CHAPTER-I

1. 1 Introduction:

In a Developing country like India, education plays an important role in the overall socio-economic development of the society. It is a form of learning in which the knowledge values, culture, beliefs and habits of a group of people transmitted from one generation to another. Needless to say, education expands intellect, knowledge and shapes character of human beings. It creates a sense of equality among all. It enables a person to discern what is right and what is wrong makes him rational, judicious and humane.

Education is the process of perfection of the mankind. It is a means that improves the quality of life, enlightenment of the people and the society as well. There are three stages of education system in Assam .These are primary, secondary and higher education. Higher education includes college and universities where libraries play a Pivotal role in teaching learning process. College, university and research institution are very essential for shaping a society or a nation. Higher education should be quality education which should be up to date, need based and socially relevant. If higher education is quality based, produces quality workers and thus strong nations are building. Education is a process from childhood to old age, every one continuously through this process. Education has the ability to alleviate human lives. Higher education can deliver great benefit to society; gains that are unthinkable.

The Progress, of any society and the people on it, heavily depend on education. Especially for a country like India, which is late corner development it is all the more important to emphasize on education to get in pace with the 21st century world. In the quest for development, Primary education which forms base is absolutely essential-however higher education undoubtedly provides the cutting edge. At the dawn of new century there is an unprecedented demand for and a great diversification in higher education, as well as an increased awareness of its vital importance for socio cultural and economic development, social progress and political democracy in independent India.

The Indian Educational system needs a systematic overhaul; it needs to educate much larger numbers without diluting academic standards. This is imperative because the transformation of economy and society in the 21st century world depend in

significant part, on the spread and the quality of education among our people particularly in the sphere of higher education. It is an inclusive society that can provide the foundations for a knowledge society.

According to UNESCO report the 21st century "Higher education is the mandate to bridge the knowledge gap between countries and communities enriching dialogues between people, culture, international living and net-working of ideas research and technologies".

Higher education aims to achieve a comprehensive and well-rounded development in the life of the student. College education in India as of now is facing pressures of increased enrollment. Changing educational policies and the challenging task of imparting higher education is a vast human resource potential in the age group of 14-24 enabling century global knowledge.

We are living in an existing and challenging time which is marked by a competitive environment .It is characterized by globalization which entails international alliances and perhaps, liberalization and emergence of knowledge society powered by innovations, information and communication net-works and unprecedented growth of science and technology. It is poised to witness phenomenal and unprecedented changes whose nature will be determined by the quality, form and format of education. Education is a process from childhood to old age every one continuously possesses through this process. Education has the ability to alleviate human lives like non- other. Particularly, higher education can deliver great benefit to society; gains that are unthinkable.

Developing a formidable infrastructure is one part of education continuum. It has more pressing challenge; to elevate the scholastic value of our students. It is worrying fact that the standards of education in many of our institutions are below bench mark. There is not a single Indian institution in the list of top 200 universities in the World. Some of our universities and engineering institutions are indeed capable of figuring much higher in ranks. Our new universities may not be in ranking immediately. Yet a concerted efforts made from the very beginning could lead to substantial progress in our academic functioning.

The Annual conference of vice chancellors of central universities at Rashtrapatii Bhavan provides an opportunity to discuss ways and means to quicken the process of change in our higher education sector.

The National Policy on Education (NEP) 1986 characterizes higher education as a "crucial factor for survival" providing the Indian people with an "opportunity to

reflect on the critical social, economic, cultural, moral and spiritual issues." It is envisaged in the NEP 1986 and POA 1992 that education will be used as an agent of basic change in socio-economic status of people. The policy statement seeks to remove inequalities based on gender, race, religion, region or cast with an improvement of quality.

The (UNESCO) report (1997) 'Learning to be" states "The correlation and inter-action between society and education are so complex that simplified explanations cannot possibly give an adequate account of them. This remarks is valid for the tasks which education assigns to society and education reciprocally and also for statements concerning the objectives to which such tasks are designed to lead'. Describing education as an image of society; this report has added that education being a sub – system of society, necessity reflects the main features of that society. It would be vain to hope for a rational human education in an unjust society. (University news, Feb24-March-02/2014)

College, university and research institution played an important role for development of higher education in a society. The libraries attached to these institutions played a significant role in providing the required information to its users. Library is regarded as the heart of every educational institution. It is a temple of learning. If anyone wants to get a sense of the academic environment of a college, just a walk through its library is enough for a better judgment. It is a house of the greatest thoughts of the greatest creators in the world in an organized way for the use of its readers. The library of today not only open its door more widely, but also moved out its four walls to reach larger target groups. The library is an excellent indicator of an institution`s commitment to higher education. The college libraries are expected to play a vital role of introducing the library system and also its use among the new entrants. Ideally, if the student could have obtained the experience of library use in schools, it would have lesson task of college library personnel. College library played a significant role providing the required information to users.

