CHAPTER - 1

Introduction

The universe of knowledge is ever dynamic and overgrowing. Ideas are increasing continuously in the universe of knowledge. New ideas are emerging in various dimensions due to research, advance technology and communication facilities. In the present era of information explosion various interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary subjects have been coming into existence. To classify and organize these subjects in systematic manner so as to retrieve the required document or information easily from the collection without spending much time is the main objective of any library. Classification schemes play vital role in organizing the documents in the library. Dewey Decimal Classification, Universal Decimal Classification, Library of Congress Classification, J. D. Brown's Subject Classification, Colon Classification, Bibliographic Classification, Broad System of Ordering are some of the major classification schemes to do so. On the basis of the structure of these classification schemes, types of notation used, structure of class numbers all these schemes are categorized into six species as follows.

1. Purely Enumerative Classification
2. Almost - Enumerative Classification
3. Almost - Faceted Classification
4. Fully but Rigidly Faceted Classification
5. **Almost Freely Faceted Classification**

6. **Freely Faceted Classification**

Dewey Decimal Classification is one of the most popular classification schemes used in libraries of every continent in the world. To date the scheme has been translated into over thirty languages. The Italian, Spanish and Turkish translations are the most recent official translations of the full editions and for the first time, a Russian edition is also published. The most important thing is that for the first time DDC ed. 21 is appeared in two formats - in print and on the CD-ROM.

**Historical Development of DDC:**

The first edition of DDC was published in 1876 under the title *A classification and subject index for cataloguing and arranging the books and pamphlets of a library*. Basically it was an enumerative scheme. In that, all individual subjects, including compound and complex subjects, were enumerated. However, as per requirement the changes have been observed in the successive editions. It was a first time that in the introduction of 17th ed. of DDC, the editor has used the word ‘facet’. From this edition DDC has inclined towards the facetization to handle multi-aspect subjects. The latest 21st edition is more faceted than earlier editions. It falls between enumerative and analytico-synthetic classification. Now one can say it is a semi analytico-synthetic system.

Though the latest edition of DDC is inclined towards the facetization
in nature, it is not completely faceted or analytico synthetic in nature. Therefore while organizing documents on micro subjects, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary subjects, it fails to greater extent to provide the co-extensive class numbers to such subjects.

When two or more subjects are treated in a work then in such circumstances DDC has categorically enumerated the following rules to assign class numbers.

a) Class a work on two subjects with the subject receiving fuller treatment.

b) If two subjects receive equal treatment and are not used to introduce or explain one another, class the work with the subject whose number comes first in the DDC schedules.

c) Class a work on three or more subjects that are all subdivisions of a broader subject in the first higher number that includes them all.

It is revealed from above rules that if in a title two or more concepts are included then with DDC, classifier can classify the document considering with only one concept to which receiving fuller treatment or which comes first in the schedule. It means that though other concepts are equally important from users point of view it could not get even space in the class number.

The scientific and technological advancement demands an interdisciplinary study of subjects for which it is difficult for the classificationist
to enumerate numbers for every relationship of various subjects to satisfy the users approaches. Therefore a need for a system of classification which can effectively and efficiently classify the various facets of evergrowing and never ending subject or subjects. Evidently a scheme of classification based on faceted in nature is identified as an effective tool for depth classification of subject books.

The first International study conference on Classification Research held in Dorking, England in May 1957 sponsored by five organizations including FID decided that facet analysis should be the basis of modern classification. It is true even in the 21st century.

Classification Research Group (CRG), London has stated that 'the enumerative schedules ........ fail to display correct relations between terms (Subjects and Isolates) ........ A type of schedule is needed which allows a genus to be subdivided in more than one way, to give several sets of sub-classes, each of which is a homogeneous group of collateral species. Such a schedule is in fact a faceted classification'.

The 7th edition of Colon Classification of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan can be treated fully faceted classification scheme whereas Universal Decimal

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Classification can be considered almost faceted. However, as compared to DDC these two systems are not so popular all over the world and not being used on a large scale. As discussed by the researcher earlier, DDC is being used in every continent of the world. Considering such popularity of the DDC, the researcher has decided to study the faceting and synthesis in the latest edition of the DDC and to consider its conversion into faceted in nature.

**Review of Literature:**

Before conducting the present study, the researcher has taken an overview of the earlier published literature on the faceting and synthesis in DDC.

**P. Vijay Kumar** (1974) in his article 'Reflection on the Dewey Decimal Classification' published in 'Herald of Library Science', Vol. 13 No. 3 - 4, July-Oct. 1974 has pointed out that Dewey Decimal Classification which is an Almost Enumerative Classification Scheme has started acquiring the qualities of an Almost Faceted Classification Scheme. To support this statement he has given few examples from edition 18, in the article.

**P. Gangadhara Rao** (1983) in his book 'Synthesis in DDC 18th edition' has fully concentrated on various techniques of synthesis in DDC. He has mentioned that while teaching Library Classification practical, the rules and instructions given in 18th edition of DDC have created conflicts and confusion. Therefore, he has discussed these conflicts and confusion in details.
John P. Comaromi and M. P. Satija (1990) in their book titled 'Exercises in the 20th Edition of Dewey Decimal Classification' discussed the various synthetic principles. They have mentioned that in DDC synthesis can be achieved by four ways viz add to from 001 to 999, add to from some slice of a class number from some other small portion of the schedule, add to from the same division/section and add to through special provision (facet indicator) including the 04 general special. They also threw light on inability of DDC to provide a co-extensive class number for a given complex subject having many facets. Such facets are combinable but the DDC does not allow them to unite in a single class number.

