



TAILORING EXTENSION SERVICES FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF VENTURE COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN MEAGRE POSSIBLE WAYS: A CASE STUDY IN VIEW OF KAMRUP METRO COLLEGES

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ABSTRACT:-

This paper explores the crucial role of extension services in ensuring the sustainability of libraries and the steps that can be taken by venture colleges in this regard keeping view of the meager available ways and funds. Extension services go beyond traditional library functions, engaging with communities, leveraging technology, and adapting to evolving needs. As information hubs college libraries play a crucial role in supporting academic endeavours and cultivating a culture of continuous learning. The extension services discussed in this paper go beyond traditional library functions, extending into the community to create a dynamic and interactive learning environment. The paper provides a comprehensive overview of the significances of extension services and their pivotal role in ensuring sustainability through the study of practical implementation in a particular venture college situated at Kamrup Metro, and the paper concludes with a call to action for continued efforts in building sustainable libraries for the future.

Keywords: - college libraries, community- centric extension services, lifelong learning, information literacy, collaboration, technology integration, sustainability, continuous learning.

INTRODUCTION:-

Extension Services in General

Extension services, often referred to as agricultural extension services, are programs or initiatives designed to disseminate knowledge, information, and technologies to farmers and other stakeholders in the agricultural sector. The primary goal is to improve agricultural practices, enhance productivity, and promote sustainable development in rural areas. While the term is commonly associated with agriculture, extension services can also apply to other sectors, such as health, education, and community development.

Key features of extension services include:

1. **Information Dissemination:-** Extension services provide communities with up-to-date information on best practices in a particular field, new technologies, market trends, and other relevant topics based on scientific research and aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of any activities.
2. **Training and Capacity Building:-** In regard of agriculture 'Extension' workers often conduct training sessions and workshops to build the skills and capacities of farmers on crop management, livestock care, pest control, and other aspects of agriculture..
3. **Technology Transfer:-** Extension services play a crucial role in facilitating the transfer of new technologies and innovations from research institutions to other commoners. This helps people adopt modern and improved practices. In case farmers that can lead to increased yields and income.
4. **Advisory Services:-** Extension workers serve as advisors, offering personalized guidance based on people's specific needs and challenges as per the need of the field/sector.
5. **Community Development:-** Extension services contribute to overall community development by promoting sustainable and holistic approaches to the field. This may involve encouraging diversification of income sources, promoting environmental conservation, and addressing social issues within rural communities.
6. **Monitoring and Evaluation:-** This allows organizers to assess the effectiveness of their interventions and make adjustments as needed.

Extension services are critical in bridging the gap between scientific research and practical application in the field. They play a pivotal role in supporting the development of rural communities, enhancing food security, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

Extension services in libraries

Extension services in libraries refer to a range of activities and programs that extend library resources and services beyond the physical library space, reaching out to diverse communities and meeting their informational needs. While the term "extension services" is often associated with agriculture, in the context of libraries, it signifies outreach, engagement, and expansion of library services to better serve the public.

Extension services in libraries aim to make library resources and services more accessible, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of the community. By going beyond the physical library space, libraries can better serve diverse populations and contribute to the educational and cultural enrichment of their communities.

Library Extension Service definitions from different sources:-

According to Islam (2004) described it as a learned institution equipped with treasures of knowledge maintained, organized, and managed by trained personnel to educate the children, men and women continuously and assist in their self-improvement through an effective and prompt dissemination of information embodied in the resources.

Omojuwa (1993) described the library as an enabling factor to obtain spiritual, inspirational, and recreational activities through reading, and therefore the opportunity of interacting with the society's wealth and accumulated knowledge.

The online Dictionary, Thesaurus and Encyclopaedia described the library as a place in which literary and artistic materials, such as books, periodicals newspapers, pamphlets, prints, records, and tapes, are kept for reading, reference, or lending. In a digital sense, a library may be more than a building that houses a collection of books and other materials as the Internet has opened up an avalanche of online and electronic resources for accessing documents on various fields of interest.

Online Glossary defined digital library as a collection of texts, images, etc., encoded so as to be stored, retrieved, and read by computer.

Extension services in academic libraries:-

The social role of library is highly complex and the responsibilities which society has placed upon it are stupendous. So in order to fulfil its role there are different type of libraries:-

1. Public library, 2. Special library, 3. National library, 4. Academic library.

As this paper studies about Venture College libraries, so we'll discuss academic library services.

Extension services in academic libraries involve initiatives that extend library resources, support, and expertise beyond the traditional library setting to better serve the academic community. These services are designed to enhance the learning, teaching, and research activities of faculty, students, and researchers.

Here are some possible extension services in academic libraries:

- 1. Information Literacy Workshops:-** Offer workshops and training sessions to enhance information literacy skills among students and faculty. This includes instruction on effective research strategies, evaluating information sources, and citing references.
- 2. Research Support Services:-** Provide specialized support for research activities, including assistance with literature reviews, citation management, data management, and research impact analysis.
- 3. Embedded Librarian Services:-** Collaborate with faculty to embed librarians in courses or research projects, allowing librarians to provide tailored research support and information literacy instruction within the context of specific academic programs.
- 4. Digital Scholarship Services:-** Support scholars in the use of digital tools and technologies for research, including assistance with digital humanities projects, data visualization, and digital publishing.
- 5. Open Access Initiatives:-** Advocate for and support open access initiatives, including assistance with open access publishing, institutional repositories, and open educational resources (OER) to increase access to scholarly information.
- 6. Collaborative Collection Development:-** Work closely with faculty to ensure that the library's collection aligns with the curriculum and research needs of the academic community. Seek input on new acquisitions and collaborate on collection development projects.
- 7. Specialized Subject Guides:-** Create and maintain subject guides that provide curated resources, databases, and research tips tailored to specific academic disciplines or courses.
- 8. Virtual Reference Services:-** Offer online reference services, including chat, email, or video consultations, to provide remote assistance to students and faculty, especially during times when physical access to the library may be limited.
- 9. Library Outreach Events:-** Organize events, such as book talks, author lectures, or library fairs, to engage the academic community and promote library resources and services.
- 10. Copyright and Publishing Support:-** Provide guidance on copyright issues, fair use, and intellectual property, as well as support for scholarly publishing, including assistance with manuscript preparation, copyright clearance, and navigating publishing agreements.
- 11. Data Management Services:-** Assist researchers in managing and sharing research data, including guidance on data management plans, data storage, and compliance with data sharing requirements.

