Resource Sharing Networking of College libraries affiliated to Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar:
a feasibility study.

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Introduction

- The tremendous advancement of information technology offers many alternative and opportunities for networking and resource sharing among the geographically dispersed or remotely located libraries and information centres. The advent of Internet has been a boost in resource sharing. The pressing need for resource sharing has prompted several national-level projects of library networking. Efforts are already made for networking of the libraries/information centres of all the Universities and major research libraries of the country through the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), program of the University Grant Commission (UGC). The Education and Research Network (ERNET) has been developed to link major academic institutions of the country. In addition to these, a number of other local, regional and national networking schemes in science, technology and other area are being developed. Under this objective condition, this paper proposes a web-based resource sharing model for the college affiliated to Sardar Patel University.

Role of College Libraries

- A college library plays pivotal role in ensuring the success of higher education & research. The college libraries are the real heart of Indian Academic System. In order to cater the need of undergraduate, Post graduate and research students as well as faculty members of the college libraries, it is extremely important to satisfy their individual need.

New Challenges

- The college libraries all over the World are facing new challenges. The economic crisis and devaluation of currencies have direct and indirectly affected college libraries in the region. At the same time result of rapid technological advances, all college libraries experience escalating expectations and demands from library users. It is impossible for any college library to work on the lines of being self-sufficient. By enhancing the library co-operation & resource sharing through network among college libraries of the region can provide significant opportunities to satisfy the information needs of each user.

Need of resource sharing & networking

There are numbers of problems faced by the college libraries.

- Inadequate Finance
- Information explosion.
- Growth of print & non-print literature
- Rise in cost of all types of documents
- Increase in numbers of users & their specific demand.
- Inadequate professionally qualified staff.
- Inadequate utilization of overall resources
- Duplicating efforts and material
- Unsystematic and discrete library development offer leads to waste, duplication, and the inefficient use of the total knowledge resources.

The UGC, taking into consideration the information explosion and price rise, decided to modernize university & college library in the country.

Field of Resource Sharing & Networking

The efforts have been made by UGC & INFLIBNET even though the situations of college libraries in Gujarat are not satisfactory so the study has been conducted.

The following are the fields of resource sharing

- Co-operative acquisition programme.
- Co-operative storage centres
- Co-operative processing.
- Co-operative information services

There are numbers of aspects of college libraries in which resource sharing can be effectively applied.

Scope of the study

- The present study covers the status and implementation of computerization and networking activities in college libraries affiliated to Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar.

Sardar Patel University

- Sardar Patel University was established by an Act of the Legislative Assembly of the then Bombay Province in December 1955 and was recognised under 2f of the UGC Act in October 1968.

- Sardar Patel University comprises of 25 Postgraduate Departments, a constituent college, and 72 colleges affiliated to it. There are 14 PG Centres in the affiliated colleges/institutions. The teaching programme covered at Postgraduate level under various faculties such as Science, Arts, Commerce, Management, Engineering, Pharmacy, Medicine, Homeopathy, Home Science, Law and Education includes Postgraduate Degree Courses, Postgraduate Diploma Courses, and Advanced Certificate Courses. Undergraduate Courses are taught in the colleges or institutes affiliated to the University.

