186
Percent	93.0	5.9	1.1	100.0
Mean				0.08
Std. Deviation				0.310

The status of scanners was also highly unsatisfactory in the college libraries. In majority libraries scanners were not available. In the 178 (95.7%) libraries out 186 no scanner was available as shown in the table 11. Only in the eight libraries there was one scanner available.

**Table 11***Status of scanners in college libraries*

	Scanners		Total
	0	1	
Frequency	178	8	186
Percent	95.7	4.3	100.0
Mean			0.04
Std. Deviation			0.203

Barcode printer and scanner set are very essential in libraries. It is very helpful in stock taking. One can verify the whole collection of a library with the help of barcode printer and scanner set in no time. But in college libraries there was not a concept of barcode printer and scanner. In the 184 (98.9%) libraries out of 186 there was no barcode printer and scanner set available (table 12). Only two libraries reported that they possess one barcode printer and scanner set.

**Table 12***Status of barcode printer and scanner sets in college libraries*

	<u>Barcode printer and scanner sets</u>		Total
	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	
Frequency	184	2	186
Percent	98.9	1.1	100.0
Mean			0.01
Std. Deviation			0.103

### ***Financial Resources***

The main objective of this portion was to present an overview of the financial position of college libraries. Different questions were asked from the respondents to explore the current status of financial resources. The position of financial resources of college libraries was very discouraging, as shown in the table 13. Majority college libraries did not receive an annual grant regularly for the purchase of library material. Only 27 (14.5%) libraries out of 186 reported that they receive an annual grant regularly. On the other hand, majority libraries showed that fund for the purchase of print newspapers was available in their libraries, as 135 (72.6%) libraries out of 186 reported that they receive regular fund for the purchase of print newspapers. Book rebinding is the routine function of a library, but in majority college libraries there was no fund for the book rebinding. Only 45 (24.2%) libraries out of 186 showed that they have fund for book rebinding. Periodicals are the important part of a library collection, but only 36 (19.4%) libraries out of 186 mentioned that they have fund for the periodicals subscription. Similarly majority libraries were having no fund for the purchase of stationary, nor having contingency funds. Moreover majority libraries reported that their college administration did not easily fulfil the demand of different items needed by the library. Only 87 (46.8%) libraries accepted that their college administration easily fulfil the library demands.

**Table 13**

### *Status of financial resources in college libraries*

S.No	Statements	Frequency	Percent	SD	Mode
1	Does your library receive an annual grant regularly for the purchase of library material?	27	14.5	0.353	2
2	Does your library have funds for the purchase of print newspapers?	135	72.6	0.447	1
3	Does your library have funds for book rebinding?	45	24.2	0.429	2
4	Does your library have funds for the purchase of periodicals?	36	19.4	0.397	2
5	Does your library have funds for the purchase of stationary?	59	31.7	0.467	2
6	Does your library have contingency funds for ensuring effective library services?	27	14.5	0.355	2
7	Does your college administration easily fulfill the demands of different items needed by the library?	87	46.8	0.500	2

### ***Human Resources***

Human resources are the base for any organization to achieve the organizational goals. Respondents were asked to indicate the status of professional librarians in their respective libraries. Majority respondents 180 (96.8%) out of 186 reported one professional librarian in their concerned libraries (table 14). Similarly two respondents indicated two professional librarians, while four respondents reported zero professional librarians in their respective libraries.

### **Table 14**

*Status of professional librarians in college libraries*

	Professional Librarians			Total
	0	1	2	
Frequency	4	180	2	186
Percent	2.2	96.8	1.1	100.0
Mean				0.99
Std. Deviation				0.180

The position of regular library assistants or library clerks was unsatisfactory. Majority respondents 165 (88.7%) reported that no regular library assistant was hired in their libraries, as shown in the table 15. Only 21 (11.3%) respondents stated that regular library assistant was hired in their libraries.

**Table 15**

*Status of regular library assistants or library clerks in college libraries*

	Library assistants		Total
	Yes	No	
Frequency	21	165	186
Percent	11.3	88.7	100.0
Mode			2
Std. Deviation			0.317

In college libraries the status of regular library attendants was also highly unsatisfactory. In the majority libraries no regular library attendant was hired, as shown in the table 16. The regular library attendants were hired only in 52 (28%) libraries, out of 186.

