Chapter- I

Introduction
INTRODUCTION

1.1: PREAMBLE:

The University plays a pivot role in the process of higher education and the library is the heart of the university. University library occupies the central and primary place in teaching, research, transmission of learning and creation of new knowledge. As such, it has to provide facilities not only for teaching and research but also for education, course work and the study of related fields, at the same time it has to keep abreast of the dynamic growth of knowledge and innovations and improvement in the system of education.

The library collection has therefore, to meet diverse and growing needs of the educational programmes at the graduate, post graduate and research levels. This involves acquisition of primary and secondary sources, reference and bibliographical materials, basic periodicals as well as other supporting material, literature in areas of general education etc. It means that the university library has to undertake responsibility of collecting and supplying right information to the right reader at the right time as well as to organize and give access to in formation. For this purpose university library has to develop comprehensive collection.

Building up comprehensive collection is one of the arts in modern librarianship. The phenomenon “Information explosion” with the uncountable magnitude of published materials and its sky-touching prices coupled with declining budgets, growing requirements of the expanding academic community has accelerated the present
situation towards complexity. This situation is forcing university librarians to pay close attention to the procedure improving allocation of resources. Hence librarians are showing real interest in objective procedure to be adopted for measuring and evaluating the collection of their academic libraries.

“Evaluate” is an English word coming from the French term ‘evaluaer’ to determine the value of something. In case of collection evaluation, the term has to do with measuring or assessing the quality of a collection, assessing the utility or benefit of library collection to library patrons to cater their needs and work for institutional programmes.

Evaluation of collection is most often considered as a function of collection development and should be related to the planning, selection and pruning of collection. The benefits of a well-planned programme of collection evaluation are many.

Mosher (1984) states the following benefits of collection evaluation.

1) A more accurate understanding of the scope, depth and utility of collections.

2) A guide and basis for collection planning.

3) A way to measure the effectiveness of a collection development policy.

4) A method to ascertain collection adequacy or quality.

5) A means to rectify inadequacies in and improve library holdings.
In other words, how useful is the collection? What are the strength of the collection, how effectively have we spent our collection development monies? These are a few of the questions that may be answered by conducting a collection evaluation assessment project.

1.2: PROPOSED RESEARCH:

In the context of Maharashtra a number of colleges and Universities have been established and government is continuously supporting these institution financially and otherwise. Consequently college and University libraries have grown and are housing large collections and are involved in the generation of information services. In recent time while progress is seen, these institution are affected by a number of external forces i.e. social, economic, political, technological and internal variables for a change. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University can not be exception to this.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University formerly known as Marathwada University was established in 1958 at Aurangabad in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra. UGC and Maharashtra Government played a vital role in the growth and development of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University by providing generous grants from all sides. It plays a significant role in the economic, educational, social and cultural development of the people of Marathwada. It caters to the needs of higher education and strives to encourage students to undertake research for the socio-economic development of the region. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar
Marathwada University Library is the biggest library catering to the information needs of academic community of Marathwada region.

Today Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University library can be placed along with better-known university libraries in Maharashtra. Its total collection has gone up to 3,04,710 at the end of June 2002. It receives 233 periodicals on current basis. No doubt that the collection of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University library is growing day by day, however, only a growth of collection in size or quantity does not mean that library is rich in collection; it has to be judged with a view of maximum utilization of its collection and services rendered. In such a situation it was felt that a comprehensive and detailed study on collection evaluation is required to understand the quality and depth of collection. In order to serve the Social Science users in the region better, the attention has been focused here to evaluate Social Science collection deeply.

1.2.1: Statement Of Research:

The present study is entitled “Evaluation of Social Science collection in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Library.”

1.3: DEFINITIONAL ANALYSIS:

In attempting to discuss the subject, it would be helpful to define and delimit the use of the terms and consider some of the resulting implications. This is especially true because the meaning of terms depend on the context in which they are used.
1.3.1: Evaluation Of Collection:

According to Oxford English Dictionary, evaluation means, "The action of appraising or valuing or calculation or statements of value the action of determining the value of a (mathematical expression, physical quantity) or a estimating the force of (probabilities evidence)" etc.

According to Webster's Third New International Dictionary, evaluation means, "To examine and judge concerning the worth quality, significance, amount, degree or a condition of appraise rate."

The term evaluation has a number of definitions; there is a common element in all of them related to placing a value or worth, on an object or activity. Collection evaluation involves object and activities as well as quantitative and qualitative values.

