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Provision of Available Information Services and Infrastructure Facilities in Government Degree College Libraries of North Coastal Andhra Pradesh (India) : A Study

Lt.V.Appala Swami Naidu Librarian

Dr.V.S.Krishna Govt Degree College (A) Visakhapatnam, vasnaidu@gmail.com

Randhi Ramesh, Asst Professor

RGUKT, rameshrandhi666@gmail.com

Dr.K. Rajendra Prasad

Library Professional , Srikakulam, rajendraprasads@gmail.com

Prof.K. Somashekar Rao, Reaserch Director

Dept of LISc, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, kalepuss.office@gmail.com

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**PROVISION OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE
FACILITIES IN GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE LIBRARIES OF NORTH
COSTAL ANDHR PRADESH (INDIA): A STUDY**

1. Lt.V.Appalaswami Naidu
M.A.,M.L.I.Sc.,M.Phil.,(Ph.D)
Librarian
Dr.V.S.Krishna Govt.Degree College (A)
Visakhapatnam

2. Randhi Ramesh
M.L.I.Sc., M.Phil (Ph.D.)
Asst.Professor, Dept of LISc
RGUKT
Srikakulam

3. Dr.K.Rajendra Prasad
Library Professional
Srikakulam

4. Prof. K.Somasekhara Rao
Research Director & Professor (Rtd)
Dept. of Library & Inf. Science
Andhra University
Visakhapatnam

ABSTRACT

The main focus of the present research study reports on the information services, status of library building, sections and infrastructure facilities in selected Government Degree Colleges Libraries of North Costal Andhra Pradesh, India. Out of the 15 libraries studied, 10 do not have a separate building for library and they are housed either in administrative or part of class rooms. The degree college libraries of Srikakulam district have reported with adequate furniture, space for users, seating accommodation and toilet facilities. To understand the services offered to the users under the information services are studied- the reference services, question papers services and news paper clipping services are reported in all the studied 15 libraries. None of these libraries are offering inter library loan facility and indexing services.

Keywords: Information Services, Library Management, Infrastructure Facilities in Libraries, Academic Libraries.

1. INTRODUCTION

Though the libraries are offering a variety of services, the students do not have enough skills to use the services. The importance of print resource and the acceptance of users are focused. The use of communication and information technology by users in academic libraries is far from satisfaction. Many authors have given emphasis to resources and make them available to users are also stated.

Libraries cannot meet the demands of users unless, the needed information services and infrastructure facilities is provided by the respective college authorities. Hence, it is necessary that the authorities should think of their libraries in a right perspective so as to provide better services and infrastructure facilities to the users. There are certain principles in designing of library building, its accessibility, provisions for expansion, feasibility for modifications, modularity etc.

The location of site for library building is to be done based on certain guidelines and norms. The user's accessibility to library building should be considered while selecting the site for the library building.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The main objective of review of literature is to understand the research activities that have taken place in a particular discipline and the area of research in particular. All the relevant literature available is reviewed for this study.

Parvathamma and Shinde (2015) studied the use of information resources and library services of Horticultural colleges, Mostly they studied the under graduate students and their opinions. Most of the users visit daily and use the library resources for period of 1-2 hours. The use of bibliographic database and library resources are not satisfactory and most of the users do not have required skill to use these services. The reference service and book lending services are used thoroughly.

Savitha and Geetha (2016) made an attempt to study utilization of information sources and services by science students in Karnataka University, Dharwad. It was observed that most of the users use internet facility to read books and electronic resources. Further, it was found that mostly they go for reference books and news papers and the reference services.

Mamatha and Nikam (2016) opinioned that users of college libraries of Karnataka state are more dependent on print sources and thereby, the libraries have to give priority for print resources while developing collections in their libraries. The librarians have to focus light on security measures to keep the collection in the libraries the author used survey method to gather information from 53 colleges affiliated to university of Mysore in Karnataka. Mostly they analyzed opinions of security of measures taken in libraries.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Main objectives of the present study are:

- To study the availability of information services such as Reference, Reprographic, CAS, News Paper Clipping, Abstracting, Indexing, ILL, Bibliographic and Question Paper Services
- To study the status of library building facility in selected degree colleges
- To observe the availability of sections like Stack Area, Reading Room, Circulation Service, Periodical Section, Technical Section and Reference Section
- To examine the availability of infrastructure facilities like Adequate Furniture, Proper Ventilation, Drinking Water, Toilet, and Sufficient Space for reading

4. HYPOTHESES

1. The degree college libraries have a good library building with required furniture, infrastructure facilities, etc.
2. The degree college libraries are providing information services to meet the changing needs of present day users.

