

Impact of Library Orientation Programme on the Academic Performance of the Students of PSGR Krishnammal College for Women: A Study

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Abstract - This paper evaluates the library user assessment based on the instruction which is provided to the users. Basically Library instruction is a core activity of any college library that entails educating, enlightening, and guiding the library users to identify the desired information and resources effectively. This paper deals about the outcome of the library orientation programme conducted at PSGR Krishnammal College for Women. Survey method was used for conducting the research activity. The primary objective of this research is to educate the students about the Library resources and to study its impact on their academic performance as well.

Keywords: Library Orientation Programme, Information Literacy, Information sources, User Assessment

I. INTRODUCTION

“A University is just a group of buildings gathered around a Library” Shelby Foote. Libraries are considered the heart or the central hub of any academic institution. Earlier Libraries were considered a place to store books and materials, and a quiet place to read. Libraries today are taking new roles and helping young people gain the skills needed for information search. In the current digital era, where information is available in plenty, and can be acquired with the touch of the finger, people are engaged more on technology enhanced learning with the availability of digital books known as e-book, audio books are becoming popular and preferred over the traditional book reading [1].

Libraries are still important and necessary. Everyone can not afford a smart phone, tablet or laptop. Many Users are still unable to perform search query on platforms. The first article that shows up on a Google search is just a skewed research. This is where the importance of Library orientation programme lies [2]. In order to cope with the ever increasing volume of knowledge and information, users need to be prepared in understanding the pattern of communication and how to organize their methods of information retrieval methods efficiently. This paper briefly explains the importance of Library orientation programme particularly in the academic field and how it helps the students' academic, skills and information search strategies.

A. Library User Assessment

Library User assessment is a continuous process undertaken by Libraries to learn about the needs of the users and to evaluate them in order to improve the library facilities,

services and resources. It helps all the learners and users to be keep up with the latest existing technology. The future information needs can be assessed only needs of the users and how to leverage technology to serve. It also enables in designing the orientation programme with more sensitivity.

B. Orientation Programme

“Orientation” means “the adjustment or alignment of oneself to the existing surrounding or the environment”. The Library Orientation Programme is to ensure that the library users adjust to the Library and its resources. Library instruction is also called bibliographic instruction and library orientation consists of instruction programs designed to teach the users how to locate the information quickly and effectively.

The following are the objectives of Library Orientation Programme

1. To familiarize the users with Library, its resources and services.
2. To create awareness about the general rules and regulations of the Library.
3. To establish contact between the users and the staff.
4. To instruct the users on how to use Library resources and services.
5. To enhance the user's abilities in the selection of appropriate resources.
6. To train the users on developing information seeking strategies.
7. To create awareness about various information sharing networks, both at national and international levels.
8. To encourage users to get assistance from Library staff

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the awareness level of students about library resources and services available in General Library.
2. To find the user perception with regard to award of marks for the effective usage of Library.

III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A review of literature on library orientation programme reveals numerous research studies that have been done in different parts of the world. Fadel Jamil Klaib studied the comparison on library orientation programme and user's

rating on the improved library instruction programme. The study indicated that the average mean of the students' rating on the practical objectives of the improved library orientation which is higher than the mean found in the previous study and also in spite of the improvement in the respondent's rating, there is still a need in the future to offer lifetime learning based on practical aspects [3]. Chamani advocated that a comprehensive information literacy programme to be conducted to promote awareness and use of electronic information sources. He also recommended that library should increase the procurement of electronic resources while continuing to acquire general and reference materials to fulfill the current research needs of the users[4]. Jessy A, Shivananda Bhat and Mahabaleshwara Rao conducted a case study at Manipal University assessing the impact of information literacy programme and the awareness of the students about the type of resources available in the Library. They emphasized on the importance of active participation of Librarian with faculty members in imparting the information searching skills among the students [5]. Kantharaj, C.T in his study concluded that engineering colleges have a good collection of books and other library resources and to be utilized in a better way. The purpose of library is to train and instruct the users on how to retrieve information easily by using simple retrieving techniques as it will help the user to carry out this practice for their lifelong learning [6]. Manisha in her study stated that Information Literacy Programme helps to increase the information retrieval process very quickly for the betterment of the users lifelong learning[7]. Mani, M concluded that to meet the demand of the college user community libraries which should be equipped with need based hybrid resources. Developing and practicing best practices by analyzing and revising them at regular intervals will lead to a continuous improvement in overall performance of the library and the whole institution [8]. Ankit and Pratiksha in their research on academic performance among first year medical students showed positive correlation between library usage either students' academic performance but also stated that its not mandatory to spend time in library and sometimes dedication and hard work helps in good academics and personality development.[9]. This study actually reveals the academic performance before and after the library orientation programme in the College for the first year students

IV. ABOUT PSGR KRISHNAMMAL COLLEGE GENERAL LIBRARY

The Library is well equipped with latest books and journals in the fields of Arts, Science and Social Sciences etc., fully computerized with bar coding technology is used in the Library. It facilitates access to digital resources though subscription to databases which consists of relevant information of the respective domains. The Library is an invaluable resource center for students, research scholars and faculty members. The Library consists of more than 60000 books, 174 journals and periodicals. The Digital Library section also offers latest online reading materials.

Apart from that most of the departments also have their own Library to cater to the needs of its faculty members.

Library Orientation Programme was conducted for the PSGR Krishnammal College for Women Students during their I Semester through PPT Presentation. Questionnaires were distributed to them two times to assess the student's academic performance based on their Library Utilization like Library visits, book transactions. Students were also assessed after the Library Orientation Programme at the end of the 2nd semester to find out the impact.