Analysis of the above definition refers evaluation to be act or process of determining the value of something.

Besides evaluation another term that is frequently used and closely related to evaluation is measurement. The term measurement also means the act or process of ascertaining the worth or quality of some thing Daniel (1976) states that measurements and evaluation are two umbrella terms that are closely related. Measurement is a description in a quantitative terms; evaluation is the rating or assessment of effectiveness or worth, while evaluation presupposes measurement against a specific standard or yardstick or goal."
1.3.2: Collection:

According to ‘Dictionary of Library Science’ collection “A number of books or other items on one subject or of one kind or collected by one person or organization.”

In the context of present study the term collection means the books or acquisition of the books. The term is limited only to the books because other reading material as bound volumes of periodicals, current journals, and audiovisual material are excluded from this study.

1.3.3: Collection Evaluation:

Mosher (1984) says that collection evaluation is an “Assessment of the utility and appropriateness of Library’s collection to its users, programs.” A collection evaluation, focus on the size, scope, depth, and significance of the collection.

In the present study collection evaluation is viewed in micro sense, which is centered on the evaluation of books on a specific field as Social Science.

1.3.4: Social Science:

The Encyclopedia of Social Science (1937) defines Social Science as “Mental and cultural activities of the individual as member of a group.”

Webster (1978) defines Social Science as “The branches of Social Science that deal with the institution and functioning of human
Society and with the interpersonal relationship of individuals as members of society” and also a science such as economic or political science dealing with particular phase or aspect of human society. Webster adds compare behavioral science. For which it gives a science such as Psychology, Sociology, or Anthropology, dealing with human action and aiming at the establishment of generalization of man’s behaviour society.”

Social Science may be defined as all the disciplines, which deal with man in their social contact. They are concerned with orderly investigation of the behavior of man in society. Generally speaking the Social Science includes Economic, Political science and Sociology, Social and culture anthropology, Social Psychology, Social and Economic Geography, social context of learning and the relation of the school to the social order.

In the context of the present study the term Social Science includes the subject under section 27(3) of the Marathwada University Act 1974 as Library science, Journalism, Psychology, Sociology, Political Science, Economics, Public Administration, Home science, Geography, History, etc.
1.4: OBJECTIVES:

The general objective of the present study is to evaluate the Social Science collection in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University library. The specific objectives are as follows.

1) To evaluate the collection quantitatively.

2) To evaluate the collection qualitatively

3) To ascertain the use of collection

4) To know users needs and their satisfaction levels about the collection.

1.5: HYPOTHESIS:

Following are the Hypothesis of the study.

1) Post-graduate students in Social Science use the books published in Marathi language.

2) The language preferred by the Research Scholars in Social Science was English.

3) Researcher in Social Science prefers Indian publication.

4) Approximately 40% of the collection in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Library is not in use.

5) There is a large number of books in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Library not borrowed for years together.

6) Higher the collection, lesser the growth rate.
1.6: SCOPE & LIMITATION:

The study is confined to evaluation of Social Science collection in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Library only. Social Science collection acquired up to June 2002 was taken in to consideration.

To have the statistical data as annual intake, use circulation studies, the study covered the period 1961-2002 and for budgetary allocations, etc. covered the period of five year from 1997-2002.

There were a number of limitations in the methodology used. In many cases it was not possible to get exact and accurate data as library did not maintain full records and statistics hence researcher compelled to drop out some points as In House use, Inter Library Loan, Unfilled Request etc.

1.7: METHODOLOGY:

For the present study following methods of evaluation are adopted:

1) Quantitative method
2) Qualitative method
3) Use method
4) Statistical analysis
5) Impressionistic method
6) Users studies.
1.8: DATA COLLECTION:

For present study data was collected by following methods.

1) Checking the books on shelves for noting the use of books.

2) Cards were prepared and all bibliographical details of the books were written on the cards.

3) M. A. Social Sciences syllabi were studied, analyzed and checked against the library holding.

4) A list of citation from the Ph.D. theses of Social Sciences subject submitted to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University was compiled and treated as an equipment for checking with the library catalogue so as to know how many document were available in the library.

5) The Social Science collection acquired in the library till June 2002 was taken in to consideration for the present study.

6) For impressionistic method survey method is used. A questionnaire was framed and distributed to Post-graduate students, enrolled Ph.D. students, and all the faculty members of the Social Sciences department.

