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**LIBRARY RESOURCES AND SERVICES IN THE NEWLY  
ESTABLISHED MODEL DEGREE COLLEGES OF ASSAM: A STUDY**

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**ABSTRACT**

*This study is intended to examine the status of general library collections, e-resource collections, and various library services including Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure and library automation in the newly established model degree colleges in the state of Assam, India. The survey was carried out with a structured questionnaire for total 9 (nine) number of colleges which have started their academic sessions. The findings in the study revealed that the selected model degree college libraries established in Assam has very inadequate collections both in printed and electronic form. In addition, due to lack of sufficient staff, unavailability of resources and poor ICT infrastructure, library services provided by the selected college libraries are in an awful condition.*

**KEYWORDS:** Assam, Library Resources, Library Services, Model Degree College.

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**INTRODUCTION:**

Library is considered to be a very important constituent in any academic institution. Libraries act as a centre for various information resources and helps in disseminating knowledge amongst its users. To serve its users properly a library must have appropriate collections, various information resources and other library facilities. In order to provide better and maximum service with the available resources and facilities libraries can effectively engage their users and can act as a center of attraction for all round development at the academic level.

For escalating the institutional base by creation of additional capacity through establishing a good number of Model Degree Colleges (MDCs) in Assam, the state Government has really taken a bold and significant step in the field of Higher Education to socially deprive as well as educationally backward classes of Assam. Hence the study has been conducted to examine the present situation of model degree colleges with special reference to their libraries, its various information resources and available services. This study will definitely provide a current and wide-ranging impression of library resources and their services in the newly established model degree colleges of Assam, India, which has initiated their academic session ever since the year 2017.

**ABOUT THE MODEL DEGREE COLLEGES:**

The Government of India has been taking proactive measures for the expansion of Higher Educational Facilities time to time to ensure the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education of all the Indian states to achieve the national average. In this process, the

Government of India has initiated a scheme of providing financial assistance to the states for establishing model degree colleges in 374 districts in the country where the Gross Enrolment ratio in higher education is less than the national average of 12.4 percent. This scheme is called the Scheme for providing financial assistance to New Model Colleges in Educationally Backward Districts (EBDs) which is essentially a motivational mechanism for State Governments to uplift under-served districts educationally by providing appropriate financial assistance. The Central assistance under this scheme is provided through the UGC which had identified 17 numbers of Educationally Backward Districts in Assam and it was decided to establish 17 numbers of Model degree colleges in these Districts in 2 phases under RUSA Assam. First phase includes 12 numbers of Model degree colleges under RUSA-I and second phase includes 5 numbers of Model degree colleges under RUSA-II.

The central focus of this study is to observe the position of the library resources and library services offered in the model degree colleges of which some of them have started their academic session from 2017 since the inception of this scheme in the year 2009. At the initial stage, government have decided to name the model degree colleges after Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, a great thinker, philosopher, economist, sociologist of the country. Hence, some of the model colleges so established in different Educationally Backward Districts (EBDs) in the state of Assam are known as Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Adarsha Mahavidyalaya (PDUAM).

**Scheme of Management of PDUAMs/GMCs under RUSA in different EBDs:**

<b>RUSA-I/RUSA-II</b>	<b>Name of GMCs</b>	<b>Status</b>
RUSA-I	PDUAM, Tulungia, Bongaigaon	Operational since 2017
	PDUAM, Amjonga Goalpara	
	PDUAM, Dalgaon, Darrang	
	PDUAM, Behali, Biswanath	
	PDUAM, Eraligool, Karimganj	
	GMC, Borkhola, Cachar	Operational since 2020
	GMC, Deithor, Karbi Anglong	
	Padmanath Gohain Baruah GMC, Kakopathar, Tinsukia	
	PDUGMC, Katlichera, Hailakandi	
	PDUGMC, South Salmara-Mankachar	Under Construction
	PDUGMC, Samaguri, Nagaon	
	PDUGMC, Lahorighat, Morigaon	
RUSA-II	PDUAM/GMC, Baksa	Under Construction
	PDUAM/GMC, Harisingha, Udalguri	
	PDUAM/GMC, Baghbar, Barpeta	
	PDUAM/GMC, Dima Hasao	
	PDUAM/GMC, Dhubri	
<b>Total</b>		<b>17 MDCs</b>

