A STUDY OF SERVICES OF AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN AURANGABAD DISTRICT OF MAHARAHSTRA

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Abstract: - *Agriculture college libraries are dynamic hubs of knowledge and resources, catering to the diverse needs of students, faculty, and researchers engaged in agricultural education, research, and innovation. This abstract highlights the need of library services that contribute to the academic success and research excellence within agriculture colleges.This paper provide an overview of the library services offered in Agricultural Libraries in Aurangabad District.*
The services provides by Agricultural College Libraries encompass a wide range of offering, including traditional services like collection development, cataloguing, circulation as well as modern digital services such as online databases, e-journals and digitization initiatives.

Keywords: Agriculture College, Library Services, Hardware and Tools, Library Automation etc.

Introduction:

Library services in an agriculture college play a vital role in supporting the academic and research needs of students, faculty, and researchers. Before studying agriculture college library services, it is important to know about agriculture sector because if there is no knowledge as the basic foundation of research, there is no point in doing research. The agriculture sector, often referred to as the backbone of many economies, is a fundamental component of human civilization, providing food, raw materials, and livelihoods for billions of people worldwide. This sector encompasses a wide range of activities related to the cultivation of crops, raising livestock, and the production of various agricultural products. The agriculture sector plays a pivotal role in global food security, economic development, and environmental sustainability.[1]

Key Aspects of the Agriculture Sector:[2]

Food Production: The primary function of the agriculture sector is the production of food. It involves the cultivation of crops such as grains, fruits, vegetables, and oilseeds, as well as the raising of livestock for meat, dairy, and other animal products. Food production is vital for nourishing the world's population.

Raw Materials: Agriculture provides raw materials for various industries. For example, crops like cotton, sugarcane, and jute are used in

the textile industry, while timber is sourced from forests. The sector also contributes to biofuel production through crops like corn and sugarcane.

Livelihoods: Agriculture is a significant source of employment worldwide, especially in developing countries. It provides livelihoods for millions of farmers, farm labourers, and workers in related industries, including transportation, food processing, and agribusiness.

Economic Contribution: The agriculture sector is a significant contributor to a nation's economy. It not only provides employment but also contributes to the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) through the sale of agricultural products, exports, and agribusiness activities.

Technological Advancements: Modern agriculture has seen significant advancements in technology, including the use of machinery, biotechnology, precision farming, and data analytics. These innovations aim to increase agricultural productivity, improve crop yields, and reduce environmental impacts.

Environmental Impact: Agriculture has both positive and negative environmental effects. While it can lead to deforestation, habitat destruction, and water pollution, sustainable agricultural practices can promote biodiversity conservation, soil health, and carbon sequestration.

Global Trade: Many agricultural products are traded internationally. Countries with surplus agricultural production often export their products to meet the demand in other regions. This international trade is essential for food security and economic development.

Challenges:[3]

The agriculture sector faces numerous challenges, including climate change, pests and diseases, water scarcity, land degradation, and the need for sustainable practices. These challenges necessitate research and innovation to ensure the sector's resilience and long-term viability.

Food Security: Ensuring food security for a growing global population is a top priority of the agriculture sector. It involves improving food production, distribution, and access to nutritious food for all.

Policy and Regulation: Governments play a crucial role in regulating the agriculture sector through policies related to land use, trade, subsidies, and environmental conservation. These policies can significantly impact the sector's development and sustainability.

An agriculture college, also known as an agricultural college or agricultural university, is an educational institution that specializes in providing education and research opportunities related to agriculture and related fields. These colleges and universities offer a wide range of

programs and degrees in areas such as Agronomy, Animal Science, Crop Science, Horticulture, Agricultural Engineering, Food Science, Agricultural Economics, and more.[4]

Some key aspects of Agriculture Colleges[5]:

Academic Programs: Agriculture Colleges offer undergraduate and post graduate degree programs in various agricultural disciplines. These programs typically include Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.), Master of Science (M.Sc.), and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees.

