"LIBRARY GOVERNANCE IN INDO-THAI UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES: A COMPARATIVE STUDY"

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Abstract:

The objective of the present study is to highlight college library governance in University Libraries in India and Thailand. Researcher surveyed the governance and personnel in the selected University libraries in India and Thailand . Data collected from the survey is presented in this paper. It was interested to know the position of personnel in Indo-Thai University Libraries.

Keywords: Library Governance, University Libraries, Library personnel.

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1. INTRODUCTION

There is no need to reiterate that the university libraries chief function is to serve the educational objectives of that university, to aid the faculty in its work, and to assist the students, faculty and their courses. Most higher education and research institutions in India are funded by the central and state governments. Those institutions have made a significant contribution to the transmission of knowledge and to research in all fields and disciplines. Universities and research institutes have played a leading role in transforming the country into a modern industrialized and technologically-advanced state. The green revolution and tremendous progress in dairy development have made India a major food-producing country. Its development of space technology, the production and launching of indigenous satellites, and the development of peaceful nuclear energy have brought it into the forefront of technologically advanced nations to which a large number of developing countries look for training and guidance. Indian universities and institutes of higher learning support the needs and aspirations of Indian students and scholars. The libraries of those institutions also play a vital role in acquiring and disseminating information for academic and research activities.

The function and services of library is based on good governance and personnel in the library. It is considered that the library personnel is full flange in the aided colleges. Therefore for this study selected university libraries in India and Thailand are considered.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

ICT has touched all the fields directly or indirectly in today's world. Innovations in Information Technology have brought radical changes in every possible field of life including libraries. The world has seen digitization of libraries as some of the inevitable changes that took place in recent years. Global changes particularly in ICT have had a tremendous impact on the functioning of University Libraries affecting all aspects of library operations, information resources and services and staff skill requirements. To effectively meet the demands of the present day end-users, University Libraries need to identify and adopt good practices and benchmarks. It is essential to know and compare the library governance of university libraries in India and Thailand. This will be the first project so ever to study comparatively in two nations in this regard.

NEED OF THE STUDY:

It is quite difficult to the University Library to provide services without library personnel. Library governance is an important issue in the library. The University libraries in India and Thailand are not exception for it. It is need of time to study comparatively on such issues in various University Libraries in different countries.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

The present study entitled "**Library Governance in Indo-Thai University Libraries: A comparative study**" is undertaken with the following objectives:

 i.   To know the present status of university library governance in India and Thailand

 ii.   To survey the library personnel in university libraries in India and Thailand.

 iii. To identify, if any, lacunas in the library governance and personnel.

3. HYPOTHESIS:

The following are the some of the major hypotheses formulated for the study.

 i.   Qualifications of library personnel in India are advance than Thailand.

 ii.   Number of personnel in the library is more in India than Thailand.

 iii.   Nature of Library Committee is advisory in Nature in both countries .

4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present study will undertake at selected University Libraries of India and Thailand.

5. POPULATION

The population of the study will be the selected University Libraries from India and Thailand.

6. LIMITATION:

The present study will limit to the selected 20 University Libraries from India and Thailand

7. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Sadhu and Singh pointed out the advantages of surveys in the following words: "This type has the advantage of grater scope in the sense that a large volume of information can be controlled from a very large population. Survey research, no doubt, is more expensive but the amount and quality of information, that is collected, makes such investigation very economical. This information is also accurate, of course, within the range of sampling errors because trained and technically knowledgeable personnel are employed for the job." (Sadhu and Singh, 1992) Considering the importance of 'Survey', the researcher has decided to apply survey method to the collect data from university libraries in India and Thailand.

8. TOOLS FOR DATA COLLECTION

- Questionnaire as a data collection Tool wAS prepared for collecting data from Library Directors , Librarians and Library professionals.

- Interview was done for collecting data from the University Libraries of India and Thailand.

Design of Questionnaire:

The Questionnaire used in the present study is divided into 6 sections, having 16 questions with sub-questions wherever necessary. These 6 sections are:

First section consist question regarding general information of the university library.

Section second deals with three questions regarding library governance while third deals with library personnel.

Presentation of the Data

For the data collection the questionnaire has been prepared. The major questions are regarding to general information of the university library, Library governance and library committee, library personnel. In the questionnaire some questions are open ended where some question are closed ended. Questionnaire was sent through NRCT to all selected university libraries in Thailand and personally to the Indian University Libraries. The data collection has been finished in both countries. Overall 5 university libraries in Thailand and five university libraries in India are responded, whereas after sufficient follow up only five university libraries responded for the questionnaire. Overall 50% libraries responded for the survey.

 Researcher personally visited some university libraries with the help of research assistant. During the visit researcher collected data through questionnaire and also conducted interviews to seek the facts. The collected data has analyses manually and presented in the tabular form and some are described theoretically.

Whereas concern to the Indian university library, researcher personally visited some libraries and libraries responded by e-mail.

Year of the Establishment:

Respondents were asked to mention the year of establishment. It is essential because old librarians have good infrastructure, facilities and services. The collected responses are presented in table no. 1

Year of Establishment

Thai University	MSU	KSU	TMU	SKU	MU
Year of Establishment	1969	1943	1934	1975	1934
Indian University	BAMU	SRTMU	NMU	SGBAU	YCMOU
Year of Establishment	1954	1996	1992	1994	1989

Table no. 1

From the table no. 1, it is observed that oldest university in Thailand was established in the year 1934 and younger one was established in the year 1975. The establishment of the library is as same to the university. Whereas in Indian Side, oldest library established in 1954 and younger one is established in 1989. It is noted that responded libraries from the sample, Thai Universities are comparatively older than Indian Universities. Therefore it is consider that the position of digitization of document may be better in the Thai university libraries.