Out of the 17 MDCs proposed to be established in 17 different EBDs in the state of Assam, there are 9 (Nine) numbers of MDCs which is operational at present time and have started their academics sessions. Although initially these institutes are developed as institutes for Higher Secondary and Under Graduate level teachings, the government also has the plan to introduce

Post Graduate (PG) Level Courses in these institutes in future. Hence, this study will be focused on the above 9 (Nine) MDCs only.

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE:**

There exist a good number of studies that has been conducted on the availability of library resources and services on various academic possessions in India as well as in abroad. Some of the important studies are mentioned below.

A study conducted by Janak and Verma (1992) examined the status of engineering college libraries in terms of collection, finances, staff, services and organization. Ullah, Pradeep Kumar and Ahmad (2002) examined the status of collection, facilities, manpower and services.

Mozumder (2021) in her study presents the current situation of the various library services provided by the undergraduate colleges of Barak valley, Assam. In her study it was found that most of the college libraries are in developing stage in terms of infrastructure and library automation.

Singh and Arora (2015) have conducted a study on library resources and services in the selected universities libraries of Haryana, India. The study reveals about the current status of resources (collection development, staff, library members, working hours, etc.) available in the university libraries. The study also describes about different types of services provided to the library users by these universities. The study further suggested various measures such as better infrastructure, in-service training to library staff for effective use of library resources and services in these university libraries.

Pal and Barman (2020) have conducted a study on Current Scenario of Library Resources and Services in the Private University Libraries of Assam, India. The study explores the status of resources and services provided to the users of the libraries. The study reveals number of important facts starting from providing sufficient library resources and ample library staff of all categories to handle the library services. The study also suggested that in order to provide a research culture in the universities, the private universities of Assam need to subscribe a more number of both printed and online research based materials. The study further stressed the need of taking professional care in maintaining and managing the library and its services in the private universities of Assam.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:**

The proposed study entitled “**Library resources and services in the newly established Model Degree Colleges of Assam: A study**” is an attempt to identify the available resources and services offered in the model degree college libraries. The study is confined to newly established and operational model degree colleges of Assam. Practically, there are only 9 (nine) number of MDCs that are operational at present scenario which are located in 9 EBDs across the state of Assam.

### **OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:**

The main objectives of the study are:

1. To know the present status of the available general library collections in the studied model degree college libraries of Assam.

2. To know the present status of e-resource collections in the studied model degree college libraries of Assam.
3. To determine the various types of library services provided to the users of the model degree college libraries of Assam.
4. To know the present status of availability of ICT infrastructure and services provided in the respective model degree college libraries of Assam.
5. To find out the present status of library automation in the studied model degree college libraries of Assam.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The present study is a work of descriptive research based on a survey method where a structured questionnaire is designed to collect the relevant data. The designed questionnaire is distributed to the 9 college librarians/ library in-charge of the selected colleges to collect the required data. Out of 9 colleges 8 have responded the questionnaire and the response rate is 88.89%. The data received through the questionnaire have been tabulated and analysed to observe the result of the study with various graphical representations to meet the objectives of the study.

The selected list of colleges where the study is conducted is depicted in table 1 below:

**TABLE 1: LIST OF COLLEGES**

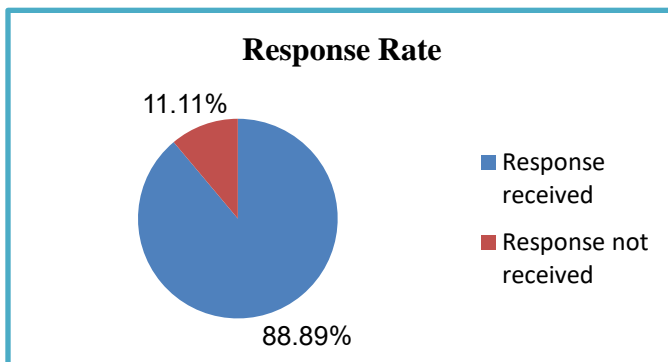
Sl. No.	Name of College	Affiliating University	District	Abbreviation Used
1	PDUAM, Amjonga, Goalpara-783124	Gauhati University	Goalpara	PDUAMA
2	PDUAM, Tulungia, Bongaigaon- 783383	Gauhati University	Bongaigaon	PDUAMT
3	PDUAM, Dalgaon, Darrang- 784116	Gauhati University	Darrang	PDUAMD
4	PDUAM, Eraligool, Karimganj-788723	Assam University	Karimganj	PDUAME
5	PDUAM, Behali, Biswanath- 784184	Gauhati University	Biswanath	PDUAMB
6	GMC Borkhola, Cachar-788127	Assam University	Cachar	GMCB
7	GMC, Deithor, Karbi Anglong- 782480	Dibrugarh University	Karbi Anglong	GMCD
8	PNGB GMC, Kakopathar, Tinsukia- 786152	Dibrugarh University	Tinsukia	PNGBGMCK
9	PDUGMC, Katlichera, Hailakandi- 788162	Assam University	Hailakandi	PDUGMCK

### DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

### RESPONSE RATE OF THE STUDY:

Out of the 9 selected colleges, response from only one college which is PDUAM, Behali have not been received. Other 8 colleges have responded the questionnaire and thus the response rate of the study is 88.89%. Diagrammatically, the response rate is shown below.

**FIGURE-1: RESPONSE RATE**



The questionnaire designed for the study is divided into six (6) sections (Section A to Section-F). Data collected from the questionnaire is analysed section wise.

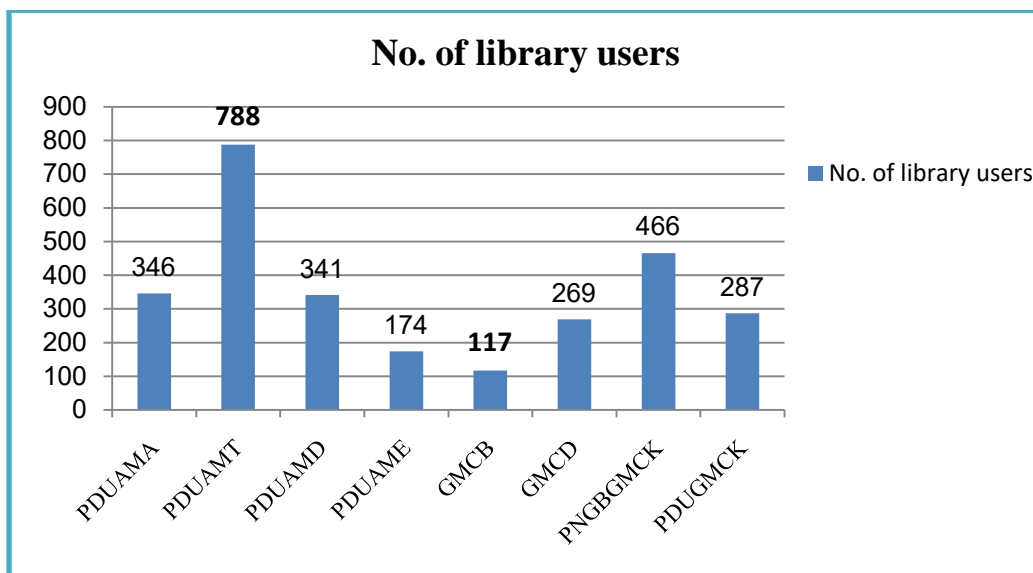
**SECTION A- PERSONAL DETAILS**

**TABLE 2: PERSONAL DETAILS**

Name of College	Year of Establishment of the College	Library working hour	No. of present library user			
			Teaching	Non-Teaching	Student	Total
PDUAMA	2017	10AM-4PM	28	14	304	346
PDUAMT	2017	9AM-4PM	34	4	750	788
PDUAMD	2017	9AM-4PM	26	15	300	341
PDUAME	2017	10AM-4PM	13	4	157	174
GMCB	2020	10AM-4PM	17	0	100	117
GMCD	2020	9AM-4PM	17	2	250	269
PNGBGMCK	2020	9AM-4PM	16	0	450	466
PDUGMCK	2020	10AM-4PM	12	0	275	287

Table 2 confirms that, at present PDUAM, Tulungia, Bongaigaon is having the highest number of library users, while Govt. Model College Borkhola, Cachar is having the lowest number of library users. Figure 2 shows the diagrammatical representation of the number of library users of the respective colleges.

