Study of Vulnerable and Delinquent Activities in College Libraries

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Abstract

The study has aim to know the vulnerable and delinquent activities happened in college libraries affiliated college to Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad. The paper focused objectives of the research, hypothesis, scope, limitations, methodology and findings of the study. Present paper explore delinquent activities like Theft of collection-books, Magazines, Theft of library equipment, Mutilation, Misplacement or Hiding of books, Un authorized borrowing, Non return of books, Use of Drug, Violent crimes, Vandalism, Verbal abuse and physical assault and find out the reasons behind such a type of activity.

Keywords

Delinquent activity in library; theft, mutilation;causes of vulnerable activity in library.

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INTRODUCTION

Libraries are supporting educational programme of learning, teaching and research in educational organization. Strong central libraries of academic institutions have also given great support to implement and develop effective academic sense in its user. Libraries are helping directly or indirectly to each and every student and research fellow. It is a public place. Library reading material is constantly need security because of damage of library material by atmospheric hazards, natural threats, user and staff behavior etc. Libraries are incurred huge amount on reading material therefore security is more important. There are various enemies of books, likes insects, rats, rain, wind, dust etc. Man itself is an enemy of book, knowingly or unknowingly he or she damages the books. Hence study has made attempt to find out the illegal incidents occurs in libraries by users and staff like theft of library material, tearing out of pages, misplacement of books, unauthorized borrowing, non-return of books, damage to library property, inappropriate use of computer, inappropriate reprographic services, disruptive behavior by the patrons inside and outside the college libraries. Such a type of illegal incidences by staff and patron are found in this paper. Security prevention is best policy for avoidance of crime. Today's libraries are facing different type of vulnerable and delinquent activity by user. Disaster and manmade hazards are also cause to destroy the library.

IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

The study has importance to know the vulnerable and delinquent activities take place in college library. Study has made an attempt to know the causes of such a type of activities made by user or staff. In view of the significance of the libraries in higher education, it is necessary to undertake the study of vulnerable and delinquent activities by staff and user. This would highlight the current vulnerable activities occurred in college libraries. A systematic study is essential to find out ways and means to reduce such type of activities in university region.

OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH

Objectives of present study are:

1. To find out the different type of vulnerable and delinquent activities happened in libraries.
2. To find out the causes behind such type of vulnerable activity.

3. To recognize probable solution to disruptive behaviours among users and staff of college libraries.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

Research plan has undertaken only Arts, Commerce and Science private aided college libraries Affiliated to Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University. Aurangabad. This study is limited to 108 private aided colleges. Out of these colleges, only 84 (77.77%) colleges were responded to the questionnaire. While, professional colleges such as Law, B.Ed., Engineering, Management, Information Technology etc. are not included in the study. This University covers four districts; these are Aurangabad, Jalna, Beed and Osmanabad.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Hendrick and Murfin (1974), Gouke and Murfin (1980) theorize that academic libraries were the most vulnerable kind of library to periodical mutilation in their large academic library research. They discovered that library had a mutilation rate of 9% for periodicals and suggested electronic security system. Holt (2007) studies indicated that collection processes, need of security, delinquent activities with collection, remedies, user attitude about collection, collection security measures etc. Parvathamma and Gavisiddappa (2001) discussed stealing, mutilating & misplacement, non delinquent & delinquent users, causes of the problem, their reasons & suggested preventive measures. Weiss (1981) found that 24.5% mutilated by the delinquent readers. According by Lorenzen, 1996; Momodu, 2002; Ajegbomogun, 2004 some users of academic libraries demonstrate disruptive or criminal behavior within the library surroundings and this can cause security problems in the library. Ugah (2007) considers collection security violation as alarming obstacles to information access and use. That can result in user dissatisfaction. He identifies security issues in libraries like theft and mutilation; vandalism; damages and disaster; over borrowing or delinquent borrowers; and purposefully misplacing arrangement of materials. Bello (1998) acknowledges that book theft is a main security issue in libraries, particularly in academic libraries, with particular collections being the most targeted materials.