1.9: DATA ANALYSIS:

In the final analysis, the data collected by different methods was merged e.g. absolute size of collection, collected by all the two ways i.e. from Annual Reports and counting number from Classified Catalogue Cards of the Social Science and its related subject.
Interviews, observation, regarding adequacy of collection were merged. In keeping view the cohesiveness of information, responses received to individual questions have not been presented in the same sequence of the questionnaire. To analyze the data, related information was analyzed together to increase readability of finding. While analyzing the data the variable like age of collection, subject of collection, language of collection etc. were considered for quantitative and qualitative evaluation. For users studies three variables were considered.

1) Faculty

2) Research students, including M. Phil.

3) Post-Graduate students

Collected data has been analyzed and presented in tabular as well as in graphical forms e.g. bar charts, pie charts, line graphs etc. are used for the purpose of analysing the data collected.

1.10: SOURCES OF THE STUDY:

The Source For Statistical Data Collection are Annual Reports Of The University, Accession Registers, Books Cards, Social Science syllabi, Library Catalogue, Circulation data, Annual Budget Report, Check List, Questionnaire, Observation and Interviews.
1.11: SUMMARY OF MAJOR CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATION:

Some of the major conclusion/ findings are given below:

- The total collection of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University was 3,04,473 up to June 2002, of the total collection; Social Science collection was 51456 i.e. 16.90%.

- The sociology subject dominates the collection followed by Political Science, History, and Economics. Which combinely constitutes 74.45% of the Social Science collection, while the subject of Psychology, Public-Administration, Home-Science, Library and Information Science, Journalism and Geography combinely constitute 25.55% of the Social Science collection.

- The gradation of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University library as per recommendation of ACRL formula is less than “D” i.e. Absolute size of total and Social Science collection in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Library is poor.

- Growth rate in Library and Information Science, Journalism, Public Administration, Geography, Home-Science was highest. While Psychology, Sociology, Political Science, Economic and History was lowest. Which proves the hypothesis that higher the collection, lesser the growth rate (Hypothesis no. 6).
The average expenditure per book was Rs. 176.39/- while of Social Science subjects it was Rs.242.60/- where as National Policy on university libraries, 1987, suggested Rs. 200/- per annum it shows that Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Library incurred more amount per book in last five years than the recommended.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Library was not receiving appropriate finance as per recommendation. The percentage of library budget to total University budget was below than the requirement as suggested 6.07% by University Education Commission.

1.11.1: Qualitative Evaluation:

- For the users needing books in Marathi language, the collection of Social Science is inadequate.

- 67% of the faculty members found the collection of the Library is inadequate, as latest published books took long time to reach in the Library and hence they were not available whenever require.

- Faculties were unsatisfied with Social Science collection in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Library for giving assignments to the students.

- 100% users evaluated adequacy of the library collection before selecting topic for Doctoral Research and Dissertations.
For the consultation of research topics, faculties have to visit other university libraries like Pune and Mumbai.

From teaching point of view and post-graduate students from their study point of view Social Science collection was not up to the mark. While for the researcher the collections seem to be good or best.

Bibliographic collection in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Library should be updated with complete set and new publication.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Library does not possess each and every title, which is recommended in the syllabi, it constitute only 66.30% of the collection.

1.11.2: Use And User Studies:

- Relative use of books published before 1980 is comparatively more than the books published after 1980.

- The general trend of using the Social Science Literature published in Marathi language seems to be prominent.

- Collection of the major subjects in Social Science is used maximum.

- There is optimum use of collection according to the books prescribed in syllabi.
- 65% of the circulation is attributed to the major subject of Social Science.

- It was generally found that books were an important type of material to research scholars in Social Science as evidence by frequent use of books. History and Journalism are the two subjects in which books, published in Marathi language have been used maximum as compared to other subjects.

- While analyzing preferential language of reading, it was found that more than 71% users prefer to read in Marathi Language first. While 29% user prefer to read in English language.

- Further analysis of the responses revealed that 95% of the post-graduate students gave first preference to Marathi Language.

- While 100% of the faculty and Ph.D. student gave first preference to English language.

1.12: IMPLICATIONS OF THE FINDINGS:

The findings of the study yield several references, which have for reaching implications to the management concern. An attempt is made in this section to focus these implications for specifics findings and its implications are given side by side as follows:

i) 'Non Use' of books in the library suggest in many survey's have confirmed it, efforts can be made to solve this problems to some extent by formulating definite plans, procedure and
policies for collection building. As library should take more initiative in promoting use of the collection. Non-Use is defined, as ignorance of existence, User's education, instruction of the use of library is essential.