12. **Collaborations with Teaching Faculty:-** Collaborate with teaching faculty to integrate library resources and research skills into course curricula, ensuring that students are exposed to essential research tools and methodologies.

13. **Library Liaison Services:-** Assign library liaisons to specific academic departments or programs to facilitate communication and collaboration between librarians and faculty members.

These extension services contribute to the academic success of students and faculty, support research endeavours, and reinforce the vital role of the library as a hub for information, collaboration, and scholarly communication within the academic community.

14. **Multilingual Services:-** Extension services may include efforts to reach linguistically diverse communities by offering materials, programs, and services in multiple languages.

15. **Homebound Services:-** Some libraries offer services to individuals who are unable to visit the library due to health or mobility issues. This can include delivering books to homebound individuals, providing audiobooks, or offering digital resources for remote access.

The evolution of libraries and changing expectations of people:-

The evolution of libraries has been shaped by technological advancements, societal changes, and shifting user expectations. Here's an overview of key trends and developments in the evolution of libraries and the changing expectations of library users:

1. Print to Digital Transition:-

Early Years:- Libraries were traditionally associated with physical collections of books and print materials.

Transition:- The advent of digital technologies led to the creation of digital libraries, offering electronic resources, e-books, and online databases.

Impact:- Users expect seamless access to digital resources, and libraries have become hubs for both physical and digital information.

2. Information Accessibility:-

Early Years:- Libraries were primary repositories of information, and access was often restricted to physical visits.

Transition:- Online catalogues, databases, and digitization projects have improved information accessibility remotely.

Impact:- Users now expect 24/7 access to information and resources from anywhere, leading to the rise of virtual libraries.

3. Collaborative Spaces:-

Early Years:- Libraries were quiet, individual study spaces.

Transition:- Modern libraries have transformed into collaborative spaces with group study areas, maker spaces, and technology hubs.

Impact:- Users now expect libraries to provide spaces for collaborative learning, group projects, and community engagement.

4. Technological Integration:-

Early Years:- Libraries used card catalogs and manual systems for organization.

Transition:- Automated library systems, RFID technology, and self-checkout machines have streamlined library operations.

Impact:- Users expect libraries to leverage technology for efficient services, including online reservations, digital checkouts, and integrated library systems.

5. User-centred Services:-

Early Years:- Librarians played a gatekeeping role in guiding users through collections.

Transition:- User-centric services, such as personalized recommendations, online chat support, and user feedback mechanisms, have become common.

Impact:- Users now expect libraries to provide tailored services, taking into account individual preferences and needs.

6. Inclusivity and Diversity:-

Early Years:- Libraries historically catered to specific demographics.

Transition:- Libraries have become more inclusive, offering diverse collections, resources, and programming that reflect the community's needs.

Impact:- Users expect libraries to be welcoming spaces that celebrate diversity and provide resources for various cultural and demographic groups.

7. Focus on Lifelong Learning:-

Early Years:- Libraries were primarily associated with formal education.

Transition:- Libraries now emphasize lifelong learning, offering workshops, online courses, and educational resources beyond traditional academic support.

Impact:- Users expect libraries to support continuous learning and skill development throughout their lives.

8. Adaptation to Social Trends:-

Early Years:- Libraries were seen as static institutions.

Transition:- Libraries adapt to societal trends, addressing issues like sustainability, wellness, and digital literacy.

Impact:- Users expect libraries to be responsive to contemporary challenges and trends.

The evolution of libraries continues as they embrace technology, respond to changing demographics, and strive to meet the evolving expectations of their users. Libraries remain vital institutions that play a crucial role in fostering knowledge, community engagement, and intellectual growth.

COMPARISON BETWEEN TRADITIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES AND THE CONCEPT OF EXTENSION SERVICES

Traditional library services and extension services represent two different approaches to providing library resources and support. Here's a comparison between traditional library services and extension services:

Traditional Library Services:

1. Location-Centric:-

Focus:- Traditional library services are often centred around a physical location, where users visit the library to access resources and services.

2. In-House Resources:-

Collections:- Libraries house physical collections of books, journals, and other materials. Users browse and borrow items from within the library.

3. Reference Services:-

Assistance:- Librarians provide reference services within the library, assisting users with finding and using resources.

4. Quiet Study Spaces:-

Environment:- Traditional libraries are designed for quiet study and individual research, providing spaces for focused work.

5. Scheduled Hours:-

Access:- Users can access library resources and services during scheduled hours when the library is open.

6. Limited Outreach:-

Community Engagement:- Engagement with the broader community may be limited, with a primary focus on serving the immediate academic community.

Extension Library Services:-**1. Beyond Physical Boundaries:-**

Focus:- Extension services extend library resources and support beyond the physical library, reaching users where they are.

2. Virtual Collections:-

Collections:- Libraries with extension services may offer virtual collections, including ebooks, online databases, and digital resources accessible remotely.

3. Remote Reference Services:-

Assistance:- Extension services often include remote reference services, allowing users to seek assistance online or via phone.

4. Collaborative and Interactive Spaces:-

Environment:- Libraries with extension services may offer collaborative and interactive spaces, fostering group work and community engagement.

5. Flexibility in Access:-

Hours:- Extension services can provide greater flexibility in access, allowing users to avail themselves of resources and assistance beyond traditional library hours.

