



IMPACT OF ACADEMIC LIBRARY SERVICES ON STUDENTS' SUCCESS AND PERFORMANCE: AN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

Libraries in India are pivotal to the academic success of students by providing access to information, study resources, and academic assistance. This study explores how Indian academic libraries influence student success, specifically looking at students' satisfaction with library resources, access issues, and the connection between the library environment and academic performance. The data suggest students who use the library consistently attend to their studies and perform better academically. The research stresses the need for robust information literacy programming, digital resources, and student-centric library services.

Keywords: *Student Success, Academic Libraries, Library Resources, Information Literacy, Indian Higher Education.*

Background

In India, the role of academic libraries within higher education institutions (universities, colleges, and professional institutes) is central to its educational objectives as they develop scholarly and professional individuals. They house a range of resources including books and journals but also provide access to a growing number of digital resources, applications, research databases, and e-learning resources. Because of the increased prevalence of the use of internet sources, students may tend to use sources from the web without considering the implications of utilizing sources of information in this manner. However, academic libraries provide information that is credible, current, and scholarly and are resources that students turn to in order to achieve academic success when needing credible reference information. Since Indian education is competitive (from university exams to professional exams to competitive examinations like UPSC, NET, and banking) academic libraries are important in facilitating student success and development.

Literature Review

Studies in India and internationally have demonstrated a substantial positive impact of library use on student achievement. For example, studies conducted in Karnataka, Delhi, and West Bengal have shown that students who had participated in orientation programmes were more self-assured in using the resources in libraries. Other studies have documented issues such as unawareness, inefficiency of infrastructure, and collection obsolescence. Therefore, in India, information literacy and improvement of resources remains entail to enhanced use of libraries.

Objectives of the study

1. To investigate the use of academic libraries by university and college students in India.
2. To explore the issues faced by students in accessing library services.
3. To determine the relationship between library use and academic success.
4. To provide recommendations for improving library resources and services in India.



Methodology

The research utilized a survey method on undergraduate and postgraduate students from colleges of Belagavi City. A structured questionnaire was distributed offline and online. The data focused on students' frequency of visits, purposes for use, satisfaction with resources and main issues experienced by students.

Analysis of Data

Table1. Visit to the Library

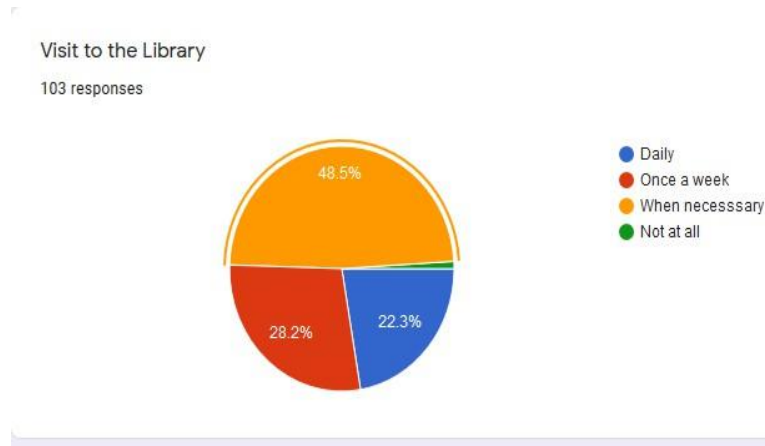
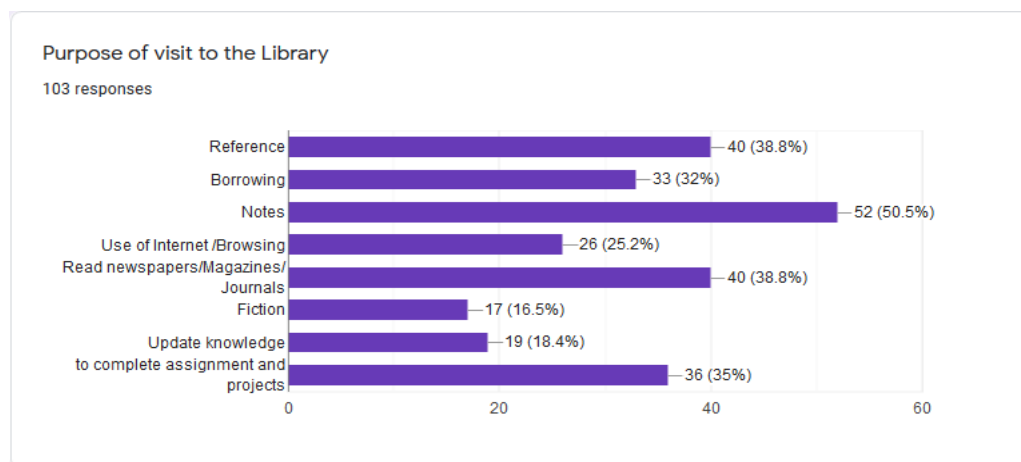


