

Physical Resources of College Libraries in Mizoram: A study

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Abstract

The paper is study of College Libraries in Mizoram with regard to its different physical resources. With the result of trifurcation of Education Department, administration of the Colleges was taken over by the Department of Higher & Technical Education, Govt. of Mizoram since 1989. At present there are 24 degree colleges in Mizoram under the state government, each college has its own library which were started with without library professionals. Most of the College Libraries have no adequate library staff, some libraries does not have professional or semi professional or non-professional staff and are manage by only one or two library staff. Many colleges are running their library without Library Committee; as a result the college library developments could not go fast as it ought to be. All responsibilities of the administration of the college including library administration rest on the college Principal. A study had been conducted on the physical resources of different College Libraries in Mizoram. This paper is a study of Library physical resources that include land, library building, book shelves, furniture, like chairs, tables, reading tables, reading rooms, racks etc. Physical Resources also includes ICT infrastructure like Computer, library software, Scanner, RFID technology, photocopier, Internet connection, LCD projector and other equipments.

Keywords : Library resources ,College library . Library fund,

Introduction

College libraries in Mizoram are not provided with separate fund for collection development. Since there is no separate fund allocated for library development, funds received are only lump sum grant, as a result most of the college libraries do not receive grant for collection development for more than ten years. So, college libraries in Mizoram are lagging behind in comparison with rest of the country. College libraries are varying in size of collection, number of users, services, IT infrastructures and availability of funds. In many colleges, library services, staff requirement and its infrastructures development seems to be given less importance by the concern authorities. In some college libraries, Librarian does all kinds of jobs from technical to clerical as well as administration.

College Library staff are different in number from college to college, and there is no uniformity. In staffing pattern, their qualifications, service status and pay structures. Surprisingly, some library staff is engaged in other official works without doing the job in which they are appointed for. With the development of Library Science Education in Mizoram, most of the working librarians pursue higher education and they were now placed into qualified

standard. Out of 24 degree colleges only 14 colleges are having full fledged College librarian as per UGC norms while 14 colleges are not having adequate supporting staffs; some are having only 2 staff including College Librarian. Some college libraries are managing by non professional Library Assistant without any other supporting Staff.

Library Resources:

The college library can only grow and improve with adequate financial, human and physical resources. In order to accomplish its vision, the resources must be activated and utilized in a responsible and efficient manner. Library Resources include physical, human, intellectual and finance.

College Library Physical Resources

Physical Resources include land, library building, book shelves, furniture, like chairs, tables, reading tables, reading rooms, racks etc. Physical Resources also includes ICT infrastructure like Computer, library software, Scanner, RFID technology, photocopier, Internet connection, LCD projector and other equipments. Library resources may also include other facilities and supporting infrastructure. All these facilities can enable the library to provide effective and efficient library and information services.

For smooth running and to provide good services in the library, a physical resource plays an important role and without it college library cannot exist. That physical resource includes college library building/separate room Area & types of building, separate reading room for teachers. In the present study, college library building/separate room area & types of building, separate reading room for teachers, separate reading room for students, furniture & equipments available and No. of Computer and Software installed are asked to different college libraries. Hence, the following table, No T.1, have shown different physical resources of college libraries in Mizoram:

Table No. 1. Physical Resources of college libraries in Mizoram:

