PREVENTIVE & CONTROL MEASURES OF LIBRARY CRIME & VANDALISM IN ENGINEERING COLLEGE LIBRARIES

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Abstract

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. Library is a social institution preserving and disseminating knowledge in the form of documents so anything which defiles its sanctity, decorum, discipline, beauty concerning library is called as vandalism in library. The present paper is to highlight concept of library crime, vandalism in engineering college libraries, to specify objectives of the research, hypothesis, limitations, methodology and conclusion of the study.

Keywords: Library Crime, Vandalism, ACRL, ALA, Engineering College Library, Vandal, BAMU & SRTMU.

1. INTRODUCTION

Libraries are institutions set up to cater to the educational, cultural, research, recreational and information needs of their users. Libraries have the main objectives of being entrusted with the selection, acquisition, organisation, storage and dissemination of information to their patrons. 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. All forms of library abuses and crimes in the library come under vandalism in the library.

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, popularly referred to vandalism such as equipment, buildings, furniture etc, for variety of reasons such as to convey a message, to express frustration, to take revenge, to make money or as a part of fun and competition, or game, vandals may work alone or as a members of a loose or organized group. The crimes, which are committed by some users of the academic libraries, have deprived many others from fully achieving their information needs. Vandalism, mutilation, defacement, theft, arson, etc are problems regularly encountered by the materials of these libraries.

2.   REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A vandal is one who willfully destroys damages or defaces property belonging to others or to the public. Vandalism, therefore, is willful or malicious destruction of public or private property. Historically vandalism has been justified by painter Gustave Courbet as 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 and archaeology. Like other similar terms (Barbarian / barbary, and Philistine), Vandals like the Philistines, no longer exist as an identifiable ethnic group. The term in its modern acceptance was coined in January 1794 during the French Revolution by Henry Gregoire, constitutional bishop of Blois, in his report directed to the Republican Convention, where he used word Vandalism to describe some aspects of the behavior of the republican army. Gustave Courbet's attempt, during the 1871 Paris Commune, to dismantle the Vendome column, a symbol of the past Napoleon III authoritarian empire, was one of the most celebrated events of vandalism (Wikipedia 2011).

Cohen (1973) outlined the categories of vandalism, such as acquisitive; tactical; ideological; vindictive; play or malicious; Gouke and Marjorie (1980), studied on periodicals mutilation following an anti vandalism educational campaign. They found that mutilation of the same periodicals studies before the campaign decreased by twenty three percent after the campaign; Hauge (1995), suggested several practical steps for preventing vandalism in school libraries; Lincoln (1989), discusses the types of vandalism that occur in libraries and a number of

prevention strategies; Pedersen (1990), present the findings from her survey university students about the problem of mutilations of library material; Goswami (1989) focuses on the causes and solutions for theft, mutilation and misplacement, complete with illustrations & poetic prose; Shuman (1994) periodical mutilation finding that most mutilation occurs within three years after publication.

There were several studies conducted on different aspects of safety and health issues. Lincoln (1984) reported on the Library Crime Research Project. It was a three year study using a survey method of the library crime and disruption patterns in public libraries in the United States; study assessed the problems of crime and disruption, problem patron behavior, assault and arson were addressed; Manley (1993) nonscientific survey on sexual harassment by library patrons; He found that seventy-eight percent of the females responding said they had been sexually harassed; also conducted a follow up survey to see if this high percentage was warranted; found that 83% of the respondents had been harassed and forty percent had been "physically harassed".

The ACRL and ALA approved guidelines in 2003 regarding preventing and reacting to theft in libraries. The guidelines suggest the following preventive measures:

➢ Appoint a library security officer and form a security planning group.
➢ Communicate with the public relations department and law enforcement agencies.
➢ Work for institutional and legislative support.
➢ Report to library- and book and manuscript–related groups.
➢ Know and implement preventive security measures in the library.
➢ The guidelines regarding knowing and implementing preventive security measures in the library include the following suggestions:
➢ Have a unique ownership mark on all library holdings.
➢ Some form of ownership record is recommended, even if thorough records cannot be completed at the point of receipt.
➢ Eliminate cataloging backlogs and conduct regular inventories of cataloged and un-cataloged collections.
➢ In special collections, record and verify every user's name and address require a call slip and registration form, and require patrons to sign a reading room log.
➢ Review materials in the library's general collection and open stacks for possible transfer to special collections or to a limited access area.
➢ If an attempted theft is discovered, move the targeted materials to a more secure location.
➢ Maintain a shelf list for special collections.
➢ Reader use of materials should be confined to a secure area monitored by staff trained in surveillance.
➢ Install security cameras that cover special collections, readings rooms, and any access points.

