

## **Relationship between the Use of Library Facility and Students' Academic Achievement in the University of the Punjab**

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### **Abstract**

Availability of library facilities in any institution is very basic; a library's importance is like a backbone in human body. Academic resource materials are critical for spreading knowledge among each new generation of scholars. Importance of books for transmission of knowledge cannot be denied in any era. This study investigated the relationship of the library with students' academic achievement. For the purposes of this study, academic achievement is measured here in form of Grade Point Averages of students at M.A level during 2016-18. This study also investigated whether library facilities help students in completing their educational tasks. Sample of the study included 116 students of M.A Education (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> semester) from University of the Punjab, Lahore. These students were selected through purposive sampling technique. Responses were taken through questionnaires. Descriptive and inferential statistics were applied to find out the relationship between library facility and students' academic achievement. Results show that a positive relationship exists between library facilities and students' academic achievement. Students claimed that the availability of academic books helped them in improving their grades and rich library facilities helped students in completing their assignments and other projects on time. The major conclusion drawn from this research is that the students were satisfied with library facilities and availability of books. Their visit to library always helped them, and their visit to library was always useful for them and this habit led them to improve their GPA.

**Keywords:** *Library Availability, Students, Academic Achievement, GPA*

### **1. Introduction**

Library is the place where a lot of books are kept. These books are the collection of centuries. Thousands of books are available in well reputed libraries. Libraries can be divided into several categories but more famous types

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are public and institutional. These libraries have books on different topics like, original work in the form of poetry, novels, stories, life experiences, encyclopedias, bibliographies, dictionaries, reports and publications etc. Students who do not show interest in reading books may be poor in their academic achievements as they have no interest even in their syllabus books (Smith, 2001). As Soria, Fransen, & Nackerud (2013) addressed the question in their research that libraries have great impact on students learning and intellectual skills. Visit and use of library becomes a cause of good academic achievement. Bresciani, Gardner & Hickmott, (2012) analyzed the relationship between library use and student academic achievement. Likewise, Laird and Kuh, (2005) described that participation in general knowledge programs and library associated activities like material searching on different websites and ask for librarian's help in searching books for the sake of knowledge improvement has significant relation with students' academic achievement.

Eyo (2001) viewed that teacher and students living without proper updated and well managed libraries are backward in knowledge and lacking for new technologies. The basic aim of updated library at higher educational institutions is to support teachers and students in improving and to bring innovation in their researches. Well-equipped library may enhance the ability of writing skill, reading skill and clarity of ideas and expressions. The institutions which are lacking to update library and show ignorance toward motivating their students to use library, have to face a lot of problems in making a place in higher education commission's ranking. These universities rank at a lower level nationally. This shortage of library resource causes their students poor academic achievement and quality of education. These types of students have less value in the field as they have only typical knowledge. Library helps students to elaborate their knowledge and expand their concepts. Arua & Chinaka (2011) have confirmed that a learner cannot acquire knowledge only from classroom. Classroom lecture is limited; a student can gain knowledge from library books and online resources to expand his teacher's lecture. Adeyemi (2010) has explained in his study that learner's intellectual development is based on the usage of library on regular basis. Vent (2006) concluded in his study that results of students' summative evaluation are based on student's visits and consultation of books. Farmer (2006) concluded that libraries closely interferes students' academic achievement.

### **1.1 Objectives of Study**

1. To explore relationship between the use of library facility and academic achievement in form of grade point average of students at M.A level.

2. To investigate either the library facility help students in completing their educational tasks.

### **1.2 Research Questions**

The following research questions were posed to conduct the study;

1. Is there any relationship between use of library facility and student's academic achievement at M.A level?
2. Does the facility of library help the students in accomplishing their assignments and projects?

### **1.3 Significance of Study**

This article aimed to analyze the availability of library facility and its use in enhancing students' academic achievement in university of the Punjab on students of M.A Education with a view to provide an empirical basis for the importance of library and its relationship with academic achievement. This study may also be beneficial for policy developers of educational institutions to realize the importance of well-equipped library in the enhancement of quality based outcomes in the form of good grades. This study may also be significant for librarians to realize the importance of subject related books and fulfill the needs of students according to their requirements. Librarians may provide a list for required books and can draw a budget for allocation of funds to increase the quality of library. This study may be beneficial for the teachers to encourage students to take benefit from libraries. Study may also be a motivational resource for students to use library in order to improve their GPA. This study may also be helpful for other universities to realize the importance of libraries and can create an environment of competition among universities to up-grade their libraries.

## **2. Literature Review**

A lot of studies have been conducted on the association of library facilities and academic achievement of students. A study established by Goodall and Pattern (2011) on the impact of library use and students' academic achievement in United Kingdom revealed a strong positive relationship between library facilities and students' academic achievement. They also observed two categories of students who borrow and use the books and other never avail library facility. Findings showed that students achieve higher grades that used to avail library facility.