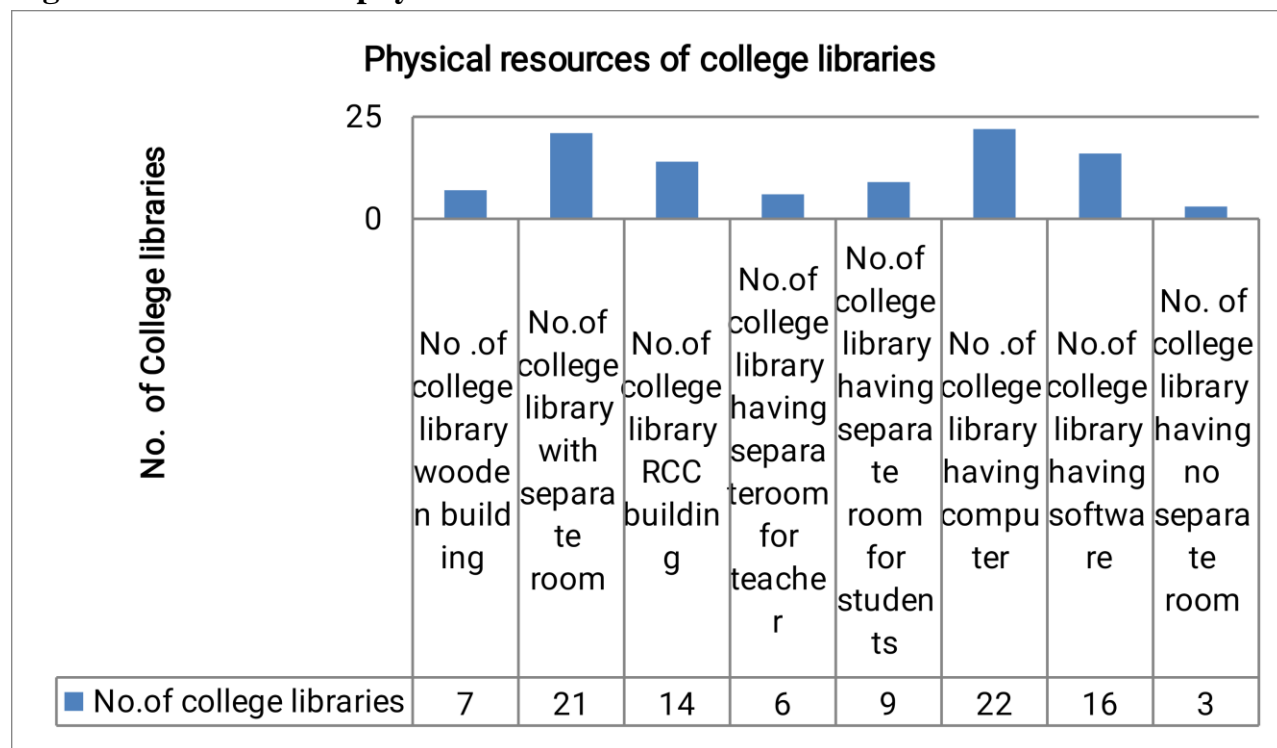
Sl/ No	Name of College	Library building/ separate room	Area & types of building	Separate reading room for teachers	Separate reading room for students	Furniture & Equipments available	No of computer	Software installed
1	Hnahthial College	Nil	36x24sqft RCC	No	No	Nil	3	
2	Mamit College	Yes	Concrete	No	NO	Yes	5	Yes
3	Aizawl North College	Yes	20x16sqft RCC	Yes	Yes	Yes	9	Yes

4	Khawzawl College	Yes	24'x18'	No	Yes	Nil	Nil	Nil
5	J.Buana College	Yes	Assam type	No	No	Yes	2	Yes
6	Saitual College	Yes	40sqm.RC C	No	NO	Nil	3	Yes
7	Zawlnuam College	Yes	Assam type	NO	No	Yes	1	N.A
8	J.Thankima College	Yes	24x40ft.	No	No	Yes	4	Yes
9	Johnson College	Yes	30'x30' Assam type	NO	No	Yes	2	No
10	Serchhip College	Yes	20x16sqft RCC	Yes	Yes	Yes	9	Yes
11	Lawngtlai College	Nil	Assam type	No	No	Yes	2	No
12	Kolasib College	Nil	Assam type	Nil	No	Yes	2	No
13	Zirtir Women College	Yes	R.C.C	No	No	Yes	7	Yes
14	Hrangbana College	Yes	RCC	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	Yes
15	Aizawl College	Yes	R.C.C	NO	No	Yes	7	Yes
16	T.Romana College	Yes	R.C.C	NO	Yes	Yes	7	Yes
17	Aizawl West College	Yes	90sqft RCC	No	Yes	Yes	20	Yes
18	Champhai College	Yes	42'x24'	No	Yes	Yes	1	Yes
19	Lunglei College	Yes	85x45	Yes	Yes	yes		
20	CTE	Yes	30'x30' Assam type	No	Nil	Yes	2	No
21	Kamalanagar College	Yes	30'x30' Assam type	No	Nil	Yes	2	
22	Aizawl Law College	Yes	Concrete	No	Nil	Yes	5	Ye s
23	Saiha College	Yes	42'x24'	No	Yes	Yes	1	Yes
24	Hindi College	Yes	40x33	No	No	Yes	Nil	Nil