> ➢ In conformity with applicable laws, formulate a policy regarding the physical detention of suspects.

In addition to the preventive measures, the guidelines contain several recommendations for a librarian reacting to theft. If the librarian observes a theft in progress, he or she should discreetly call for security, notify the library security officer, and engage the suspect in no threatening conversation. In addition to the ACRL & ALA (2003) guidelines, university libraries should consider the basic principles of internal control for the prevention and detection of theft. A system of internal control consists of five elements; these five elements of internal control are used within the daily activities of library employees to prevent and detect fraud.

2.1   Proposed Research

In the context of libraries crime & vandalism occurs in various forms which defiles its sanctity, decorum, discipline, beauty concerning library. The research problem vandalism in library is recognized by many information scientists, researchers, writers and information professional as a major problem facing library managers.

Library Crime & Vandalism is a serious and widespread problem in all types of libraries like academic, public, crime & vandalism in libraries can be damage to library material, crime & vandalism inside & outside building, vehicles, equipment, arson, furniture etc. apart from this theft, mutilation, loss of books, arson, non return of books, physical and verbal abuse, misuse of reading material, over borrowing, unauthorized borrowing, problem patron behavior, delinquent readership, misplacement, and illegal incidences inside and outside the library constitute vandalism. It can be categorized as acquisitive, tactical, ideological, vindictive, play and malicious, problems plaguing libraries today are theft and mutilation, resulting into loss of books.

Library crime & vandalism is a problem that is faced by every librarian in each type of libraries. The engineering college libraries are not exception for this. The identification of crime & vandals is difficult, but libraries must adopt and implement some practical strategies to curb vandalism.

Although researchers in developing countries have identified solutions to the problem of vandalism in library, in third world countries such as India, more needs to be done to solve the increasing wave of the vandalism like theft, mutilation, misplacement crime against property and people, over borrowing, book loss and so on from academic library specially college library.

3.   EXPLANATION OF THE CONCEPTS

3.1   Crime

An action or omission that constitutes an offense that may be prosecuted by the state and is punishable by law.

3.2   Vandal

Vandal has been defined by Oxford Encyclopedic Dictionary (1978) as "willful or ignorant destroyer of anything beautiful, venerable, or worthy of preservation". It means the participation of human beings as agent of destruction of library property not owns one

3.3   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".

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, paint, drawing, covering, slashing, engrav & scratching on property (Goldstein, 1996).

4.   OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study has been undertaken with a view
1. To identify different types of crime & vandal activities.
2. To find out causes of crime & vandal activities.

5.   HYPOTHESIS

Following hypothesis were formulated for the study;
1. Unsatisfied users are root cause of crime & vandalism.
2. Open the access in libraries more the vandal activities.

6.   SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The present study is confined to library crime & vandalism in Engineering College libraries affiliated to Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (BAMU) Aurangabad & Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University Nanded which is in Marathwada region.

7.   POPULATION SAMPLE

Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University and Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University both were one of the oldest University in the Marathwada region, according to university dairy and annual report of BAMU (2011), there were total 358 professional and non-professional affiliated colleges, of the total 358 affiliated colleges 168 are Arts, Commerce and Science colleges, which are known as non-professional, while 190 colleges are professional colleges, located in urban and rural areas of Aurangabad, Jalna, Beed and Osmanabad district, of the 168 colleges, 19 colleges were recognized during the year 2009-10 which have been omitted from the study, hence present study includes 23 Engineering colleges. Out of them one was Government college while other 19 colleges were private aided and unaided

The Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University (SRTMU), Nanded was established at Nanded by bi-furcating the Marathwada University, Aurangabad on 17th September 1994, the day on which in 1948 Hyderabad State was liberated from rule of the Nizam. Nanded is a district headquarters as well as a holy city situated on the banks of Godavari

River in southeastern part of Maharashtra state. The University is to cater for southern part of Marathwada Region of Maharashtra State, specifically to the districts of Nanded, Latur, Parbhani and Hingoli. The 12 Engineering colleges are from these four districts. Of the total population of 12 engineering college libraries the researcher has randomly selected the sample of 12 college libraries as per sample size given by (Karejcie and Morgan 1970) table.

