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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE LIBRARIES: WITH REFERENCE TO NAAC A++ ACCREDITED COLLEGES OF TAMIL NADU

Dr. N. ABDUL LATHEEF

Librarian

Islamiah College (Autonomous)
Affiliated to University of Madras
Vaniyambadi, Tirupathur.

ABSTRACT

Sustainable development is the goal of all institutions. Quality and Quantity are two aspects of institutional growth. This study analyzed the maintenance of quality and quantity as well as the contributions of Libraries for A accredited arts and science colleges of Tamil Nadu. The objective of this study is to find out the speciality services of the A++ colleges and to create awareness among library professionals, Identify the unique features and services provided in the library and information centres' also. Research Methodology the researcher randomly selected A++ accredited arts and science colleges in all Tamil Nadu, and data were collected from the selected colleges. Data Analysis from the colleges collected and put into MS Excel for sorting out and analysis. Findings of the study reveal that every college library provides unique services, infrastructure, best practices, user strength, and working hours. The originality of the study was determined by the concerned college Library Professionals and website up to the year of 2024. Suggestions were given to library professionals to adopt the unique features of these libraries for institutional growth and accreditation.

KEYWORDS: NAAC, A++, Arts, Science, higher education

INTRODUCTION

Ranking and accreditations are healthy environment for Higher educational institutions growth and development. Ranking and accreditation is the tool that every student to choose good and quality institution for higher education. National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is playing behind the role of deciding authority for providing better and good quality education. Every institution have unique features in their campus. As per the SSR of NAAC criterion 4.2.1 to 4.2.4 (4 criterions) are essential components of the library. These four criterion analysed in each college library. Cent percent of the A++ accredited college libraries are fulfilling these 4th criterion and score cent percent results. Some of the institutions providing more than that services. Best practices are usually differing from one college to another. The NAAC is an organisation that aims to improve the educational quality and its value. Its implementation has resulted in a more positive work culture instinct and a desire among college and university teachers to gain more knowledge and information (Kaur & Gupta, 2021). Its mission is to evaluate and accredit India's Higher education Institutions. It arose from references in the National Policy on Education (1986) and the Programme of Action (POA-1992) that emphasised the enhancement and improvement of the country's Higher Education Quality. An institution has to prepare the SSR (self study report) in seven criteria before the NAAC Peer team visit. Generally, the process of NAAC accreditation takes place once in a 5 years. After examining the intent institution's Institutional

Assessment and Accreditation application, the NAAC grants the institution Institutional Eligibility for Quality Assessment status.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Ghante, P B & Chikate, A N (2018) highlighted in their study regarding accreditation activity is gaining force in our country as people and educational institutions have come to realize that quality enhancement is essential for the institution and the country. In the process of institutional accreditation, libraries have a crucial role. Further they discussed the services of the libraries have been expanding as they contribute significantly to the learning process. It also focused on impact of NAAC on library services, researcher find out the impact of assessment & accreditation of NAAC on library services. **Rajeev Singh & Vaishali S. Kshirsagar (2023)** discussed in their study the role of the NAAC accreditation in the Quality Improvement of Higher Education Institutions. NAAC gives direction and motivates the Institutions to address many of its issues through its criteria and critical indicators related to Quality Assessment and Accreditation processes, such as Evaluation Process and Reforms; Student Performance and Learning Outcomes; Promotion of Research and Facilities; Resource Mobilisation for Research, Innovation Ecosystem, Research Publications and Awards, Extension Activities, Collaboration; Library as a Learning Resource, Institutional Values and Social Responsibilities; Best Practices and Institutional Distinctiveness etc., **Dominic, Julie A(2022)** pointed out in their study Quality sustenance and enhancement of Education in the Higher education sector is the key mode of creating a knowledgeable community. The proper assessment and validation of the Higher Education Institutions mould a Nation of students with global competency keeping pace with global educational expectancy in both scholarly and professional levels of grading. Further they analyse the role and contributions of NAAC towards the effective assessment process practiced in the higher education Institutions all over India and for preserving a strong rooted educational hub throughout the Nation.

OBJECTIVES

The researcher have framed the following main objectives to fulfil the study.