Table 1 shows that 48.5% of students only visit the library when necessary. Clearly, this requires an orientational programme and information literacy programmes in order to promote more visits to the library to use its services. Furthermore, only 28.2% visit the library weekly for reference work and photocopying, while 22.3% of students visit every week in order to source quality material to aid their learning skills.

Table2. Purpose of visit to the library



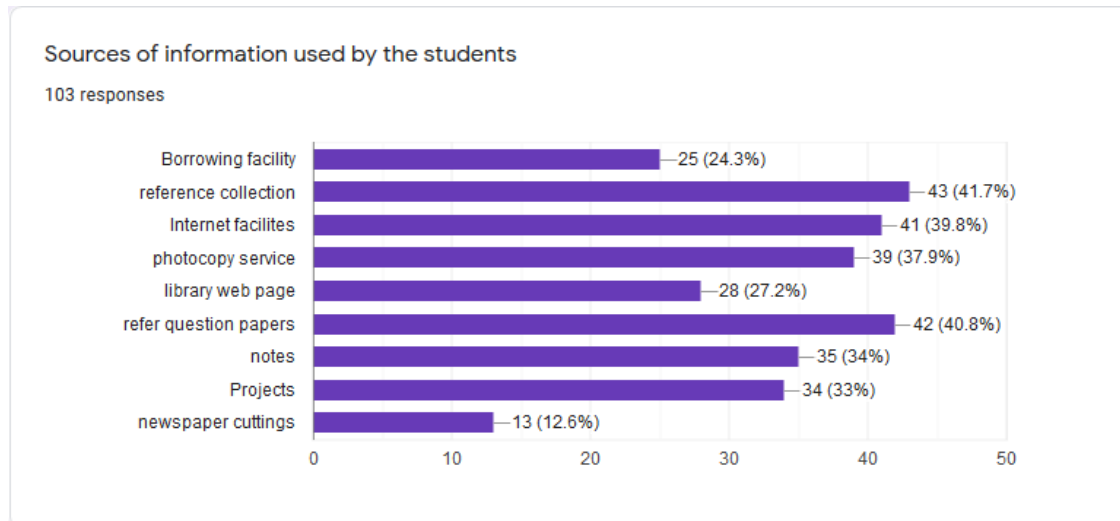
Approximately 50.5% of the students utilize the library for access to courses notes to further elevate their grades, while 38.8% reported consulting journals for assignments and projects. Approximately 35.0% report using the library for project work and 25.2% for internet access, although the majority



report using personal internet access. The study reveals new information literacy programs are needed to encourage students to update their knowledge, be it utilizing library resources.

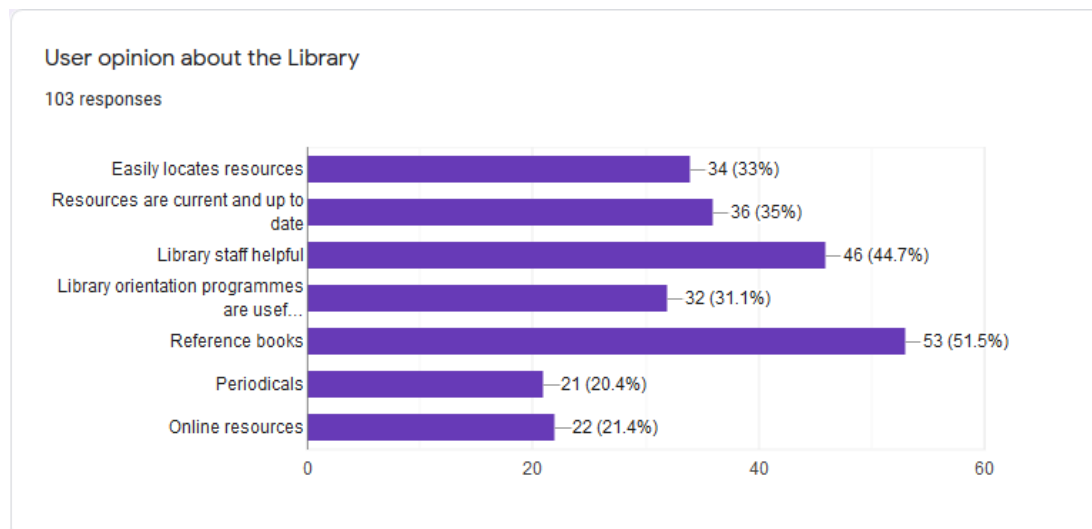
Table.3.Sourcesof Information used by the Students

