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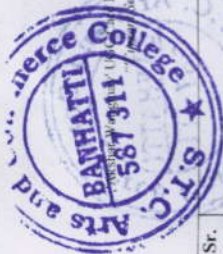
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Opportunities and Challenges Offered by the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on College Libraries

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Abstract

This paper aims to find the effects of COVID-19 on College libraries and the measures taken to overcome the opportunities and challenges in accessing the information during the COVID-19 situation and render services to the users. Study was conducted to examine the opportunities and challenges offered by COVID-19 on academic libraries during closure. Telephone interviews were conducted with 14 College librarians to understand their reaction to library closure. The opportunities and challenges experienced were unpacked to show how college librarians took advantage of imminent closure to continue offering services. It was discovered that physical buildings were closed, and some librarians were visiting the library to assist patrons virtually. The major opportunity was the introduction or enhancement of virtual services. The study found that the majority of the libraries have seen a significant decrease in the use of physical resources and an increase in the usage of digital resources. The majority of the respondents agreed that online assistance. The study revealed that College libraries have a collection of e-books, online journals, online databases, e-learning platforms and research support tools. Remote access facility was extensively used by the users of college libraries to access the relevant literature for teaching, learning, and research activities and thus to meet their information needs.

Keywords: College Library, Lockdown, College Library Services, Off-Campus Access, College Library Resources, Embedded Librarian, Digital Resources, COVID-19

Introduction

Academic libraries are categorized into school libraries, college libraries and university libraries. College libraries are an integral part of the formal education system and they support the educational programs of the institutions. College libraries function to meet the objectives such as providing relevant documents to the parent organization and constantly strives to bring in the latest information to the users in their respective subject areas. The librarians of the college libraries are the information providers who bring the two main components, i.e., users and the documents, together. Bagalkot District currently has more than 15 added Colleges, which are regarded as institutions of higher learning with libraries. The closure of physical libraries due to the COVID-19 pandemic presented a number of opportunities and challenges which affected service provision in college libraries in Bagalkot District. It is stated that the library's purpose is to serve students and faculty needs at the same time ensuring that the campus community is protected the Government of Karnataka announced an indefinite lockdown which led to the closure of institutions of higher learning and all the services, including library services. There was a shift from face to face to online learning and in-person gatherings were cancelled. Students were barred from accessing all the campuses and were supposed to learn from home. Librarians were also supposed to work from home to ensure that library services were not affected in support of teaching and learning. As a result, both librarians and students were supposed to maintain social distancing and wear masks and gloves to protect themselves, patrons and the collection

Review Of Literature

According to Asif & Singh (2020), the pandemic has affected the users in finding the information they need from the libraries due to the worldwide lockdown. Preventive measures such as using the sanitizer, maintaining social distancing, wearing the mask at all times, and making use of online platforms for resource sharing are to be taken by the libraries. By following health and hygiene habits, keeping the surfaces clean and tidy, including library computer desks, switches, doorknobs, advising sick people to stay at home, and limiting the library user numbers in the reading rooms could curb the spread of COVID-

19

Bhuti P. (2020), in his study on "Role of Library Professionals in a Pandemic Situation Like COVID-19," depicts that library professionals have many challenges to face and to overcome these challenges, a librarian should have very good knowledge about everything, service-oriented mentality,

presentation skills, understanding, and cultural diversity, managerial and technical and communication skills. The current situation of pandemics demands a multi-dimensional role to meet the demands of the users. Social distancing and maintaining hygiene premises can promote better use of library resources.

Neog (2020), in the study "Library services through Social Media during COVID-19 with special reference to University Libraries of Assam," investigated social media application by the university libraries of Assam. The study was done to help libraries in the formulation of policy in delivering library services during the pandemic. The study identified social media applications such as WhatsApp and Facebook are used daily to maintain the flow of information to the user. The author points out that usage of social media during a pandemic is extremely beneficial to the users to satisfy their needs.

Kashelkar A. (2021) emphasized the impact of COVID-19 on academic libraries and the tools which can help with the dissemination of information to the users through various platforms available over the internet to overcome the information gap due to the pandemic. Literature review method was implemented in gathering the data and found that best practices such as providing round the clock access to the library resources, remote access, utilizing social learning platforms, open learning platforms initiatives of INFLIBNET such as Shodh Ganga, Vidwan, etc. help the librarian to continue functioning of the library swiftly during the lockdown. Following the Government guidelines and implementing social distancing and usage of digital resources and social media platforms can help library professionals in playing a key role in serving the community networks.

Need For The Study

COVID-19 pandemic necessitated teaching and learning in online mode instead of offline mode and students were attending online classes from their home/hostels as one of the preventive measures in preventing the spreading of the coronavirus in colleges. COVID-19 pandemic also interrupted access to physical resources of the libraries as entry to the libraries was restricted to limited hours. All the users were more dependent on electronic resources than print resources as access to libraries was restricted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Statement Of The Problem

The present study is entitled "Opportunities and Challenges Offered by the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on College Libraries".

Significance Of The Study

College libraries of Bagalkot district are facing challenges from the onset of the COVID-19 situation. The library's traditional functions and services are impacted majority and the information service providers of the college libraries at Bagalkot district are preparing themselves to acclimatize to the situation by implementing new measures. This study helps to understand the Opportunities and Challenges Offered by the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on College Libraries.

