



IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN CHANDRAPUR DISTRICT :ACASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT:

The researcher studied this subject to seek out the impact of COVID-19 on academic libraries in Chandrapur district. A well-structured questionnaire was prepared and sent to selected academic libraries in Chandrapur district. The study shown that the COVID-19 pandemic includes a vital impact on the services provided by academic libraries. The study shown that most of libraries were kept open, however the working hours of the libraries are reduced throughout the COVID-19 period. This paper additionally shown the measures taken to overcome the encounters in retrieving the data throughout the COVID-19 period. The study indicates that the majority of the libraries have seen an increase in the usage of digital resources. The study reveals that limiting the amount of users into the physical library, mandatory mask, and provision of sanitizers at the library entrances and maintenance of social distancing were some of the measures taken by the libraries throughout the COVID-19 period.

Key words: -Library Services, Lockdown, Academic Library, Library Resources, Digital Resources, COVID-19

INTRODUCTION:

The COVID-19 pandemic has significant impact on the usage of resources and services provided by academic libraries. Educational libraries are an integral part of the formal education system and support the educational programs of the organizations to which they belong. Academic librarians serve the students, staff and faculty of college and universities. Academic libraries serve to accomplish these goals, such as providing relevant documentation to parent organizations and constantly striving to provide users with the latest information in their respective subject areas. Librarians of educational libraries are information providers who bring together two main components, users and documents.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE :

Connell, R. S., Wallis, L., & Comeaux, D. (2021), in his study stated that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on higher education, including academic libraries. Before and after the epidemic, three university libraries are

compared for the use of library resources (inter-library loans, website and search tool page views, database usage, protective interactions, etc.). In The last part of the spring semester of 2019 and 2020 are the time frames of focus, although the two control time frames prior to that semester are used to determine how the semesters differ without the coronavirus component. Institutions experimented with using similar patterns on multiple metrics Kumar Jena (2020), in his study "Impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education in India", underlines the impact of COVID-19 on higher education in India. The study states that COVID-19 has weakened the higher education system and e-encyclopedia, Gyandarshan, Swayam, e-Shodhasindhu, Vidwan etc. are some new emerging approaches to higher education in India, to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in libraries.

Mohan Tej M, Mahabaleshwar Rao and Shivanand Bhat K (2021), Study impact of COVID-19 on Manipal Academy of Higher

Education (MAHE) libraries and measures taken to overcome the challenges of accessing information between COVID-19 in his study "Impact of Covid-19 on Educational Libraries: A Case Study" This studies have shown that MAHE libraries have a rich collection of e-books, online journals, online databases, e-learning platforms and research support tools. The remote access facility was widely used by MAHE Library users for teaching, learning, patient care and research activities and thus accessing relevant literature to meet their information needs.

S. De Groote, and J.M. Scoulas (2021), in his study, "Impact of COVID-19 on the use of the academic library" examines differences in library use patterns (in-person visits, online use, reference transactions, library resource and services use) in pre-COVID-19 and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Using library statistics compiled between 2017/2018 and 2020/2021 and student responses to biennial library usage surveys distributed in 2018 and 2021, the potential impact of epidemic disease on user behavior was explored. Library usage statistics and biennial survey responses show that COVID-19 had an impact on users' overall library usage. There was a dramatic decline in both the number of library gates and the frequency of student visits to the library. The use of virtual support to protectors increased during COVID-19, as email and chat references were reflected in the growth of interactions and virtual consultations.

METHODOLOGY :

14 libraries in the Chandrapur district were selected out to determine the impact of COVID-19 on academic libraries, using the convenient sampling method. A structured questionnaire was prepared in Google forms. And sent them to the librarians through their email addresses. Questionnaire comprising collective questions, both open and closed-ended questions covering the impact of the

pandemic on the libraries and the extent of usage of physical and digital resources of the libraries.

Questionnaire also had a questions about the guidelines that have been followed in the institution.

DATA ANALYSIS :

1. Libraries -Open or Closed during COVID – 19 Period?

Table 1 shows information about status of the library whether open or closed COVID -19 Period. All libraries are kept open during the COVID-19 period. It concludes that during COVID period also libraries serving for the betterment of users.