**FIGURE-2: NUMBER OF LIBRARY USERS**



**TABLE 3: MANPOWER STATUS**

Name of College	Present Manpower Status (Sanctioned)				
	Librarian	Assistant Librarian	Library Bearer	Others (In-Charge/ Support staff)	Total
PDUAMA	1	1	0	0	2
PDUAMT	1	1	1	0	3
PDUAMD	0	1	1	0	2
PDUAME	0	0	0	3	3
GMCB	1	0	0	1	2
GMCD	1	0	0	0	1
PNGBGMCK	1	0	0	0	1
PDUGMCK	0	0	0	0	0

Table 3, depicts some interesting facts about the present status of manpower in the libraries of the studied colleges. Out of 8 colleges, 5 of them have permanent Librarian, 3 of them have permanent Assistant Librarian and 2 of them have permanent Library bearer in their library. PDUAM, Tulungia, Bongaigaon is having the highest number of library staff in their library (i.e. 3), whereas in PDUGMC, Katlichera, Hailakandi, no library staff is available. College authorities have confirmed that the state government has initiated the recruitment process for the library staff and within a very short span of time all the vacancies in the library cadre will be filled up. Due to the lack of permanent staff, some college authorities are running the library with additionally engaging teachers or other supporting staff as in-charge of the library so that users can avail the library facilities.

**TABLE 4: LIBRARY COMMITTEE AND LIBRARY FURNITURE**

Name of College	Library Committee (Yes/No)	Library Furniture available (Yes/No)
PDUAMA	Yes	Yes
PDUAMT	Yes	Yes
PDUAMD	No	Yes
PDUAME	Yes	Yes
GMCB	Yes	Yes
GMCD	Yes	Yes
PNGBGMCK	Yes	Yes
PDUGMCK	No	Yes

Table 4 confirms that the state government has provided all the minimum requirements for the library furniture's like table, chairs, book racks, almirah etc. in all the studied college libraries. It is also observed that in PDUAM Dalgaon, Darrang and PDUGMC Katlichera, Hailakandi, there is no specific library committee is available.

## SECTION B- GENERAL LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

**TABLE 5: GENERAL LIBRARY COLLECTIONS**

Name of College	Total Books			Magazine	Journal	Newspaper	Printed Theses & Dissertation
	Textbook	Reference	Total				
PDUAMA	1410	1685	3095	0	0	1	0
PDUAMT	2722	1622	<b>4344</b>	1	<b>4</b>	2	0
PDUAMD	844	2269	3113	0	0	2	0
PDUAME	625	1643	2268	0	0	2	0
GMCB	1000	0	1000	0	0	2	0
GMCD	72	317	<b>389</b>	0	0	0	0
PNGBGMCK	225	675	900	<b>2</b>	2	2	0
PDUGMCK	112	363	475	0	0	0	0