The task of book selection being of prime important among all the traditional function must be performed with proper care, understanding and judgment. So that with whole procedure of book collection policy will be able to satisfied the “Law, every book its readers.”

ii) No attempt have been made by the library to weed out absolute are unconsulted collection. Although nearly 59.70% collection of Social Science remained unconsulted. Needing of university duplicates unused material should be given priority to keep library collection alive.

iii) For the research students' and post graduate students' the collection is inadequate.

Efforts should be made in filling the gaps in the collection, which are necessary to support the research. The amount of textbooks duplication should be examined carefully to insure availability of copies of texts books to the student's in English as well as in Marathi language.

In the University library, the faculty members are largely responsible for recommending the acquisition of publication in their specific fields. Direct interaction between Head of the Department and the librarian either personally of
though some member, may serve as the main channel of communication with a view to building the collection in co-
ordination with the research and instructional requirements and filling the gaps in the collection consequently. It will serve as an effective check for avoiding unwanted duplicates.

iv) In the opinion of the faculties the collection of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Library in Social Science though covered wide range, indepth of collection was not uniform.

Library should give priority to curriculum and research programme of the department in collection development.

v) Professor and teachers do not used the library regularly. The librarians should make additional efforts to provide the library services or book borrowing facility at respective work spot or where ever users desire.

vi) Social Science users in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Library are still print oriented.

The first and foremost need of the hour is to modernize the libraries and provide the users access to computerized database not only in university library, but also in the departments.

vii) Faculties and Research Students' in Social Science do not depend on one library alone. They used number of libraries to fulfill their study and their research work. This is due to the
reason that university library is not enough to meet their information need.

The faculties and Research Students' come to university library with the belief that the university library shall supplements their information needs. If the university library fails to do so the readers will stop coming to the university library or they will visit it occasionally.

To attract potential users and retain actual users in university library, library will have to make constant efforts to keeps its collection up to date and its services need oriented.

viii) Inter Library Loan facility is not very popular at among the faculty and Research Students'.

Inter Library Loan facility should be broadened covering the main university libraries in Maharashtra as well as outside Maharashtra. It will enable users to access to wide range of materials, lack of awareness of the users about of existing library services is determined.

However in the area like Marathwada is not well equipped except Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Library, which is available for the users who can used such library and share the resources, further the heavy postal charges make inter library loan service costly because to borrow and send one book on Inter Library Loan the postal charges required Rs. 90 per thesis and while by register acknowledge due its take nearly Rs. 120 per thesis and dissertation. Hence it is suggested that if Inter Library Loan
facility are needed by users should be explain about usefulness of Inter Library Loan and encourage the make use of this facility.

A well planned users education programme must be carried out in the libraries to facilitate the users to the make the best use of the library services. Efforts should be made by the libraries for marketing some of the important services to its users thus keeping them aware of the services.

ix) In the opinions of the faculties collection of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Library though covered wide range depth of the collection was not uniformed library should gave priority to the curriculum and research programme of the department in collection development. Total books acquired in the library per year should be divided as 60% individual research and research programme of department and 30% should be devoted to curriculum and 10% reference and other books.

x) Faculties and research students' had to visit other libraries like Pune and Mumbai. Since know library can acquire every thing that is required by the researcher or the faculties, resource sharing programme be encouraged.

xi) Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Library was not receiving appropriate finance as per the recommendations of National Policy on University Libraries and ACRL as well as University Education Commission.
University authorities should be enthusiastic about the need and usefulness of university library and efforts should be made to provide sufficient and appropriate financial resources to the library.

xii) Standard for expenditure of university library on various items has been out dated, hence revision of these standards is necessary to guide university libraries to offer effective service.

1.13: CONSPECTUS:

This investigation with analysis and interpretation has been presented in 7 chapters.

Chapter I: Highlights the need and importance of the study objectives, hypothesis, scope & limitation.

Chapter II: Reviews the literature on evaluation of collection.

Chapter III: Methodology

Chapter IV: Deals with Quantitative Evaluation of the Collection.

Chapter V: Deals with Qualitative Evaluation of the Collection.

Chapter VI: Deals with use and user study. It also discusses the result of the analysis of the data collected through users survey.

Chapter VII: Give the summary of findings and recommendations. It also discusses the findings related to the hypothesis based on the study.

The thesis ends with a list of bibliographical reference and appendices.