

## USE OF LIBRARY FACILITIES AND INFORMATION RESOURCES IN SAHYADRI COLLEGES, SHIMOGA (KARNATAKA): A STUDY

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*Evaluates the use of Sahyadri College Libraries in Shimoga (Karnataka). A survey of 91 teachers from both the Sahyadri Arts & Commerce College and the Sahyadri Science College is conducted through a questionnaire. The analysis of the collected data covers the use of library resources, classification and catalogue, library services and physical facilities. Concludes that the chief intention for the use of libraries has been the academic interest of the users.*

### INTRODUCTION

In an ideal educational system, an academic library is the centre of academic life. A library is the strength of any educational institution and without proper libraries there can be no real progress in education. A library is the fountainhead from which flows the water of knowledge.

Education comprises of two essential elements, namely teachers and books. An ideal library provides valuable support to education. At the same time a sound educational system is dependent on good libraries. Any form of educational work without libraries becomes meaningless.

Karnataka being one of the most advanced states in the country in education has more than 777 degree colleges, of which 150 are government colleges, 289 aided and the rest are unaided degree colleges which offer B.A., B.Com, B.Sc, and B.B.M. degree courses. It is thus essential for a college to maintain a library for the use of students and teachers.

### SCOPE AND LIMITATION

This study is confined to information resources and services provided by the libraries of Sahyadri Colleges of Shimoga that aim to fulfil the needs of the faculty. It covers textbooks, reference books and physical facilities, etc.

### OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study are:

- to identify the adequacy of the reading materials in the libraries,
- to know the necessary information resources for teaching and learning process in the fields of interest to the college,
- to know the facilities extended by the library,
- to find out the types of information resources required by the faculty,
- to ascertain the opinion of the faculty regarding the adequacy of information resources and services available in the library,
- to help the administrator of the library for preparing an enrichment programme for better use of the library, and
- to assess the methods of organizing the documents in libraries.

**METHODOLOGY**

A questionnaire consisting of 19 questions was designed to elicit the opinion of the faculty. These were distributed among the faculty and the required data was collected which was further supplemented by informal discussions with the faculty. The analysis and interpretation of the data is presented in the subsequent sections.

**ANALYSIS**

According to official sources, the total strength of teachers was 134 (excluding librarians and physical cultural instructors) in both the colleges. The questionnaires were distributed among the selected group of 100 teachers out of which 42 respondents were from Arts & Commerce College and 49 respondents from Science College (Table 1).

Table 1

*Distribution of questionnaire*

Particulars	Arts & Commerce College		Science College	
	Numbers	Percentage	Numbers	Percentage
Number of questionnaires distributed	50	100	50	100
Number of questionnaires received	42	84	49	98

Table 2

*Teaching experience of the faculty*

Experience in years	Total Number of respondents N=91	Percentage
1 - 5	30	32.97
6 - 10	12	13.19
11 - 15	06	6.59
16 - 20	07	7.69
21 and above	36	39.56

Table 2 shows the teaching experience of the faculty. It is observed that a majority of the respondents (39.56%) have more than 21 years

of experience in teaching and at the same time a fairly large number of teachers (32.97%) have one to five years experience.

Table 3

*Qualification wise distribution of respondents*

Qualification(s)	Arts & Commerce College		Science College	
	No. of responses	Percentage	No. of responses	Percentage
Post Graduation	33	78.57	34	69.39
P.G. with B.Ed	02	4.76	02	4.08
P.G. with M. Ed.	02	4.76	00	0.00
P.G. with L.L.B.	01	2.38	01	2.04
P.G. with M.Phil	00	0.00	02	4.08
Ph.D.	04	9.52	06	12.24
B.E.	00	0.00	04	8.16

Table 3 indicates the educational qualifications of the respondents. It is seen that a majority of the respondents (78.57% and 69.39%) are postgraduates in Arts & Commerce College and Science College respectively. Comparatively the number of Doctoral degree holders are fewer being only 9.52% and 12.24% of the respondents in both the colleges respectively. At the same

time few teachers (4.76% and 4.08%) are having additional degrees in education (B.Ed and M.Ed.) in both the colleges. It is interesting to note that engineering degree holders are also pursuing teaching profession in the department of computer science. There are no M. Phil holders in Sahyadri Arts & Commerce College.

