A STUDY OF THE USE OF LIBRARIES OF COLLEGES OF EDUCATION IN PUNJAB

By Nirmal Singh

Abstract

The study entitled “A Study of the Use of Libraries of Colleges of Education in Punjab” has focused on assessing the use of the resources and services of libraries of colleges of education in the state. The study is confined to the 19 colleges of education, including 03 Government Colleges of Education (GCE), 15 Government Aided Colleges of Education (GACE) and a University Colleges of Education (UCE) established up to August 2004. All self financing private colleges were excluded on the ground that almost all of these have been established during last few years and their libraries were still at infancy level. As survey method is most appropriate to get feedback from the users of a system, a sample survey was conducted for the purpose of study. Three different questionnaires were designed to collect information from library staff, students and teachers respectively. The stratified sampling was used to select sample from the universe of study comprising students of B.Ed. and M.Ed. courses and permanent teachers of colleges under study. From each stratum sample was chosen randomly. Keeping in view the importance of observation method, personal visits were made to all 19 colleges under study.

Questionnaire-I was administered to library staff to ascertain the organization, administration, resources and services of respective libraries. Questionnaire-II was distributed among 1119 students of B.Ed. course (30% of 3730) and 144 students of M.Ed. course (40% of 360) of 19 colleges under study. Questionnaire-III was administered to 64 permanent teachers of 18 colleges to know their opinion about the resources and services of libraries. The principal of a govt. aided college had not allowed researcher to gather information from teachers. About 96.88% of B.Ed. students, 100% M.Ed. students and 95.31% of teachers surveyed responded. Percentage calculations have been used to analyze the responses. The final thesis has been organized into six chapters. Chapter-I includes introduction, need of study, objectives, hypothesis, significance of study, limitations of study and research methodology. Chapter-II provides review of literature. The third chapter gives an overview of the growth and development of libraries of colleges of education in India. Brief information about each college under study is also given in this chapter. Chapter-IV is based on the responses received from library staff about the resources and services of their respective colleges libraries. To ascertain the strengths and gaps, the resources and services of libraries under study has been compared with the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) norms and standards 2007 and 2009. Chapter-V is based on the responses received from students (both B.Ed. and M.Ed.) and teachers. Chapter-VI includes findings, conclusions and recommendations of the study.

Analysis and discussion of the responses received from library staff revealed that organization and administration of the libraries was not satisfactory. Libraries lacked basic infrastructure and adequate staff to serve the users. Six libraries did not have regular librarians. Functioning of the library committees was restricted to acquisition and writing off missing books rather than the overall development of libraries. Libraries were
lagging behind in the use of computers. Researcher also visited many libraries after completion of survey, but situation has not improved much. Though NCTE is the top most organization regulating teacher education in India, its norms and standards about libraries of colleges of education are not exhaustive. Financial provision and mention of library staff except librarian has not found space in NCTE norms and standards.

Analysis of the responses received from students and teachers revealed that students were visiting libraries frequently to meet their information needs for academic purpose and teachers were visiting to update themselves. About 32.60% B.Ed. students and 29.17% M.Ed. students experienced the use of libraries for the first time during B.Ed. course, as they had not used any other library before joining B.Ed. Textbooks and subject related general books were most used collection. Journals were not used to the desired extent. Collection development useful for research needs more emphasis, as considerable number of M.Ed. students and teachers pursuing research were partially satisfied with the resources of libraries to meet their information needs for research work. Lack of awareness among users about library services and implementation of computers was found. Study brought forward the need to create awareness among users about importance of libraries in education and society. Users should be regularly familiarized with the resource and services of libraries. There is a strong need to implement the use of emerging technologies to keep pace with the changing scenario.