**Table 16**

*Status of regular library attendants in college libraries*

	Library attendants		Total
	Yes	No	
Frequency	52	134	186
Percent	28.0	72.0	100.0
Mode			2

	Library attendants		Total
	Yes	No	
Frequency	52	134	186
Percent	28.0	72.0	100.0
Mode			2
Std. Deviation			0.450

Library committee is very important for a library in any organization. It solves the library issues, and trying to ensure qualitative library services in the organization. But in colleges of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa the situation of library committee was highly unsatisfactory. Majority libraries reported that there was no library committee existed in their colleges. Only 65 (34.9%) libraries out of 186 indicated that a library committee was existed in their colleges (table 17). Similarly they also mentioned that the concerned college librarian was active member of this committee.

**Table 17**

*Status of library committee in college libraries*

S.No	Statements	Frequency	Percent	SD	Mode
1	Is there a library committee in your college to deal with library issues?	65	34.9	0.478	2
2	Is the college librarian active member of this committee?	65	34.9	0.478	2

When the respondents were asked about the role of a library committee, their response was very discouraging. Majority libraries 137 (73.7%) out of 186 reported inactive/ dummy role of a college library committee. Only 49 (26.3%) libraries reported that the role of a library committee was active in their colleges.

**Table 18**

*Role of the library committees*

	Active role	Inactive/ Dummy role	Total
Frequency	49	137	186
Percent	26.3	73.7	100.0

### ***The Role of Library in the Teaching and Learning Process***

The main purpose of this section was to present the role of a college library in the teaching and learning process of a college. The respondents were asked different questions relating to the role of a library in the teaching and learning process. Majority libraries (90, 48.4%) reported that they conduct an orientation session for fresh students to familiar them with library and its resources, while 39 (21%) libraries mentioned that they provide the said services to some extent (table, 19). Similarly majority libraries (119, 64%) out of 186 reported that they provide reference services, while (29, 15.6%) libraries indicated that they provide reference services to some extent. Majority libraries (120, 64.5%) were providing readers advisory services. Most of the libraries (90, 48.4%) were delivering current awareness services. Majority libraries (95, 51.1%) reported that they take special measures to reduce students' library anxiety. Mainstream of the libraries (79, 42.50%) reported that they use different strategies to market the library resources and services for attracting students and staff towards the library. Majority libraries (139, 75.1%) were compiling a list of books demanded by students and teachers during the academic session for the purchase. In most of the libraries (108, 58.1%) library collection was properly classified according to the standard classification system, while in (25, 13.4%) libraries it was classified to some extent. Most of the libraries (173, 93%) delivered circulation services. The 91 (48.9%) libraries out of 186 indicated that they regularly update the library collection. Majority libraries (102, 54.8%) reported that their library collection support the syllabus taught in their colleges.

Mainstream of the libraries did not provide training to users to develop their searching techniques on the web, catalogues, bibliographies and reference tools. Only (31, 16.7%) libraries out of 186 delivered training to users in this connection. Similarly, (25, 13.4%) libraries delivered training to users relating to the web, catalogues, bibliographies and reference tools to some extent. Majority libraries did not provide training to users to find and evaluate information available on different websites and bibliographic databases (information literacy education). Similarly most of the libraries did not arrange workshops for students and teachers to train them in using the HEC digital library. In the majority libraries, library staff did not provide assistance to users while searching on the internet. Majority libraries did not provide term paper/examination counselling services. In majority libraries the library collection was not catalogued. Similarly in majority libraries unserviceable books did not weed out regularly. Most of the libraries did not provide interlibrary loan facilities to users. Majority libraries did not provide photo copying and printing services. Majority librarians were of the view that the current write off policy rules did not support to weed out missing/ unserviceable books from the library collection.

