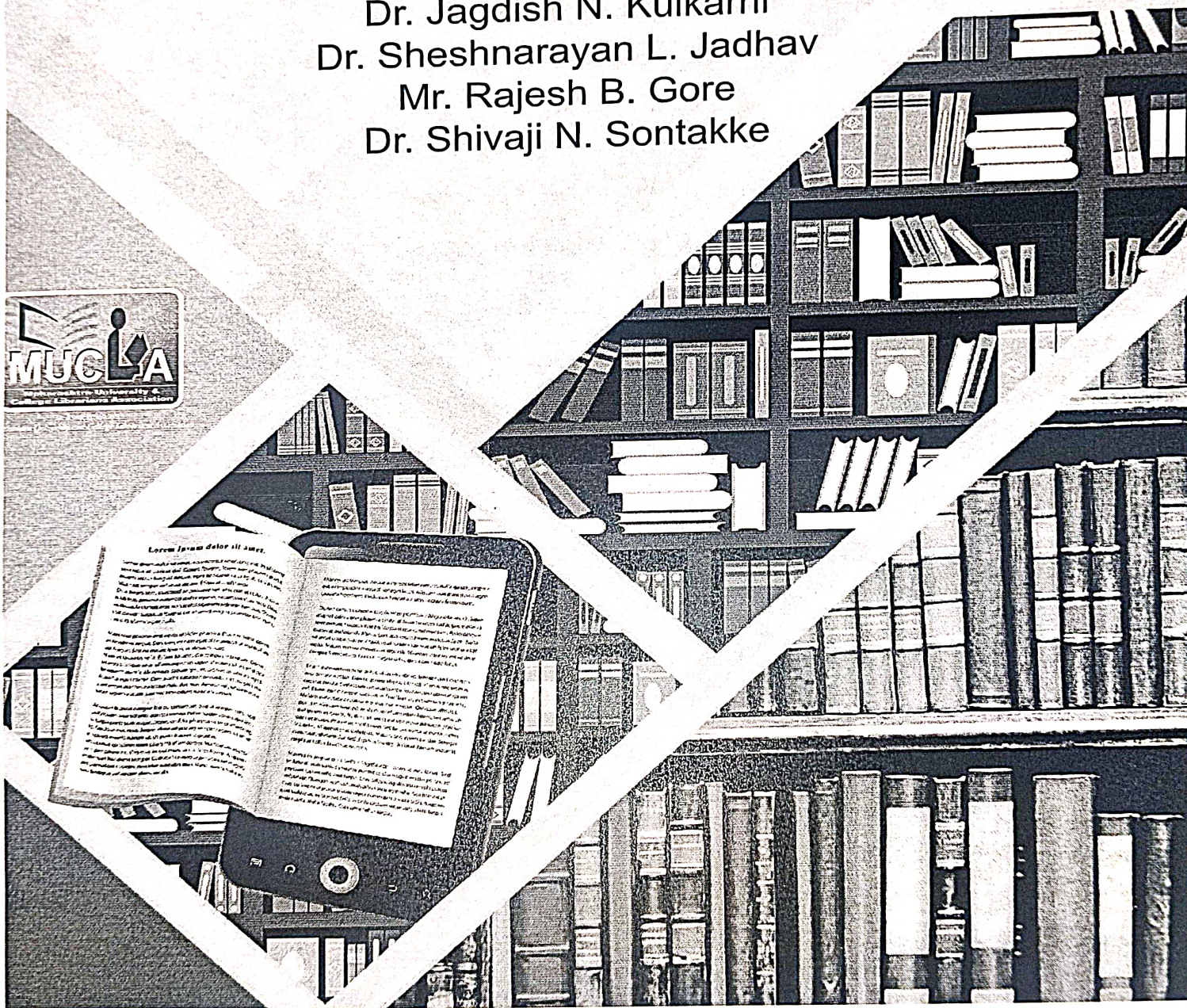


# PRESENT AND FUTURE INITIATIVES IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

- EDITORS -

Dr. Jagdish N. Kulkarni  
Dr. Sheshnarayan L. Jadhav  
Mr. Rajesh B. Gore  
Dr. Shivaji N. Sontakke