8.   METHODOLOGY

The present study used survey method to collect the data from Engineering College Libraries affiliated to Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (BAMU) Aurangabad & Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University (SRTMU) Nanded, 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).

8.1   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).

For collecting the data for the present study, the researcher visited the following institutions for referring documentary sources on library crime & vandalism, viz. The data was also collected from annual report of BAMU Aurangabad. The researcher also visited a number of relevant websites on internet. A structured questionnaire was designed separately for users and librarians.

Two separate questions included in the questionnaire on targeted material for vandalism and impact of vandalism on teaching learning and research. It was estimated that it would take about 10 to 15 minutes of user time for responding to the questionnaire.

8.3   Data Analysis & Interpretation

Collected data has been analyzed and presented in tabular as well as graphical form. In graphical form, bar charts, line graphs are used for presentation. For the purpose of analyzing the data collected, the fixed variables were user's place of residence, gender, age, and income group, the statistical software package (i.e. SPSS) has been used.

8.3.1   Vandal Activities:

Vandal activities in college libraries divided under following headings

8.3.1.1   Vandal activities inside the library
8.3.1.2   Vandal activities outside the library

Vandalism in the library can take the form of drawing cartoons, engraving, scratching, and cause breakage, mostly on tables, chairs, books and periodicals, computers and other equipments and buildings for some or other reasons. Hence an attempt was made to see the

vandal activities like draw cartoons, engrave, scratches & cause breakage. The collected data was analyzed and presented in Table 1

Table 1
Vandal Activities in engineering college libraries

Library Property	Draw cartoons %	Engrave %	Scratch %	Cause Breakage %	Chi-square [X^2] Value	Sig. Level [NS=not-significant
Books, Periodicals etc	12 (37.50)	5 (15.63)	14 (43.5)	1 (3.13)	15.943	**
Furniture Tables, Chairs etc	21 (65.63)	3 (9.38)	5 (15.63)	3 (9.38)	21.402	**
Equipment Computers, Typewriters etc	9 (28.13)	2 (6.25)	17 (53.13)	4 (12.50)	13.680	**
Building Damages	24 (75.00)	1 (3.13)	6 (18.75)	1 (3.13)	25.433	**

 Note- Cell frequencies indicate number of persons & (%) values-*=0.01 Level significant, **=both the level significant (0.01,0.05)
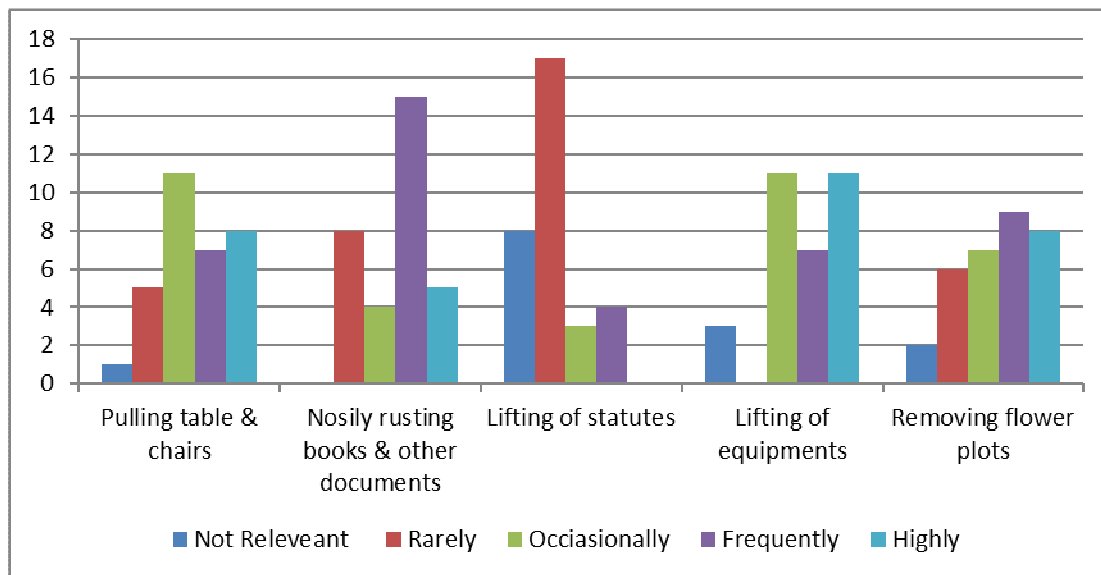
- ❖ It can be revealed from Table and Figure no.4.3.2 that the vandal activities drawing cartoons are indicated by 12 (37.50%) respondents on books and periodical, 21 (64.63%) on library property like furniture and tables, computer and other equipments, while 24 (75.00%) respondents noticed on library buildings.
- ❖ As regards the occurrences of engraving 15.63% respondents indicated that on books and periodicals, 9.38% on furniture and tables, computers, typewriters, photocopying machine, stacks, fans, & other equipment were the most targeted for engraving and 1 (3.13%) respondents have noticed engraving act on library building.
- ❖ Of the total 32 out of 17 (53.13) Scratching and cause breakage indicated by the respondents were mostly on equipment. Among all these vandal activities at present draw cartoons on books and periodicals as well as on all library property were noticed as the major vandal activity in college libraries.
- ❖ It can also be observed from Table 1 that 60.71% users were dissatisfied with the library collection and services, hence it can be stated that **'Unsatisfied users are root cause of vandalism' (Hypothesis No.1) is valid.**
- ❖ The chi-square value shows all the vandal activities in college libraries are found significant at both the level 0.01 and 0.05.