**Table 19**

*Role of college library in the teaching and learning process*

<i>S.No</i>	<i>Statements</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>To some extent</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mode</i>
1	Does your library conduct an orientation session for new coming students to familiarize them with library, and its resources and services?	90 (48.4%)	39 (21%)	0.788	1
2	Does your library provide training to users to develop their searching techniques on the web, catalogues, bibliographies and reference tools?	31 (16.7%)	25 (13.4%)	0.549	2

---

3	Does your library provide training to users to find and evaluate information available on different websites and bibliographic databases ( <u>information literacy education</u> )?	23 (12.4%)	17 (9.1%)	0.464	2
4	Does your library arrange workshops for students and teachers to train them in using the HEC digital library?	16 (8.6%)	6 (3.2%)	0.341	2
5	Does your library staff provide assistance to users while searching on the Internet?	44 (23.7%)	12 (6.5%)	0.522	2
6	Does your library provide reference services?	119 (64%)	29 (15.6%)	0.751	1
7	Does your library provide reader's advisory services?	120 (64.5%)	25 (13.4%)	0.722	1
8	Does your library provide current awareness services?	90 (48.4%)	31 (16.7%)	0.744	1
9	Does your library provide term paper/ <b>examination</b> counseling services?	35 (18.8%)	22 (11.8%)	0.551	2
10	Does your library take measures to reduce students' library anxiety?	95 (51.1%)	35 (18.8%)	0.773	1
11	Does your library employ different strategies to market library resources and services for attracting students and staff towards the library?	79 (42.5%)	33 (17.8%)	0.739	1
12	Do you compile a list of books demanded by students and teachers during the academic session for the purchase?	139 (75.1%)	21 (11.4%)	0.679	1

---

13	Are the books and other reading material in your library properly classified according to the standard classification system?	108 (58.1%)	25 (13.4%)	0.720	1
14	Is the library collection cataloged?	61 (32.8%)	24 (12.9%)	0.648	2
15	Does your library provide circulation services (issue and receipt of library books) to student and staff members?	173 (93%)	2 (1.1%)	0.310	1
16	Is the library collection regularly updated?	91 (48.9%)	36 (19.4%)	0.774	1
17	Are unserviceable books weed out regularly?	54 (29%)	21 (11.3%)	0.611	2
18	Does your library collection support the syllabus taught in your college?	102 (54.8%)	50 (26.9%)	0.862	1
19	Does your library provide interlibrary loan facilities to users?	27 (14.5%)	5 (2.7%)	0.399	2
20	Does your library provide photocopying and printing services?	9 (4.8%)	6 (3.2%)	0.284	2
21	Is the current write off policy rules support to weed out missing/ unserviceable books from the library collection?	44 (23.8%)	23 (12.4%)	0.593	2

1= yes, 2= No

### ***Problems Faced by College Librarians***

Majority college librarians were agreed that there was no service structure for the promotion of librarians in colleges. However they were no opinion/ neutral about the

assumed service structure for the promotion of college librarians (which is in process of approval from the government) that it was also based on injustice and discrimination. Most of the librarians have the opinion that mainstream of the librarians have been appointed far away from their home stations for a very long time. Majority librarians were agreed that college librarians are not transferred easily according to the government transfer rules. Most of the librarians were having the opinion that there were no training opportunities relating to new developments in librarianship for college librarians. Majority librarians were also agreed that the Higher Education Dept. authorities do not encourage librarians' to pursue higher qualification. They were also agreed that the Higher Education Dept. authorities did not support librarians to participate in the professional development activities (i.e. seminars, workshops, conferences). The majority of librarians were also agreed that the college administration did not fulfil easily the demand of different items needed in the library. They were also having the opinion that majority of the college community was not familiar with the concept, functions, and importance of libraries and librarianship. Most of the respondents were also agreed that majority of college principals/ heads did not support write-off policy for the missing/ unserviceable library books.

Similarly mainstream of the college librarians were strongly agreed that they need training on how to use the HEC National Digital Library. They were also agreed that the college librarians need ICT training. Majority librarians were having the opinion that separate college librarians association was needed to actively struggle for the rights of librarians.