The user behaviour, misbehaviour, delinquent behaviour, crime, abuse studied by Rao Tata (1994), Kale K.S. (2004), Gavisiddapa (2004), Garad M.D. (2011), Sager (1975), Souter (1976), Obikoya (1994), Bello (2000), Ajayi & Omotayo (2002), Adeyemi (1995), Hoggan Bassey (2002). Many studies are found that theft and mutilation, these are Wyly (1987), Trinkaus-Randall (1989), Bahr (1989), Pedersen (1990), Alemna (1992) and Chaney (1994). One common security problem that runs through the literature cited above is the dual responsibilities of librarians having to preserve their collections from theft and mutilation.

RESEARCH METHOD

There are several research methods i.e. descriptive, future research, Historical research etc. The present study has used survey method to collect the data from Arts, Commerce & Science College Libraries affiliated to Dr. BAMU, to find out the prevailing situations. However, The Descriptive methodology is used for the present research findings.

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Data is collected by structured questionnaire. While organizing the questionnaire, it is determined to use closed ended questionnaire to response. Collected data is interpreted by using of tables graphs. Microsoft Excel is used for analysis of data.

Vulnerable and Delinquent Activities by Staff

The data is collected regarding vulnerable and delinquent activities by staff and it has analyzed in table 1.

Table 1: Vulnerable and Delinquent Activities by Staff

Vulnerable and Delinquent Activity by staff	Yes	No	Percentage
Loss by late maintenance /repairing	8	76	9.52
Wrong Patrolling - by guard	0	84	0.00
Theft of collection-books, Magazines, etc.	37	47	44.05
Theft of library equipment	16	68	19.05
Mutilation or Tearing out of Pages	21	63	25.00
Misplacement or Book Hiding	32	52	38.10

Un authorized borrowing/ access/ use without right	12	72	14.29
Non return of books	18	66	21.43
Inappropriate Computer Use	11	73	13.10
Disruptive Behaviour	25	59	29.76
Drug Use	7	77	8.33
Food Use In restricted are in library	18	66	21.43
Arranged/ structural Fire	0	84	0.00
Violent crimes like Bomb, illegal use of weapon (gun), murder, stabbing (attack) etc.	0	84	0.00
Dissatisfied Users Registering for a Library Card	0	84	0.00
Vandalism or Damage to Library Property	14	70	16.67
Verbal abuse and physical assault (fighting)	21	63	25.00
Fraud / Cash Theft	11	73	13.10
Illegal use of vehicles	0	84	0.00
Intentional entry into restricted areas	12	72	14.29
Violate privacy	3	81	3.57
Sexual assault	0	84	0.00
Theft of personal belongings	0	84	0.00
Inappropriate use of Reprographic Service (Violation of copy right)	7	77	8.33
Emotional uncontrolled behaviour, psychic	3	81	3.57
Informal words/action/indication/sign	0	84	0.00
Accident Medical injuries	0	84	0.00
Unsecured storage	8	76	9.52
Staff/ student Assault /physical attack	0	84	0.00
Computer system damage	7	77	8.33

The above table 1 indicates that regarding the vulnerable activities by staff. Out of total 84 librarians 44.05% libraries have suffered by theft of collection such as books, journals and magazines; 38.10% libraries have found misplacement or book hiding, 29.76% libraries have shows disruptive behavior; 25.00% libraries have effected by mutilation or tearing of pages; also found verbal abuse and physical assault (fighting); 21.43% libraries have facing problem of non return of books by staff; 21.43% libraries staff have used food in restricted area; 19.05% libraries staff have made theft of library equipment; 16.67% library staff have vandal or damage of library property; 14.29% library staff involved in un authorized borrowing/ access/ use without right and enter intentionally into restricted areas; 13.10% library staff have not using computers appropriately; 13.10% library staff have made fraud / cash theft; 9.52% libraries have found loss by late maintenance /repairing; 9.52% library staff have violate privacy; 9.52% library staff have store collection in unsecured manner; 8.33% library staff using drug and used reprographic service inappropriately (violating of copy right law, or using this service for personal use); damage computer system; while 3.57% libraries reported staff is emotionally uncontrolled behavior, psychic. Some illegal incidents listed in above table are not found related to staff, which is good sign about library security. Such a type of activities is held in different foreign academic libraries.