As shown in the above table, the present study has collected a data on library building/separate room area & types of building, separate reading room for teachers, separate reading room for students, furniture & equipments available, No. of Computer and Software installed. Therefore, it has been found that 87 % of colleges are having separate library rooms out of which 58 % are of RCC buildings and 29 % of libraries are of wooden buildings, whereas 12.5 % of colleges are not with separate library rooms. The majority of 75% of colleges are not having separate reading room for teachers and only 25% of colleges could provide study room for teachers. And, only 37.5 % of colleges are having reading room for students, 62.5 % of colleges do not have separate reading rooms for students.

Therefore, it has been found that 21 colleges are having separate library rooms out of which 14 are of RCC buildings and 7 libraries are of wooden buildings, whereas 3 colleges are not with separate library rooms. The majority of 18 colleges are not having separate reading room for teachers and only 6 colleges could provide for teachers. And, only 9 colleges are having reading room for students, 15 colleges do not have separate reading rooms for students. Therefore, different physical resources can be shown with the following figure.

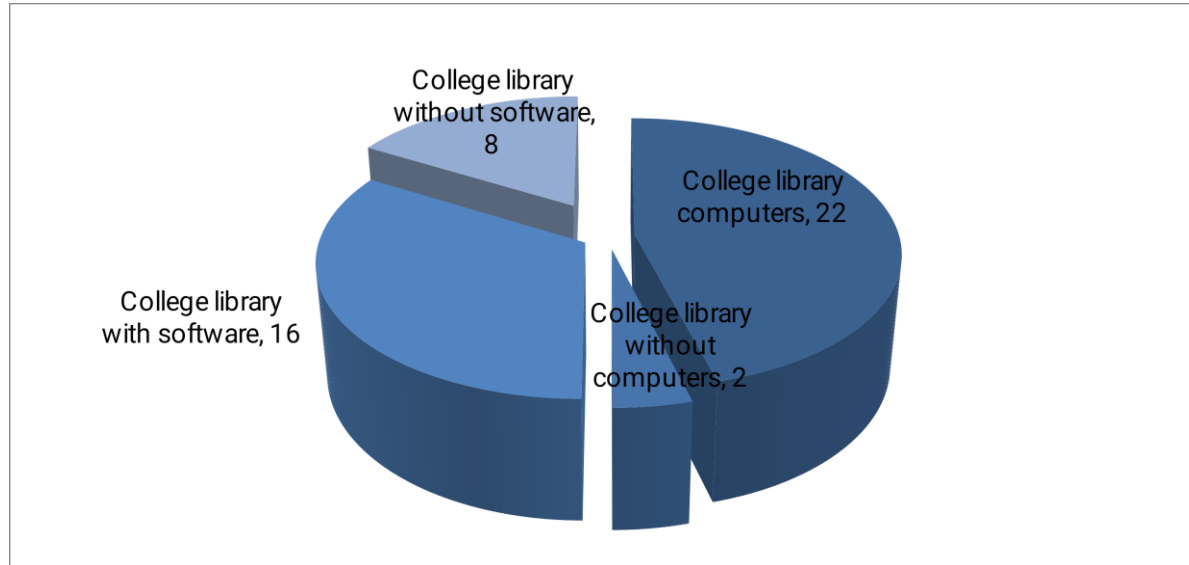
Figure No. 2. Different physical resources.



