

Choosing Librarianship as a Choice of Career: A Case Study on Selected Higher Secondary Schools in Dimapur areas, Nagaland

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Abstract

Librarianship is one of the emerging, growing and full-fledged profession. Librarianship is also a choice of career for someone who loves to serve people's interest. Librarian is the information collector, preserver and disseminator. It is also one of the best choices of career to be undertaken among the different type of career choice. In Nagaland, people are not aware of Library and Information science as a choice of career. So, the study is made on the four selected higher secondary school of St. Paul higher secondary school, Hebron higher secondary school, North town higher secondary school and St. Joseph higher secondary school of Dimapur focused on class 11 and class 12 to make them aware about the availability of Library and Information science as a choice of career. The study found that the students were not aware of the subject Library and Information science and responded they will like to choose librarianship as a career choice. In Nagaland, only ICFAI university offers Library and Information science subject in B.A degree. The study found most of the students are not aware of its availability. Therefore, ICFAI university needs to put an effort to make the people aware about the availability of Library and Information Science as a career choice.

Keywords: Librarianship, Library and Information Science, profession

1. Introduction

Career play a crucial role in a person's life to be successful. Each and everyone builds their career according to their choice of interest. Library and Information Science is quite a new subject which has not yet taken up proper position in many Universities. With the upgradation of web 1.0 to web 2.0 which led to information explosion and data smog which in turn led to the need of information centres to acquire authentic information. With the growth of libraries and information centres, the need for librarian professionals has increased.

Despite the huge availability of resources and setting up of libraries, the library profession is the least choice of the people as compared to other profession like a doctor, engineer, lawyer, teacher etc. The librarian comes under the category where it needs advance education but is given least concern by the people.

Librarianship is a career choice which is dedicated to serving the public interest by providing authentic information to the right user at the right time. But the bitter truth is librarianship profession don't share the glamour and respect like the other professions. So, the people are least interested to choose librarianship as their choice of career. People are not realizing that librarians are the superheroes helping behind every successful output of research scholars, scientists, doctors etc. (Marshall, J. G., et.al., 2009).

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2. Librarianship as a Profession

Librarianship has all the elements of any other profession. It is an honourable and dignified profession. It is one of the oldest as well as youngest profession. Librarianship profession came into being for safekeeping the written and recorded information. With the invention of the printing press, it led to the flourish of written information and this led to the development of Library building and Librarianship as a profession. (Marshall, J. G., et.al., 2009). Librarianship forms the foundation of specialization and various career opportunities including knowledge management, document management, research librarianship, children's librarianship and electronic resources management. It is a worthy and valuable profession (Danner, 1998).

3. Objectives

The main aim of this project is to find out the opinion of the respondents in choosing librarianship as a choice of career. The specific objectives of the study include:

- To find out about the awareness of Library and Information Science subject
- To find out factors that motivate or discourages students in the selected secondary schools, to choose librarianship as a career.
- Explore their perceptions towards the nature of the job.
- To identify their level of awareness towards a career in Librarianship.

4. Research Methodology

There are different type of techniques for gathering data. Data collection was done by using a questionnaire to the targeted population. Simple random sampling technique was used for data collection. In Dimapur, there are many secondary schools, but data is collected from the school of St. Paul higher secondary school, Hebron higher secondary school, North town higher secondary school, St. Joseph higher secondary school of Dimapur focused on class 11 and class 12 students as they will be soon choosing their professional fields after one or two years. So, the study was focused on this group of students to make them aware of the availability of Library and Information Science as a profession.

5. Review of Literature

Review of literature was done to have a deeper insight into the people's view towards Librarianship as a choice of career and seek suggestion for the development of the profession.

Ismail, N. (2006) investigated the higher secondary student's perception towards choosing librarianship as a career. It was a study made to find out the student's perception about the factor that encourages or discourages students to choose Librarianship as a career. It was found that very few were aware of the librarianship profession. The study suggests that Librarianship as a choice of career should be introduced in every school. In future, better people will be attracted to this profession.

Olayinka, F. (2008) explored the perceptions of higher secondary school students in Ekiti states towards their opinion of choosing librarianship as a choice of career and examine the student’s awareness, understanding and knowledge of librarianship as a profession. It was found that most of the students were not aware of the course of Library Science and showed unwillingness towards the profession as a career choice. Different types of suggestions need to be imparted to the students to make them know about the benefit of Library science subject as a career.

