



INFRASTRUCTURAL NEEDS OF LIBRARY USERS IN ARTS COLLEGES OF VIDARBHA REGION : A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

In this research paper, researchers have discussed about available furniture and infrastructure as per the view of library users appearing in competitive exams in arts colleges. Researchers have tried to find the information needs and problems of library users related to furniture and infrastructure in the view of library users appearing in competitive exams in arts colleges in vidarbha region? What should their present related furniture and infrastructure for competitive users?

KEYWORDS: Competitive Exam, Competitive Users, Furniture, Infrastructure.

I)INTRODUCTION

Competitive examinations are held by the government and semi-government. Clearing this exam ensures and secures your government job. This examination is arranged so as to check the aptitude and eligibility to get into particular government posts. The hike in salaries through the pay commissions, growth in stature of government servants at each level, high level of job security and less of stress are some of the reasons why people crave for government jobs. Even if you are not able to make it in the exams, you should keep on attempting it as long as you are eligible to sit. In such a scenario, everyone wants to success. Success in these exams brings immense glory

and confidence to the individuals.

Library is a reading hub. There are many users take benefit for readingin reading room. There are many types of users available in reading room in library. According administration and users they need good and adequate furniture and infrastructure for relaxable setting for reading. Readingis a essential part of users and their future life.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

In the context of the aim and objectives of this study, a literature review was carried out to study the previous research efforts in similar and related domains. The issues were reviewed with a special reference to the users appearing in competitive exams in arts colleges related to infrastructure and reading room facilities.

Zadie Smithe (2016), Kuhlthau (1988), Sheller (1989), Watson and Jagannathan (1997) discussed the students based needs and problem in their books related to infrastructural facilities and reading room problems of library users in

different way and different situations but this research topic is different.

SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY:-

Today's world is competitive. Everyone wants to compete each other. Without competition we cannot imagine what way of success is. It is essential part of every human. Without competition success is nothing.

Competitive exam is a very prestigious and bright. Every one want to success related to competitive exams. Its gives free services and good salary. Competitive exam is very important for social services. Everyone wants to compete and learn about competitive exam. So, it is a very important for user's life. For become competition reading is important part and Reading improve in library. Not only library but there reading room and infrastructure is more important to improve reading habits and through competitive exams. So, This study is important for competitive user and librarian related to infrastructure and furniture in college library.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The main aim of research to find out the truth which hidden and which has not been discovered as yet. Objectives for the present study are as under:

To know availability about furniture and infrastructure in arts colleges in vidarbha region from point of view of library readers appearing in competitive exams

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- The research methodology was carried out by Descriptive Research Method.
- The sampling was carried out by Stratified Random Sampling Method.

LIBRARY FURNITURE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Library furniture is designed in such a way that the reader feels comfortable seating long hours and the chairs are placed in such direction that they get proper light and ventilation.
- Reading stack room, stacks should be close type so that dust should not settle on books and books can be handled in friendly way. Following is the list of furniture that is required for a library.
 - o Book care (preferably steel)
 - o Periodical display rack (wooden /steel)
 - o News paper display stand
 - o Study tables
 - o Chairs (user friendly and relaxable)
 - o Catalogue Cabinet
 - o Dictionary / Encyclopedia stand
 - o Book Trolley
 - o Pamphlet Box
 - o Notice Board
 - o Water filter and cooler
 - o Rest Room
 - o Reprography
 - o Overhead Projectors
 - o Fax Machine
 - o Lamination Machine
 - o Bar Code machine & Scanner
 - o Fire Extinguisher
 - o Generator for power back up of computers
- Users are needed to sit for long duration in library so an ideal library should provide drinking water facility and separate rest room facility for gents and ladies users. Librarian should consider the need of physically handicapped and differently abled students. They should be provided ramp for entry in the library. They

should be given separate reading room catering their special needs like Braille Facility, audio system, little ABRAR software etc.

- The reference section of library should be designed in such a way that users can access them ready at hand specially entry in service books.
- A library building should be fire resistant, it should have enough number of fire extinguishers. The building should be under CCTV surveillance to avoid theft and misbehavior. A safe property counter should be maintained at the entry of library where the students can deposit their belongings.

