

Status Of Automation In College Libraries Of Barpeta District: A Study

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Abstract:

As the society is becoming more complex and dependent on science and technology, the need for timely organization, communication and dissemination of information is increasing. Information is the key element that marks the difference between the highly developed and the developing societies in the world. Application of information technology is essential for information management. Application of IT in college library implies automating their services and to extend to their areas of services. Modernization in that content entails the process by which a library is functionally suitable for use in new or extended domain. This is the way in which a library is made to cope up with new situations. In this context this paper trying to find out the present status of automation in the light of the problem and prospect of the college library in Barpeta District, Assam.

Key words: College Library, Information Technology, Automation

1.Introduction:

Library automation is general term which usually used to refer to the application of computers and Information Communication Technology (ICT) to replace the manual system to perform the traditional activities such as acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, serial control, and administration in the library. Many activities of a library are routine in nature, a few are repetitive. Automation of these activities helps in managing the library's resources in a better way at the same time saving time, and manpower. An automated library is a library where the collection of reading materials are primarily on papers (printed) but in which the library procedures have been computerization. Computerization of the library procedures increases the efficiency of different housekeeping operation.

Table - 1 Basic fact of survey college

Sl.no	College Name	Year Of Estt.	Place	Govt.	Private	provinci-al	Non-Provincial
01	M.C. COLLEGE	1939	Barpeta	✓			
02	BAJALI COLLEGE	1955	Pathsala	✓			
03	B.H. COLLEGE	1966	Howly	✓			
04	BAPUJI COLLEGE	1970	Pathasala	✓			
05	BAOSI BANI KANTTA COLLEGE	1971	Nagaon	✓			
06	BHAWANIPUR HASTINAPUR BIJINI COLLEGE	1971	Sarupeta	✓			
07	MADHA KAMRUP COLLEGE	1971	Chenga	✓			
08	NABAJYOTI COLLEGE	1971	Kalgachia	✓	✓		
09	BARPETA LAW COLLEGE	1972	Barpeta	✓			
10	NIRMAL HALOI COLLEGE	1978	Paatachar kuchi	✓			
11	BARPETA GIRLS COLLEGE	1979	Barpeta	✓			
12	JANAPRIYA COLLEGE	1979	Baniara - para				
13	NORTH KAMRUP COLLEGE	1979	Bhagmara bazaar	✓			
14	BARNAGAR COLLEGE	1980	Sorbhog				✓
15	BAHAWANIPUR ANCHALIK COLLEGE	1981	Bhawani-Pur				✓
16	MANDIA ANCHALIK COLLEGE	1982	Mandia				✓
17	BARPETA B.T. COLLEGE	1985	Shanti -nagar		✓		
18	G.L. C. COLLEGE	1990	Barpeta road		✓		
19	HARENDRA COLLEGE CHITRA	1992	Naligaon	✓			
20	NAVASAKTI COLLEGE	1992	Masgaon				✓
21	BARNAGAR B.ed COLLEGE	1997	Sorbhog				
22	MILAN JOYTI COLLEGE	1997	Iterbita			✓	
23	UTTAR BARPETA COLLEGE	1997	Sonkuchi				✓
24	SRIMANTA SHANKAR MAHADHAV	1998	Bhatkuchi	✓			
Total	14	3		1	5		

Percentage	58.34	12.5%	4.17%	25%
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OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the existing scenario of automation of college libraries of Barpeta district.
2. To find out the problems of automation in the college libraries of Barpeta district.
3. To find out how many college libraries of Barpeta district have undertaken automation.
4. To examine the IT infrastructural facilities available in college libraries of Barpeta District.
5. To study college libraries of Barpeta district in various aspects.

1.5 METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

A comprehension survey of the selected libraries has been undertaken with the help of a structured questionnaire designed for the librarian with an intension to assess the status, problems of automation of college libraries in Barpeta District. The opinions of the college librarians on various issues of automation have been collected through interviews. I have also made observation in different libraries by paying physical visit to them..

