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A STUDY OF BEST PRACTICES IN ACCREDITED COLLEGE LIBRARIES OF AURANGABAD

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ABSTRACT

*T*he paper highlights, access the adoption and impact of the best practices in accredited Institutional libraries of Aurangabad in accordance with the Guidelines on Quality Indicator's' in Library and Information Services in the 'Affiliated Colleges' suggested by the NAAC. Role of NAAC in college library development is very important, so NAAC tries to develop library through the library best practices in their publication "Best Practices in Academic Libraries". In this paper researcher has stated the current status of the libraries in Aurangabad.

KEYWORDS :*Best Practice, Academic College, Aurangabad, NAAC.*

INTRODUCTION

Library and Information Services of Higher Education institutions play a central role of enhancing the quality of academic and research environment. The Institutional library is a connecting link between teaching and learning as well as place which supplements its resources what is beyond scope of class room. Libraries play an important role in the educational history of both the students as well as the faculty members. It serves the user by providing specific information to the user. But how far the college libraries are successful in implementing their goals into its reality is a big question. There must be some agency to have a proper vigilance on the functioning of college libraries and also to suggest certain measures to rectify the emerging needs, and for this kind of purpose NAAC was established for maintaining quality education of the institutions. (Ahemad & Pal, 2012)

OBJECTIVES:

1.To examine the implementation of the guidelines imparted by NAAC in the institutional libraries of Aurangabad City.
2.To find out impact of best practices.

BEST PRACTICES:

NAAC defines best practices as an application of procedures to yield superior results which means way of doing things in particular organization as guidelines for good practices. ODLIS (Online Dictionary of Library and Information Science) describes best practices as follows: "In the application of theory to real-life situations, procedures that, when properly, applied consistently yield superior results and are therefore used as reference points in evaluation of the effectiveness of alternative methods of accomplishing

the same task. Best practices are identified by examining empirical evidence of success."

BEST PRACTICES IN LIBRARIES:

The Library and Information Services of Higher Education Institutions play a central role in enhancing the quality of academic and research environments. In today's high-tech learning environment, the library as a learning resource center is taking up increasingly more academic space and time in the life of learner. In general, the use of technology and innovative ideas lead to evolve best practices evolving in the library and information services.

Due to rapid growth in literature & continuous development of information technology the role of libraries becomes more responsive. Library is the heart of every institution & it is also a centre of cultural activates. Library plays a vital role in providing information to different groups of people. NAAC/University is the monitory bodies to check & enhance the working & development of college & universities Library. The best practices should be implemented at every institution because it will help to bring out the best in the library & its activities.

"Best practice may he innovative and be a philosophy, policy, strategy, program, process or practice that solves a problem or create new opportunities and positively impact on organizations. "NAAC developed a set of best practices followed in academic libraries and presented under the following four broad areas:

1. Management and Administration of Library.
2. Collection and Services.
3. Extent of User Services.
4. Use of Technology.

NAAC and Best Practices: For College libraries NAAC (www.naac.gov.in) has developed the following set of best practices:

1. Computerization of library with standard software.
2. Inclusion of sufficient information about the library in the college prospectus.
3. Compiling student / teacher statistics
4. Displaying newspaper clippings and a clipping file maintained periodically.
5. Careed employment information services
6. Internet facility to different user groups
7. Information literacy programmes
8. Suggestion Box
9. Displaying New Arrivals
10. Conduct book exhibition on different occasions
11. Organizing book talks
12. Instituting Annual Best Use Award for students
13. Organizing competitions annually
14. Conduct user survey periodically

ALTHOUGH NAAC HAS COMPLIED LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study has carried out by designing a planned questionnaire for accredited institutional libraries in the Aurangabad city. To verify the effectiveness personal interviews has been conducted in

certain cases to get clear ideas of Best Practices in Libraries wherever necessary. Also data has collected through websites of colleges, NAAC Peer team reports, and annual report of universities. Collected data has analyzed and presented in the form of table and format foe case presentation. From the reaccredited college in Aurangabad city data collected from 24 (100%). There are 16 colleges upgraded their grade in the process of Accreditation to Reaccreditation.

STATUS OF INSTITUTIONS IN AURANGABAD CITY:

Following 24 institutions of Aurangabad city are affiliated to the Dr.Babasaheb Ampedkar Marathwada University, which are accredited and re accredited by NAAC from 2004 to 2016. Out of 24 colleges , 7 colleges comes under A grade with highest CGPA, 13 colleges under B and B++ grade , 3 colleges having C and C++grade and 1 college with A grade .

Table No.1
Status of Colleges in Aurangabad city
(Accredited by NAAC under old and new methodology from 2004 to 2016 including Re-assessed Institutions and Re-accredited Institutions).