Affiliated Colleges

- There are in all 72 affiliated colleges to S.P. University, Vallabh Vidyanagar in various Disciplines
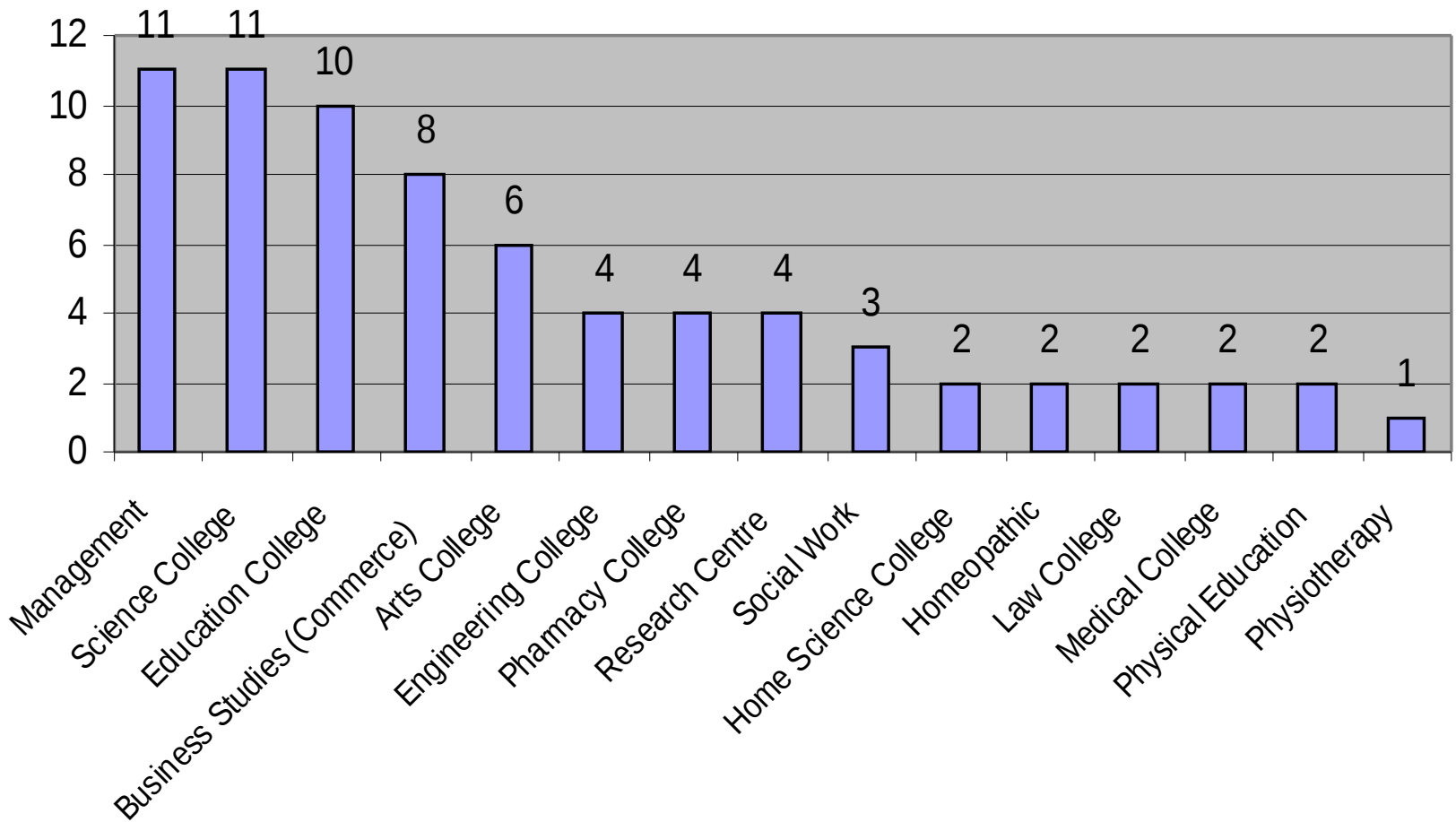
Discipline wise Colleges

Details of College	No. of Colleges	Percentage
Management	11	15.27 %
Science College	11	15.27 %
Education	10	13.88 %
Business Studies (Commerce)	8	11.11%
Engineering College	6	8.33%
Pharmacy College	4	5.55%
Research Centre	4	5.55%

Discipline wise Colleges

Detail of Colleges	No. of Colleges	Percentage
Social Work	3	5.55%
Home Science	2	4.16%
Homeopathic	2	2.77%
Law College	2	2.77%
Medical College	2	2.77%
Physical Education	2	2.77%
Physiotherapy	1	2.77%

Graph No. 1

- The table/graph shows that out of 72 colleges, there are 11 (15.27%) Science colleges, 11 (15.27 %) Management colleges, while education colleges are 10 (13.88%) which is second highest. Then subsequently Business Studies (Commerce) 8 (11.11%), Arts 6 (8.33%), Engineering 4 (5.55%), Pharmacy 4 (5.55%), Social work 3 (4.16%), Home Science 2 (2.77%), Homeopathic 2 (2.77%), Law 2 (2.77%), Medical 2 (2.77%) Physical Education & Physiotherapy 1 (1.38%).

- There are 4 (5.55%) affiliated research centres which can be connected with the network for resource sharing.

Methodology

- The survey method has been used for the study. The questionnaire was prepared to collect data from the all 72 college libraries. Response has received back from 52 college libraries i.e.72.22 %.

Analysis of Collected data

- The study has been carried out from 52 college libraries.

- **Library Budget:** Total budget of all the 52 college libraries during 2010-11 is Rs. 1,95,99016.

