

Library and Information Science Education in Uttar Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

The paper highlights importance of Library and Information Science (LIS) education in UP and describes purpose, objectives, and scope of the study. It assess status of LIS education with the help of various indicators, i.e., growth of universities/LIS schools, status of universities, level of courses, mode of education and location of library schools of the state. The paper also finds out variations/discrepancies and suggests several measures for scientific growth and development of LIS education in the state.

Keywords: LIS, DLIS, UPRTOU, BHU, AMU, Uttar Pradesh

1. INTRODUCTION

Uttar Pradesh (UP) is one of the most important state of India, occupying 2,40,928 sq km¹, which is 7.32 per cent of total area of the country. It is homeland for 1,66,197,921 people¹, which represents 16.15 per cent of total population of India. The state has 57.36 per cent literacy rate², and has made significant progress in the field of agriculture, science and technology, industry, and communication. Today, there are 354 universities and university-level institutions³ in India. Significantly, the country has also recorded tremendous growth in LIS education, which is being imparted from certificate to doctorate level by a number of institutions.

At present, 167 universities⁴ and their affiliated colleges/institutions are conducting courses in library science in the country. Eighty-seven universities/colleges at Bachelor's

level and 89 at Master's level are conducting LIS education, respectively. While PhD (full time) is offered by 49 universities, PhD (part time) is also offered by three universities. Eight universities and 12 colleges offer certificate programmes and six universities and six colleges offer diploma programme under regular mode of education. LIS education is also being offered by the universities under distance mode of education. Five universities offer certificate and diploma courses. Out of 34 universities⁵ that UP has 14 are offering LIS education.

2. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the study was to assess LIS education in UP, to find discrepancies, and suggest measures for scientific growth and development of LIS education in the state. Objectives of the study were:

- ✂ To trace and analyse growth of universities and LIS schools in the state
- ✂ To assess present status of LIS education with the help of various parameters
- ✂ To find out key factors responsible for unscientific growth of LIS education in the state
- ✂ To suggest measures for scientific growth and development of LIS education in the state.

3. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present study is based on several indicators, i.e., growth of universities and LIS schools, status of universities, level of courses, mode of education, and location of LIS centers in the state. The study was confined to LIS education being imparted in the universities and its affiliated colleges. It excludes LIS education at certificate level in the universities. The study also excludes LIS education at diploma level conducted by Board of Technical Education in the polytechnics because no exact data at certificate/diploma level is available. Additionally, study excludes Bhartiya Shiksha Parishad, which offers BLIS, MLIS and PhD in library science, as recognition of its degrees are under court jurisdiction.

4. LIS EDUCATION IN UTTAR PRADESH

UP has 34 universities but LIS education is being imparted in 14 universities only, which represents 41.17 per cent of the total universities of the state. The details of these universities have been given in Table 1.

4.1 Growth of Universities/LIS Schools of UP

Growth of 14 universities, which impart LIS education in the state over the years, has been given in Table 2. It highlights several aspects like level of courses, mode of education, and location of library schools and status of universities. It indicates that 14 universities were established during 1916-2005. The duration of 1915-1925 was the golden period because universities like Banaras Hindu University

(BHU), Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Lucknow University (LU), and Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth (MGKVP) were established. Normally, one or two universities were set up during the decade 1915-1925, but in the third and fourth decades (1936-1955) not a single university was set up. However, after independence, a large number of universities were established in various parts of the UP.

Table 2 further highlights that LIS education is being imparted in the state since last 63 years (1942-2005). The first Department of Library and Information Science (DLIS) was established in 1942, but no DLIS was opened during 1946-1955. However, one or two DLIS were set up in each decade except during 1996-2005 in which seven DLIS were set up at various part of the state due to demographical, political, educational, technological and social reasons. This period may be called golden period for LIS education in UP.

4.2 Status of the Universities

Status of the universities plays an important role in the growth and development of LIS education, e.g., central universities have better resources in comparison to state/deemed universities. During the period of 89 years (1916-2005) different types, i.e., central, states, deemed universities were established in the UP.

