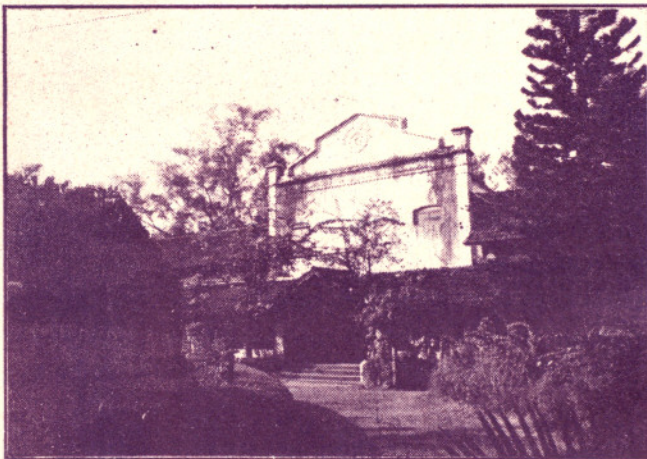


UTILIZATION OF LIBRARY RESOURCES



*Farook College Library
External Elegence*

SURVEY CONDUCTED BY

DEPT. OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE, FAROOK COLLEGE

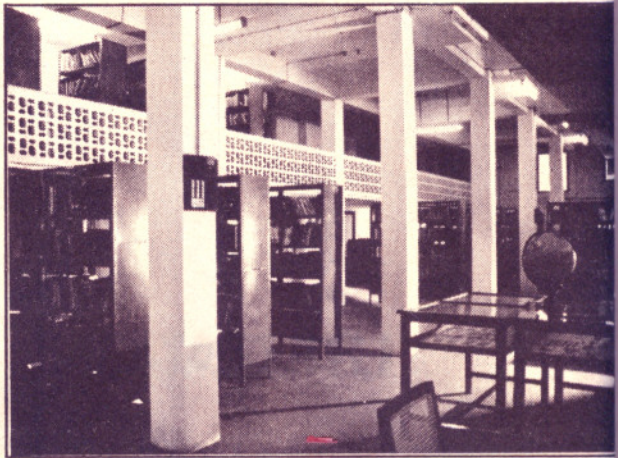
Education, especially at higher levels has been described more as a process of learning than of teaching, signifying the self-efforts to be put in by the students. The college library has a prominent role to play in helping the higher education to fulfill its objectives. The explosion of knowledge in every field and its pressures on classroom time calls for the provision of facilities for self-study by the students to a much larger extent.

The library of Farook college (estd : 1948) being one of the oldest senior college libraries in Kerala, was selected for this study. The basic data for this study were derived from the responses of the students to the questionnaires administered to them. (See the questionnaire in the Appendix.)

Utilization of library resources by the students was assessed by studying the frequency of their library visits, adequacy of subject book collection, availability of books, reasons for non-availability of books, borrowing of books, working hours of the library etc. Each one of these was further subdivided into level of education, viz. Post-graduate, Degree and Pre-Degree; subjects of study viz. arts and science for ascertaining the difference between the proportions in the use of library.

1. Frequency of Library Visits

67 percent of the P.G. Students regularly visit the library. More than half of the Under-graduate students (52%) regularly visit the library. The majority of Pre-



Questionnaire

1. Name, Class With Subject :
2. Purpose of visit(Please tick mark)

To borrow books	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consultation of reference material	<input type="checkbox"/>
To borrow books and consultation of reference material	<input type="checkbox"/>	Casual visit	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Are you visiting the Library

Regularly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Occasionally	<input type="checkbox"/>	Seldom	<input type="checkbox"/>
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4. Do you find the documents available in the Library is enough to meet your demands.

Type of documents	Adequate	Moderately Adequate	Inadequate
Subject books (Text Books)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General Books	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reference Books	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Subject Journals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General Periodicals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Do you ask for assistance from the members of the Library Staff(Please tick mark)

To Locate Books	<input type="checkbox"/>	To Search Books	<input type="checkbox"/>	To Locate Current Periodicals	<input type="checkbox"/>
To Seek Information	<input type="checkbox"/>	To understand the use of various tools like Library catalogue, bibliography etc.			<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Do you have any problem regarding the availability of books? Yes No
7. What are the cause of non-availability of books?(Say Y/N)

Less no. of titles are available	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delay due to misplacement within the Library	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping books overdue by some readers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delay in purchase of indented titles	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. What kind of method should be applied for controlling late returning of books?(Say Y/N)

The current rate of fine should be enhanced	<input type="checkbox"/>
Membership of such users should be stopped	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited no. of borrowers ticket should be issued	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. What is your suggestion regarding the no. of books allowed to be borrowed by a reader at a time.

More than 1 but less than 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	More than 3 but less than 5	<input type="checkbox"/>
More than 5 but less than 7		<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Do you find the reading room facility is comfortable?