6. Community Outreach:-

Engagement:- Extension services emphasize community engagement, reaching out to diverse user groups, including schools, businesses, and other organizations.

7. Technology Integration:-

Innovation:- Libraries with extension services often integrate technology for innovative services, such as virtual events, online workshops, and digital literacy programs.

8. Tailored Programs:-

Services:- Extension services may involve tailored programs and initiatives to meet the specific needs of different user groups, promoting inclusivity.

9. Lifelong Learning Focus:-

Education:- Extension services often emphasize lifelong learning, providing resources and programs that support continuous education and skill development.

10. Adaptability to Trends:-

Evolution:- Libraries with extension services are more adaptable to changing societal trends, technological advancements, and educational needs.

In practice, many modern libraries incorporate elements of both traditional and extension services, recognizing the importance of providing a range of services to meet the diverse needs of their users. The combination of physical and virtual resources, along with community-focused initiatives, contributes to a more dynamic and inclusive library environment.

Pre requisites for Extension Services

- 1) The library should have a good collection to support all extension activities.
- 2) The trained and experienced staff is obligatory.
- 3) The library should have a lecture hall, an exhibition hall for holding meeting of different groups.
- 4) The library should possess audio-video equipment i. e. LCD projector, slide projector and mike arrangement.

Objective of the study:- The main aim/ Objectives of our study regarding 'Extension Services' are as follows :-

- 1) To find out best possible steps taken for extension services.
- 2) To find out the how extension services can lead to sustainability.
- 3) To bring about desirable changes in the human behaviour including change in knowledge and skill.
- 4) To convert a library into a social cultural and intellectual centre this encourages reading
- 5) Its aim is convert non-readers into readers.
- 6) To create and stimulate the desire for good reading.
- 7) To inform reader of all facilities offered by the library this in turn maximum the use of library resources.
- 8) To create image of the library among the public and the society.

Purpose of the study:-

To find out what new can be developed further in the prevailing situations of constraints regarding extension services for future sustainability.

This paper aimed to determine the extent to which college libraries and information extension services can be tailored with the meager possible ways and financial support and to discuss the impact of extension services on community outreach, user engagement, and the overall resilience of libraries in the face of today's technological advancements.

Scope and limitation:-

The study was limited to the extension services provided by Azara College library system. It revealed only the extension activities performed by the Central Library of Azara College known as Hari- Gayatri Das College Central Library.

Design/methodology/approach

Founded on a pragmatism paradigm, the sequential explanatory research design was adopted to engage with participants and respondents on their experience of library services extensions to support users during the prevailing situation of constraints.

Data were collected using online questionnaires and interviews. Cluster and purposive sampling were used and data for the quantitative part were analyzed and qualitative data were analyzed manually.

In the present study the questionnaire was selected as the source for collecting the comprehensive & relevant dates. A list of questions was formulated keeping in view the objective of the study for collecting relevant information pertaining to the subject.

CASE STUDY AND THE FINDINGS:-

Here our study area is regarding the extension services conducted by Azara College Central Library. Various aspects regarding the extension services provided by the academic library are studied and discussed.

Total of one hundred twenty questionnaires were distributed among the student and faculty member where 139 questionnaires were received back from the respondent.

The various extension services provided to community till now includes:-

1. **Library Orientation / Library Tour:-** Many potential library patrons do not know how to use a library effectively. This can be due to the lack of early exposure, shyness, or anxiety and fear of displaying ignorance. These problems led to the emergence of the library instruction movement, which advocated library user education. Libraries inform its users of what materials are available in their collections and how to access that information.

The library staff oriented the users in separate groups at the beginning of each new session both in formal way and informally into the library system. The different groups formed for the orientation includes newly admitted students and old students' semester wise. The users are acquainted with the different sections, the facilities, the rules and regulations, etc.

2. **Meeting, Public Lectures and Talks** :- A library should organize public lectures and talks by eminent persons and also by library staff.

The library arranged a number of meetings and lecture or talk sessions by eminent persons like renowned academicians, retired Principals, writers and Librarians of different government colleges.

3. **Social Media and Online Presence:-** Libraries use social media and online platforms to extend their reach and engage with the community. This includes promoting events, sharing resources, and interacting with patrons through digital channels.

In this College the Central Library has started using social media and online platforms like facebook, twitter, and you tube to extend their reach to the user community regarding coverage of various events held by the library and various information related to library are informed to the users through whatsapp groups.

4. Collaborations with other colleges/ educational institutions:- Libraries can collaborate with other colleges or educational institutions to support educational initiatives and broaden the scope of literary accessibility and to manage the gaps in their collection by giving users an option to access resources not available to them. For Venture College such collaborations are very fruitful due to monetary constraints regular collection development can be difficult. The college under this study has recently joined a formal meet with three other college libraries to discuss for inter- library collaborations.

This may involve providing resources for teachers, and participating in college events.

5. Library visits to other academic libraries and public libraries:- Visiting to other academic libraries along with the students community furnishes an opportunity to check out books and to know about the other existing libraries, its facilities, collections, etc. apart from students own college library. This also provides them an opportunity to know things happening their surrounding and broaden their scope of knowledge.

The library within our study area has also provided its students with such opportunities a number of times. The libraries its students have visited include: - West Guwahati College Central Library, Domdoma College Central Library and State District Library.

Various other programs which are possible for further future prospects includes:-

Community Outreach:- Libraries engage in proactive efforts to connect with the community outside the library walls. This can involve partnerships with local organizations, participation in community events, and establishing connections with schools, businesses, and other institutions.

Mobile Libraries:- Some libraries operate mobile libraries or bookmobiles that travel to different locations, particularly to underserved or remote communities. This helps bring library resources directly to people who may face barriers in accessing the main library.

