Conclusions / Findings and Implications
CHAPTER – 7

CONCLUSIONS / FINDINGS AND IMPLICATIONS

7.1 INTRODUCTION

The present study “Costing and Cost Benefit Analysis of Academic Libraries” was concerned with Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Library, Aurangabad. The data was collected from the various records and interviews with head of units, departments and sections of BAMU and BAMUL which includes estate section, press, salary unit, telephone department, central stores and different sections of BAMUL viz, Ordering, Technical, Circulation, Reference, Periodical, Binding, Reprography section and Reading Hall.

The collected data was tabulated and analysed by using the formulae of unit cost and cost benefit analysis. Statistical technique correlation was used.

The conclusion / findings have been presented under the following headings as per the objectives of the study.
7.2 CONCLUSIONS / FINDINGS

7.2.1 Profile of BAMUL

- In BAMUL, there was separate account section of library up to 1974. It was closed in 1974. If it was in existence, all the cost data remains update.

- Total collection of BAMUL was 340758 up to 2009, while the average use per year is 47376 which are meager. This indicates that the “Library collection is hardly used” (Unit No.3.3.2.2.2) (Hypothesis No.1) is valid.

- The average number of users in last five years i.e. from 2004-05 to 2008-09 were 2798.

- The proportion of users to reading material is 1 : 118, is very high but use is less. This indicates that the “Library collection is hardly used” (Table No.3.3.2.2.3.2) (Hypothesis No.1) is valid.

- The proportion of users and transaction is 1:17, i.e. from such a huge collection one user hardly use seventeen books only. This indicates that the “Library collection is hardly used” (Table No.3.3.2.2.3.3) (Hypothesis No.1) is valid.

- Inadequate staff may affect the use of library.

- Furniture and equipments are sufficient in number but now it has become old.
- The library budget is decreasing year by year. The percentage of library budget to university budget was 37.68% in 1959-60, while it was 1.19% in 2008-09.

- Though the total budget decreases year by year, the expenditure on books and periodicals is increasing.

- Maintenance of rare books is not proper which affects the book use, may be since they are in lock and key, they are not in use.

- To do work properly and efficiently, the BAMUL has been divided into eight major sections, viz. ordering, technical, circulation, reference, periodical, binding, reprography section and reading hall.

7.2.2  Cost Analysis and Unit Cost of Different Sections of BAMUL

7.2.2.1  Ordering Section

The total fixed cost was of 37064.06 and the total variable cost from 2004-05 to 2008-09 was of 5443286.41 while the average unit cost by production method was of 254.09. The average unit cost of the activity allocation of budget in front of library committee come 63313.57 which is very high because the work is done by higher authority while the work of pasting of labels and book pockets are done by class IV, hence the unit cost is very less which comes 6.81.

The coefficient of correlation between total production and unit cost of ordering section by rank method comes - 0.8. The correlation is negatively high to very high, means as the production increases unit cost decreases.
This indicates that the “More the Production Lesser the Unit Cost” (Table No.5.1.3.1) (Hypothesis No.3) is valid

7.2.2.2 Technical Section

The total fixed cost was of 34109.70 and the total variable cost from 2004-05 to 2008-09 was of 3538080.50 while the average unit cost by production method was of 165.70 i.e. to process one book section requires 165.70. The average unit cost of the activity ‘Identification of subject’ comes 36.72 while ‘Indexing main and added entries’ comes 7.06 due to work has done by juniors.

The coefficient of correlation between total production and unit cost of Technical section by rank method comes -0.9. The correlation is negatively high to very high, means as the production increases unit cost decreases. This indicates that the “More the Production Lesser the Unit Cost” (Table No.5.2.3.1) (Hypothesis No.3) is valid

7.2.2.3 Circulation Section

The total fixed cost was of 16370884.71 and the total variable cost from 2004-05 to 2008-09 was of 10031433.32 while the average unit cost by production method was of 135.48. The average unit cost of the activity ‘sending reminder letters’ comes 5236.56 which is very high because the work is done by higher authority while the work of ‘taking out book cards and send for shelving’ are done by class IV hence the unit cost is very less which comes 6.72.
The coefficient of correlation between total Cost of BAMUL and Total Transaction comes 0.6. The Correlation is substantial, means as the cost increases use also increases. This indicates that the “More the Cost, More the Use” (Hypothesis No. 2) is valid.

The coefficient of correlation between total production and unit cost of Circulation section by rank method comes - 0.9. The correlation is negatively high to very high, means as the production increases unit cost decreases. This indicates that the “More the Production Lesser the Unit Cost” (Table No.5.3.3.1) (Hypothesis No.3) is valid.

7.2.2.4 Reference Section

The total fixed cost was of 62203.27 and the total variable cost from 2004-05 to 2008-09 was of 3303046.00 while the unit cost by production method was of 16.47. The average unit cost of the activity ‘user inquiry and determination of user needs comes 13.23 while the unit cost of the activity ‘provision of information comes 8.46.

7.2.2.5 Periodical Section

The total fixed cost was of 56574.03 and the total variable cost from 2004-05 to 2008-09 was of 2095882.28 while the unit cost by production method was of 16.23. The average unit cost of the activity ‘recommendations from HOD’ comes 632.40 which is very high because the work has been done by higher authority while the unit cost of the activity
‘processing of news papers’ comes 3.25 which is very less because the work has done by class IV.

