
Work done from Home during Corona lockdown by College Librarians: with the special reference to Yavatmal District, Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

MHRD and UGC take initiative towards on-line learning by providing advisory and links of various websites during corona lockdown. Author trying to know the work done by librarians by using technology from home during corona lockdown period in the new age of technology using various tools. Is the librarian being capable to tackle the critical situation like corona virus lockdown? Is the librarian being capable to tackle the sudden change in education system i.e. hybrid to web-based library services. It is found that the librarians are ever ready to serve web-based library e-services to college students and staff effectively, affordably with the help of himself. Is he able or take initiative to provide guidance, e-literacy programs, some e- training to the users through YouTube or zoom app for the maximum use of available e-resources or create e-contents? The survey result of analysis of google form shows that most of the librarians are less with IT technology with various soft skills like social media presentation/communication skill, IT skill etc.

KEYWORDS: Corona virus, lockdown, internet, software, automation, digitalization, LAN, website, IT skill, NAAC, IQAC, Moodle, Blog, OPAC.

INTRODUCTION

Colleges are racing to ensure that the coronavirus does not prevent students from completing syllabus. But a sudden shift to on-line learning is a “huge challenge” for both institutions and students like open university. Colleges have been treating the corona-virus as a major emergency for some months. Last month all SGBAU, Amravati affiliated colleges close down class teaching-learning and move on-line from 16th March. Principal is the head of digital education at college level. Our college principal said in an e-mail to staff and students that the college would use the break to prepare to transition to on-line teaching and assessment. The college is switching to on-line teaching-learning and on-line college home exams until the end of the academic year to give students and staff some certainty. Colleges are wrestling with practical problems in on-line teaching, including how to ensure that poorer students with android mobile. Principal are decided to cancel field trips, gathering, group program, sports activities and large level meetings by staff or students until the month of May.

In the era of NAAC all teachers of all colleges are routinely do some teaching on-line already. Many record lectures for students to watch in their own time and uploaded on college website and YouTube also. But it is also found that a large number of staff won't have any experience of teaching wholly on-line which needs to acquire a set of soft skill. Our teaching staff has been planning resources that students will be able to access on their smartphones. Some are using Moodle, some have blog. Our students have good digital literacy for online learning. The college is working to make sure that students and staff can communicate on-line with each other easily. Our college library continuously organised the literacy workshop like how to create and use of email id, use of e-resources, hands on training on how to use OPAC, uses of university and college website every year continuously. Use of mobile for the preparation of various competitive examinations and many more...which include links, recorded lectures, and moving assignments on-line lectures by using meeting apps.

DEFINITION

One of the most effective ways to prevent a huge spike of corona in the number of people who get sick at once, is to practice social distancing. Working from home is not luxury but it is a facility to work from home in the age of technology. College or some department those are fully atomised and web based can operate with you working from home. It is an opportunity to prove that you can work from anywhere from the world, the spot doesn't matter in the era of technology so, keep your spirits up and continue to do good work from home for the students and prove that you are the librarian with library in your pockets.

For preventing corona virus there is a need of taking care. As the central and state government advice stay home. During this period the class room teaching of colleges by the subject teachers are stopped. The director of physical education and librarian are trying to work from home first time with the help of technology. Librarian is deal with technology for his day to day activity of library with the help of internet, software, automation, digitalization, LAN, website,

OBJECTIVE

- To study the expertise of ICT use of librarian
- To know the work done by librarian during corona lockdown period
- To study the expertise of ICT use of students.
- To know the usefulness of content prepared or circulated.
- To know the availability of infrastructural facilities.

Reasons for learning from home:

This is the new 21st century of advanced stage and age of technology. Smart users are using latest handsets of mobile, tablet, computer and their apps frequently and smoothly with the help of internet. So, librarian also make it comfortable to use technology and it is found that the librarians are taking lead in using this technology and play an important and crucial role creation in disseminating the digital information in this lockdown period of corona.

Benefits of learning from home:

Librarians and students are using technology for study, gaining knowledge. Librarians are using WhatsApp, blogs, YouTube, websites, circulating text messages, pdf books various links, preparing videos, etc. by using technology students get appropriate information with in a time and is easy to handle, operate, understand and circulate also. It saves time, money, distance and increase the transparency of library services. It also increases the accuracy and interest in teaching learning process. There is no doubt of any bias or duplicacy or fraud, and save the environment also by using e-content instead of paper form. It also increases the skill development of the student like presentation skill, and other soft skill also.

METHODOLOGY

A google form is prepared and circulated among the Yavatmal district college librarian affiliated to Sant Gadge baba Amravati university, Amravati. 40 College librarians were responded out of 70. It is restricted to only the Yavatmal district college librarians. A mobile call to collect some related supplementary information have been done to some librarians by the researcher. Senior librarians give ideas, and new comer librarians give practical solution to some extent.