Literacy Programs:- Extension services often include literacy initiatives such as reading programs, book clubs, and workshops. These programs aim to promote a culture of reading and lifelong learning within the community.

Technology Training:- Libraries provide technology training and support to help community members develop digital literacy skills. This includes training on using computers, navigating the internet, and accessing digital resources offered by the library.

WHAT LESSONS CAN BE LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICES DONE THROUGH VENTURES COLLEGE EXTENSION SERVICES

Ventures College Extension Services can provide valuable lessons and insights, along with best practices that contribute to the success and impact of these programs. Here are some lessons learned and best practices derived from experiences with extension services:

Lessons Learned:

1. Community-Centric Approach:-

-Lesson:- Prioritize understanding the specific needs and dynamics of the local community.

-Best Practice:- Conduct thorough needs assessments and engage in on-going dialogue with community members to tailor programs accordingly.

2. Sustainable Partnerships:-

Lesson:- Collaborative efforts with local industries and organizations are key to success. **Best Practice:-** Build and nurture strong partnerships with stakeholders, leveraging their expertise and resources for the benefit of both the college and the community.

3. Flexibility and Adaptability:-

- **Lesson:-** The ability to adapt to changing circumstances and emerging needs is crucial.
- **Best Practice:-** Design extension services with flexibility in mind, allowing for adjustments based on feedback, evolving community requirements, and external factors.

4. Technology Integration:-

- **Lesson:-** Digital platforms enhance accessibility and outreach.
- **Best Practice:-** Leverage technology for program delivery, outreach, and engagement. This includes online courses, webinars, and digital communication channels.

5. Inclusivity and Accessibility:-

- **Lesson:-** Ensure that extension services are accessible to diverse populations.
- **Best Practice:-** Implement inclusive practices, consider diverse learning styles, and make programs accessible to individuals with different abilities and backgrounds.

6. Continuous Improvement:-

- **Lesson:-** Regular assessment and feedback are essential for program refinement.
- **Best Practice:-** Establish mechanisms for ongoing evaluation, gather participant feedback, and use data to continually improve the quality and impact of extension services.

7. Local Context Sensitivity:-

- **Lesson:-** Tailoring programs to the local context enhances relevance.
- **Best Practice:-** Understand the cultural, economic, and social context of the community. Design extension services that resonate with the local population's values and aspirations.

8. Skills for Employability:-

- **Lesson:-** Equipping individuals with practical skills enhances employability.
- **Best Practice:-** Offer skill development programs that align with local industry needs, fostering a workforce with relevant and in-demand capabilities.

Some other Best Practices which will lead to successful implementation of extension services:

1. Engagement with Alumni:-

- **Best Practice:-** Leverage the college's alumni network for mentorship, guidance, and as a resource pool for expertise. Alumni engagement adds value to extension services.

2. Interdisciplinary Collaboration:-

- **Best Practice:-** Encourage collaboration between different academic disciplines within the college. This interdisciplinary approach can lead to innovative and holistic solutions in extension programs.

3. Clear Communication:-

- **Best Practice:-** Effective communication is crucial for program success. Clearly communicate program objectives, expectations, and outcomes to participants, stakeholders, and the wider community.

4. Financial Sustainability:-

- **Best Practice:-** Explore diverse funding sources and revenue-generating models to ensure the financial sustainability of extension services. This may involve seeking grants, partnerships, or offering fee-based programs.

5. Measuring Social Impact:-

- **Best Practice:-** Develop metrics and indicators to measure the social impact of extension services. This includes assessing changes in community well-being, economic development, and individual empowerment.

6. Capacity Building for Staff:-

- **Best Practice:-** Invest in ongoing training and professional development for staff involved in extension services. This enhances their skills in community engagement, program design, and effective communication.

7. Environmental Sustainability Initiatives:-

- **Best Practice:-** Integrate environmental sustainability into extension programs. This can involve promoting eco-friendly practices, raising awareness about environmental issues, and collaborating with local conservation efforts.

8. Cultivate a Culture of Lifelong Learning:-

- **Best Practice:-** Infuse a culture of lifelong learning not only in extension services but also within the college community. This involves promoting continuous learning among faculty, staff, and students.

9. Integration with Academic Programs:-

- **Best Practice:-** Align extension services with academic programs, creating a seamless connection between classroom learning and community engagement. This enhances the educational experience for students.

10. Data-Driven Decision-Making:-

- **Best Practice:-** Use data analytics and insights for informed decision-making. Regularly analyze program data, participant feedback, and community impact indicators to guide strategic planning.

11. Promotion of Innovation and Entrepreneurship:-

- **Best Practice:-** Foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship within extension services. Encourage the development of new ideas, startups, and initiatives that contribute to local economic growth.

12. Celebration of Success Stories:-

- **Best Practice:-** Showcase success stories and achievements resulting from extension services. This not only highlights the positive impact but also inspires others to engage in lifelong learning and community development.

By incorporating these lessons learned and best practices, Ventures College can enhance the effectiveness, sustainability, and overall impact of its extension services, contributing positively to the community and fulfilling its mission.

DIFFERENT CHALLENGES AND ITS SOLUTIONS:-

I. CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS REGARDING FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS IN VENTURE COLLEGE EXTENSION SERVICES

Financial constraints can pose significant challenges to the effective implementation and sustainability of extension services in a venture college. However, creative strategies and resourceful approaches can help address these challenges. Here are common challenges and potential solutions related to financial constraints in venture college extension services:

Challenges:

1. Limited Budget:-

- **Challenge:-** The college may have a restricted budget for extension services, limiting the scope and scale of programs.

2. Dependency on External Funding:-

- **Challenge:-** Relying solely on external funding sources can be uncertain and may not guarantee long-term financial stability.

3. High Operational Costs:-

- **Challenge:-** The operational costs of designing, implementing, and evaluating extension programs can be significant.