Table 4

*Languages known by the faculty*

Languages Known	Arts & Commerce College		Science College	
	No. of Responses	Percentage	No. of Responses	Percentage
Kannada	42	100.00	49	100.00
English	42	100.00	49	100.00
Hindi	28	66.67	42	85.71
Sanskrit	03	7.14	02	4.08
Urdu	03	7.14	01	2.04
Telugu	06	14.29	07	14.29
Tamil	04	9.52	01	2.04
Konkani	00	0.00	02	4.08
Marathi	03	7.14	05	10.20
Malayalam	00	0.00	02	4.08
Tulu	00	0.00	01	2.04
Rajasthani	00	0.00	01	2.04
French	01	2.38	00	0.00

Table 4 indicates that all the respondents are well versed both in Kannada and English languages, while 85.71% of the respondents in the science college know Hindi, but this percentage is only 66.67% in the Arts and

Commerce College. A few respondents know the languages like Sanskrit, Urdu, Telugu, Tamil etc. The Arts and Commerce College also have a teacher who knew French language.

Table 5

*Multiple languages known by the respondents*

Multiple Languages	Arts & Commerce College		Science College	
	No. of Responses	Percentage	No. of Responses	Percentage
Kannada/English	13	30.95	07	14.28
K/E/Hindi	12	28.57	26	53.06
K/E/H/Sanskrit	01	02.38	00	00
K/E/Sanskrit	01	02.38	00	00
K/E/H/Tamil/Telugu	03	07.14	00	00
K/E/H/Tamil	01	02.38	00	00
K/E/H/Sanskrit/Marathi	01	21.38	00	00
K/E/H/Tulu	00	00	01	02.04
K/E/H/Telugu	04	09.52	05	10.20
K/E/H/Urdu	02	04.76	01	02.04
K/E/H/Urdu/Tamil	01	02.38	00	00
K/E/H/Marathi	02	04.76	01	02.04
K/E/H/Marathi/French	01	02.38	00	00
K/E/H/Marathi/Konkani	00	00	02	04.08
K/E/H/Sanskrit/Tamil	00	00	01	02.04
K/E/H/Marathi/Telugu	00	00	01	02.04
K/E/H/Marathi/Rajasthani	00	00	01	02.04
K/E/H/Malayalam	00	00	02	04.08
Total	42	100	49	100

Note: K= Kannada, E = English, H = Hindi

Table 5 indicates that 53.06% of the Science College teachers know Kannada, English and Hindi languages whereas only 28.57% of the Arts College teachers know all the three languages. But 2.04% of the teachers from science college also know Tulu, Urdu, Tamil, Marathi, etc. This may be due to the reason that these teachers basically belong to the border areas of Karnataka State. As far as Telugu language is concerned more or less the same percentage (9.52% and 10.20%) of teachers in both the colleges know Telugu language. This table shows that nearly 33% of the respondents knew more than three languages in both the colleges.

**Use of Library**

It is evident from table 6 that a majority of the Arts faculty (45.24%) visit the library everyday to meet their information needs and 46.94% of science teachers visit library once in two days. But a few of them (24.49%) from science college visit the library everyday. As opposed to this, 20.41% of the teachers from both the colleges visit the library occasionally. Only negligible percentage(4.76%) of respondents from Arts & Commerce College visit the library seldom.

