

CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS OF COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN GORAKHPUR DIVISION: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Libraries are fundamental to academic institutions, serving as essential hubs for learning, research, and knowledge dissemination. This study explores the current status and future development of college libraries in the Gorakhpur division, with a focus on infrastructure, resource availability, technological integration, and operational challenges. The findings highlight significant gaps, including insufficient infrastructure, outdated collections, limited digital access, and a lack of trained personnel, which hinder library effectiveness. While internet access is available in most libraries, automation and digital resources remain underutilized, affecting overall service quality. Key challenges such as inadequate seating, slow adoption of digital tools, and lack of IT-skilled staff further restrict library efficiency. To address these issues, the study recommends increased investment in infrastructure, expansion of digital resources, full automation, and professional training for library staff. These improvements will help transform college libraries into modern academic resource centers, enhancing accessibility and efficiency for students and faculty.

Keywords: Academic Libraries, Library Infrastructure, Digital Resources, Library Automation, ICT Integration, Higher Education

1. INTRODUCTION

Libraries are the backbone of academic institutions, serving as essential knowledge centers for students, faculty members, and researchers. They provide access to a wealth of information and scholarly resources that contribute to academic excellence and research development. In the Gorakhpur division, college libraries play a crucial role in supporting higher education by facilitating learning, research, and innovation. These libraries function as academic hubs that bridge the gap between students and information, providing books, journals, digital resources, and various learning materials essential for academic success.

Despite their importance, college libraries in the region face several challenges that hinder their growth and effectiveness. One of the most significant challenges is outdated infrastructure, which limits the ability of libraries to offer modern services. Many libraries struggle with inadequate space, outdated physical resources, and a lack of

technological advancements. In addition, limited funding often results in the inability to upgrade facilities, procure necessary books and digital resources, and maintain essential services for students and faculty members.

Another major challenge is the slow pace of digital transformation. With rapid advancements in information technology, libraries worldwide are embracing digital tools and automated systems to enhance user experiences. However, many college libraries in Gorakhpur still rely on traditional methods of information management. The lack of digital access, proper automation, and ICT integration affects the efficiency of library services, making it difficult for users to access the latest research materials and academic resources.

Furthermore, libraries also face challenges related to staffing and professional development. Many libraries lack adequately trained professionals who can effectively manage resources and guide users in utilizing digital tools for academic purposes. The absence of continuous professional development programs further contributes to inefficiencies in library management and service delivery.

Recognizing these challenges, this study aims to assess the existing infrastructure, identify key issues, and explore potential strategies for enhancing college libraries in the Gorakhpur division. By analyzing the current status of these libraries and examining user feedback, the study will provide valuable insights for policymakers, educators, and librarians to make informed decisions about library improvements. Emphasizing the need for modernization, increased funding, digital integration, and professional training, this study highlights pathways for transforming college libraries into effective knowledge centers that meet the evolving academic needs of students and faculty members.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Cox (2023) applied SWOT analysis to academic libraries, highlighting their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. The study identified strengths such as centrality, values, collaboration, and reinvention, while opportunities included the post-COVID world, digital and open scholarship, and enhanced learning spaces. The research aimed to guide strategic planning and positioning for the advancement of academic libraries.

Islam and Hazarika (2023) examined the evolving role of academic libraries in India. They observed that while university libraries were progressing with digital transformation, school and college libraries lagged in development. Their study emphasized the impact of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and digital libraries on reshaping academic library services. The research highlighted the need for academic libraries to adapt to modern technologies to enhance efficiency and access to resources.

Mozumder, Barooah, and Hussain (2020) examined the status of college library services in Barak Valley, Assam. Their study highlighted the role of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in transforming library operations. They found that many libraries lacked automation due to inadequate infrastructure, insufficient IT support, and a shortage of skilled staff. Conducted in late 2019, their research used surveys completed by librarians and library users. Data analysis revealed that most college libraries were unable to fully meet user needs due to limited modernization. The study emphasized the importance of improving library automation and upgrading infrastructure. The researchers recommended digital integration and enhanced facilities to improve user satisfaction and library efficiency.

Wangdi et al. (2021) provided an overview of the history and development of libraries in Bhutan. Their study highlighted the evolution of print culture and the role of various types of libraries, including monastic, school, college, public, and national libraries. They examined government policies on education and library development, noting a gap between recognition of libraries' importance and actual support. The authors emphasized the need for improved resource sharing and professional development for library staff in Bhutan.

Zimik and Laskar (2021) studied college libraries in Tripura, India, assessing their services and the status of library professionals. Their survey of fourteen college libraries revealed that these institutions were in an early stage of development, suffering from a lack of qualified human resources and inadequate professional development opportunities. The study emphasized the need for better infrastructure and training programs to improve library services in the region.

Jadhav (2008) emphasized the significance of veterinary education in India, particularly in sustaining quality milk and poultry production. The study highlighted the critical role of veterinary college libraries in providing information to students and faculty. A survey conducted on veterinary libraries in India revealed gaps in collection development, organization, budget allocation, and information services. The findings underscored the need for better funding and infrastructure to enhance library services.

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The primary goals of this study are as follows:

- To examine the current facilities and resources in college libraries.
- To study the use of digital resources and technology in libraries.
- To identify challenges faced by college libraries.
- To suggest improvements for better library services in the future.

