

Libraries of private universities

Use of library should be made mandatory for students with marks given for such use

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THE real history of private university of Bangladesh started almost one and half decade ago. University Grant Commission (UGC) and ministry of education are monitoring the private universities by following some rules and regulations. But the irony is that the rules and regulations are yet to be followed by many of the private universities. These terms and conditions are also poor in some cases, especially in relation to the libraries.

Undoubtedly, library is the heart of an educational institution; it is the storehouse of knowledge. A good library system and services help the knowledge seekers to reach optimum level of learning as well as research activities. But what is the present scenario of private university libraries? In every report regarding universities we always find there should be a good library, lab, etc.

Many universities are running according to the whims and wishes of entrepreneurs. For this we find different private university libraries are running in different ways. Some are running without having any professional manpower and sufficient number of books, some have sufficient books but not sufficient titles. Some private universities maintain very high quality standards. These universities recruit highly efficient and skilled manpower who have experiences of national and international organisations, and have an educational background of MA from Dhaka University or PhD from abroad. Besides, a few newly-established private universities are also in progress to follow the standard. Almost forty-five private universities don't have sufficient professional manpower, wide space, online subscribed journals, and

start library activities with the help of the full time professional manpower (MA in Library Science). Recruiting consultant will also be encouraged.

- * University is an idle place and tertiary level of education. To purchase a pirated copy of books is a matter of ethics. So, printed or Xerox copy of books should be avoided.

- * For each five students, there should be one book of respective course, that is, books should be purchased on a ratio of 1:5 on regular basis.

- * Initially, the university should purchase at least 20 national and international hard journals.

- * Online journal is the reality of the present global world. The University should purchase JSTOR, Emerald, Oxford University Press, IEEE, Science Directory and many more within five years

every aspect including circulation, processing and procurement

- * UGC should monitor and make sure of sudden visit of the private university libraries in order to check they are maintaining the desired standard of all aspects or not

- * At every six months intervals UGC should take the report on new arrivals of books, CDs, journals and other library resources

- * Regular report on stocktaking, weeding, manpower and its development, and overall activities of university libraries

- * Every university library should have individual mission and vision, rules and regulations. It is very helpful for the development of the library.

- * There should be need based borrowing facilities, online journals and library catalogue search corner of

titles of new books and the number of copies should vary based on the students for every year

- * To maintain the quality of education, the use of library for every student should be made mandatory, that is, at least 10 hours a week.

- * There should be individual grade for students who will use library more, and she/he will get more marks. To keep those kinds of records, library should maintain software with sophisticated technology. If the students fail to use the library at desired level, then he or she will not get the degree.

- * Library should purchase all major nation dailies, periodicals

- * Photocopy facilities inside the library, reference service, current awareness service and selective dissemination of information service, should be maintained

- * To keep the environment



Library should be considered second home

they purchased pirated books called Nilkhet Print. They have no library manual or online catalogue. Such are the overall conditions of major private university libraries. So University Grant Commission (UGC) can play a vital role to overcome this situation.

UGC can emphasise and take action on the following points:

- * The library should remain open from 9am to 9pm.
- * The qualification of a librarian should be PhD or fifteen years of professional experience and MA from library science.
- * Initially a university should

on the regular basis after approval of the new or prevailed private university libraries

- * Traditional and manual cataloguing system all over the word in major libraries has become history. Country's three leading private universities like NSU, EWU and IUB libraries have been running online and automated cataloguing system and web-based module. Besides, SUB, AIUB, BRAC and some other nascent universities have automated cataloguing system. Library should be automated in

respected library.

- * For development of a library system and services, library personnel should be evaluated too. Public universities of our country have an organogram compared to the faculty members like lecturer is equal to assistant librarian, professor is equal to librarian, etc., and they get similar financial scale and status. This system is prevailed not only in Bangladesh but also in other countries.
- * For each programme/department, university should purchase at least 100

good, library should be air conditioned, use modern equipment with furniture, etc.

At present, UGC procures the report of private universities regularly. It has a little option to get information of a particular university library. Above said things should be done for proper evaluation. UGC should not be confined just to get the report. Feedback and advice are also necessary to maintain the desired standard at private university libraries.

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