Ten universities in UP, i.e., Bundelkhand University (BU), Chaudhary Charan Singh University (CCSU), Chatrapati Shahuji Maharaj University (CSJMU), Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar University (BRAU), MGKVP, LU, Uttar Pradesh Rajshree Tandon University (UPRTOU), Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishvidyalaya (SSV), Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University (DDUGU), Veer Bahadur Singh Poorvanchal University (VBSPU) are state universities. However, one among them (UPRTOU) is an open university. It has been observed that DLIS of central universities are in a better position in terms of infrastructure facilities in comparison of state/deemed universities. UP is lucky to have three central universities, i.e., AMU, BHU and Babasahib Bhim Rao Ambedkar University (BBAU). The state also has one deemed university, Allahabad Agriculture Institute (AAI) at Allahabad.

Table 1. LIS education in UP

Sources: Directory of LIS School; Handbook of LIS 2004; Universities Handbook of India 2004.
Legends: CU: Central University; SU: State University; DU: Deemed University; R: Regular; DE: Distance Education; SF: Self-financing.

Table 2. Growth of universities/LIS

Period	Universities		LIS schools	
	No. of universities	% of total No. of universities	No. of LIS schools	% of total LIS schools of UP
1915-1925	4	28.57	–	–
1926-1935	1	7.14	–	–
1936-1945	–	–	1	7.14
1946-1955	–	–	–	–
1956-1965	2	14.28	1	7.14
1966-1975	2	14.28	1	7.14
1976-1985	1	7.14	2	14.28
1986-1995	2	14.28	2	14.28
1996-2000	2	14.28	7	50.00

4.3 Level of Courses

Level of courses is one of the indicators to assess the LIS education in the schools. A number of courses of different levels have been included in the study. LIS education being imparted in the universities in UP is at four levels, i.e., Diploma, Bachelor, Master and research (MPhil/PhD). DLIS having various levels of courses have been shown in the Table 3.

Table 3 indicates that two universities, i.e., BRAU and VBSPU offer diploma courses. While central library of VBSPU conducts diploma course, BRAU is imparting diploma course in its affiliated degree colleges in cities like Aligarh, Etah, Mathura, Shikohabad, Kasganj, Ganjdundwara, etc. The duration of diploma course is one year after 10+2.

All universities except BBAU impart LIS education of Bachelor's level. Eleven universities offer Master's degree. Duration of the MLISc

is one year. BLISc is the minimum requirement for admission in MLISc. BBAU, has two-year MSc in Information Science with minimum qualification required is BA/BSc/BCom.

It is remarkable that six universities, i.e., AMU, BHU, BRAU, LU, BU, UPRTOU also have PhD programmes in LIS. The MPhil is being offered by UPRTOU and BU. The duration of the MPhil programme in BU is one year. The minimum qualification required for MPhil is Master's degree with 55 per cent marks. UPRTOU offers MPhil/PhD both full time and part time⁶. The full-time MPhil/PhD is provided to those who are offered a fellowship by the university or any other agency, and are registered with the university to pursue research degree programme on full time. The part-time MPhil/PhD is offered to the students who are employed. Duration of PhD is 2-3 years with MLISc or equivalent degree as minimum requirement for admission⁷.

Table 3. Level of courses in LIS schools of UP

Level of courses	No. of universities	% of total No. of universities	Name of universities
Diploma	2	14.28	BRAU, VBSPU
Bachelor's degree	3	92.85	AMU, AAI, BHU, BU, CCSU, CSJMU, BRAU, MGKVP, SSV, LU, UPRTOU, VBSPU, DDUGU
Master's degree	11	78.57	AMU, BBAU, BIU, KCSU, AAI, CSJMU, BRAU, LU, URRTOU, VBSPU
MPhil	2	14.28	BU, UPRTOU
PhD	6	42.28	AMU, BHU, BRAU, LU, BU, UPRTOU

4.4 Mode of Education

Mode of education is an important aspect. LIS education is being imparted either in regular or distance mode education or in both. Mode of education of various universities is shown in Table 4. It shows that 12 universities impart LIS education in regular mode of education. However, three universities (CCSU, CSJMU, VBSPU) impart it in regular mode of education but under self-financed system. LU offer regular as well as self-financed system. Isabella Thoburn College affiliated to LU is also imparting BLIS in regular mode since 1962. LIS education is also being imparted in distance mode by the universities and affiliated institutions affiliated to the universities⁸. Only two universities AAI, UPRTOU offer distance mode of education. The affiliated institutions, i.e., Centre of Distance Education, AMU; Institute of Management Science, CCSU, Sahibabad (Ghaziabad); Rajeev Academy of Technology and Management and BSAC both in Mathura offer BLISc and MLISc under self-financed scheme.