Table 6

*Frequency of visits to the library: faculty wise*

Frequency of Library visit	Arts & Commerce College		Science College	
	No. of Responses	Percentage	No. of Responses	Percentage
Everyday	19	45.24	12	24.49
Once in two days	07	16.67	23	46.94
Once in three days	09	21.43	04	8.16
Occasionally	05	11.90	10	20.41
Seldom	02	4.76	0	0.00
Total	42	100.00	49	100.00

However, it is not the frequency of visit to the library, but the purpose of visiting the library that is important. Purpose of visit gives necessary information to the authorities about the documents and the type of information that the library users

are interested in. This helps them in developing the document collection and in developing other services and also facilities to give better service to its users. Table 7 attempts to identify the purpose of users visit to the library.

Table 7

*Purpose of visit to the library*

Purpose of library visit	Arts & Commerce College		Science College	
	No. of Responses	Percentage	No. of Responses	Percentage
To collect reading materials in their subject	36	85.71	39	79.59
To know the latest arrivals in the library in their subject	26	61.90	30	61.22
To prepare a reading list considered to be important in their subject	14	33.33	12	24.49
To gain current and general information	21	50.00	32	65.31
To read Newspaper and popular magazines	09	21.43	15	30.61
To read journal articles pertaining to their subjects	14	33.33	11	22.45
For leisure reading	05	11.90	09	18.37

Note: It is a multiple-choice question so percentage cannot be rounded after 100.

Majority of the respondents (85.71% and 79.59%) from both the colleges visit the library for collecting reading materials in their subject. More or less same percentage (61.90% and 61.22%) of respondents from both the colleges visit the library to know the latest arrivals in their discipline, where as 11.90% and 18.37% of the respondents from both the colleges visit the library for leisure reading.

Table 8 reveals that majority of the respondents (85.71% and 75.51%) are aware of library classification in both the colleges. As opposed to this, 14.29% of the Arts faculty are not aware of library classification and 24.49% of the science faculty is not aware of library classification

Table 8

*Awareness of library classification*

Awareness of Library Classification	Arts & Commerce College		Science College	
	No. of Responses	Percentage	No. of Responses	Percentage
Yes	36	85.71	37	75.51
No	06	14.29	12	24.49
Total	42	100.00	49	100.00

Table 9 indicates the opinion about library classification. Majority (42.86%) of the respondents easily understand the library classification. 11.90% and 8.16% of the respondents in both the colleges expressed that

classification scheme followed by the library staff is difficult to understand. Some respondents from both the colleges have not given any opinion on library classification.

Table 9

*Opinion about library classification*

Opinion	Arts & Commerce College		Science College	
	No. of Responses	Percentage	No. of Responses	Percentage
Easy to understand	18	42.86	21	42.86
Difficult to understand	05	11.90	04	8.16
Helpful in identifying the books on specific subject of my interest	11	26.19	16	32.65
No response	08	19.05	08	16.33
Total	42	100.00	49	100.00

Table 10 indicates the consultation of library catalogue by the respondents. The users usually consult the library catalogue for finding information about the documents required by the

faculty. The library catalogue reflects the document collection in the library and helps the users to know the availability of needed information about the documents in the library.

Table 10

*Consultation of library catalogue by the respondents*

Consult the library catalogue	Arts & Commerce College		Science College	
	No. of Responses	Percentage	No. of Responses	Percentage
Yes	29	69.05	31	63.27
No	10	23.81	18	36.73
No Response	03	7.14	0	0.00
Total	42	100.00	49	100.00

The above table explains that 69.05% respondents of the Arts College followed by 63.27% respondents of science college consult the library catalogue for finding information about documents in the library. 23.81% and 36.73% of the respondents do not consult library catalogue for finding any information in the library in both the colleges respectively. 7.14% of respondents have not given any response.

The library catalogue is considered to be very important traditional retrieval tool in the library. Card catalogue provides information about documents available in the library. Table 11 indicates that nearly 38.00% science and arts & commerce faculty find that the library catalogue is always adequate to trace-out the reading materials in the library. 16.67% and 10.20% of respondents in both the colleges have not given any opinion regarding adequacy of information given in the catalogue respectively.