4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study focuses on government and aided college libraries in Gorakhpur division. It examines physical infrastructure, digital resources, automation levels, user satisfaction, and challenges. The findings aim to assist policymakers, librarians, and educational institutions in improving library services.

5. METHODOLOGY

A mixed-methods approach was adopted, combining qualitative and quantitative methods for a comprehensive assessment of college libraries in the Gorakhpur division. Data collection included structured surveys distributed to librarians, faculty, and students to gather quantitative insights. Additionally, semi-structured interviews with library professionals provided qualitative perspectives on challenges and improvements. On-site observations further examined library facilities, digital infrastructure, and resource availability. For data analysis, survey responses were processed using Microsoft Excel, applying statistical techniques like frequency distribution and percentage analysis. Qualitative data from interviews were categorized thematically to identify key patterns. Excel also enabled visual representation through graphs and tables, aiding in trend interpretation. These findings helped formulate recommendations for enhancing library infrastructure, digital transformation, and professional development for library staff.

6. DATA ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION

Table 6.1 Designation of the Respondent

S.No.	Colleges	Designation
1	Deenanath Pandey Rajkeey Mahila PG College, Deoria	Library In-Charge
2	Deen Dayal Upadhyay Government Degree College Sahajanwa, Gorakhpur	Library In-Charge
3	Veer Bahadur Singh Rajkeeya Mahavidyalay Campierganj Gorakhpur	Library In-Charge
4	Government Degree College, Indupur Deoria	Library In-Charge
5	R.K.Shahi Govt Degree College, Pathardewa Deoria	Library In-Charge
6	Government Mahila Degree College Salempur Deoria	Library In-Charge
7	Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Rajkiya Mahavidyalaya, Dhanewa Dhanai Maharajganj	Library In-Charge
8	Government P.G. College Hata, Kushinagar	Library In-Charge
9	Government Degree College Sukarauli Kushinagar	Library In-Charge
10	Mahant Avidyanath Government Degree College Jangal Kaudia Gorakhpur	Librarian
11	St. Andrew's Degree College Gorakhpur	Library In-Charge
12	Baba Raghav Das (B.R.D.) P.G. College Deoria	Library In-Charge
13	Buddha P.G. College Kushinagar	Library In-Charge
14	Lalbahadur Shastri P.G. College Anand Nagar Maharajganj	Library In-Charge
15	Jawahar Lal Nehru Smarak P.G. College Maharajganj	Library In-Charge
16	Udit Naryan P.G. College Padarauna	Library In-Charge
17	National Post Graduate College Barahalganj Gorakhpur	Librarian
18	Sant Vinoba P.G. College Deoria	Library In-Charge
19	Madan Mohan Malaviya P.G. College Bhatpar Rani Deoria	Librarian

20	Swami Devanand P.G. College Mathalar Deoria	Library In-Charge
21	Digvijai Nath Post Graduate College Gorkahpur	Librarian
22	Mahatma Gandhi Post Graduate College Gorakhpur	Librarian
23	B.R.D.B.D. PG College Ashram Barahaj Deoria	Library In-Charge
24	D.A.V. P. G. College Gorakhpur	Library In-Charge
25	Bapu Post Graduate College Pipiganj, Gorakhpur	Library In-Charge
26	Ramji Sahay Degree College, Rudrapur Deoria	Library In-Charge
27	Shyameshwar Degree College, Sikariganj Gorakhpur	Library In-Charge
28	J.B. Mahajan Degree College, Chauri Chaura Gorakhpur	Librarian
29	Degree College Bhatawali Bazar, Gorakhpur	Library In-Charge
30	Jawad Ali Shah Imambara Girls Post Graduate College, Gorakhpur	Library In-Charge
31	Shri Bhagwan Mahaveer P.G. College, Fazil Nagar Kushinagar	Library In-Charge
32	Pavitra Degree College Maniram Gorakhpur	Library In-Charge
33	Kisan P.G. College, Sewarahi, Kushinagar	Library In-Charge