**Table 20**

*Problems faced by college librarians*

<i>S. No</i>	<i>Statements</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Median</i>	<i>SD</i>
--------------	-------------------	----------	---------------	-----------

---

1	Currently, there is no service structure for the promotion of librarians in colleges.	186	4	1.259
2	The assumed service structure for the promotion of college librarians (which is in the process of approval from the government) is also based on injustice and discrimination.	186	3	1.076
3	The majority of librarians have been appointed far away from their home stations for a very long time.	186	4	.956
4	The college librarians are not transferred easily according to the government transfer rules.	186	4	1.068
5	There are no training opportunities relating to new developments in librarianship for college librarians.	186	4.50	.965
6	The Higher Education Dept. authorities do not encourage librarians' to pursue higher qualification.	186	4	1.019
7	The Higher Education Dept. authorities do not support librarians to participate in the professional development activities (i.e. seminars, workshops, conferences)	186	4	1.077
8	The college administration does not fulfill easily the demand of different items needed in the library.	186	4	1.162
9	The majority of the college community is not familiar with the concept, functions, and importance of libraries and librarianship.	186	4	1.044
10	The majority of college principals/ heads do not support write-off policy for the missing/ unserviceable library books.	186	4	1.020

---



S. No	Statements	n	Median	SD
1	Lack of ICT facilities	186	4	.682
2	Lack of human resources	186	4	.768
3	Lack of information resources	186	4	.835
4	Lack of financial resources	186	4	.803
5	Inactive college library committee and its inadequate support to the library	186	4	.932
6	Discriminatory behaviour on part of higher authorities towards the college librarians	186	4	1.012
7	Dissatisfaction of the librarians with their job	186	3	1.068
8	Lack of tools (i.e. DDC set, AACR II/RDA, Sears List of Subject Heading) for classifying and cataloguing the library material	186	4	1.058
9	Unfavourable write-off policy	186	4	.939
10	The absence of annual stock verification	186	3	1.193
11	Lack of in-time return of books	186	4	.977
12	Book theft	186	4	1.014
13	Posting of the librarians at the college far away from their home station	186	4	.958
14	Reluctance of the librarian to issue books due to unfavourable write-off policy	186	4	1.039

1=Strongly disagree, 2= Disagree, 3= No opinion/ Neutral  
4= Agree, 5= Strongly agree

#### ***4.3.10 Practical Measures Needed to Improve the College Libraries***

The last open-ended question analyzed thematically. The participant professional librarians suggest the following practical measures to be adopted for the development of college libraries.

#### ***Mandatory Training for Librarians***

The library and information science field is dynamic and ever-changing; therefore it is necessary to train library professionals with the passage of time relating to new advancements and application of ICT in libraries. Majority librarians suggest some practical measures for

librarians training. Few librarians also suggest that like lecturers and professors training, there should also be some arrangements for the librarians training.

***Provision of Sufficient Resources to College Libraries (Human, Financial, Information, Building, Furniture and Other)***

Adequate resources are necessary to operate any type of business smoothly. Majority college librarians suggest providing sufficient resources to college libraries. In these resources they mainly enumerated human, financial, information, building, furniture, and some other essential resources, like Ultimate Power Supply (UPS), stationary and cooling/heating systems etc.

***Provision of ICT Tools and Electronic Information Resources to College Libraries***

Nowadays no library can deliver information services successfully without the application of ICT tools. Majority librarians suggest the provision of ICT tools, like computers, printers, scanners and fast internet facility to college libraries.

***Provision of adequate Service Structure and Remunerations to College Librarians***

Service structure is the encouraging variable for any public servant. Majority librarian advised to provide sufficient remunerations and adequate service structure to college librarians. In service structure, some librarians suggested to provide a faculty status to college librarians, while some librarians advised to increase the BS remuneration of college librarians. Few librarians expressed that it is not possible to develop college libraries, without providing a suitable service structure to college librarians.

### ***Design Policies for the Development of College Libraries***

Suitable policies have great role in the development of college libraries. Majority librarians advised, that in Higher Education Directorate (HED) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa such policies should be designed relating to college libraries, which promote and develop college libraries. In these policies some librarians stated, that library collection write-off policy should be changed according to current needs of the libraries. Some librarians suggested that librarians should be posted in the KP colleges according to their respective domicile base. The librarians transfer should be made easy, and they should be transferred according to the government rules. Some librarians mentioned, that SOP should be designed relating to college library services, while few librarians suggested that adequate books purchase policy should be applied in college libraries.