5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

As a first step, the list of Government Degree Colleges in the three north coastal districts viz. Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam is obtained. Researcher has taken for this study whichever colleges established before 2008. As per the list, there are a total of 25 Government Degree Colleges in the three districts – Srikakulam (10), Vizianagaram (5) and Visakhapatnam (10).

As already mentioned, all the 5 Government Degree Colleges in Vizianagaram district are selected. From Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam districts, 5 colleges are picked up following Random sample selection procedures from the available colleges in each district. The total sample for the study is 15 Degree College libraries from the three north coastal districts – 5 degree colleges from each of the three districts.

6. Data Collection

In the present study, the researcher has personally visited all the 15 libraries attached to the selected Government Degree Colleges. Information has been elicited using the structured questionnaire from the librarians. The researcher has also made some personal observations and also obtained additional information through informal interviews with other professionals during the course of data collection.

In the present study, the most widely used and popular 'Questionnaire Method' is employed for data collection. For this purpose, an elaborate questionnaire has been developed to elicit needed information from the 15 college libraries.

7. Analysis of Data

The information thus elicited was analyzed using the SPSS package (Version 20) on personal computers.

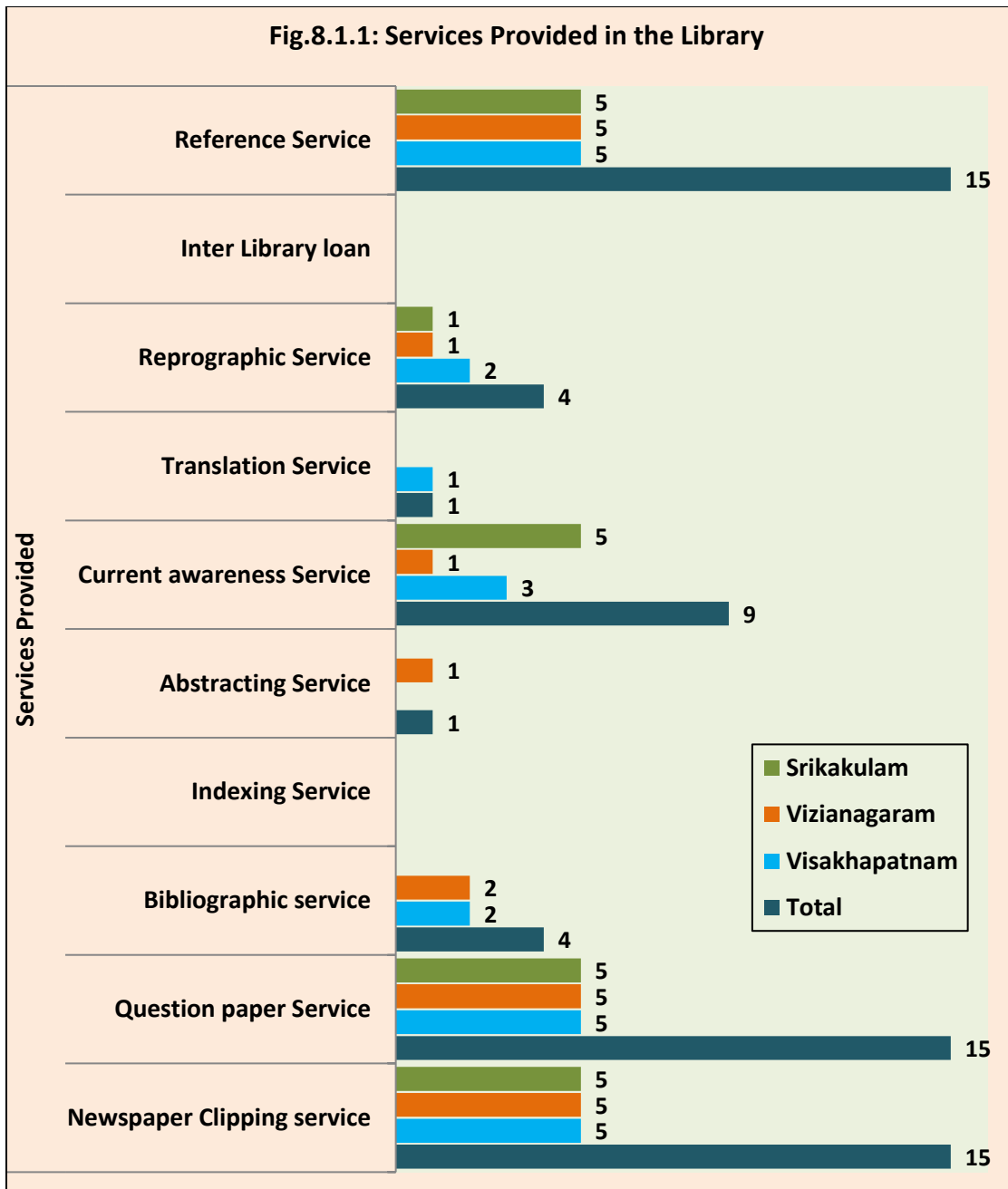
Simple statistical methods have been used in the study keeping in mind the purpose of the study. Mostly comparisons were made using the percentage and chi-square values for notifying the significance of differences among the three districts.