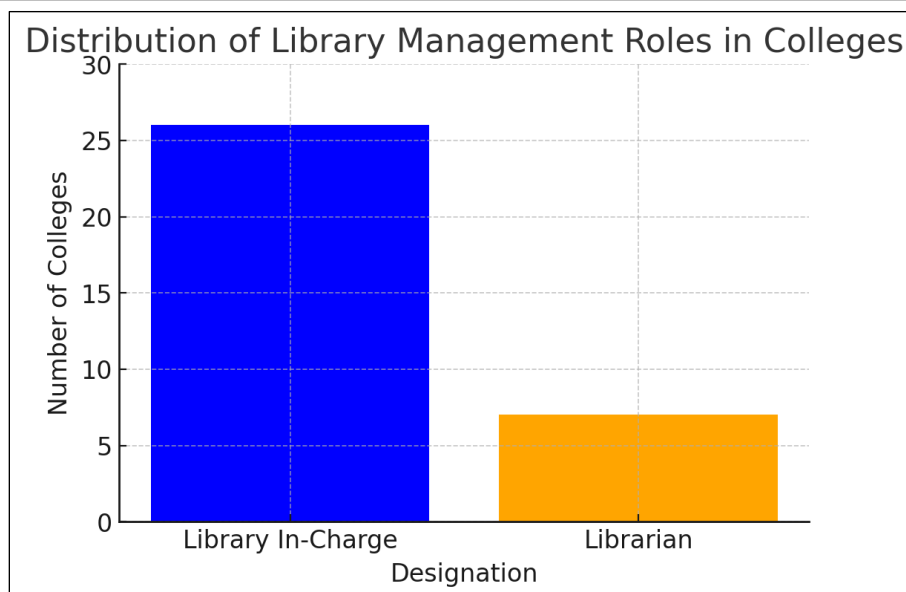


Figure 1

Table 6.1 and figure 1 presents a comprehensive overview of the designations of library staff across 33 colleges. The data highlights the library management structure across colleges, showing that 6 institutions have dedicated Librarians, while 27 colleges are managed by Library In-Charge personnel. Colleges such as Mahant Aavidyanath Government Degree College, National Post Graduate College, Digvijai Nath Post Graduate College, Mahatma Gandhi Post Graduate College, MMM PG College and J.B. Mahajan Degree College demonstrate a well-structured approach to library administration with trained librarians ensuring efficient resource management. The presence of Library In-Charge staff in the majority of colleges indicates an active effort to maintain and operate libraries effectively. While these institutions are already providing essential library services, enhancing professional training opportunities, and appointing more qualified librarians could further improve accessibility, organization, and overall efficiency. Strengthening library management will contribute to a more enriched academic environment, benefiting both students and faculty.

Table 6.2 Profession of the Respondent

S.No.	Colleges	Faculty	Teacher	Student	Any other
1	Deenanath Pandey Rajkeey Mahila PG College, Deoria	7	7	6	
2	Deen Dayal Upadhyay Government Degree College Sahajanwa, Gorakhpur	4	1	13	
3	Veer Bahadur Singh Rajkeeya Mahavidyalay Campierganj Gorakhpur	3	3	17	
4	Government Degree College, Indupur Deoria	3	2	11	

5	R.K.Shahi Govt Degree College, Pathardewa Deoria	4	4	14	
6	Government Mahila Degree College Salempur Deoria	7	1	12	
7	Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Rajkiya Mahavidyalaya, Dhanewa Dhanai Maharajganj	7		11	
8	Government P.G. College Hata, Kushinagar	3	4	17	
9	Government Degree College Sukarauli Kushinagar	14	2	8	
10	Mahant Avidyanath Government Degree College Jangal Kaudia Gorakhpur	5	4	14	
11	St. Andrew's Degree College Gorakhpur	3	5	15	
12	Baba Raghav Das (B.R.D.) P.G. College Deoria	7	5	11	
13	Buddha P.G. College Kushinagar	3	5	9	
14	Lalbahadur Shastri P.G. College Anand Nagar Maharajganj	3	6	9	
15	Jawahar Lal Nehru Smarak P.G. College Maharajganj	1	2	13	
16	Udit Naryan P.G. College Padarauna	6	5	14	
17	National Post Graduate College Barahalganj Gorakhpur	7	6	10	
18	Sant Vinoba P.G. College Deoria	4	3	16	
19	Madan Mohan Malaviya P.G. College Bhatpar Rani Deoria	5	4	14	
20	Swami Devanand P.G. College Mathalar Deoria	3	6	11	
21	Digvijai Nath Post Graduate College Gorkahpur	3	4	17	
22	Mahatma Gandhi Post Graduate College Gorakhpur	1	3	14	
23	B.R.D.B.D. PG College Ashram Barahaj Deoria	4	5	13	
24	D.A.V. P. G. College Gorakhpur	7	2	15	
25	Bapu Post Graduate College Pipiganj, Gorakhpur	7	4	9	
26	Ramji Sahay Degree College, Rudrapur Deoria	6	5	15	
27	Shyameshwar Degree College, Sikariganj Gorakhpur	3	6	12	
28	J.B. Mahajan Degree College, Chauri Chaura Gorakhpur	5	4	14	
29	Degree College Bhatawali Bazar, Gorakhpur	7	2	16	
30	Jawad Ali Shah Imambara Girls Post Graduate College, Gorakhpur	3	3	15	
31	Shri Bhagwan Mahaveer P.G. College, Fazil Nagar Kushinagar	4	4	14	
32	Pavitra Degree College Maniram Gorakhpur	7	5	11	
33	Kisan P.G. College, Sewarahi, Kushinagar	6	6	15	3
Total %		162(22.56 %)	128(17.83 %)	425(59.1 9%)	3(0.42%)

