

Preface

The present study has been undertaken to explore how far the services provided by medical and paramedical college libraries are effective for the students, professionals and research scholars and also examines the barriers for effective library services in Assam. In order to keep up with the current trends, libraries must constantly evaluate its functions. This paper also suggests effective measures to improve the existing facilities and services to achieve user satisfaction.

The methodology adopted by the researcher for the present study started with a background study of literature. The researcher personally visited the selected thirty eight medical and paramedical colleges affiliated to Srimanta Sankaradeva University Health Sciences. A survey was conducted with the help of two sets of questionnaires meant for the college librarians and users of these libraries. To obtain the best result on the services, organization and administration of the college libraries, interview method was conducted with the selected library professionals and library users. The observation method has also been carried out in order to assess the real situation of the functioning of the college libraries. Spot study has been made in the college libraries to know the users who come to the library for study and reference, their interest and attitude.

In Assam, use of E-resources in most of the paramedical college libraries are negligible, as far as the provision of information services are concerned the paramedical college libraries in Assam are very poor and access to the latest periodicals and other latest materials is unthinkable due to the paucity of adequate finance. No alternatives have been taken by the administrators to overcome the financial constraints facing by the libraries. All the libraries are not having sufficient professionally qualified staff, which would have helped in providing proper library services. Timings of the library also do not suit most of the medical and paramedical practitioners. The researcher feels that librarians have the abilities to provide better service specially if supported by their organizations and institutions with respect to latest technologies and resources.

This is a pioneering work in the country on Paramedical Sciences. It is hoped that the research workers may take help of this work in giving guidance for their works in near future and can contribute for the development of the society.


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(Dalimi Devi)