According to Rodger (2009) libraries are very useful for the visitors as it help them to meet their goals and well equipped libraries always make a distinction between the institutions. Libraries are the place that imparts an important role in students' academic achievement, curriculum improvement and coaching (New York Comprehensive Center, 2011).

In the study of Todd & Kuhlthau (2004) results illustrate that the school libraries which have responsible librarians were giving more benefit (99.44%) to the students, and students felt more satisfaction after visiting to library. Moreover, 85% students viewed that library help them to do better and quick work. 89% viewed that library helped them in achieving and capable them to finish assignments in time. Furthermore 75% students described that library is a source of getting good grades for them.

Another study was conducted in Clorado by Lance & Loertscher (2005) revealed that staffing level of librarians, fund allocation for the library, role of librarian in assisting students and collection of relevant books for students has a direct relationship with students' academic achievement. Librarians' attitude towards students also improves their professional/educational test scores. Academic achievement is the attainment of knowledge, skills and abilities that students acquires during their engagement in a specific educational program (Becher, 1992).

Academic achievement can be defined as one of the determinant of success in life as academic achievement depicts the student's inner qualities, interest and capabilities for the specific field and subject (Velasco, 2007). A study conducted by Lance and Hofschire (2012) to investigate link between library and academic achievement in public schools in the United states of America. They found where library services were available there most of the students were in habit of reading books and to visit library for achieving knowledge in comparison to those who had no library facility.

Smalley (2004) surveyed eight universities of United Kingdom through a study established through mixed method (Qualitative and Quantitative research). He described the findings by concluding that those students who have library facility for completing their educational activities were more significantly achieving good grades rather than those who had not this facility. The students who had no facility were in trouble in preparing their assignments and educational tasks in time.

### **3. Research Methodology**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The study has followed descriptive research design involving survey technique.

#### **3.2 Population of Study**

Population of the study was 255 students of M.A Education session 2016-2018 (IER Department University of the Punjab). Purposive sampling technique was utilized in this study.

#### **3.3 Sample & Sampling Technique**

Purposive sampling technique was utilized in this study. For the selection of accurate sample the final result lists of semester 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> were taken from record office. Students were categorized into grade A, B and C on the basis of their achieved GPA's in previous semesters. One hundred and sixteen students who obtained higher GPA and lower GPA were approached for the collection of data. Grades were categorized on the bases of percentage of marks and then divided into GPA The result list of students of M.A education (2016-18) assisted to select the sample.

Questionnaire was adopted from study of Williams & Wavell (2001). This study was limited to students' perspective so only student survey tool was utilized. Scale was comprised of seventeen (17) items. The Cronbach alpha of the all items was .74.

Table 1

*Demographic Description*

	N	%
Female	65	57.4
Male	51	42.7
Total	116	100.0

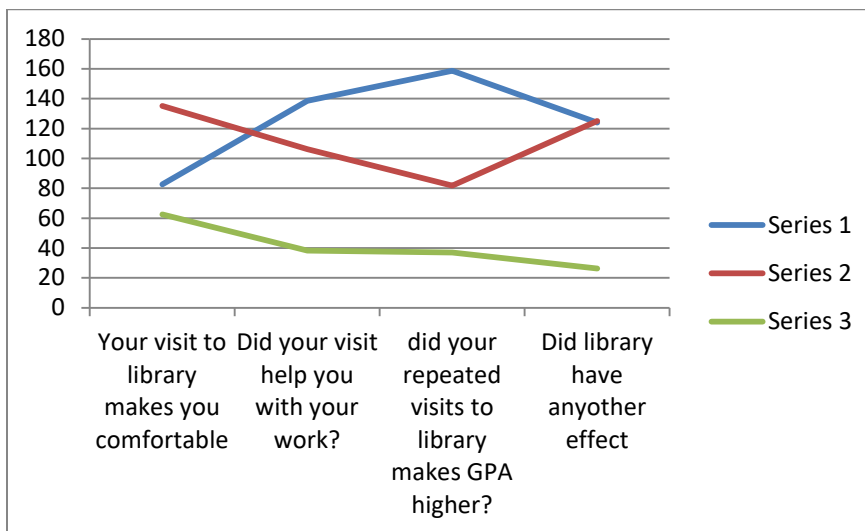
Table 1 indicates the frequency difference between male and female students of M.A Education 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> semester session 2016-2018

#### 4. Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table 4.1

*Students' responses about library facility*

Factors	Yes %	Don't know %	No %
Your visit to library makes you comfortable	71.5	21.4	8.1
Did your visit help you with your work?	92.5	3.5	4.0
Did your repeated visits to library make GPA higher?	58	37	5
Did library is facilitated with advance technology	83	7	10



Series 1, 2 and 3 depicts the responses (yes, don't know and no) of students Factor 1 "Your visit to library makes you comfortable" make it clear with the percentage of 71.5 positive responses (yes), with percentage of 21.4 ambiguous responses (don't know)

Factor 2 "Did your visit help you with your work?" give an idea about the 92.5 % of positive responses, negative responses with 3 and 5 %, ambiguous answer (don't know). Sixty four out of 116 perceived that they gain different skills like they become competent in research, technology like computer and in learning skills how to find a relevant book 52 think that there is nothing to gain for them in university library.