4.5 Location of Library Schools

Location of city/town plays a crucial role and highlights the importance of institution in geographical context. Locations of LIS schools in UP have been given in Table 5. From the university's point of view, Varanasi is at the top. It has three universities (BHU, MGKV, SSV) which offer LIS education. Varanasi has religious and historical demographical character. Lucknow also has three centre universities, i.e., LU, BRAU, ITC (LU). Lucknow is capital of UP and has thus political, demographical, social and cultural character. Allahabad has two universities (UPRTOU, AAI). Jhansi has one LIS school. The cities like Etah, Mathura, Shikohabad, Ganjdundwara, Kasganj also have DLIS affiliated to BRAU.

5. MISCELLANEOUS ASPECTS

In addition to above, there are several other aspects like medium of instruction, system of admission, adequacy of faculty

Table 4. Mode of LIS education in UP

Mode of education	No. of universities	% of total No. of universities	Universities/Colleges
Regular	9	64.28	AMU, BHU, BBAU, BRAU, LU, BU, MGKVP, SSV, DDUGU
Regular (self-financed)	3	21.42	CCSU, CSMJU, VBSPU
Institutions affiliated to universities (self-financed)	1	-	IT College (LU)
Distance education universities	2	14.28	AAI, UPRTOU
Institute affiliated to the universities	4	-	CDU (AMU), IMS (CCSU), BSAC, RATM (BRAU)

Table 5. Location of LIS schools of UP

City	No. of LIS schools	Name of universities/colleges LIS schools affiliated to
Aligarh	4	AMU, CDU (AMU), DSD, BRAU, SUDC (BRAU)
Allahabad	2	UPRTOU, AAI
Lucknow	3	LU, BBAU, ITC (LU)
Varanasi	3	BHU, MGKVP, SSV
Mathura	3	KRC, RATM, BSAC (BRAU)
Jhansi	1	BU
Agra	1	BRAU
Jaunpur	1	VBSPU
Gorakhpur	1	DDUGU
Sahibabad (Ghaziabad)	1	IMS (CCSU)
Kasganj	1	KAM (BRAU)
Shikohabad	1	NC (BRAU)
Etah	1	JNC (BRAU)
Ganjdundwara	1	GCG (BRAU)

members, infrastructural facilities, intake, etc.⁹ which affects LIS education. It has been observed that there are variations in the medium of education because of status of the universities. For example, three central universities (AMU, BHU, BBAU) offer LIS education in English medium while state universities offer in both English and Hindi mediums. Only SSV College offers LIS in Hindi medium.

Central universities have better resources in comparison to state/deemed universities. They have adequate faculty members, computer labs, library and furniture, and information technology oriented syllabus. It has been observed that the universities which offer LIS education under distance mode of education have not maintained quality of education. It has also been noticed that self-financed institutions have commercial motives so that they earn more and do not bother about the quality of professionals¹⁰.

6. CONCLUSION

Uttar Pradesh has unique position among 28 states and 7 union territories of the country. It is known for its demographical, geographical, political, religious, cultural, and historical characters. The state is developing at a fast pace and has recorded significant progress in several fields. Therefore, a large number of institutions will be needed to meet the manpower need of the state.

No doubt, to fulfill manpower needs in the field of LIS, new LIS schools would be established. If the unbalance in the LIS education continues, there will be problem of quality manpower. Hence for scientific development of LIS education, following strategies may be adopted:

- (i) New LIS schools should be avoided in the cities where they already exist
- (ii) LIS education under self-financed scheme should be discontinued
- (iii) LIS school without proper infrastructural facilities, i.e., computer labs, library,

furniture, etc. should not be allowed to come up

- (iv) LIS at diploma level in the university should be discouraged because concept of university starts at graduation level
- (v) Quality of education should not be compromised for producing competent professionals
- (vi) To bring consistency in terms of contents of syllabus, admission policy and examination procedure, adequacy of faculty members, non-teaching staff, infrastructural facilities should be as per the guidelines of UGC
- (vii) Cooperation and coordination among DLIS and university libraries of the state should be encouraged to achieve objectives of LIS education in a better way.

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