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Students Attitude to Vandalism in a Vasant Dada Patil College Library

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Research Paper - Library Science

ABSTRACT

The present research article focuses on students' attitude to vandalism in particular college library. The report of the above study of current year discusses such kind of attitude among students. To elicit the necessary information, a questionnaire was distributed to 200 randomly selected students of the college spread across the five wings out of which 120 responded. Analysis of their responses showed that vandalism of library materials in the form of theft, mutilation and hiding of books and journals, is largely regarded as a form of academic self. Survival strategy that the hardly founded at by majority of the respondents. Factors that predispose to vandalism include limited library collection; restrictions in the use of some materials; number and duration of loans; insufficient number of copies of recommended text book; unaffordable cost of personal textbooks; high cost of photo copying as well as peer influence. Recommendations are made for liberalization of books intensification of user education. Provision of multiple copies of standard textbooks; occasional mounting of conscience exhibitions as well as tighter security measures.

Keywords - Attitude, Vandalism, Mutilation, and Inevitable

Introduction:

Vandalism of library materials has been an age-long problem of libraries. This takes the form of ripping of pages of books and documents, deliberate defacement of



materials and sabotage of library equipments and outright theft of books and other library materials and equipments. Unlike professional's thieves who steal for economic reasons, some library patrons vandalize library materials for selfish motives. Others rip off pages of books because they cannot afford the cost of book or they cannot find a particular book anywhere else in the Marathwada context, this problem has been further worsened by the high cost of books and economic meltdown in the region, which has made personal acquisition of essential books unaffordable to most students. A common reaction to theft of evidence of local losses or vandalism is to purchase electronic theft detection systems and to secure vulnerable doors and windows and install burglar alarms. Despite this, it is generally known that any security system can be compromised and this is why libraries continue to record theft, mutilation and other acts of vandalism. This study, therefore sought to find out student's attitude to vandalism in the library of the Vasant Dada Patil College Patoda.

Review of literature:

Vandalism of library materials is the act of deliberate destruction of books, journals, monograph, equipment, etc. The issue has been well flagged in the professional literature as it is a problem that affects all type of libraries. However, very little has been done on the attitude of students to vandalism in libraries. A review of literature on the theft and mutilation of library materials many studies which included studies by Huntsbery, Alokun, Maigari and Oche. All these studies reflected the problems from the perspectives of various library systems. Akinfolarian identified seven reasons for book theft in developing countries, these are indigence of students drastic reduction in book votes, poor security systems in libraries, the desire by the culprit to want to build his own library, the belief that public property belongs to nobody, waiting to prevent others from using particular books, and absent mindedness, for forgetfulness on the part of the reader. Onatala expressed that human beings as agent of destruction in libraries have been the most difficult to control. He recommended that library security personnel as well as reader's services staff and indeed all library staff should be exposed to short training courses in the library security at least once in every four years. Bezuidenhout outlined suggestions on how to combat vandalism. These include teaching young people on how to use books;



notes and requests for 'careful handling' placed inside books, keeping popular illustrated books behind the counter but visible, banning scissors, installing a mirror and exhibiting damaged materials.

Objective of the study:

- " To know the student's attitude to vandalism of library materials,
- " To examine factors responsible for vandalism of library materials.
- " To avoid attitude of vandalism in students.

Methodology:

As a part of survey method used for this study, a questionnaire was designed to obtain the students attitudes to vandalism in the library. The students' strength for the college is 2,177. The college library porters were instructed to distribute the questionnaires to every tenth student entering the library during December 2019. In all 200 copies of the questionnaire were distributed, out of which 120 were returned, representing 60% responses. The questionnaire listed 15 statements that approximate different attitude to library vandalism. Using Likert Scale of rating, students were asked respond to each of the 15 questions showing their level of agreement/disagreement, i.e., Agree, Strongly Agree, Disagree, and Strongly Disagree.