The earlier concept of library is a place, where books were stored or used as a collection of books. The library is meant mainly arrangement and preservation of reading materials and makes them available on demand.

The word library has taken centuries to become central point of all social actions and has got recognition as social institutions. It provides physical or digital access to material may be confined in a physical building or room or a virtual space or both collections include books, periodical, newspapers, manuscripts, films, Maps, CDs,

Video tapes, DVD, E books and audio-books and other formats. The college libraries are expected to play a vital role of introducing the library system and also its use among the new entrants.

Library is a social organism. It has been created as an integral part of communication, as required by society and culture. Library ensures continuity of a culture and connects culture of different ages. Library has been performing the most vital role as store-house of human thoughts aspiration, wits, knowledge and art, since the down of civilization. The written records in any form, in sign or alphabet, in any media made of clay, papyrus, paper and which kept alive the human knowledge has been preserved by libraries generation after generation. With the help of these records the present human society has become increased and developed.

IT revolution has very affected almost all areas of life and all aspects of human activity such as education, industry, agriculture, sports, medicine, research institutions, training etc and libraries are also no exception. There is a great impact of IT on the functioning of all areas of life institutions such as school, college, university and research institutions etc. The services of academic institution and academic libraries have been drastically changed due to the impact of IT to serve its academic community. The academic institutions are back bone of the society. The traditional way of information handling methods has been almost ineffective and inefficient in providing required information to the information seekers. There are various prospects in the applications of IT in library activities to provide pinpointed exhaustive and expeditious information from within and outside sources to the users in anticipation or on demand. It has become imperative to have an understanding of the prospects of application of IT in academic libraries, i.e. specially in college libraries for promoting higher education in Assam especially in Lakhimpur district. Attitude of library professionals towards IT application is also one of the factors. So that appropriate measures can be adopted to improve the college library services, on user's point of view, in a better way.

The scientific and academic institutions might not have progressed without the assistance of these libraries. In fact, the scientific and technological advancements completely changed the scenario of the information communication system, providing the end users with access to the latest information.

The application of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in library and information centre are very important and is a commitment towards providing

better library services to the users. The Internet also provides world-wide access to information. The ICT infrastructure development is much essential for college libraries because these institutions are carrier of information which is useful for everyone. The colleges are one of the important sectors of higher education and libraries are one of the important organs of it.

1.2 College Library; its definition, Objectives, Role, Function:

"Library is a social organization. It has been created as an integral part of communication, as required by society and culture. Library ensures continuity of a culture and connects culture of different ages"--   (Wikipedia)

Libraries contribute to our society. Libraries give pleasure of discovery and the social and economic benefit of an educated community. The sustainability of libraries-in all sectors-requires change in determining a different future, a re-modeling Of the library for future needs based on strategies for research, workforce development and innovation across the academic, public and other sectors of education, learning and culture.

The Library is the primary and significant requirement for any educational institution. The functions of library within any academic institution can be realized only in the context of institution's philosophy of education.

Library occupies a significant place in academic institutions such as schools, colleges, universities, research institutions etc. for imparting education. The library is the heart of university and college. The library is the most effective and economic medium for spread of education and dissemination of information. The character and efficiency of a college or university may be gauged by its treatment of its central organ, the library.

A library attached or associated with a college and used by teachers, students and staff of the college is known as **college library**. In general, a college is regarded as an institution of higher learning which usually offers a three years or four years courses after school leading to a bachelor degree.

Prytherch Ray (1990) in his "Harrods Librarians Glossary and Reference Book "defines a college library as a library established, maintained and administered by a college to meet the needs of the students and faculty.

Colleges form the integral part of higher education and libraries in colleges are the primary source of learning. Libraries must play that role effectively. The basic common

efforts of all college libraries should be to meet the legitimate needs and demands of all college community. Among all the three stages i.e., Primary, Secondary, College and University education is very essential for shaping a society or a nations. College education provides a totally different environment for boys and girls who pursue higher studies. Usually the classes comprise a large number of students and unlike school education, the students of college get much less individual attention from the teacher. The students, therefore, have to end much more on self-learning.

Therefore, the college library is the automatic choice for students to supplement their class room teaching. College library should become an instrument of instruction and the users should use library as an integral part of the curriculum. In other words it means that teaching in the classroom must depend more on library than text books. That is, library must become an integral part of teaching programmed.

