

# Role of Library in Higher Education: A Case of District Samba, Jammu, JK UT

Meeru Abrol<sup>1</sup>, Arushi Malhotra<sup>2</sup>, Agrima Malhotra<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Principal, Government Degree College, Ramgarh, UT JK, India

<sup>2</sup>Assistant Professor, School of Architecture & Design, MAHE, Dubai

<sup>3</sup>Student, Computer Science Department, Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology, Patiala, Punjab, India

**Abstract:** *Students learn about particular subjects of their choice. This is likely to leave them with a closed-down mentality about education. The library claims to have books and materials on all subjects you can imagine. When a student is looking for a solution, wants to develop something, or is pinched by the innovation bug, they will turn to the library. It, therefore, becomes the go-to place whenever you want to be innovative. The library is a medium to encourage curiosity and solve problems. The idea of a library signals nothing else but reading and pursuit of knowledge. It forms a habit and tradition of reading among students and members of society. Students have their academic work to complete. However, they have other ideas and are curious about what is in the world around them. The library provides a safe place where they can test these ideas and knowledge. The present paper explores the resources available in libraries situated in rural and urban areas of the Jammu Division of JK UT. Suggestions for improvement are also discussed.*

**Keywords:** Higher Education, Library, Rural, Urban, knowledge, books

## 1. Introduction

The human race is known for its quest for knowledge. Knowledge is imparted by education. "Education" means different things to different people. Various factors can contribute to a person's understanding of the purpose of education, including their background and circumstances. Let us first understand the meaning of closely related terms – learning, education, and training. Learning is the process of acquiring new skills and understanding. Education is an organized system of learning. Training is a type of education that is focused on learning specific skills. Therefore, education is needed to expand consciousness, capabilities, sensitivities, and cultural understanding. It should enlarge worldview and engage young people with the global-economic issues of environmental well-being.

The core purpose of education can be broken down into four primary purposes. Firstly, education is deeply personal. It is about cultivating the minds and hearts of living people. Engaging them as individuals is at the heart of raising achievement. Education should be directed to the full development of the human personality and strengthening respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Secondly, education is a way of preserving a culture against outside influences. For others, it is a way of promoting cultural tolerance. The world is becoming more complex culturally. Living respectfully with diversity is not just an ethical choice but a practical imperative.

Education should help students understand their own cultures and other cultures and promote a sense of cultural tolerance and coexistence. Thirdly, education should be enabled. An educated workforce is essential to creating economic prosperity. Lastly, education should encourage young people to become active and compassionate citizens. Individual empowerment must be balanced by practicing the

values and responsibilities of collective life and democracy in particular. Seats of learning should engage students in achieving these goals.

The library plays a vital role in higher education. In the 21st century, it is more significant because we are in a place of fastest technological innovation where every second new information is being created in the world, which cannot be preserved without an intelligent library and cannot be processed or utilized without the libraries. This information in the library is a learning platform. The library provides the correct information in higher learning whenever needed from the vast jungle of information; so, without an intelligent library, it is challenging to move forward in higher education to achieve the peak of success.

Libraries are considered the deep sea of knowledge emerging from the scholarly output over the years. These are not merely preserving this scholarly content but transmitting it to generations. This scholarly output may be textbooks, research articles, reports, edited books, research theses or dissertations, etc. A library is where a scholar finds rich information on a specific area of interest. The information resources are now not limited to their boundaries, but it has now been extended out of them. The academic community of an Institution is not eligible for the documents kept in the libraries. Still, it is suitable to get access to other documents available in other libraries over the globe. The medium of information is also not restricted to print media, but data can be accessed via clouds now. Libraries have always been mediators of knowledge and knowledge seekers. There are service providers to the scholar community of its parent organization. So, there is no doubt that an academic institution cannot survive without a library. And also, if any educational institution does not give top priority to its library or neglects it, it will not take much time for its damage or destruction. So, the role of a library is considered much more important for higher educational institutions. All educational programs are successfully implemented with the

Volume 11 Issue 8, August 2022

[www.ijsr.net](http://www.ijsr.net)

Licensed Under Creative Commons Attribution CC BY

help and coordination of the library. The library is both a library and a laboratory in one. The training in higher branches of learning and research is mainly a question of learning how to use the tools, and if the library tools are not there, how can the students learn to use them.

### Libraries in JK UT:

The reference materials available in a library are not restricted to a single subject. This allows exploring more ideas using credible materials stocked in the library. It helps to boost confidence and also enables us to be innovative in the learning process.

### Public Libraries

The Department of Libraries & Research, Government of JK, is responsible for providing free library and reading room facilities to the public. The department is upholding the long tradition of Public Library service in JK dating back to AD 1879, when the first Public Library was set up in

the erstwhile state. This objective is achieved through a chain of public libraries at division, district, tehsil, and block-level across Jammu & Kashmir. Titles on individual subjects, general interests, and reference books are available to visitors and borrowers, catering to various age groups and interests. From small children to Senior citizens to scholars, every section of the society has benefited from these facilities. There is a network of around 140 public libraries spread across the nook and corner of J&K. There are several libraries and study rooms run by private agencies to facilitate students. Recently it has been decided that these libraries will also offer career guidance to students. These libraries will be repositioned as Career Guidance Centres to provide students with reliable information about admissions to academic and professional colleges/universities, scholarships, fellowships, and job opportunities. A program to build the requisite library infrastructure on student needs with a focus on e-resources has been introduced. Some of the famous Public libraries are:

District	S.No.	Library Name	Library Address
Jammu	1	S.R.S. Library, Jammu	KachiChawni, Jammu, 0191-2565711
	2	District Library	72/5 Nanak Nagar Jammu
	3	Tehsil Library, Akhnoor	Near Hr. Sec. School, Akhnoor
	4	Tehsil Library, Bishnah	Near Hr. Sec. School, Bishnah
	5	Tehsil Library, R.S. Pura	Old Post Office R.S.Pura, Jmu
	6	Border Block Libraries, GhouManahasara	Bus Stand GhouManhasan
	7	Border Block Library, Aghore	Near Girls High Sec. School Aghore
	8	Border Block Library, Khour	Near Bus Stand Khour
	9	Border Block Library, Bhore-Camp	Near Primary Health Centre Bhore Camp
	10	Border Block Library, Satriana	P H E Building Satrian
	11	Border Block Library, Mandal Phillian	Near Hr. Sec. School Mandal Phillan
	12	Lending Depot, Roop Nagar, Jammu	H.NO. 37 Sec. 4, Lower Roopnagar, Jmu
	13	Lending Depot, ReshamGarh, Jammu	Baba Sahib Ambedkar Hall ReshamGhar
Samba	1	Tehsil Library, Samba	Main Bazar Hr. Sec. School, Samba
	2	Border Block Library, Vijaypur	Near Bus stand Vijaypur
	3	Border Block Library, Ramgarh	Near J & K Bank Ramgarh
Kathua	1	District Library, Kathua	PWD Colony Kathua, 01922-233066
	2	Tehsil Library, Billawar	Main Bazar Billawar
	3	Tehsil Library, Bhaddu	Near J&K Bank Bhaddu
	4	Tehsil Library, Basholi	Near Bus Stand Basoli
	5	Border Block Library, Ghagwal	Near Hr. Sec. School Ghagwal
	6	Border Block Library, Chadwal	Near Shiv temple Chadwal
	7	Border Block Library, Barnoti	Near Middle School Barnoti
	8	Border Block Library, Nagri-Parole	Near Hr. Sec School Nagri Parole
	9	Lending Depot, Hiranagar	W.NO.6 Main Market
	10	Lending Depot, Bani	Bani
Udhampur	1	District Library, Udhampur	R & B Complex Main Bazar, Udhampur
	2	Tehsil Library, Chenani	Near Tehsil Office Chenani
	3	Tehsil Library, Ramnagar	Near Govt. Hospital Ramnagar
Reasi	1	Tehsil Library, Reasi	Near Ramleela Ground Reasi
	2	Tehsil Library, Gool	Main Bazar, Gool
	3	Tehsil Library, Mahore	Mahore
Doda	1	District Library, Doda	Near New Bus Stand Doda City
	2	Tehsil Library, Bhaderwah	Near Seri Bazar Moh. KhakhalBhaderwah
	3	Lending Depot, Batote (shifted to Bhalal)	Near Z.E.OofficeBala
Ramban	1	Tehsil Library, Ramban	Near Jamia Masjid Ramban
	2	Tehsil Library, Banihal	Near Hr. Sec. School Doligam Road Banihal
Kishtwar	1	Tehsil Library, Thathri	Opp. Z.E.O. Office Thathri
	2	Tehsil Library, Kishtwar	Near Polutary Form/Mullah Tappal Kishtwar
	3	Tehsil Library, Dachhan	Near P.H.C SuidDacchan
	4	Lending Depot, Paddar	Near Hr. Sec. School Atholi Padder
Rajouri	1	District Library	Near Food and Supply Office Rajouri.
	2	Tehsil Library, Sunderbani	Inside Govt. Hr. Sec. School Sunderbani
	3	Tehsil Library, Nowshera	Main Bazar Nowshera

Volume 11 Issue 8, August 2022

[www.ijsr.net](http://www.ijsr.net)

Licensed Under Creative Commons Attribution CC BY

	4	Tehsil Library, Kalakote	Near Bus Stand Kalakot
	5	Tehsil Library, Thanamandi	W.No. 6 , middle of the town Thanamandi
	6	Border Block Library, Lamberi	Near Higher Sec . School Lamberi
	7	Border Block Library, Manjakote	Near Higher Sec, School Manjakot
	8	Border Block Library	Surankote
	9	Lending Depot, Budhal	Opp. Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School Buddhal
Poonch	10	Lending Depot, Kotranka	Main Chowk Kotranka
	1	District Library, Poonch	Industrial Complex Poonch
	2	Tehsil Library, Mendhar	Near Forest Deptt. Mendhar
	3	Tehsil Library, Surankote	Bus Stand, Main Bazar Surankot
	4	Border Block Library, Poonch	Near Higher Sec. School Poonch
	5	Border Block Library	Near Govt. Boys HR. Sec. School Mandi Poonch

**Table 2: Reading Rooms**

S.No.	Name	Location
1	Reading Room, Sangwali	Near Grameen Bank Mandi Sangwali
2	Reading Room ,Pallanwala	Laxmi Narayan Mandir ,Pallanwala
3	Brig. Rajinder Singh Rahya	Main Chowk Baguna