3.9 Reading Room

The reading room should be as per UGC norms and it should be located adjoining the main library and easily accessible to students and librarian should take care that it is should be properly illuminated and ventilated. Its furniture should be comfortable so that students will not feel inconvenient to sit for long hours. The space of the reading room should be adequate to accommodate the students.

Separate reading room facility should be made available to the students opting to appear for the competitive exams. We should provide special facility to differently abled students. The timing of reading room should be flexible enough to fulfill the demand of users. It can be extended during university and other civil service examinations. A list of websites of competitive examination should be highlighted in the front of reading room as most of the students of today's generation are interested in getting government jobs.

A number of magazines and periodicals are available in the reading room but the students do not have knowledge about their availability. A list of such periodicals should be highlighted in the reading room and should be placed in such a way that they are easily accessible the users.

If a library is not capable of procuring all kinds of books due to financial and space barrier the users can be provided inter library loan facility by previous agreements with some reputed and standard libraries.

If a library is capable, it can provide certain reference services like entry in service books to off campus users at some nominal fees that can be utilized for the improvement of library. Extra space should be provided in the reading room for other group activities, projects and reference service beside room for librarian, circulation counter, reference desk, books/periodical display, committee/conference room property counter, catalogue enclosure etc.

As the librarian goes under, orientation and refresher course for getting the advanced knowledge the technical and supporting staff of library should also be sent for training programmes so they can provide better service to users.

One student representative is made member of the library committee, he should be encouraged to involve actively for the improvement of reading room services.

Table :Available Furniture in the library.

Library Furniture	Adequate		Inadequate		Total
	No. of Colleges	Per.	No. of Colleges	Per.	
Book Case Steel	99	82.5	21	17.5	120
Periodical display Rack (Wooden/Steel)	82	68.3	38	31.7	120
News Paper Display Stand	86	71.7	34	28.3	120
Study Tables Big	73	60.8	47	39.2	120
Study Tables Small	69	57.5	51	42.5	120
Chair (Wooden/Steel/Plastic)	62	51.7	58	48.3	120
Good Catalogue Cabinet	43	35.8	77	64.2	120
Dictionary/Encyclopedia Stand	41	34.2	79	65.8	120
Book Trolley	22	18.3	98	81.7	120
Pamphlet Box	16	13.3	104	86.7	120
Stool (Wooden/Steel)	52	43.3	68	56.7	120
Notice Board	86	71.7	34	28.3	120

Above Table presents data regarding the available furniture in the libraries of the academic Institute/College of the study area.

It is evident that in majority of academic colleges/institutes of study area, the availability of Study Tables and Chairs is not so good. About 40-48% of colleges have reported inadequate Study Tables and Chairs.

Ranking of Status of availability of Library Furniture according to adequacy.

SN	Library Furniture	Rank
1	Book Case Steel	1
2	Notice Board	2
3	News Paper Display Stand	3
4	Periodical display Rack (Wooden/Steel)	4
5	Study Tables Big	5
6	Study Tables Small	6
7	Chair (Wooden/Steel/Plastic)	7
8	Stool (Wooden/Steel)	8
9	Good Catalogue Cabinet	9
10	Dictionary/Encyclopedia Stand	10
11	Book Trolley	11
12	Pamphlet Box	12