4. Affordability for Participants:-

- **Challenge:-** Ensuring that the extension services remain affordable for participants, especially in economically disadvantaged communities.

5. Competing Priorities:-

- **Challenge:-** Competing with other institutional priorities for available funds within the college.

Solutions:

1. Diversify Funding Sources:-

- **Solution:-** Explore a variety of funding sources, including government grants, corporate sponsorships, philanthropic donations, and partnerships with local businesses. Diversification reduces reliance on a single funding stream.

2. Cost-Efficient Program Design:-

- **Solution:-** Design programs that maximize impact while minimizing costs. This may involve utilizing existing resources, leveraging technology for cost-effective delivery, and prioritizing initiatives with a high return on investment.

3. Collaborate with Industry:-

- **Solution:-** Forge strong partnerships with local industries and businesses. Industry collaborations can lead to shared funding for programs that address mutual needs, creating a win-win situation.

4. Fee-Based Programs and Services:-

- **Solution:-** Introduce fee-based programs for participants who can afford to pay. This revenue can be reinvested into expanding and improving extension services, ensuring financial sustainability.

5. Grant Writing and Proposals:-

- **Solution:-** Develop the skills to write successful grant proposals. This involves identifying suitable funding opportunities, clearly articulating program goals, and aligning proposals with the priorities of potential funders.

6. Community Fundraising Initiatives:-

- **Solution:-** Engage with the local community in fundraising initiatives. This could include organizing events, seeking donations, or establishing community partnerships that contribute financial support.

7. Volunteer and Pro Bono Support:-

- **Solution:-** Tap into volunteer resources and pro bono support. Engage professionals, alumni, or community members who may contribute their expertise without financial compensation, reducing costs.

8. Leverage Technology for Outreach:-

- **Solution:-** Utilize digital platforms and online tools for outreach, program delivery, and communication. This can help reduce the costs associated with physical infrastructure and travel.

9. Cross-Campus Collaboration:-

- **Solution:-** Collaborate with other departments within the college for shared resources and expertise. This can result in cost-sharing and more efficient use of available resources.

10. Endowment and Sustainability Funds:-

- **Solution:-** Establish an endowment or sustainability fund for extension services.

Encourage donations and allocate a portion of funds toward ensuring the long-term viability of programs.

11. Cost-Effective Marketing Strategies:-

-Solution:- Implement cost-effective marketing strategies to promote extension services. Utilize social media, community events, and partnerships for outreach without significant financial investment.

12. Prioritize High-Impact Programs:-

-Solution:- Prioritize programs that have a high impact on the community and align with the college's mission. Focusing on initiatives that deliver meaningful outcomes can justify resource allocation.

13. Revenue-Generating Initiatives:-

-Solution:- Explore revenue-generating initiatives within extension services. This could include offering consulting services, professional development programs, or specialized training for which participants are willing to pay.

14. Periodic Financial Assessments:-

-Solution:- Conduct periodic financial assessments of extension services to identify cost-saving opportunities and reallocate resources based on changing needs and priorities.

By implementing a combination of these solutions, a venture college can navigate financial constraints more effectively, ensuring the continued success and sustainability of its extension services. It's essential to maintain a strategic and adaptive approach to financial management, seeking innovative ways to maximize impact within budgetary constraints.

II. CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS REGARDING TECHNOLOGICAL BARRIERS IN VENTURE COLLEGE EXTENSION SERVICES

Technological barriers can pose challenges to the successful implementation of extension services in a venture college. Overcoming these barriers requires thoughtful planning, strategic investments, and on-going efforts to ensure that technology enhances rather than hinders the delivery of services. Here are common challenges and potential solutions related to technological barriers in venture college extension services:

Challenges:-**1. Limited Access to Technology:-**

- Challenge:- Some community members may have limited access to technology, including computers, the internet, and smartphones.

2. Digital Literacy Gaps:-

- Challenge:- Participants may lack the necessary digital literacy skills to effectively engage with online resources and tools.

3. Unequal Technology Infrastructure:-

- Challenge:- Disparities in technology infrastructure may exist, especially in rural or underserved areas where reliable internet connectivity is a challenge.

4. Security and Privacy Concerns:-

- Challenge:- Concerns about data security and privacy may hinder the adoption of technology-driven extension services.

5. Cost of Technology Implementation:-

- Challenge:- The initial investment and ongoing costs associated with implementing and maintaining technology solutions may strain limited budgets.

6. Resistance to Change:-

- Challenge:- There may be resistance to adopting new technologies among staff, participants, or community members who are accustomed to traditional methods.

Solutions:

1. Community Technology Assessments:-

- **Solution:-** Conduct assessments to understand the existing technology landscape within the community. Identify access points, available devices, and digital literacy levels to tailor extension services accordingly.

2. Digital Literacy Training Programs:-

- **Solution:-** Integrate digital literacy training programs into extension services. Offer workshops, tutorials, or online courses to enhance participants' skills and confidence in using digital tools.

3. Mobile-Friendly Platforms:-

- **Solution:-** Design extension services and resources to be mobile-friendly. Recognize that smartphones are more prevalent than traditional computers in some communities, and optimize content for small screens.

4. Public-Private Partnerships:-

- **Solution:-** Form partnerships with telecommunications companies, local businesses, or government agencies to improve technology infrastructure. Advocate for improved internet connectivity in underserved areas.

5. Cyber security Measures:-

- **Solution:-** Prioritize cybersecurity measures to address security and privacy concerns. Implement secure data storage, encryption, and compliance with relevant data protection regulations.

6. Cost-Effective Technology Solutions:-

- **Solution:-** Explore cost-effective technology solutions that align with the budget constraints of the venture college. Open-source software, cloud-based services, and collaborative tools can provide affordable options.

7. Phased Implementation:-

- **Solution:-** Implement technology solutions in phases, allowing for gradual adoption and adaptation. This approach minimizes resistance to change and allows for continuous improvement based on feedback.

