CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION
5.1: Conclusion:

Information is the most important ingredient for higher education and research. Information is both a resource and a product. In today’s context, no higher education is possible if there are no healthy library services in any academic institution. The recent developments in higher education scene necessitates a review and reform of the system for provision of library and information services in colleges which is an important factor determining the quality of teaching learning process. The academic libraries have become an important organ of an academic institution. The commissions and committees of education also emphasize its place like the heart to human body in an academic institution. Library is the largest and most expensive educational resource of the college. This sophisticated system maintained at huge cost should provide full information support to the teaching learning process in the college. Education and libraries are interlinked and interconnected. One cannot be separated from the other.

If we accept the dictum that ‘real education is self education’, the roles of libraries in educating the students become obvious. Availability of books plays an important role in awakening reading interests. The sole responsibility of providing that book environment rests with the Librarian. It is the Librarian’s responsibility to build up a good collection of books with the help of college faculty and to manage the library in a way that students and teachers are tempted to come to the library not only for textbooks but also for general reading.

The present study is attempted to find out the information seeking behaviour of degree students of general colleges of Barak Valley. It has been observed that although a good numbers of colleges in Barak Valley have come into existence but
their libraries are not being able to provide full information support to the readers. It is also observed that after the visit of NAAC Peer team to provincialized colleges, libraries have started getting more and more attention than what it used to get earlier. Computers have been installed in almost all the colleges and readers are being given the opportunity of using the Internet services. They are providing services like photocopying, borrowing services, on-line search, catalogue, reading room, book bank, newspaper clipping, and reference service etc. It is also observed that most of the libraries need more space and proper infrastructure for rendering better services to the users concerned. These colleges also need more spacious reading room. Due to non-availability of sufficient space proper display of books and journals cannot be made.

Librarians also try to inculcate reading habits among the students. Sometimes they personally guide the students in their information search. Regarding user satisfaction most of the Librarians feel that the library collection can satisfy the user needs partially. Users approaches are being served by the Librarians by providing the books, providing information and also providing guidance.

It is very sad to note that private colleges are not getting grants. So they face numerous difficulties. These colleges are resource-starved. Although these colleges were established in different areas of the three districts with the aim of spreading higher education in each and every family of that particular area, the major problem lies with them is the lack of adequate fund. All these are run by the occasional donations received mainly through political sources and from the fees being collected from the students. Adequate numbers of staff are not being appointed. Adequate numbers of teacher with proper qualification are also not absorbed as their intention is to earn profit. While visiting such colleges it is observed that most of the
colleges are not having sufficient accommodation for the library. Not a single and separate room is designated for the library. Only one or two shelves are kept for keeping a small number of books which cannot attract the attention of either students or the teachers. Surprisingly no qualified library personnel are appointed to look after these college libraries. These colleges hardly can purchase one / two copies of some text books which cannot meet the demand of the users. Usually the books acquired are not being issued to the students. These are kept only for consultation. Different library services such as internet, borrowing, reading room, catalogue, reference services etc are not provided in these colleges. Book bank services for helping the economically backward students are not introduced due to lack of resources. Computers also have not been procured for the colleges.

It is also observed that there are three colleges such as (i) West Silchar College, Barjatrapur, Cachar (ii) Nilambazar College, Nilambazar, Karimganj and (iii) A.L.Choudhury College, Algapur, Hailakandi, which are not provincialized but they are having good students’ strength and also have their own building for running the classes. The libraries of those colleges have acquired good collection and students are partially benefited by the library services. Professionally qualified Librarians have not been appointed in these colleges. Teachers of those colleges are given added responsibility of looking after the matters related to the library. In such case quality library service cannot be expected by the user.

It has been observed that there are 20 colleges where library advisory committee has been constituted. Standard rules and regulations for smooth functioning of the library have also been framed. Students are advised to follow the rules and regulations of the library strictly.
The study reveals that the use of library as an information system by the students and also teachers are not at all satisfactory. There are a few students who visit the library everyday. It is also observed that there are some students who never visit the library. They have not formed the habit of going to the library and consult any book related to their studies. They are totally dependent upon the notes provided by their teachers. They are interested to purchase the note books available in the market. According to them notes are sufficient to go through any examination, there is no need to consult any book. The hypothesis stated already found to be correct that ‘one can easily get through the examination without going to the library’. It is found that some students are not even aware of the fact how a library can be helpful in their studies. The lack of knowledge of the utility of library implies that the students need instructions as how to use the library and what facilities would be provided to them and how they will be benefited. Most of the teachers visit the library everyday for various purposes like consulting question banks, borrowing books, surfing the internet, preparing notes and finding materials related to their research work etc. But there are some teachers who do not visit the library every day feel that library do not possess good collection. Some teachers also expressed that there is lack of sufficient space for reading purpose in the library.

The teachers and students of the colleges are not familiar with the information sources. The challenges college libraries are facing is how to make user understand services so that they are able to utilize them. The important task of the college library is to make sure that the library is used in the most profitable manner. Collection and storage of documents are not beneficial if no effective use is made of them. So user education becomes essential to ensure that college library services are fully utilized.
User orientation programme is also being organized in almost all these provincialized colleges to get the users acquainted with the library services. Users are guided to make use of the library resources. Orientation programme is not organized in private colleges.