Amongst the 24 college libraries, 2 college libraries do not have and rest of the 22 colleges have computers in their library, and 16 college libraries have installed software are 66.6% and 8 colleges of 33.3 % do not install library management software. The above chart shows that college libraries in Mizoram are advance in the uses of computer application in library services.

The following chart has shown number of college libraries with their computers and library software.

Chart No. 1 .College libraries with their computers and library software.



Besides, with regard to library computer, only 8.3 % of college libraries do not have and rest of the 91.6 % of colleges have computers in their library, and 16 college libraries have installed software and 8 colleges do not install library management software. Further, under the present study 12 college libraries have less than 5 computers, 8 college libraries have more than 5, and 2 college libraries have more than 10 computers in the library.

5.7. Other ICT Infrastructure:

Application of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) in the library services is very much important in this day of information explosion and to improve service quality. College library needs to make use of ICT infrastructures that includes scanner, RFID, Photocopier, Internet, LCD projector, library website and library networks. The following table No 5.2.3 shows that other ICT infrastructure in the college libraries.

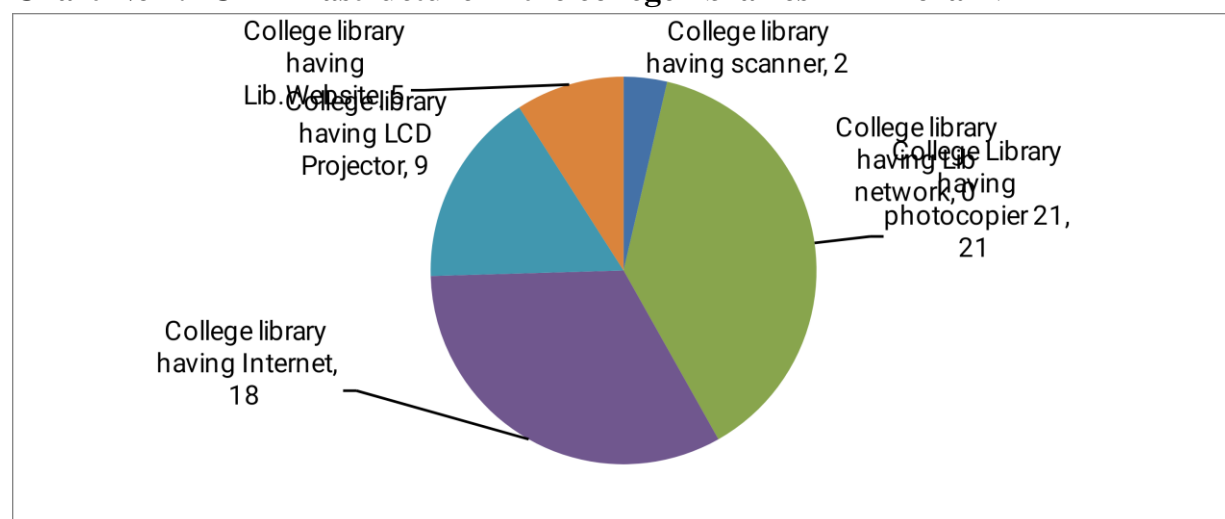
Table No. T. 43: other ICT infrastructure in the library:

Name of the College	Scanner	RFID	Photocopier	Internet	LCD Projector	Lib Website	Lib Network
Hnahthial College	Nil	Nil	Yes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mamit College	Nil	Nil	Yes	Yes	Nil	Nil	Nil
Aizawl North College	Nil	Nil	Yes	Yes	Yes	Nil	Yes
Khawzawl College	Nil	Nil	Yes	Yes	Yes	Nil	Nil
J.Buana College	Nil	Nil	Yes	Nil	Yes	Nil	Nil
Saitual College	Nil	Nil	Yes	Yes	Yes	Nil	Nil
Zawlnuam College	Nil	Nil	Yes	Nil	Yes	Nil	Nil

