

LIBRARY AUTOMATION IN GOVERNMENT COLLEGES:  
A STUDY OF SEONI DISTRICT (MADHYA PRADESH)



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Short Profile :

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**ABSTRACT:**

The collection, services and users of academic libraries are different from other type of libraries. Use of Information Technology has changed the information handling activities in modern libraries. There are several reasons for automating the library activities especially for saving the time of a reader. In this paper discussion about various issues related to the automation of college libraries in Seoni District describe in detailed. The paper also suggest some steps for the automation of college libraries at faster rate.

**KEYWORDS**

*Library Automation, Information Communication Technology, Library Software, SOU.*

## INTRODUCTION :

Due to the information explosion even an excellent library which provide conventional services can not provide highly specialized information, generated from across the world without the help of computers. During the last decade, libraries have experienced significant changes in the information world.

The term library automation refers to the processing of certain routine clerical functions in the library with the assistance of computers and allied technologies.

In India, library automation begins in last 1970s to 1990s. Many university and research libraries had automated their functions. Initially, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, Department of Higher Education has funded 82 colleges of state for computerization of libraries in the year 2002. After that many government libraries star automation with the financial assistance of UGC and Janbhagidari Grant.

## NEED OF THE STUDY

Library Automation helps in the following ways.

- To improve the quality, speed and effectiveness of library services.
- To increase efficiency in staff.
- Avoid clerical works from staff.
- Improve access to resources on other networks and systems.
- Improvement in management of financial resources.
- Facilitate wider access to information for their users.
- Facilitate wider dissemination of their information products and services.
- Essential for resource sharing among libraries.
- For saving the time of the users of the libraries.
- Improve access to remote users.
- For proper and balanced collection.
- Acquisition of new skill and knowledge.
- Enhance national and regional information infrastructure.

## SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study is limited to only seven Government College of seoni district. All these colleges are located within the sphere of 50 km. Out of them only one college is only for girls and others are co educational.

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study are-

- To find out the status and position of libraries and other supporting staff.
- To identify library collection.
- To find out the areas of library automation.
- To find out problems in automation of libraries.

## METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on survey type of research using questionnaire. The questionnaires were sent through postal service to concern. Some information is also collected through personal telephonic conversation.

## DATA ANALYSIS

Questionnaires were sent to the librarians of selected seven Government College libraries of Seoni district of Madhya Pradesh. All the college of this district affiliated to Rani Durgawati Vishwa Vidhyalaya Jabalpur. All seven librarians situated in these colleges have responded to questionnaire. therefore the response rate is 100%. For this study.

Following are the analysis of data collected from the study corresponding to the study.

### 6.1 ESTABLISHMENT YEAR OF THE COLLEGES:-

The established year of the different colleges listed below-

S.N.	Establishment year	No. of Colleges
1	1950-60	01
2	1961-70	-
3	1971-80	-
4	1981-90	05
5	1990-2000	-
6	2000-2010	-
7	After 2010-	01

The table indicates that after the independence the progresses and expansion of government colleges in Madhya Pradesh in very slow. Most of the college were started between the years 1981-1990. After that the from year 2010 the government also open one college in Seoni District.

### 6.2 STATUS OF THE COLLEGES:-

Status of different colleges shown in the table given below:-

S.N.	Name of Courses	No. of colleges	Percentage
1	Under graduate	07	100%
2	Post graduate	05	74%
3	LLB	01	14%
4	B.Lib/M.Lib	01	14%

The table clearly indicates that all the college of Seoni District running graduate course and out of them mostly running (74%). Post graduate courses. Only one college run B.Lib & M.Lib course for students.

### 6.3 KIND OF COLLEGE:-

The table given below shows the educational status of the college:-

S.N.	Kind of education	No. of colleges	Percentage
1	Co-educational	06	86%
2	For Girls only	01	14%

The table indicates that most of the college are Co-educational and only college separately provide higher education facility for girls.

### 6.4 QUALIFICATION AND STATUS THE QUALIFICATION AND STATUS OF THE LIBRARIAN:-

S.N.	Status & Qualification of Librarian	No. of colleges
1	Permanent	04
2	Guest faculty	03
3	Qualification	
	Ph.D	01
	M.phil	03
	M.lib	03

Out of 7 colleges 4 libraries are headed by regular Librarian. Other 3 libraries headed by Guest Librarian. One librarian got his Ph.D degree in library science. Three librarians having M.phil degree and other three have M.Lib degrees.

