

## PRESENT SCENARIO OF INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES, AND USE OF COLLEGE LIBRARIES (AFFILIATED TO VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY) IN RURAL BENGAL: A SAMPLE STUDY

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### ABSTRACT

*A library is the heart of an academic institution. In this paper, we tried to study the facilities available in the library and how much user use its resources day by day. The colleges are selected from two Midnapore (i.e. Paschim and Purba Midnapore) of West Bengal. We take six colleges to form these two districts. All these colleges are affiliated under Vidyasagar University and most of the colleges are established in the rural area of these two districts. One college i.e. Midnapore college had established before Independence (the year 1872), is one of the oldest colleges in India. Students come here from below income level family and study here in General Degree course in Arts, Science, and Commerce subject. The Infrastructure of the colleges is not up to the mark. The Service is also not remarkable. In this study, we found that Midnapore college has better infrastructure and service among all colleges and Despran College is the newest college among these colleges. Maximum colleges have insufficient staff and fund also. Students are not always ready to use their resources for their study. Librarians take initiatives to increase the interest of the user to use the library more than the past.*

**KEYWORD:** *Library, Academic Library, Library Infrastructure, Library Service, Library Resource, Library Management*

### INTRODUCTION:

A library is a collection of Various sources of information and many resources, which is made accessible to its community for referencing or borrowing. It gives access physically or digitally to various material and may be a physical building or room, or a virtual space, or both. A library's collection includes many text and reference books, journals and magazines, newspapers, manuscripts, films, maps, prints, documents, microform, CDs, cassettes, videotapes, DVDs, Blu-ray Discs, e-books, audiobooks, databases, and any other formats. Libraries range in size from a few shelves of books to several million items. There are three types of Library – Public Library, Academic Library, and Special Library. In this paper with student academic Libraries. College and University Libraries are academic Libraries. Here we found books etc accordingly their Syllabus. In this paper, we study the college Libraries Affiliated to Vidyasagar University, West Bengal. We try to Study here the Infrastructure, Services and Use of these Libraries. All the college of Vidyasagar University is in Rural areas. Student Comes from Low Income Grouped Family. There are many dropout students mainly girls students.

Family can not afforded their study. Male Students are trying to continue their study but many times they fail to continue the study because of their Family need. They search for Jobs and continue their job like (Labor). But nowadays due to some grants for all students from Govt. they continue their study. And last few years we find statistics that female students also continue their study. So we find many hardels for the colleges and Students also. For that reason, we tried to study the College Libraries and its Infrastructure and Use.

### Objective of the Study

The main **objectives** of this study are:

- To study the existing collections, infrastructure in selected college libraries;
- To study the budgetary control of the College Libraries.
- To study services and facilities offered to their User by the College Libraries.
- To Study uses of Library and Library Materials.
- To Study the Staff availability and scarcity in the College Libraries.
- To Study Resource Sharing Activities among the Colleges.

### Scope of Study

The scope of this study is limited to the degree college libraries (Govt. Aided) affiliated to Vidyasagar University in West Bengal. Most colleges of the Vidyasagar University are in Rural Bengal of Purba and Paschim Medinipur District. Students mainly come from the village family. So the study has been done to see the picture of College Libraries in Rural Bengal. We tried to understand the Real Infrastructure of the Colleges and College Libraries. 6 Colleges are selected in Random sampling method from both districts (Purba and Paschim Medinipur District). Name of the colleges are:-

From Purba Medinipur District

- Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya
- Deshapran Mahavidyalaya
- Panskura Banamali College
- Moyna College

From Paschim Medinipur District

- Belda College
- Midnapore College

### Limitation of the Study

The study is limited only Six Colleges which is Govt, Aided Colleges affiliated to Vidyasagar University. Data collection error may be there due to lack of Information available in the College Libraries. Librarian or Library Staff is not always available to give the correct data. Shortage of time is also a limitation. But the data we analysis is mainly given by

the Librarians of these Six Colleges.