1. To identify the strength of every institution
2. To find out the unique services provided in their libraries
3. To observe the technological implements in their libraries
4. To know the different type of Library Automation software
5. To inspect the usage ratio and improvement technique
6. To trace out the seating capacity and carpet area of the library
7. To mark out the innovations in these institutions
8. To create awareness among the library professionals

METHODOLOGY

There are many colleges accredited by NAAC with A++ grade in Tamil Nadu, among these the investigator have selected randomly 10 colleges for the study. Geographical Area covers major cities of the Tamil Nadu. The data have taken from the concerned college website and SSR. After collecting the data, it has put into the computer excel for analysis. The data collected from the colleges up to the year of 2024.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1
Demographic Data

S.No	Name of the Institution	Established	NAAC Score	Cycle
1	Loyola College, Chennai	1930	3.55	4 th Cycle
2	D.G.Vaishnav College, Chennai	1964	3.54	3 rd „
3	G.T.N.Arts & Science College, Dindigul	1964	3.56	2 nd „
4	Islamiah College (A), Tirupattur	1919	3.55	3 rd „
5	Jamal Mohamed College, Trichirappalli	1951	3.69	4 th „
6	PSG College of Arts & Science, Coimbatore	1947	3.51	4 th „

7	Sadakathullah Appa College, Tirunelveli	1971	3.56	4 th „
8	ST.Xavier's College, Palayamkottai	1923	3.66	4 th „
9	Thiagarajar College, Madurai	1949	3.63	4 th „
10	Hajee Karutha Rowther Howdia College, Theni	1956	3.52	3 rd „

According to table.1 depicts that 60% of the colleges have got A++ in the 4th cycle of accreditation. Among these colleges Islamiah College (Autonomous) is oldest institution established in 1919. On the other hand Sadakathullah Appa College have established during the year 1971. In case of NAAC assessment Score Jamal Mohamed College got 3.69 highest score during the 4th cycle and second place St.Xaviers College got 3.66 Score, on the similarly PSG College of Arts & Science got 3.51 score during the 4th cycle. Overall observations from the table reveals that among these colleges G.T.N.Arts & Science college that 2nd cycle itself got A++ grade and further it is observed from the table establishment of all the institutions are more than 50 years crossed.

As per the table 2 reveals that Jamal Mohamed college is having highest volumes among these colleges (2,32,995), on the other hand G.T.N. Arts & Science college have 40,795 volumes. In case of online database D.G.Vaishnav College is subscribing 4 database, it is observed from the table Thiagarajar College having 3101 rare collection of books in their library. For subscription of Journals P.S.G.College of Arts & Science subscribing 313 hard copies of Journals and Magazines.

Table 2
Available Resources

S.No	Name of the Institution	Books	Journals & Magazines	Back Volumes	Online Database E-Books	Theses Dissertations	Rare Books	News Papers
1	Loyola College, Chennai	1,20,000	82	3443	3	149	395	13
2	D.G.Vaishnav College, Chennai	105810	120	1872	4	1115	395	19
3	G.T.N.Arts & Science College, Dindigul	40795	69	600	1	70	800	7
4	Islamiah College (A), Tirupattur	86,129	115	3117	2	1069	523	10
5	Jamal Mohamed College, Trichirappalli	2,32,995	142	16444	3	4764	60	11
6	PSG College of Arts & Science, Coimbatore	1,44,874	313	11011	3	554	-	
7	Sadakathullah Appa College, Tirunelveli	48476	58	2082	3	3172	-	9
8	ST.Xavier's College, Palayamkottai	1,30,658	77	3915	2	4535	235	7
9	Thiagarajar College, Madurai	1,11,494	106	1594	2	131	3101	10
10	Hajee Karutha Rowther Howdia College, Theni	56,743	87	700	1	170	148	8

Table.3
Infrastructure of the Library

S.No	Name of the Institution	Carpet Area (Square)	Computers	Seating capacity	Projector	Web OPAC	Head phones	Automation software
1	Loyola College, Chennai	19,000	90		N	Y	Y	ERP
2	D.G.Vaishnav College, Chennai	16,150		235	Y	Y	N	AUTOLIB
3	G.T.N.Arts & Science College, Dindigul	3,526	8	60	N	N	N	ERP
4	Islamiah College (A), Tirupattur	10,460	45	150	Y	N	Y	SOUL
5	Jamal Mohamed College, Trichirappalli	6,296	40	200	N	N	Y	KOHA
6	PSG College of Arts & Science, Coimbatore	22,400	42	400	Y	Y	Y	NIRMALS
7	Sadakathullah Appa College, Tirunelveli	12,600	35		Y	Y	N	AUTOLIB
8	ST.Xavier's College, Palayamkottai	25,215		280	y	Y	N	AUTOLIB
9	Thiagarajar College, Madurai		29	250	N	Y	Y	AUTOLIB
10	Hajee Karutha Rowther Howdia College, Theni	4,490	25	110	N	Y	N	FLAIR

The table 3 expose that among the ten colleges St.Xavier's College is having highest carpet area of the library (25,215 Sq.ft.). Incase of computer systems Loyola college is having 90 computer systems in their library. P.S.G.College of Arts & Science providing highest seating facility (400) for their readers. Among these 50% of colleges have projector & Headphone facility, on the other hand 70% of the colleges providing Web OPAC service to their readers. AUTOLIB software utilized in D.G.Vaishnav college, Sadakathullah Appa College and St.Xaviers college. UGC recommended library automation software SOUL installed in Islamiah College (Autonomous)