**FIGURE 3: TOTAL NO. OF BOOKS (TEXTBOOK AND REFERENCE BOOK)**

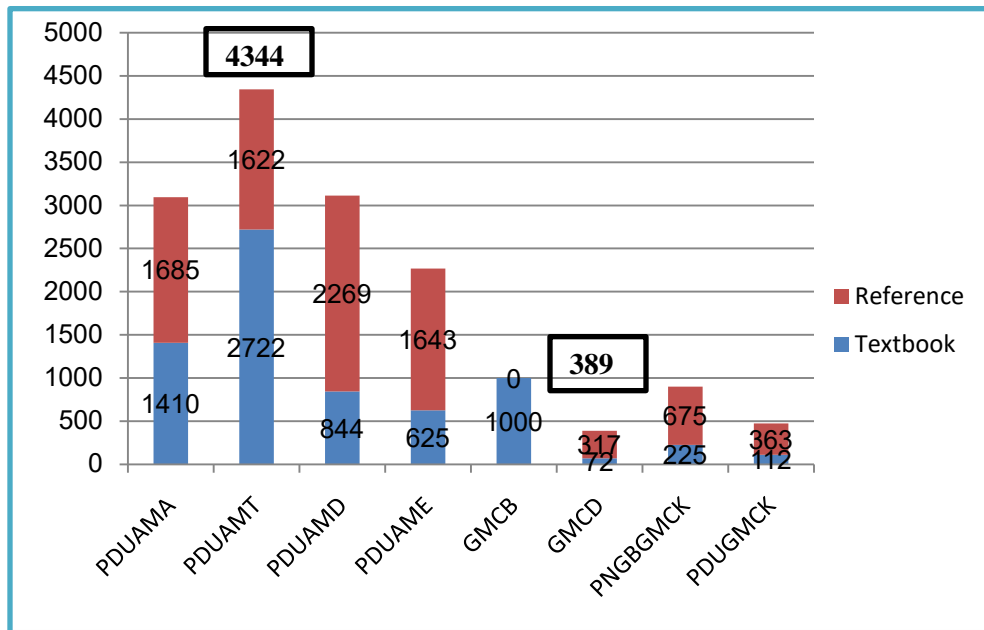


Figure 3 above shows that PDUAM, Tulungia, Bongaigaon is having the highest number of collection of books including textbook and reference book in their library (i.e. 4344). At the same time, Govt. Model College, Deithor, Karbi Anglong is having the lowest collection of books in their library (i.e. 389).

**FIGURE 4: GENERAL COLLECTIONS (PERIODICALS)**

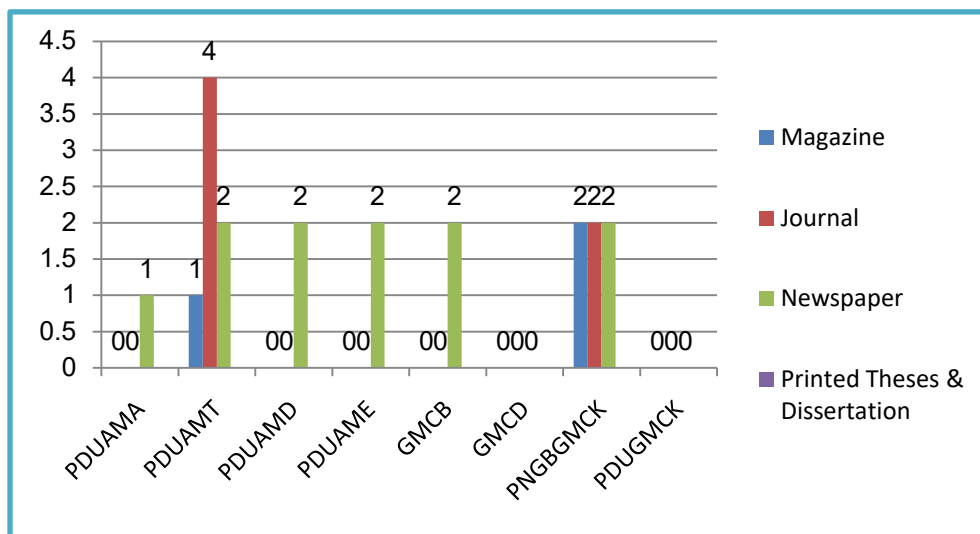


Figure 4 above indicates that PDUAM, Tulungia, Bongaigaon subscribes one (1) magazine and four (4) journals and PNGB GMC, Kakopathar, Tinsukia subscribes two(2) magazines and two (2) journals each. Most of the college libraries have the facility of newspapers except GMC, Deithor, Karbi Anglong and PDUGMC, Katlichera, Hailakandi. The figure also indicates that none of the libraries have printed these and dissertation facility.