### Methodology for Data Collection

The study adopts a combined methodology of theory and fieldwork in order to examine the trends of developments compatible with the existing conditions of academic libraries. In this context, a survey of the methodology is adopted in this study supplemented by some field work in the manner of personally interviewing some college librarians.

A structured questionnaire has been designed to collect the basic facts required for the gathering the data collection and the possible policies and programs in the college libraries of Vidyasagar University. Repeated visits are made to the selected libraries to make on the spot observation. Also, a series of discussions were held with the professionals, experts, and fellow researchers to get a clear picture of the concept. Therefore this research work has used multi-methods to collect analyze and consolidate the data. The Questionnaire is administered to collect the required data.

### Data Analysis

Data has analysis has been Grouped into two main part. One part is -General Information about College and another is Information about College Libraries. Second Part Information about College Libraries is divided into seven groups. These seven groups are- General Information about the Libraries, About the Area of the Libraries, About Library Staff, About Budget, About Library Infrastructure, Some Statistical Data Analysis, Facilities.

**Table 1: General Information About College**

Name of the College	Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya	Deshpran Mahavidyalaya	Panskura Banamali College	Belda College	Moyna College	Midnapore College
Year of Establishment	1948	2010	1960	1963	1972	1873
Number of Courses	22	9	25	24	17	23
Number of Students	4000	1200	9000	4000	800	5000
Number of Faculty	208	36	192	103	34	152
Number of Non-Teaching Staff	37	15	86	42	25	56

Midnapore College (1873) is the Oldest College among the six colleges in the Table and Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya (1948) is the oldest college in Purba Medinipur District. Deshpran Mahavidyalaya (2010) is new among the six colleges. Panskura Banamali College (9000) has a large number of students' capacity. Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya has maximum number of Teachers (208) among six colleges and Moyna College has few numbers of Faculties (34). In Case of Non-Teaching Panskura Banamali College has maximum number (86) of staff and Deshpran Mahavidyalaya has only 15 numbers of staff.

### Information About College Library

Now we analysis the Infrastructure, Services offered by these college libraries.

**Table 2: About Area of Library**

	Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya	Deshpran Mahavidyalaya	Panskura Banamali College	Belda College	Moyna College	Midnapore College
Library Area (Sq Mt.)	371.62	27.87	451.54	341.19	260	418.06

Panskura Banamali College has a big area for their Central Library (451.54 sq. mt.). But it has not any separate building for the building. It is on the first floor of an academic building. Deshpran College is newly Setup College so it has very little space (27.87 sq. mt.) for its Central Library. Six colleges have not any separate building for the Central Library but every college we visited has the proposal to set up new Library building in their free space.

### General Information about College Libraries

Now we will analysis about general information collected about these six libraries. We will analysis about Library timings, Library Materials – Textbook, Reference Books collection, Journals, and Magazine etc.

**Table 3: Library Timings**

		Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya	Deshpran Mahavidyalaya	Panskura Banamali College	Belda College	Moyna College	Midnapore College
A	Working Hours	(9 am to 6pm) 9 hours	(10 am to 5 pm) 7 hours	(8am to 6 pm) 10 hours	(10am to 5pm) 7 hours	(8.30am to 5.00pm) 8.30 hours	(7am to 7pm) 12 hours
A1	On Holiday	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed

Midnapore College library is opened for longtime i.e. 12 hours (from 7am to 7 pm). Two colleges Belda College and Deshpran Mahavidyalaya are Opened for 7 Hours (From 10am to 5 pm). Moyna College, Midnapore College, Panskura Banamali College and Tamralipta mahavidyalaya has morning Section Class, so library hours started from morning. All colleges remain Closed on more or less 60 Holidays and 52 Sunday.