- Here data has been displaced of only three highest & three lowest budget of the college libraries.
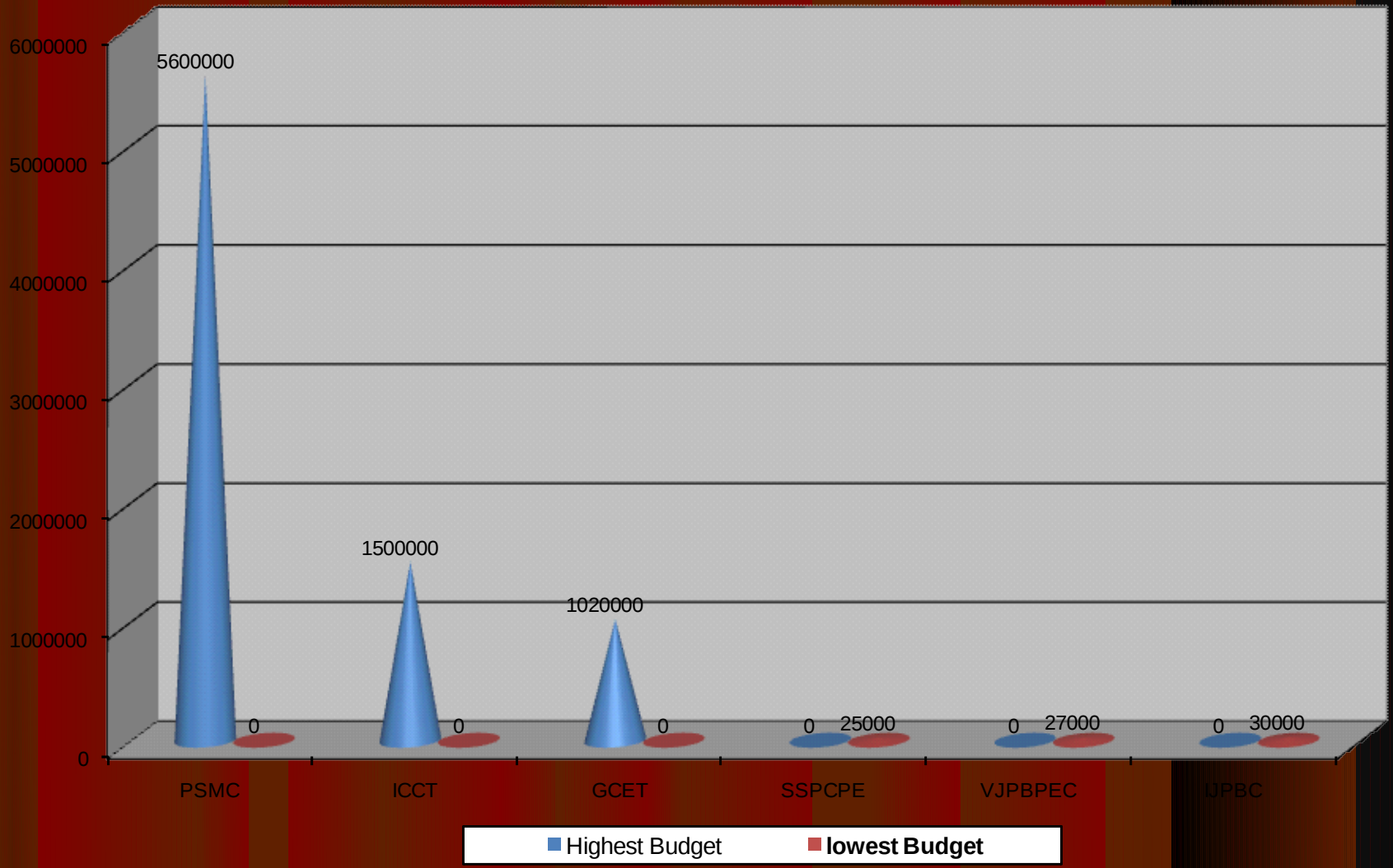
Table.1

Highest Budget

Name of College	Budget 2010-11
PSMC	56,00000
ICCT	15,00000
GCET	10,20000

Lowest Budget

Name of College	Budget 2010-11
SSPCPE	25000
VJPBPEC	27000
IJPBC	30000

Library Budget

- The Parmukh Swami Medical College (PSMC) library has maximum budget of Rs. 56,00000=00 among all the 52 college libraries. Then comes Institute of Computer & Communication Technology (ICCT) library, G.H.Patel College of Engineering & Technology (GCET) library etc. subsequently while S.S.Patel College of Physical Education (SSPCPE) has lowest budget compare to other libraries i.e. Rs. 25000.

- If all the college libraries are connected with networking facility for resource sharing the over all budget of all the 52 college libraries will be increased. Everyone can take advantage of each other.

Users

- The data reveals that maximum numbers of users are at BVM College library i.e. 2500 while minimum number of users at SSPCPE Library i.e. 15.

Availability of basic requirement for computerization & networking

- **Hardware**

  Regarding automation & hardware configuration in out of 52 college library
  - Only 23 (44.23%) libraries have computer facilities as well as internet facility.
  - Out of above i.e.23 (44.23%) libraries.
  - Only 15 (28.84 %) library are fully Computerized with bar-coding and internet facility.
  - Only 18 (34.61%) library have user terminals

- **Software**:

  Out of 52 colleges, only 12 (23.07) college libraries use SOUL Software, while 11 (21.15%) college libraries use their own Software developed by their staff and remaining 29 (55.76%) college libraries have no library software facility

- **Database creation:**

  15 college libraries (28.84%) have created bibliographic databases.

Findings

- The implementation of new technology and networking in the college libraries is depended on the facilities provided by Trust, Mandal, University, or Government.
  - No sufficient professional staff
  - Insufficient budget
  - Not all the college libraries are fully computerized.
  - Library software is also different in different colleges.
  - Database creation activities are also not started in many college libraries.
  - Not a single library has completed database creation.

Suggestions

1. Basic facilities such computers, etc. Should be provided by their trust,Mandal,University,or Government.

2. All the authorities of colleges should recognize the importance of resource sharing & networking.

3. To create the culture for resource sharing & networking.

4. Proper infrastructure facilities for automation & computerization should be provided by their trust, Mandal, University, or Government.

5. The U.G.C. should provide more grant for establishment of college library network.

6. Internet or Ernet facility should be provided to reach at the end user.

ADINET Seminar