Vulnerable and Delinquent Activities by Patron/User

The data is collected regarding illegal incidences by patron or users and it has presented in table 2.

Table 2: Vulnerable and Delinquent Incidents by Patron/User

Vulnerable Activities by patrons/ user	Yes	No	Percentage
Loss by late maintenance /repairing	0	84	0.00
Wrong Patrolling - by guard	0	84	0.00
Theft of collection-books, Magazines, etc.	68	16	80.95
Theft of library equipment	19	65	22.62

Mutilation or Tearing out of Pages	80	4	95.24
Misplacement or Book Hiding	79	5	94.05
Un authorized borrowing/ access/ use without right	72	12	85.71
Non return of books	65	19	77.38
Inappropriate Computer Use	18	66	21.43
Disruptive Behavior	59	25	70.24
Drug Use	3	81	3.57
Food Use In restricted are in library	22	62	26.19
Arranged/ structural Fire	0	84	0.00
Violent crimes like Bomb, illegal use of weapon (gun), murder, stabbing (attack) etc.	0	84	0.00
Dissatisfied Users Registering for a Library Card	14	70	16.67
Vandalism or Damage to Library Property	66	18	78.57
Verbal abuse and physical assault (fighting)	64	20	76.19
Fraud / Cash Theft	0	84	0.00
Illegal use of vehicles	4	80	4.76
Intentional entry into restricted areas	37	47	44.05
Violate privacy	24	60	28.57
Sexual assault	3	81	3.57
Theft of personal belongings	21	63	25.00
Inappropriate use of Reprographic Service (Violation of copy right)	48	36	57.14
Emotional uncontrolled behavior, psychic	25	59	29.76
Informal words/action/indication/sign	52	32	61.90
Accident Medical injuries	0	84	0.00
Unsecured storage	10	74	11.90
Staff/ student Assault /physical attack	6	78	7.14
Computer system damage	18	66	21.43

The table 2 indicates that patron or users vulnerable and delinquent incidents. Out of total 84 libraries 95.24% libraries have found problem of mutilation or tearing of pages by users; 94.05% libraries have found misplacement or hiding of book; 85.71% libraries have indicated that un authorized borrowing, access and use of without right; 80.95% libraries have found theft of collection-books, journals, magazines, etc; 78.57% libraries have informed vandal activity and damage to library property; 77.38% libraries have face non return of books problem; 76.19% libraries have notified verbal abuse and physical assault (fighting) by patrons; 70.24% libraries have told disruptive behavior of users; 61.90% libraries have reported to informal words, action, indication, sign by users; 57.14% libraries have found inappropriate use of reprographic service (violation of copy right); 44.05% college libraries have face the problem of user intentional entry into restricted areas; 29.76% libraries have found emotional uncontrolled behavior, psychic behavour of user, 28.57% libraries have violate privacy; 26.19% libraries have used food restricted area; 25.00% libraries have informed theft of personal belongings, 22.62% libraries have reported theft of library equipment; 21.43% libraries have told inappropriate computer use; 21.43% libraries have notified computer system damage; 16.67% found dissatisfied users registering for a library card to un authorized borrowing; 11.90% libraries have indicated patrons stored material in unsecured form; 7.14% libraries have mentioned staff/ student assault /physical attack; 4.76 % libraries have found illegal use of vehicles by patrons; 3.57% libraries found use of drug; 3.57% libraries have informed sexual assault by students.

Findings indicate that libraries have not found arranged or structural fire; violent crimes like bomb arrangement, illegal use of weapon (gun), murder, stabbing (attack) etc; fraud or cash theft; accident medical injuries. Such types of activities are found in different foreign academic libraries. Linclon and Linclon, Bahr, Wyly, Kahn and many authors were found these delinquent activities in their library security studies and they have suggested the precautionary ideas or planning to prevent them in the library.While comparing the illegal incidents by users and staff it is observed that users are more

prone in unauthorized borrowing 73.07%; non return of books found 31.73%; disruptive behavior indicated 60.57% and damages of library property shows 45.19% etc.

