VENDALISM IN COLLEGE LIBRARIES OF MARATHWADA

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Absract

Vandalism in libraries can take many forms. There are six types of vandalism in libraries, including: intentional damage to materials, vandalism outside the building, vandalism inside the building, vandalism to vehicles, vandalism to equipment and arson, apart from this theft, mutilation, misplacement, un-authorized borrowing, non- return of books, disruptive behavior of problem patron inside and outside library also a form of vandalism. The vandal damages library property i.e. building walls, windows, furniture, equipments, computers and collection by draw cartoons, scratches, engrave and breakage. As well as physical and verbal abuse with library staff and users.

Keywords : Vandalism. College Libraries. Marathwada

Introducation:

Libraries are considered venerable, quite peaceful and safe places for study, learning and research, libraries are soul of the educational institutes and play vital role by providing resources and services according to curriculum of the faculty and students. As a working professional in library and information science, it is observed that there is noticeable growth in number of the students and faculty in the colleges. It has ultimately resulted in the growth in library users, hence college libraries are facing the problem to cope up with the rising needs of the users and relevant library facility. The infrastructure available in the library is resulting ultimately in the dissatisfaction among the young users, which sometimes leads the users to do vandalistic activities. The vandal purposely or ignorantly destruct the beautiful, valuable reading material, library building, furniture and equipment of the college libraries, as well as physical and verbal abuse with library staff and other users. Library is a social institution preserving and disseminating knowledge in the form of documents so any thing which defiles its sanctity, decorum, discipline, beauty concerning library is called as vandalism in library. All forms of library abuses and crimes in the library come under vandalism in the library.

Historically, the term vandalism originated in the decade of 1790-1800 before the origin it was named as vandals, an east German tribe, invaded Western Europe sacking Rome in 455 C.E. and gained reputation as great destroyers of Art, Literature and beautiful elements of Roman civilization, vandalism has been justified by painter Gustave Courbet as a destruction of monuments symbolizing "war and conquest". Therefore, it is often done as an expression of contempt, creativity, or both. Vandalism is only a meaningful concept in a culture that recognizes history & archaeology. In its modern acceptance vandalism is coined in year 1791 by Henri Gregoire. (Wikipedia 2011)

Vandalism is recognized as crime, when a person willfully damage or deface the property of others or the commons, some vandalism qualifies as culture jamming on sniggling. It is artistic in nature as well as being carried out illegally or without the property owner's permission. An example of vandalism includes graffiti art, billboard liberation and possibly crop circles. Criminal vandalism has many forms, graffiti, salting lawns, cutting trees, egg throwing, breaking windows, arson, spraying paint on public property tagging placing glue into locks, tire slashing, scratching paint, engraving, ransacking a place and flooding someone's house by clogging a sink and leaving the water on is common in many inner cities as a part of gang culture. Other devastating forms such as rioting, involve the willful destruction of public and private property, vandalism is serious common crime.

Vandalism is not senseless property damage, individuals vandalize intentionally property,

Vandalism:

The term vandalism defined by Concise Oxford Dictionary (1998) "vandalism is willful or malicious destruction or damage to property" while "vandalism is an intentional act of destruction or defacement of property not one's own" (Blacks Law Dictionary 1990; Encyclopedic Dictionary of Library Science and Information Technology 2002).

"Vandalism is an intentional, willful, deliberate and malicious act of destruction, injury, disfigurement, defacement, and damage to the property of others, without the consent of the owner or person having custody or control by cutting, breaking, marking, painting, drawing, covering, slashing, engraving and scratching with on property" (FBI 1978, p217, Goldstein 1996, Cohen 1973, U.S. Department of Justice December, 1998).

Vandalism in Libraries

Vandalism in libraries can take many forms. Lincoln (1984) has enumerated six types of vandalism in libraries, including: intentional damage to materials, vandalism outside the building, vandalism inside the building, vandalism to vehicles, vandalism to equipment and arson, apart from this theft, mutilation, misplacement, un-authorized borrowing, non- return of books, disruptive behavior of problem patron inside and outside library also a form of vandalism. The vandal damages library property i.e. building walls, windows, furniture, equipments, computers and collection by draw cartoons, scratches, engrave and breakage. As well as physical and verbal abuse with library staff and users. Therefore vandalism is among the most frustrating and serious problem faced by the library profession, there is evidence that it is dramatically increasing despite more strenuous efforts to control its spread explained by (Dixit 1999, Vaishnav and Dixit 2003, Sager 1975, Khan Khaisar and Ramesh 1986, Hart 2003, Salaam and Onifade 2010)

Objectives of the study

The present study has been undertaken with a view:

1. To identify different types of vandal activities.
2. To find out causes of vandal activities.
3. To undertake opinions of users on vandal activities.
4. To survey steps taken by library staff, committee, management and Government to control the vandalism.