Research: Agriculture colleges often have research facilities and faculty members engaged in cutting-edge research in agriculture and related fields. This research is crucial for advancing agricultural practices, improving crop yields, and addressing agricultural challenges such as pest control and sustainability.

Extension Services: Many agriculture colleges have extension services that connect academic research with practical applications in the field. These services provide farmers, agricultural businesses, and communities with valuable information and resources to enhance agricultural practices and economic development.

Farm Facilities: Agriculture colleges may have working farms and laboratories where students can gain hands-on experience in various aspects of agriculture, including animal husbandry, crop cultivation, and food processing.

Specializations: Students at Agriculture Colleges can often choose from a variety of specializations within the field of agriculture, depending on their interests and career goals. For example, they might focus on organic farming, agribusiness management, agricultural education, or precision agriculture.

Career Opportunities: Graduates of agriculture colleges can pursue careers in farming, agribusiness, agricultural research, government agencies, food production and processing, education, and more. Agriculture is a diverse field with a wide range of job opportunities.

Global Importance: Agriculture is a vital industry that plays a crucial role in providing food and resources for the world's population. Agriculture colleges contribute to the development of sustainable and efficient agricultural practices to meet the growing demand for food.

Research Objectives:

1. To examine the present status of library services in Agriculture College Libraries of Aurangabad District.
2. To examine the status of library resources in Agriculture College Libraries of Aurangabad District.

3. To find out the status of IT infrastructure facilities as well as Automation status in library operations and services in Agriculture College Libraries of Aurangabad District.

Research Hypotheses:

Every research is based on some hypothesis. The researcher has to clarify the hypotheses that will be the basis of the research even before conducting the research.

The following hypotheses are formulated for this research paper.

1. Agricultural College Libraries in Aurangabad District are equipped with modern facilities.
2. Some Agriculture College Libraries in Aurangabad District are not fully automated.
3. Services in some Agriculture College Libraries in Aurangabad District are not Satisfactory.

Research Scope and Limitation:

The present research paper research is related to the topic "A Study of Services of Agricultural College Libraries in Aurangabad District" in which the study of Agricultural College Libraries in Aurangabad District, the current condition of the library, the location and nature of information technology, and what services are provided. etc. For that, a study of 7 Agricultural College Libraries in Aurangabad District has been conducted.

List of Agricultural Colleges in Aurangabad District:

1. **Agriculture School (2019)**

    Address: Sub Divn Agri Office, Darga Road, Shahnoorwadi Road, Jyoti Nagar, Jyoti Nagar, Aurangabad, Maharashtra 431005

2. **CSMSS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE (1986)**

    Address: R7MQ+6FW, Kanchanwadi, Aurangabad, Maharashtra 431136

3. **Agriculture College (2006)**

    Address: V73W+5PR, Paithan Rd, Kanchanwadi, Aurangabad, Maharashtra 431005

4. **College of Agricultural Biotechnology (1982)**

    Address: Q7VG+4R8, Georai Tanda, Paithan Rd, Aurangabad, Maharashtra 431002

5. **MGM Nanasaheb Kadam College of Agriculture (2012)**

    Address: R94X+7RX, Shiwanai - Chincholi Rd, Gandheli, Maharashtra 431007

6. **College of Agriculture (2008)**

    Address: Paithan Rd, Georai Tanda, Gangapur Nehari, Maharashtra 431136

7. Dadasaheb Patil College of Agriculture Dahegaon (2002)

Address: WVFW+W77, Golwadi, Maharashtra 423703

Research Methods:

Descriptive and Analyatical Research methods will be used in this research method. Data collection for this research paper will mainly be done through Survey method. Questionnaire technique will be used for that. Data collection will be done through interviews, published and unpublished materials, observations, etc. Also important presentation will be done through graphs, charts etc.

Year of College Establishment:

Table 1: Establishment Year.

Sr. No.	Year	No. of College
1	1981-1990	2
2	1991-2000	0
3	2001-2010	3
4	2011-2020	2

First Agriculture College was established in Indira Gandhi period was College of Agricultural Biotechnology Georai Tanda, Paithan Rd, Aurangabad, Maharashtra in 1982, all the Agriculture College Libraries were established at the time of college establishment year' Table 1 explains the duration of Agriculture Colleges established in Maharashtra.