### ***Support from Colleague Librarians, Higher Authorities and College Staff***

Majority librarians suggested that college librarians should support each other. There should be a close network among the KP college librarians on social media. They should try to help each other to solve their local problems in their respective colleges.

### ***Librarians Organize Programs for Users' Education in Colleges***

Few librarians reported that to attract more users towards library and to make more students library minded, college librarians should organize information literacy programs in colleges. It will create awareness among users about the library resources and services.

### ***Key Findings***

- 1 In college libraries the status of library building and physical facilities in it was to some extent satisfactory.

- 2 The status of library resources (Information, ICT, financial and human) was not satisfactory.
- 3 The role of a college library in the teaching and learning process of a college was to some extent satisfactory.
- 4 The college librarians faced numerous issues. They face the problem of a service structure for their promotions. Most of the librarians have been appointed far away from their home stations for a very long time. They are not transferred easily according to the government transfer rules. There are no training opportunities relating to new developments in librarianship. They need training on how to use the HEC National Digital Library, as well as numerous others issues have been identified.
- 5 The college libraries faced numerous issues. They faced lack of ICT facilities, lack of human resources, lack of information resources and lack of financial resources. The library committees were inactive and their support to libraries was inadequate. The higher authorities' behaviour towards the college librarians was discriminatory. They also faced lack of tools, (i.e. DDC set, AACR II/RDA, Sears List of Subject Heading), unfavourable write-off policy, lack of in-time return of books, and book theft. Similarly the librarians felt reluctant to issue books due to unfavourable write-off policy.
- 6 The college librarians suggested that sufficient resources (human, financial, information, building and furniture) should be provided to college libraries. The ICT tools and the electronic information resources should also be provided. They also suggested that college librarians should be provided mandatory trainings. They should also be

provided with adequate remuneration and suitable service structure. For the development of college libraries adequate policies should be designed. There should be a close network among the college librarians and the higher authorities and college staff should support the librarians. The librarians should organize user's education programs in colleges. They also recommended miscellaneous some others suggestions for the development of college libraries.

### ***Conclusions and Recommendations***

The study concluded that in majority colleges no separate buildings for the libraries were available. The status of physical facilities, like lightening, drinking water, furniture, washroom for users etc. were not satisfactory. Moreover, the status of information resources, ICT resources, financial resources, and the status of Para-professional staff was also discouraging. In majority colleges' library committees were not present and in those colleges where library committees were present, they were also seemed fake as they have no active role in the development of the libraries. The role of libraries in the teaching and learning process of the college was to some extent satisfactory. The status of librarians and their service structure was the main challenge for the college librarians. Moreover, librarians performing duties far away from their home stations, difficulties in their transfer, lack of training opportunities, lack of pursuing higher qualification opportunities, lack of encouragement from the higher authorities to participate in the professional development activities (seminars, workshops, and conferences) were some major professional challenges for the college librarians. Similarly, lack of information resources, lack of ICT resources, lack of financial resources, lack of Para-professional staff in libraries, lack of tools (i.e. DDC set, AACR II/RDA, Sears List of Subject Heading), unfavourable write-off policy, and book theft

were some major problems faced by the college libraries. The study recommended that the administration should provide essential library resources and basic infrastructure to the college libraries, like library building, furniture, physical facilities, staff, funds, information resources, and ICT resources. The study also recommended that the administration should resolve the college librarians' problems. There should be a close network among the college librarians. There should be college librarians association, who actively struggle for the college librarians rights. The college librarians should start information literacy programs in their respective colleges.