The National Education Commission (1964-66) Kothari commission (1964-66) recognized the importance of libraries in colleges and stated that no new college or department should be started without an adequate provision for its library. However, there is sea-change in the education system and information environment over the past fifty years. Now the colleges are not confined to graduate teaching, some colleges offer post graduate courses in addition to under graduate courses. The student proportion of these colleges is exploding and the library is a place for them to learn about different information sources and acquired knowledge beyond curriculum. This is the place where they can set their future goals and shapes their carrier. However, college libraries have a vital role to play in the graduate and post graduate education programmes. The present age is witnessing continuing development of education. All the literate people need a steady and balanced supply of reading material in accordance with their diverse requirements. Library is the proper agency through which the reading material reaches the society at different level. The role of the library as an agency for the promoter of reading has become very important in the recent times. In order to serve the readers best, the libraries must know the readers. Because, it is the reader for whom the library is established and it is the reader's service for which they visit the library. It is preservation of and access to knowledge and information to facilitate progress. The role of library is expanding. Library is no more a physical place alone. It is rather a gate way to world's knowledge and information.

The College libraries in India have a significant role to play in higher education. In United States of America concept of **"Library- College"** has been used successfully.

The college is considered a library and library is regarded as college. The education becomes student centric and encourages students to play a dynamic and creative role in their own education. The effectiveness of student learning process is increased by various means especially the use of library centre. Students are expected to do independent study with guidance from teachers who are expects in bibliographical organizations. Librarians having suitable qualifications and experience can also provide guidance. A landmark in the development of college library was the appointment of library committee of UGC and publication of its report in 1965. Some of the important recommendations of the committee relate to the financial support of college libraries by University Grant Commission (UGC), Govt. of India and state government include staff strength and qualification, book selection and collection, measures to promote reading habits, proposal for library building etc.

1.2.1 Some essential components of the College Library system are:-

1. A collection of books and other learning and teaching materials;
2. The user community, comprising, students, teachers, the college management and other getting standard library services,
3. Physical facilities like building, furniture, equipment,
4. Professional staff for the library,
5. Management finance and budgets by the college.

1.2.2 Objectives of College Library:

College library is the most important adjunct of colleges. Its aim is realization of institutional objectives. The objectives of college library are as follows:-

1. Support implementation of objectives of parent institution i.e., the College.
2. Supplement the curriculum taught in the institution to which it is attached.
3. It develops habits of deep and advanced studies of subjects beyond the text books of subjects in students.
4. It enhances the understanding of different subjects or disciplines among students.
5. It prepares the students to be an intelligent, aware, informative and enlightened person to play the role of a future responsible citizen
6. It assists the research work and lays down the initiative base for research work in students,
7. It informs the researcher with latest up-dates in their respective subject area,

8. It provides healthy entertainment to its users.

9. Work as an independent agency and encourage lifelong learning beyond the Prescribed syllabi,

10. It helps in all educational and instructional programmes of the college,

To perform the above functions effectively and to achieve the set objectives of the college, libraries have to plan design and manage the functions.

1.2.3 Function of College Library:-

A college library expected to support the objectives of the college by devising suitable Programmes. The basic function of a college library is to assist the parent body to carry out its programmes. This means that it must adequately serve the needs and requirements of the teachers and students towards reading, study and research. Thus the functions of a college library can be summarized as follows: -

1. The primary function of college library is to assist the parent institutions in fulfilling the educational objectives.

2. To provide latest collection of text books course related materials and journals on print and electronic media,

3. It requires reference books such as encyclopedias and other books on each and every aspect of different subjects to enhance the understanding of subjects among students on their own besides class-room teaching and text books.

4. To prepare the students for different professions and occupation and to develop their skills it procures self–learning materials, competitive examination books etc.

5. It procures newspapers, weekly and monthly magazines on current events, general knowledge books etc., to make aware its users about their surroundings on current topics.

6. It subscribes to useful journals, research bulletins on different subjects as per the recommendations of faculty (teacher) for research work and to keep the teachers abreast with the latest information in their disciplines.

7. If some documents is not available in the library, it brings it on inter –library loan or by other means of resource sharing on demand of its users.

8. It also provides light reading material like fiction, biographies, magazines, travel book guides, audio-visuals, etc., to give healthy leisure time to its users.

9. It procures general reference books such as dictionaries, directories, encyclopedias, yearbooks as well as some subject specific reference books.

10. To make library and its use more accessible and easy it makes proper classification, cataloguing, self-arrangement, display of new arrivals and provide services like bibliographical, indexing, abstracting etc.

11. To provide orientation training to its new users to use the library and disseminate information time to time regarding new library services and latest books.

12. To train the students in the use of library catalogue, references sources and internet based information.

13. To preserved documents for future use purpose.

1.2.4. Services of College Library:-

The college libraries offer following Important services to the students and faculties:-

(1) User orientation, education and information literacy.

(2) Reference, reader's advisory services.

(3) Lending and inter library loan.

(4) Bibliographic services.

(5) Career guidance.

(6) Network- based services.

(7) Bibliographic Service

(8) Provision of general or specific information.