Finding and discussion:

The data collected showed that, out of the 120 responded, 75 (62.50%) were male while 45 (37.50%) were female. The gender difference tends to suggest that male students are more in number. The distribution according to college faculties are as shown in Table. 1.

Table 1 Distribution according to faculties

Sr. No.	Name of Faculty	Number of respondents	Percentage
1.	Faculty of B. A.	30	40.00%
2.	Faculty of B. Com	18	66.67%
3.	Faculty of B. Sc.	25	20.83%
4.	Faculty of M. A.	15	12.50%
5.	Faculty of M.Sc.	12	10.00%
	Total	120	100 %



The faculty of B.A. has high response and M.Sc. has a low response

Table 2 Distribution of respondents according to level of study

Sr. No.	Level of Study	Number of respondents	Percentage
1.	200	20	16.67%
2.	160	22	18.33%
3.	120	28	23.33%
4.	80	26	21.67%
5.	40	24	20.00%
	Total	120	100 %

Analysis of the data shows that the majority of the respondents are 120 level students in the college as shown in Table 2. This implies that the respondents have been in the system for at least three years and would have been familiar with the use of the library facilities.

Table 3 Vandalism in inevitable

Sr. No.	Perception	Number of respondents	Percentage
1.	Strongly agreed	58	48.33%
2.	Agreed	35	29.17%
3.	Strongly Disagreed	15	12.50%
4.	Disagreed	12	10.00%
	Total	120	100 %

Data analysis in Table 3 shows that the majority of the respondents, representing 58 (48.33 %) of the total respondents strongly agreed that vandalism is inevitable in libraries, while only 15 respondents representing (12.50%) strongly Disagreed with this. This indicated that the perception of students' on vandalism of library materials is negative and this calls for urgent need to orient the students in this matter. Among reasons on inevitability of vandalism in the library include limited library collections, insufficient number of copies recommended textbooks, exorbitant cost of textbook, high cost photocopying and less number of books allowed to be borrowed and duration of loans respectively.



Table 4 Library materials are public property

Sr. No.	Responses	No	Percentage
1.	Strongly agreed	42	35.00%
2.	Agreed	28	23.33%
3.	Strongly Disagreed	26	21.67%
4.	Disagreed	24	20.00%
	Total	120	100 %

Table 4, shows that the majority of the respondents perceived library materials as being public property which also belongs to them and therefore can be removed and used for their private use. Hence vandalism of library materials was not seen as real crime. Rather, the respondents saw it as taking what belongs to them.

The attitude of the students to vandalism also reveals selfishness as part of the students. They feel that since they are paying for library facilities they have the right to use resources maximally and in an attempt to exercise their right they usually resort to mutilation, defacing and the sort, while some hide the materials so that others would not have access to them. However, 42 respondents (35.00%) felt it is foolish not to participate since other are doing it, while the majority 78 representing (65.00%) of the respondents agreed that the vandalism could be avoided if users can be considerate and patient. This also emphasized the fact that frequent user education programmes needed to be organized to change negative perception of the students. In addition to this, efforts should be made to increase funding for library so that the library will be able to satisfy a considerable number of users which might eventually reduce or minimize vandalism.

Recommendations:

In view of the effect of vandalism in the library it is recommended that:

- i) The library should mount an intensive user education programme with emphasis on punitive measures against vandalism;
- ii) The library should be more liberal in its present loan policy which restricts students loan of books to two weeks;



- iii) The library should make provisions for multiple copies of standard textbooks;
- iv) Tighter stock security measures should be put in place, and
- v) Occasional mounting of conscience exhibition should be done in the library.

Conclusion:

The outcome of this study reveals that many students of the College of Vasant Dada Patil, Patoda did not see anything wrong in vandalizing library materials. It is largely regarded as an academic self-survival strategy that is hardly frowned at. Factors that make students to want vandalize library materials include limited library collection, restrictions in the use of some materials, inadequate numbers of books to be borrowed, short duration of loans, high cost of books, and unaffordable cost photocopying of materials.

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