### Library Collection

**Table 4: Books**

		Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya	Deshpran Mahavidyalaya	Panskura Banamali College	Belda College	Moyna College	Midnapore College
B	No of Books	38000	6600	52907	27823	15001	69521
B1	Textbook	33000	6000	51799	20823	14701	63021
B2	Reference Books	5000	600	1108	7000	300	6500

Midnapore College has the largest collection of textbooks (63021) and Panskura Banamali College has second in the textbook collection (51799) among the six colleges. Deshpran mahavidyalaya has a very little collection (6000). Belda College has the maximum number of Reference book Collection (7000). Moyna College has very little Reference Book Collection (300). Tamralipta mahavidyalaya (38000) and Belda College (27823) has the average number of collection.

**Table 5: Journal and Magazine**

		Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya	Deshpran Mahavidyalaya	Panskura Banamali College	Belda College	Moyna College	Midnapore College
B3	Journals	30	0	3	0	6	22
B3.1	National	22	0	2	0	0	15
B3.2	International	0	0	0	0	0	0
B3.3	Regional	8	0	1	0	6	8
B4	Magazine	15	5	12	4	4	14

Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya subscribed maximum Journals (30). Among them 22 are national and 8 are regional Publication. Midnapore College Subscribed 22 Journals among them 15 are national and 8 are regional Publication. Deshpran Mahavidyalaya has subscribed any journals for its Library User i.e. students. But this college subscribed 5 Magazine for the students. Tamralita Mahavidyalaya subscribed 15 Magazine which is the maximum number among six colleges. All the colleges subscribed the magazines which are mostly competitive exam oriented like- Competition Success, India Today, Peshprobes (Bengali) etc.

**Table 6: News Paper**

		Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya	Deshpran Mahavidyalaya	Panskura Banamali College	Belda College	Moyna College	Midnapore College
B5	Newspaper	7	3	7	4	4	6
B5.1	Bengali (Daily)	2	2	3	2	2	2
B5.2	English (Daily)	2	1	2	2	2	2
B5.3	Others	3	0	2	0	0	2

Panskura Banamali College and Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya subscribed 7 Newspaper regularly. Midnapore College also subscribed 6 Newspaper. Belda and Moyna College Subscribed 4 Newspaper each. 3 Colleges – Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya, Panskura Banamali College, and Midnapore College have subscribed Karmakhetra and KarmaSngasthan which are Job-related weekly Newspaper.

**Table 7: Electronic Resources**

		Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya	Deshpran Mahavidyalaya	Panskura Banamali College	Belda College	Moyna College	Midnapore College
B6	E-Resources	NLIST, NPTEL	No	NLIST, NDL, NPTEL	NLIST (But not upto date)	No	NLIST, DELNET, NDL, NPTEL

E-resources are essential in modern learning. UGC has made a package for College library i.e. IFLIBNET-NLIST. Its subscription Price is approx 5900/- per year. 4 college libraries subscribe NLIST among the Six colleges. But Belda college library has decided to stop subscribing this package due to lack of use. Two College library i.e. Deshpran Mahavidyalaya and Moyna College has not started their subscription. Deshpran Mahavidyalaya has no status of 12B, so that they cannot be a member of NLIST. Moyna College has not started yet due to lack of money. Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya, Panskura Banamali Collge, Midnapore college are the member of NPTEL (IIT,KGP). Panskura banamali College and Midnapore College are member of National Digital Library (NDL) of MHRD, India provided by IIT, Kharagpur. Midnapore College is the only member of DELNET among the six colleges.

### About Library Infrastructure

**Table 8: Library Automation**

	Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya	Deshpran Mahavidyalaya	Panskura Banamali College	Belda College	Moyna College	Midnapore College
Library Automation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Library Automation Started	2007	2017	2013	2015	No	2008
Library Automation Software	Koha	Koha	Koha	Soul	No	Libsys
Library Automation Software Module Used	6	4	6	4	N.A	5