Dr. P. S. G. Kumar (1990) in his book 'Practical guide to DDC 20' has discussed that synthesis in DDC can be achieved by subject device, parallel schedules, special subdivisions, use of tables, multiple synthesis, alternative treatment.

Lois Mai Chan (1996) has focused the characteristics of DDC, factors contributing to the success of the DDC, efforts to keep the DDC viable and few recommendations in his summary and concluding remarks entitled 'Dewey Decimal Classification: Organizing the world of knowledge for the world' of workshop organized at the General Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions in August 29, 1996. He stressed that to handle the complex and multi aspect subjects the recent edition of DDC has turn more and more towards faceting.
R. L. Arora and Renuka Lekhi (1996) have highlighted some special features of 21st edition of DDC in their article 'DDC 21: The striking Differences from 20th edition' published in the ILA Bulletin, Vol. XXXII, No. 3-4, Oct.-March 1997. While discussing the faceting feature of the DDC, authors have stated that the Decimal Classification Editorial policy committee advises OCLC Forest Press on the development of the classification and stressed towards more faceting in the classification. The use of facet indicators to identify meaningful components in a number and the use of uniform notation to express recurring aspects of topics within a schedule expand retrieval possibilities by providing access to information represented by parts of a number. Finally they concluded with the statement that DDC slowly changed from enumerated scheme to synthetic classification scheme, which is more adaptable.

Pratibha A. Gokhale (1997) has discussed the features of 21st edition of DDC in her article titled ‘Dewey Decimal Classification Edition 21’ published in ‘Annals of Library Science and Documentation’ Vol. 44, No. 2, June 1997. She has focussed the techniques of number building in DDC 21st edition. She stated that number building is done by either taking a ready made built in number from the schedule or by synthesis. A number can be synthesized by adding standard subdivisions from table 1, from table 2-7, adding from other parts of the schedule and adding as per ‘Add as’ instructed notes. She also quoted some examples.

After going through these earlier published literature it is found that
though initially DDC was enumerated in nature, 21st edition is inclined towards the facetization up to some extent. However in the present study researcher has given emphasis on the synthetic techniques used in the latest edition of DDC and its conversion into faceted in nature. Because it is revealed from the review of literature that the earlier studies are based on superficial aspects of faceted and synthesis in DDC. As such the researcher has considered this topic for the detailed study.

Advantages in facetizing DDC :-

After conversion of DDC into fully faceted, it will be advantageous in various ways.

1) More co-extensive class number can be constructed with the help of new schedule
2) More numbers of compound and complex subjects can be classified
3) Revision work will be less from edition to edition
4) There will be no further increase in the volume of the schedule in future edition.
5) The new schedule will make DDC more suitable for automated classification.

Scope of the Study :-

In the present work an attempt is made to study the faceting and
synthesis in 20th edition of DDC. Further attempt is also made to consider its conversion into faceted in nature. In DDC whole Universe of Knowledge is divided into ten subdivisions. These ten subdivisions are again divided into ten sections each.

The main aim of this study is to see whether DC can be made a fully faceted scheme. The researcher has selected only three subjects in his study as an experiment. These subjects are Library and Information Science, Political Science and Agriculture. While selecting these subjects, the researcher has taken care of selecting one subject each from Generalities, Social Sciences and Technology (Applied Sciences).

Object of the Study :-

While conducting this study following objectives have been set up.

1) To study the scope of faceting and synthesis in the 20th edition of Dewey Decimal Classification on the principles of Ranganathan.

2) To convert a few subjects of Dewey Decimal Classification into fully faceted schedules without deviating from the basic structure; and

3) Classify and test the schedules and test how far the new structure gives class numbers alike the enumerated ones.

The second objective is for indicating the adequacy of the Dewey Decimal Classification in respect of faceting and synthesis and underline the importance of both faceting and synthesis.
Methodology :-

For achieving above first objective the researcher has studied critically the synthesis and faceting in the 20th edition of DDC. In this study it is found that DDC is unable to classify the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary subjects or complex and some compound subjects, because of its enumerative features. To overcome these problems researcher sets second objective given above. To fulfil this objective researcher has been selected three main classes viz Library and Information Science, Political Science and Agriculture. The class numbers of these main classes are 020, 320 and 630 respectively. Under it, various facets of the subjects are enumerated with their class numbers. Here upto second summary there is no change in class number. However the isolate numbers coming after it, are connected with appropriate connecting symbols. In this study first of all the terms enumerated under each main class are bifurcated under Personality, Matter-Property, and Energy according to their nature as given in Colon Classification edition 7. For building the class number for the title, the rules are framed. Keeping the original connecting symbols as it is, the researcher has been introduced some more connecting symbols for considering the conversion of DDC into faceted in nature.

The purpose of converting some schedules of DDC 20th edition into faceted once, is to establish the need for use of faceted classification in library. The main strength of Colon Classification lies in its faceted synthesis. However it is observed that CC is not followed in many libraries. The researcher
therefore felt to suggest a model of faceted DDC for further study and implementation.

Conspectus :-

This study is divided into four chapters. The introductory part of the thesis covered in the very first chapter. The faceting and synthesis of most popular three classification schemes i.e. Colon Classification, Universal Decimal Classification, and Dewey Decimal Classification are discussed in the second chapter while induction of faceting and synthesis in DDC is studied in the next chapter. This study is concluded with the fourth chapter by discussing the summary of the study.

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