

# ROLE OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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**Abstract:** Education plays an important role in the development of a nation. Education need to be transformed to the tunic of the time and changing dimensions of the world. It offers a great opportunity to critically think upon the economic, social, cultural, moral and spiritual issues faced by the human beings. India, very urgently needs more educated and efficient people to drive our economy forward. There are many Indians in and around the corner who known for their skills and capabilities. To develop India as a Human Resource Hub or to become a prosperous contributor in global economy, India has to qualitatively strengthen education especially higher education with research and development mode.

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## Introduction:

Higher education, the most important factor for any developing country like India and it is boost to an exploration in human development. Higher education in India has accomplished remarkable development, that we can see in India today. India has produced scientists, engineers, technologists, doctors, teachers and managers who are in great demand all over the world. Now it is one of the top ten countries in our industrial and technological capacity, for the significant contribution of manpower and tools provided by higher education, especially, technical education. India has already entered into the phase of knowledge explosion. It has proved its tremendous strength through its performance in nuclear and space domains. In the coming few decades will be heralded by space craft, satellites, internets and other offshoots of scientific enquires. Higher Education straighten chances opportunities to the people to meditate on the critical cultural, social, economic, moral and spiritual issues facing humanity. Higher education provides specific knowledge and skilled persons for national development. In next few decades, India will have world's largest set of young people.

## Higher Education System in India:

The University Grant Commission of India is not only the lone grant giving agency in the country, but also responsible for coordinating, determining and maintaining the standards in institutions of higher education. Apart from the UGC here are various professional institutes and providing grants to undergraduate programmes. They are All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Distance Education Council (DEC), Indian Council for Agriculture Research (ICAR), Bar Council of India (BCI), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), Medical Council of India (MCI), Pharmacy Council of India (PCI), Indian Nursing Council (INC), Dentist Council of India (DCI), Central Council of Homeopathy (CCH) and the Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) are the statutory professional councils of India.

## Growth of Higher Education in India :

India has been a centre of excellence in the field of higher education since ancient period. Nalanda, Vikramashila and Takshashila were few of the oldest popular universities in India as well as in the world and were the most renowned seats of higher education during their time. Students' from different countries of the world came to study in these universities. Today India has one of the largest nerve center in higher education system. Afterwards, the universities of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras were came in to the existence in 1857, followed by the university of Allahabad in 1887. The first attempt to develop a national system of education in India came in 1944, with the Report of the Central Advisory Board of Education on Post War Educational Development in India, which endorsed the formation of a University Grants Committee, which was formed in 1945 to supervise the work of the three Central Universities of Delhi, Banaras and Aligarh. After independence, a full-fledged Ministry of Education was established on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1947. In 1952, the Union Government decided that all cases relating to the allocation of grants-in-aid from public funds to the Central Universities and other Universities and Institutions of higher learning might be referred to the University Grants Commission (UGC). The UGC was formally established in November 1956 as a statutory body of the Government of India through an Act of Parliament for the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of university education in India.

### Role of Libraries :

The role of the libraries goes on getting converted from traditional print media and to digital where information is being made available on the desk top of users. The users also require spot information from the metadata available on the internet. The responsibilities of the librarian are changing with the time including traditional staffing pattern for performing different functions in the libraries. The education system is using both formal and informal ways for encouraging higher education in India in learning and teaching. Libraries perform their roles in disseminating information from the time where information is stored and preserved in the midst of library. Library plays important roles in disseminating knowledge and information from books, periodicals, magazines, old manuscripts, archives, articles, standards, reports, Government resolutions etc. the major changes in the libraries appear due to adoption and use of technologies.

The role of the library may be defined within the framework of the university's mission and a library development programme.

In the words of Dr.S.R. Ranganathan, "Libraries are not mere store houses, they are rich springs from which knowledge flows out to irrigate field of education and culture".

The fundamental role of the university library is educational. It should not be operated as a mere storehouse of books kept in reading room, but as a strong instrument of education. It is emphasized in different reports brought out by various library and educational commissions in India. A university library is established with the purpose of aiding in successful achievement of the objectives such as teaching, research, publication programmes, etc.

In India the University Education Commission (1948-49) headed by Dr.S.Radhakrishnan describes that teachers must have the necessary tools for teaching purpose in the shape of libraries and laboratories as also the right type of students. According to him, "The library is the heart of the University's work; directly so as regards its research work and indirectly as regards its educational work, which derives its life from research work. Scientific research needs a library as well as its laboratories, while for humanistic research. The library is both library and laboratory in one. "The training in higher layers of learning and research is mainly a question of learning how to handle the tools, and if the library tools are not there, how can the students learn to use them.

Dr. S.R. Ranganathan headed the report of the Library Committee of University Grants Commission in 1957 that dealt with in detail the role of the university library in academic development especially in the field of higher education.

*The above observations can be summarized in the words as:*

- i. The library is the heart of education
- ii. Methods & fashion in education change from generation to generation, but each generation uses the library as a means of realizing its aims; hence the library remains the great conservator of learning;
- iii. A quality education is impossible without a quality library;
- iv. A library is vital organ for proper exploitation of our intellectual resources;
- v. A library is needed for maintenance of free access to ideas, and to the functioning of the untrammelled mind.

### Aims, Objectives of University Library :

A library is considered as the 'heart' of a university and it is the centre of learning for higher education. Each university has a central library attached to it and may have various constituent libraries attached to and its different teaching departments or the constituent colleges. The aims and objectives of a library are as below:

1. Library must help in change process that is essential for a developing or growing society.
2. University Library should promote facilities for advanced study and research in education.
3. Library has to give opportunities for professional pupils to improve their knowledge and skill through summer and evening classes, short term courses, seminars and other means.
4. Library has to provide teacher training and guidance in respect to prepare candidates for the Master / Ph.D. in educational degrees of the university and such other disciplines / diplomas in education may be instituted.
5. Library has to conduct research in several branches of education, publish the result of such research and act as an educational information dissemination centre.
6. Library should help to prepare educational leaders in teaching, research and administration.
7. Library stimulate educational research of high quality, both fundamental and applied, required for the improvement of education.
8. University Library acts a dynamic and high quality academic environment of teaching, research and human services for prospective teachers and leaders in the field of special education.

### Conclusion

Information environment are very much alive including libraries in higher education and other research ornaments for the most part we can't make one decision for the future but individual directions need to be made and the conditions need to be identified

For any library to succeed in implementing knowledge management will require a strong leadership and vision from the top administration which can influence the organizations knowledge sharing effort in a positive way as libraries enter the knowledge phase of the 21st century we should not take a backseat in the development of knowledge management instead and with our professional knowledge and experiences we should be in the driver's seat.

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