Table 11

*Adequacy of information given in the catalogue*

Opinion	Arts & Commerce College		Science College	
	No. of Responses	Percentage	No. of Responses	Percentage
Always adequate	16	38.10	19	38.78
Occasionally adequate	12	28.57	12	24.49
Seldom	01	2.38	03	6.12
Can't Say	06	14.29	10	20.41
No response	07	16.67	05	10.20
Total	42	100.00	49	100.00

It is clear from the empirical statistical data furnished in Table 12 that a large number of (63.27%) science teaching respondents expressed that the reading materials are easy to access in the library. Comparatively arts teaching respondents (54.76%) expressed that

the reading materials are easy to access in the library, however a significant number of respondents from Arts college express their dissatisfaction about not having easy access to the reading materials in the library.

Table 12

*Opinion of accessibility of reading materials*

Opinion	Arts & Commerce College		Science College	
	No. of Responses	Percentage	No. of Responses	Percentage
Easy to access	23	54.76	31	63.27
Fairly easy to access	10	23.81	17	34.69
Not easy to access	09	21.43	01	2.04
Total	42	100.00	49	100.00

Thus, based on the above observations it is suggested that the library authorities should take into consideration the suggestions/opinions expressed by the respondents to take suitable measures for proper arrangement of reading materials in the library.

An important function of the college library is providing essential information to the faculty in the college. Due to some hindrance the reading materials are not accessible. Table 13 shows that 40.48% of the respondents from Arts & Commerce college expressed opinion about poor shelf-

arrangement, as opposed to this, Science teaching respondents (20.41%) expressed lesser dissatisfaction of poor shelf-arrangement of reading materials in the library.

Majority of the Arts faculty respondents (50.00%) were unhappy over the misplacement of books in the library. 4.08% of the respondents of science faculty specified about the lack of assistance from library staff in locating reading materials in the library. 2.38% and 10.20% respondents have not given any response from the Arts and the Science college respectively.



Table 13

*Hindrance in accessibility of reading materials*

Opinion	Arts & Commerce College		Science College	
	No. of Responses	Percentage	No. of Responses	Percentage
Poor shelf arrangement	17	40.48	10	20.41
Height of racks hinders browsing of books	10	23.81	09	18.37
Books relating to their subject are scattered in the library	17	40.48	09	18.37
Books are Misplaced	21	50.00	11	22.45
Lack of light and ventilation in the stack room	07	16.67	15	30.61
Narrow passage between the racks hinders free movement	09	21.43	20	40.82
Books are kept under lock	05	11.90	03	6.12
Lack of assistance from the library staff in locating the reading materials	09	21.43	02	4.08
The classification scheme followed by the library staff is not understandable	05	11.90	14	28.57
No response	01	2.38	05	10.20

**Note:** It is multiple choice questions so percentage cannot be rounded off to 100.

Table 14

*Availability of reference books in library*

Opinion	Arts & Commerce College		Science College	
	No. of Responses	Percentage	No. of Responses	Percentage
Yes	39	92.86	48	97.96
No	03	7.14	01	2.04
Total	42	100.00	49	100.00

Table 14 indicates that, majority of (92.86%) Arts Faculty respondents specified availability of reference books in the library and 97.96% of

Science Faculty respondents too specified the same.

Table 15

*Opinion of the respondents about reference collections*

Opinion	Arts & Commerce College		Science College	
	No. of Responses	Percentage	No. of Responses	Percentage
Excellent	02	4.76	05	10.20
Satisfactory	23	54.76	33	67.35
Fair	10	23.81	09	18.37
Very poor	07	16.67	02	4.08
Total	42	100.00	49	100.00

An analysis of the responses furnished by the respondents in respect of the opinion about reference collection, shows that majority (67.35%) of respondents in Science College feel that reference collection is satisfactory in the library, whereas 54.76% of respondents from Arts

College opined that reference collection is satisfactory in the library. 16.67% and 4.08% of respondents in both the colleges have graded reference collection as very poor in both the libraries respectively.