(9) Preservation of document for future use.

(10) Reprographic service.

(11) Circulation Services.

(12) Assistance in the location of documents or use of library catalogue or understanding of reference books.

1.2.5 Role of College Library:

The college library aims to help young students in proper understanding of various disciplines in preparing them for advanced studies, and make them responsible for future life. The college library meets the legitimate needs and demand of all their users from senior teachers engaged in research to fresh students. The college library has played a significant role in higher education. If anyone wants to get a sense of the

academic environment of a college, just walk through its library is enough for better judgment.

The library does occupy a significant place in academic institutions such as schools, colleges, universities, research institutions for imparting education. The character and efficiency of a college or university may be gauged by its treatment of its central organ, the library. The library is the most effective and economic medium for spread of education and dissemination of information. Knowledge and information is available to stake holders round the clock. But the main issue is not facilitating end-users access to pertinent Information; rather it is to develop critical thinking skills among the information seekers. That is the essence of Dr. Ranganathan's five laws of Library science. The only thing is to replace the surrogate book with the concept of knowledge and information. Context is more important than content and the format. In other wards the content and the format must be personalized and the information needs of the end users

The word library has taken centuries to become central point of all social actions and has got recognition as social institutions. It provides physical or digital access to material may be confined in a physical building or room or a virtual space or both collections include books, periodical, newspapers, manuscripts, films, Maps, CDs, Video tapes, DVD, E books and audio-books and other formats. The college libraries are expected to play a vital role of introducing the library system and also its use among the new entrants.

Taking into consideration of these factors plans of modernization of college libraries has to be drawn. Modernization process would, thus be envisaged at two levels- internal (i.e. intellectual) and external (i.e. technical). Libraries became multi media centers of information resources, leaving behind their dull and drab image of repositories of old dusty books, materials like microforms, audio and video cassettes and now various electronic products for use both offline and online are changing the faces of stock rooms and reading areas. The combination of computer and communication technologies introduced a change in service in college libraries. The 21st century college libraries could assimilate the changes to the benefit of all the users and the library staff.

Now the task of college library has become more challenging and complex due to knowledge explosion. The main purpose of college library is to assist the instructional programmed of the institution. The college librarian is concern with

administration and management besides the other technical services with the assistance of his staff in the use of information by the students and the teaching faculty. The actual administrative effectiveness of the college library depends upon the character, knowledge and the administrative skill of the librarians and upon the principal of the college who helps librarian in administration of the library. College library makes the reading habits among the students. When the habits are directed towards reading habits, it would be habitual and there must be intention to acquire knowledge. Reading always adds to our knowledge. This is a universal fact which will be experienced in our life. Purposeful reading helps one in achieving one's goal or fulfilling the purpose of his reading. There are four steps that are basic to form good reading habits, i.e. exploring, checking, the vocabulary analyzing for comprehension and synthesizing for understanding. More reading teaches us to expand our understanding of what we have read. Reading room facility should good and sound with open access to promote and widen reading habits among the students.

Library without a reading room is just like the body without its soul. It is very important for student. The library exists for the users only. There must be convenient space and required number of reading tables and chairs in the reading room which must also be facilitated with current newspaper, journal and magazine along with their back volumes. Measure should be taken to maintain silence in the reading room. A reading room should be temple of silence and there be sympathetic attention from library staff.

On the basis of the above observation one can conclude that, library is an important part of college. College library plays an important role for promoting e-resources for the benefit of user. The college library aims to help young students in proper understanding of various disciplines in preparing them for advanced studies, teaches the responsibilities of future life. The college library meets the legitimate needs and demand of its entire user. Thus college libraries have played a very important role in supporting students and faculty in their curriculum and research needs and preparing leaders of tomorrow.

1.3 Information Technology: its meaning, definition, types, role, functions and Services:

Change is the law of nature. Information technology (IT) is one of the important revolutions that have made drastic changes in every walks of people's life. In the field of library and information science it has great impact on changing its environment. With the application of IT library and information science have undergone a rapid and

dynamic change. It has opened the new doors in the field of library and information science.

1.3.1 Meaning of Information Technology:

The word **"Information Technology"** is a combination of two words, one is "Information" and other is "Technology". Information means processed data which carries meaning and Technology refers to the use of computer and telecommunications. IT means the application of computer and communication technologies for gathering processing, storage retrieval and dissemination of information.

ALA Glossary defines Information Technology as "the application of computers and other technologies to the acquisition, organization, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information."

UNESCO defines information technology as "a scientific technological and engineering disciplines and technologies used in information handling and processing Information, their application computers and their interaction with man and machine and associated social, economic and cultural matters,"

On line Dictionary of library and information science defines "Information technology as a very broad terms encompassing all aspects of the management and processing of information by computer, including the hardware and software required for accessing it". The focus of IT has been on the speed, efficiency, economy and accruing of processed information. IT used in libraries includes not only computers, but also telecommunications, networks, storage and a wide range of other related technologies.

Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary defines (1973) "Information means intelligence, given knowledge,"

According to the New Webster Dictionary of English language 1984 "Information and intelligence communicated

words on in writings: facts on data,' Knowledge derived from reading on instructions gathered in any way,"

The Mc-Grow Hill Encyclopedia of science and technology (2002) define Information technology as "The field of engineering involving computer based hardware and software systems, and communication systems to enable the acquiring, representation, storage, transmission and use of information,"

The Random House Dictionary on the English language (1983) "Information is communicated or received concerning a particular fact or circumstances; any knowledge gained through communication, research instruction,"

Balkan defines, "The information associated with a text is the generator's modified (by purpose, intent, knowledge of recipients state of knowledge) conceptual structure which underlines the surface structure of that text."

Looking to the concept of information, it can be said that there is no single universally accepted definition of information. People have defined information which according to the context.

The British department of IT industry defines Information Technology as "The acquisition, processing, storage and dissemination of vocal, pictorial, textual and numerical information by micro-electronics based combination of computing and telecommunication"

Information as a concept bears a diverse meaning, form everyday usage to technical settings. The concept of information is closely related to notions of constraint, communication, control, data, form, instruction, knowledge, meaning, mental stimulus, pattern, perception, and representation.

Computers and communications together with storage, processing, retrieval and dissemination of information are termed as ICT. ICT is an umbrella term that includes any communication device or application, encompassing, radio, television, cellular phones, computers and network, hardware and software, satellite systems and so on, as well as various services and applications associated with them, such as video conferencing and distance learning.

From these definitions, some of the applications of ICT have become clear such as video –conferencing and distance learning, both of which can be facilitated by the academic library, other applications of the ICT specific to libraries could include, access to on line resources on the internet such as e-journals, e-books and e-magazines, e-publishing, using CD-ROM for literature searches, opportunities to access to local or network data bases on LAN or WAN.

1.3.2 Parrot has classified the information workers into the following categories:-
Knowledge Producers:-

All scientists, mathematicians, statisticians, research workers, engineers, counselors, foresters, judges, architects, social workers, computer programmers, financial specialist, accountants, banks and financial managers, etc. are knowledge producers.

Knowledge distributers:--

All teachers, librarians, writers' artists, editors, publishers and reporters, author, public relations people, radio and TV and all other mass media group

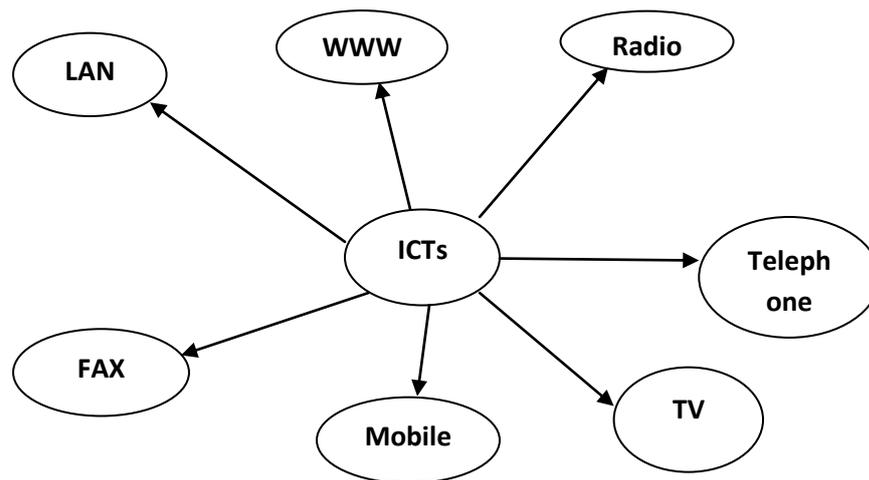**Market search and coordination's specialists**:-

Enumerators and interviewers, investigators, inspectors, insurance adjustors, buyers, collectors etc. all essentially are concerned with the creation of knowledge, communication of idea and processing of information.

Information is used in variety of different contexts -as follows:-

(1) **Information as commodity**:- Information like any other commodity is meant for consumption, when information is used as a commodity, it often assumes economic value,

(2) **Information as Energy**:-The information is transmitted as energy. Information could be thought of as interchangeable with energy

(3) **Information as communication**; - Information often considered to be synonymous with communication. Communication is flow of information.

(4) **Information as facts: -** Information is often thought to be the same as facts. A fact is a piece of information about circumstances that exist or events that have occurred.

(5) **Information as Data**: - Information is often thought to be the same as data. Data are the product of symbol that is organized according to established rules and conventions.

