



A Survey of Library Facilities in Law Colleges

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Abstract:

The present article has made an effort to investigate the facilities of libraries in Law Colleges affiliated to Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan (Guj.). Among these colleges, some Colleges have got accredited by National Assessment and Accreditation Council of India. As such, the standard of online services as well as library services and facilities is generally found to be the best in these colleges. The questionnaire was used in the study as a medium of data collection and the results shows that the faculty has little understanding about ICT facilities, collection, services as well as manpower and infrastructure facilities of libraries in these colleges.

Keywords: *Library facilities, Online Services, ICT*

1. Introduction

The law college library plays a prominent role to fulfill objectives of legal education. Students in higher education are to be provided with necessary for mastering the subject matter, techniques, skills, habits of thought and methods of work in their field. Only classroom instructions will not provide all the opportunities needed for attaining all these educational objectives. The library is a collection of information resources, services and building in which it is housed. The library should also provide the necessary facilities to motivate the students to take advantage of all this.

2. Higher Education in India

India has the third largest higher education system in the world after the United States and China. The main governing body of the third tier, the University Grants Commission, applies its standards, advises the government, and helps coordinate between the Center and the State. Accreditation is overseen for higher learning by 15 autonomous institutions established by the University Grants Commission. The Indian higher education system has expanded rapidly. India has total 979 universities functioning under UGC in 2021, in which 425 state universities, 125 deemed universities, 54 central universities and 375 private universities as well as 12,687 colleges under (12(B)/2(f)) and 827 autonomous colleges functioning under these universities. Autonomous system in higher education while highlighting the importance of autonomous colleges, the UGC document on the XII Plan profile of higher education in India clearly states that "Connecting most of the colleges to the affiliating structure is the only safe and good way to improve the quality of undergraduate education". Colleges with academic and operative freedom are doing better and have more credibility. The financial support to such colleges boosts the concept of autonomy. It is proposed to increase the number of autonomous colleges to spread the culture of autonomy, and the target is to make 10 percent qualified colleges autonomous by the end of the XII plan period.

3. Objective of Legal Education

Education in any field is meant to development of learner's human personality and legal education in particular, aims at imparting knowledge of right and wrong and development of the spirit of tolerance and regard for other opinions or views by objective thinking. Legal education has a very significant

role to play in observance of rule of law and rightful conduct in the society. It seeks to acquaint the students with the relationship between various social and legal processes and interaction of law in reconciling them through the working of courts and other agencies of administration of justices elaborating the point further, McDougall has observed that the main objective of legal education is precisely to

1. Develop the capacity to appreciate the inter-relation of legal and social processes.
2. Acquisition of general understanding and specific skill which are necessary for the management of broader community objectives.

4. List of HNGU affiliated Law Colleges

- Shri S.M. Shah Law College, Mehsana
- Sheth V.S. Law College, Unjha
- Shri N.S. Patel Law College, Modasa
- Sheth M.N. Law College, Patan
- Law College, Himmatnagar
- The B.K. Merkantile Co. Op. Bank Ltd. Law College, Palanpur
- Shree Sarvodaya Education Foundation Trust Managed Law College, (Kant) Deesa
- SMT. A.B. Parikh Law College, Kadi
- Law College, Androkha
- Bharti Chandresh Virvadia Law College, Radhanpur
- A. P. Trivedi Law College, Khorda
- M.B. Upadhyay Law College, Talod

5. Research Design

5.1 Methodology

The methodology of this research is based on the exploratory design.

5.2 Sources of the Data

The required data for the study was collected from the primary and secondary sources. The primary data was collected from the questionnaires. The secondary data was collected from various resources such as books, journals and websites.

5.3 Data Collection Instrument

The primary data was collected through questionnaire tool which was carefully designed and tested by T test for analyze the use of library sources by faculty members.

5.4 Sampling Instrument

A simple random sampling method is used as the sampling technique.

5.5 Sample Size

The sample size of this study comprises of 52 faculty members working in Law colleges affiliated to Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan (Gujarat). The response was received from 32 faculties which constitute 61.53% of response rate.

6. Objectives of the Study

The primary objective of the study is to identify the faculty perception on library facilities in HNGU affiliated Law Colleges. The decided objectives of the study are:

- To identify the perception of the faculty on library collection, facilities and library services.
- To identify the perception of staff of the law college libraries.
- To suggest necessary recommendations to improve library facilities.
- To identify the satisfaction level among faculty about library facilities.

7. Hypothesis

- Ho1:** There is a no significant difference between designation and perception on collection.
- Ho2:** There is a no significant difference between gender and perception on services.
- Ho3:** There is a no significant difference between experience and perception on services.

8. Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1: Age, Gender and Marital Status

	Age			Gender			Marital Status			
	Frequency	%		Frequency	%		Frequency	%		
25-30	06	20	Male	22	58	Married	28	82		
31-40	09	30		Female	10		42	Unmarried	04	18
41-50	15	25	>50		02	25	Total		32	100
Total	32	100			32	100			32	100

From the table- 1 it is observed that the 25% of respondents fall between 41-50 years. 30% are in 31-40 age groups, 20% are in 25-30 years of age group, the remaining 13% fall above 50 years of age. In the case of gender, majority are male faculty members (58%). From marital status majority of respondents are married (82%). The remaining is unmarried (18%).

Table 2: Experience, Designation and Nativity

	Experience			Designation			Nativity	
	F	%		F	%		F	%
2-10 Yrs	08	33	Professor / Associated Pro	17	44	Rural	20	69
11-20 Yrs	15	40		Assistant Prof.	15		56	Urban
21-30 Yrs	7	20	>31 Yrs		2	7	Total	
Total	32	100	32	100	32	100		

The analysis based on the experience, designation and nativity of respondents indicate the following: 33% have 11-20 years of working experience, 20% are Assistant Professor by designation and 69% are rural citizen.

Table 3 Perception on Collection, Services and Library Staff

	Perception on Collection		Perception on Services		Perception on Library Staff		Perception on ICT Facilities		Perception on Physical Infrastructure	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Low Level	26	70	23	70	20	60	20	45	17	51
High Level	06	30	09	30	12	40	12	55	15	49
Total	32	100	32	100	32	100	32	100	32	100

- The perception of maximum faculty members (70%) on the collection of library resources is low, 30% perceived it as high.
- More than half (70%) of the respondents perceived the services provided by the library as a low level. The remaining 30% are perceived the services in the library as a high level.

- Two third part of the respondents perceived the role of the staff in the library as low (60%). The remaining 40% perceived that the staff in the library and services rendered by them as high.
- More than half of the respondents perceived ICT facilities provided by the library as low (45%). The remaining (55%) perceived the ICT facilities provided by the library as high.
- Two third part of the respondents perceived that the physical infrastructure of the library is low (51%). The remaining 49% viewed that the physical infrastructure of the library is high.

Table 4: Designation Vs Collection

Designation	Collection (I)		Total	Statistical Inference $X^2 = 7.36$ $P < 0.05$ Significant
	Low Level	High Level		
Professor	11	06	17	
Asso. Pro.				
Assis. Prof.	12	03	15	
Total	23	09	32	

The demographic variable designation was tested against the research variable collection of the library. The result reveals that there is a significant association among them, thus proving that designation has an impact on collections of the library.

Table 5: Gender Vs Services

Gender	Services (II)		Total	Statistical Inference $X^2 = 3.69$ $P < 0.05$ Significant
	Low Level	High Level		
Female	07	02	09	
Male	13	10	23	
Total	20	12	32	

The demographic variable gender was tested against the research variable services offered by the library. The result reveals that there is a significant association among them, thus proving the Gender has an impact on library services.

Table 6: Experience Vs Services

Experience	Services (II)		Total	Statistical Inference $X^2 = 8.75$ $P < 0.05$ Significant
	Low Level	High Level		
2-10 Yrs	07	03	10	
11-20 Yrs	09	04	17	
21-30 Yrs	04	04	09	
>30 Yrs	00	01	01	
Total	20	12	32	

- The demographic variable experience was tested against the research variable services in the library.
- The result reveals that there is a significant association among them, thus it is proved that experience and services are correlated to each other.

Table 7: Perception on General Collection

Ratings	Collection on Reading Material		Acquiring on Reading Material		Frequently required Resources		Adequate E-Resources Access Facilities		Issue of Sufficient Number of E-Resources		Issue E-resource	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Strongly Agree	24	62	09	40	15	56	16	46	18	36	06	25
Agree	06	28	19	55	15	34	14	51	11	44	14	45
Neither Agree or Disagree	02	10	02	3	02	10	02	3	03	20	12	30
Disagree	-		02	2	-		-		-			
Strongly Disagree												
Total	32	100	32	100	32	100	32	100	32	100	32	100

According to Table No. 7 following inference:

- Majority of the respondents strongly agreed that the library has adequate collection (62%).
- More than half of the respondents agreed that the library consider the needs of the users while acquiring reading materials (55%).
- 56% respondents agreed that the library always provides required resources.
- When the respondents were asked for their opinion on the adequate e-resources access facilities, more than half of the respondents strongly agreed that the library has adequate e-resources access facilities (46%).
- More than half of the respondents agreed that the library issue sufficient numbers of e-resources (44%).
- 45% of the respondents agreed that the library has issued many e-resources