Table 16

*Frequency of use of library materials in the opinion of respondents*

Type of Documents	Arts & Commerce College		Science College	
	No. of Responses	Percentage	No. of Responses	Percentage
Text Books	37	88.10	39	79.59
Reference Books	26	61.90	37	75.51
Subject Periodicals	11	26.19	15	30.61
Popular Journals	05	11.90	11	22.45
News Papers	18	42.86	18	36.73

**Note:** It is multiple choice questions so percentage cannot be rounded off to 100

The details furnished in Table 16 show that the opinion expressed by majority of (88.10%) Arts Faculty respondents most frequently use text books and 79.59% of Science Faculty respondents also use text books frequently. At the same time

analysis shows that the reference books are (75.51%) more frequently used by the Science Faculty respondents than the Arts faculty respondents.

Table 17

*Subscription of journals and periodicals*

Opinion	Arts & Commerce College		Science College	
	No. of Responses	Percentage	No. of Responses	Percentage
Yes	14	33.33	39	79.59
No	28	66.67	10	20.41
Total	42	100.00	49	100.00

Table 17 shows that 79.59% of Science College respondents and 33.33% respondents from Arts College have expressed the availability of journal/periodicals in the library. Majority of the Arts respondents say that the library is not subscribing for journals/periodicals, concerning to their

discipline. Comparatively this percentage is very less (20.41%) in Science College. Due to lack of financial assistance from the concerned authority, numerous subject periodicals/journals are not being subscribed.

Table 18

*Opinion about adequacy of journal/periodicals in the library*

Opinion	Arts & Commerce College		Science College	
	No. of Responses	Percentage	No. of Responses	Percentage
Excellent	02	4.76	01	2.04
Satisfactory	11	26.19	25	51.02
Fair	08	19.05	10	20.41
Very Poor	11	26.19	07	14.29
No Response	10	23.81	06	12.24
Total	42	100.00	49	100.00

Table 18 shows that the respondents from both the colleges (26.19% and 51.02) have expressed satisfaction about the adequacy of periodicals/journals. However fewer respondents(4.76% and 2.04%) specified the adequacy of periodicals/

journals as excellent in the college library, 23.81% of the Arts Faculty respondents and 12.24% of Science Faculty respondents have not given any response.

Table 19

*Extent of library materials supporting academic activity*

Opinion	Arts & Commerce College		Science College	
	No. of Responses	Percentage	No. of Responses	Percentage
To a great extent	08	19.05	21	42.86
To some extent	28	66.67	27	55.10
Not at all	04	9.52	00	0.00
Can't Say	02	4.76	01	02.04
Total	42	100.00	49	100.00

It is clear from the Table 19 that 66.67% of Arts College and 55.10% of the Science College respondents have expressed that the library materials are supporting their academic activity to some extent. 42.86% of science respondents

specified that library materials are supporting their academic activity to a great extent, while less percentage (i.e.4.76%) of Arts college and 2.04% of Science College respondents have not expressed any opinion in this regard.

Table 20

*Opinion about the lending procedure*

Opinion	Arts & Commerce College		Science College	
	No. of Responses	Percentage	No. of Responses	Percentage
Excellent	01	2.38	10	20.41
Systematic	12	28.57	22	44.90
Satisfactory	26	61.90	17	34.59
Can't Say	03	07.14	00	0.00
Total	42	100.00	49	100.00

Table 20 indicates that majority of respondents (44.90%) from Science College feel that the lending procedure is systematic in the library, whereas 61.90% of respondents from Arts

College feel the lending procedure to be satisfactory. But only 7.14% of respondents have not expressed any opinion about lending procedure in the library.