8. User-Friendly Interfaces:-

- **Solution:-** Ensure that technology interfaces are user-friendly and intuitive. Simplify navigation and provide clear instructions to minimize barriers for those less familiar with technology.

9. Collaborative Learning Platforms:-

- **Solution:-** Implement collaborative learning platforms that facilitate peer-to-peer support. This creates a sense of community and allows participants to assist each other in overcoming technological challenges.

10. Tech Support and Help Desks:-

- **Solution:-** Establish tech support services or help desks to assist participants in resolving technology-related issues. This can include providing guidance over the phone, through online chat, or in person.

11. Sustainable Technology Funding:-

- **Solution:-** Explore sustainable funding models for technology initiatives. This may involve seeking grants, creating technology-specific endowments, or establishing partnerships that support ongoing technological advancements.

12. Digital Inclusion Initiatives:-

- **Solution:-** Advocate for digital inclusion initiatives at local and regional levels. Collaborate with community organizations, government agencies, and businesses to address technology gaps and promote equitable access.

13. Pilot Programs and Feedback Loops:-

- **Solution:-** Implement small-scale pilot programs to test technology solutions before full-scale deployment. Gather feedback from participants to identify areas for improvement and ensure user satisfaction.

14. Cultural Sensitivity in Design:-

-Solution:- Design technology solutions with cultural sensitivity in mind. Ensure that digital interfaces, content, and communication methods align with the cultural context of the community.

Addressing technological barriers in extension services requires a comprehensive and community specific approach. By combining these solutions, venture colleges can create a more inclusive, accessible, and effective technological environment for their extension programs. Continuous assessment, flexibility, and a commitment to ongoing improvement are key elements of successfully overcoming technological challenges.

III. CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS REGARDING STAFF TRAINING ADAPTATION IN VENTURE COLLEGE EXTENSION SERVICES

Staff training adaptation is crucial for the successful implementation of extension services in a venture college. Challenges related to staff training adaptation may arise from factors such as changing technologies, evolving educational methodologies, and the need to align with community needs. Here are common challenges and potential solutions regarding staff training adaptation in venture college extension services:

Challenges:

1. Resistance to Change:-

- Challenge:- Staff may resist adopting new technologies, teaching methods, or program designs due to familiarity with existing practices.

2. Lack of Digital Literacy:-

- Challenge:- Some staff members may lack the necessary digital literacy skills required for incorporating technology into their teaching and administrative tasks.

3. Insufficient Training Resources:-

- Challenge:- Limited resources for staff training, including time, budget, and access to specialized trainers or training programs.

4. Diverse Staff Skill Levels:-

- Challenge:- Staff may have varying levels of expertise, experience, and comfort with new technologies and teaching approaches.

5. Mismatch with Community Needs:-

- Challenge:- There may be a gap between staff training and the actual needs of the community, leading to a lack of relevance in extension services.

6. Burnout and Overload:-

- Challenge:- Staff members may already have demanding workloads, and additional training demands can contribute to burnout and stress.

Solutions:

1. Create a Culture of Continuous Learning:-

- Solution:- Foster a culture of continuous learning within the venture college. Emphasize the value of ongoing professional development and encourage staff to view training as a lifelong process.

2. Customized Training Plans:-

- Solution:- Develop customized training plans that cater to the specific needs and skill levels of individual staff members. Recognize that one-size-fits-all approaches may not be effective.

3. Incentivize and Recognize Learning:-

- **Solution:-** Implement incentive programs or recognition systems to reward staff members who actively engage in training and demonstrate the application of new skills in their work.

4. Mentorship Programs:-

- **Solution:-** Establish mentorship programs where staff members with expertise in certain areas can support and guide colleagues who are less familiar with new technologies or methodologies.

5. User-Friendly Training Materials:-

- **Solution:-** Develop user-friendly training materials and resources. Ensure that training materials are accessible, concise, and provide step-by-step guidance to minimize the learning curve.

6. Blended Learning Approaches:-

- **Solution:-** Utilize blended learning approaches that combine traditional training methods with online resources, workshops, and peer-to-peer learning. This accommodates diverse learning preferences and schedules.

7. Engage External Experts:-

- **Solution:-** Bring in external experts or trainers to conduct specialized training sessions. External trainers can offer fresh perspectives and in-depth knowledge in specific areas, especially when internal resources are limited.

8. Train-the-Trainer Programs:-

- **Solution:-** Implement train-the-trainer programs where staff members with advanced skills become internal trainers. This cascading model allows for the dissemination of knowledge throughout the organization.

9. Flexible Training Schedules:-

- **Solution:-** Recognize the time constraints on staff and offer flexible training schedules. This can include asynchronous online courses, recorded training sessions, or short, focused workshops.

10. Needs Assessment and Feedback:-

-**Solution:-** Conduct regular needs assessments to identify staff training needs. Collect feedback to understand the effectiveness of training programs and make adjustments accordingly.

11. Integration with Job Roles:-

-**Solution:-** Ensure that staff training is directly integrated with their job roles and responsibilities. This enhances the practical application of new skills in the context of extension services.

12. Peer Collaboration and Learning Communities:-

-**Solution:-** Encourage peer collaboration and the formation of learning communities within the staff. This facilitates the sharing of knowledge, experiences, and best practices.

13. Technology Support Systems:-

-**Solution:-** Establish a robust technology support system to assist staff in overcoming technical challenges. This can include IT help desks, online tutorials, and quick-reference guides.

14. Regular Check-ins and Assessments:-

-**Solution:-** Conduct regular check-ins with staff to assess their progress in applying new skills. Use these assessments to identify areas where additional support or training may be needed.

15. Clear Communication and Vision:-

-**Solution:-** Clearly communicate the vision for staff training and the benefits it brings to both individuals and the organization. A shared understanding of the goals fosters greater commitment.

