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Library Professionals' ICT Skills in Engineering Colleges of Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

Engineering college libraries in Karnataka are increasingly dependent on information and communication technologies to deliver effective services to students, faculty, and researchers. Library professionals are expected to possess adequate ICT skills to manage digital collections, operate automated library systems, provide online information services, and support users in accessing electronic resources. This study analyses the ICT skills of library professionals working in engineering colleges of Karnataka.

The research aims to assess the current level of ICT skills, identify areas of strength and weakness, and examine the relationship between professional experience, training, and skill proficiency. An analytical study design was used. Primary data were gathered from library professionals employed in engineering colleges across different regions of Karnataka using a structured questionnaire covering various dimensions of ICT skills, including library software applications, internet tools, digital resource handling, and basic hardware and network awareness.

The results show that library professionals generally possess satisfactory skills in basic ICT operations such as email communication, internet browsing, and use of office applications. However, competencies related to advanced library automation features, open-source software, institutional repositories, and data management tools remain moderate to low among a significant number of respondents. Professionals who had attended short-term training programmes or workshops reported better skill levels compared to those without recent training. Institutional factors such as availability of ICT infrastructure and administrative support also influenced skill development.

The study concludes that continuous professional development is necessary to enhance the ICT skills of library professionals in engineering colleges. Regular training programmes, hands-on workshops, and institutional encouragement can help bridge the existing skill gaps. Improved ICT skills among library professionals will contribute to better service delivery, effective utilisation of digital resources, and overall enhancement of academic support in engineering colleges of Karnataka. The findings are expected to assist library authorities and academic institutions in designing targeted skill development initiatives.

***Keywords**: ICT Skills, Library Professionals, Engineering Colleges of Karnataka.*