According to Bintiismail, N. (2012) the upper higher secondary student's perception towards Librarianship as a choice of career and their level of awareness and interest in choosing Librarianship as their career choice was estimated. The study was made to find out the factors which motivate or discourage the students in choosing librarianship as a choice of career. The study found that most of the students are not aware of library science subject and rated librarianship as a choice of careers the lowest. The study shows that the library professionals should put more effort to build a positive aspect of the profession as a career choice.

LO, P. et al. (2015) highlights that choosing a career is influenced by both the internal and external forces we come across in our lives. In the study, it is reported that we explore various educational factors, social, cultural and economic, as well as personal and professional reasons that influence students in choosing library and information science (LIS) profession as a career.

6. Data Analysis

The respondents were categorized based on the three age groups namely 0-15 years, 16-20 years and 20 years and above. The respondents are from class 11 and class 12 students.

Table 1: Age group wise

Age Group	Total	Percentage
0-15	4	2%
16-20	177	92%
20 years and above	10	6%

Table 1 shows out of the total respondents, 92% of the respondents are from 16-20 years of age group, 6% of the respondents are from 20 years and above and 2% of the respondents are from 0- 15 years of age group. The study shows most of the respondents are from the 16-20 age of students.

Table 2: Academic standard wise

Academic Standard	Total	Percentage
Class- 11	65	35%
Class- 12	124	65%

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The above table 2 reveals out of the total respondent's majority 65% of the respondents are from class 12 and 35% of the respondents are from class 11. The study shows the active participation of respondents is from class 12 standard students.

Table 3: Library in your school

Library in your School	Total	Percentage
Yes	42	45%
No	50	55%

The above table 3 shows 55% of the respondents do not have a library in their school and 45% of the respondents have a library in their school. The study shows a majority of the respondents do not have a library in their school.

Table 4: Use of library

Use of Library	Total	Percentage
Yes	110	57%
No	82	43%

The table 4 shows that majority of the respondents 57% of the respondents make use of the library and 43% of the respondents have not yet used a library. The study shows still 43% of the respondents have not yet used library even once. The reason might be the schools do not have library facilities or the student do not have the interest to access library.

Table 5: Like to read books

Like to read the book	Total	Percentage
Yes	162	84%
No	30	16%

Most of the respondents about 84% responded that they like to read books and 16% of the respondents responded saying they dislike reading books. The study shows most of the respondents like reading a book.

Table 6: Librarian in your library

Librarian in your Library	Total	Percentage
Yes	142	74%
No	50	26%

The above table 6 shows that 74% of the respondents have a librarian in their school and 26% of the respondents do not have a librarian in their school.

Table 7: Inspiration from School Librarian

Inspired by your school librarian	Total	Percentage
Yes	100	52%
No	93	48%

The above table 7 shows the inspiration to students by librarians. In this study, it is noted that 52% of the respondents are inspired by their school librarian and 48% of the respondents are not inspired by their librarians.

Table 8: Awareness of Librarianship

Aware of Librarianship	Total	Percentage
Yes	106	55%
No	86	45%

Table 8 shows that the majority 55% of the respondents are aware of Librarianship and 45% are not aware of Librarianship. It shows a majority of the respondents are aware of the librarian profession.

Table 9: Aware that librarianship as a choice of career

Aware that librarianship as a choice of career	Total	Percentage
Yes	147	77%
No	45	23%

Most of the respondents, 77% of the respondents are aware that librarianship is a choice of career and 23% are not aware of librarianship as a choice of career. The study shows the students are aware of the library profession.

Table 10: Librarianship is a good career

Librarianship as a good career	Total	Percentage
Yes	169	88%
No	23	12%

Table 10 shows that 88% of the respondents agree that librarianship is a good choice of career whereas, 12% disagrees that librarianship is a good choice of career.

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Table 11: Choice of Profession

Profession	Total	Percentage
Engineering	16	11%
Architectural Engineering	14	10%
Teaching	45	32%
Farming	2	1%
Librarianship	9	6%
Others	57	40%

Table 11 shows that 40% of the respondents have other choice of profession which were not listed in the questionnaire, 32% of the respondents chose to do teaching, 11% of the respondents choose to do Engineering, 10% of the respondents choose to do Architectural Engineering, 6% of the respondents choose to do Librarianship, and 1% of the respondents choose to do Farming. The study shows the respondents showed least interest towards librarianship as a choice of career.