8. Information Services

Information on the different services provided to the user in the 15 libraries covered is presented in Table-8.1 (Fig.8.1.1).

Table-8.1: Information Services

	District						Total (15)		Chi-Square		
	SKLM (5)		VZM (5)		VSKP (5)						
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	Value	df	P
Services Provided											
Reference Service	5	100	5	100	5	100	15	100	--	--	--
Inter Library loan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	--
Reprographic Service	1	20	1	20	2	40	4	26.7	0.682	2	0.711
Translation Service	0	0	0	0	1	20	1	6.7	2.143	2	0.343
Current awareness Service	5	100	1	20	3	60	9	60	6.667	2	0.036
Abstracting Service	0	0	1	20	0	0.0	1	6.7	2.143	2	0.343
Indexing Service	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	--
Bibliographic service	0	0	2	40	2	40	4	26.7	2.727	2	0.256
Question paper Service	5	100	5	100	5	100	15	100	--	--	--
Newspaper Clipping service	5	100	5	100	5	100	15	100	--	--	--



Services like ‘Reference Service’, ‘Question Paper Service’ and ‘Newspaper Clipping Service’ are provided in all the 15 libraries covered for the study.

In 9 of the 15 libraries (all 5 in Srikakulam district, 1 in Vizianagaram and 3 in Visakhapatnam districts), the ‘Current Awareness Service’ is reported.

‘Reprographic Service’ is reported in 4 libraries – one each in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts and 2 in Visakhapatnam district. ‘Bibliographic Service’ is reported in another 4 libraries – two each from Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts and none from Srikakulam district.

‘Abstracting Service’ is available in one library from Vizianagaram district and ‘Translation Service’ is reported in one library from Visakhapatnam district.

None of the 15 libraries have reported ‘inter library loan service and indexing service. No significant difference is noticed among the three districts in the number of colleges providing different services.

9. Status of Library Building & Infrastructure

Information on the status of library building in terms of whether the library is having a separate building or not, if not having, where is the library set up and functioning, whether the library is located centrally in the college campus and does the library has accommodation for running different sections etc is presented here.