Courses Offered:

Table No. 2 Status of Courses Offered

Sr. No.	Course	No. of Colleges
1	UG	7
2	PG	5
3	M.Phil/Ph.D. (Research Work)	2

Table 2 indicates that 100% colleges offered the UG level course. Five colleges offered PG courses and Two Agriculture colleges offered research programmes.

Library Automation:

Table 3: Used of Library Automation Software

Sr. No.	Software	Number	Percentage (%)
1	SOUL 2.0	4	57.15
2	E-Granthalaya	2	28.57
3	LibMan	1	14.28
	Total	**7**	**100%**

Table no. 3 It shows that SOUL 2.0 is used in 4(57.15%) libraries option is and it is the highest. E-Granthalaya is followed by 2(28.57%) libraries each. Then LibMan is the 1(14.28%) respondents. This is seen from the above statistics.

Library Services:

Table No. 4 Types of Services offered by Libraries

Sr. No.	Hardware and Tools	Numbers
1	OPAC	7
2	Free Internet	7
3	CAS	7
4	Library Website/Link to College Website	7
5	Xerox Service	7
6	Remote Access	7
7	FDI	7
8	Periodical/indexing services	7
9	LAN	6
10	Free Downloading and Printing	6
11	Online reference service	6
12	Free Wi-Fi	6
13	Abstract Service	5
14	WhatsApp facility for library information dissemination	5
15	Inter-Library Loan Service	4
16	Web OPAC	4
17	Intercom Service	2
18	Cloud Basic	1

Table no. 4 shows that OPAC, Free Internet, CAS and Library Websites/Link to College Websites, Xerox Service, Remote Access, F.D.I., Periodical/ The number of indexing services provided is 7 each and is the highest. After that LAN, Free Downloading and Printing, Online Reference Service, Free Wi-FI services are provided in 6 libraries each. After that Abstract Service, Whats App Facility for library Information Dissemination is provided from 5 libraries each. Then Inter Library Loan Services and Web OPAC are provided by 4 libraries each. Intercom Services is then provided by 2 libraries each. After that the Cloud Basic service is provided by one library.

Hardware and Tools:

Table no. 5 Information about Library Hardware and Tools

Sr. No.	Hardware and Tools	Number
1	Digital camera	15
2	CCTV	14
3	Total Computer	12
4	printer	7
5	Scanner	7
6	Server	6
7	R.F.I.D.	6
8	Water filter number	6
9	L. C. D. projector	5
10	Modem	5
11	Barcode machine/scanner	5
12	computer terminal	4

13	UPS	4
14	CD Tower	4
15	Xerox machine	3
16	Television	3
17	Inverter	3
18	A.C.	3
19	Laptop	2
20	Video Conferencing System	2
21	Webcam	2
22	Fax	2
23	Radio	1
24	Microfilm reader	1
25	Intercom phone	1

Table no. 5 shows that the number of digital cameras is 15. Followed by CCTV-14, Total Computer-12, Printer-7, Scanner-7, Server-6, R.F.I.D.-6, Water Filter-6, L. C. D. Projector-5, Modem-5, Barcode Machine/Scanner-5, Computer Terminal- 4, UPS-4, CD Tower-4, Xerox Machine-3, Television-3, Inverter-3, A.C.-3, Laptop-2, Video Conferencing System-2, Webcam-2, Fax-2, radio-1, Microfilm reader-1, Intercom phone-1. This is seen from the analysis of the above table.

Conclusion:

Agriculture college libraries play an indispensable role in supporting the academic and research endeavors of their institutions. By offering a wide array of information resources, expert guidance, and specialized services, these libraries empower students, faculty, and researchers to excel in the field of agriculture,

fostering innovation and sustainable practices in agriculture and related disciplines.

Also these libraries serves as dynamic hubs for information access, research support and community engagement. Library Services in Agricultural College Libraries are integral to the holistic development of agricultural education, research and practice. These services play an important role in sustainable agricultural and rural development.

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