All colleges except Moyna College are using Library Automation Software. Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya, Panskura Banamali College, Deshpran Mahavidyalaya are using Koha (Open sourced Software). Belda College is using Soul 2.0 which is developed and Maintained by UGC and Midnapore College is using LIBSYS 7 (closed Sourced Software). Cataloguing in Koha and Libsys7 are done by MAARC 21 but in Soul CCF format. Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya has started with Soul and in 2016 it changed its automation software to Koha 16.05. Panskura Banamali College Started with Libsys

college version in 2013 and in 2017 it changed its software to Koha 16.11 due High Annual Maintainace Charge ever year. Deshpran College has started its automation software in 2017. But unfortunately, Moyna College has not started yet due to lack of funding. Belda College has updated its Version From Soul 1.0 to Soul 2.0. Circulation, Cataloguing, Patron, OPAC, Administration, Report modules are mainly used in Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya and Panskura Banamali College. Deshpran College is using 4 modules (i.e. Circulation, Cataloguing, Administration, Report modules.) Moyna College still runs its Library in Manual System.

**Table 9: Digital Library**

	Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya	Deshpran Mahavidyalaya	Panskura Banamali College	Belda College	Moyna College	Midnapore College
Digital Library	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Digital Library Software	Dspace	No	Dspace	No	No	Dspace
Purpose of Digital Library Software	Old Question Paper, College Publications, College Report	N.A	Old Question Paper, OER	N.A	N.A	Old question, Publications

Three Colleges has a Digital Library. They all are using Dspace Software as digital library Software. They mainly store their Old Question Paper and own Publication. Panskura Banamali College has started a repository of Open Educational Resource (OER) which includes PPTs, Classnotes etc of the Teacher. Form OER student can easily download their study materials. Midnapore College is Using MOOC Software for its students.

**Table 10: Number of Server and Computers Available in LIBRARY**

	Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya	Deshpran Mahavidyalaya	Panskura Banamali College	Belda College	Moyna College	Midnapore College
Number of Server	1	1	2	1	0	2
No of Computers for Library Staff	6	1	5	4	2	14
No of Computers for Users	6	0	7	8	5	40
Studens	5	0	6	4	3	35
Teachers	1	0	1	4	2	5

Belda College, Deshpran Mahavidyalaya have one server each. It is used for Library Automation Software. But Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya has one server for two software (Koha and Dspace). Panskura Banamali Collge has two Servers one for Koha and another for Dspace. Midnapore College has two software for LIBSYS and Dspace.

Midnapore college has the maximum number of Computers, for Library Staff- 14, For Student use- 35 and for the teacher 5 in the Central Library Premises.

**Table 11: Library Budget**

	Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya	Deshpran Mahavidyalaya	Panskura Banamali College	Belda College	Moyna College	Midnapore College
Library Budget	No	No	Yes (Average 800000/year)	No	No	Yes (Average 100000/ year)

4 colleges i.e. Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya, Deshpran Mahavidyalaya, Belda College, Moyna College has no any regular or yearly budget. But Panskura Banamali College has 800000/- per year and Midnapore Collge has 1000000/- per year budget allocation. This allocation is on a regular basis. But most of the colleges ( also Panskura Banamali and Midnapore College) are depend on government grants (mainly UGC grants). Belda College has got 1500000/- form RUSA grant on 2016-17. Midnapore College has got many grants Form Central Government like RUSA, CPE etc. Panskura Banamali College has got DST-FAST grants in 2016-2017.

**Table 12: Facilities**

		<b>Tamralipta Mahavidyalay</b>	<b>Deshpran Mahavidyalaya</b>	<b>Panskura Banamali College</b>	<b>Belda College</b>	<b>Moyna College</b>	<b>Midnapore College</b>
A	Home Issue	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
B	Reading Room Issue	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
C	Book bank Facilities	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
D	Reprography	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
E	Printing	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F	Scanning	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
G	Reading Room Facility	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
H	Reading Room Seating Capacity	90	25	105	62	40	130
H1	Teacher	20	5	15	12	10	15
H2	Student	70	20	90	50	30	115
I	InterLibrary Loan with Other Library	District Library	No	No	No	No	No
J	Resource Sharing With Other College Library	No	No	No	No	No	No