9.1 Status of Library Building

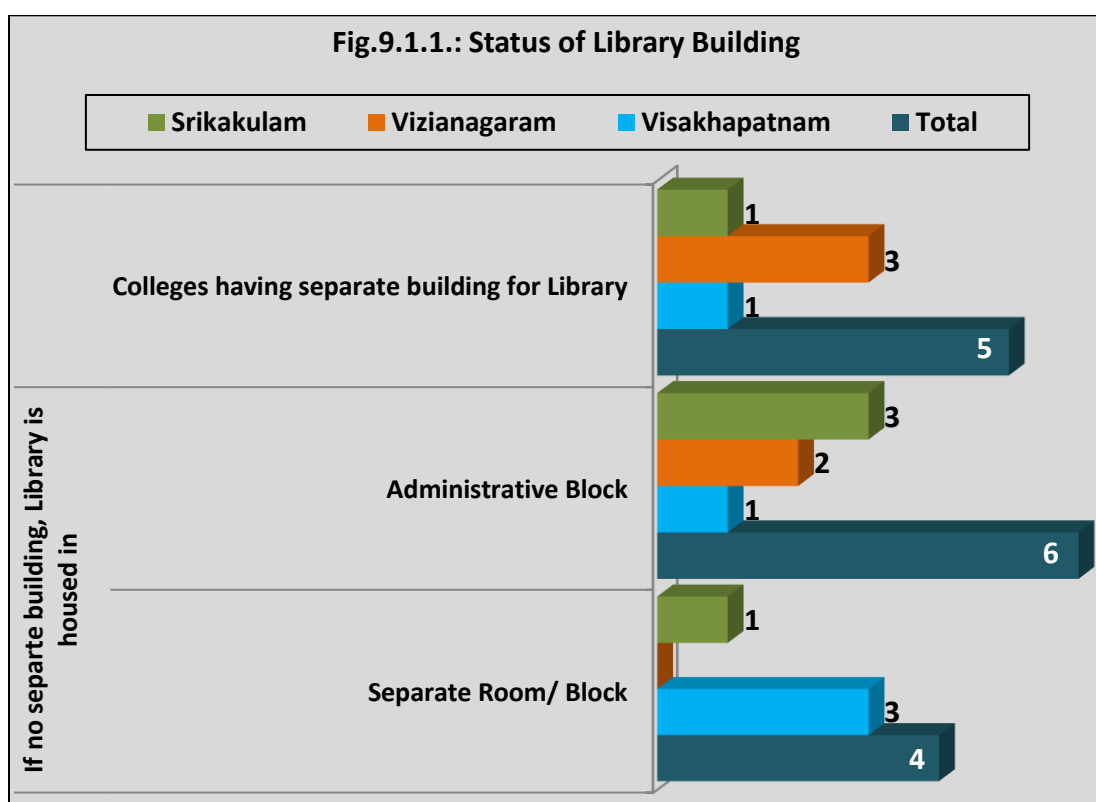
Information on the status of the college library building is presented in Table-9.1 (Fig.9.1.1.).

Table-9.1: Status of Library Building

	District						Total (15)		Chi-Square		
	SKLM (5)		VZM (5)		VSKP (5)						
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	Value	df	P
College having separate building for Library											
Yes	1	20.0	3	60.0	1	20.0	5	33.3	2.400	2	0.301
No	4	80.0	2	40.0	4	80.0	10	66.7			
If no separate building, Library is located in											
Administrative Block	3	75.0	2	100	1	25.0	6	60.0	7.000	4	0.136
Separate Room/	1	25.0	0	0	3	75.0	4	40.0			

Block											
in one of the Deprt.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			

Out of the 15 college libraries covered in the present study, the library is housed in a separate building in case of only 5. One college in Srikakulam district, 3 in Vizianagaram district and 1 in Visakhapatnam district are having separate buildings for their libraries. The difference in having a separate building for the library among the colleges in the three districts is statistically not significant as revealed by the chi-square value computed.



Out of the 10 college libraries that are not having a separate building, 6 are housed in the administrative block of the college. This situation is reported in case of 3 libraries in Srikakulam district, 2 in Vizianagaram district and one in Visakhapatnam district. The remaining 4 libraries are housed in a separate room or block in the college. This condition is reported in 1 college in Srikakulam district and 3 colleges in Visakhapatnam district.

10. Library Sections

Information on the location of the college library in college campus and availability of accommodation for different sections of the library is presented in Table-10.1 (Fig.10.1.1).