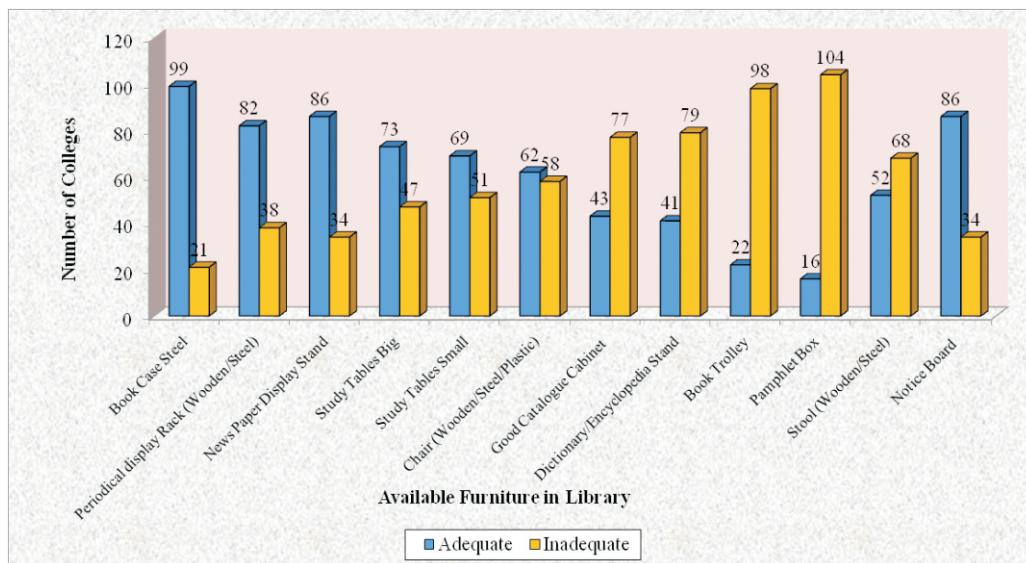


Fig.Ranking of Status of availability of Library Furniture according to adequacy

Available Equipment in Library**Table :Information about the available equipment in library**

Library Equipments	Adequate		Inadequate		Total
	No. of Colleges	Per.	No. of Colleges	Per.	
Microform Storage Cabinet	11	9.2	109	90.8	120
Lamination Machine	4	3.3	116	96.7	120
Binders (comb) GBC	14	11.7	106	88.3	120
Microfilm Machine (reader com printer)	-	-	120	100.0	120
Xerox Copying Machine	44	36.7	76	63.3	120
Film Slide Projector	31	25.8	89	74.2	120
Computer	92	76.7	28	23.3	120
Fax Machine	26	21.7	94	78.3	120
Printer (Black & White/Colour)	86	71.7	34	28.3	120
V.C.R.	16	13.3	104	86.7	120
Television	19	15.8	101	84.2	120
Overhead Projector	32	26.7	88	73.3	120
Air Conditioning Facility	5	4.2	115	95.8	120
Water Cooler	41	34.2	79	65.8	120
Inverter	55	45.8	65	54.2	120
Wall Watch	81	67.5	39	32.5	120
Fire Extinguisher	48	40.0	72	60.0	120
Blower	38	31.7	82	68.3	120
Telephone	65	54.2	55	45.8	120
Scanner	58	48.3	62	51.7	120
U.P.S.	86	71.7	34	28.3	120
Fan	110	91.7	10	8.3	120
Tube light	110	91.7	10	8.3	120

Above Table presents data regarding the available equipment in the libraries of the academic Institute/College of the study area. Thus, it is evident that in majority of academic colleges/institutes of study area most of the library equipment's are inadequate.

Ranking of status of availability of equipment in the Libraries according to adequacy.

Sr. No.	Library Furniture	Rank
1	Fan/Tube Light	1
2	Computer	2
3	Printer (Black & White/Colour)/ U.P.S	3
4	Wall Watch	4
5	Telephone	5
6	Scanner	6
7	Inverter	7
8	Fire Extinguisher	8
9	Xerox Copying Machine	9
10	Water Cooler	10
11	Blower	11
12	Overhead Projector	12
13	Film Slide Projector	13
14	Fax Machine	14
15	Television	15
16	V.C.R.	16
17	Binders (comb) GBC	17
18	Microform Storage Cabinet	18
19	Air Conditioning Facility	19
20	Lamination Machine	20
21	Microfilm Machine (reader com printer)	21