8.3.1.2 Vandal activities inside the library

The delinquent readers of the library create many vandalistic activities in the college libraries by pulling tables and chairs, noisily rustling pages of books another documents, lifting

statue, equipment and removing flower pots are the major vandal activities found in the libraries, The problem patron by doing this type of vandal activities inside the library create disturbances to the another sincere users, hence an attempt was made to find out the vandal activities caused by the users in the libraries surveyed, the collected data from the respondents were analyzed and presented in Figure 2

Figure No.8.2 Vandal activities inside the library

- ❖ It can be observed from the Figure no.8.2 that the data was subjected to the statistical test of WAM to rank the vandal activities, 62.50% respondents had noticed that users nosily rustling books & other documents, while 56.25% respondents noticed users were lifting equipments; 53.13% respondents had noticed users removing flower plots; 46.88% respondents noticed users pulling table & chairs from one place to another place and 12.50% respondents found in lifting of statues; and were given the 1st, 2nd ,3rd, 4th and 5th rank respectively.
- ❖ All these vandal acts can also be recognized as internal vandalism. The reasons put forth by the respondents were requirement of seat nearby their friends, old and broken chairs & tables, being hurry and for fun and competition were the chief reasons.
- ❖ The statistical test Ti-Square reveals the vandal activities inside the library were pulling table & chairs had noticed highly by 50% respondents. Nosily rustling books & other documents were found 40.4% as vandal activities in side the library. Vandal activities like lifting of equipments and statues, removing flower plots, had noticed frequently and highly by the 27 % to 35% respondents in their libraries.
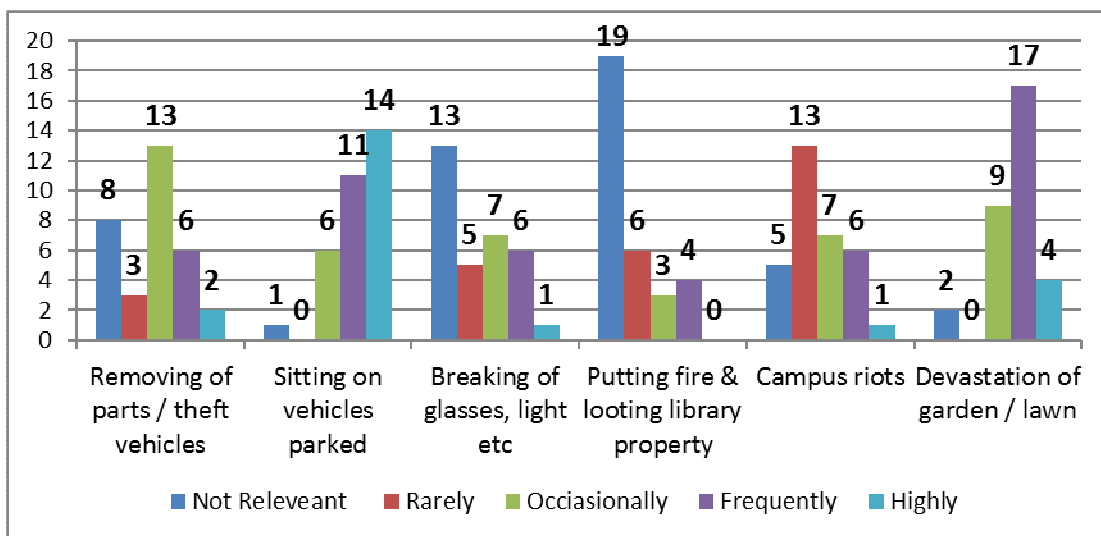
❖   The chi-square test results showed that pulling table & chairs, nosily rustling the books & other documents lifting of equipment and statues are found significant at both the level 0.01 and 0.05.