**Table 3: Kashmir Division**

District	S.No.	Library Name	Library Address
Srinagar	1	S.P.S. Library, Central Library	M. A Road, Srinagar, 0194-2311747
	2	Oriental Research Library	M. A Road, Srinagar 0194-2103248
	3	District Library, Srinagar	M. A Road, Srinagar, 0194-2471821
	4	Tehsil Library Zadibal	Auqaf Building, Zadibal Srinagar
	5	Block Library Soura, Srinagar	Near Ration Ghat, Soura, Srinagar
	6	Block Library Khanyar, Srinagar	Auqaf Complex, Sheshgari Mohalla, Khanyar
	7	Ganj Baksh Library Nowhatta, Srinagar.	Ganj Baksh, park Nowhatta, Srinagar
	8	Madr-I- Meharban Library Fatehkadal	Near Shrine Akhoon Sahib, Fateh Kadal
	9	Khawaja Naqshbandh Library	Mazar-e-Shuhda, Khawaja Bazar, Srinagar
	10	Sultan-ul-Arifeen Library	Ziarat Makdoom Sahib, Nowhatta Srinagar
	11	City Central Library	M. A Road, Srinagar
	12	Gani Memorial Reading Room Centre	Syed Sahib Rajouri Kadal, Srinagar
Ganderbal	1	Tehsil Library, Ganderbal	Tauheed Abad Ganderbal
	2	Tehsil Library, Kangan	Near ZEO Office, Kangan, Ganderbal
Budgam	1	District Library, Budgam	Near D.C. Office, Budgam, 01951-256387
	2	Tehsil Library, Chadoora	Charisharief Road, Across Chadoora Bridge Budgam
	3	Tehsil Library, Charisharief	Alamdard Basti Phase 2nd near Town hall Charisharief, Budgam
	4	Tehsil Library, Khanda	Near Islamia College, Khanda Budgam
	5	Tehsil Library, Beerwah	Main Market, Beerwah, Budgam
	6	Block Library, Khansahib	Main Market, Khansahib, Budgam
	7	Block Library, Magam	Main Market, Magam, Budgam
	8	Border Block Library, Khag	Main Market Khag, Budgam
	9	Block Library, Arizal	Main Market, Arizal Budgam
	10	Block Library, Bemina	Khomeni Chowk, across Bemina Bridge, Budgam
Pulwama	1	District Library, Pulwama	Near Govt. Boys Hr School Pulwama, 01932210314
	2	Tehsil Library, Pampore	Namal Pampore, Pulwama
	3	Tehsil Library, Trial	Near Hr. Sec. School Tral, Pulwama
	4	Block Library, Awantipora	In front of Govt. Dispensary Awantipora
Shopian	1	Tehsil Library, Shopian	Batpora Near Bus Stand, Shopian
Kulgam	1	Tehsil Library, Kulgam	D.C. Office Road, Kulgam
	2	Block Library, Qazigund	National High Way, Qazigund, Anantnag
	3	Reading Room	DamhalHanjipora
Anantnag	1	District Library, Anantnag	Wazir Bagh, Anantnag, 01932210314
	2	Tehsil Library, Bijbehara	In front Police Station, Bijbehara
	3	Tehsil Library, Dooru	Near Tehsildar Office, Dooru, Anantnag
	4	Tehsil Library, Ashmuqam	Near Zain-ul-Aabdinra Shrine Ashmuqam, Anantnag
Baramulla	1	District Library, Baramulla	Main Bazar, Auqaf Building, Baramulla 951952210457
	2	Tehsil Library, Uri	Near Hr. Sec. School, Uri, Baramulla
	3	Tehsil Library, Booniyar	Near Hr. Sec. School, Booniyar, Baramulla
	4	Tehsil Library, Bijhama	Near Masjid Sharief, Bijhama Baramulla
	5	Tehsil Library, Sopore	Shani-ullah building Chankan, Sopore
	6	Tehsil Library, Pattan	Opp. Police Station, Pattan, Baramulla
	7	Tehsil Library, Keeri	Near Bus Stand, Keeri, Baramulla
	8	Tehsil Library, Tangmarg	Near JKTDC Restaurant, Tangmarg, Baramulla
	9	Block Library, Hajin	Main Market, Hajin, Bandipora
	10	Border Block Library, Garkote	Near Masjid ShariefGarkote, Baramulla

	11	Border Block Library, Pahlipora	Hr. Sec. School, Phalipora, Baramulla
	12	Border Block Library	Rohama
	13	Border Block Library, Wagoora	Wagoora Market, Baramulla
	14	Border Block Library, Kunzer	Library Closed Staff shifted to Shrine Libraries
	15	Border Block Library Dangerpora	Relocated to village Kangaroosa
	16	Reading Room	KangroosaRafiabad
Bandipora	1	Tehsil Library, Bandipora	Near Masjid NOOR, Bandipora
	2	Tehsil Library, Gurez	Main Market Gurez, Bandipora
	3	Tehsil Library, Sumbal	Main Market, Sumbal, Baramulla
	4	Border Block Library, Aloosa	Aloosa Village, Bandipora
Kupwara	1	District Library, Kupwara	Near Town Hall, Kupwara, 01955252004
	2	Tehsil Library, Handwara	Near General Bus Stand Khunabal, Handwara
	3	Tehsil Library, Tangdar	Mini Sectt. Tangdar, Kupwara
	4	Border Block Library, Langate	Langate market Near CADP Depot, Kupwara
	5	Border Block Library, Kralpora	Kralpora Market, Near CADP Depot, Kupwara
	6	Border Block Library, Zachaldar	Ahgam Road Zachaldar Village, Kupwara
	7	Border Block Library, MawarMagam	Sanzipora Village, Kupwara
	8	Border Block Library, Sogam	Auqaf Building Jamia Masjid, Sogam
	9	Border Block Library, Kandi Karnah	KhawerPoraKarnah Village Kupwara
	10	Border Block Library, Villgam	Willgam Main Market, Kupwara
	11	Border Block Library, Trehgam	In front of Jamia Masjid, Trehgam, Kupwara
	12	Border Block Library, Kalamabad	Kalamabad Village Near KR Bank Kupwara

Besides that, Schools, Higher Secondaries, Colleges, and universities have well-stocked libraries. One of the oldest libraries is the Allama Iqbal library of the University of Kashmir.