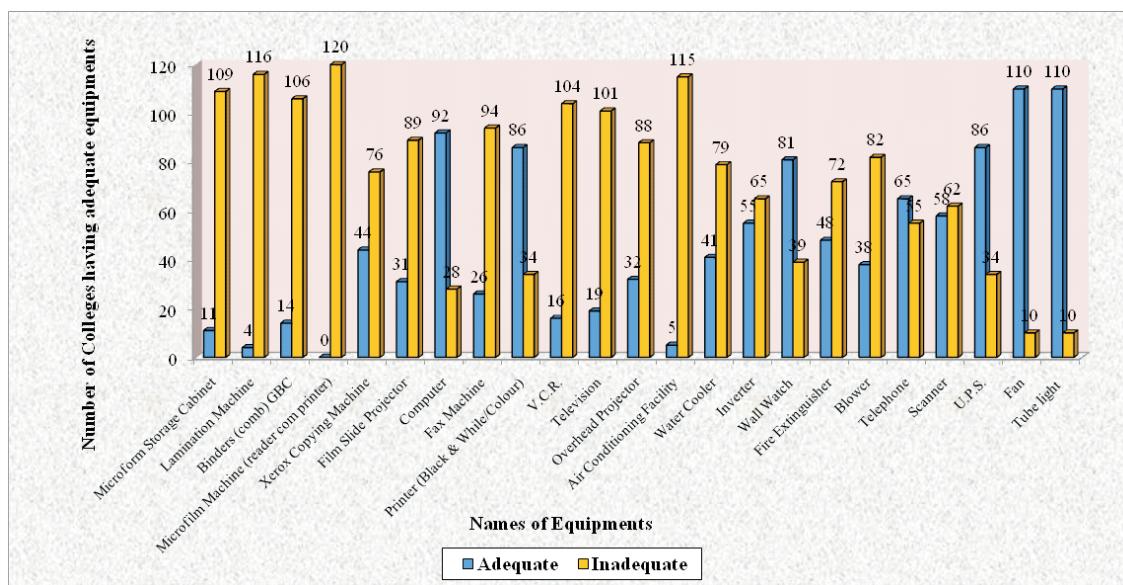


Fig.: Ranking of status of availability of equipment in the Libraries according to adequacy.

Facilities available to the users in Reading Room**Table :Facilities available to the users in Reading Room**

Reading Room facilities	Adequate		Inadequate		Total
	No.	Per.	No.	Per.	
Reading Table/Chair	99	82.5	21	17.5	120
Reading Table/Chair with partitions for privacy or to avoid disturbance	82	68.3	38	31.7	120
Cubical for Readers	25	20.8	95	79.2	120
Easy Chair	60	50.0	60	50.0	120
Relaxing Chair	47	39.2	73	60.8	120
Sofas to relax	5	4.2	115	95.8	120
Air Conditioning	3	2.5	117	97.5	120
Proper Illuminations /Light Sources	52	43.3	68	56.7	120
Rest Rooms/ Toilets near the Reading Room	45	37.5	75	62.5	120
Separate Reading Room space for Ladies	47	39.2	73	60.8	120
Proper rest rooms/ Toilets for Ladies	51	42.5	69	57.5	120
Proper facilities for physically challenged students	35	29.2	85	70.8	120

Above Table presents data regarding the available facilities in the libraries of the academic Institute/College of the study area. Most of the libraries do not have adequate cubicles for readers. There is tremendous lack of proper facility for physically challenged students. There are inadequacies in Rest Rooms/Toilets also.

Ranking of status of Reading Room facilities according to their adequacy

Sn	Facilities	Rank
1	Reading Table/Chair	1
2	Reading Table/Chair with partitions for privacy or to avoid disturbance	2
3	Easy Chair	3
4	Proper Illuminations /Light Sources	4
5	Proper rest rooms/ Toilets for Ladies	5
6	Relaxing Chair/ Separate Reading Room space for Ladies	6
7	Rest Rooms/ Toilets near the Reading Room	7
8	Proper facilities for physically challenged students	8
9	Cubical for Readers	9
10	Sofas to relax	10
11	Air Conditioning	11

