ABSTRACT

The study entitled “Use of Information and Communication Technology in Libraries: An Empirical Study of Academic libraries affiliated to Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad” covers 216 senior college libraries affiliated to Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad. Questionnaire was distributed to 180 colleges having ICT, out of which 105 colleges responded including academic and aided professional colleges i.e Academic (Arts, Commerce, Science) and Professional (B.Ed., Law & Engineering etc.). Both are granted & affiliated to this university. It has wider scope but considering limitation of time and other factors present study was confined to the only granted college libraries, especially researcher has focused on ICT in granted college libraries. However non-granted colleges are excluding in this study. The researcher covered various aspects related to the use of ICT i.e. infrastructure, status of Library Automation, library software and its applications, problems and prospects etc.

The status of the library automation and infrastructural development of college libraries in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad and Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded is lacking behind as the libraries need proper ICT infrastructure including hardware, software and skilled manpower to provide the services effectively and efficiently. In the digital era, every library has to go through ICT as it is the need of the hour. The academic libraries have to work hand in hand with the computer experts to develop and uplift the library. The management should have the written policies about the development and implementation of ICT and access to e-resources in the academic libraries to the users. The follow-up and the initiative of the library professional is very much needed to develop the library with infrastructure, implementation of Library automation, Purchase of E-Resources and online services to the users of the college libraries. It can be concluded that though the Librarians have positive attitude towards the ICT in academic libraries, they accept the challenges but there is need of support and backing of the management to implement and make use of ICT in academic libraries.
The thesis was organized into six chapters including Introduction, Review of Literature, Information and Communication Technology in Academic Libraries, Research Methodology, Descriptive Analysis and Interpretation of data and Summary, Findings & Conclusion followed by Bibliography.

The first chapter presents a brief introduction to the subject which selected for research study. It starts by defining the problem, then providing the research focus. Concepts are defined so that they do not remain general as they are meant to be specific to this research. The statement of the problem answers questions relating to the exact nature of the problem that the research is addressing. The purpose of the research or its justification is to study the ICT in Academic libraries affiliated to Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded and Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad.

Second chapter devoted to reviews of existing literature which helps clarify the nature of the problem and explains how the present research brings out to open the gaps or problems through an examination of literature by other researchers.

Third chapter focuses on ICT in Academic Libraries. This chapter includes Impact of ICT, role of Librarians and attitude towards the implementation in Academic libraries to provide the sources and services effectively and efficiently to the users.

Fourth chapter deals with the Research methodology including the research design of the thesis explaining research statement, aims and objectives, scope, research method, research questions and related hypotheses and also the statistical application used for data analysis.

Fifth chapter presents results of the findings regarding to the ICT in Academic libraries. This chapter deals with the descriptive analysis and interpretation of data related to general information, Infrastructural status, Library Automation, Document processing, E-Resources and services. Also discusses about the role and attitude of the librarians towards ICT in Academic Libraries.

Sixth chapter provides the presentation of the summary, findings, conclusions and suggestions arose from the research, as well as highlighting implications for further research followed by the bibliography and Appendices. APA style of format was used to cite the references of the authors in the bibliography.