1.4 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

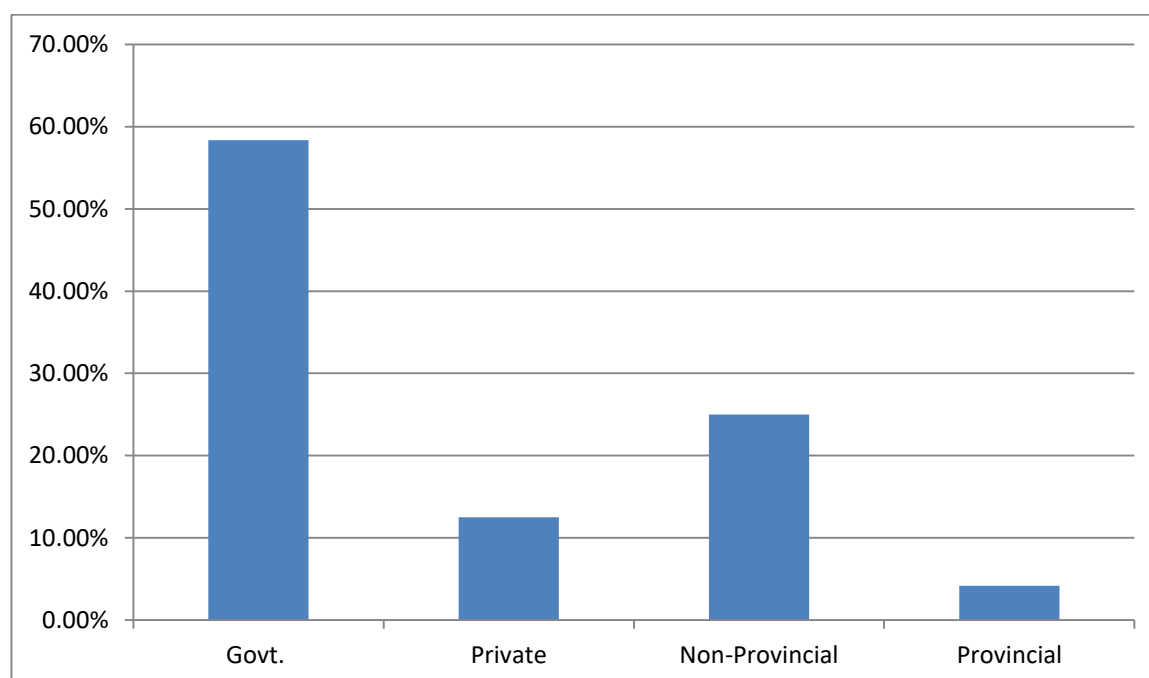
The Govt. of Assam through an act, 'The Assam College Employees (Provincialization) Act, 2005 provincialized the general degree colleges in Assam. Before provincialization, these colleges were run under deficit-grants –in – aid system. At present, there are around 208 colleges, 9 colleges are in Bodo Territorial Administered District (BTAD) areas and 3 colleges are pure Govt. colleges. These colleges are spread over 27 districts of Assam (4 districts in BTAD areas). At present there are 29 colleges of Barpeta district,(which are some provincialized, Government and Non – Provincialized) some of them are Govts, Provincialized and Non-Provincialized.

In my study all the colleges of Barpeta district is selected. Therefore the sample of the study is small which comprises of 218 colleges and bibliographies are written in API style.

4.2 COLLEGES OF BARPETA DISTRICT

At present Barpeta district have a total number of 24 colleges including Government, private, provincialized, non-provincialized. I have found all the colleges. Besides there are a good number of junior colleges. In Barpeta district there are two B.Ed colleges and only one Law College. Most ancient college is M.C college, established 1939. The colleges under study are shown in table 1. Which are arranged according to their year of establishment

In fig (1) Graphical representation showing govt. private and non-provincial college of Barpeta distri



4.4 LIBRARY COLLECTION

Collection of any type of library reflects the types of services offered by the library to its reader. A balance of collection selected on a judicious basis is a must to offer the appropriate service by the library. The college libraries of Barpeta district do not have a rich collection because the budgetary condition of the college is not at all satisfactory one for the

library professionals. The main source of income is fees collected from the student where little amount of money is used for fulfillment of demand of the users. UGC grant and state govt. for library is not in regular basis and the grant which we get from different sources authority expand it for other works of the colleges. So, it is not possible for the library to procure sufficient number of reference books and current journals for the users

The table – 3 Collection of different college of Barpeta district.