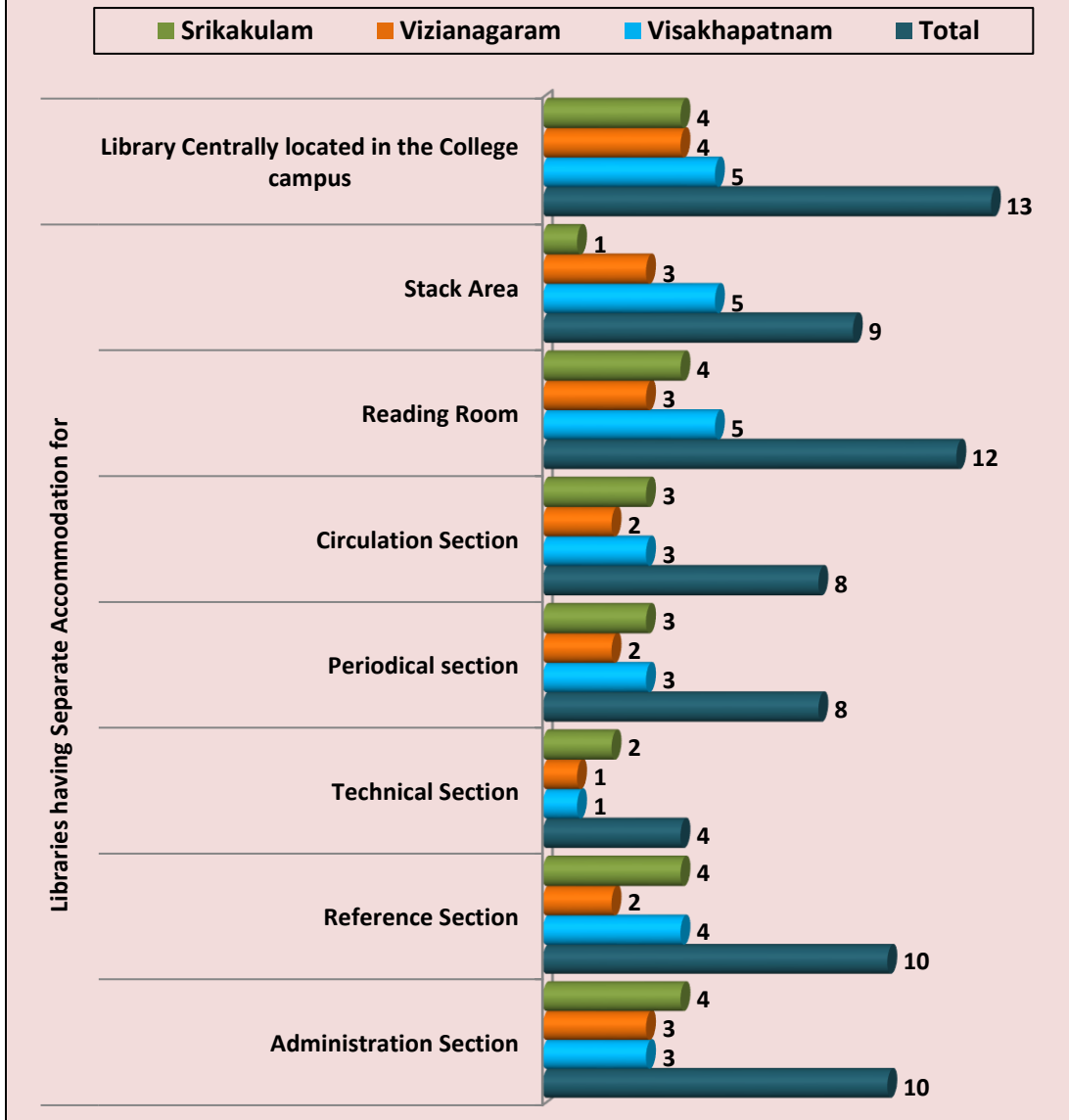
Table-10.1: Library & Accommodation for sections

	District						Total (15)		Chi-Square		
	SKLM (5)		VZM (5)		VSKP (5)						
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	Value	df	P
Is the Library Centrally located in the College?											
Yes	4	80	4	80	5	100	13	86.7	1.154	2	0.562
No	1	20	1	20	0	0	2	13.3			
Libraries having Separate Accommodation for											
Stack Area	1	20	3	60	5	100	9	60	6.667	2	0.036
Reading Room	4	80	3	60	5	100	12	80	2.500	2	0.287
Circulation Section	3	60	2	40.	3	60	8	53.3	0.536	2	0.765
Periodical section	3	60	2	40	3	60	8	53.3	0.536	2	0.765
Technical Section	2	40	1	20	1	20	4	26.7	0.682	2	0.711
Reference Section	4	80	2	40	4	80	10	66.7	2.400	2	0.301
Administration Section	4	80	3	60	3	60	10	66.7	0.60	2	0.741

In 13 out of the total 15 colleges covered, the library is centrally located in the college campus and in the remaining two, it is not so. Among the three districts, there is no statistically significant difference in the location of the library.