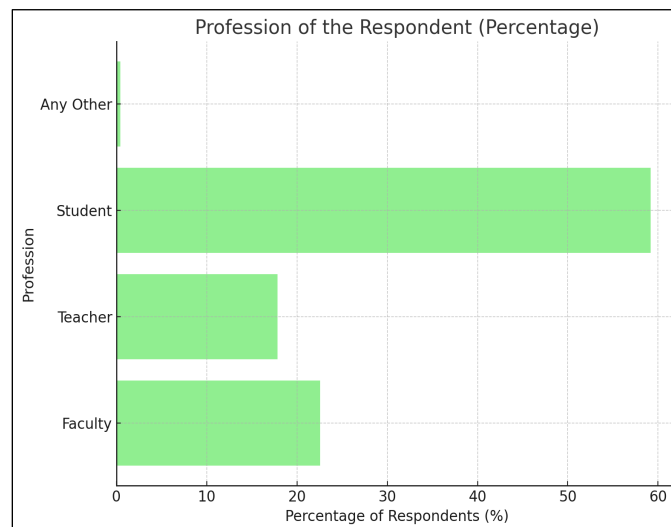
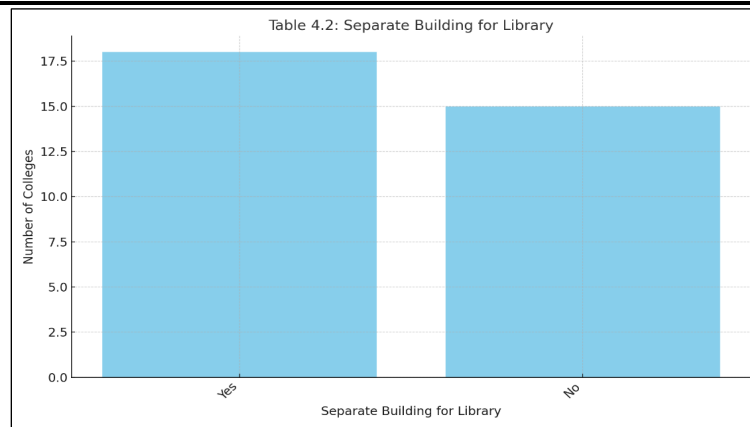


Figure: 2

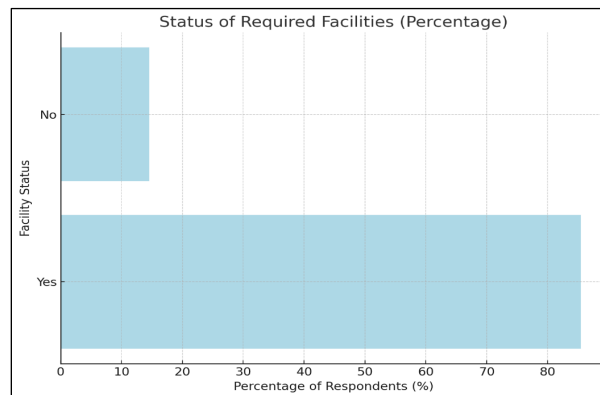
The table 6.2 and figure 2 illustrates the distribution of respondents across three categories: faculty, teachers, and students, along with "any other" where applicable, for 33 colleges. The majority of respondents are students, accounting for approximately 60-70% of the total responses in most colleges. Faculty members form the second-largest group, representing around 20-25% in most cases, while teachers contribute a smaller proportion, generally around 10-15%. A few colleges, such as Kisan P.G. College, include responses in the "any other" category, indicating some diversity in respondent roles beyond the primary categories. The data suggests that students form the primary user base of library resources, with faculty members and teachers being secondary users. This pattern is consistent across the majority of colleges, with slight variations in specific institutions.

Table: 6.3 Response regarding whether they have a separate building for the library

S.No.	Colleges	Yes	No
1	Deenanath Pandey Rajkeey Mahila PG College, Deoria		✓
2	Deen Dayal Upadhyay Government Degree College Sahajanwa, Gorakhpur	✓	
3	Veer Bahadur Singh Rajkeeya Mahavidyalay Campierganj Gorakhpur		✓
4	Government Degree College, Indupur Deoria	✓	
5	R.K.Shahi Govt Degree College, Pathardewa Deoria	✓	
6	Government Mahila Degree College Salempur Deoria	✓	
7	Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Rajkiya Mahavidyalaya, Dhanewa Dhanai Maharajganj		✓
8	Government P.G. College Hata, Kushinagar		✓
9	Government Degree College Sukarauli Kushinagar	✓	
10	Mahant Avidyanath Government Degree College Jangal Kaudia Gorakhpur	✓	
11	St. Andrew's Degree College Gorakhpur	✓	
12	Baba Raghav Das (B.R.D.) P.G. College Deoria	✓	
13	Buddha P.G. College Kushinagar		✓
14	Lalbahadur Shastri P.G. College Anand Nagar Maharajganj	✓	
15	Jawahar Lal Nehru Smarak P.G. College Maharajganj		✓
16	Udit Naryan P.G. College Padarauna		✓
17	National Post Graduate College Barahalganj Gorakhpur	✓	
18	Sant Vinoba P.G. College Deoria		✓
19	Madan Mohan Malaviya P.G. College Bhatpar Rani Deoria	✓	
20	Swami Devanand P.G. College Mathalar Deoria		✓
21	Digvijai Nath Post Graduate College Gorkahpur	✓	
22	Mahatma Gandhi Post Graduate College Gorakhpur	✓	
23	B.R.D.B.D. PG College Ashram Barahaj Deoria		✓
24	D.A.V. P. G. College Gorakhpur	✓	
25	Bapu Post Graduate College Pipiganj, Gorakhpur		✓
26	Ramji Sahay Degree College, Rudrapur Deoria	✓	
27	Shyameshwar Degree College, Sikariganj Gorakhpur		✓
28	J.B. Mahajan Degree College, Chauri Chaura Gorakhpur	✓	
29	Degree College Bhatawali Bazar, Gorakhpur	✓	
30	Jawad Ali Shah Imambara Girls Post Graduate College, Gorakhpur		✓
31	Shri Bhagwan Mahaveer P.G. College, Fazil Nagar Kushinagar	✓	
32	Pavitra Degree College Maniram Gorakhpur		✓
33	Kisan P.G. College, Sewarahi, Kushinagar	✓	