Table 3 shows that 41.7% of students consulted the reference collection of the library for their



syllabus-prescribed needs. About 40.8% consulted past questions to enhance their writing and exam performance. Around 39.8% consulted the Internet for material to download for assignments and projects because the information can be stored digitally or in hard copies. Additionally, 37.9% used the photocopying facility because they could not borrow the rare or reference books and writing photocopied sections was much easier while preparing for exams.

Table 4. User opinion About the Library

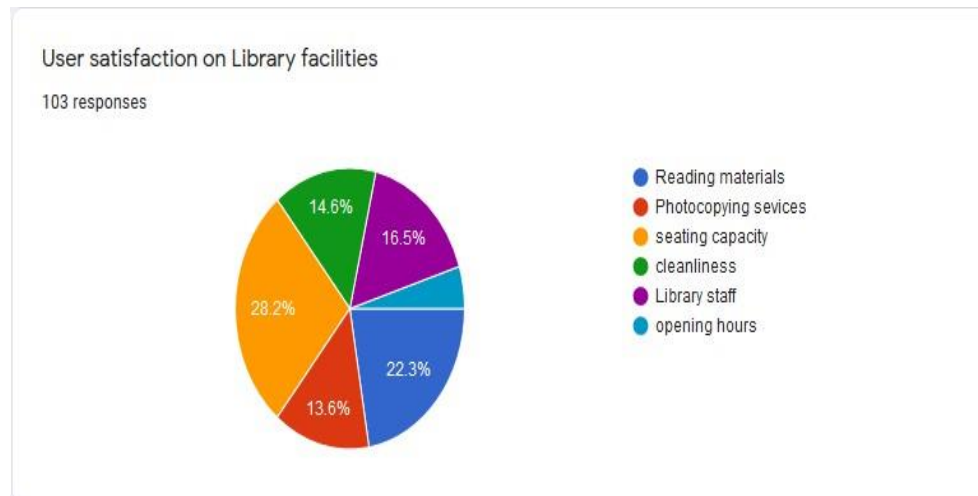


According to Table 4, 51.5% of students find reference sources useful, but it is necessary to improve reference services to enhance user satisfaction. Approximately 56% of students indicated they were dissatisfied with the services of library staff, implying that students need to form better relationships with library staff to motivate them to use library services. 35% of students do find library resources to be current, indicating that the librarian needs to acquire materials that are relevant to the academic



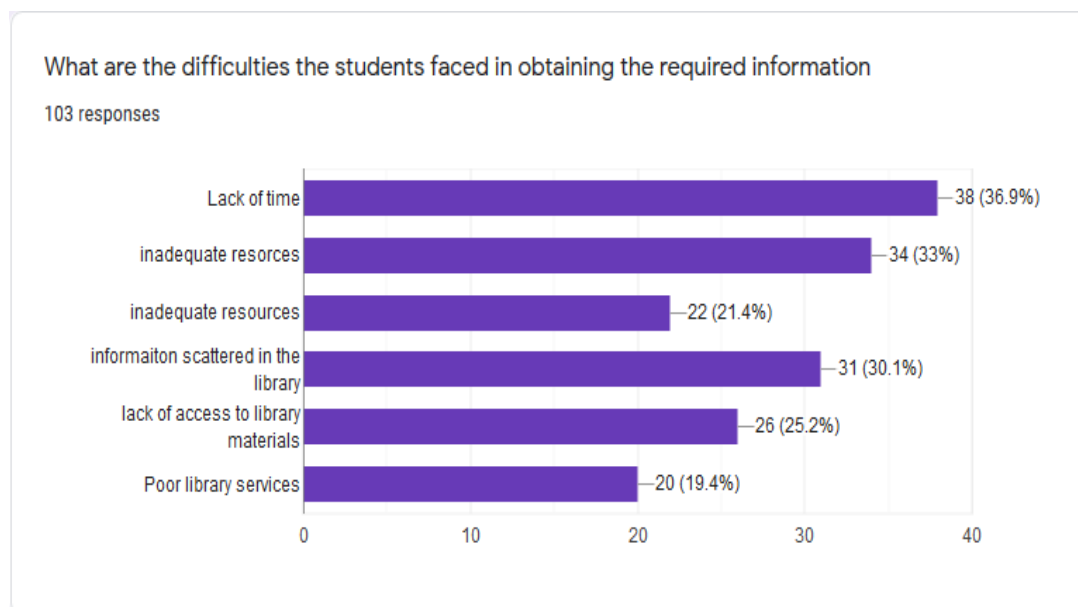
needs of students. Finally, 33% of students find library resources easy to locate but 67% have trouble locating, indicating an overall need for materials to be organized better and assistance with navigating resources and support with orientation.