Sr. No	Name of the Institutes	Institutional CGPA	Grade	Cycle	EC Date	Estd. Year
1	Government College of Education IASE Aurangabad	-- 3.20	A A	Cycle1 Cycle2	03/05/2004 01/05/2015	1954
2	M. S. P. Mandal's Deogiri College Station Road ,Aurangabad	-- 3.39 3.75	B+ A A	Cycle1 Cycle2 Cycle3	21/03/2003 28/03/2010 17/03/2016	1960
3	Mahatma Gandhi Mission Institute of Management MGM Campus, N-6, CIDCO, Aurangabad	3.07	A	Cycle1	10/12/2014	1994
4	Maratha Shikshan Sanstha's Vivekanand Arts, Sardar Dalipsingh Commerce and Science College Samarthnagar , Aurangabad	-- 3.36	B++ A	Cycle1 Cycle2	16/02/2004 16/09/2011	1971
5	Manikchand Pahade Law College Nirala Bazar, Samrath Nagar Aurangabad	-- 3.09	B+ A	Cycle1 Cycle2	16/02/2004 05/01/2013	1956
6	Maulana Azad College of Arts, Science and Commerce Dr. Rafiq Zakaria Campus, Dr. Rafiq Zakaria Marg, Rauza Bagh Aurangabad	-- 3.03	A A	Cycle1 Cycle2	16/02/2004 14/09/2015	1963
7	Maulana Azad Education Society's Marathwada College of Education P.B. No. 117, "Rauza Bagh" Aurangabad	--	A+	Cycle1	03/05/2004	1970

8	Aurangabad College for Women Navkhanda, Jubilee Park, Aurangabad	--	B+	Cycle1	08/01/2004	1990
9	Government College of Arts and Science Kile-Ark , Aurangabad	--	B	Cycle1	16/09/2004	1923
10	Government Institute of Science Nipat Niranjan Nagar, Caves Road Aurangabad	-- 2.76	B++ B	Cycle1 Cycle2	16/09/2004 29/03/2016	1974
11	Mahatma Gandhi Mission, Institute of Biosciences and Technology N-6, CIDCO Aurangabad	2.89	B	Cycle1	10/12/2014	2008
12	Mahatma Gandhi Mission's, Dr. G. Y. Pathrikar College of Computer Science and Information Technology Aurangabad	2.64	B	Cycle1	15/09/2012	2001
13	Marathwada Legal & General Education Society's Dr.(Sow) Indirabai Bhaskarrao Pathak Mahila Kala Mahavidyalaya Samarthnagar Aurangabad	-- 2.05	B+ B	Cycle1 Cycle2	16/09/2003 15/09/2012	1970
14	Marathwada Sanskritik Mandal's College of Physical Education Khadkeshwar., Aurangabad	-- 2.75	B+ B	Cycle1 Cycle2	28/02/2005 19/02/2016	1972
15	S.B.E.S. College of Science Saraswati Nagar, Aurangpura Aurangabad	-- 3.07	A A	Cycle1 Cycle2	05/11/2001 10/12/2014	1963
16	S.B.E.S. Arts and Commerce College Saraswati Nagar, Aurangpura Aurangabad	-- 2.10	B++ B	Cycle1 Cycle2	16/02/2004 28/03/2010	1963
17	Vasantrao Naik Shikshan Prasarak Mandal's Vasantrao Naik Mahavidyalaya Chikalthana Road, Aurangabad	-- 2.70	B B	Cycle1 Cycle2	16/09/2003 28/03/2010	1972
18	Marathwada Shiskshan Prasark Mandal's Shivchhatrapati College N-3, CIDCO Aruangabad	2.85	B	Cycle 1	15/09/2012	2001
19	Rahber Education, Cultural and Welfare Society's Sir Sayyed College of Arts, Commerce and Science Post Box No. 89, Roshan Gate Aurangabad	-- 1.83	B C	Cycle1 Cycle2	03/05/2004 05/01/2013	1990

20	People's Education Society's (Mumbai) Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar College of Arts and Commerce Nagsenvana, Aurangabad	--	B	Cycle1	03/05/2004	1960
21	People's Education Society's (Mumbai) Milind College of Arts Nagsenvana, P.B. No. 4 Aurangabad	--	B	Cycle1	03/05/2004	1950
22	People's Education Society's (Mumbai) Milind College of Science Nagsenvana Aurangabad	--	B+	Cycle1	03/05/2004	1950
23	People's Education Society's (Mumbai) Dr. Ambedkar College of Law Nagsen Vana Aurangabad	--	C++	Cycle1	03/05/2004	1990
24	Ajintha Education Society's Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Mahavidyalaya CIDCO, Aurangabad	--	C++	Cycle1	03/05/2004	1971

*Note (The researcher has studied initiative time of accreditation from 2004 to recently 2016. The table 1 shows the grading system and CGPA system).

BEST PRACTICES ADOPTED IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

A "best" practice can evolve to become better as improvements are discovered. Table no.2 revels that following some practices are adopted and upgraded.

Table No. 2
Best practices followed by college libraries and their gradation in Upgraded colleges in the process of NAAC. Table no. 2 shows the details of Best Practices adopted in different college libraries.