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# Role of Libraries in Higher Education System in India in 21st Century

**Bomble Raju Balasaheb**

Librarian

Hutatma Jaywantrao Patil Mahavidyalaya  
Himayatnagar, Dist-Nanded

**Dr.Sulsule Shobha Rajabhau**

Librarian

Mahatma Gandhi College  
Ahmedpur Dist- Latur

## **Abstract:**

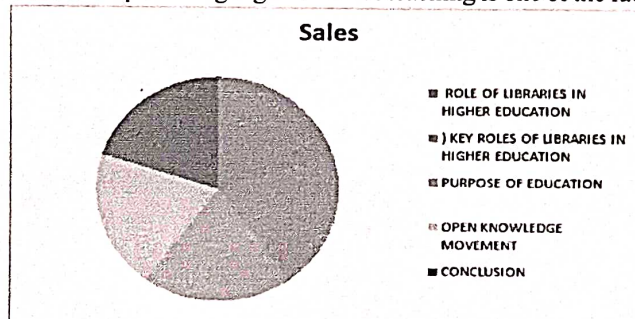
*The present paper reflects the present depiction of government initiatives in the field of higher education and the role of libraries in promoting the utilization of these initiatives for teaching research and extension activities in higher educational institutions. Various movements of libraries for promoting higher education in the era of information communication technology like library networks, library consortium, library portals, digital collection development, online reference services, digital repositories, online catalogues, and information literacy programs have been described in the paper. A few major key roles played by a library as educator, as space, as a personal, as a knowledge manager etc is also explained through this article.*

**Keywords:-** Higher Education, Library, Information literacy, Open Educational Resources.

## **Introduction:-**

In the present era of ICT, education in most of the universities and colleges is being driven by technology and innovations. The educational Institutions have responded to those changes and embraced the digital mode of education involving both teaching and learning. As technology taking a leap ahead with smart phones, tablets and internet influencing the younger generation, education has started redefining itself. The interactive features and nonlinear system of content are very interesting to the students than the conventional class rooms. Thus, professional and online education is on the rise and the digital spaces have opened the entire new scope for education system. Digital media is transforming the system of education to a great extent.

Higher Education is generally considered the synonymous of university education but it also include various colleges, research centers, training centers and professional institutes of law, medicine, theology, business, music, and art etc. Thus providing higher level of teaching is one of the facets of higher education.



## **1) ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION:-**

Libraries are considered the profound sea of knowledge emerging from the scholarly output over the years. These are not merely preserves this scholarly content but transmit it to generations. This scholarly output may be in form of text books, research articles, research reports, edited books, research theses or dissertations, etc. The library is such a place where a scholar finds rich information on his specific area of interest. The information resources are now not limited to its boundaries but it has now been extended out of it. Academic community of an Institution is not eligible to the documents kept in the libraries but he is eligible to get access of other documents available in other libraries over the globe. The medium of information is also not restricted to print media but information can be accessed via clouds now. Libraries are always been the mediators of knowledge and knowledge seekers. There are service providers to the scholar community of its parent organization. So there is no doubt in saying that an academic institution cannot survive without a library. And also if any academic institution do not give top priority to its library or neglect it, it will not take much time for its damage or destruction. "The Kothari Education Commission



(1964- 65) was found very much serious about importance of library in higher educational institution stating that, "nothing could be more damaging to a- pawing department than to neglect its library, give to it a low priority." So role of a library is considered much more important for higher educational institutions. All educational programmers are successfully implemented with the help and coordination of the library.