#### University Libraries in JK UT:

The history of Kashmir University Library dates back to 1948 with the inception of "The University of Jammu and Kashmir." It was established to cater to the academic and research needs of the scholars, students, and teachers of the University of Kashmir. With the split of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir University in 1969, the library's collection was shared by the libraries of two Universities viz., the University of Jammu and the University of Kashmir. The Allama Iqbal Library, the University of Kashmir, along with its network of fifty-seven seminar libraries attached to different Departments, Centres, and the Institutes of the University, is the most extensive library system in the state and caters to the academic needs of the large number of university communities consisting of faculty members, research scholars, PG and diploma students in various disciplines.

The Central Dhanvantri Library of the University of Jammu is the hub of Academic activities where students sit from morning to evening throughout the year. The library has a collection of nearly 4,66,656 volumes of rare and latest books in the Textbook section, Periodical section, Jammu and Kashmir section, and a Reference section. The library provides access to the different online journals only on the campus. The library possesses facilities like photocopiers, LCD projectors, INFLIBNET, CD-ROM databases, and inter-connected computer terminals at selected sites. It has Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), an automatic identification method that relies on storing and remotely retrieving data using devices called RFID tags or transponders. An RFID tag is a small object that can be attached to or incorporated into a product like books. RFID tags contain silicon chips and antennas to enable them to receive and respond to radio-frequency queries from an RFID transceiver. The University Library is centrally

located and constructed on a modular plan. It has a total area of about 9,300 square feet, including a stack area of about 36,000 square feet.

The central library of SMVDU has a collection of 54,000 Books & more than 3000 CDs/DVDs. The Central Library building is a 36000 Square yds area & is being covered with various separate sections consisting Acquisition Section, Technical Section, Circulation Section, Reference Section, Periodical Section, Textbook Section, Computer Section, Reading Section, Photocopy Section for the benefit of students, faculty & staff. The Central Library collection encompasses Management, Economics, Engineering, Architecture, Sciences, Philosophy, Culture, Religion, English, Dogri, Hindi, Punjabi & Urdu Literature. The SMVDU Central Library provides access to more than 46,409 online journals & 2,695 conference proceedings through eShodhSindu Digital Library Consortium, INFLIBNET, and to subscription-based e-resources from various suppliers & renowned publishers. The Central Library subscribes to the IEEE database and a few electronic journals and has been provided access to a couple of databases under eShodhSindhu. The library also subscribes to more than 80 National and Foreign print Journals. The library has also been granted access to the World eBook Library under NDL, whereby library members can access more than 10000 ebooks and other related documents.

The Central University of Jammu also has a central library established in 2011 and now caters to 21 departments. It has a collection of 26707 books and 50 journals. The library has a computer lab with 24X7 Wi-Fi facilities for research scholars and students. The library has access to anti-plagiarism software, namely URKUND. The library functions on all days. Apart from books, the library also has online E-Journals.

Since its inception in 2009, the Central University of Kashmir Library System has endeavored to cater to its users' information and learning needs. The library is located on all the campuses where it shares physical space with other

departments. The library collection includes both print and online resources ranging from textbook collections in print and online format to journal collections in online mode. As of 31 March 2022, the library has a collection of 53,493 volumes of Print books. The library offers access to 2436 online books published in different fields of Sciences, Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities. Through the arrangements of the e-Shodh Sindhu Consortium (UGC) and via an institutional subscription, access to the online journals / academic databases is available for the users. In addition, the library offers access to databases, like South Asia Archive and Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID). The Central University of Kashmir also has an institutional membership of the Developing Library Network (DELNET), New Delhi.

### **College Libraries in Jammu:**

The college library is the hub of academic activities where students sit from morning to evening every day throughout the year. Every college has a well-stocked library containing reference books, competitive books, and general books besides books on subjects taught in the college. The maximum number of books are about the topics in the syllabus prescribed by the affiliating university. The college library offers a variety of resources that can help you earn a degree, regardless of the subject or level you are pursuing. This is through providing an environment conducive to learning, helpful librarians, and various reference materials. The college library is such a valuable resource that some students find it beneficial to visit the library at each of the colleges they apply to. They do so to check the library's atmosphere and whether it is a comfortable and conducive place to study and achieve goals. They also check out the library's website to see how accessible and easy it is to find various resources and find out what's available online after the virtual library closes.

The college library of Government Gandhi Memorial Science College is one of the oldest libraries in J&K Higher Education Institutions. It has a rich and rare collection of books, some even dating back to 1868. A rare photo collection of the visit of the Royal Highness, the Prince, and Princess of Wales, dating back to December 1905, is a pride possession of the college library. The college library has a collection of over 73,000 books about the various subjects offered in the college. The library has a separate reference section, heritage section, DST section, etc. The college has subscribed to a college component of an e-shodhsindhu consortium with access to over 6000+ electronic journals and 1,99,500+ electronic books under N-LIST. All students and faculty of the college are registered users of N-LIST. The Library of the College is partially automated, using KOHA (Integrated library management system). With the help of automation, library operations are performed more efficiently.

The Government College for Women, Parade (Autonomous College) has a well-established digitized Library for the undergraduate, post-graduate students, and the faculty. The library has educational and general collections about disciplines such as Social Sciences and Humanities, Science, Technology, Literature, History and Geography, Fiction and

Non-Fiction Novels, Career Counselling, and books related to Competitive Exams for students, and a small collection of Braille books. The library sections (Science and Arts) have a group of reference books such as Encyclopaedia, biographies, Yearbooks, Gazetteers, Directories, Atlas, Dictionaries, etc. The college has a separate collection of books to extend book bank service to needy students. The library has 60479 Books, 5000 Magazines/Journals (Online and Offline mode), and approximately 13000 books in Book Bank. Smart cards are issued to students and staff. Besides, the facility of the Book Bank enables the students to borrow books on a long-term basis; space is also allocated for specially-abled students and faculty in the library.