Sl.no	College Name	Books	Reference source	Current periodical	Periodical (bound)	Manuscripts
01	M.C. COLLEGE	50,592	15961	35	192	Nil
02	BAJALI COLLEGE	34,170	5,000	15	Nil	Nil
03	B.H. COLLEGE	39,896	1200	15	Nil	20
04	NABAJYOTI COLLEGE	20,333	26	13	Nil	Nil
05	BAOSI BANI KANTTA COLLEGE	15,000	3,000	7	Nil	Nil
06	MADHA KAMRUP COLLEGE	23,700	2500	14	Nil	4
07	BHAWANI PRU HASTINAPUR BIJNI COLLEGE	12150	50	6	6	Nil
08	BARPETA LAW COLLEGE	4288	925	4	Nil	Nil
09	NIRMAL HALOI COLLEGE	12,400	120	8	Nil	Nil
10	BARPETA GIRLS COLLEGE	12,000	12	8	Nil	Nil
11	BAHAWANIPUR ANCHALIK COLLEGE	18,000	2,500	80	Nil	Nil
12	MANDIA ANCHALIK COLLEGE	9743	118	22	Nil	Nil
13	NORTH KAMRUP COLLEGE	9000	2,000	7	Nil	Nil
14	JANAPRIYA COLLEGE	15465	10	2		Nil
15	NAVASAKTI COLLEGE	9910	12	3	Nil	Nil
16	MILAN JOYTI COLLEGE	12,150	15	4	Nil	Nil
17	BARPETA B.T. COLLEGE	8,000	20	3	Nil	Nil
18	BARNAGAR B.ed COLLEGE	6,800	7	2	Nil	Nil
19	BARNAGAR COLLEGE	20,082	150	12	10	Nil
20	SRIMANTA SHANKAR-MADHAV COLLEGE	10,180	13	2	Nil	Nil
21	UTTAR BARPETA COLLEGE	12,000	25	5	Nil	Nil
22	G.L. CHOUDHORY COLLEGE	95,050	300	5	Nil	Nil
23	HARENDRA COLLEGE CHITRA	11,122	18	2	Nil	Nil
24	BAPUJI COLLEGE	31650	292	25	Nil	Nil

Table – 3 The highest collection of among Survey College is M.C. College, 50,592 and the lowest collection of Survey College is Barpeta Law College, 4,288. The maximum reference source in M.C. College, 15,961 and the minimum reference source in Barnagar B.ed College, 7.