Lending Servicer is available in all the Library. A user can issue a book for Home and can also issue a book for reading room. But Book Bank Facility is available in Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya and Midnapore College for Backward Class Student. Reprography and Printing Facilities are available in all Library except Deshpran Maha Vidyalaya. Scanning Facilities are available in Three Colleges i.e. Midnapore and Panskura Banamali Colleges and Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya. Reading room facilities are available in all Libraries. Midnapore College has the highest number of Sitting capacity for its use for teacher- 15 and for Student-115). Deshpran Mahavidyalaya has less number of Sitting capacity (for student- 20 and for teacher- 5). No library except Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya are connected with other Library (maybe Public or School Library). Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya has collaboration with Purba Medinipur District Library. And also there is no Resource Sharing Policy among these college libraries.

Table 13: Library Staff

	Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya		Deshpran Mahavidyalaya		Panskura Banamali College		Belda College		Moyna College		Midnapore College	
	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A
Librarian	02	04	01	01	01	01	01	01	01	01	03	03
Library Clerk	00	03	00	01	01	01	01	01	00	01	02	04
Library Peon	02	04	01	01	01	01	01	01	01	01	00	01
Other Library Staff	3		1		5		1		1		4	
Professional Staff (except Librarian)	0		0		0		0		0		2	

[P- Presently, A- Approved]

Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya had the highest number of approved Librarian Post (4) but it has 2 Librarians now. Midnapore College has 3 approved Librarian and presently it is filled up. But Panskura banamali College has a large number of Students and books and 25 Courses but it has only one approved post. Midnapore college has 4 Library clerk post among them 50% are filled up. Panskura Banamali College has 5 number of Casual or Contracted Staff to run the Library from Morning shift to Evening Shift. Only Midnapore College has 2 professional Staff.

Table 14: Some Mathematical Data about the Library

		Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya	Deshpran Mahavidyalaya	Panskura Banamali College	Belda College	Moyna College	Midnapore College
A	Average number of walk-ins (Per Day)	115(2.875%)	65(5.417%)	211(2.8133%)	100(2.5%)	91(11.375%)	
B	Average number of books issued/returned (Per Day)	130 (3.25%)	30(2.5%)	110(1.466%)	65(1.625)	50(6.25%)	
C	Average No of Books Added Per Year (Average of last 5 Years)	770	750	1374	2489	429	
D	Average Expenditure Per Year (Average of last 5 Years)	247577/-	80000/-	450158/-	650485/-	81613/-	
E	Ratio of library books to students enrolled (Books : Student)	9.5:1	5.5:1	7.054266667:1	6.95575:1	18.75125:1	
F	Average number of login to OPAC (Per Day)	200	0	150	70	0	
G	Average number of login to e-resources (Per Day)	30	0	35	25	0	
H	Average number of e-resources downloaded/printed (Per Day)	40	0	35	25	0	
I	Number of information literacy trainings organized	1/Year	1/Year	1/Year/Department	1/Year/Department	1/Year	
J	Details of weeding out of books and other materials	20000 books	0	15000	0	0	

Moyna College has the highest Percentage of Walking and highest Percentage of Book Issue Return. But the Mathematical Calculation display that use of Library is in very poor stage (Average range is 2-5% of total student per day).

Belda College is the highest in case of Average Number of Books added in Last 5 years and their expenditure average is 650485/- per year. But Midnapore college Expenditure is highest among the all selected colleges (i.e.- 670039/- per year).

Moyna College (18.75125:1) is highest on Ratio of Books to Student Enrolled. Deshpran College (5.5:1) is lowest among Six colleges.

A user of Midnapore College logged in for OPAC search is maximum. Logged In per day is 250 (approx). Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya Library has counted the number of OPAC log in Is 200(approx). Their server can be accessed through the Internet.

E-Resource Search and Download rage in three colleges is 70 per day. But it is Very poor Number as per student enrolled.