Hypothesis

Following hypothesis were formulated for the study:

1. Unsatisfied users are root cause of vandalism.
2. Male users are more prone to vandal activities.
3. Urban the users more the vandalistic activities.
4. Open the access in libraries more the vandal activities.

Scope and Limitations of the study

The present study is confined to vandalism in college libraries affiliated to Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (BAMU) Aurangabad.

1. Present study is limited to 104 Arts,Commerce & Science (ACS) college libraries located in rural and urban areas of Aurangabad, Jalna, Beed and Osmanabad district and affiliated to BAMU Aurangabad.

2. The users study is limited to 1049 Under Graduate (UG) and Post Graduate (PG) students of different faculties of the colleges who are the members of the library.

Population Sample

The Jurisdiction of BAMU is restricted to Jalna, Aurangabad, Beed & Osmanabad districts. The 149 ACS colleges are from these four districts. Of the total population of 149 college libraries the researcher has randomly selected the sample of 108 college libraries while on the total 88644 users, researcher has chosen 1500 users as per sample size given by (Karejcie and Morgan 1970).

Methodology

The present study used survey method to collect the data from Arts, Commerce & Science College Libraries affiliated to Dr. BAMU, to find out the prevailing situations.

"The survey method is one of the most effective and sensitive instrument of research......survey research can produce much needed knowledge" (Kasyap 1969, p95).

Data Collection

"Data are raw materials of reflection until by comparison, contrast an evaluation they are stepped up to successively higher levels of generation". (Das 1986, p2).

7. The 54.15% respondents thought that libraries are victims for deliberate behaviour. The reasons indicated by 87.22% users were due to monopoly of information, selfish nature, exam pressure and high cost of books, while 10.31% were habitual users in misplacing the documents. Rural users indicated reasons were exam pressure and high cost of books, while urban users indicated the opinions that selfish nature, monopoly of information and exam pressure were the main reasons for misplacement. (Table 3.3.3, 3.3.3.1, 3.3.3.2, 3.3.3.2.1)

8. In response to the Vandal acts, majority 58.53% users have seen vandal acts on the library property, of the total rural users 31.94% and of the total urban users 90.55% were aware of vandal activities. Therefore, it can be stated that 'Urban the users more the vandalistic activities' (Hypothesis No.4) is valid. Further among the total male users 62.05% and amongst total female users 53.14% respondents were acquainted with vandalistic activity on library property, which indicates that 'Male users are more prone to vandal activities' (Hypothesis No.3) is valid. Among the younger age group of 17-25 nearly 58% were found more tempted in vandalism, the income group of these users was below 20000. (Table 3.3.6.1).

9. Vandal acts of drawing cartoons, engraving, scratching and breakage to library property were observed mostly on books, tables, water coolers, walls, doors, fans, chairs, stack-racks, Xerox machine, catalogue cards cabinets and typewriters. While the reasons there of can be as a part of group behavior, to acquire something, to protest against operating policies be it of library, college, library, state or nation and to take revenge against those library staff who had not behaved properly, for fun or competition, individual frustration, To take a rest-break or to get arrested or to draw attention to real or imagined grievance (Table 3.3.6.2, 3.3.6.2.1).

10. Regarding vandalism in college libraries 70.19% respondents felt that, The vandal acts observed were drawing cartoons on news papers, periodicals and books, while 50.58% respondents observed on library buildings and walls. As regards engraving 41.3% respondents noticed books and periodicals and 36.53% on furniture and equipment, while 25% indicated on library building. Scratching and breakage mostly found with tables, walls, catalogue card cabinets, library buildings etc. The reasons thereof were fun or competition and as a part of group behavior. It can be also noted from Table 3.2.4 that 60.63% users were unsatisfied with the library collection and services, it can be stated that 'Unsatisfied users are root cause of Vandalism' (Hypothesis No.1) is valid.

11. Regarding disruptive behavior inside library building by defacing of library walls, 12.11% respondents were tempted to paste posters, 20% respondents to put up announcements and 58.25% respondents tempted to paint slogans. While the reasons there of were found to be central location of library, habit of users, no objection and protest against operating policies, and nobody takes objection from library staff.

