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Executive Summary of Minor Research Project : Dr.Bhagvanbhai K. Chaudhari

Executive Summary

In the last two decades the technology driven knowledge economy, the college librarians have very important role to play as they have to satisfy the critical multidimensional informational needs of their users. They have to use those technological tools in which the users feel comfortable in order to sustain customer orientated market. Information and communication technology plays a vital role in bringing out changes in our society. As technology becomes more sophisticated and more affordable, the range of services that are provided also increases our life style, our business, our educational system, our political and our social values.

The LIS working in college libraries are also required to develop ICT skills and competences abreast of academic libraries like university libraries, special libraries and information centers. They are expected to be competent in using ICT based library operations and delivering the services. Being a college librarian investigator has curiosity to know the how many LIS professional working in college libraries in North Gujarat have competences and skills.

The research study in terms of subject coverage, geographical area and span of time. There are numbers of competencies and skills required by library and information professionals in the ICT and digital library environment in the field of information technology, management, communication, users services and like that. Investigator has limiting the core technology and communication competences only. The research area covers the all librarians of colleges situated in North Gujarat a region of Gujarat State, irrespective of it types, whether they are grant in aided or run by Government of Gujarat or self-finance. The investigator had studied the competences and skills development among college librarians working during the academic year 2013- 14. The primary data has been collected on the status quo of the academic year 2013-14.

The objective of this study falls into following broad grouping.

- To study present state of technology and communication competence of college librarians.
- To study the different areas of skills development by LIS profession.
- To study the applications of skills developed by LIS college librarians in their library.
- To suggest some measures to enhance the skills and competence development.

Here investigator has admitted following limitations. The retired college librarians who are working as a college librarian after the retirement will not be included in this study.

The ad-hoc college librarians are not be included in the proposed study. As government of Gujarat is not giving the permission for the recruitment of college librarian since last ten years so some colleges had appointed LIS professional only on purely temporarily basis. Such professional may not be interested so they are excluded from this study.

The research topic is an inquiry of LIS professionals regarding various aspects of competences and skills, so investigator has decided to use descriptive method. The researcher will also inquire about the services, collection, infrastructure and personnel of college libraries in North Gujarat. It will also collect on the present status of personal data of LIS professional.

Here investigator has used questionnaire as tool of data collection. The data collected in this study has been tabulated using SPSS developed by MIT. The collected data have been tabulated on the basis of the status of the parent institution i.e. central government, state government, autonomous and private and on the basis of gender of LIS professional academics and others. The data so tabulated have been analyzed using graphs and statistical techniques. Cross tabulation has also been used to correlate two variables where the data is in nominal form. Chi² test, F test and T test etc are used to test the hypotheses.

The respondents are the college librarians. As per the UGC, & AICTE rules all colleges must have a librarian working in each college so the total population of respondents is total number of colleges situated in North Gujarat. To know the total number of colleges in North Gujarat the investigator has used the diary of various universities and websites of the universities.

The population is as under Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan Affiliated Colleges, Ganpat University, Kherva Dist.Mehsana Affiliated Colleges, Gujarat Technological University, Ahmedabad Affiliated Colleges, SNTD University, Bombay Affiliated Colleges, Sardar Krishi University, Sardarnagar,Dantiwada Affiliated Colleges

Major finding of the research project tis as under:

1. There are 59.8% male and 40.2% female among all respondents. Male and female ratio is 1.49. Among entrants in library profession come from Arts faculty, from Commerce faculty stands on second rank whereas from Science faculty it is very few that indicates that library profession failed to attract science graduates that may affect on skills and competence of librarians.
2. Major part of librarians (88.2%) possesses minimum required qualification whereas only 11.2% possess higher qualification than required minimum qualification.
3. 56.86% of total professionals have basic knowledge of computer science as they have passed certificate course in computer science, whereas 18.63% have completed Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Application (PGDCA). PGDCA is essential for library professionals to cope up with present requirement of library profession.
4. The growth of higher education in North Gujarat was increased very high during last two decades.
5. The self finance colleges are more than grant in aided and government colleges.
6. The spread of higher education is found in most of all popular disciplines but lacking new emerging knowledge courses like biosciences, Biotechnology, Nanotechnology, Fine Arts, and Journalism etc. Colleges of traditional education are found more than professional education.
7. From primary survey of colleges it is found that only 144 colleges out of 339 i.e. only 42.48% colleges have full time regular librarians.