J.Thankima College	NIL	Nil	Yes	Yes	Nil	Nil	Nil
Johnson College	Nil	Nil	Yes	Yes	Nil	Nil	Nil
Serchhip College	Yes	Nil	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Nil
Lawngtlai College	Nil	Nil	Yes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Kolasib College	Nil	Nil	Yes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zirtir Women College	Nil	Nil	Yes	Yes	Nil	Nil	Yes
Hrangbana College	Yes	Nil	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Aizawl College	NIL	Nil	Yes	Yes	Nil	Nil	Yes
T.Romana College	NIL	Nil	Nil	Yes	Nil	Yes	Nil
Aizawl West College	NIL	Nil	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Champhai College	Nil	Nil	Yes	Yes	Nil	Nil	Nil
Lunglei College	Nil	Nil	Yes	Yes	Nil	Nil	Nil
CTE	Nil	Nil	Yes	Yes	Nil	Nil	Nil
Kamalanagar College	Nil	Nil	Nil	Yes	Nil	Nil	Nil
Aizawl Law College	Nil	Nil	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Saiha College	Nil	Nil	Yes	Yes	Nil	Nil	Nil
Hindi College	Nil	Nil	Nil	Yes	Nil	Nil	Nil

Therefore, it has been found that 2 college libraries are having scanner, and rest of the 17 libraries are not equipped with, and also the study reveals that all 24 college libraries do not have installed RFID technology in their library. And also, 21 colleges have photocopier whereas 3 college libraries do not have, and out of 24 college libraries 19 colleges have internet connection, 5 colleges have no connection. The study also shows that out of 24 colleges only 9 libraries have LCD projector, 5 colleges have library website and only 6 college libraries have a link with library network. The following chart shows that the other ICT infrastructure in the college libraries in Mizoram.

Chart No 2. ICT infrastructure in the college libraries in Mizoram.-



The above chart has shown that college libraries in Mizoram are very backward in other ICT infrastructures. These equipments are very much require for the day to day works in the library, but to procure all these equipments college require more and more fund for the library. Therefore, most of the college libraries cannot provide quality services as they are not well equipped with ICT Infrastructures including scanner, RFID, Photocopier, Internet, LCD projector, library website and library networks. The study reveals that college libraries in Mizoram are very backward in other ICT infrastructures. These equipments are very much require for the day to day works in the library, but to procure all these equipments college require more and more fund for the library.

Findings: From the study of different physical resources of College Libraries in Mizoram the following points can be presented as major findings :

1. It has been found that 87 % of colleges are having separate library rooms out of which 58 % are of RCC buildings and 29 % of libraries are of wooden buildings, whereas 12.5 % of colleges are not with separate library rooms. The majority of 18 colleges are not having separate reading room for teachers and only 6 colleges could provide for teachers
2. Amongst the 24 college libraries, 2 college libraries do not have and rest of the 22 colleges have computers in their library, and 16 college libraries have installed software are 66.6% and 8 colleges of 33.3 % do not install library management software.
3. Further, under the present study 12 college libraries have less than 5 computers, 8 college libraries have more than 5, and 2 college libraries have more than 10 computers in the library.
4. Most of the college libraries cannot provide quality services as they are not well equipped with ICT Infrastructures including scanner, RFID, Photocopier, Internet, LCD projector, library website and library networks.
5. Only 37.5 % of colleges are having reading room for students, 62.5 % of colleges do not have separate reading rooms for students.

Conclusion :

Universities and Colleges are considered as institutions of higher learning. Libraries in these institutions play an important role in supplementing the higher education and research. Libraries are otherwise known as ‘information and knowledge repositories’ and enable the students to build up an appropriate academic and professional career. It is therefore necessary to design and develop a quality library system in order to provide an effective teaching and learning environment. Library as ‘learning and intellectual centre’ need to be supported not only in building, physical, human, and intellectual resources, but also require strengthen its financial resources. A perennial source of finance is a great support to the library system to provide quality services. Therefore, College and University libraries are facing constraints to meet the developmental activities and services as they are expected to be.

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