Availability of accommodation for different sections of the library appears to be better in Visakhapatnam district, followed by Srikakulam district and Vizianagaram district in that order. However, there are no significant differences among the college libraries from the three districts in having accommodation for different sections of the library.

Fig.10.1.1: Library & Accommodation for Sections



In 12 out of the 15 libraries, space for reading room is reported (all 5 in Visakhapatnam, 4 in Srikakulam and 3 in Srikakulam districts). Accommodation for reference section is available in 10 of the 15 libraries (4 in Srikakulam, 2 in Vizianagaram and 4 in Visakhapatnam districts) and space for administration section is also reported in 10 libraries (4 in Srikakulam, 3 in Vizianagaram and 3 in Visakhapatnam districts). Availability of space for stack area is reported in 9 college libraries (all 5 in Visakhapatnam, 3 in Vizianagaram and 1 in Srikakulam districts).

In eight college libraries, space is available for circulation section and also for periodicals section (3 in Srikakulam, 2 in Vizianagaram and 3 in Visakhapatnam districts). However, space for technical section is reported in only 4 of the 15 libraries (2 in Srikakulam and one each in Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts).

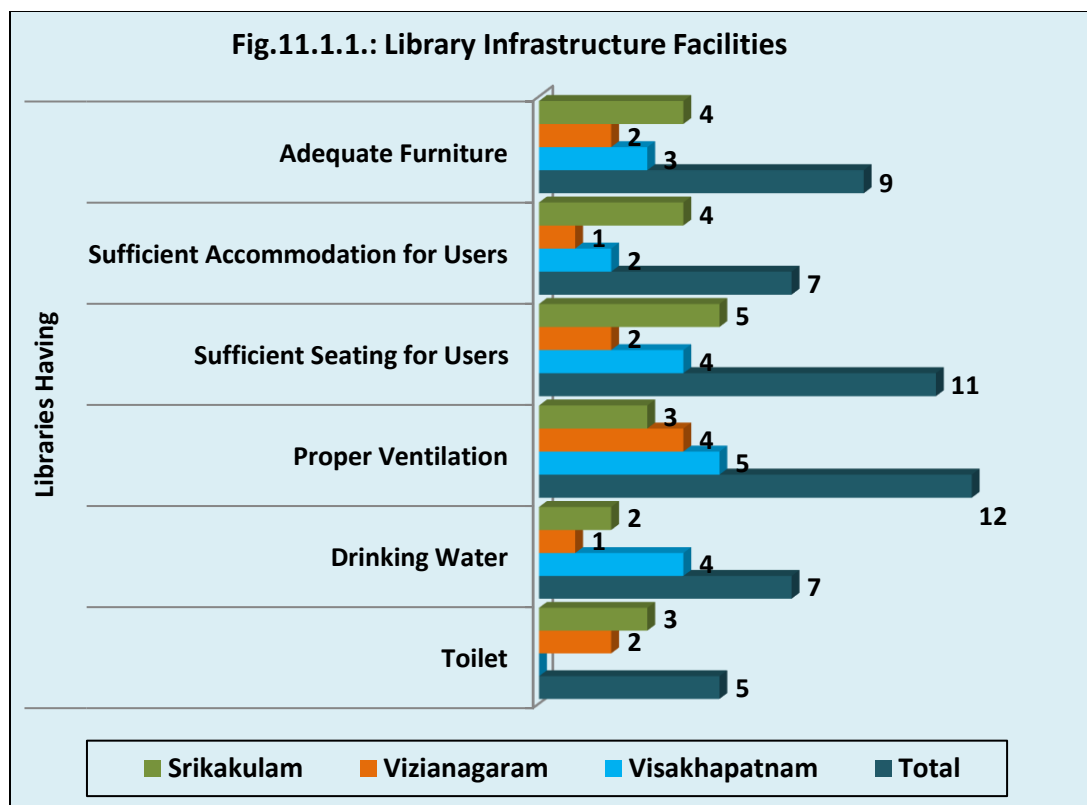
11. Library Infrastructure Facilities

Information on whether the library is having adequate furniture and availability of other infrastructure facilities in the library is presented in Table-11.1 (Fig.11.1.1).