4.6 SOURCES OF FUND

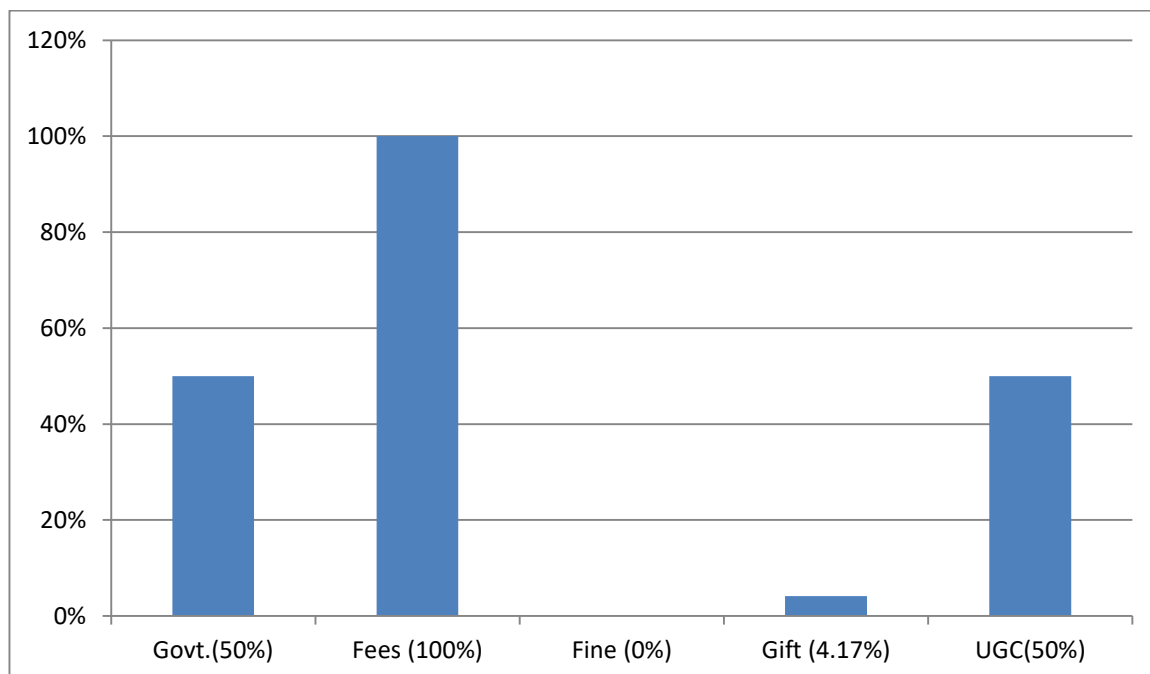
The word “finance” is used to express any statement of monetary accounts or comparison of income with expenditure. Finance is a life blood of any institutions or any firm. It is essential for effective functioning. In spite of variation in nature, type and locality of libraries. Libraries have following source of income like government grant, library fees, gift, fine and other sources. College library of Barpeta district is not able to provide automation services due to lack of funds from government, lack of sufficient support from college authority and lack of trained professionals, lack of skilled manpower, lack of ICT infrastructure in the library, library staff are not familiar with the latest ICT applications.

Table 5. Source of Fund

Sl.no	College Name	Govt. Grant	Fees	Fine	Gift	Other source
01	M.C. COLLEGE	✓	✓			✓
02	BAJALI COLLEGE	✓	✓			✓
03	B.H. COLLEGE	✓	✓			✓
04	NABAJYOTI COLLEGE	✓	✓			✓
05	BAOSI BANI KANTTA COLLEGE		✓			
06	MADHA KAMRUP COLLEGE		✓			
07	BHAWANI PRU HASTINAPUR BIJINI COLLEGE	✓	✓			✓
08	BARPETA LAW COLLEGE		✓			
09	NIRMAL HALOI COLLEGE	✓	✓			✓
10	BARPETA GIRLS COLLEGE	✓	✓			✓
11	BAHAWANIPUR ANCHALIK COLLEGE	✓	✓			✓
12	MANDIA ANCHALIK COLLEGE	✓	✓			✓
13	NORTH KAMRUP COLLEGE	✓	✓			✓
14	JANAPRIYA COLLEGE		✓			
15	NAVASAKTI COLLEGE		✓			
16	MILAN JOYTI COLLEGE		✓			
17	BARPETA B.T. COLLEGE		✓	✓		
18	BARNAGAR B.ed COLLEGE		✓			
19	BARNAGAR COLLEGE	✓	✓			✓
20	SRIMANTA SHANKAR-MADHAV COLLEGE		✓			
21	UTTAR BARPETA COLLEGE		✓			
22	G.L. CHOUDHORY COLLEGE		✓			
23	HARENDRA COLLEGE CHITRA		✓			
24	BAPUJI COLLEGE	✓	✓			✓
Total	12	24	1		12 (UGC)	

Table - 5

In table – 5 it is shown that most of colleges library of Barpeta acquire funds from Govt. grant. Though table – 5 has shown govt. grant and UGC grants but these are not regular basis here specially emphasis is given on student fees.



In fig (2) Grants provided in college libraries of Barepeta district in graphs.

