

## Stu An Introduction to the Literacy Programme in Rural College Library: A Case Study of AJVP Mandal’s Gandhi College Library Kada

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**Abstract:** - *Information literacy means to know when and why you need information, where to find it, and how to evaluate, use and communicate it in an efficient manner. An information literate person is one who is able to recognize when information is need and have the ability to locate, evaluate and use effectively the needed information. This paper briefly describes the Information Literacy Programme at the Gandhi College Library, Kada. The positives outcomes of the programme are shown.*

**Keywords:** Information, Literacy, Higher Education, OPAC.

### Information Literacy and Higher Education

Individuals have the intellectual abilities of reasoning and critical thinking and by helping them, within a framework of learning; colleges and universities provide them with a foundation for growth. This foundation is valuable throughout their careers as well as in their roles as informed citizens and members of communities. Information literacy is a key component of and contribution to lifelong learning. Information literacy means to know when and why you need information, where to find it, and how to evaluate, use and communicate it in an efficient manner. An information literate person is one who is able to recognize when information is need and have the ability to locate, evaluate and

use effectively the needed information. Literacy competency extends learning beyond the classroom and provides practical insights. The information literacy augments the student’s ability to evaluate, map and use information. Information literacy addresses related concepts like user education, Library introduction, Bibliographic Instruction, etc. But ‘Information literacy’ has broader perspective and wider application than these concepts.

### Gandhi College

Amolok Jain Vidya Prasarak Mandal’s Established its Arts Commerce and Science College in Kada in 1996. It happens to be the first education trust as well as second rural college in Asthi Tehsil, Beed. This area was extremely

backward in regard to education and cultural development. The Trust was Established with a motto “Padhanam Dnyanam Tayo Daya” meaning transform by education. It aims at social and cultural cultivation of rural students / users. The trust started working and is still working with the same purpose.

Even today Beed District is educationally backward. The UGC, while declaring the eleventh plan, announced Beed as educationally backward and implemented a policy to offer it additional grant. Beed District is at an extremely low level on list of HRD ministry, and at present Beed District is backward as regards the index of education, social, economic and human development compared to other developed districts.

### **The Amolok Library**

The library has been working, keeping in view the purpose of the college and focusing on development of the rural student. At the time of the establishment of the college the library opened with a collection of 486 books. However at present the library collection consists of over 10536 books with some absolutely rare and precious reference books in library.

The library provides information alert services to update users regarding:

1. List of Additions
2. News items
3. List of useful articles and documents
4. Faculty publications
5. E-content services

Some activities of the library have been computerized. These include:

1. Book issuing to staff and students (Books are bar-coded for this purpose)
2. Internet access
3. Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)
4. Stock verification

### **Helping users to Search for books**

Students have to search the OPAC, which allows searching by author, title or subject. But if a student does not know about author, title, subject and any other bibliographic description of a book and wants to locate books by using OPAC then he has to go through free text search. Using any type any related alphabets he will get information on all books with title, subject and author and publisher available in library.

In order to help users to find the books they require, the library planned an Information Literacy programme. As a first step, students were given a background about books, subjects and computers. Next, students were instructed in the use of the OPAC. They were shown how to search for books according to author, title or subject, or by free text search.

### **Outcomes of Literacy programme**

The following are the outcomes of educating the computer illiterate rural students on information literacy.

1. The user started getting books search in information themselves
2. The user Frequency of visiting the library increased as they find it easy to locate the exact books they needed

3. They gained confidence in working with computers
4. They realized how to get exact information
5. They save their time
6. The use of books proliferated

### **Conclusion**

Even though the students / users may be from the rural background and illiterate on computer and ICT, they were groomed well in use and handling of information, thus their futures are brightened.

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