NETWORKING STATUS OF AIDED MINORITY COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN TAMILNADU: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The advent of Internet and its resources have revolutionised the academic world. The networking of Libraries has dramatically changed the old concept. This paper talks about the Networking status of minority institutions in Tamil nadu, more particularly the southern region. This study revealed the information about the minority status, location of colleges and its autonomy. This paper also compare the availability of ICT facility, networking condition, automation status thereby improved the efficiency of Library services to its patrons.

KEYWORDS: Library Automation; Library Networking; Library software; ICT facility; Minority institutions

INTRODUCTION

Library automation and networking is all about connecting the other libraries and information centres with adequate facility. Library automation in a simpler term is defined as a process of mechanization of Library operation which is of a routine and repetitive nature which usually covers all the housekeeping operations of the Library and Information center. The emerging ICTs in India have changed the traditional Libraries into Knowledge center.

Need and Purpose

The main motto of Library automation is to provide the right information to the right person in a right manner in a right time. The advantages may be in different levels which are as follows:

- Library cataloguing system

- Reduced staff

- Increase in the staff productivity

- Housekeeping operation

- Advance in technology

- System hardware and software

- Access to external information through internet

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Kumar have reported on a study of 12 aided minority college Libraries in urban Bangaluru, in India. Out of 12 colleges only 4 colleges had fully automated, 6 colleges had partially automated and 2 colleges were in their beginning

stages of Library automation. Singh have studied the status of 6 engineering college libraries in sonepat, Haryana and reported that the majority of the engineering college Libraries implemented automation to improve the quality of services. So far, very minimum studies have been reported in Tamilnadu in the area of minority segment. Hence the researcher has decided to carry out the study in southern region of Tamilnadu which includes Trichy, Madurai and Tirunelveli

OBJECTIVES

- To study the present status of the selected aided minority college libraries

- To know the status of Library automation and ICT in the selected colleges

- To find out the Library software used in the automation of the Libraries

- To ascertain the status of Library networks undertaken by the colleges

- To understand the problems of professionals in the process of automation and networking

- To find out the availability of computer systems used in the process of Library automation and its services and the website address of the colleges.

Scope of the Study

The present study is limited to the aided minority college libraries situated in Trichy, Madurai and Tirunelveli cities only. For the purpose of the study, religious minority has been taken into consideration which includes Christians and Muslims institutions.

The following is the list of aided minority colleges selected for the study

Colleges	Minority Status
St. Joseph College, Trichy	Christian (R.C) Minority
Jamal Mohamad College, Trichy	Muslim Minority
Holy Cross College, Trichy	Christian (R.C) Minority
Bishop Heber College, Trichy	Christian (CSI) Minority
Arul Anadar College, Madurai	Christian (R.C) Minority
M.S.S. Wake Board College, Madurai	Muslim Minority
The American College, Madurai	Christian (CSI) Minority
Lady Doak College, Madurai	Christian (CSI) Minority
Fatima College, Madurai	Christian (R.C) Minority
Sarah Tucker College, Tirunelveli	Christian (CSI) Minority
Sadakabdullah Appa College, Tirunelveli	Muslim Minority
St. Xaviors College, Tieunelveli	Christian (R.C) Minority

METHODOLOGY

The researcher has chosen descriptive research design and the method is normative survey and questionnaire technique. Primary and secondary sources of information were collected from books, journals, magazines, annual reports of the colleges and conference, seminar volumes that were related to the study.

Printed questionnaire was distributed to the 12 identified aided minority degree colleges in Trichy, Madurai and Tirunelveli cities. In order to give authenticity to the findings, statistical analysis was carried out. Simple percentage analysis has been used for analysing the data.

Analysis and Interpretation

The collected data through questionnaire was analysed with the help of tables, and data interpretation was done by keeping the objectives of the study on focus. Various questions were asked relating to the automation and networking in the libraries and the response received from the Library professionals are tabulated and presented in the tables with relevant findings.

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Gender

Gender	Colleges	Percentage
Male	8	67
Female	4	33
Total	**12**	**100**

Table 1 shows that the majority (66%) of the respondents are male professionals and the rest of the respondents are female Librarians.

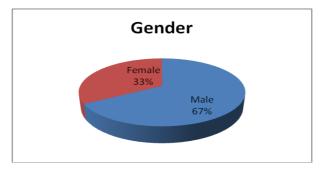**Figure 1**

Table 2: Minority Status

Types of Minority	Colleges	Percentage
Christian Minority (RC)	5	42
Christian Minority (CSI)	4	33
Muslim Minority	3	25
Total	**12**	**100**

The minority institutions are comes under special category which can avail some previlages from Government of India than other institutions. From the above table it is inferred that Most (42%) of the colleges are run by Roman Catholic missionaries followed by CSI dioceses and Muslim Minority.
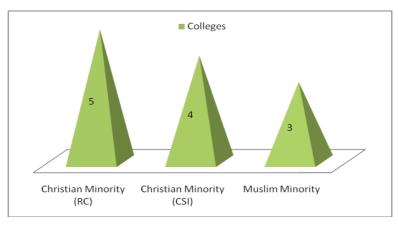