In the graphs showing the economic source is collected from student fees(100%) , gift (4.17%), fine (0%), UGC (50%) and govt. grant (50%) in cited colleges.

4.8 USE OF SOFTWARE PACAKAGES

Software packages are brain of the hardware system, which runs the system as well as helps in particular assignment. In the field of library and information science, there are good number of library software packages like KOHA, SOUL, Libsys etc. among the library professionals.

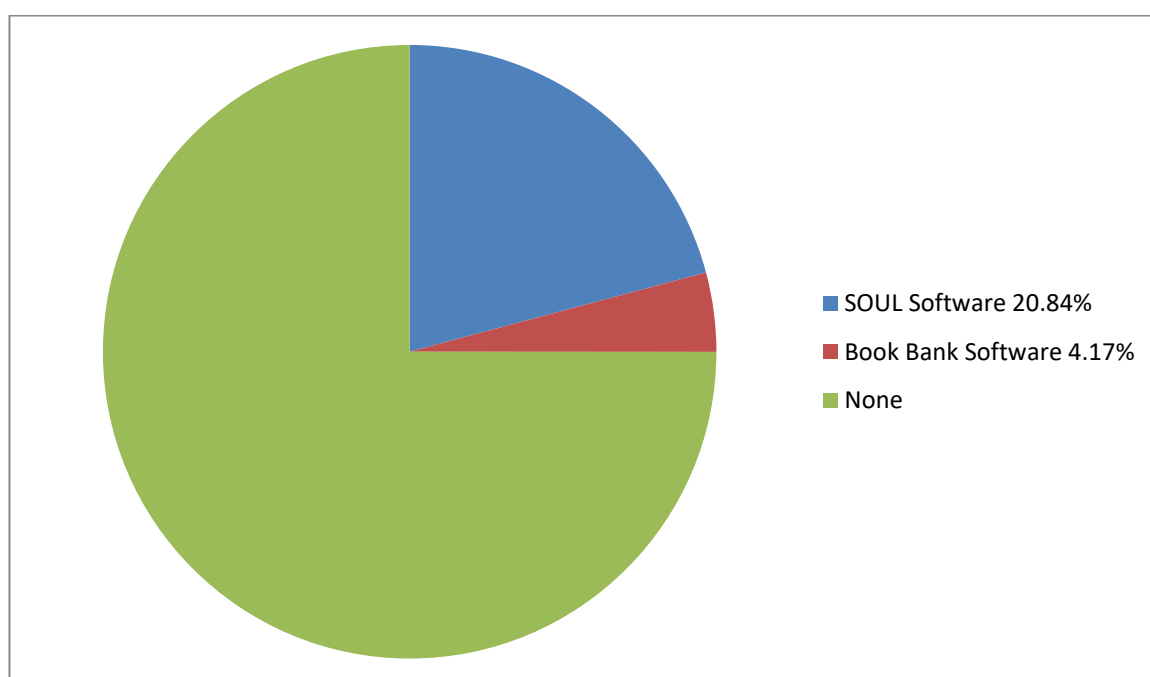


Fig.3 showing the use of library software in pie diagram.

Sl.no	College Name	SOUL	KOHA	Others	None
01	M.C. COLLEGE	✓			
02	BAJALI COLLEGE	✓			
03	B.H. COLLEGE				✓
04	NABAJYOTI COLLEGE				✓
05	BAOSI BANI KANTTA COLLEGE				✓
06	MADHA KAMRUP COLLEGE				✓
07	BHAWANI PRU HASTINAPUR BIJNI COLLEGE				✓
08	BARPETA LAW COLLEGE				✓
09	NIRMAL HALOI COLLEGE	✓			
10	BARPETA GIRLS COLLEGE			✓	
11	BAHAWANIPUR ANCHALIK COLLEGE	✓			
12	MANDIA ANCHALIK COLLEGE				✓
13	NORTH KAMRUP COLLEGE				✓
14	JANAPRIYA COLLEGE				✓
15	NAVASAKTI COLLEGE				✓
16	MILAN JOYTI COLLEGE				✓
17	BARPETA B.T. COLLEGE			✓	
18	BARNAGAR B.ed COLLEGE				✓
19	BARNAGAR COLLEGE				✓
20	SRIMANTA SHANKAR-MADHAV COLLEGE				✓
21	UTTAR BARPETA COLLEGE				✓
22	G.L. CHOUDHORY COLLEGE				✓
23	HARENDRA COLLEGE CHITRA				✓
24	BAPUJI COLLEGE	✓			
Total		5	0	1	18
		20.84%	0%	4.17%	75%