5 Libraries Conducted One Orientation programme per year. But Midnapore College Conducts 3 Orientation Programme per year. Beldal College And Panskura College College Conduct 1 Orientation Programme per year but It continues for Six Days Programme.

In case of Weeding out of Libray books Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya has weeded out 20000 books and Panskura Banamali College weeded out approx 15000 books. Midnapore College has weeded out 2000 books.

### **Study Outcomes/ Findings**

All the Six colleges are studied here, are State Govt. Adied college and affiliated to Vidyasagar University. Most of the college except Midnapore College is established in Rural areas. Students come here to study mainly from Low Income Group. They fully depend on Colleges. Midnapore College is established before Independence And also in Urban Area. Now, this college is fully autonomous college. Panskura Banamali College is the largest Rural based college in West Bengal. Its student strength is approx 9000. 7 PG departments and two Training (B.ED & B.PED) are in this College. All college depends on Grants mainly from Central Government. There are no Regular Budget for these Colleges. Only two colleges Panskura Banamali College and Midnapore College make their a budget for Library on the regular basis. No of Journals Subscription is very low for all these colleges. Students are not interested to study Journals Regularly. Maximum college (4 among 6) college libraries subscribed INFLIBNET-NLST E-Journals and E-Books package form UGC. But the Use of these E-Resources is very little. Student is not habituated with these resources. But regular Library Orientation Programme makes them easy to use this E-Resources. A scarcity of Staff (Librarians, Library Cleark, Library Peon) is one of the drawbacks found in this Study. Professional Staff (except Librarian) is not present in maximum Library. Arrangements of books differ from Library to Library. Two Libraries (Belda College, Moyna College) arrange the books accordingly Departments. Panskura Banamali College and Tamralipta MahaVidyalaya arrange books according to Call Number. Deshpran Mahavidyalay already started to arrange their books according to Call Number. Midnapore College is the oldest college among the six colleges. They arrange their books first type of collection (Text Book, Reference Books, Old Books), then According to Call number. Panskura Banamali College has a collection of Gift books. Approx 750 Gifted/Donated books are there. Midnapore College, Tamralipta College and Panskura Bamali college have a collection of Minor/Major Research Project books. These books are given by the Faculty Members who buy their books from Research Grants. Use of Library found decries day by day. Students now spend their time with Mobile Phone and Social Media and spend less time in Libraries. One of the cause for less use is Upadting of Library. Library mainly is automated nowadays. But the student from Village area is feared about to search OPAC. They can not fully understand how to search books from the computer. But Librarians take incitative to make them understand how they get books to form the Library.Arts Students (like Bengali, Philosophy, Political Science, History etc) is mainly less interested in searching OPAC. Resource Sharing activity found nil in this college libraries. There are no Resource Sharing Policies among the Govt. Aided Colleges affiliated to Vidyasagar University. Only Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya has an option of InterLibrary Loan with Purba Medinipur District Library. Less Demand is the main factor in this situation. Infrastructure like Computers for OPAC

searching and Internet Searching need to increase all Colleges. Now the Library also face the problem of Space Scarcity. Separate Library building with adequate Sitting capacity needs to build in every college. Although all Library organizes Library Orientation Programme Librarians take more initiatives to conduct more Orientation Programme per year. No Library is Open Access due to Staff Scarcity, but a Good Library must be Open Access. Thus College Libraries can increase the use of its own Materials.

## CONCLUSIONS

Libraries these days are involved in a wide range of media, and the librarian is required to be aware of the emerging media. In fact, the library of the recent past was not like the library of today, and obviously, the library of the future will be quite different from what it is today. In the information society, Information has been considered as one of the key factors of production. Academic libraries are in transition due to changes in socio-economic, cultural and technological fields. Recent trends have greatly reshaped the library service background. As a dynamic institution, an academic library must continue to evolve with reference to the changing scenario. So the resource sharing became mandatory for giving a better and useful service to the user community. It is needed to identify and solve the obstacles and implemented the plans in a better way.

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