❖ The calculated chi-square value 35.750 reveals positive responses towards pulling table & chairs where as only removing flower plots 8.212 was not found significant at both the level.

❖ The figure no.8.2 indicates that 46.39% users were not allowed in the stack to select the books inside the library. Even though very few users are 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.**

4.3.2.2 Vandal activities outside the libraries

Vandals not only disturb the internal environment of the library but also disturb the exterior environment by creating vandal activities, such as removing vehicle parts, sitting on vehicles, breaking of glasses, lights, etc. devastation of garden, campus riots and putting fire and looting property are the prevalent vandal activities among the problem patron which is recognized as external vandalism. Hence attempt was made to find out the vandal activities outside the libraries which cause library security. The responses collected in this respect ware analyzed and presented in Figure no.8.3

Figure No.8.3   Vandal activities outside the library

❖ The results according to WAM statistical test ranked the outside vandal activities from Figure no.8.3 that 43.75% respondents had given first rank to sitting on vehicles parked, the 12.50% respondents gave second rank to devastation of garden / lawn; while 6.25% respondents gave third rank to removing of parts and theft of vehicles, 1 (3.13%) weighted third rank to breaking of glass, light etc. and indicated campus riots, are ranked in order of preference as a vandal activities out side the libraries. The reasons suggested by the respondents were no proper parking provision, no security guard appointed if appointed not performing his duty faithfully and as a part of group behavior were the major reasons reported by the respondents.

❖ The Ti- Square statistical test revealed the vandal activities outside the library taking place frequently and highly were sitting on vehicles parked responded by 78.13% respondents; 25.00% respondents noticed removing of parts / theft vehicles, 65.63% indicated by devastation of garden/ lawn and breaking glass, light etc. and campus riots noticed by 21.88% respondents as a vandal activity outside library building.

❖ The Chi- square test of Pearson's shows that all the vandal activities outside the library were confirmed and found extremely significant at the both the level 0.01 and 0.05.

❖ The chi-square value 43.692 indicate that breaking of glasses and light are found most significant vandal activity outside the library than other activities.

9. CONCLUSIONS & SUGGESTIONS

ꝩ As regards year of establishment of Engineering College before the independence in Aurangabad only one government college was in existence. After the establishment of BAMU & SRTMU the steady growth of colleges were notable during the year 1957-1967, 1967-1977 and 1987-1997. After 1979-2011 due to privatization policy of Maharashtra government 88% non grant colleges were established during 1997-2007. Which indicates mushroom growth of colleges in the Marathwada region. Amongst them 75% were granted and 24.04% were non granted colleges located in rural area and in urban area of four districts. While 0.96%, that means only one Government College was in Aurangabad.

ꝩ The chi-square test results showed that pulling table & chairs, nosily rustling the books & other documents lifting 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 plots 8.212 was not found significant at both the level The figure no.2 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.**

℈ 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 no.8.1 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.**

℈ However there are many well-researched, practical strategies, some of which are inexpensive, which libraries may implement to curb vandalism. As custodians of their collections, all librarians should have a plan for dealing with vandalism when it occurs and for preventing its occurrence in the first place.

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