The library of Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government P.G. College for Women, Jammu, was inaugurated by Sh. Mufti Mohd. Sayed, Hon'ble Education Minister on 20th Dec 1974. It started with the collection of 558 books, and its first accessioned book had the title "GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY" By "GULFORD J. P." At present, it has a collection of 58816 books which are arranged in a classified manner using "DEWEY DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION SCHEME ."It has also developed a unique display for visually impaired students. The library has set up Browsing Centre and is equipped with 15 computer systems for accessing the online resources of its users. The Automation of the Library is under process using the software E-GRANTHALAYA. There is one separate Reading Room, a Reference section, and an Arts and Science section for the staff and students. A UGC Funded textbook section (Book Bank) is also available for needy students. Through DELNET, NDLI and N-LIST Library are getting access to e-resources.

The butterfly-shaped college library of Maulana Azad Memorial College, Jammu, has a collection of about 60,000 books. There is a reading room attached to the college library. The college subscribes to nearly 100 different magazines, newspapers, and journals. The college library is very well equipped with the facilities like a Xerox copier and an internet facility available for the convenience of the students.

The History of B.Ed. The College library dates back to 1954 with the Teacher Training School's inception, which is now renamed "Govt. College of Education". The college library has educational and general collections about disciplines such as Social Science, Science, Art of Teaching, Technology, Literature, History, and Geography. It has a good supply of Reference books. The library also has a collection of gift books received under various central as well as state schemes such as the Civic action scheme of the security wing of J&K. The total Number of books Under State Government grants till the year 2020-2021 is 30586 and 3111 Book Bank books purchased under UGC grant. The automation work has been initiated using KOHA. The college library has prepared electronic patron i-cards for the M.Ed section. To date, the library is partially automated.

### **Libraries in colleges of Samba District:**

The library's role in any academic institution can be realized only in the context of the institution's philosophy of

education. This is true of most of the libraries of the world's educational institutions. Education is a process of learning to develop the capabilities of the people. Academic libraries, which comprise school, college, and university libraries, usually have four types of users based on the level of education they cater to. These are students, teachers, research scholars, administrative, professional, and other institution staff.

The support of a library at the college level is essential to broaden the minds of the young students to meet new challenges. Compared to school education, a college education is different for students. There are many students in each class, so the teachers can't give individual attention to each student. However, the students must depend on the college library for their studies and develop a habit of self-learning.

The chief objectives of a college library are to give the enrolled students a broader and deeper understanding of the various disciplines; provide guidance to students for higher studies and self-learning; prepare the students for shouldering higher responsibilities in schools, government departments, civic organizations, commercial establishments, business, and industrial companies, etc.; train them to become more enlightened, knowledgeable and responsible citizens; and prepare them for varied professions like law, medicine, engineering, technology, etc.

The primary functions of a college library are to assist its parent body in carrying out the requirements of its teachers and students regarding reading, study and research; provide physical facilities such as functional building, furniture, equipment, etc.; provide the latest editions and multiple copies of curriculum-based textbooks and recommended books for their study; equip the library with a wide range of reference books; develop a collection of latest books in different subjects and periodicals including their back volumes; procure multiple media material and computer-aided teaching-learning material; subscribe to important newspapers and other light material such as popular fiction, biographies, travelogues, art books, etc. for recreation purpose; and preserve previous years' question papers to help the students.

College library staff provides reading, lending, and textbook services. They guide students in the use of manual or computer catalogs. Also, assist in locating books and reference books from the shelves; train and instruct students to use library resources effectively and efficiently; provide information, reference, and referral services to all library members. They also display new books and lists of multiple media materials. They procure adequate media material and equipment to render them usable and provide reprographics service.

There are five government colleges in the Samba district Shri Pandit Prem Nath Dogra Government Degree College Samba, GDC Ghagwal, GDC Ramgarh, GDC Vijaypur, and GDC Purmandal.

In these libraries, catalogs are still on index cards. Many libraries have circulation clerks who checkbooks in and out.

This study mainly focuses on library facilities in the Samba district colleges and how they help fulfill the information needs of students in these institutions.

From the survey, the following information was gathered. Figure 1 shows 81% of students have easy access to library resources. More than half of the students visited the library either weekly or monthly. Only 20% of the students visited the library daily, and 10% did not avail the library service. Thus, many students are aware of the importance of using the resources available in the college library (Figure 2). The students were of the opinion that the library not only helps college professors to prepare subject material but also helps students pursue their studies by consulting different books written by eminent academicians on the course curriculum available in the library. They also update their knowledge by reading books other than the prescribed curriculum. They also said they don't have to buy expensive books from the market as they can be borrowed from the library. Also, the free time is utilized fruitfully in the library. They were of the opinion that on visiting libraries, the habit of self-study is developed. The library is a peaceful, noiseless area, so the study is possible without any distraction, which helps students perform well in the exams. They also believed that the library allows students to prepare for entrance and competitive exams. Another benefit of the library is that it has many rare old books unavailable on the market.