Table 8: Services

	Photocopying Services		Current Content		Training On E-resources		E-mail alert Services		OPAC Services		Circulation Services	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Strongly Agree	11	30	08	20	06	15	05	26	16	55	17	40
Agree	13	42	10	40	12	40	20	34	12	40	13	36
Neither Agree or Disagree	05	22	06	12	10	35	4	30	03	2	02	24
Disagree	01	3	02	8	03	07	02	7	01	3		
Strongly Disagree	02	3	06	20	01	3	01	3				
Total	32	100	32	100	32	100	32	100	32	100	32	100

Table 8 analyses that;

- 42% of the respondents agreed that the library has photocopying (Xerox) services.
- 40% of the respondents agreed that the library provide current content services but
- 20% respondents strongly disagree that the library has not provide current content services.
- 40% of the respondents agreed that the library provides training on e-resources.
- 34% of the respondents agreed that the library provides e-mail alert services.

- 55% of the respondents strongly agreed that the library providing OPAC services
- 36% of the respondents agreed that the library circulation services are computerized.

Table 9: Perception on Library Staff

	Staff always helping needed information		Staff inform availability of online resource requested		Staff immediately response		Polite and courteous staff	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Strongly Agree	18	52	11	15	10	24	09	17
Agree	12	28	19	65	20	66	16	33
Neither Agree or Disagree	02	20	02	20	02	10	04	27
Disagree							03	03
Total	32	100	32	100	32	100	32	100

From the above table -9 found out that

- 52% of the respondents strongly agreed that the library staff helps the users to get required information.
- More than half of the respondents agreed that the library staff informs the availability of the online resources requested (65%).
- More than half of the respondents agreed that the library staff immediately responds the users need (66%).
- 33% of the respondents agreed that the library staff is polite and courteous.

Table 10: Perception on ICT Facilities in the Library

	Access CD		Free Internet		Barcode Technology		Subscribe E-Journal		Own Website		Printer		Adequate system	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Strongly Agree	09	24	12	32	15	21	06	16	10	24	06	16	14	28
Agree	18	59	19	41	16	63	19	60	23	65	09	14	14	48
Neither Agree or Disagree	09	14	04	21	04	11	10	28	03	08	09	34	03	08
Disagree	01	03	02	06	02	05	01	03	01	03	06	16	06	16
Strongly Disagree							01	03			07	20		
Total	32	100	32	100	32	100	32	100	32	100	32	100	32	100

The above table shows that

- 59% of the respondents agreed that the library provides CD access facilities.
- 41% the respondents agreed that the library provides free internet services
- 63% of the respondents agreed that the library has barcode facilities.
- More than half of the respondents agreed that the library subscribes to e-journals (60%).
- Majority of the respondents agreed that the library has its own website (62%).
- 34% neither agree nor agree that the library has printing/CD writing facilities.
- 48% of the respondents agreed that the library has adequate number of systems.

Table 11: Perception on Infrastructure of the Library

	Well Equipped Furniture		AC For Workstation		Better lighting and Ventilation		Comfortable Seating Facilities		Excellent Mobile Zone	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Strongly Agree	8	55	11	20	10	27	10	45	02	08
Agree	11	10	13	58	10	51	12	22	12	22
Neither Agree or Disagree	10	27	04	11	09	13	05	19	10	44
Disagree	03	08	03	08	01	03	03	08	03	08
Strongly Disagree			01	03	02	06	02	06	05	18
Total	32	100	32	100	32	100	32	100	32	100

From the above table it is observed that,

- 55% of the respondents strongly agreed that the library has well equipped furniture.
- 58% of the respondents agreed that the library has an air-conditioned e-resources workstation.
- 51% of the respondents agreed that the library has better ventilation and lightening facilities.
- 45% of the respondents strongly agreed that the library has comfortable seating facilities.
- 44% of the respondents neither agree nor disagree and 18% of the respondents strongly disagree that the library has excellent mobile

Suggestions

To improve the library facility in the Law College Libraries the following suggestions are put forth by the researchers

- Man power is a crucial factor for library effectiveness. Therefore, it is essential to recruit people with ICT skills as librarians in Autonomous Law College Libraries.
- It is essential to conduct periodic user surveys to identify the current needs and problem of users in accessing and retrieving library facilities enabled collection and services.
- It is suggested that, a separate digital library unit may be set up in all the Autonomous Law College Libraries.
- Use of electronic resources may be introduced by subscribing relevant e-resources for various programs offered.

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