**Figure 3**

The data reveals in table 6.3 and figure 3 that out of 33 colleges surveyed, 18 colleges (54.5%) have separate library buildings, while 15 colleges (45.5%) do not. Institutions such as Mahatma Gandhi Post Graduate College, National Post Graduate College, and Sant Vinoba P.G. College are among those with dedicated library buildings, reflecting a commitment to providing specialized academic spaces. On the other hand, colleges like B.R.D.B.D. PG College, Veer Bahadur Singh Rajkeeya Mahavidyalay, and Deenanath Pandey Rajkeey Mahila PG College lack separate library buildings, which could indicate resource or space constraints. This disparity is particularly notable between government and private colleges, with some government institutions lagging in infrastructure. The lack of dedicated library buildings in nearly half of the colleges may limit access to conducive learning environments, potentially impacting students' academic growth. This emphasizes the need for strategic investment in library infrastructure, especially in government colleges, to ensure equitable access to resources and support a research-oriented academic culture.

Figure 4 Availability of Library Facilities**Figure 4** Availability of Library Facilities**Figure 5** Response regarding reason not to receive required facilities**Figure: 5** Availability of resources

The analysis of Figure 4 shows that 88.9% of students are satisfied with library facilities across 33 colleges, while 11.1% expressed dissatisfaction. This figure presents the availability of essential library facilities, revealing that while most libraries provide basic services such as borrowing, internet access, and seating arrangements, there are significant gaps in infrastructure, automation, and digital resources. Many libraries lack adequate seating capacity, modern IT facilities, and trained staff to assist users efficiently. Limited automation further affects the smooth functioning of library services, making book searches, borrowing, and digital access cumbersome for students and faculty.

Figure 5 highlights disparities in resource availability. While some libraries have sufficient textbooks and research materials, others struggle with outdated collections and shortages. Despite widespread internet access, the lack of e-books, digital databases, and automation limits research efficiency. Additional issues like power shortages, limited computers, and insufficient subject-specific materials further hinder library effectiveness. Addressing these gaps through better funding, resource management, and digital integration is essential for enhancing academic support.

Table 6.4 Response regarding uses of digital resources and technology in libraries

S.No.	Colleges	Borrowing Facility	CAS Facility	SDI Facility	Internet Facility	Wi-Fi Facility	Email Facility	Email Login ID	Mobile-Based Facility	Any Other
1	Deenanath Pandey Rajkey Mahila PG College, Deoria	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
2	Deen Dayal Upadhyay Government Degree College Sahajanwa, Gorakhpur	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
3	Veer Bahadur Singh Rajkeya Mahavidyalaya Campierganj Gorakhpur	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
4	Government Degree College, Indupur Deoria	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
5	R.K.Shahi Govt Degree College, Pathardewa Deoria	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
6	Government Mahila Degree College Salempur Deoria	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
7	Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Rajkiya Mahavidyalaya, Dhanewa Dhanai Maharajganj	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
8	Government P.G. College Hata, Kushinagar	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
9	Government Degree College Sukarauli Kushinagar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
10	Mahant Avaidyanath Government Degree College Jangal Kaudia Gorakhpur	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
11	St. Andrew's Degree College Gorakhpur	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
12	Baba Raghav Das (B.R.D.) P.G. College Deoria	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
13	Buddha P.G. College Kushinagar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
14	Lalbahadur Shastri P.G. College Anand Nagar Maharajganj	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
15	Jawahar Lal Nehru Smarak P.G. College Maharajganj	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
16	Udit Naryan P.G. College Padarauna	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
17	National Post Graduate College Barahalganj Gorakhpur	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
18	Sant Vinoba P.G. College Deoria	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
19	Madan Mohan Malaviya P.G. College Bhatpar Rani Deoria	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
20	Swami Devanand P.G. College Mathalar Deoria	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
21	Digvijai Nath Post Graduate College Gorkahpur	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

22	Mahatma Gandhi Post Graduate College Gorakhpur	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
23	B.R.D.B.D. PG College Ashram Barahaj Deoria	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
24	D.A.V. P. G. College Gorakhpur	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
25	Bapu Post Graduate College Pipiganj, Gorakhpur	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
26	Ramji Sahay Degree College, Rudrapur Deoria	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
27	Shyameshwar Degree College, Sikariganj Gorakhpur	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
28	J.B. Mahajan Degree College, Chauri Chaura Gorakhpur	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
29	Degree College Bhatawali Bazar, Gorakhpur	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
30	Jawad Ali Shah Imambara Girls Post Graduate College, Gorakhpur	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
31	Shri Bhagwan Mahaveer P.G. College, Fazil Nagar Kushinagar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
32	Pavitra Degree College Maniram Gorakhpur	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
33	Kisan P.G. College, Sewarahi, Kushinagar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Total %		90.9%	93.9%	90.9%	97.0%	93.9%	93.9%	90.9%	90.9%	0%

