

## STUDY OF THE ROLE OF U.G.C IN THE PROMOTION OF LIBRARY SCIENCE PROFESSION IN INDIA

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### ABSTRACT

*This paper investigates the pivotal role played by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in fostering the development and advancement of the Library Science profession in India. Through an analysis of UGC's initiatives, policies, and funding mechanisms, this study examines the impact of UGC on the growth and recognition of Library Science as a profession within the Indian academic landscape. The research methodology involves a comprehensive review of relevant literature, including scholarly articles, reports, and official documents. The findings shed light on the significant contributions of UGC in shaping the education, training, and research activities in Library Science, thereby elevating its status and relevance in the country. The paper concludes with insights into the future prospects and challenges for UGC's role in further enhancing the Library Science profession in India.*

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**Keywords:** UGC, Library Science, India, Profession, Education, Funding, Policies.

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### Introduction

Library Science, as a profession, stands as a cornerstone for the dissemination of knowledge, academic research, and fostering of learning environments. Within the Indian context, the trajectory of Library Science's growth and recognition as a profession has been significantly shaped by various stakeholders, among which the University Grants Commission (UGC) occupies a central position. Since its inception, the UGC has been a driving force in formulating policies, providing crucial funding, and establishing standards for higher education institutions throughout the country. Consequently, understanding the intricate interplay between UGC's initiatives and the evolution of Library Science as a profession becomes imperative.

The profession of Library Science in India has witnessed a remarkable journey, transitioning from its nascent stages to becoming an integral component of the academic ecosystem. However, this evolution has not been in isolation but rather in tandem with the support and interventions facilitated by UGC. By delving into the historical underpinnings and contemporary dynamics, this study aims to unravel the multifaceted role played by UGC in fostering the growth and advancement of Library Science profession within the Indian milieu.

The UGC's involvement in Library Science education and profession spans across various dimensions, encompassing policy formulation, resource allocation, accreditation mechanisms, and advocacy for quality standards. Through its myriad initiatives, UGC has not only encouraged the establishment of Library Science programs but has also actively nurtured a conducive ecosystem for research, innovation, and professional development within the field. Thus, an exploration of UGC's initiatives and their ramifications becomes indispensable in comprehending the landscape of Library Science profession in India.

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This paper embarks on a journey to dissect the nuances of UGC's role in shaping the contours of Library Science profession. By scrutinizing the historical antecedents, policy frameworks, and institutional mechanisms, it endeavors to provide a comprehensive understanding of the symbiotic relationship between UGC and the Library Science profession. Moreover, it seeks to elucidate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, thereby paving the way for informed discussions and strategic interventions aimed at furthering the growth trajectory of Library Science in India.

### Research Methodology

The research methodology employed in this study involves a comprehensive review of existing literature, including scholarly articles, reports, and official documents related to UGC's initiatives and their impact on Library Science education and profession in India. Additionally, data from relevant government sources and statistical reports are utilized to assess the trends and patterns in funding and accreditation of Library Science programs by UGC. The qualitative analysis is supplemented by quantitative data to provide a holistic understanding of UGC's role in the promotion of Library Science profession.

### Results and Findings

- **Establishment of Library Science Programs:** The proactive role of UGC in the establishment and accreditation of Library Science programs across universities and colleges in India has been instrumental in shaping the profession. Through schemes like the Development Assistance for Colleges and Universities (DAC&U), UGC has provided financial assistance to institutions for setting up infrastructure, curriculum development, and faculty recruitment in the field of Library Science. Consequently, this support has catalyzed the proliferation of Library Science education, fostering a cadre of skilled professionals capable of addressing the diverse information needs of society.
- **Research Grants and Scholarships:** UGC's provision of research grants and scholarships has played a pivotal role in fostering a culture of inquiry and innovation within the Library Science community. By funding research projects, UGC has incentivized scholars and researchers to delve into critical areas such as information retrieval, digital preservation, and user-centric services. Moreover, scholarships for doctoral studies have encouraged aspiring scholars to pursue advanced research in Library Science, thereby enriching the knowledge base and contributing to the scholarly discourse within the field.
- **Professional Development Initiatives:** UGC's initiatives aimed at enhancing the professional skills of librarians and information scientists have had a profound impact on the quality of services offered by libraries across the country. Workshops, seminars, and training programs organized by UGC provide a platform for knowledge exchange, skill enhancement, and networking among professionals. Moreover, collaborations with renowned institutions and experts facilitate exposure to contemporary practices and emerging trends in Library Science, thereby fostering continuous professional development among practitioners.
- **Promotion of Open Access and Digital Libraries:** UGC's advocacy for open access and digital initiatives has been instrumental in democratizing access to information resources and fostering innovation in library services. Through funding support for digitization projects and establishment of digital repositories, UGC has facilitated the preservation and dissemination of cultural heritage materials, scholarly publications, and research outputs. Consequently, this has empowered users with unrestricted access to a wealth of knowledge, transcending geographical and socioeconomic barriers.
- **Advocacy for Quality Assurance:** UGC's accreditation framework and quality assurance mechanisms have played a pivotal role in ensuring the standards and relevance of Library Science education and research in India. By evaluating and monitoring the performance of institutions offering Library Science programs, UGC has instilled a culture of accountability and continuous improvement. Additionally, collaborations with professional bodies and stakeholders have facilitated the benchmarking of curricula, infrastructure, and pedagogical practices, thereby enhancing the quality and competitiveness of Library Science programs nationally and internationally.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the study highlights the instrumental role of UGC in promoting and advancing the Library Science profession in India. Through its various initiatives, policies, and funding mechanisms, UGC has contributed significantly to the growth, recognition, and quality enhancement of Library Science

education and research in the country. However, challenges such as ensuring inclusivity, enhancing digital literacy, and addressing infrastructural gaps remain. It is imperative for UGC to continue its support and collaboration with stakeholders to overcome these challenges and further elevate the Library Science profession in India.

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