**SECTION C- E-RESOURCE COLLECTIONS**

**TABLE: 6- E-RESOURCES**

Name of College	E-books	E-journals	CD-ROM	N-LIST/NDLI	E-theses & Dissertations	Remarks (If any)
PDUAMA	-	-	-	-	-	Under process
PDUAMT	199500+	6000+	-	N-LIST	-	
PDUAMD	-	-	-	-	-	Under process
PDUAME	-	-	-	-	-	Under process
GMCB	-	-	-	-	-	Under process
GMCD	-	-	-	-	-	Under process
PNGBGMCK	-	-	-	NDLI	-	Under process
PDUGMCK	-	-	-	-	-	Under process

Table 6 depicts the data collected regarding the e-resources available in the libraries. Majority of the libraries lacks these facilities till now, but the authorities have cited that e-resource procurement is under process and very soon they are going to have these facilities in their respective libraries. Out of the eight (8) colleges only PDUAM, Tulungia, Bongaigaon provide a good number e-resource facilities in the form of e-books, e-journals and N-LIST. Data depicts that PNGB GMC, Kakopathar, Tinsukia have subscribed to NDLI.

**SECTION D- LIBRARY SERVICES**

**TABLE: 7- LIBRARY SERVICES**

Name of College	Circulation	Reading Room	User guidance	Reference	New Arrival	CAS	Newspaper Clipping	Book Bank	ILL	Internet	Photocopy	Printing	Scanning	Wi-Fi	OPAC/Web-	Drinking Water	Wash Room	Library Website	Barcode Service	Old Question	Total no. of available
PDUAM A	√	√	√	-	√	-	-	-	-	√	-	-	-	√	-	-	-	√	-	√	8
PDUAMT	√	√	√	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	√	√	-	√	-	-	-	-	-	6
PDUAM D	√	√	√		√	-	-	√	-	-	-	-	-	√	-	-	-	-	-	√	7
PDUAME	√	√	-	√	-	-	√	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	√	√	-	-	√	7
GMCB	√	√	√	-	√	√	√	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	√	7
GMCD	√	√	√	√	√	√	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	√	7
PNGB GMC K	√	√	√	-	-	-	-	-	-	√	√	-	-	-	-	√	√	-	-	√	8
PDU GMC K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0

The above Table 7 depicts twenty (20) different categories of library services. Data gathered from the concerned library authority shows that majority of the colleges provide at an average of

seven (7) services in their library. It is also found that PDU GMC, Katlichera, Hailakandi have not been able yet to make these services available for their user.