Work done by librarian during lockdown period:

1. Scanning and Digitalizing Information:

All colleges are preparing for NAAC. And librarian plays a key role in preparing college for NAAC. For that every senior college librarian has facility of his own android mobile, p. c., tablet or laptop, a scanner cum printer and good internet connection at his home. In the period of lockdown, librarian can read the newspaper, magazines or professional associations journals which comes on his personal address in print or e-form. Important articles are

scanned and must be saved in a specific folder. After the lockdown period it may add in college collection. Likewise, some old books which is in personal collection librarian may start the digitalization of that book.

2. Downloading the E-Resources:

With the help of internet librarian may download the various e-resources like daily newspaper in e-form in every language and every district edition. Now a days every newspaper is also available in pdf form also on his website. Librarian may download the various subjects related e-books from various websites those are freely available for use. Various subject journals are also available in bulk form librarian may download these type of e resources for their faculty and for the students. Librarian can download the university previous examination paper set, syllabus, important notifications related to examination, practical, NSS, student insurance and many more which is helpful to the college students.

3. Preparing Facebook, WhatsApp and E-mail groups to communicate:

For the circulation of downloaded e-resources librarian needs to prepare E-mail id group, WhatsApp group as an admin for students and teaching staff separately. In the era of preparing for NAAC every college librarian already does this important work. We can prepare a group of 256 college admitted students in a group. We can classify them like faculty wise, subject wise or commonly e-library resources. Every college student related information is circulated by these media group. There are so many educational sites which provide readymade educational material in the form of pdf, video, audio books, live lectures etc. like e-pathshala, n-list.

4. Upload important Information on Google drive, College website and provide link:

Photos and videos of various College activities, college news published in various newspaper or on various local news channels, subject wise articles published in various newspaper, magazine, journals scanned and upload as above. We can prepare these steps easily form home also by using your android mobile.

5. Uploading informative videos on YouTube.

College Librarian is now a days playing a crucial part in NAAC preparation of the college. If librarian take lead and invite all the subject lecturer to prepare their topic lecture and record it on phone. Librarian can disseminate by uploading these video lecture on college website and YouTube from home.

6. Disseminating Govt. Corona information to Students:

With the help of other teaching faculty like NSS officer some librarians are promoting students to write slogans and essay writing on corona situation by organising online competition on WhatsApp. Librarian is totally different person in behaviour with students from classroom teacher. He is more friendly with students than classroom teacher. Students know that he has the knowledge of all subject rather than an expert in single subject. So, they are more attached with librarian is my own experience. As a group admin if he circulates the information or instruction Students believed that it is authentic and follow them with faith. Some librarians are counselling about donating

money to CM/PM fund and they start from himself. By using <http://covid-gyan.in> this website they aware the parent and students regarding corona virus.

7. Writing and publishing articles in newspaper, research papers in journals:

Some librarians have an art of writing for newspaper, some work as a reporter for some regional, state level reputed newspaper. So, they try to write an informative article for the awareness of corona virus and preventing techniques. Librarian has no long-term vacations. During the college he has no time for personal reading, and for conducting research activities. So, this lockdown is the best opportunity for librarians to take part in research. Various professional webinars, zoom meets, are conducted during this lockdown period. He has to participate actively in it.

8. Receiving and answering students call on phone, WhatsApp, E-mail, Facebook:

During the period of lockdown, a librarian should attend the calls on his cell phone to satisfy the query of students regarding to his day to day need of reading materials electronically by providing him a needed reading material in e-form. Students may contact or discuss his query regarding his need of information on WhatsApp group also. By providing the answer on WhatsApp group it is useful for all. Some librarians providing CAS, SDI services from home. Preparing bibliographies on OnDemand of staff and students.

9. Reading and listening electronically:

During the lockdown period Librarian can keep himself UpToDate by reading electronically using various applications, websites, professional groups etc. he must continue his reading as a daily need for the survival to fittest. Librarians are reading Dr. PSG Kumar sirs', Dr Rajendra Kumbhar Sirs library books for updating himself. Some librarians are updating library website information of the college. Some are preparing database of e-resource collection received on e-mail id or various professional WhatsApp groups. Some audio books and their apps are made available to the students and staff for promoting the reading culture among the students.

10. On-line certificate courses:

There are so many short-term courses of Swayam, NPTEL, MOOCs and other for this short lockdown period librarian himself does these courses and bring in alert to the students also and guide them to admit in it and help them when they needed. E-PG Pathshala, National digital library, Shodhganga, e-ShodhSndhu, Vidvan premier database of researchers are some e-content databases' which helps the librarian to provide the related information to the staff and the students.

11. Institutional repository:

Some librarians are working on it continuously from last years. They have so many digital contents in their repository, books in pdf form, videos lectures related to the syllabus, audio books and so on by using website or log or D-space digital library management software. Calibre library e-resource management software. In this lockdown period librarians are providing link to the students for appropriate need of them.