The students suggested that space should be increased with more seating capacity to benefit from the library's resources. More staff, especially menial staff, should be deputed to the library. However, 90% of the students found the behavior of the library staff as excellent or good (Figure 6). Figure 4 shows that about half of the students find that the collection of books in the library is good. The others suggest that the reference section should be there in the library. Also, more books on Science, philosophy, and psychology are to be added to the library. Biographies, Mystery, and religious texts in the library are limited in number. Figure 12 shows the topics and types of books as demanded by the students. 49% wanted more science and technology books. 38% wanted more newspapers and magazines in the library. They also suggested that more than one book should be issued at a time and for at least one month. They wanted the management to increase the number of copies of course-related books. They were of the view that the timing rule for the library should be changed. Figure 5 shows that only 20% of the students found the college library hours excellent. The time slot for issuing books or visiting hours coincides with the classwork. The timetable should have slots for the library, and students should be allowed to visit the library daily to avail the facility. They demanded that there be a dire need to access digital books. Figure 3 shows that half of the students find the library's service good, and only a fraction find it poor or fair. The overall functionality of the libraries is rated as excellent by 28% of students (Figure 7).

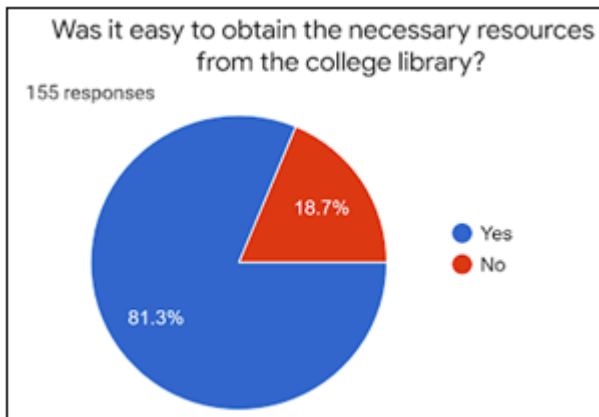


Figure 1

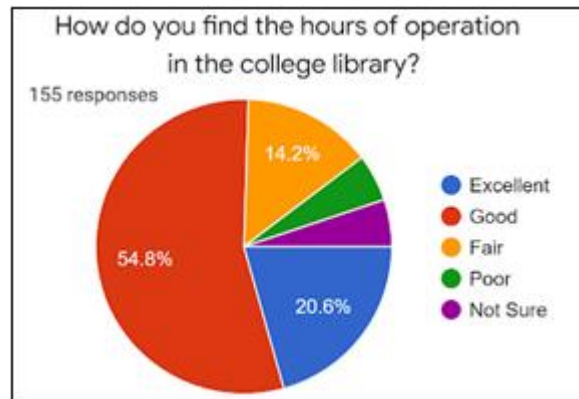


Figure 5

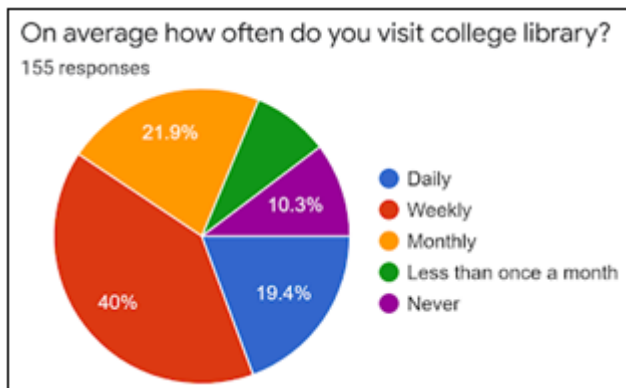


Figure 2

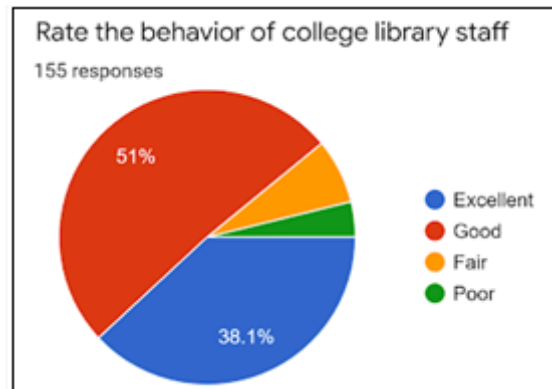


Figure 6

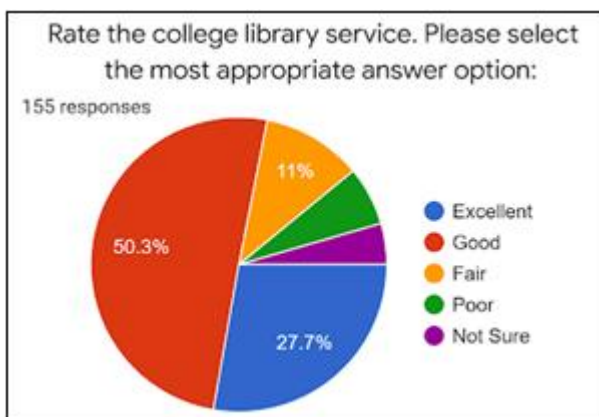


Figure 3

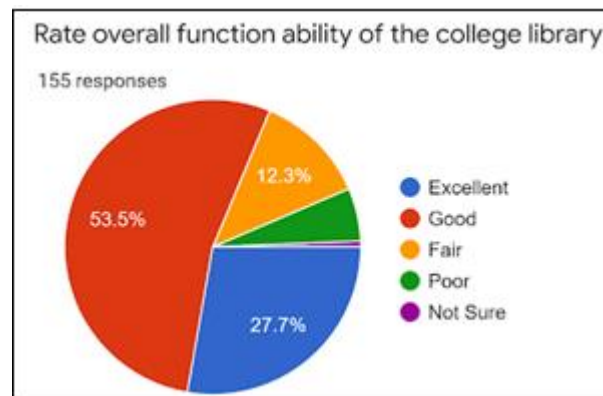


Figure 7

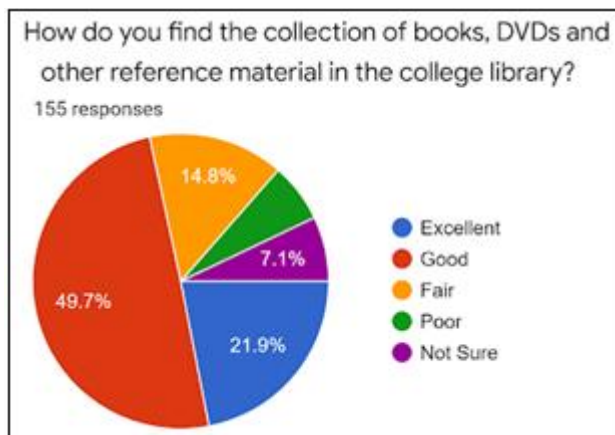


Figure 4

In a new library, which of the following services would you like to see expanded to better serve the needs of the college?

155 responses

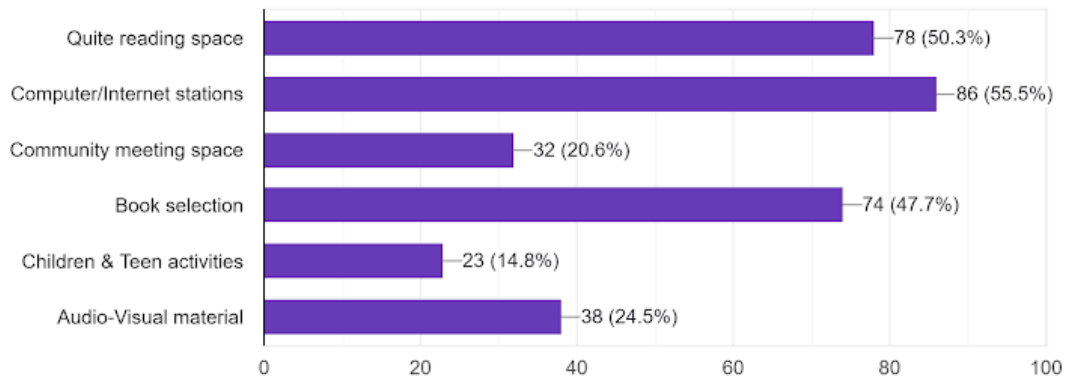


Figure 8

If you have not visited the college Library in the last year, which of the following reasons describes why?

155 responses

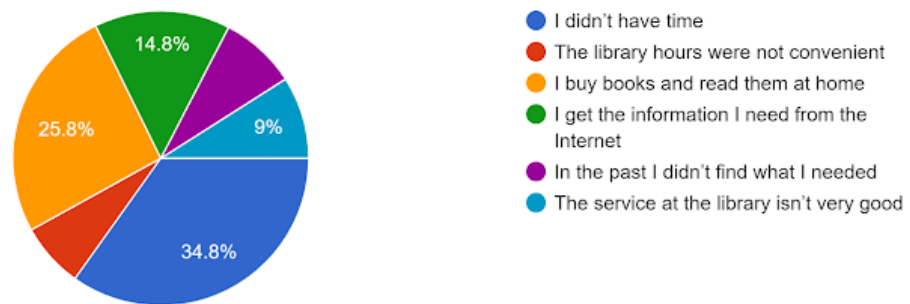


Figure 9

Do you usually find the books and other materials that you are looking for in the college library?