V. SCOPE OF THE RESEARCH

The Present study is taken to understand the awareness level of the students of PSGR Krishnammal College for Women about the various information resources available in the Library and study the impact of the Information Literacy Programme or Library Orientation Programme on the student's behavioral changes. Survey method was used for collecting data from the students. A well structured questionnaire was distributed to 400 students and all the students gave the responses effectively. There were also general observations made during the research to understand the knowledge of the users about the resources available in the Library.

VI. DATA ANALYSIS

TABLE I BACKGROUND OF THE USERS WITH RESPECT TO THEIR DEPARTMENTS

Stream	Course	No. of Students	% Of Students in each stream
Arts	BA(Economics)	67	49.25
	BA(History)	64	
	BA(English)	66	
Science	BSc (Maths)	70	50.75
	BSc (Physics)	68	
	BSc(Chemistry)	65	

From the above table, academic background of the students is identified 49.25 % of the students are from Arts stream and 50.75% of students are from science stream.

TABLE.II AWARENESS OF LIBRARY ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

Department	I Semester		II Semester	
	Aware	Not Aware	Aware	Not Aware
ECO	45%	55 %	80%	20%
CHEM	56%	44 %	75%	25%
PHY	68%	32%	89%	11%
MATH	49%	51%	69%	31%
ENG	59%	41%	76%	24%
HIS	72%	28%	88%	12%

It is found that fresh students who joined college are not much aware of the Library Orientation Programmes. But the difference in the second semester that most of the

students are now aware of the Library Orientation Programme.

TABLE III KNOWLEDGE OF LIBRARY RESOURCES BEFORE LIBRARY ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

Information Resource	Economics %	Chemistry %	Physics %	Maths %	English %	History %
Dictionary	52	65	63	71	72	95
Encyclopedia	91	83	74	85	95	86
Reference Books	58	25	50	46	42	69
Print Journals	66	60	40	67	40	56
Bound Volume	42	45	40	39	60	42
Newspaper	90	96	97	99	85	93
Text Books	75	69	50	46	45	56
Projects	25	29	42	40	36	23
E-Books	59	26	54	50	60	43
E-Journals	63	60	57	46	55	49
Other E-Resources	45	42	35	37	47	48

Table III shows the knowledge level of the information resources as fresher students. Most of the students are aware of the Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, Newspaper and Text

Books. More stress was to be given on the awareness of Projects and e-resources available in the Library.

TABLE IV KNOWLEDGE OF LIBRARY RESOURCES AFTER LIBRARY ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

Information Resources	Economics %	Chemistry %	Physics %	Maths %	English %	History %
Dictionary	82	76	86	89	95	98
Encyclopedia	95	90	86	95	91	94
Reference Books	65	50	70	86	72	89
Print Journals	93	83	70	82	80	80
Bound Volume	82	76	77	73	80	72
Newspaper	96	96	97	99	90	99
Text Books	98	96	87	50	69	78
Projects	46	58	59	59	76	50
E-Books	75	50	63	77	63	80
E-Journals	78	85	85	75	65	72
Other E-resources	59	69	75	83	72	86

Table IV shows the awareness level percentage that has increased after the Library Orientation Programme by the end of the 2nd semester. Now most of the students are aware of the Library resources.

TABLE V IMPACT OF LOP ON THE LIBRARY VISITS AND THE BOOKS CIRCULATIONS BEFORE AND AFTER ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

Department	I Semester		II Semester	
	No. of E-Gate Entries	No. of Transactions	No. of E-Gate Entries	No. of Transactions
Economics	76	262	233	524
Chemistry	89	103	246	665
Physics	51	363	210	1160
Maths	236	755	566	1294
English	54	378	393	972
History	100	447	249	777

Table V mainly studies the impact of the Library orientation programme of the respondents during first and second semesters. It is clearly evident that the Library visits and the

books transacted has increased by incorporating the grade points or marks for the same.

TABLE V STUDENTS PERCEPTION WITH REGARD TO AWARD OF MARKS

Department	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Economics	50	21	12	10	7
Chemistry	45	25	20	6	4
Physics	71	15	10	3	1
Maths	63	11	9	11	7
English	30	33	20	12	5
History	28	23	19	20	9

VII. SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

1. All Students are aware of the Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, and Newspapers as information source and can locate them in the Library.
2. Very less number of students are aware of the Projects, e-resources and bound volumes before the Library Orientation Programme. But, after the second semester the awareness level has increased.
3. Awarding marks or points for books transacted and library visits has played a vital role in usage of the Library as well as increased the Library's image.
4. Majority of the students perceive that awarding marks for effective library usage has positive impact on their regular visits during the 2nd semester
5. Library Orientation Programme helps in enhancing the searching skill and also the e-resources.

VIII. SUGGESTIONS

1. In planning of Library Orientation Programme, the instructions provided should closely integrate into academic courses as well.
2. Online video tutorials to be introduced to those who would not be able to attend the Library Orientation Programme.
3. A separate user education programme or hands on training on searching and accessing e-resources could also be arranged.
4. Awarding marks or points based on the effective usage of Library can be assessed so as to increase the usage of Library.

IX. CONCLUSION

From the present study, it is clear that unless the fresher students are made aware or exposed to the resources available in the Library, there will always be a lack of effective library usage. Library Orientation Programme helps students know what and how of the functioning and usefulness of the Library. It also helps students to improve information finding and evaluation skills, and also develops their critical thinking through deeper learning.

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