Factor 3 "did your visits to library resulted as higher GPA?" demonstrate the positive and healthy results of student, those who are more interested in reading books and visit daily to library have higher GPA" 58 choose 'Yes' in response to same question, while 37 and 13.4 overall mean concerns to ambiguous response.

Factor no 4 regarding the question "Did the university library have any other effect?" reveal almost same means for student responses 'yes' and 'no' with the means of 53 and 63 respectively.

The results concluded that students are satisfied with library facility and it is helpful in their academic achievement with mean value of 85.15 on the other hand students also claim that there is no positive impact on their academic achievements as mean of 41.14.

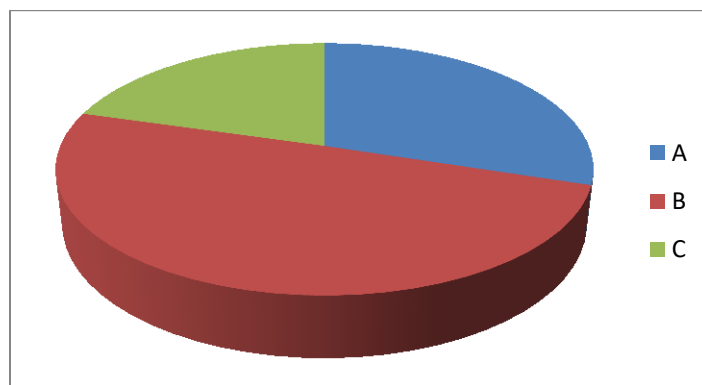
Table 4.2

*Correlations between Library Facility and Academic Achievement (n=116)*

Variable	N	Mean	SD	r	Sig.
Academic achievement	116	3.2026	.34661	0.663	.000
Library facility	116	23.2586	7.22570		

\* $p \leq 0.05$ , \*\* $p \leq 0.01$

According to the result of Pearson product moment correlation, table shows that there is significant positive relationship  $r = .66$  between library facility and academic achievement of students. The significant value (.000) showed significant relationship between the variables.



*Figure 1* Distribution of student's overall obtained grade

Twenty percent students achieve grade "A" (85% and above) (Blue), while 58 percent students obtain grade "B" (70% and above) (Red) and 22 percent receive grade "C" (55% and above) (Green).

## 5. Discussion

Results indicate that availability of library is beneficial for students, but if the library is rich with updated books it compels students to make more and more visits to library. Subject relevant and latest editions of books motivate them to be in touch with library. Libraries increase their knowledge and this thing leads them towards higher level of achievement. This finding is also aligned with Lance & Hofschire (2012) that libraries are in strong relation with students' scoring. They further included that library visits make students' knowledge

distinguish and long lasting. Students who like to work hard and consult books prove themselves better product of society. Students who only focus on subject related text books and do not consult libraries or other technologies cannot perform well in their future life. They become handicap (Lance & Loertscher, 2005). However, Eyo (2000) disapproved this idea by claiming that many students get good grades although they never visit to library. He claimed that this concept can't be generalized to all humanity. Although he may be right that results can never be generalized to all, but variation is the spice of life.

Findings showed that library always help students in completing their assignments and projects. According to Ahmad (2000), positive guideline for using a library and helping individuals in searching the relevant books prevent them from much confusion and lead them toward in timely submission of assignment. Smith (2001) also argued that availability of library in educational institutions has a positive relationship with their higher academic achievement and help them in accomplishing their educational tasks like preparation of quiz, assignment completion, and gaining more information on a topic.

### **6. Conclusions**

Facility of well-equipped library has a positive influence on students' academic achievement as it supports students to prepare their assignments and help in planning of their projects. Facility of library may save their time by making them to utilize available resources at one place. Students collect data themselves by studying different books which not only improves their assignment work but also increases their knowledge in other perspectives. Even students gain the information that is not related to their projects and can inculcate it in different situation.

According to students, library is very useful for their academic up gradation because it is the main source for them to complete their assignments, projects and other educational tasks in time. Result showed that university of Punjab has a very rich library and this library is very useful for students in all aspects of their academic achievement.

### **7. Recommendations**

1. Workshop may be organized on the awareness and importance of library for the students, so that they may get benefit from it.
2. Teachers should motivate students to visit libraries and collect material for improving their knowledge and notes.
3. Teachers may abolish the traditional system of rote learning by making students to habitual of libraries and reading several books; this effort may expand their knowledge at higher level.

4. Administrators of department may launch the rule for students to ensure their visits to library and teachers make it possible by giving a task to students to write and learn the names of ten books with their author. This activity would definitely improve their learning and might cause a prominent positive difference.
5. Students may be asked to prepare their own notes by utilizing library and then consult with teacher for more improving suggestions.
6. Libraries should be comfortable, in context of temperature, furniture and sound proof.
7. Libraries could be enriched with latest technology, like provision of internet facility and high speed computers.

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