Table 21

*Rating of the respondents about the library facilities/services in the library*

Opinion	Arts & Commerce College		Science College	
	No. of Responses		No. of Responses	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Reading room is well furnished	14 33.33%	27 64.29%	12 24.49%	28 57.14%
There is good ventilation & light in the reading & stack room	15 35.71%	23 54.76%	14 28.57%	26 53.06%
Library building is congested and not useable	27 64.29%	13 30.95%	26 53.06%	13 26.53%
Books are always disorganized in the shelves	06 14.29%	32 76.19%	06 12.24%	32 65.31%
Latest text books are not available in multiple copies	26 61.90%	14 33.33%	23 46.94%	17 34.69%
There is no proper balanced collection all subjects taught in the college	12 28.57%	16 38.10%	13 26.53%	17 34.69%
The library staff courteous and always ready to help	42 100.00%	01 2.38%	42 85.71%	02 4.08%
Reference collection is inadequate	21 0%	17 40.48%	19 38.78%	18 36.73%

It is evident from the study that all respondents from Arts College and 85.71% of respondents from Science College feel the library staff to be courteous and always ready to help the users. 64.29% and 53.06% of respondents specified the library building is congested and majority of respondents (64.29% & 57.14%) in both the colleges have specified reading room is not well furnished. 54.76% and 53.06% of respondents specified that there is no ventilation and proper lighting in the reading room and stack room. A less percentage of respondents (i.e. 14.29%) from Arts College and (12.24%) from Science College have expressed that the books are always disorganized on the shelves. Therefore the attention of authorities for improvement is required (Table 21).

### FINDINGS: AN OVERVIEW

Majority of respondents expressed their opinion that they visit the library for the purpose of consulting text-books, reference books, to acquire current and general information and to read newspapers and popular magazines, etc. Majority of the respondents in both the colleges (42.86% and 42.86%) are aware of library classification and also say it is easy to understand.

Again majority of the respondents (69.05% and 63.27%) consult the library catalogue for collecting information about documents available in the library. 38.10% and 38.78% of respondents from both the college specified the adequacy of information given in the card catalogue to be always adequate and helpful in identifying the needed information.

The collection of library materials must meet the needs of the faculty. The study identifies that the reading materials are easy to access for both colleges i.e., 54.76% from Arts & Commerce and 63.27% from Science College. The subject periodicals and journals are not adequate to meet the needs of the users because both the colleges lack full financial grant from the university authority. Majority of respondents were found to be aware of the reading materials which is helpful for academic activity of the teachers and also a good number of respondents from both the

colleges are satisfied with the lending procedure in the library.

The opinions expressed by respondents regarding the physical facilities in the library such as lighting, ventilation and space available in the stack room and reading room etc, are not adequate, hence it is suggested to the higher authorities that improvement in this direction is also very much needed.

### SUGGESTIONS

This study should enable librarians to understand the existing problems of their library resources and services. Taking this into consideration, this survey has been carried out in both the colleges of Shimoga. Based on the results from the analysis of the data gathered, the following suggestions are been made:

1. The present libraries are lacking in user awareness/orientation programmes etc. In order to fully exploit the use of library resources, services and facilities each library has to have compulsory user awareness/orientation program through audio-visual materials or through lecturer method from time to time.
2. There is need for immediate and appropriate shelving of books, directional signs and guides, which instruct users to locate needed library materials.
3. The arrangement of books on the shelves should be as per the classification order so as to ensure an easy and quick way of locating required reading materials.
4. There is a need for separate reading room/seating arrangements for faculty members, and provide newspapers, popular magazines, reference books etc., to know the latest information.
5. Efficient and easy use of card catalogue (i.e., Author and Title card) is essential to know the availability of required books in the library.

6. Multiple copies of textbooks are needed for users, because teachers borrow copies of textbooks of same author and subject. Thus, it requires more financial assistance from concerned authority.
7. Further financial assistance is essential for subscribing subject journals/periodicals to both the colleges.
8. Independent library building is necessary for accommodating the future library collections with proper ventilation and lighting for both the colleges.

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