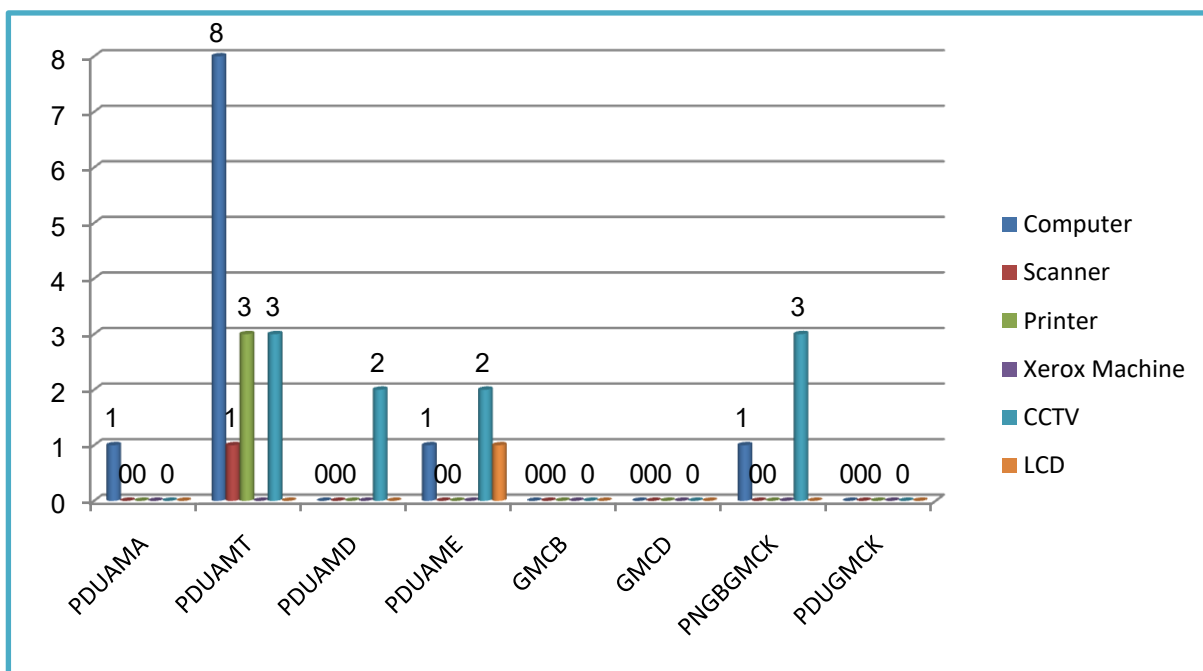
**SECTION E- ICT INFRASTRUCTURE**

**TABLE: 8- ICT INFRASTRUCTURE**

Name of College	IT Equipments					
	Computer	Scanner	Printer	Xerox Machine	CCTV	LCD
PDUAMA	1	0	0	0	0	0
PDUAMT	8	1	3	0	3	0
PDUAMD	0	0	0	0	2	0
PDUAME	1	0	0	0	2	1
GMCB	0	0	0	0	0	0
GMCD	0	0	0	0	0	0
PNGBGMCK	1	0	0	0	3	0
PDUGMCK	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 8 depicts different IT equipments available in the libraries of studied colleges. It is observed that PDUAM, Tulungia, Bongaigaon have maximum number of IT equipments available in their library. Whereas, PDUAM Dalgaon, Darrang, GMC Borkhola, Cachar and GMC Deithor, Karbi Anglong is yet to upgrade their IT infrastructure. More number of IT equipments will enable the libraries to increase their ICT based services for the user. Since libraries of this particular study are in growing stage, having sound IT infrastructure is the need of the hour for this kind of libraries. The diagrammatical representation of the IT equipments available in the studied college libraries are shown below in figure 5.

**FIGURE 5: ICT INFRASTRUCTURE**  
**SECTION F- LIBRARY AUTOMATION**



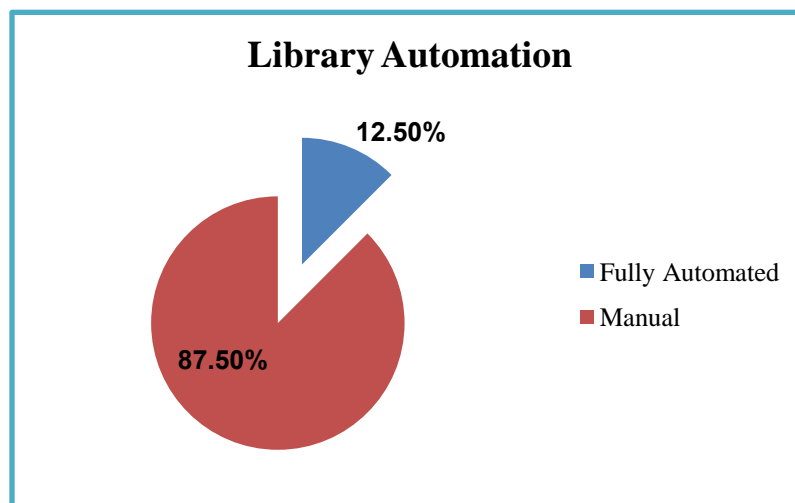
The data collected from the studied college libraries regarding the status of library automation are tabulated in Table 9.

**TABLE 9:- LIBRARY AUTOMATION**

Name of College	Library Automation	Software Used
PDUAMA	Manual	-
PDUAMT	Fully Automated	SOUL
PDUAMD	Manual	
PDUAME	Manual	
GMCB	Manual	
GMCD	Manual	
PNGBGMCK	Manual	
PDUGMCK	Manual	

It is clear from the Table 9 that library operations of PDUAM, Tulungia, Bongaigaon are fully automated. They have implemented SOUL software in their library. Whereas, all other libraries are still managing their library activities manually. Authorities of some libraries have confirmed that very soon they are going to implement automation in their libraries. Figure 6 below shows the percentage of college libraries in regard to their automation status.