4.8 COMPUTER HARDWARE

Computers and other peripherals are much essential for automation of library procedures. Information technology is very fast changing and advancing. Availability of required number of computer and other IT infrastructure in the library make the automation process more momentous and meaningful. Table 10 below is given the detain of computers and other peripherals available in survey college libraries.

Table – 8 the information technology infrastructure of the surveyed college library of Barpeta district.

Sl.no	College Name	Computer	Printers	Scanner	Photocopy	Campus Net	LAN Facility	Internet	Operating System
01	M.C. COLLEGE	10	2	2	1	Yes	No	Yes	XP
02	BAJALI COLLEGE	2	2	0	1	1	No	Yes	W7
03	B.H. COLLEGE	1	1	1	1	No	No	Yes	XP
04	NABAJYOTI COLLEGE	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	Ws7
05	BAOSI BANI KANTTA COLLEGE	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
06	MADHA KAMRUP COLLEGE	1	1	-	1	-	-	No	-
07	BHAWANI PRU HASTINAPUR BIJNI COLLEGE	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	Ws03
08	BARPETA LAW COLLEGE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
09	NIRMAL HALOI COLLEGE	1	1	-	-	No	-	Yes	Ws7
10	BARPETA GIRLS COLLEGE	4	1	-	1	-	-	Yes	Ws7
11	BAHAWANIPUR ANCHALIK COLLEGE	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	Ws7
12	MANDIA ANCHALIK COLLEGE	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	XP
13	NORTH KAMRUP COLLEGE	1	1	-	1	-	-	Yes	Ws7

14	JANAPRIYA COLLEGE	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	Ws7
15	NAVASAKTI COLLEGE	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ws03
16	MILAN JOYTI COLLEGE	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ws03
17	BARPETA B.T. COLLEGE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	BARNAGAR B.ed COLLEGE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	BARNAGAR COLLEGE	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	Wso3
20	SRIMANTA SHANKAR-MADHAV COLLEGE	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	Ws03
21	UTTAR BARPETA COLLEGE	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	Ws7
22	G.L. CHOUDHORY COLLEGE	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	XP
23	HARENDRA COLLEGE CHITRA	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	Ws7
24	BAPUJI COLLEGE	1	3	-	1	No	Yes	Yes	XP
Total		33	18		19	1	1		

Table - 8**4.10 LIBRARY CONSTRAINTS**

There is concern about the viability of all types of college libraries, but it is not serious worries void about the future of college libraries. For better development of college libraries, it is very important to become the catalysts that strengthen and write their communities. It is clear that rural college libraries have some challenging differences more from metropolitan areas. In table 10 it is shown that the libraries of Barpeta district are facing problems regarding automated library services due to various reasons like lack of finance, non-availability of computer, authority indifferences and trained personnel.