Table 5. Users satisfaction in the Library



It is critical that the library creates a positive atmosphere for the study so more and more users will come to the library. User's satisfaction should be the pre-requisites in academic libraries. The library should enhance all areas. Figure no. 5 above shows that the user satisfaction about library facilities is very low.

Table 6. What Are the Difficulties Faced By the student's in obtaining the required information?

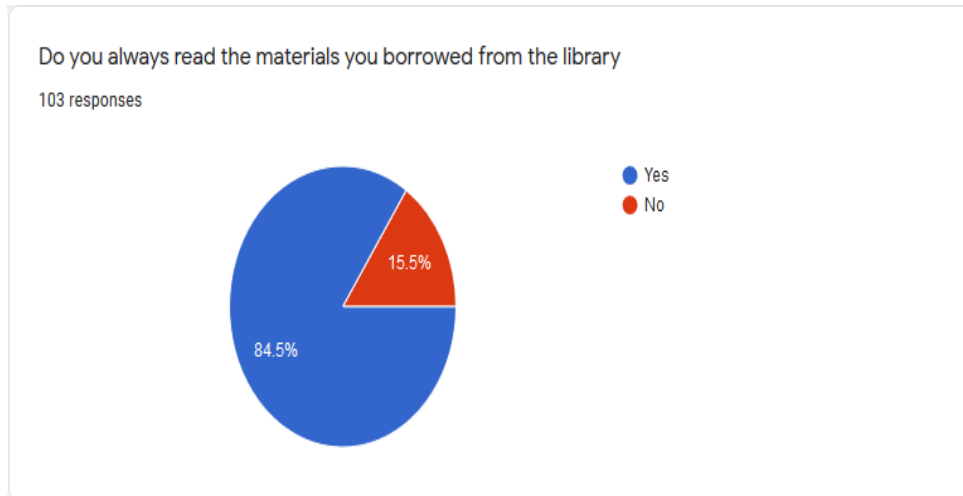


Students encounter a variety of obstacles to accessing information in academic libraries, namely: lack of information retrieval skills, inadequate user education, and lack of computer and information and communications technology (ICT) knowledge. About 36.9 percent say they have limited time to visit the library because of lectures. 33 percent feel the library is limited in its resources, with higher



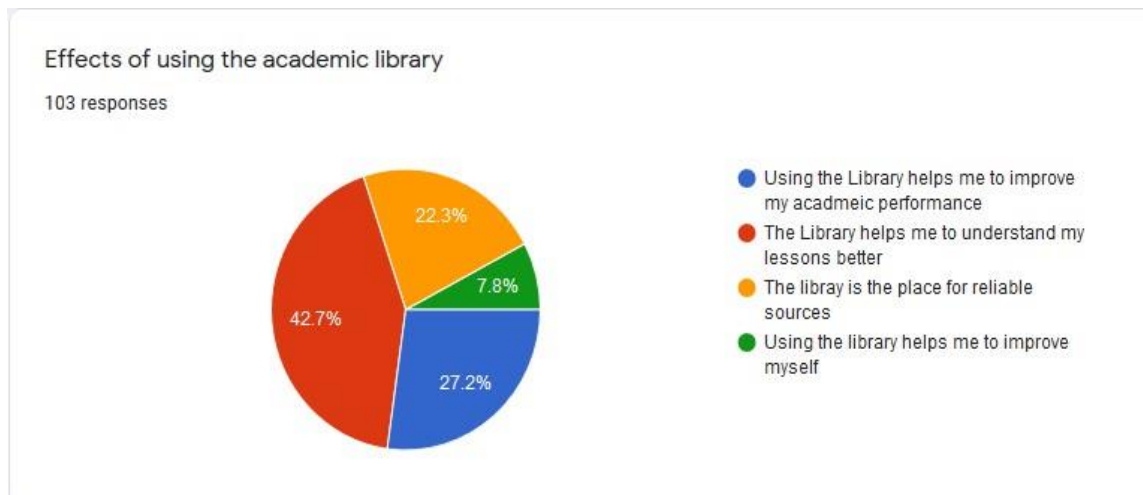
education budgets often limiting the library's purchase of books, journals, and e-resources. About 30 percent feel the information is scattered, frequently due to not knowing the classification of resources. Also, 25.2 percent reported limited access to materials, usually because the students did not know how to access a limited-open-access system and students were not willing to approach library staff.