Sr. No.	Name of the Best Practice	Yes	%	No	%
1	Newspaper clipping services Displaying or on the notice board periodically	24	100%	00	--
2	Career/Employment Information/Services	24	100	00	--
3	Library have computers and internet facilities to different user groups	24	100	00	--
4	Information Literacy Programs	18	75%	06	25%
5	Suggestion box and timely response	24	100%	00	--
6	Library display new arrivals and circulating a list of books	24	100	00	--
7	Instituting annual Beat User Award for student	15	62.50%	09	37.50%
8	Organizing competition annually	15	62.50%	09	37.50%
9	Conducting user survey periodically	18	75%	06	25%
10	Compiling Question papers of University & College Exams for Students and Staff	20	83.23%	04	16.77%
11	Communication of current awareness to different user groups	20	83.23%	04	16.77%
12	Development of a website/ webpage or blog for the library including all the services and necessary information	21	87.50%	03	12.50%
13	Establishing linkage with other libraries an I avail free/nominal fee services	18	75%	06	25%
14	Development of electronic environment or the campus and encouragement to e-deliveries:	19	79.16%	05	20.84%
15	Book Exhibition	24	100%	00	--
16	Inclusion of library information in prospectus	24	100	00	--
17	Organizing book talks	18	75%	06	25%
18	Open access	19	79.16%	05	20.84%
19	OPAC	19	79.16%	05	20.84%
20	Night library reading room facility	20	83.23%	04	16.77%
21	Generator/Inverter or back up facility	20	83.23%	04	16.77%

FINDINGS

1.Library display new arrivals and circulating a list of books: Library displays new arrivals for users to know about books purchased in Library When promoting library services, book/journals/periodicals display and bulletin boards can play a vital role in circulation rates. This activity has adopted (100%) in Aurangabad's College Library as books are purchased in library the books which are new in collection are displayed. Student use this service and get benefited.

2.Newspaper clipping services Displaying or on the notice board periodically: All 24 Colleges Library maintains clipping files on different subject of students Interest & provides it to student on demand. Also in this activity students are actively involved. The information in clipping file is useful for lectures, Projects & employment.

3.Book Exhibition: All 24 college Libraries regularly organizes book exhibition every year various

occasions .Library invites book seller to exhibit books of different publishers on all Subjects. No. of Users visited exhibition & select books for Library, Library Committee discusses the recommendations & approves the books to be purchased as per budget & purchase the books. Due to the above service library collect books of user interest. Book Exhibition of college library books is also arranged; the books of social thinkers, reference & rare Books, famous books arc exhibited.

4.Internet and back up Facility : The goal of this practice is to provide online access to information generated globally, web resources, open access resources-resources, institutional repositories etc. the users should be educated in the systematic approach to collecting the current information to support their project, assignments, research work and other academic pursuits. And (100%) college's library provides their user this service.

5.Best Reader Award: This event is an attempt to promote literature reading in institutional Students and to recognize authors and illustrators of books that are favorites. To increase the use & users of Library, library started awards for students. Out of 24 college libraries only 15 libraries an attempt this practice. The library instituted `Best Library User Award' which carries prize in the form of books and a certificate. Presence of students in the reference section, their participation in various library activities and reading of varied books from the library is monitored. Based on these parameters award is conferred.

6.Suggestion Box: A suggestion box would help to get user feedback on various services provided by the library. All 24 colleges have this services and response timely to improve the students experience their suggestions it appropriate any issues.

7.Information Literacy Program / User Orientation Program: For the direction the new admit Students how to operate/use library facilities and services. 75% libraries have implemented this practice.

8.In Aurangabad from reaccreditated colleges 79.16% provided essential and ICT based library services, such as library OPAC, providing access to print collection of books, journals as well as electronic resources in CD and web format, Reading room facilities, & Networking Services through INFLIBNET N-LIST, DELNET, Dr.BAMU KRC e-database , providing library detail on college web page as well as library Blog also etc shows Table No.2 in detail.

IMPACT OF BEST PRACTICES

Following major best practice shows their impact on user.

1.Best Library User Award Practice encourages students to make maximum use of library resources and services.

2.Career/Employment Information guidance Services is mostly popular amongst final year students, who are in search of job opportunities or preparing for various competitive examinations.

3.Book Exhibition promotes reading culture among students and faculty, and also to make them aware about precious collection available in library.

4.Availability   of Night library reading room facility in examination period is very useful to students preparing for examinations as well as various competitive examinations. It is very fruitful for readers who are unable to visit the library during daytime.

5.Students are well informed about the e-resources and they are permitted to use the facility only for academic purpose. Students and faculty are benefited by getting current information.

CONCLUSION

The study reveals that Academic College libraries in Aurangabad city have achieved remarkable enrichment due to NAAC's assessment. There are 24 Academic colleges which accredited and re

accrediated   by NAAC (From 2004to 2016). After brief   study of Accredited college libraries in Aurangabad it has been found that after accreditation and reaccreditation college libraries have most of weightage. After NAAC Accreditation and Reaccreditation process almost all libraries try to look toward library development , the effect of this is found in accreditation process the developed libraries introduced IT services, E- Resources   & users internet services, also the amount spent on libraries is also increases. In all the Best practices that mentioned by NAAC and also some innovative practices introduced by library have started, the effect of these best practice is also changes the status of library in an education institution.

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