Figure 2

Table 3: Status of Autonomy

Status	Colleges	Percentage
Autonomous	11	92
Non- autonomous	1	8
Total	12	100

It is inferred from table 3 that almost all colleges are getting autonomous status due to its dedicated service to the society and the infrastructure facilities they have.
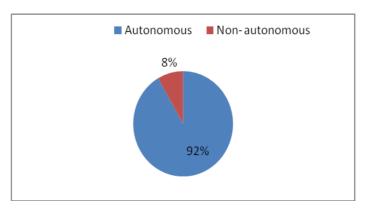

Figure 3

Table 4: Location of Colleges

Location	Colleges	Percentage
Urban	10	84
Semi-Urban	1	8
Rural	1	8
Total	12	100

Table 4 show that Majority (84%) of the colleges are located in urban areas. Very few colleges are located at semi-urban and rural areas.
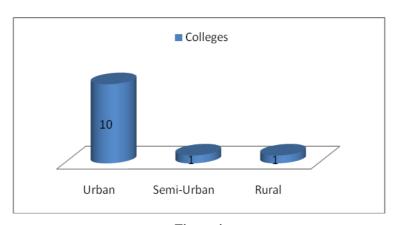

Figure 4

Table 5: Status of Library Automation

Status	Colleges	Percentage
Fully Automated	8	66
Partially Automated	2	17
Not Automated	2	17
Total	**12**	**100**

It is inferred from above table that Most (66%) of the colleges have already done complete automation for their Library transactions, whereas few (17%) colleges are partially done automation and few colleges are not still automating their Libraries.
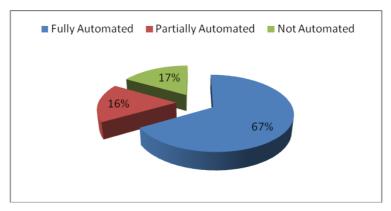

Figure 5

Table 6: Types of Library Software

Software	Colleges	Percentage
Commercial	6	60
In-house	3	30
Open Source	1	10
Total	**10**	**100**

It is inferred from table 6 that Most (60%) of the colleges are using commercial software for Library transactions and sizable (30%) percentage of colleges are using their own, indigenously developed software and very few are opt for open source software.
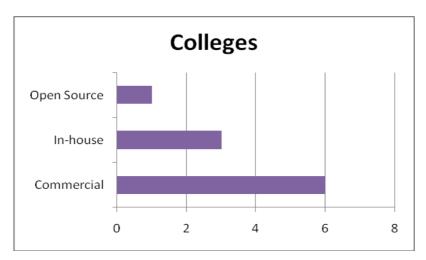

Figure 6

Table 7: Types of Network

Network Type	Colleges	Percentage
LAN	6	50
MAN	1	9
WAN	3	25
Not Available	2	16
Total	**12**	**100**

Table-7 shows that half of the institutions (50%) are connected their workstation with Local Area Network and one fourth of the institutions are having wide area network and very few are not having network connection.

Table 8: Availability of Computers

No. of Computers	Colleges	Percentag
1-5	4	33
5-10	7	58
Not Automated	1	9
Total	**12**	**100**

It is inferred from above table that Most (58%) of the colleges are having adequate number of computer systems to provide networked service. Some institutions are on the way to complete automation.

Table 9: Availability of Website

Website	Colleges	Percentage
Yes	11	91
No	1	9
Total	12	100

It is inferred from above table that almost all colleges are having their website which shows, they were eager to pass on the information to others. Hence owning the website is the need of the hour for running academic institutions.

Findings and Suggestions

- Most (67%) of the respondents are male professionals only.

- Most (42%) of the colleges are belongs to Christian Minority-Roman Catholic Institutions.

- Majority (92%) of the institutions are autonomous colleges.

- Majority (84%) of the colleges are located in Urban areas only.

- Most (66%) of the colleges are automated their Libraries completely. Some of them are partially completed their automation project.

- Most (60%) of the colleges are using commercial software followed by in-house soft ware's.

- Half of the colleges (50%) are connected with Local Area Network followed by Wide Area Network.

- Most (58%) of the colleges are having adequate ICT facilities.

- Very few institutions are not even starting their automation process. Since it is an Information ear, they should at least automate their circulation section.

- Some of the institutions are need to connect their Library systems with local area network thereby they can improve the Library services campus wide.

CONCLUSIONS

The main purpose of this study has been to recognize the status of networking in autonomous minority aided college libraries in Trichy, Madurai and Tirunelveli. The present survey is to study the condition of selected arts college

libraries in southern region of Tamilnadu. It is revealed from the study that except few institutions, all colleges are uniform ally good in ICT facilities as well as in networking condition, which would leads to complete automated environment in near future.

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