8. Among various users groups UG students are less active whereas research scholars are highest active users. Ratio of all groups is 0.59 i.e. 59% users are active whereas institute-wise anticipated and active users ratio is 0.7088 i.e. 70.88% users are active.
9. Average 15728.758 books, 295.65 back volumes of journals, 24.568 current subscribed journals, 61.055 e-books, 7.386 e-journals, 196.241 CD/DVD and 4.32 theses are available in the respondents' library.
10. Average available book per user is 54.797 which is found highest (79.671) in grant in aided colleges whereas lowest (31.50) in government colleges. The average book per users is less as recommended by NAAC quality batch marking in self finance and government colleges
11. 14 (13.72%) colleges have not computer in their library, 25 (25.51%) colleges have only one computer and 23 colleges have 2 or 3 computers in library. At least two computers are minimum one for library operation and one for clients to search OPAC facility. This minimum requirement of computer is lacking in 39 libraries.
12. Internet is an essential in every walk of human life. Libraries in present era must have it but 39 (38.24%) libraries don't have it. 63(61.76%) libraries have one or more computers with internet connectivity.
13. Major part of library professionals have not attended various in service training programmes as 62.7% have not attended orientation course, 56.9% refresher course, 79.4% short term training and 61.7% have not attended long term training programmes.
14. Skills and competence of common features like parts and functioning of computer, Office Productivity Software, Computer Security Software, Database Construction/ Maintenance etc are found among more than 50% respondent whereas difficult features like photo editing software, scripting language, gaming software, object oriented programming language, wired/wireless networking, digitizing documents etc are found among less than 50%.
15. Average 40 respondents have Internet related competence whereas 60 do not possess this competence. Webpage Creation with FrontPage or Dreamweaver, Webpage Creation with Hand Coded XHTML, Online Mata data Schemas, XML, Virtual Reference Service-IM, and Online Information Literacy etc are the basic competence required more for internet based library services but very less respondents have these competences. Highest

- respondent i.e. 78 have competence on social networking whereas podcasting competence is found in only 12 respondents. Respondents having competence on blogs, wiki, social networking, electronic database searching and internet protocol are more than average.
16. Among total male and female, 38.14% male and 40.98% female possess Internet related competences. Senior professionals have very less internet related competence as it lies among young between 67.92% and 100% whereas among senior it lies between 0.0% and 32.08%.
 17. . Average 60.2 (59%) respondents have Very High Productive Technology Competence and 41.8 (41%) don't have it. More respondents are abreast of High Productive Technology competence on Printers, Colour Printer, Bar Code Scanners, Digitizing Scanners, USB Drivers, CD/DVD Writing Media, and very have not these competence whereas competences of using equipments like E-Books Readers, Personal Digital Assistants, Tablet PC, Projectors, and Smart Board are found among less respondents.
 18. Among those who possess Various High Productive Technology Competence male respondents are more than that of the female. Male possess competence between 59.5% and 67.3% whereas female possess between 32.7% and 40.5%. The average of both groups is 62.4% and 37.6% respectively.
 19. Among young who possess Various High Productive Technology Competence young respondents have more competence than that of the senior professionals. Young professionals possess competence between 61% and 80.5% whereas senior professionals possess between 19.5% and 39%. The average of both groups is 70.7% and 29.3% respectively.
 20. Average 37% respondents possess language communication competence. Competence in English language is possessed by very less respondents. Competence in English language speaking is possessed by 17.6%, fluency in functional English is by 12.7% whereas functional English writing is by 3.9%. Competence on presentation on various occasions is more in speaking, than writing competence.
 21. Among those who possess communication competence it varies among male from 50% to 75% but among total male it varies from 4.9% to 90.2% whereas in the case of female it varies from 25% to 61.5% and among total female it varies from 2.4% to 90.2%.

22. Among those who possess communication competence average young respondents are 55.8% and senior are 44.2% i.e. young are more than senior professionals.
23. ICT or Core Technology competence which has components like General Technology Competence, Internet Related Competence, High Productive Technology, Library Technology Competence and Communication Competence have average 44.898% respondents whereas 55.102% don't possess it.
24. Among who possess ICT competences, average 45.74% male respondents and among female 45.18% respondents possess ICT or Core Technology Competence.
25. Average ICT or Core Technology Competence is found less among senior professionals than young. Average 33.74% senior professional possess ICT competence whereas 55.040% young respondents possess it.
26. Among those who possess all competence mean value for young and senior is 55.040 and 33.740 having Std. Deviation 14.557 and 8.989 percentages. The Coefficient of Variation of competence for both groups shows that there is a significant difference variation of competence among young and senior respondents.

The above mentioned finding is free from bias and don't favour to any variable or particular institute. It is only based on the analysis and interpretation. The finding shows some lacuna in respect of developing skills and competences among the LIS professionals working in the affiliated colleges in North Gujarat. Here based on these results, the investigator provides recommendations for the improvement and development of competence and skills among college librarians.