PREFACE

In reports and pamphlets on the working of autonomous colleges the role of libraries get a one-paragraph description. Often it comes as a portrayal of an ideal situation. As a librarian in an autonomous college, I am a witness to a sudden burst of activities, most of which are new to the old environment, but all aimed at the improvement of the educational system in India. This prompted me to undertake this study of autonomous college libraries. Besides this, my frequent discussions with my professional colleagues showed me a possibility of shaping my ideas into a Ph.D dissertation. This is how I decided on the present title, the object being a thorough investigation into the functioning of libraries in a sample set of twenty autonomous colleges.

It may be a simple affirmative answer to the question “Does autonomy bring any impact on libraries?” But the unanswered part of the question is “How much; who are the real beneficiaries and how and to what extent they are benefited?” In the foregoing pages I have tried to find answers in the form of a thesis.

To my superior and Guide Dr. R. PAUL MOHAN ROY, Librarian, Madurai Kamaraj University, now retired, I owe for his constant encouragement at every stage and for the kind of academic interest he induced in me. Literally he put me on the right track and made me undergo the pleasant experience of doing research. It is his incisive and analytical mind that enabled me to look at every issue in great detail. I thank him especially for the long hours of patient listening to my points of view. Above all, I thank him for the most stimulating forum he offered for my research.
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