2. Changes in Library Working Hours

As per the guidelines implemented by the universities, this table shows the changes in working hours of library. Above table shows that more than 57% of libraries have reduced library working hours during the COVID-19 period and only 28% were kept open with regulator timing. 14% of the libraries are kept open only on demand of users.

3. Enhanced Services Provided by the Libraries

The above table shows the enhanced services provided by the libraries to the users. Table shows that during the COVID-19 period, almost all the libraries have given service of online assistance, No late fine policy and extended due dates of the users. More than 70% of the libraries conducted online orientation program about use of library during COVID-19 for the users. 35% of the libraries are providing remote access to digital resources.

4. Impact on Services of the Libraries

Table 4 indicates impact of COVID-19 on services of the libraries. 36% of the respondents have strongly agreed and 57% of the respondents have agreed that there is a decrease in circulation of library resources. This indicates that there is decrease in circulation of library resources. 50% of the respondents have strongly agreed and 43% of the respondents have agreed that there is a decrease in use of physical

resources. Only 7% of the respondents have disagreed with this. This indicates that there is decrease in use of physical resources. 43% of the respondents have strongly agreed and 57% of the respondents have agreed that there is an increase in use of digital resources. This indicates that there is increase in use of digital resources. 21% of the respondents have strongly agreed and 43% of the respondents have agreed that there is an increase in online research assistance. Only 21% of the respondents have disagreed with this. This indicates that there is increase in online research assistance.

5. Preventive Measures by Libraries

Libraries in the Chandrapur district have taken all the required measures to prevent the spread of disease. All libraries have adopted preventive measures like limiting the number of students in reading room, prohibition of entry in library without mask, provide hand sanitizers, frequent sanitization of library premises, checking temperature at the entrance of library, maintenance of social distancing while seating in reading room.

CONCLUSION :

All libraries are kept open during the COVID-19 period. Library hours are reduced. Almost all the libraries have given enhanced service of online assistance, No late fine policy and extended due dates of the users, also conducted online orientation program about use of library, provided remote access to digital resources. There is significant impact of COVID-19 on services provided by the library. There is decrease in circulation of library resources, decrease in use of physical resources, an increase in use of digital resources and an

increase in online research assistance. All libraries have adopted preventive measures like limiting the number of students in reading room, prohibition of entry in library without mask, provide hand sanitizers, frequent sanitization of library premises, checking temperature at the entrance of library, maintenance of social distancing while seating in reading room.

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Table 1: Status of academic libraries

Status of the Libraries	Number of Libraries	Percentage
Open	14	100%
Closed	0	0%
Total	14	100%

Table 2: Impact of COVID-19 on library working hours

Sl.No.	Impact	Number of Libraries	Percentage
1.	Open during regular working hours	4	28.57%
2.	Open with reduced working hour	8	57.14%
3.	Opens on demand of users	2	14.28%

Table 3: Enhanced services provided by the libraries

Sl.No.	Enhanced Services	No. of Libraries	Percentage
1.	Remote access to library resources	5	35.71%
2.	Webinars	6	42.85%
3.	Online Orientation Program about Use of library during COVID-19	10	71.42%
4.	Extended due dates	14	100.00%
5.	No late fines	14	100.00%
6.	Virtual author workshops	3	21.42%
7.	Online assistance	14	100.00%

Table 4: Impact of COVID-19 on services of the libraries

Sl. No.	Impact	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1.	Library Circulation decreases	35.71%	57.14%	07.14%	0%	0%
2.	Use of Physical resource decreases	50.00%	42.85%	0%	07.14%	0%
3.	Use of digital resource increases	42.85%	57.14%	0%	0%	0%
4.	Online research assistance increases	21.42%	42.85%	0%	21.42%	0%

Table 5: Preventive measures by libraries

Sl.No.	Measures Adopted	No. of Libraries	Percentage
1.	Limited students in Reading Room	14	100%
2.	Prohibition of entry without mask	14	100%
3.	Provision of hand sanitizers	14	100%
4.	Frequent sanitization of the library premises	14	100%
5.	Checking temperature at the entrance	14	100%
6.	Maintenance of social distancing	14	100%