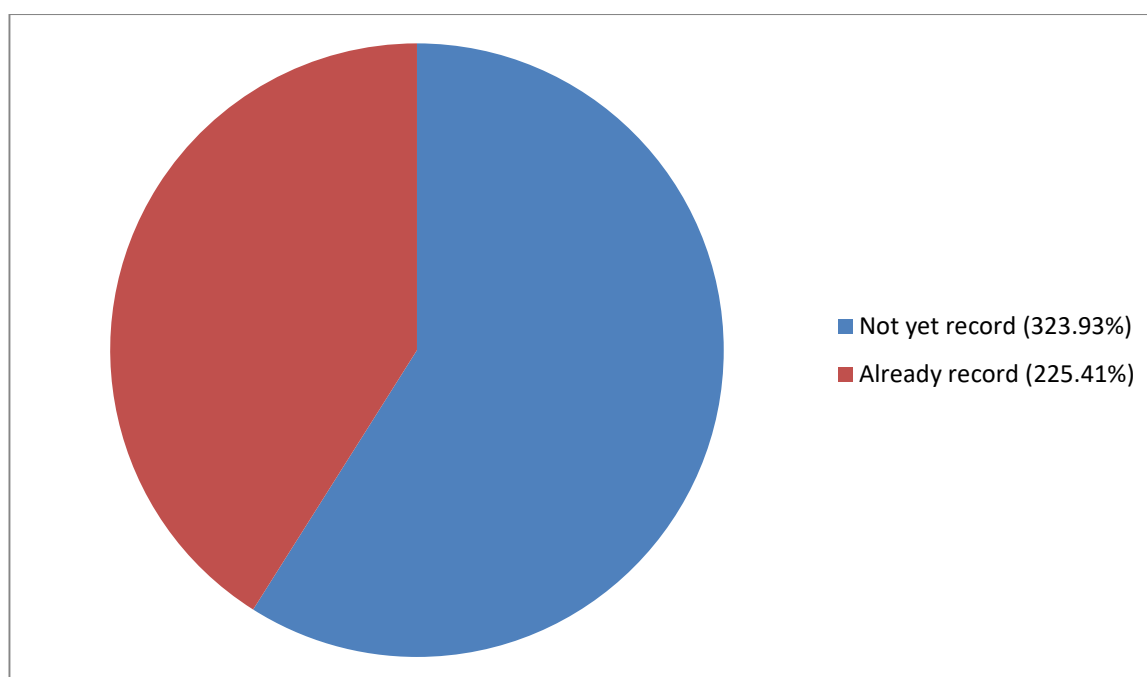
Table – 10 Various constraint of library automation.

Sl.no	College Name	Finance	Trained personnel	Authority Indifference	Non-availability of computer
01	M.C. COLLEGE				
02	BAJALI COLLEGE			-----	
03	B.H. COLLEGE			✓	
04	NABAJYOTI COLLEGE		✓		
05	BAOSI BANI KANTTA COLLEGE	✓			✓
06	MADHA KAMRUP COLLEGE	✓	✓		
07	BHAWANI PRU HASTINAPUR BIJNI COLLEGE	✓	✓	✓	
08	BARPETA LAW COLLEGE	✓			✓
09	NIRMAL HALOI COLLEGE	✓			
10	BARPETA GIRLS COLLEGE		✓		✓
11	BAHAWANIPUR ANCHALIK COLLEGE				
12	MANDIA ANCHALIK COLLEGE	✓	✓	✓	
13	NORTH KAMRUP COLLEGE				
14	JANAPRIYA COLLEGE	✓			
15	NAVASAKTI COLLEGE	✓			
16	MILAN JOYTI COLLEGE	✓			
17	BARPETA B.T. COLLEGE	✓			✓
18	BARNAGAR B.ed COLLEGE	✓			✓
19	BARNAGAR COLLEGE	✓	✓		
20	SRIMANTA SHANKAR-MADHAV COLLEGE	✓			
21	UTTAR BARPETA COLLEGE	✓			
22	G.L. CHOUDHORY	✓			

	COLLEGE				
23	HARENDRA COLLEGE CHITRA				
24	BAPUJI COLLEGE			✓	
Total		15	6	4	5

Table - 10**4.11 Status of automation**

The status of Automation of college libraries of Barpeta district is showing in the table 12. Under my survey colleges, there are five college libraries introduce automation partly. The table reveals that M.C college library have 30,000 (59.30%) number of records in database out of total 50,592 collections. M.C college have highest database out of five automation college libraries. Bhawanipur Anchalik college have minimum number of database 2050 (11.39%) out of total 18,000 collections. In table – 12 is showing that only five college libraries introduce and rest of college libraries have not yet introduce library automation. Under my study Bhawanipur Anchalik college, is the initial stage of library Automation, and others 18 colleges has not yet started library automation.