It is also found that most of the students visit the library for finding the materials required for their course of study. They are only concerned with the books which are either prescribed in the syllabus or suggested by their teachers. Among the services provided by the libraries it seems that internet, online searching services are of minimum use which indicates that users are not familiar with the computers. It is also observed that most of the colleges are in a better position to provide various services to user community.

The feedback provided by the students also shows that they also depend upon other sources for their information need such as discussion with classmates, field trip, seeking information from senior students etc. It has been observed that most of the students from the Science stream and also some students from Arts stream feel that field trip is an important channel for their course of study.

Most of the teachers motivate the students towards the library and also try to create reading habits among the students. It is also observed that students seek information for various purposes such as preparing for the examination, updating and enhancing their knowledge and also for collecting course materials. But it seems that majority of the students seek information only for preparing themselves for examination. The students rarely consult the books which are not related to their course of study.

As regards the dependence on information sources it seems that there is heavy dependence on Newspaper/Magazines, Radio/TV and Reference sources. But the
students also depend upon other sources of information like Journals, Internet Access, Reviews/reports, Conference Proceedings, Map and Atlases etc. It has also been found that students from Science stream consult only the textbooks which are available in the library and they also prefer to take private tuitions. They depend mostly upon Internet for keeping themselves up-to-date. They also depend on review/reports, reference sources. But majority of the students from Arts and Commerce stream rarely consult the textbooks they are totally dependent upon the class lecture notes. Instead of depending upon the library materials they rather depend upon the notes given by their private tutors and also note books. The study reveals that those students who could not take private tuition feel that they are not successful in the examination because tuition could not be managed for them by their families because of their economic condition. They are least concerned of using the internet service. The hypothesis stated earlier is found to be correct that 'students are much more dependent upon the notes provided by their teachers/private tutors/note books'.

Teachers depend mostly on books.

It seems that majority of the teachers and also students feel that library staff is very much helpful in their information search. Sometimes they are also helped by the Librarian personally. It seems that there exists a good relation between students and teachers and Librarians. Users are guided by the library personnel to use the library properly since most of them join the colleges without having library background in their respective schools and this fact is revealed when the students are met personally by the investigator. But it is also observed that there are 60 students who argued that they are not being helped by the library staff in locating the books in the library. They do not understand the users’ information need.
The fourth hypothesis in regard to the teacher's role in motivating the students to use the library is found to be incorrect since the data provided by the students clearly reveal that teachers are playing a dynamic role in making them library oriented.

The overall success of any academic program depends greatly on active involvement of teachers in various programs. It has been observed that almost all the teachers take part in academic programs such as acting as good academic counsellor for students, giving suggestion to the students for reading certain books from the library and also participating with the students in seminars, workshops, debates, quiz programs etc.

The teachers also take active part in book selection procedure. They select books as per the syllabus. They also select name of the books from the publisher's catalogue and accordingly give their requisition to the Librarian. Sometimes they purchase the books from the Book Fair for their college libraries.

5.2 : Suggestions:

On the basis of the findings of the present study the following suggestions are put forward for the improvement of the library services of the colleges of Barak Valley of Assam.

i) The students who are coming to the library for the first time must be instructed as how to use the library, how to search information and make use of retrieval tools such as catalogue. The users should be instructed as
how to search information and make use of retrieval tools such as catalogue, and also how to use the computers for on-line searching.

ii) An attempt should be made by the authority to receive grants from different sources so that the library can be developed to make the students better students and also make the teachers better teachers.

iii) Books and journals newly arrived should be displayed properly and the list should be sent to the teachers for their information.

iv) At least a separate building with sufficient space should be provided for the library. Adequate numbers of tables and chairs should also be provided for reading purposes, which can be suitably used by the students and teachers.

v) A convenient and separate room with infrastructure facilities should be made available to the teachers for library consultation.

vi) Professional or trained personnel in the field of Library and Information Science should be appointed for rendering better services to the users concerned.

vii) Steps should also be taken towards creating reading habits among the students and motivating them towards the library. Librarians should take initiative in this regard.
viii) Computers need also be installed in the library for providing services in a better way. Users should be guided properly to use the computers. Internet facilities should also be introduced to get the users acquainted with other parts of the world.

ix) Standard library rules and regulations should be framed by taking help from the rules and regulations framed by a few renowned colleges of the state.

x) Library Committee should also be constituted and should be made it really functional one.

xi) 'Book Bank' facility must also be introduced. Sufficient number of text books which are prescribed in the syllabus should be procured for this section so that the students coming from economically backward family can borrow the books for continuing their studies.

xii) The library staff should be helpful to the new comers and provide necessary materials for their day to day use. They should co-operate the users in getting their required materials.

xiii) Library collection should be developed to attract good number of students, teachers and others. Selection of books for procurement should be made on the basis of readers’ demand which is to be assessed regularly.
xiv) Let the Librarians of the colleges take the initiatives to train the semi professionals to help the students in using and interpreting the library materials. This is a reality in view of the fact that those colleges are having only one professionally qualified staff. So dependence on his semi professionals is a crying need of the hour.