### **References**

- Ahmad, R. M. (2002). *Kutb khana Government Sadiq Egerton College Bahawalpur ka mutalia ahwal (urdu)= A case study of Government Egerton College Bahawalpur Library*. Unpublished master's thesis, University of Balochistan, Quetta.
- Bajpai, S. K. (1995). Evaluation of College Library Services in Delhi. *Library Herald*, 32(3 & 4), 139-143.
- Bavakutty, M. (1982). College libraries in India. *International Library Review*, 14(4), 391-397. doi: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0020-7837\(82\)90043-7](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0020-7837(82)90043-7)
- Bavakutty, M. (1984). College libraries in Kerala: a survey report. *International Library Review*, 16(4), 437-446. doi: [https://doi.org/10.1016/0020-7837\(84\)90031-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/0020-7837(84)90031-1)
- Chopra, H. R. (1995). *College Libraries in Punjab: Some Problems Re-Considered* (Sewa Singh and Madhuri Arora ed. Vol. Handbook of college libraries: problems, development, finance and other related aspects). New Delhi: Beacon Books.
- Haider, S. J. (1983). Pakistan librarianship in 1970s — current issues and emerging patterns. *Libri*, 33, 208-235.
- Haider, S. J. (1996). Acquisition and collection development in Pakistan. *Library*

*Acquisitions: Practice & Theory*, 20, 147-156.

- Jalib, M. T. (1975). *College ki Taleemi Programe me College Library ka kirdar*. Un-published Master Thesis. University of the Punjab. Lahore.
- Joel, S. A., and Ayinla, O. T. (2015). Roles of Academic Library in the National and Economic Development of Nigeria. *Greener Journal of Social Sciences*, 5(2), 036-041. doi: <http://doi.org/10.15580/GJSS.2015.2.281114401>
- Khan, M. Y. (2002). *Resources of the Private college libraries: An Analytical study of selected colleges affiliated with University of Karachi*. Un-published Master thesis, University of Karachi. .
- Khan, R. J. A. (1981). *Punjab mein kuliyaati kutub khanon ka nazm-o-nasq [Administration of college libraries in Punjab]*. Un-published Master thesis, University of the Punjab.
- Khan, S., A. , . & Farzana Shafique. (2011). Information Needs and Information-Seeking Behavior: A Survey of College Faculty at Bahawalpur. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*, 484.
- Khurshid, A. (1977). Pakistan, libraries in *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science* (Vol. 21, pp. 255-281). New York: Marcel Dekker.
- Lodhi, F. (1979). *Talba our college library ka istemal*. (Un-published Master's thesis), University of the Punjab, Lahore.
- Mathad, C. G. (1998). *Financial management in Academic libraries in Karnataka*. Ph.D thesis, Bangalore university.
- Mehmood and Rehman. (2015). Problems of college libraries in Pakistan. *Pakistan Library and Information Science Journal*, 46(3), 34-44.
- Mustaqeem, M. (2002). *Libraries of private institutions of BBA/BCS degree program affiliated with the University of Karachi*. Un-published Master thesis, University of Karachi.

- Qazi, R. M. (2000). Government girls college library Larkana. *Pakistan Library Bulletin*, 31(3), 39-44.
- Samdani, R. A. (1993). Taleem main college library ka kirdar (Urdu). *PULSAA News*, 5(4), 3-8.
- Shah, N. H. (1975). *Degree college libraries in the Punjab* (Unpublished Master's thesis), University of the Punjab, Lahore.
- Siddique, M. S. (1975). *Role of college library in college teaching*. (Unpublished Master's thesis), University of the Punjab, Lahore.
- Society of College National and University Libraries. (2017). The value of academic libraries, from <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/page/the-value-of-academic-libraries>
- Veer, D. K. (1999). *Collection in colleges of education libraries in Maharashtra: A study*. Paper presented at the Library vision 2010: Indian librarians and librarianship in retrospect and prospect, Delhi.
- Zulfiqar, S. (1978). *Survey of the libraries of women colleges of Lahore*. (Un-published Master thesis), University of the Punjab, Lahore.

## **About Authors**

### **Atta ur Rehman Marwat**

Ph.D Scholar, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur

[attamarwat1@gmail.com](mailto:attamarwat1@gmail.com)

### **Dr. Muhammad Younus**

Assistant Professor, DLISc, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur

younusiub@gmail.com