(6) **Information as knowledge**:-Information is often used interchangeably with knowledge. Knowledge implies a state of understanding beyond awareness.

1.3.3 Components of ICT:

ICT is a broad term that covers wide range of technologies. It is the convergence of computer, communications and micro-electric based techniques. The technologies and devices like Radio, Telephone Telegraph, Fax, Internet, WWW, E-mail, LAN, WAN; ISDN, Videoconference and Satellite Communication Techniques are major part of ICT. With the help of LAN, Library and Information centre easily shares the information. These are the most important component of ICT (Fig.1).

Fig-1 Component of ICTs

Now IT has great potential for variety of application in college libraries as it contribute to improved quality of services, increase productivity, operations that are more efficient, better resources sharing and more effective services to users.

1.3.4 Types of Information:

The Information can be categorized on the basis of its use and purpose for which it is used. J. H. Shera has categorized Information in to six types as under:-

(1) Conceptual Information.

(2) Empirical Information.

(3) Procedural Information.

(4) Stimulatory Information.

(5) Policy Information.

(6) Directive Information.

The conceptual Information relates to ideas, theories and hypothesis about the relationship which exists among the variables in the area of problem.

Empirical Information relates to data and experience of research which may be drawn from one self on communication from others.

Procedural Information is the data of investigation which are obtained, manipulated and tested, it is essentially methodological and it is derived from scientific attitude.

Stimulatory Information is a type of information which is motivated by oneself or environmentally derived.

Policy information is focused on the decision making process.

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Directive Information is information which is used for coordination and for enabling effective group activity.

1.3.5. Role of Information Technology and College libraries-

The 21st century is the age of Information science and technology. Due to the development of computer technology and fast advancement of space communication techniques, the new information and the advanced knowledge are spreading world-wide and penetrating into every part of the world. Knowledge is power, one who is able to achieve and master the information world. The Internet **becomes a huge treasure mountain that provides variety of information** in the forms of database, pictures movies multimedia or the interactive displays etc. Many academic institutions specially college and research institutions and leading universities in the world edit their own home page to demonstrate their educational goals, academic activities, excellent training programmers and the innovative and important research results.

An adequately well equipped library is not only necessary for all teaching and learning but it also essential for research also. A systematically developed library collection serves as a major academic facility to the faculty as well as students and facilitates them to conduct research in all fields. So libraries of the colleges are storehouses of learning and repositories of scholarship.

Therefore, Functioning of academic libraries changes from time to time to be suitable to the ever changing information environment. The change is at slow pace in college libraries, however, the support of INFLIBNET, an inter university centre of UGC, have made steady progress in the application of IT in their house- keeping and information retrieval activities.

1.4. Meaning of Information Need:

Information need has been defined as the state of needing anything that individual perceives as information. The dictionary meaning of the information need is closely related terms like requirements, want; demand has to be analyzed in order to have a true perspective of the information needs. The information needs of the users have to be satisfied by the libraries and information centre through their services.

1.4.1. Information needs has been defined as the state of needing anything that individual perceives as information.

Belkin defined information need as a condition or situation that exists when the internal sense runs out.

The dictionary meaning of the various related terms are as follows -

(1) Need:-want to something which one cannot well do without.

(2) Want:-a state or fact or being without or having an insufficient quantity, absence or deficiency of necessities.

Information generated at any point be procured, organized and disseminated expeditiously to the users for its optimum use. All pervasive information is a basic component in this universe. It is found through sense of perception, memory, and experience or by observation or interaction with the outside world. It is inherent in image, symbols, signals, sign and values that interact with the mind.

There is no field of human activity where information is not a component, whether it is research and development, business and industry, government affairs, education and training, the information has to be required, processed stored retrieved and disseminated through communication channel. Indeed the effectiveness of performance in all these sphere of activity depends largely upon the availability of information at the right time in adequate quantity and quality. All human activities result in the creation of information which is mostly communicated through various media. It is absolutely necessary for an information system to respond to environmental stimuli and acquire information to meet the requirements of user interest. The information handling activities are to be based entirely on the needs of the users. Information requirements to meet variety of use have become the focus of study today.

The information needs relate to-

(1)   Which information is needed i.e. the subject or theme. It presupposes that any and all information about the requested subject will somehow satisfy the information needs.

(2)   In situational approach a user wanting information on a certain subject. This specifies the intrinsic characteristics of information, whatever the subject may be. The characteristics of the users has to be situation ally defined meaning that needs are not constant but highly dependent on circumstances and therefore continually change.

College libraries, now a days are making great efforts to build up their information infrastructure in order to provide fast and efficient information highway to help their users in sharing and utilizing the information all over the world. Indeed, it has added some more technology based functioning to keep their users abreast of global

development. The library automation is inevitable in this age of information explosion. In1960s libraries in the world have been using IT to automate the services and perform the functions efficiently and effectively. A large number of studies investigated the utilization of technological application in library and information centre all over the world.