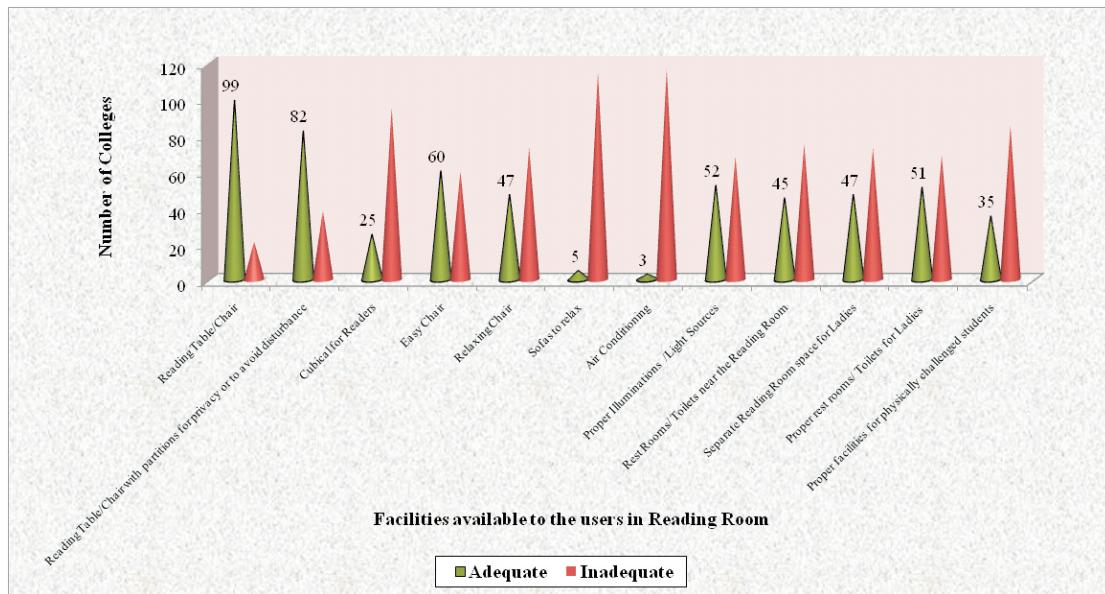


Fig.: Ranking of status of Reading Room facilities according to their adequacy

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Following data collection, statistical analysis was carried out and the results were interpreted in view of the study objectives. The conclusions drawn on the basis of statistical analysis of data are presented hereunder:

CONCLUSIONS:

1. Most of the colleges (75%) colleges, the library is not housed in separate building or according to UGC norms with separate functional space.
2. A very large no. of Libraries (85%) Libraries have expressed need for separate reading room for those uses who prepare for competitive exams.
3. In many of these college libraries (40%) the availability of Study Tables and Chairs is inadequate.
4. The facility of photocopying machine, Water Cooler is highly inadequate in most of these Libraries.
5. Just about 4% of these college libraries have air conditioning.
6. There is acute shortage of air conditioning facility in these libraries.
7. There is acute Shortage of Cubical for Readers in these Libraries.
8. The facility of Rest Rooms/ Toilets is highly inadequate in most of the Libraries.
9. The facilities for physically challenged students are very poor in majority of these Libraries.
10. The facility of ladies toilets is inadequate in most of these libraries.
11. About one third of the Libraries have inadequate number of Library professional staff.
12. The availability of semi professional staff is also poor in these libraries.
13. In many college libraries, no training is conducted for the Library staff to improve their professional skills, so as to assist users with collection related with competitive exams.
14. In majority of these libraries, only 1-2 PCs are allocated to the users for services.
15. Hardly any (only 6%) of these libraries are using the ex-students feedback to make necessary provision in the budget for purchasing books and upgrading the facilities in the reading room.
16. Lack of orientation to library staff in giving services to users regarding competitive exams.
17. Lack of policy for building collection in these libraries.
18. Lack of proper budgetary provision related with library furniture for competitive exams.
19. Lack of will for enforcement of UGC norms for Library Building
20. Lack of will of authorities to adopt UCG norms regarding reading room facility in Libraries

SUGGESTIONS

- 1.The researcher suggests that there should be a separate collection development policy for competitive exam related furniture and infrastructure in the college libraries reading room.
- 2.It is suggested that Arts college managements or the universities to which the colleges are affiliated should increase the budgetary allocation for developing all collection pertaining to the resources needed by the students for preparation of competitive examinations.
- 3.It is suggested that Arts college management should take initiatives for making College libraries fully furnished so that all the activities in the libraries go on smoothly.
- 4.The library staff as well as faculty members should collaborate to prepare a repository of the information related reading room to competitive exams.
- 5.It is suggested that independent building be made available for all libraries of Arts colleges in Vidarbha region.
- 6.Computerization of Arts College libraries should be given utmost importance, especially in view of the importance of the competitive examinations and its utility
- 7.Separate Reading Room Facility should be made available to the students opting to appear for the competitive exams
- 8.Appropriate Toilet facilities for the girl students should be developed in the College premises.
- 9.The infrastructure development should be carried out by keeping the needs of physically challenged students.
- 10.Colleges should provide the funds to the library for procurement of furniture so that maximum students should make use of them for academic purpose
- 11.It is suggested that every Arts College Library should install UPS to get rid of power fluctuation.
- 12.Necessary steps should also be taken to develop competent library human resources for proper staffing of automated library systems.

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