Category of the University:

Almost all universities in Thailand are government universities and they receives funds from only one agency, that agency is department of Higher Education, Thailand whereas in India there are three type of universities like central universities, state universities and private universities. State universities are affiliated universities. These universities have affiliated colleges. Universities in India get funds from various agencies like state government, UGC, AICT, DST, ICSSR, Ministry of human resource Development

Library Governance:

Almost all university appointed a director to look after the governance of the library. All these directors are not library professionals, they are belongs to other subjects and having higher position than librarian, only one university found exception to this, that library having director as library professional and that directorship rotates amongst the librarians in that university. Each section have separate librarian and some library persons assists to that library section. Concern to the Indian university library, librarian is working as head of the library and he is directly reporting to the vice-chancellor of the university. There is a deputy librarian, section wise assistant librarians, library assistants, technical assistants, library Clarks, library attendants to assist chief librarian.

Library Committee:

One question was asked in the questionnaire regards to the composition of the library committee, in the response to the question it is found that almost all library have library committee and these committees are advisory in the nature. In the composition of the library committee no student representation found. In the composition the director acts as chairman and library acts as member secretary. Other members were deans and heads of the other faculty. Where as in India, Librarian acts as head of the university library is having status of professor. He directly reports to the vice chancellor. In the composition of the library committee there is mandatory student representation and Vice-chancellors acts as Chairman and librarian acts as member secretary. Other members are, one dean of the faculty, one member from management council and two to three are head of the various department whereas there is representation for finance officer and registrar in some university library committees.

Library Personnel:

Personnel of the library are an important factor for good administration and governance of the library. In the Thailand library appointed section wise librarians, there is no chief librarian. All section librarians are having equal status. Number of university librarians found in a university

library were varies 25 to 42 in number. In Thailand there are no colleges, there are schools of various subjects in a university having separate library. All these libraries have separate librarians. Therefore number of university librarians in a university are multiple in number Head of the library is a director, who is not library professional, he/she were one of the head of the department of the university. Whereas in India, there is a librarian, who acts as head, a deputy librarian and section wise assistant librarians, library assistants, technical assistants, library Clarks, library attendants to assist chief librarian. In concern to the number of personnel working in the library, Thailand University Libraries had ahead than Indian University Libraries

Concern to the qualification of the librarians, in Thailand only one librarian found having Ph. D. in their respective subject whereas in India almost all university librarians, deputy librarians holding Ph. D. qualification, even though near about 80% of assistant librarians having Ph. D. in the library and Information science.

Researcher observed that, in Thailand there is no fixed formula of pay scales for librarians and library personnel. The pay scale is depending on the qualifications. Researcher observed some pay scales of librarians as 7000- 25000, 7000-40000, 15000-40000 likewise, it s also noted that pay scales are different in each university. Some university have point pay scale like p1, P2 …P9. Where as in India there are fixed pay scales and qualifications for librarians, deputy librarians, assistant librarians and other personnel working in the library.

9. CONCLUSIONS/ OBSERVATIONS:

Observations are sought on the basis of received data from questionnaire and observations and interviews during personal visit to the libraries.

i.   Almost all universities are established in 20th century.

ii.   In the Thailand all universities are government funded universities or one can say them as government universities. Almost all responded Indian universities are state universities. These universities receive finance from State Government, UGC, ICSSR and other such agencies.

iii. Every library has director as head of the library, the director of the libraries are not library professional. One exception observed for this. All Indian university library has librarian and he is working as head of the library.

iv.   All libraries have library committee and it is advisory in nature. There is no student / user representation on library committee in Thailand whereas as per university act there is a representation for student. Almost all Indian libraries have student representation on library committee. The nature of library committee is advisory.

v.   In Thailand, Librarians and library professionals are lagging behind in the improvement of higher qualification. Only one librarian had qualification as Ph.D. Librarians are working as section heads in the library. On the other hand, Indians

are highly qualified, all librarians and Dy. Librarians have Ph.D. qualification and majority of assistant librarians secured Ph.D. in library and information science.

10. TESTING OF HYPOTHESIS:

i.   Qualifications of library personnel in India are advance than Thailand.

ii.   Number of personnel in the library is more in India than Thailand.

iii. Nature of Library Committee is advisory in Nature in both countries.

➢ As per the collected data and presentation, it is observed that, Indian Library personnel are advance in qualification than Thailand. Therefore, hypotheses No. 1 is valid

➢ Number of library personnel is more in Thailand than India. Therefore hypothesis no. 2 is not valid.

➢ It is observed that, nature of Library Committee is advisory in nature in both countries, therefore hypothesis no. 3 is valid.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS:

i.   University should appoint library professional as the director of university library in Thailand.

ii.   Chief librarian should be head of the University Library (For Thailand).

iii. There should be student/ user representation on the library committee (For both India and Thailand)

iv.   Librarians and library professionals should improve their qualification and they have to take initiative in the research of library and information science.(For Thailand)

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