## **2) KEY ROLES OF LIBRARIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION:**

**As Educator:** Libraries educates users through various ways like train them with different techniques for retrieving required data and efficient searching of scientific information, effective use of Internet, Providing self-instructional materials, and declining distances. Library provides all kind of required tools and supplements for best teaching in classrooms, help in designing online tutorials, and such type of several activities. Users are supported in discovering required information available in different formats, using technology in searching information and knowledge organization. Users are provided one-on-one assistance through multiple platforms to help them in finding information.

**As Knowledge manager:** Libraries makes available different kind of adequate, quality, scoopful and latest resources in different formats- print, digital and electronic to strengthen teaching, research and other prerequisites of an institution. Libraries ensure long-term availability or access to the intellectual records so that they may be utilized by users at maximum. The library partners with multiple institutions (e.g., via collections consortia) to increase cost-effectiveness and to expand access to collections.

## **3) PURPOSE OF EDUCATION:**

The purpose of education is essentially that of effecting desirable changes in individuals who in turn change different aspects of life of the society that is social, economic, political, technological or cultural in nature. Education directs and changes the people and enables them to change the society in the relevant ways so as to conquer its environment for the benefit of mankind. It is to bring out what is the best in a man, to develop his personality, to train him to be useful to the society so as to contribute to its culture, social and economic development, and to make him a better person to enable him to contribute in shaping the world. The basic task of education is to promote the powers of mind, acquisition of special skills and the advancement of knowledge but above all to generate in young generation a sense of purposefulness and maximum dedication, confidence, in themselves and faith in the country's future. Human mind has wonderful resources of energy, but to bring out the best results from it, it has got to be tapped developed and canalized with the help of education. Education without library is like a body without soul, a vehicle without an engine and a building merely a collection of bricks without cement. Education and library service cannot live apart from the other. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The purpose of all education is to provide a coherent picture of universe and potentials in the most desirable form to young people in order to take up positions in the real life or an integrated way of life. Since education is both training of minds and training of souls, it should give both knowledge and wisdom.

## **4) OPEN KNOWLEDGE MOVEMENT**

High cost of scholarly contents in form of text books, journals and other documents has been a major issue for scholar community therefore Open Educational Resources (OERs) came into scene. Knowledge is open if anyone is free to access, use, modify and share it. Open Educational Resources (OERs) are educational contents available in public domain with open licence. Due to open licence policy of these OERs any person is legally eligible to copy, use, modify and share among academic community. These Resources include textbooks to curricula, course notes, lecture material, assignments, online course videos, audios and animations. Some very useful scholarly contents are available in Open Access mode by different academic 3 agencies and institutions and publishers which provides free access to peer reviewed journals, books, and other research oriented material. Online repositories are another medium benefitting scholar community by providing rich pedagogical material.

**4.1 OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER) INITIATIVES IN INDIA** • NPTEL (National Program on Technology Enhanced Learning) • Ekalavya • E-Grid • eGyan Kosh • Sakshat • e-PGPathshala • VLE (Virtual learning Environment of Delhi University) • CEC(Consortium of Educational Communication) • National Science Digital Library • National Repository of Open Educational Resources • E-BIDYA • FlexiLearn Open Course Portal • A-VIEW • SWAYAM • SWAYAM PRABHA • UGC- MOOC: • NDL (National Digital Library) • NMEICT (National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology) • Shodhganga

## **5) CONCLUSION**

Education and libraries are called the two facets of one coin. They are very much interdependent on each other as education without libraries and libraries without education are paralyzed. Libraries cannot be separated from education. The provision of libraries is crucial and essential to education around the globe.



In ICT era, when informational sources have been emerged in online publishing and digital mode and available on web, role and responsibilities of libraries have increased in terms of managing information, assessing quality, ensure access, storage and preservations, and such other activities. Digital resource has direct impact on productivity and efficiency of the libraries where library can able to give twenty four hour service irrespective of its opening hours. A library with good quality resources attract and retain ambitious faculty and hence can bring honor and prestige to the institution.

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