Table 4
Best Practices

S.No	Name of the Institution	No of BP
1	Loyola College, Chennai	12
2	D.G.Vaishnav College, Chennai	10
3	G.T.N.Arts & Science College, Dindigul	11
4	Islamiah College (A), Tirupattur	15
5	Jamal Mohamed College, Trichirappalli	12
6	PSG College of Arts & Science, Coimbatore	17
7	Sadakathullah Appa College, Tirunelveli	11
8	ST.Xavier's College, Palayamkottai	14
9	Thiagarajar College, Madurai	14
10	Hajee Karutha Rowther Howdia College, Theni	10

(BP-Best Practices)

The table 4 depicts the best practices of the colleges among the ten colleges, PSG Arts and science college provides highest (17) best practices services to their users. Next to this Islamiah

College and Sadakathullah Appa college observing (15) best practices. On the other hand D.G.Vaishnav college and Hajee Krutha Rowther college providing (10) best practices. Further it is identified that among the ten college seven common best practices are observed.

As per table 5 purchase of books & Journals PSG College of Arts & Science spending 27.51 lakhs per annum . Next to this Jamal Mohamed college purchasing 20.69 lakhs per year for books & periodicals., St.Xavier's College placed third for purchasing books & journals that is 16.75 lakhs On the other hand Sadakathullah Appa college, Loyola college and D.G.Vaishnav College to be spent more amount for adding books & periodicals every academic year.

Table 5
Purchase of Books & Periodicals (One Year)

S.No	Name of the Institutions	Purchase of Books and Journals average Per year	Strength of the College
1	Loyola College, Chennai	12.89 lakhs	10,745
2	D.G.Vaishnav College, Chennai	13.28 ,,	9859
3	G.T.N.Arts & Science College, Dindigul	25.00 ,,	5028
4	Islamiah College (A), Tirupattur	9.40 ,,	3200
5	Jamal Mohamed College, Trichirappalli	20.69 ,,	11,604
6	PSG College of Arts & Science, Coimbatore	27.51 ,,	13,090
7	Sadakathullah Appa College, Tirunelveli	3.11 ,,	3910
8	ST.Xavier's College, Palayamkottai	16.75 ,,	3527
9	Thiagarajar College, Madurai	9.18 ,,	5518
10	Hajee Karutha Rowther Howdia College, Theni	9.31 ,,	2825

Table 5 presents the annual expenditure on books and periodicals and the student strength of ten selected autonomous colleges in Tamil Nadu. Among the institutions, PSG College of Arts & Science, Coimbatore records the highest annual expenditure on books and periodicals with ₹27.51 lakhs and also has the highest student strength of 13,090. G.T.N. Arts & Science College, Dindigul spends ₹25.00 lakhs despite having a comparatively lower student strength of 5,028, indicating a strong commitment to library resource development. Jamal Mohamed College, Tiruchirappalli allocates ₹20.69 lakhs for library resources with a student population of 11,604. In contrast, Sadakathullah Appa College, Tirunelveli spends the least amount, ₹3.11 lakhs, with a student strength of 3,910. The data reveal considerable variation in library expenditure among the colleges, suggesting differences in institutional priorities, financial capacity, and emphasis on academic resource enhancement.

Table 6
User Statistics

S.No	Name of the Institution	No of Users Perday	Total strength of the college	Percentage %
1	Loyola College, Chennai	825	10,745	7.67
2	D.G.Vaishnav College, Chennai	2023	9859	20.52
3	G.T.N.Arts & Science College, Dindigul	1262	5028	25
4	Islamiah College (A), Tirupattur	1100	3200	34.37
5	Jamal Mohamed College, Trichirappalli	1303	11,604	11.22
6	PSG College of Arts & Science, Coimbatore	400	13,090	3.05
7	Sadakathullah Appa College, Tirunelveli	291	3910	7.44
8	ST.Xavier's College, Palayamkottai	577	3527	16.36
9	Thiagarajar College, Madurai	277	5518	5.02

10	Hajee Karutha Rowther Howdia College, Theni	280	2825	9.91
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It is observed from the table 6 User statistics of the college libraries, Islamiah College (Autonomous) library is utilized highest among the ten colleges that is 34.37%, next to this G.T.N Arts & Science College library 25 % utilized by the readers. D.G.Vaishnav College placing third stage that 20% of readers utilizing their library perday. On the other hand based on the strength of the colleges Loyola College, P.S.G.College of Arts and Science, Thiagarajar College and Jamal Mohamed College library users should be increased.