**FIGURE 6: PERCENTAGE OF LIBRARY AUTOMATION**



**Best Practice adopted:** The data collected from the questionnaire regarding any best practices adopted in the studied libraries are tabulated in Table 10.

**TABLE 10: BEST PRACTICES**

Name of College	Best Practices
PDUAMA	Carrier Information Service, Best reader award
PDUAMT	Online resources
PDUAMD	Regular orientation programme for students to build up reading habits
PDUAME	Resource generation from locality
GMCB	Access to online database of previous question papers
GMCD	NA
PNGBGMCK	Best reader award, Information literacy session, Internet browsing
PDUGMCK	NA

Table 10 shows that most of the libraries adopt a few best practices in their libraries. For better performance and to improve the quality of library services, there is an utmost need to follow the parameters of best practices. Necessary step in this regard is needed to be taken for overall library development.

### **FINDING & SUGGESTIONS:**

The following findings can be achieved by studying the respective colleges.

1. PDUAM, Tulungia, Bongaigaon, established in the year 2017, is having the maximum number of library users which is 788, followed by PNGB GMC Kakopathar, Tinsukia (466) and PDUAM, Amjonga, Goalpara (346).
2. All the posts in the library cadre of PDUAM, Tulungia, Bongaigaon are permanently filled up. The library have a well qualified library staff who are constantly working together to strengthen their library. Lack of library staff hinders the library activities to run smoothly, hence there is an urgent need to fill the vacant posts as early as possible. College authorities and govt. should work together in this regard.
3. It is found that the state govt. have provided all the necessary physical requirements for the library like furniture, almirah, chairs, book selves etc. Now it is the duty of the college authority to make best use of it.
4. An urgent requirement of increasing the general library collection is felt in all the libraries. The study shows that only PDUAM, Tulungia, Bongaigaon is having a book collection of 4344, while some libraries are having a collection of below 1000. Increasing library collections by purchasing more books, magazines, journals etc. will satisfy the user needs and improve the footfall in the library.
5. The study shows that PDUAM, Tulungia, Bongaigaon is acquiring a good collection of e-resource materials in their library. Special care is needed to improve the e-resource collections in other studied libraries. All other libraries have mentioned to fulfill this criterion as they are working on it.
6. Apart from all this the study shows that some special attention is needed in improving other library services to meet up the user need and satisfaction and all round development of the library.
7. ICT being the base of modern library system, all libraries must equip with necessary IT tools in the library. The study confirms that only PDUAM, Tulungia, Bongaigaon is provided with

minimum IT equipments. Though all the libraries are in initial stage, providing IT tools will surely enable them to provide ICT based services for their user. Hence, there is a need to improve ICT infrastructure in the studied libraries.

8. It is found that in PDUAM, Tulungia, Bongaigaon, all library procedures are fully automated. Rests of the libraries are still working on manual basis. Hence, they require purchasing automation software which will enable them to perform library routine activities efficiently.
9. Implementation of best practices in libraries is a costly, complex and continuous process. The study asserts that being a newly established college majority of them strives to employ some of the parameters of best practices in their libraries. By minimizing the barriers of implementing best practices libraries can adopt it in an efficient manner.

## CONCLUSION:

The concept of establishing Model Degree College (MDC) is totally a new thought initiated by the Government to pertain educational scenario of backward zones of the state of Assam. The state govt. has put their best effort in ascertaining the institutional set up and providing minimal physical infrastructure to run these studied educational institutions in an organized manner.

The above study is a tiny effort to understand the status of libraries of the newly established model degree colleges in Assam. Though, the colleges are in initial stages of inception, inadequacy of library staff, proper collections, lack of e-resource materials, poor IT infrastructure facility, non-automation of library procedures etc. are some key loopholes observed in the study. All these issues can be play down if proper initiative is taken up from the govt. concerned, competent authority and the librarian's side of the college.

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