### 6.5 SUPPORTING LIBRARY STAFF:-

S.N.	Supporting library staff	No. of colleges	Percentage
1	Yes	05	84%
	No	02	14%

Supporting staff placed in libraries is very limited in number out the routine library activities in these libraries.

### 6.6 LIBRARY COLLECTION:-

The table given below shows the total number of volume in libraries-

S.N.	Total Collection	No. of libraries	Percentage
1	More than 1000	01	14%
2	1000-5000	01	
3	5001-10000	01	
4	10000-15000	01	
5	15000-20000	01	
6	20000-25000	01	
7	More than 25000	01	

The table shows that the one library have the collection of more than 25000 volumes. Almost all the libraries (86%) have the collection les then 25000 volumes and only one library have the collection of more than 25000 volumes.

#### 6.7 SOFTWARE:-

S.N.	Name of software	No. of Libraries have	Percentage
1	SOUL	05	72%
2	Any other	-	-

The table shows that all the libraries 72% are using SOUL software for library Automation.

#### 6.8 STATUS OF LIBRARY AUTOMATION:-

The table shows the status of library automation in college libraries-

S.N.	Status of Library Automation	No. of Libraries	Percentage
1	Completed	01	14%
2	Partly completed	01	14%
3	Started	02	28%
4	Not Started	03	42%

Out of 7 libraries only one library have completed library automation & one library partly completed. Two libraries are in initial stage and 3 libraries are not able to automate their functions.

#### 6.9 AREAS OF AUTOMATION:-

There are various areas to automate our library functions. The table given below shows the status of library automation in different college libraries under the study.

S.N.	Areas	Completed		Not Completed		Started		Not Started	
		No of libraries	%	No of libraries	%	No of libraries	%	No of libraries	%
1	Administration	01	14%	-	-	3	28%	3	42%
2	Acquisition	02	28%	-	-	02	28%	4	56%
3	Cataloguing	01	14%	01	14%	02	28%	3	42%
4	Circulation	01	14%	-	-	-	-	06	86%
5	Serial control	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Budget	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	OPAC	01	14%	-	-	02	42%	4	56%

The above table clearly indicate that only one library complete different automation works. Most of the libraries are in starting phase and out of them average 50% of libraries not started their automation work. different areas of automation like serial control, budget are not started in libraries.

## 7. BARRIERS IN AUTOMATION:-

Different barriers which creates problems in library automation listed below.

S.N.	Barrier	No. of Libraries	Percentage
1	In sufficient fund	07	100%
2	In adequate staff	07	100%
3	In adequate staff	07	100%
4	Lack of space	07	100%
5	In adequate infrastructure	07	100%
6	Lack of knowledge	01	14%
7	Electricity	03	42%
8	Remoteness	03	42%

The above table shows that insufficient fund, lack of space, inadequate & trained staff inadequate infrastructure are the major problems to automate the library operations. Electricity in remote areas also a big hurdles.

## 8. FINDINGS

- 1.All librarians are qualified and got master degree in library science. The study also shows that very few librarians are Ph.D in library science.
- 2.More than 40% libraries do not have a permanent librarian that is the major drawbacks of authorities.
- 3.There are in adequate staff in college libraries.
- 4.Library automation is slow due to inadequate fund, inadequate infrastructure and in adequate staff.
- 5.Staff have to need training in library automation.
- 6.Libraries gives priority in circulation and cataloguing.
- 7.Electricity crates problems in libraries situated in rural areas.
- 8.The retrospective conversion of documents takes more time due to non availability of regular data entry operator.
- 9.There is a lack of motivation practices from higher authorities.
- 10.Lack of willingness for library automation and digitization is a serious problem in colleges.

## 9. SUGGESTIONS

The following suggestions are given for the college library automation in seoni district:-

- 1.Vacant posts of college librarians is a big obstacle of library automation. It is suggested that government appoint full time librarians in government colleges.
- 2.There is no post of assistant librarians in 90% government colleges of M.P. Therefore government creates the post of assistant librarian in every government college.
- 3.Librarian should in courage staff & authorities for library automation.
- 4.Authorities should given importance for infrastructure development and space for the library.
- 5.Library staff should be sent to training courses for information technology.
- 6.Other than library staff at least one technical trained staff should be appointed as computer in charge in

libraries.

7.Sufficient funds should be provided for development of libraries.

## 10. CONCLUSION

In the conclusion we can say that the automation status of government colleges of Seoni District is not satisfactory. In infrastructure both in hardware and software needs to be improved. Presently the library services depend upon the latest computer technology therefore library automation of all libraries should be completed in a proper manner.

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