Reasons of Vulnerable, Delinquent and Illegal Activities Experiences

The delinquent reader intentionally make many illegal activities in college libraries, it could be a number of reasons for loss and illegal activity by student and staff of libraries. While reviewing the literature the researcher listed reasons and activities of users as threats. These are involved in the questionnaire to find out which reasons respondents experienced in their library.

Table 3: Reasons of Vulnerable and Delinquent Activities by user

Causes of Vulnerable and Delinquent Activities by user	Response Received	Percentage
Lack of seriousness by users	69	82.14
Poverty/ lower income	31	36.90
Anger towards library	12	14.29
Irresponsibility	49	58.33
Library timing is not adequate-	8	9.52
Cheating in the examination	35	41.67
To fun and competition	41	48.81
To gain profit	6	7.14
Psychic users	4	4.76

Causes of vulnerable and delinquent activities by user can be observed that from the Table 3 out of the total 84 the 82.14% college libraries students have lack of seriousness about library services, stock or any activity; 58.33% college library students have irresponsible; 48.81% libraries have mentioned fun and competition is one of the reason for illegal activity; 41.67% libraries have found illegal use of reading material for cheating in the examination; 36.90% libraries students have doing this due to poverty/ lower income; 14.29% libraries have agree students anger towards library is one of the reason for illegal activity; 9.52% libraries have found that library timings are not adequate, so that students doing delinquent activities in library; 7.14% libraries students have doing theft or such type of activity for making profit; 4.76% libraries have noted that some users are psychic.

As regards the preventive measures of such a type of illegal activity, some opinions have found that to charge fines, punishment, exhibits the name of such patrons on notice board who involved in vulnerable activity, staff commitment with his/her work, and user orientation or education.

Student as a Reason of Loss, Threats

There could be a number of reasons for loss and illegal activity by user. The researcher listed nine possible reasons of users in the questionnaire. The data collected from respondents have presented in Table. 3.

Reason for Vulnerable and Delinquent Activities by Library Staff

There could be a number of reasons for loss and illegal activity from library staff. The researcher listed five possible reasons for loss and threat by library staff in the questionnaire. The data collected from respondents have presented in Table 1.

Table 4: **Reason for Vulnerable and Delinquent Activities by Library Staff**

Library Staff as Reason for Loss/Threats	Response Received	Percentage
Human error	66	78.57
Laziness in the Checking	62	73.81
Lack of security seriousness	49	58.33
No Sincere Vigilance	42	50.00
To gain profit	7	8.33

The results indicate from the Table 4 that responds for staff errors and mistakes as reasons of loss and threats. The 78.57% college libraries have mentioned that staff human error as reason of library property loss, 73.81% libraries have shows that staff laziness in the checking to student identity card or personal belongings etc is one of the threat of library; 58.33% college libraries informed staff lack of security seriousness is reason for library loss, 50.00% libraries have found that no sincere vigilance given by staff is weakness of library staff; 8.33% libraries have found that staff doing some illegal activity to making personal profit. Majority of libraries agree for human error is increase security problem and laziness of checking is also a creating threat.

Library Administration Reason for Loss and Vulnerable Activity

There could be a number of reasons for loss and illegal activity from administrative point of view in libraries. The researcher listed ten possible reasons of library administration to cause for loss in the questionnaire. The data collected from respondents have interpreted in Table 5.

Table 5: **Library Administration Reason for Loss and Vulnerable Activity**

Library Administration as Reason for Loss and vulnerable activity	Response Received	Percentage
Lack of policy/ system/ implementation	25	29.76
Irregularity in inventory	21	25.00
Library Environment	11	13.10
No guard at Exit counter	51	60.71
Unsafe storage of collection/ equipment	8	9.52
Errors in construction of building	22	26.19
Lack of Reprographic services	21	25.00
Broken door and windows	4	4.76