12. Working on Conducting workshop, seminar & webinar:

Some librarians are planning during this lockdown period for conducting workshop, seminar through their department. Making blue print for financial as well as intellectual assistance. Some are thinking to organise webinar with the help of google and other on line apps like zoom cloud meeting, Cisco Webex Meetings, ezTalks free cloud meetings some librarians take initiative to give hands on training to the staff members to operate or handle the app. And scheduled the subject meetings for the students on syllabus topics subject heading. But the quantity of such librarian s less. Others are learning, attending and working on it.

13. Guiding Online to the researchers:

Some senior most librarians are authorised guide for M. Phil., Ph. D. They are working online from home. The students are contacting on mail by sending queries or talk on mobile.

14. Preparing SWOT Analysis of library:

Some librarians are preparing SWOT analysis of library activities and services for the preparation of NAAC meeting of principal as a home work. The library has more demands from the other department for the better library user services and their strong reasons in written form to convince the principal at the time of meeting as a part of pre requisite.

15. Drafting activities, services, facilities, awards and achievements:

Some librarians are working on activities, services, facilities, achievements and awards of library and librarian. Preparing word document or PPT. Organising photos and videos of various event which are conducted during the session.

REPORT CARD OF ANALYSIS OF GOOGLE FORM

It is found that the 40 (57.14%) colleges have been responded positively out of 70 (100%). Out of which the 30 (75 %) rural college has been responded and the 10 (25%) urban college responds. Out of responded 40 librarians 35 (87.5%) were male and 5 (12%) are female librarians. The responded librarians are 30 to 40 years are 10 (25%), 40 to 50 years are 15 (37.5%) and 50-60 years are 15 (37%). Means all are energetic, experienced, enthusiastic and expertise in their assigned work.

During the corona lockdown period (12%) librarian read hard copies of books and newspapers and 88% librarian read soft copies or in e-form resources. 88.9 % librarian are in touch with their college principal or office staff. While other 11.1% have not called or contact yet by the college principal's office.

88.9% of the responded librarian have write down the report of various activities, contact with other staff members and students regarding library work and send report to the principal or NAAC coordinator by mail, while 11.1% are not in touch with principal or NAAC coordinator yet but they are ready to cooperate positively.

For the preparation of NAAC, 77.8% of Yavatmal district responded librarians are already prepared WhatsApp and email id group to disseminate the e-resources like e-newspaper, books in pdf form, important links, 22.2% of librarians are not yet prepared any WhatsApp group of students or staff. Out of responded 100% librarian not placed any order of the college books to the publisher or vendor.

During the lockdown period 55.6 % librarian who have facility of P. C., printer cum scanner and internet facility at their home they prepared or developed digital content regarding library use like video book talk, literacy program for using e-books, preparing for competitive examinations, create and use of email id, introduction to reference books, introduction to our library, scanning and digitalizing the newspaper article and paper sets etc. 44.4% are not done any activities like this due to the lack of facility at their home and having no internet at their rural region.

11,1 % of librarian have been completed their on-line short-term courses during this lockdown period. While 89.9 % are thinking to do like this but not yet to try. 44.4% of librarians are attending webinar and zoom meetings on library topic. While 56.6 % of librarian are not due to poor internet connectivity in rural area. 78.8% librarian are in contact with students and teaching staff for their day to day study needs by mobile, phone or by WhatsApp and e-mail while 22.2% are not in touch with the college students and teaching staff.

A good thing is happened in librarians house during the lockdown period 100% librarians have been succeed the family members became a good reader by giving his own practical demo of reading a book.

84.6% college librarian suggested about the use of open source e-resources available free on various websites to their college students and teaching staff. 15.4% librarians are not worked in this direction yet.

92.3% librarian suggested to the teaching staff to participate and learn various on-line courses from different platform by alerting them sending link on WhatsApp or email while other 7.7% not worked in this direction.

71.4% librarian have done their research work in this lockdown period like writing article, research paper, guiding to the students regarding research, writing book chapter or book while other 28.6% librarians didn't work any step in this direction.

Majority of the librarians watch corona virus news updates on various t. v. news channel, chat on social media, like Facebook, WhatsApp, twitter, Instagram, blogs etc.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The analysis shows that the Yavatmal district librarian work hard and smart for the betterment of students and teaching staff of the college by providing them the e-content, by providing them the links of e-learning from various platform. It means that they are trying to getting expertise in using IT. They are continuously in touch with the

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students and the college staff personally and by multimedia also throughout the lockdown period. If the college have provided the sufficient infrastructural facilities, they work better in the direction of on-line training, learning by organising workshop, web meetings by creating e-content, by collecting them in institutional repository. College librarian work as an IT leader in the academic college. He helps in every work related to student and staff for the betterment of college.

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