12. Regarding external vandalism 59.68% respondents noticed sitting on vehicles parked, 34.22% respondents noticed vandal acts of removing vehicle parts, 14.30% respondents noticed, breaking glasses and lights of vehicles of staff and users. While the reasons there of were, no proper parking stand with a gate provided by the library, no watchman appointed by the library or if appointed is not doing his duty faithfully and a part of group behavior.

13. The chi-square test results showed that pulling table & chairs, mostly rustling the books & other documents fitting of equipment and statues are found significant at both the level 0.01 and 0.05. The calculated chi-square value 34.750 reveals positive responses towards pulling table & chairs where as only removing flower pots 8.212 was not found significant at both the level. The table 3.2.5 indicates that 68.82% users were not allowed in the stack to select the books, while only 31.18% users were allowed to enter inside the library. Even though very few users were provided with open access the vandal activity is taking place, which indicates that 'Open the access in libraries more the vandal activities' (Hypothesis No.2) is valid.

14. As regards the access to collection 0.96% libraries were providing open access facility to the users, while 99.04% libraries were providing close access facility to the collection.

15. Regarding the most targeted material for stealing and intentional vandalizing, The 31.12% respondents thought news papers and periodicals, followed by books non book material, library building and computer and other furniture While the reasons there of were for asserting that library property is self property, as a part of group behavior and to give passage to individual frustration or anger. (Table 3.5).

16. The impact of these vandal acts mostly occurred on library use, which has been reduced, library visitors were minimized, users do not recommend the books and they could not get the

handbooks, manuals and on site audit as a preferred mode of information on security information.

25. To limit vandalism from college libraries 45.2% librarians gave staff training occasionally or once in a year and 14.5% librarians arranged orientation for staff on security, while 40.4% librarians had not given staff training on security.

26. As regards the special security to the collection 88.4% respondents gave special security, for reference, non-book material, manuscripts, journals and exhibits, while 11.6% libraries gave special security for library building and circulation section.

27. Shortage of library personnel is another cause for library security, the 22.1% respondents answered their library system which have only one staff member, While 77.9% respondents answered their library system has more than one staff to perform the duties.

Implications

1. UGC should make sufficient provision of funds to install modern security systems in college libraries to prevent theft, vandalism etc

2. Government should enact legislation on vandalism

3. Government should undertake comprehensive studies on book loss from academic libraries and crime rate in academic libraries as well as the cost involved in repairing, repainting, vandalized, library building, furniture, equipment and collection

4. All the ACS college libraries should adopt ACRL,ALA and RBMS guidelines regarding theft mutilation and vandalism prevention.

5. Management should provide finance for installation of modern security technology in college libraries like CCTV, RFID etc, to prevent library property from theft, mutilation, misplacement, non-return of books, un-authorized borrowing and vandalism.

6. The principal and the authority should organize the state / national / international seminars and conferences with the financial assistance from UGC on library safety and security issues to educate and inform the professional as well as to make library staff aware about preventive measures for library security and safety.

7. With regard to loss of books due to theft mutilation, 3 books for open access and 2 books for closed access, per thousand books issued/ consulted in an academic year may be considered as negligible loss and hence be written off by the principal/ governing body of the college, if librarians negligence is not proved. If the loss is beyond prescribed limit the matter may be referred by the principal to the higher authority concerned.

8. To prevent theft, mutilation from libraries, librarians should make available number of text books and quality reprographic equipment in cheaper cost of photocopying with trained operator.

9. Well documented Library policy and procedures should be framed by the librarian as per the ACRL and ALA guidelines when there is a case of vandalism, it should be available for all staff members and users to read, either as a separate booklet or as part of library manual or in college prospectus.

10. The report of every stock verification work should be submitted to the concerned University, Principal and Joint director of higher education and UGC by which any person can study and calculate actual loss from college libraries.

11. The librarians should concentrate on maximum security of library collection, property and staff by appointing security guard, conducting seminars, installing modern security devices, formulating user group as security guard, give weighting to opinions of students council, union members thereby involving earn and learn scheme students on a partnership basis in running the library and making library a more positive place to work etc.

12. The library should aim to create an atmosphere conductive to honesty and pro-library feelings, while at the same time acknowledge the necessity to set up sensible and thorough security arrangements.

13. A vigorous publicity campaign through posters on acts of vandalism and with emphasis on the penalty of expulsion to culprits can, to a certain extent, check the malfeasance of vandalism in libraries.

14. Library staff should be more vigilant, committed to library work, training on crime and vandalism prevention techniques should be given to staff on regular intervals. Periodic assessment of vandalism situation should be done. On security audit pinpointing the weakness of security of library should be made.

15. Library building design should be theft preventive, one exit and entrance, wire mesh windows,