Table 7. Do you always read the materials you borrow from the library?



Above figure indicates that the 84.5% of students who borrows the material from library always use for their information needs and requirements which is a highly satisfactory ratio.

Table8. Effect of using the Academic Library

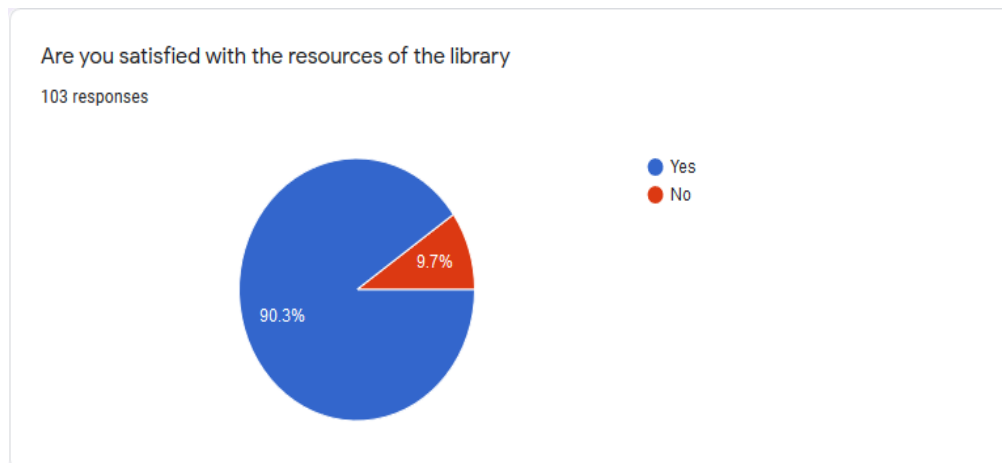


42.7% of learners believe that the library helps them comprehend their classes more efficiently and better. Following the classroom lecture, learners visit the library to find additional information to better understand the lectures presented during class. 27.2% of learners felt that the library assists with their final grades and academic performance, which is certainly laudable. 22.3% of learners indicated that the library is the best place for accurate information. While a Google search can present thousands



of results in a click, librarian assistance can lead the user directly and accurately to the most helpful information.

Table 9. Are you Satisfied with there sources of The Library



Libraries offer high-quality information and excellent services to users which creates a positive image of the Library. The figure above indicates that 90.3% of users who frequently visit the Library and use library resources are satisfied with the library services provided. The library service satisfaction to students demonstrates that the Library is an important contributor to students' academic success and improved final grades.

Recommendations

1. Implement regular orientation and information literacy training programmes; increase funding for digital resources including online databases and eBooks; promote collaboration between teachers and librarians for recommending helpful resources; improve infrastructure such as seating, Wi-Fi and extended hours; train staff to be amenable and student friendly.
2. Library authorities should inform users about library services such as current awareness; interlibrary loan and Newspaper Clipping Services were provided for students.
3. Most users will benefit from conducting the Library Orientation Programme regularly for new users so they understand how and why to use library resources.

Conclusion

Academic libraries in India are important in relation to student learning and academic success. This study has confirmed that students who make regular use of the library will enhance academic performance. By focusing on awareness, infrastructure and digital incorporation, academic libraries can better serve students and be more resourceful in their student support. Such initiatives will lead to higher performance levels, and the development of skills as lifelong learners.

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