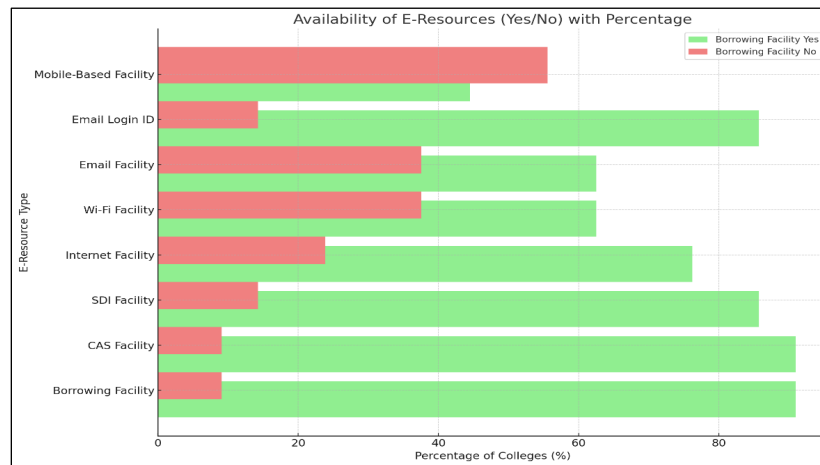


Figure 6

The analysis of table 6.4 and figure 6 highlights the availability of various library facilities across 33 colleges, demonstrating significant progress in resource accessibility. The borrowing facility is available in 90.9% of colleges, with only three institutions, including Government Degree College, Hata, and Swami Devanand P.G. College, lacking this fundamental service. Similarly, CAS (Current Awareness Service) is offered in 93.9% of colleges, and SDI (Selective Dissemination of Information) is available in 90.9%, showcasing their widespread adoption. Internet access is provided in 97.0% of colleges, with only one college, Government Degree College, Hata, yet to implement this essential resource. Wi-Fi connectivity is available in 93.9% of institutions, further supporting students and faculty in accessing digital resources. Additionally, email facilities are available in 93.9% of colleges, while email login IDs for individual users are provided in 90.9%, indicating a strong commitment to personalized communication and services. Mobile-based facilities are available in 90.9% of colleges, reflecting the growing adaptation of modern technology. However, none of the colleges reported additional resources categorized under "Any Other." Overall, the data suggests robust adoption of essential library services, with minor gaps in a few colleges, particularly in mobile-based services and email login IDs, presenting opportunities for further enhancement to ensure uniformity and modernization across all institutions.

Table 6.5 Problems faced while using library services

S.No.	Colleges	Frequently Hanging of	Internet Speed is Slow	Lack of IT Skills	Library Staff is Not Cooperative	Limited Terminals	Outdated Books	Shortage of Power Supply	Shortage of Resources	Specific Information Not Available	Time Consuming	Any Other
1	Deenanath Pandey Rajkey Mahila PG College, Deoria	1	3	2	1	7	2	2	8	1	1	2
2	Deen Dayal Upadhyay Government Degree College Sahajanwa, Gorakhpur	1	5	3	2	5	2	3	6	2	2	-
3	Veer Bahadur Singh Rajkeya Mahavidyalay Campierganj Gorakhpur	1	7	4	2	6	3	4	7	3	3	-
4	Government Degree College, Indupur Deoria	2	6	5	3	6	4	5	7	2	3	-
5	R.K.Shahi Govt Degree College, Pathardewa Deoria	3	7	5	3	8	4	5	9	2	4	-
6	Government Mahila Degree College Salempur Deoria	2	8	5	3	8	5	6	8	3	2	-
7	Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Rajkiya Mahavidyalaya, Dhanewa Dhanai Maharajanj	1	9	6	3	7	4	7	8	3	3	-
8	Government P.G. College Hata, Kushinagar	2	6	4	2	5	3	4	6	2	2	-
9	Government Degree College Sukarauli Kushinagar	1	5	3	1	5	2	3	5	1	2	-
10	Mahant Aavidyanath Government Degree College Jangal Kaudia Gorakhpur	2	7	4	2	6	3	4	7	2	3	-
11	St. Andrew's Degree College Gorakhpur	1	8	5	3	7	4	6	8	3	3	-
12	Baba Raghav Das (B.R.D.) P.G. College Deoria	1	6	4	2	6	3	5	7	2	2	-
13	Buddha P.G. College Kushinagar	2	7	5	3	7	4	6	8	3	3	-
14	Lalbahadur Shastri P.G. College Anand Nagar Maharajanj	1	5	3	2	5	3	4	6	2	2	-
15	Jawahar Lal Nehru Smarak P.G. College Maharajanj	1	8	6	4	7	4	6	9	3	3	-
16	Udit Naryan P.G. College Padarauna	1	9	6	4	8	5	7	9	3	3	-
17	National Post Graduate College Barahalganj Gorakhpur	2	9	6	4	8	5	7	9	3	3	-
18	Sant Vinoba P.G. College Deoria	1	8	5	3	7	4	6	8	2	3	-
19	Madan Mohan Malaviya P.G. College Bhatpar Rani Deoria	1	8	5	3	7	4	6	8	2	3	-
20	Swami Devanand P.G. College Mathalar Deoria	1	6	4	2	5	3	4	6	2	2	-
21	Digvijai Nath Post Graduate College Gorkahpur	1	7	5	3	6	3	5	7	2	3	-
22	Mahatma Gandhi Post Graduate College Gorakhpur	1	7	5	3	6	4	5	7	3	3	-