1.4.2. Need of Information in College Libraries:-

In the present age of information, it has been increasingly felt that to serve readers better, information needs and users must become the central focus of attention. It is beyond doubt that the success of information service is likely to be achieved by adjusting the services to meet the specific needs of an individual rather than trying to adopt the individual user to match with the output of the information system. We have to create and develop the user oriented system for their maximum information satisfaction.

Information is one of the basic resources that are needed and utilized by human beings for their development and prosperity. The world has now moved from industrial revolution into the information revolution. The dependence on information in every sphere of intellectual activity has increased day by day. Technological advances have made information a new basic resource of matter and energy. Information is power which plays a vital role in the development and progress.

Today, academic libraries all over the world facing lot of opportunities and challenges. Now days, libraries have to offer multiple services and change their roles keeping in view of the fast growing information. ICT has great impact on the library services. Following are the important reasons for the need of ICT in college libraries in the information era.

1. 4.3. Necessities of ICT in Libraries:-

The World of Academic Libraries is undergoing a change. The "Information revolution" particularly the internet and electronic resources has had a profound effect on the way of library service. Thus internet is the main resource of libraries through which people look into world of information. The academic libraries and their rapidly developing use of information and communication technology are key focus and emphasis and influence those changes of teaching and learning. Libraries have an outstanding potential as a third place, after home and work with learning, inspiration and entertainment. Hence it is very essential to change the environment, structure and

interiors of the academic libraries according to the digital information needs of the user and the future library should not have stress on collection / storage as its main function. E –learning opportunities must be enabled by the library professionals to the user in global level to access a variety of digital information sources via range of appropriate World Wide Web technology environment.

It is necessary, as information needs vary from person to person, place to place and time to time, libraries must change in radical and fundamental ways. Modernization is associated with the concept of change. The college library system and operation may be visualized internally as well as externally. The internal change, again be interpreted as 'intellectual change' and other one is 'technical change'. It is true that any change cannot be considered as a change towards modernization. If the change is for fulfilling the need of contemporary society or its institutions, then that condition may be defined as modernization.

The information and communication technology has played an important role in the library and information centre and changed the concept of libraries, especially in college libraries. The application of ICT is much essential for college libraries and information centre because these centre are carrier of information which is useful for everyone. The use of ICT in college libraries and information centre has become more important in the age of information and wide spread use of digital information resources. ICT in college libraries helps in performing their routine operations and services most effectively and efficiently. Libraries are subscribing E - Journals, CD-ROM, on-line data base, web based resources and a variety of other electronic resources for its users and all are possible with the help of ICT application.

1.5 **Objectives of the study: -**

There are greater prospects of introducing IT in college libraries of Lakhimpur district for promoting higher education. Present age is the age of science and technology. The application of IT is much essential for libraries and information centre because these are career of information which is useful for everyone. College libraries are no longer in a position to provide efficient services to the users without taking help of application of IT in their libraries.

Efficient Management policy can help College Library in effective way. The study has been done on the basis of following objectives:-

i. To assess the existing situation and infrastructure of college libraries
ii. To find out the role of information in college Libraries for career building of the students.
iii. To examine the status of library automation in the college libraries.
iv. To know the latest collection of the libraries.
v. To know users satisfaction relating to different services provided by the libraries.
vi. To get an idea of future plan for improving the colleges libraries for promoting higher education.
vii. To suggest the ways and means for improvement of college libraries
viii. To suggest necessary and suitable recommendations for modernizing the college libraries and strategies for library automation particularly college libraries and make professionals change their traditional attitude and become aware of the advantages of latest technological innovations of IT for modernization of library services.

1.6. Historical Back Ground of the problem: -

Information technology (IT) is one of the important revolutions that have made drastic changes in every walks of people's life. In the field of library and information science also IT has a great impact on changing its environment. The information explosion prevailing in the present day world has created different problems to the society. Firstly, it has become impossible for any individual readers to scan even a part of published information in his specific field. Secondly, it is neither possible nor feasible for any single academic library to acquire each and every published document for its users. Thirdly, there is a great emphasis on production and distribution of information through non printed or non conventional articles. Lastly, there is increase of changing needs of the library clientele. The present users are very hungry about multifaceted technology.

In order to cope up these problems, libraries have to drastically modify their information collection and handling techniques. So the importance of the college library is to be made more visible by their positive role and by libraries multiple and effective information services with modern and advanced technological products. This

is the challenge to the library professionals to change their traditional attitude and to adopt new technologies to handle new information storage and retrieval systems.