Objectives Of The Study

- To understand the Opportunities and Challenges Offered by the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on College Libraries on the working hours of the library
- To examine the challenges that were brought about by COVID-19 in college libraries.
- To offer solutions to some of the challenges faced by academic libraries during the lockdown period.
- To establish information services that different college libraries were offering during the pandemic.
- To determine the impact of COVID-19 on the academic libraries of the Bagalkot District
- To understand the preventive measures taken in the libraries during the COVID-19 pandemic
- To be acquainted with enhanced services provided by the college libraries during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Scope And Limitations Of The Study

The current study is limited to the following 15 Bagalkot district college libraries:

1. STC Arts and Commerce College, Banahatti
2. SCP Arts & DDS Commerce College, Mahalingapur
3. Sri Kalidas Education Society BSN College, Badami
4. Basaveshwar Commerce College, Bagalkot



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BAGALKOT DISTRICT COLLEGE LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION
19

11. B.V.S's Arts & Commerce College, Mudhol
12. B.V.S's Arts & Commerce College, Mudhol
13. B.V.S's Basaveshwar College of Physical Education, Bagalkot
14. BLDEAs Law College, Jamakhandi
15. Sri Kalidas Education Samshe's Arts College, Keroor

Methodology

To determine the effect of COVID-19 on Bagalkot District libraries, fifteen libraries were selected. A study was conducted to examine the opportunities and challenges offered by COVID-19 on college libraries during closure. Telephone interviews were conducted with 15 Bagalkot District librarians to understand their reaction to library closure. Librarians of respective libraries and the responses were tabulated carefully. The results were organized, analyzed, and properly for easier understanding the impact of the pandemic on the libraries and the extent of usage of physical and digital resources of the libraries.

Suggestions

The study revealed that the majority of the Bagalkot District college libraries have access to a number of e-resources and the best attempt has been made by the libraries in reaching out to users through remote access facilities. The Bagalkot District college libraries need to explore the information needs of undergraduate students and provide remote access to the required undergraduate textbooks as well. Librarians need to interact with the users and stress the importance of COVID-19 precautionary measures in preventing the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in libraries.

Conclusion

The librarians had to remold themselves and stirrup all the skills they had to come up with innovative plans to walk through the pandemic to render the services to the user community. The impact of COVID-19 on the college libraries of Bagalkot District was tangible. It is heartening to note that Bagalkot District college libraries were kept open for the users during COVID-19 by following all the precautionary measures to prevent the spreading of the disease. Since the students were attending online classes from their homes, there was a decrease in the usage of print resources in the library. Bagalkot District College Librarians played a significant role in the collection development of e-resources and dissemination of information online by providing remote access facilities. Though it was challenging to provide all required literature/books online and to satisfy each and every reader, since libraries had a subscription to digital resources, library users find it convenient to use the digital resources remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Impact of Community Radio health Programmes on society: A Study

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INTRODUCTION

A community-based radio station has potential for significant positive impact on the health of a community by providing important information about health to its listenership. This influence is particularly important in rural areas of low and middle-income countries where such stations serve as the only practical form of communication. It is believed that any radio health programmes aimed at improving the condition of the people must have all it takes to increase knowledge, change attitude and enhance practice of good healthy living among the rural dwellers. This is because, the entire exercise amounts to futility, if there is no significant change in the attitude of those exposed to radio health programmes. The question is: Does exposure to radio programmes on health challenges influence residents' adoption of healthy living practices?

Statement of the Problem

There are many radio health programmes designed to educate the public about the need to live a healthy life. These radio health programmes include "Arogya Sanjivini" and "Arogya Nadi" of Orient Fm. These programmes were designed in kannada language to reach out to the rural communities in the state. However, it appears that the producers of these programmes do not know whether to attribute the prevalence of poor health conditions in rural areas to inefficiency in radio health message delivery or timing for target audience. Also, they do not know whether to blame it on audience members' predispositions towards vital instructions and teaching adopted for purpose of improving healthy living. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study were to:

Find out the level of exposure to radio health programme "Arogya Sanjivini" among residents of the selected communities, in Karnataka State.
 Identify the extent to which radio health programmes "Arogya Sanjivini" broadens the knowledge of the residents of selected communities in Karnataka State on health related matters.

Data Presentation, Analysis and Discussion of Findings

Out of the 513 copies of the distributed questionnaire, 24 were found to be invalid since 11 were not returned, 7 were partially completed and 6 had mutilated answers. It meant that 5% of the produced copies of the questionnaire were invalid for this study. It was found that the 95% or 489 valid copies represented the 100% used in this study. The return rate is higher than the mortality rate of 5% which does not affect the study, because it is insignificant compared to the return rate of 95% obtained. Thus, the copies were considered adequate enough to represent the population.

Answering Research Questions

Table 1: Respondents' ownership of radio

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	454	93%
No	35	7%
Total	489	100%

The above table shows that 93% or majority of the respondents had radio. The implication is that most of the respondents had access to radio.

Table 2: Respondents' view on whether they listen to Orient FM programmes

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	405	83%
No	84	17%
Total	489	100%

From the above table 83% or majority of the respondents listened to Orient FM programmes extensively. The implication is that Orient Fm is a popular and generally accepted radio station in the State.