155 responses

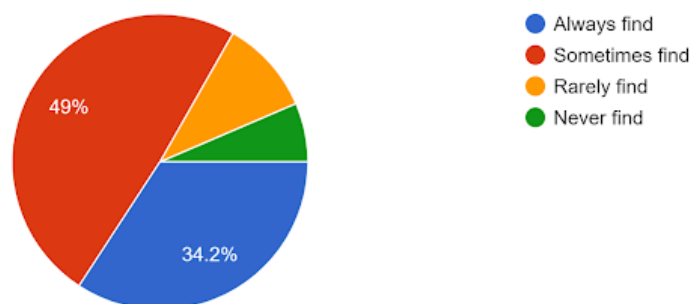


Figure 10



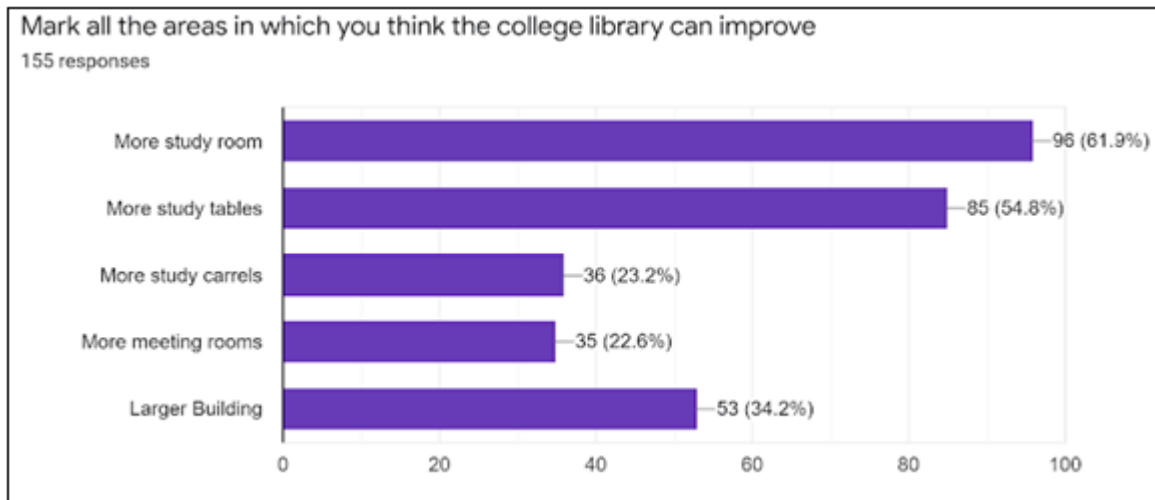


Figure 11

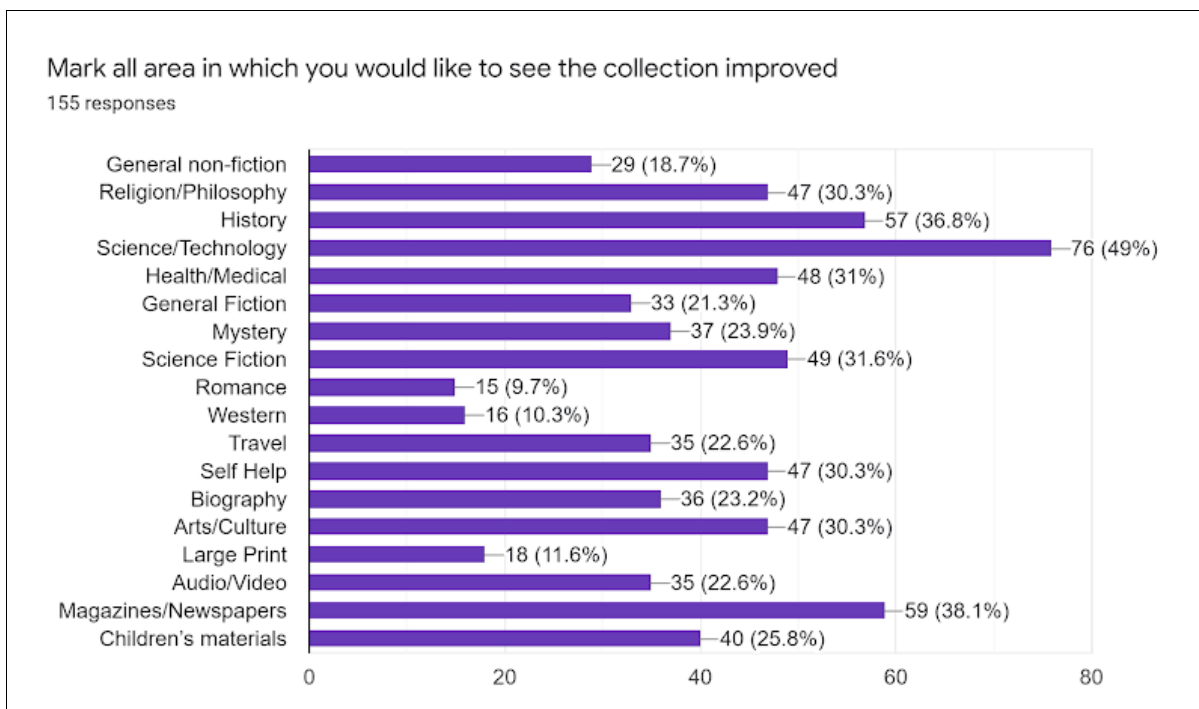


Figure 12

From figure 8, we see that 55% of students want the computer and internet stations to be installed in the library. About 50% complained of noise in the library and suggested that staff should be deployed, and students taught to maintain silence in the library. About 24% wanted an audio-visual facility for learning to be introduced. About 20% thought the library could be used as a community meeting place. The survey was carried out to make the students of the area aware of the importance of libraries and to make them aware of the facilities being added to the libraries and invite suggestions from them. From figure 9, it came to the fore that 35% of students did not visit the library last year as they didn't have time and/or they found the library services not up to the mark. About 24% bought books from the library and studied at home. Others consulted the internet to satisfy their educational needs. Figure 10 shows that 49% of students seldom found books or other material in the library. Only 34% were satisfied with the resources available in the library.

Figure 11 shows that 34% wanted a larger building to be used as a library with more of a study room (62%), about 54% wanted more study tables, and 23% study carrels.

This study concludes that some of the libraries in this district are not in a very good state of affairs. Lack of adequate resources, financial and incredibly human, is identified as the primary reason for the present status of these libraries. Regarding information needs, most respondents look for information about development schemes, employment opportunities, education, health, etc. Though mass media, including newspapers, TV, and radio, are significant sources of information, followed by relatives/friends and government officials. This study suggests the transformation of existing libraries or establishing a new set up of dynamic information centers in colleges with the help of the latest IT to effectively cater to the information needs of the people is the need of the hour.

## **References**

- [1] Arjun, Dinesh Kumar, Apurba Jyoti Majumder and Sharmila Bose; Role of Library in Higher Education in India; International Journal of Librarianship and Administration 1(1)(2010), 1-12.
- [2] Hafijull Mondal; Role of Library in Higher Education: Issues and Challenges in India in 21st Century; Book chapter in s ‘Higher Education: Issues and Challenges’, September 2021.
- [3] Parmar, Seema, "Role of Libraries in Higher Education System in India in 21st Century" (2019). Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal). 2993.
- [4] Digest of Statistics, 2022, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Finance Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.
- [5] District Information Center, Samba District.
- [6] National Information Center, developed and hosted National Informatics Center, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India.
- [7] Block Development Office, District Samba.
- [8] Personal interviews, personal discussions, face-to-face oral communication.
- [9] Survey by using the questionnaire method.