No academic institutions can survive without a library, which is indispensable for the achievement of the vision and mission of its parent body. The library is said to be the heart of an academic institution. The role of college library is well recognized as tools and integral part of higher educational institution. Rapidly developing technologies offer potential for enabling college libraries to serve more efficiently and effectively.

Out of 17 (seventeen) numbers of provincialised degree colleges in Lakhimpur district the researcher has selected only 8 (eight) colleges in the district. It is the right time to study the prospects of application of IT, the attitude of the library and information professionals towards IT, to find out the problems of the selected study areas and to suggest some remedial measures.

1.7. Scope of the Study:

Though there are 17 (seventeen) numbers of provincialized degree colleges in Lakhimpur District the study covered 8 (eight) numbers of provincialised higher educational degree college libraries according to their location as well as different areas both rural and urban of the district and colleges were selected on the basis of stream wise like Science, Arts and Commerce also. The study did not cover the technical institutions or colleges of B.Ed, Engineering and Law colleges etc.

The study do not cover all the aspects of library because IT itself is a very big subject. Researcher has selected only 8 (eight) college libraries as a sample of the district to study few elements out of it. It has been attempted to make this study as comprehensive as possible within a limited scope. The study have been aimed to access introduction of IT on their library services and present a general survey of collection development, role of information technology in college libraries of Lakhimpur District. Today information is treated as a basic resource of the library. From higher educational point of view, the importance has been given on efforts towards modernization of the college libraries.

1.8. Hypothesis:

Hypothesis is a tentative generalization. Hypothesis makes the research more specific and to the point which leads towards the destination. On the basis of

accumulated knowledge, experience and collected preliminary data, have tentative generalization of hypothesis at hand the validity of which has got to be tested. This has been made in order to find out the correct explanation through investigation. The following hypothesis has been formulated for the study:-

1. College libraries are treated as the Learning Laboratory for the Students.
2. The Mindset of the librarians must be developed for introducing new innovative services.
3. Role and function of Information Technology plays a vital role for developing skills of the students for career building.

1.9. Significance of the Study:

Colleges are considered as institutions of higher education. Libraries in these institutions play an important role in supplementing the higher education. Libraries are known as "information and knowledge repositories" and enable the students to build up an appropriate academic and professional career. It is therefore necessary to design and develop a quality library system in order to provide an effective teaching and learning environment. Library as "learning and intellectual centre" need to support not only in building, physical, human and intellectual resources, but also require strengthen its resources by adopting new vision of the library, the needs of radical and fundamental changes. The traditional library system cannot satisfy the present users. The users of today, wants multifaceted subject or information. The libraries are facing challenges to meet the user requirements and shifting to the modern library system.

The single force that has brought revolutionary changes in functioning of Library is IT. Several changes and development have taken place by the advancement of IT and everyone can visualize it is impact on the libraries. The college libraries have introduced these technologies to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of their operation and services.

1.10. Limitation of the Study:

The Field that has been undertaken to study is a vast one. There are seventeen (17) numbers of colleges in Lakhimpur District, out of that eight (8) college have been selected of which some are from rural areas and some are from urban areas, another basis of selection was college imparting education in all stream science, arts and commerce with facility of major courses and colleges imparting education in only one stream. It is expected that selected cross section of colleges will be able to bring out a

clear picture of prevailing situation in the college libraries of Lakhimpur District and effort has been made to find out the significant conclusion, interpretation as far as possible.

1.11. Conclusion:-

Now the time has come for all Higher Education Institution (HEI's) in India to set its own benchmark for sustainable development of Indian higher education system. Education is an integral component of the society. Quality education and peaceful society are the true indicators of good governance in nation.

RUSA is designed to transform higher education of the country in accordance with the constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality of status and opportunity as well as library. College libraries are treated as nerve centre of the institutions. It plays a pivotal role for information access and therefore it is necessary to modernize and patron in the 21st century which is the age of creativity. Information is a basic resource for skill development.

Therefore, the college libraries should developed modern information centre and functioning as higher educational institution for promoting higher education. Implementation of IT in libraries is going to change the whole environment of the libraries and their users. Nevertheless sustainable development cannot be achieved through technological advances, legislative measures and policy frameworks alone. These measures need to go hand in hand with change in people's mindsets, their values and lifestyles. HEI's have a larger role in the formation of these values and mindsets. To prepare the young generation for participating in building a peaceful world society based upon the cherished values social justice, equality human dignity developed the higher education centre as excellence at national and international level. The Education system of a country does not function in isolation from the society of which it is a part. So it would be requested the respected academicians here to teach the students with new ideas and perspectives which will improve their life and to imbibe them various skills and values necessary to build up their capacity to confront the challenging future and enriching the World with wonder.

At last it is concluded with the quotation of the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi **"Be the change that we wish to see the World."**

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