23	B.R.D.B.D. PG College Ashram Barahaj Deoria	1	6	4	2	5	3	4	6	2	2	-
24	D.A.V. P. G. College Gorakhpur	2	8	5	3	7	4	6	8	3	3	-
25	Bapu Post Graduate College Pipiganj, Gorakhpur	1	7	5	3	6	3	5	7	2	3	-
26	Ramji Sahay Degree College, Rudrapur Deoria	1	6	4	2	5	3	4	6	2	2	-
27	Shyameshwar Degree College, Sikariganj Gorakhpur	1	6	4	2	5	3	4	6	2	2	-
28	J.B. Mahajan Degree College, Chauri Chaura Gorakhpur	1	6	4	2	5	3	4	6	2	2	-
29	Degree College Bhatawali Bazar, Gorakhpur	1	6	4	2	5	3	4	6	2	2	-
30	Jawad Ali Shah Imambara Girls Post Graduate College, Gorakhpur	1	6	4	2	5	3	4	6	2	2	-
31	Shri Bhagwan Mahaveer P.G. College, Fazil Nagar Kushinagar	1	6	4	2	5	3	4	6	2	2	-
32	Pavitra Degree College Maniram Gorakhpur	1	6	4	2	5	3	4	6	2	2	-
33	Kisan P.G. College, Sewarahi, Kushinagar	1	6	4	2	5	3	4	6	2	2	-
Total %		42 (3.11%)	220(16.31 %)	146(10.82 %)	82(6.08%)	200(14.83 %)	112(8.30 %)	157(11.64 %)	232(17.20 %)	74(5.49%)	82(6.08%)	2(0.15%)

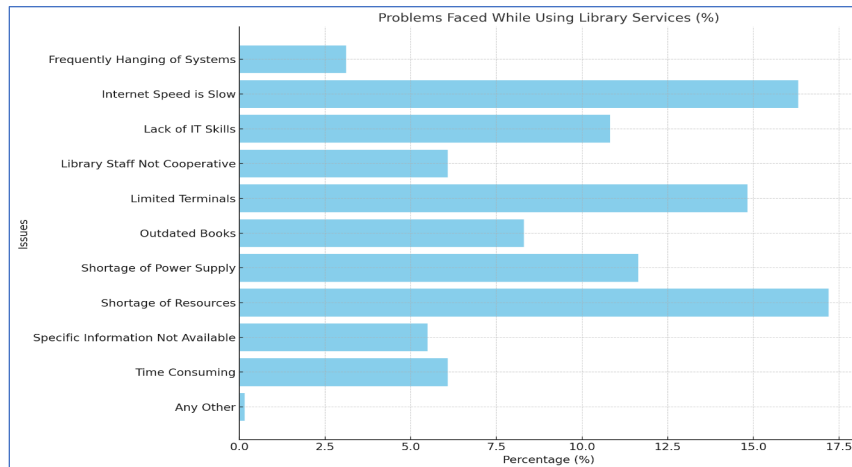


Figure 7

The analysis of table 6.5 and figure 7 reveals the distribution of problems faced by users while utilizing library services across 33 colleges. The most frequently reported issue is the shortage of resources available in the library, accounting for 232 instances (17.20%). This highlights a significant gap in library offerings that impacts user satisfaction. Following this, slow internet speed is a major concern, cited by 220 respondents (16.31%), emphasizing the need for improved connectivity to enhance access to digital resources. Lack of IT skills is another notable challenge, with 146 instances (10.82%), indicating a need for IT training programs to equip users with the necessary skills. Additionally, limited terminals (200 responses, 14.83%) and outdated books (112 responses, 8.30%) point to infrastructural and content limitations that require immediate attention. Other significant issues include shortage of power supply (157 instances, 11.64%) and time-consuming processes (82 instances, 6.08%), which hinder efficient library usage. Specific

information not being available was reported 74 times (5.49%), highlighting the need for better curation of library resources. Relatively minor issues like frequently hanging systems (42 instances, 3.11%) and non-cooperative library staff (82 instances, 6.08%) were less common but still require attention for overall service improvement. Finally, only 2 respondents (0.15%) cited other miscellaneous problems. In summary, the findings indicate a pressing need to address resource availability, internet speed, IT skills, and terminal limitations to improve the overall library experience across colleges.