	Comfortable	Moderately Comfortable	Incomfortable
Chairs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tables	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ventilation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Are you satisfied with the timing of the Library? Yes No
12. If not, Please suggest.

Degree students only occasionally visit the library. At higher levels like P. G. and Degree courses, the students visit the library daily or regularly. But only one-tenth of the Pre-degree students visit it regularly.

Course-wise, in percentage terms while the majority of science students (75%) occasionally visit the library, only half of the arts students occasionally do so. But even so, among users of library, more students (41%) were from the arts subjects. Science subjects need a library as well as their laboratories while for humanities and social sciences subjects, the library is both the library and laboratory in one. Hence the frequency of library visits by the arts students is high. Still only less than 50% of the arts students regularly visit the library.

ent numbers in order to satisfy the requirements of the academic community.

One-thirds of the P. G. students were of the opinion that the collection of the subject books in the library was inadequate to meet their needs while half of the P. G. and the Degree students held that the collection of subject books was moderately adequate. The addition of latest editions of subject books and newly published books on the subjects will solve the problem of inadequacy to a large extent. The frequently used books are to be made available in sufficient numbers of copies. A majority of the Pre-degree students have not responded to the question of adequacy of subject books. This shows that they do not make use of the subject books available in the

3. Availability of Books.

The students were asked to indicate how often they found that a book needed for their study was available in the college library. About two-thirds of the P. G. Students found difficulty with regard to availability. More than 50 % of the Degree students did not find difficulty in this behalf. Considering the fact that the enrolment of the P. G. Courses in each subject is few in number and open access is provided to them, the P. G. students should have found the availability of books easier. To improve the situation, sufficient number of copies of the frequently used subject books and general books are to be added to the collection and the provision of open access system may be extended to the Under-graduate students also.

No.	Reasons for Non-availability	Score	Rank
1.	Keeping books overdue by some readers	34	1
2.	Fewer titles are available	24	2
3.	Delay due to misplacement within the library	12	3
4.	Delay in purchase of indented titles	7	4

2. Collection of Subject Books.

Size, it is true, is no perfect criterion of adequacy or excellent. Nevertheless, a library collection cannot afford to be small, if it is to comprise books with variety and in sufficient

library as most of the prescribed subject books are available in the form of text books and guides in the market. There is not sufficient difference between the arts and the science students at any level of education in response to the question of adequacy of subject books.

4. Reasons for Non-availability of Books.

The students were asked to specify from a list of four, the reason/s they considered most genuine for non-availability of books. The data relating to this were too varied and discrete to

be analysed item-wise. So it was quantified and ranked. The total scores and the rank obtained for each of the items in the list are shown in the table.

The most genuine reason the students considered is "keeping books overdue by some readers". The college library rules permit a student to keep books on loan for not more than two weeks. The study conducted by Dr. M. Bavautty in college libraries in India revealed that in 73% of the colleges the period of loan was 14 days. So the students cannot say that the lending period is too short.

5. Borrowing of Subject

Books.

P. G. Students are permitted to borrow six books at a time; other students not more than two. No member shall keep a book for more than a fortnight.

While half of the Degree students like to have the borrowing facility for 3 books, only one-tenth of the P. G. students like to have this facility. But those who do like to be able to borrow 5-7 books at a time. While half of the science students want to borrow 3-5 books; more than half of the arts students like 1-3 books at a time. Through the arts students, in contrast to the scien-

ce students, want more number of books for writing assignments and term. Papers, they have no suggestions alone more borrowing facility. They then seem not interested in the utilization of library resources.

6. Working Hours.

The college library functions on all days except Sundays and public holidays from 8.30 A.M. to 4.30 P.M. in the first term and from 8.30 A.M. to 5.30 P.M. in the second and third terms. The majority of students seem to be satisfied with the present working hours of the library. That the majority of students in the college are day-scholars may be a reason.

Conclusion

The frequency of the library visits is high at the higher levels of education like P.G. and Degree courses. The students at other levels of education are also to be made frequent visitors of the library through user education. User education in colleges is very essential to make the new-comers conscious about the need and importance of a college library in higher education and to train the students in the use of library and bibliographic tools like catalogue, reference sources etc. and in the use of open access system.

The present methods of teaching and learning in the classroom have adverse impact on the utilization of the library resources. The more dictation of notes in the classroom and the wide use of guides by the students have contributed to a large extent towards the deterioration of the quality of learning process and has thus inhibited the original and creative thinking of the students. In the present situation this calls for some structural changes in the teaching and learning process in the classroom.

The development of a well-equipped and resource full library and its closer intergration with the teaching and learning programmes thus become extremely important for a college. A library for audio-visual records, computer software packages in the various subjects and electronic data bases may also be designed and developed. The setting up of a well-equipped modern library needs a sound basis of finance. But often sufficient fund is not made available in time to the colleges from UGC, the State Govt. and other agencies for the development of library resources. Like any other area in higher education, the college library services is not an exception with regard to the financial stringency.