**Fig (4) percentage of library holdings converted into machine readable form.**

The total number of records in database (225.41%) is completed in cited college libraries collection and (323.93%) is not completed records in datab

Table – 11 Status of automation in college libraries of Barpeta district under study

Sl.no	College Name	Year beginning of automation	No. of records in database	Total collection	% of records in the database	Status of Automation			
						partly initial	fully yet to begin		
01	M.C. COLLEGE	2002	30,000	50,592	59.30%	✓			
02	BAJALI COLLEGE	2005	10,000	34,170	29.27%	✓			
03	B.H. COLLEGE								
04	NABAJYOTI COLLEGE			20,333					✓
05	BAOSI BANI KANTTA COLLEGE			15,000					✓
06	MADHA KAMRUP COLLEGE			23,700					✓
07	BHAWANI PRU HASTINAPUR BIJNI COLLEGE			12,150					✓

08	BARPETA LAW COLLEGE			4,288					✓
09	NIRMAL HALOI COLLEGE	2009	5,543	12,400	44.71%	✓			
10	BARPETA GIRLS COLLEGE	2010	4,000	12,000	33.34%	✓			
11	BAHAWANIPUR ANCHALIK COLLEGE	2013	2050	18,000	11.39%			✓	
12	MANDIA ANCHALIK COLLEGE			9,743					✓
13	NORTH KAMRUP COLLEGE			9,000					✓
14	JANAPRIYA COLLEGE			15,465					✓
15	NAVASAKTI COLLEGE			9,910					✓
16	MILAN JOYTI COLLEGE			12,150					✓
17	BARPETA B.T. COLLEGE			8,000					✓
18	BARNAGAR B.ed COLLEGE			6,800					✓
19	BARNAGAR COLLEGE			20,082					✓
20	SRIMANTA SHANKAR-MADHAV COLLEGE			10,180					✓
21	UTTAR BARPETA COLLEGE			12,000					✓
22	G.L. CHOUDHORY COLLEGE			15,050					✓
23	HARENDRA COLLEGE CHITRA			11,122					✓
24	BAPUJI COLLEGE	2004	15,000	31,650	47.40%	✓			
Total			66593	4,13681	225.41	5	0	1	18

Table - 11**5.3 CONCLUSION**

New developments in ICTs have brought great opportunities for libraries of present day. The use of ICT enables them to fulfill their mission of providing the user community with relevant, timely and up-to-date information. Academic libraries should take advantage of these developments and adequately train their staff so that they can cope with new technologies. The college libraries unavailability of sufficient ICT infrastructure is due to lack of initiatives from the library authority. College libraries failure to complete the retrospective conversion of the library holdings in to machine readable form tremendously affects the automation programme and also in introducing ICT enabled services in the libraries. Insufficient strength of staff with lack of professional and ICT skills, together with lack of management experience, training, and commitment all these factors are found to be responsible for un-satisfactory progress of automation works in most of the college in Assam. The college libraries of Assam are suffering from the problems like lack of policy objectives, effective planning and management strategies. These problems are to be resolved. The college administration should address these problems more seriously so that college library can play leading role in the teaching, learning and research activities in this digital era.

In spite of these problems, the automation activities of college libraries of Assam are slowly gaining momentum throughout the state. It is very encouraging that college libraries of Assam are getting library management software SOUL free of cost from UGC through INFLIBNET centre, Ahmedabad under Prime Ministers special scheme for the North – East. This encourages many college libraries of Barpeta district to initiate the process of automation and as a result automation activities of college libraries in Assam have further speed up to a certain extent. Though automation activities are undertaken at the same time the college librarians of Assam should prepare themselves to meet the challenges of the digital revolution. They should learn the skill and expertise in ICT applications in the libraries. The library staff should also be trained properly so as to become familiar with the ICT applications. The study concludes that the college libraries of Barpeta should develop ICT infrastructure extensively so as to make the use of the library resources optimally, both conventional and digital resources.

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