7.2.2.6 Binding Section

The total fixed cost was of 4085.52 and the total variable cost from 2004-05 to 2008-09 was of 2686142.50 while the unit cost by production method was of 213.95. The average unit cost of the activity ‘passing bills’ comes 6525.42 which is very high because the work has been done by higher authority while the unit cost of the activity ‘allotment of binding numbers to books, journals and label pasting’ comes 10.69 which is very less because the work has done by class IV.

The coefficient of correlation between total production and unit cost of Binding section by rank method comes -1. The correlation is negatively high to very high, means as the production increases unit cost decreases. This indicates that the “More the Production Lesser the Unit Cost” (Table No.5.6.3.1) (Hypothesis No. 3) is valid.

7.2.2.7 Reprography Section

The total fixed cost was of 48013.72 and the total variable cost from 2004-05 to 2008-09 was of 889511.40 while the average unit cost by production method was of 1.91. The average unit cost of the activity ‘collection of Xerox charges’ comes 9.07 while the unit cost of the activity ‘Xeroxing required copies’ comes 0.94.
The coefficient of correlation between total production and unit cost of Reprography Section by rank method comes -0.7. The correlation is negatively substantial, means as the production increases unit cost decreases. This indicates that the “More the Production Lesser the Unit Cost” (Table No.5.7.3.1) (Hypothesis No. 3) is valid.

7.2.2.8 Reading Hall

The total fixed cost was of 158887.53 and the total variable cost from 2004-05 to 2008-09 was of 566973.90 while the average unit cost per use comes 17.22 and average unit cost per user comes 1.68. The average unit cost of the activity 'shelving, cleaning of books and reading hall' comes 6.85.

The coefficient of correlation between total production and unit cost of Reading Hall by rank method comes 0.9. The correlation is high to very high, means as the production increases unit cost also increases. This indicates that the “More the Production Lesser the Unit Cost” (Table No.5.8.3.1) (Hypothesis No. 3) is invalid.

From all above conclusions of the calculation of unit cost by activity method ,it becomes clear that the unit cost is higher of those work or activity which has been done by higher authority while the unit cost is low which work has been done by juniors or class IV. It is due the high difference in between the salary of both.
7.2.3 Cost Benefit Analysis of BAMUL

7.2.3.1 The Benefit from Book Use

The circulation of new books purchased in 2007-08 was highest, the benefits were also highest which comes 161261792.00, while the book use in the year 2008-09 was very less the benefits calculated were also low which comes 201876.46.

The correlation between circulation and benefits comes 0.9 which represents high to very high correlation, means that the benefits calculated is purely depend upon the circulation of books i.e. circulation or use of books is directly proportional to the benefits. This indicates that “More the use of library, more the benefits” (Table No.6.2.1.3.1) (Hypothesis 4) is valid.

7.3 IMPLICATIONS

Based on the observations as well as results, following are the implications given to various authorities of BAMU

7.3.1 University Authorities

- University authorities should keep all the records of Accounts, by establishing a “Cost Centre”.
- The cost of library building is near about zero, so university should either build up a new library building or renovates old building.
- There must be one “library hour” in daily time table of all courses, to increase the use of library.
7.3.2 Estate Section

- Resident Engineer should maintain departmentwise light bill of BAMUL.

7.3.3 Telephone Department

- In charge, Telephone Department should maintain the separate record of telephone bills of each department of BAMU.

7.3.4 Central Stores

- In charge of Central Stores should maintain the separate record of stationery items provided to various departments of BAMU.

7.3.5 Salary Unit

- The record of daily wagers employees should be maintained with permanent employees.

7.3.6 Library

7.3.6.1 Librarian

- Accession Register should be modified by inserting the column ‘Date of Accessioning’ and ‘Call No’.

- The library should maintained authority files and staff manual, without which it resulted inconsistent entries in catalogue.

- To increase the book use, librarian should arrange some “extension programmes” frequently.
• To undertake the ‘book use’ and cost studies’, it is necessary to preserve book cards, or to make the use of computer for home lending.

• Subject wise use statistics should be maintained for the collection development.

• Library should provide the ‘OPAC’ to enhance the book use.

• Separate Account Section should be established in the library.

7.3.6.2 Assistant Librarians

• The daily statistics of use of reference books, periodicals and books used in reading hall should be maintained separately.

• To save the time of users shelving of books should be done daily.

• Head should motivate readers to use reading material efficiently.

• To increase the use, the location mark should be provided to simple books which were kept in reference section.

• Library should maintain the binding record.

• As the unit cost of reprography section come 1.91, the rate for Xerox should be 2 per page or the production of copies should be increased.

7.3.6.3 Library Office

To undertake cost studies of library, the cost data, provision watch register s of a library should be maintained sectionwise.
7.4 CONTRIBUTION TO THE RESEARCH

Calculation of Unit Cost of different sections, viz. ordering, technical, circulation, reference, periodical, binding, reprography section, reading hall and calculation of the Cost Benefit of BAMUL itself is the contribution to the research.

7.5 AREAS FOR FURTHER STUDY

The further study can be carried out on the topics; viz –

1. Costing and / or Cost Benefit Analysis of Special Libraries.
2. Costing and / or Cost Benefit Analysis of College Libraries.