The table 5 indicate that out of 84 responded librarians 60.71% libraries administration have not appointed guard at entry-exit counter; 29.76% libraries administration have lack of policy or system implemented; 26.19% libraries have errors in construction of building, administrative persons have not considered the library professional views at the time of construction of library building, it is common problem find everywhere; 25.00% libraries administration have made irregularity in inventory, such as not proper maintaining asset register, bills or accounts or not providing required staff to inventory. Inventory work can be held up due to lack of staff and it can be disturb the inventory work. The findings show that 25.00% college libraries have lack of reprographic services; many authors suggested reprographic service to reduce the mutilation of study material. The 13.10% libraries have not good environment; 9.52% libraries administration have not provide furniture or place safe storage of collection and equipment; 4.76% libraries have found broken door and windows, it is reason of loss; administration doesn't getting attention to repair or replace it.

Community Factors as Reason for Vulnerable and Delinquent Activity

Number of reasons could be stress for illegal activity. One of them is Community factor. The data collected from respondents have presented in Table No.6 and Graph No.4.

Table 6: **Community Factors as Reason for Vulnerable and Delinquent Activity**

Community Factors as Reason for Vulnerable and Delinquent Activity	Response Received	Percentage
Social Environment	8	9.52
Cultural Background	11	13.10
Garbage around & in building	27	32.14

It can be observed from the Table 6 that the community reasons for vulnerable activity 32.14% libraries have faced garbage around & in building. Garbage is also create health problem of human beings and building, it can also damage the water and sanitation, dust can damage the collection, it can also be reason of mold, 13.10% libraries have informed cultural background is reason for library security. due to this outside peoples throwing stones in library breaking glass of windows, theft of some items from library premise. The 9.52% libraries have mentioned social environment is also a reason for maintaining security in library. Such a type of problems created strikes, restriction of some literature to circulate, social races also restrict the collection material, such type of literature is religious and sex education etc. some time they are breaking copy right law.

SUMMARY AND FINDINGS

Findings of study are as follows.

1. Above discussed vulnerable and delinquent activities are general incident among users of college libraries. Majority of libraries have found staff vulnerable activities that (44.05%) theft of collection such as books, journals and magazines; Libraries have also found misplacement or book hiding, disruptive behavior, mutilation or tearing of pages; verbal abuse and physical assault, etc.
2. As regards to vulnerable incidences by user, majority of libraries have found that (95.24%) problem of mutilation or tearing of pages by users; (94.05%) misplacement or hiding of book; (85.71%) un authorized borrowing, access

and use of without right; (80.95%) theft of collection-books, journals, magazines, etc; (78.57%) vandal activity and damage to library property; (77.38%) non return of books problem; (76.19%) verbal abuse and physical assault (fighting) by patrons; (70.24%) disruptive behavior of users; etc.

3. While comparing the delinquent activities by users and staff it is observed that users are more delinquent.
4. Majority libraries have noted that reasons of delinquent or illegal activity doing by student. These are lack of seriousness, irresponsibility, fun, competition, cheating in the examination, poverty/ lower income.
5. The college libraries have mentioned that staff human error as reason of library property loss, staff laziness in the checking to student identity card or personal belongings etc is one of the threat of library; staff lack of security seriousness is reason for library loss, no sincere vigilance given by staff is weakness of library staff; Majority of libraries agree for human error is increase security problem and laziness of checking is also a creating threat.
6. Commonly respondents are agreed that administration have not appointed guard at entry-exit counter; lack of policy or system implemented; errors in construction of building, irregularity in inventory, lack of reprographic services; etc.
7. The 32.14% libraries have faced garbage around & in building. 13.10% libraries have informed cultural background is reason for library security. 9.52% libraries have mentioned social environment is also a reason for maintaining security in library as a cause of maintaining security.

CONCLUSION

Prevention of library material from theft, mutilation, misplacement, loss, missing, fire and damage is important. Present study has found above vulnerable activities and disruptive behavior of staff and user in college libraries and suggested some solutions like fine, withdrawing of material which is un necessarily used, photocopying service and create awareness of student. Risk of such a type of loss and damage is also anxious. It is not possible to prevent threats without proper security measures. Every library needs to implement policies, security systems, procedures, rules and regulations for dealing with safety and security concerns.

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