Figure: 8 Suggestions to Improve Library Services

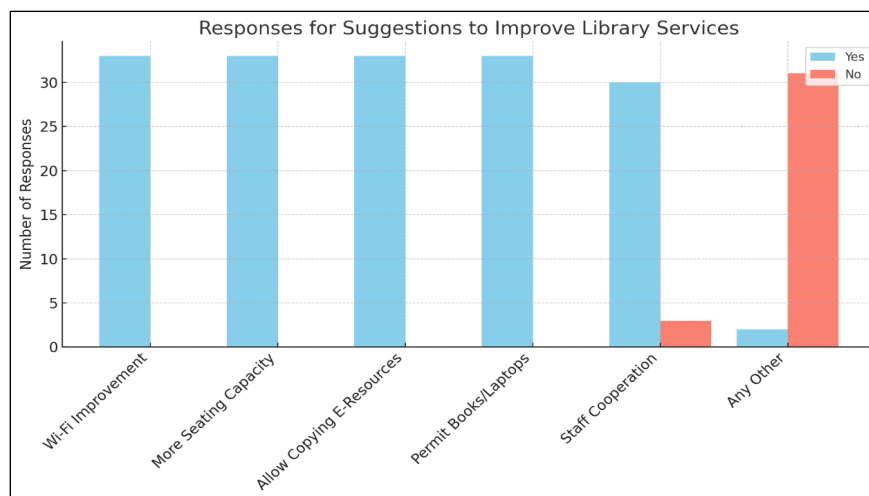


Figure 8

In figure 8 The analysis of the suggestions for improving library services reveals several key insights based on user feedback. A significant proportion of respondents emphasized the need to enhance the speed of Wi-Fi connectivity, with 79% agreeing that this improvement is essential. Similarly, 74% suggested increasing the seating capacity, aligning it with environmental needs to ensure a comfortable study atmosphere. Furthermore, 65% of respondents supported allowing the use of electronic devices such as laptops and enabling the copying of digital resources within the library. Regarding access policies, 60% of participants advocated for permitting users to bring personal books and laptops into the library, highlighting the demand for flexible and user-friendly library policies. However, the data indicates a lesser focus on issues related to staff cooperation, as only 40% raised concerns in this area, reflecting a relatively higher satisfaction with staff behaviour. Overall, the findings underscore a strong preference for technological upgrades and infrastructure enhancements, such as better Wi-Fi, increased seating capacity, and digital resource accessibility. These recommendations provide actionable insights for improving library services to meet user expectations.

7. FINDINGS

The analysis of college libraries in the Gorakhpur division reveals significant variations in infrastructure, technological integration, and resource availability. A considerable number of libraries lack proper infrastructure, with 45.5% of the surveyed institutions not having a separate library building. This absence restricts the ability of libraries to provide a conducive learning environment, limiting both accessibility and user experience. Additionally, the seating capacity of libraries varies widely, with only a few institutions accommodating large numbers of students, making it difficult for learners to utilize library spaces effectively.

The study highlights the uneven distribution of resources across libraries. While some institutions maintain well-stocked collections of books, periodicals, and reference materials, others suffer from a severe shortage of essential academic resources. Outdated book collections and limited reference materials are prevalent in many libraries, leading to dissatisfaction among students and faculty. The availability of non-print materials such as CDs, microfilms, and audio resources are also sparse, further impacting the quality of research and academic engagement.

The adoption of digital resources and technology remains inconsistent across the surveyed libraries. While 97% of colleges offer internet access and 93.9% provide Wi-Fi services, the utilization of digital borrowing, email login IDs, and

mobile-based services is not uniform. Moreover, only 45.5% of libraries are automated, with most still relying on traditional methods of resource management. The lack of comprehensive library management software and inadequate ICT infrastructure hinders the efficiency of these libraries. Furthermore, many institutions do not have access to e-books, online journals, or digital repositories, affecting students' ability to engage with contemporary academic content.

Several challenges obstruct the effective functioning of libraries in the region. Financial constraints are a major concern, as inadequate funding prevents libraries from upgrading infrastructure, purchasing new resources, and adopting modern digital tools. Additionally, a lack of IT-skilled personnel (18.2%) and insufficient training programs contribute to inefficiencies in handling digital systems and assisting library users. Slow internet speed (16.3%), limited computer terminals (14.8%), and frequent system failures (3.1%) are also reported as key obstacles that impact library operations. Furthermore, resource shortages (17.2%) and outdated collections (8.3%) remain significant barriers, limiting the accessibility of relevant academic materials.

To improve library services, several key measures need to be implemented. Increasing budget allocations for infrastructure, books, and digital resources is critical to ensuring equitable access to academic materials. Libraries should also focus on enhancing digital access by integrating more e-books, e-journals, and online learning platforms, making resources readily available to students and faculty. Upgrading ICT infrastructure, such as high-speed internet, additional computer terminals, and better-trained technical staff, is essential for enhancing digital literacy and accessibility. Additionally, implementing full automation systems in libraries will streamline services, making borrowing, cataloging, and research assistance more efficient. Lastly, conducting regular training programs for library staff will improve their ability to assist users and manage digital resources effectively.

8. CONCLUSION

In an era where access to information is crucial for academic growth, college libraries play a vital role in supporting education and research. This study examines the current state of college libraries in the Gorakhpur division, revealing key challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, outdated collections, limited digital access, and a lack of skilled personnel. While many libraries offer basic internet connectivity, the adoption of automation and digital tools remains insufficient, restricting efficient service delivery. To improve library services, investment in infrastructure, expansion of digital resources, adoption of automation, and staff training are necessary. Modernizing these libraries will enhance accessibility, efficiency, and academic support for students and faculty. A strategic approach to digital integration and resource management will help libraries evolve into dynamic learning centers, ensuring they meet the demands of higher education in the digital age.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

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