Table-11.1.: Infrastructure Facilities

	District						Total (15)		Chi-Square		
	SKLM (5)		VZM (5)		VSKP (5)						
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	Value	df	P
Libraries Having											
Adequate Furniture	4	80.0	2	40.0	3	60.0	9	60.0	1.667	2	0.435
Sufficient space for Users	4	80.0	1	20.0	2	40.0	7	46.7	3.750	2	0.153
Sufficient Seating for Users	5	100.0	2	40.0	4	80.0	11	73.3	4.773	2	0.092
Proper Ventilation	3	60.0	4	80.0	5	100.0	12	80.0	2.500	2	0.287
Drinking Water	2	40.0	1	20.0	4	80.0	7	46.7	3.750	2	0.153
Toilet	3	60.0	2	40.0	0	0.0	5	33.3	4.200	2	0.122

Available furniture is reported to be adequate in 9 of the 15 libraries visited. The furniture in libraries is adequate in 4 of the 5 libraries in Srikakulam, 2 in Vizianagaram and 3 in Visakhapatnam districts. Availability of sufficient space for users is reported in 7 libraries (4 in Srikakulam, 1 in Vizianagaram and 2 in Visakhapatnam districts). The available seating is reported sufficient for users in 11 of the 15 libraries (all 5 in Srikakulam, 2 in Vizianagaram and 4 in Visakhapatnam districts).



Availability of proper ventilation is reported in 12 of the total 15 libraries. This reported in 3 libraries in Srikakulam, 4 in Vizianagaram and all 5 in Visakhapatnam districts. Drinking water facility is reported in only 7 of the 15 libraries (2 in Srikakulam, 1 in Vizianagaram and 4 in Visakhapatnam districts).

It is heartening to note that toilet facility is available in only 5 out of the 15 libraries. Toilet facility is not available in 2 libraries in Srikakulam, 3 in Vizianagaram and all 5 libraries in Visakhapatnam district.

There are no statistically significant differences among the three districts with regard to the furniture and facilities available in the college libraries.

FINDINGS:

- Out of the 15 libraries studied, 10 do not have a separate building for library and they are housed either in administrative or part of class rooms.
- It is noteworthy to know that 13 libraries are centrally located and convenient to all users.

- Most of the libraries have separate accommodation for reading hall followed by stack area, reference and administrative sections.
- The furniture available in these is reported adequate. In 9 libraries, seating accommodation for users is reported sufficient, and the availability of toilet facilities are reported in 5 libraries.
- The libraries of Vizianagaram are housed in independent building, and in the remaining two districts the situation is far from satisfaction
- The degree college libraries of Srikakulam district have reported with adequate furniture, space for users, seating accommodation and toilet facilities.
- To understand the services offered to the users under the information services are studied- the reference services, question papers services and news paper clipping services are reported in all the studied 15 libraries.
- None of these libraries are offering inter library loan facility and indexing services.
- The abstracting and translation services are reported in one library each in districts of Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam.
- It is to be remembered that issue of books and returns to users is the only services available in all libraries in true sense.

VERIFICATION OF HYPOTHESES

1. The degree college libraries have a good library building with required furniture, infrastructure facilities, etc.

It is observed that (Table 9.1) 80% of the libraries do not have separate building and these are accommodated either in administrative block or in a small room. It is found that (Table 11.1) most of the facilities (Furniture, seating accommodation, ventilation, drinking water and toilets) are not reported well. Therefore the stated hypotheses is not proved and rejected.

2. The degree college libraries are providing information services to meet the changing needs of present day users.

It is found that out of the ten services identified in degree college libraries, except four i.e. reference services, question paper services, news paper clipping services and current awareness services, the remaining services are not available and used by the users (Table 8.1). Therefore, the stated hypothesis is partially proved.

SUGGESTIONS:

1. It is suggested that the libraries should be located in a separate building or independent room.
2. It is suggested that physical facilities like drinking water, toilets and room for users should be made available.
3. It is suggested to provide reprographic facilities, abstracting, Indexing and bibliographic services to users.
4. It is suggested to use Internet facility in all libraries.

CONCLUSION:

In addition to technical processing of books, the library has to offer a variety of services to meet the information requirements of users. One of the important and age old services is reference service. To organize reference services, a suitable manpower and management principles are necessary. The library has to offer services like bibliographic services, indexing and abstracting services, current awareness services, selective dissemination of information services, electronic service etc., In this context too, the management and its principles are very much useful and necessary.

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