Table 12: Factors which discourages to choose Librarianship

Factors which discourages	Total	Percentage
Need more information	126	66%
Tough job for me	19	10%
Never receive due respect	20	10%
Boring Job	26	14%

Table 12 shows that 66% of the respondents feel discouraged to choose Librarianship as a profession because they need more information about the subject, and 14% feels that librarianship is a boring job, 10% are discouraged because they think librarianship is a tough job for them, another 10% feels that librarianship never received due respect.

Table 13: Factors which motivate to choose librarianship as a career choice

Factors that motivate	Total	Percentage
Attractive salaries	13	7%
Best course for me	17	9%
Love to read books	102	54%
Like to serve the general people	41	21%
Unfit for another course	17	9%

Majority 54% are motivated by the love of reading books, 21% are motivated as they like to serve the general people, 9% of the respondents think librarianship is the best

course for them, remaining 9% feel that they are unfit for another course, and 7% of the respondents are motivated to choose librarianship as choice of career because of attractive salaries.

Table 14: Awareness LIS education provided at ICFAI University

Are you aware that ICFAI university provides LIS	Total	Percentage
Yes	88	47%
No	101	53%

Majority 53% of the respondents are not aware that LIS course is offered in ICFAI University and 47% of the respondents are aware of the LIS course provided at ICFAI University. The study shows ICFAI university must do publicity about the Library and Information Science subject to attract more students in this fields.

7. Findings and Analysis

A simple random sampling method was adopted in the collection of primary data, making sure that the sample size represents the entire population. In this case, four schools were chosen as the population, and a total of 200 students were randomly chosen as the sample size out of it 193 respondents responded.

As per the primary data collected from the field, the findings and analysis on the following variables (parameters) deduced from the questions Q1 – Q21 of the survey questionnaires i.e. Age groups, gender, standards they are studying in, frequency of use of library, awareness of librarianship as a career, and sources of awareness about librarianship are as follows:

- The data collected are from the age groups of 0 to 20 and above. Out of which most of the respondents 93% are from the age group of 16 to 20, 5% are from the age group of 20 and above, and the remaining 2% are from the age group of 0 to 15. The study shows the active participants are from the age group of 16-20 age group.
- 65% of the student respondents are from 12th standard, while 35% are from 11th standard. This may indicate that the higher secondary students are quite concerned with their career and hence are participative.
- The data indicates that only 34 % of the respondents have libraries in their schools they attended, and out of which 27% makes use of the resources of the library while 39% likes to read books, keeping the objective of the study in mind, it may suggest that the need for library in schools is highly desirable as only 34 % of the schools attended by respondents have libraries in their schools, and also cultivate reading habits and of course use of available resources in the library.
- The findings from the data collected from the respondents suggest that only 30% of the respondents are aware of librarianship as a career, and out of

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which 29% felt inspired by a librarian as a profession. Availability of library in schools in just only 41% of the respondents suggests a negative implication.

- The data indicate that the respondents came to know about librarianship as a career choice from various sources. 50% came to know about it through library school perspective, 35% through relatives and friends, 14% of the respondents came to know through media courses such as radio programmed commercials, TV and Newspapers, 1% through vacancy ads on librarianship.
- Most of the respondents are aware that Librarianship is also a choice of career, while a few of them are not aware about it.
- Most of the respondents also agree that Librarianship is a good choice of career, only a few disagree with it. It shows that the respondents are interested in the librarianship as an option of a future career.
- The study of this case among the higher secondary students also throws lights that the respondents give fifth importance to Librarianship among the six options they were given in the questionnaire. It shows they give the least privileges of career option while comparing with the other career choices.
- Need for more information is what discourages the majority of the respondents to choose librarianship as a choice of career, a few of them ended up with the idea that librarianship is a tough job for them.
- The love to read books is what motivates the majority of the respondents to choose librarianship as a choice of career, while a very few of them are attracted by the salaries of a librarian.
- Majority of the respondents are not aware that the ICFAI University provides the Bachelor Degree for LIS Honours, only a few of them are aware about it. The study shows ICFAI university must put effort to make the people aware about the availability of the subject as a career choice.

8. Conclusion

It is very conclusive, from the study conducted that awareness of librarianship is still quite low amongst the students of the schools, there is a greater need for libraries in schools, as most of the schools do not have the library facilities. The findings of this case study have not only made the respondents aware of Librarianship as a choice of career, but it has also made many students able to understand what librarianship is and has even made them understand that if they want to pursue librarianship, they can do it in their own neighbourhood, ICFAI University.

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