OVERALL OBSERVATIONS FROM THE STUDY

- ❖ All the Institutions are accredited during the period 2021-2024 (last 3 years)
- ❖ Establishment of all the colleges morethan 50 years crossed
- ❖ Among them oldest college is Islamiah College (Autonomous), established on 1919
- ❖ Availability of Computer systems in Loyola college is 90 systems compared with other colleges
- ❖ Highest Number of seating capacity in the Library is400 in P.S.G.College of Arts and Science
- ❖ G.T.N.Arts & Scince college got A++ grade in 2nd Cycle of Accreditation
- ❖ It is found that highest strength of among college is P.S.G.College of Arts & Science (13,090)
- ❖ Incase of library users Islamiah College is top in the usage percentage (34%), it is compared with the strength of the other colleges
- ❖ It is observed from the study purchase of books and Periodicals P.S.G.College of Arts and Science spending highest amount Rs.27.51 lakhs
- ❖ It is found from the study some of the colleges having unique Best Practices
- ❖ Further it is noticed from the study that Thiagarajar College having highest rare collection of books (3101)
- ❖ Incase of News papers subscription D.G.Vaishnav College subscribing 19 Daily News papers every month

COMMON BEST PRACTICES IN THE COLLEGES

- ❖ User education/ Orientation to every academic year
- ❖ Reprography Service
- ❖ Conducting competition programme/Seminars/workshops
- ❖ Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)
- ❖ Book Bank
- ❖ Question Bank
- ❖ Maintenance of Rare books

UNIQUE BEST PRACTICES OF THE COLLEGES

Islamiah College (Autonomous):

- ❖ Distribution of Library Handbook to First Year UG Students every academic year
- ❖ DSpace College Repository Software
- ❖ Career Guidance books & Magazines Separate Racks & Cupboards
- ❖ Projector with Mic and Speakers
- ❖ Best Library User Award
- ❖ External reader Membership for Research scholars, Faculty and Government officials on free of cost
- ❖ Providing internal marks for each subject towards library usage

PSG College of Arts & Science:

- ❖ Talking Digital library for visually challenged students
- ❖ RFID Equipped Library
- ❖ Organizing Faculty Development Programme
- ❖ Library User guide

- ❖ Inter Library loan
- ❖ External reader Membership for Research scholars on fee based system
- ❖ Plagiarism checking service

G.T.N. Arts & Science College:

- ❖ Plagiarism Checking Service
- ❖ Career Guidance books & Magazines maintain in separately
- ❖ It offering Library Science Course

Jamal Mohamed College:

- ❖ Rarebooks & Archives Section with High quality Scanners
- ❖ Career Guidance books & Magazines maintain in separately
- ❖ RFID Equipped Library
- ❖ LED TV

Loyola College:

- ❖ Projector with Mic and Speakers
- ❖ Plagiarism checking service
- ❖ Competitive Exams- Separate books Section

St.Xavier's College:

- ❖ Best Library User Award
- ❖ Projector with Mic and Speakers
- ❖ User Education Programme
- ❖ Plagiarism checking service
- ❖ Competitive Exams- Separate books Section

Sadakathullah Appa College:

- ❖ Library Science Course
- ❖ Best Library User Award
- ❖ Separate Library web portal
- ❖ Plagiarism checking service
- ❖ Competitive Exam books Section
- ❖ DSpace repository software

SUGGESTIONS

Based on the findings from the study the following suggestions were given;

- To implement the unique best practices in the rest of the colleges and other NAAC accredited institutions
- To improve the library users statistics in rest of the colleges
- To increase the annual allotment for purchase of books and periodicals based on the strength of the Institution
- To increase the computer ratio according to the strength of the college
- To increase the seating capacity based on the usage ratio
- To implement the internal marks 5 for library usage in Autonomous colleges
- To adopt the new methodology for increasing the library users
- To conduct user education programmes, Orientation, Competition programmes and career guidance programmes

CONCLUSION

According to the study each institution provides unique feature/facility in their library services. All the above institutions serving to their users in wonderful manner. Academicians, stakeholders, and library professionals are backbones for delivering higher education to the student community, not only for their development but also for their career growth. The standardization of organizations/institutions is based on regular monitoring, verification, examination, or upgrading. Maintenance of quality and quantity in a standard manner is an essential part of the library and institution. Based on this study, adopting new ideas, innovations, and updates in libraries is an essential duty of librarians. With reference to the above study, many ideas, infrastructure, and

unique best practices were identified among the institutions. This will be very useful for other institutions to implement in their organizations. Institutions that face the NAAC, NBA, ISO, and other ranking purposes have to adopt these unique features of colleges.

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