16. Celebrate Successes:-

-Solution:- Celebrate and showcase staff successes resulting from training adaptation. This recognition reinforces the importance of ongoing learning and motivates others to engage in professional development.

By implementing these solutions, venture colleges can overcome staff training adaptation challenges, ensuring that staff members are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to deliver effective and relevant extension services. Continuous support, a proactive approach to addressing challenges, and a commitment to lifelong learning contribute to a dynamic and responsive learning environment.

FUTURE PROSPECTS:-

I. FUTURE PROSPECTS OF EXTENSION SERVICES FOR CONTINUOUS ADAPTATION TO TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

The future prospects of extension services for continuous adaptation to technological advancements are significant and hold several promising opportunities. Extension services play a crucial role in disseminating knowledge, technology, and information to various stakeholders, including farmers, businesses, and communities. As technology continues to evolve rapidly, extension services must adapt to ensure that end-users can effectively incorporate and leverage new advancements. Here are some key future prospects:

1. Digital Transformation:-

- Integration of digital technologies into extension services will be crucial. This includes the use of mobile apps, online platforms, and other digital tools to deliver information, training, and support.

2. Precision Agriculture:-

- Extension services will increasingly focus on precision agriculture techniques, leveraging technologies such as sensors, drones, and satellite imagery. This enables farmers to optimize resource use, improve crop yields, and reduce environmental impact.

3. Data Analytics and AI:-

- Extension services can harness the power of data analytics and artificial intelligence to provide more personalized and data-driven recommendations. This can enhance decision-making processes for farmers and other stakeholders.

4. Remote Sensing and Monitoring:-

- Satellite and remote sensing technologies can aid in monitoring crop health, soil conditions, and weather patterns. Extension services can use this information to provide timely advice and interventions.

5. Climate Smart Agriculture:-

- With the increasing impact of climate change, extension services will need to focus on climate smart agriculture practices. This involves providing strategies and technologies that help farmers adapt to changing climatic conditions.

6. Capacity Building and Training:-

- Continuous training and capacity-building programs will be essential to ensure that farmers and other stakeholders are well-equipped to adopt and adapt to new technologies. This includes training on digital literacy and the use of advanced agricultural machinery.

7. Collaboration and Networking:-

- Extension services will need to foster collaboration and networking among various stakeholders, including researchers, technology developers, policymakers, and farmers. This collaborative approach can help in identifying and addressing challenges more effectively.

8. Sustainable Agriculture Practices:-

- Extension services will play a pivotal role in promoting sustainable agriculture practices. This includes the adoption of agro ecological approaches, organic farming, and other methods that contribute to environmental conservation.

9. Cross-Sectoral Integration:-

- Extension services can integrate with other sectors such as healthcare, finance, and education to provide holistic support to communities. This approach can address multifaceted challenges and promote overall development.

10. Policy Advocacy:-

- Extension services can engage in policy advocacy to create an enabling environment for the adoption of new technologies. This involves working with policymakers to develop supportive policies and incentives.

In conclusion, the future of extension services lies in embracing and integrating technological advancements to meet the evolving needs of agriculture and rural development. By leveraging digital tools, data analytics, and sustainable practices, extension services can contribute significantly to building resilient and technology-savvy communities. Continuous adaptation and innovation will be key to maximizing the positive impact of extension services in the face of on-going technological advancements.

II. FUTURE PROSPECTS OF EXTENSION SERVICES FOR EXTENSION OF COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES

The future prospects of extension services for the expansion of collaborative initiatives are promising and can bring about positive outcomes across various sectors. Collaboration is essential for addressing complex challenges, leveraging diverse expertise, and fostering innovation. Here are some key future prospects for the expansion of collaborative initiatives within extension services:

1. Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships:-

- Extension services can facilitate and participate in multi-stakeholder partnerships involving government agencies, research institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private companies, and local communities. These collaborations can pool resources, share expertise, and address challenges collectively.

2. Technology Platforms for Collaboration:-

- Digital platforms and technologies can be employed to create collaborative ecosystems. Online forums, communication tools, and data-sharing platforms can enhance collaboration among farmers, researchers, extension agents, and other stakeholders.

3. Interdisciplinary Approaches:-

- Collaboration across disciplines can lead to more holistic solutions. Extension services can work with experts from various fields, such as agronomy, environmental science, economics, and sociology, to address multifaceted challenges in agriculture and rural development.

4. Cross-Sectoral Collaboration:-

- Extension services can expand their collaboration beyond the agricultural sector. Partnerships with healthcare, education, and infrastructure development sectors can create integrated solutions that contribute to overall community development.

5. Global Collaboration:-

- Collaboration on an international scale can bring about the exchange of knowledge, best practices, and innovative solutions. Extension services can participate in global networks to address common challenges and share experiences.

6. Capacity Building for Collaboration:-

- Extension services can play a role in building the capacity of stakeholders to engage in effective collaboration. Training programs, workshops, and networking events can enhance the skills needed for successful collaboration.

7. Innovation Hubs and Incubators:-

- Establishing innovation hubs and incubators within extension services can foster a culture of creativity and problem-solving. These spaces can bring together entrepreneurs, researchers, and farmers to develop and test new ideas.

8. Community Engagement and Empowerment:-

- Extension services can promote community-led initiatives by actively involving local communities in the decision-making process. Empowering communities to take ownership of projects enhances sustainability and local impact.

9. Policy Advocacy for Collaboration:-

- Extension services can advocate for policies that support collaborative initiatives. This involves working with policymakers to create an enabling environment, including incentives for collaboration and removing barriers to cooperation.

10. Monitoring and Evaluation of Collaborative Projects:-

- Robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms can assess the impact of collaborative initiatives. Extension services can use data and feedback to refine and improve collaborative projects over time.

11. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):-

- Collaboration with the private sector can bring in resources, innovation, and market-driven approaches. Public-private partnerships can be explored to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of extension services.

12. Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship:-

- Encouraging social innovation and entrepreneurship within communities can lead to sustainable solutions. Extension services can support the development of social enterprises that address local challenges.

In summary, the future of extension services in the context of collaborative initiatives involves fostering partnerships that are inclusive, innovative, and impactful. By embracing interdisciplinary approaches, leveraging technology, and promoting community engagement, extension services can contribute significantly to addressing the dynamic challenges in agriculture and rural development. Continuous adaptation and a commitment to building strong networks will be essential for realizing the full potential of collaborative initiatives in the years to come.

CALL TO ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE LIBRARY PRACTICES

In conclusion, the imperative for sustainable library practices demands our collective attention and commitment. As custodians of knowledge and champions of information access, libraries play a pivotal role in shaping a sustainable future. It is incumbent upon us, library professionals, policymakers, and community members alike, to heed this call to action and integrate sustainable practices into every facet of library operations.

First and foremost, there is a pressing need to embrace eco-friendly initiatives within library spaces. From energy-efficient lighting and HVAC systems to waste reduction and recycling programs, libraries can serve as exemplars of environmental stewardship. Implementing green technologies and sustainable infrastructure not only reduces ecological footprints but also inspires patrons to adopt environmentally conscious behaviours.

Additionally, the promotion of sustainable information practices is paramount. Libraries should champion the use of digital resources, open access materials, and collaborative platforms to minimize the environmental impact associated with traditional print materials. This transition aligns with the broader global movement toward a more sustainable, digital-centric information landscape.

Moreover, community engagement emerges as a powerful tool in fostering a culture of sustainability. Libraries can act as community hubs, organizing workshops, events, and educational programs that raise awareness about environmental issues and sustainable living.

By encouraging patrons to adopt eco-friendly practices in their daily lives, libraries become catalysts for positive change beyond their physical walls.

In advocating for sustainable library practices, we must also leverage our collective influence to shape policy and institutional frameworks. Collaborating with stakeholders, including local government bodies, educational institutions, and funding agencies, can help create an enabling environment for the implementation of sustainable initiatives.

This call to action is not just about the future of libraries; it is about our shared responsibility to preserve the planet and build resilient communities. By adopting and promoting sustainable library practices, we contribute not only to the well-being of our environment but also to the empowerment and enlightenment of future generations.

Let this call to action be a catalyst for transformation, a pledge to integrate sustainability into the core values of every library. Through our concerted efforts, libraries can become beacons of inspiration, guiding society towards a more sustainable and equitable future. Together, let us embark on this journey of responsible stewardship and ensure that libraries not only endure but thrive as models of sustainability in the years to come.

CONCLUDING ABOUT THE KEY FINDINGS OF EXTENSION SERVICES FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN VENTURE COLLEGES OF ASSAM

Concluding key findings about extension services for sustainability in venture colleges of Assam involves summarizing the main insights gained from the research or analysis. Here's an example conclusion:

"In conclusion, the examination of extension services for sustainability in venture colleges across Assam reveals several pivotal findings. Firstly, the diversification of funding sources emerges as a critical strategy to ensure the financial resilience of these extension services. The exploration of public-private partnerships, fee-for-service models, and engagement with social impact investors are highlighted as avenues with the potential to secure sustainable funding. Furthermore, the adoption of innovative funding models, such as incentive-based funding and participation in competitive funding programs, can align financial support with performance and impact.

Secondly, the integration of digital technologies and data-driven approaches stands out as a key enabler for enhancing the effectiveness of extension services. Leveraging digital platforms, block chain solutions, and innovative applications can streamline operations, reduce costs, and improve transparency in fund management. This technological integration not only facilitates the dissemination of knowledge but also opens up new possibilities for community engagement and collaboration.

Thirdly, the importance of community involvement and empowerment is underscored in promoting sustainable extension services. Initiatives that actively involve local communities in decision-making processes and project ownership contribute to the long-term success and impact of extension programs. Building partnerships with farmers, businesses, and community leaders fosters a sense of shared responsibility and commitment to sustainable agricultural practices.

Lastly, the development of interdisciplinary collaborations and partnerships beyond the agricultural sector emerges as a promising avenue for holistic and sustainable solutions. Engaging with experts from various disciplines, including healthcare, education, and infrastructure development, enhance the capacity of extension services to address complex challenges and contribute to overall community development.

In essence, the future sustainability of extension services in venture colleges of Assam hinges on a strategic blend of diversified funding, technological innovation, community engagement, and interdisciplinary collaboration. By incorporating these key findings into policy and practice, these extension services can position themselves as dynamic catalysts for sustainable development in the agricultural landscape of Assam."

Conclusion emphasizing on the on-going evolution of libraries:-

In conclusion, the evolving role of libraries underscores their resilience and adaptability in the face of dynamic societal changes. Libraries, once perceived primarily as repositories of books, have transformed into vibrant hubs of knowledge, information, and community engagement. The on-going evolution of libraries reflects a commitment to meeting the diverse needs of an ever-changing world.

The integration of digital technologies has been a transformative force, turning libraries into accessible and interactive spaces. Online resources, e-books, and digital archives have expanded the reach of libraries beyond physical boundaries, fostering a global exchange of information. The shift towards digital platforms has not replaced traditional library services but has complemented them, offering patrons a seamless blend of both virtual and physical resources.

Libraries have embraced their role as community centres, providing spaces for collaboration, learning, and cultural enrichment. Educational programs, workshops, and community events hosted by libraries contribute to lifelong learning and the development of informed and empowered citizens. This community-centric approach ensures that libraries remain relevant and integral to the fabric of society.

Furthermore, libraries continue to champion inclusivity by offering free and open access to information. They serve as bastions of intellectual freedom, promoting diversity of thought and fostering democratic values. In an era where misinformation proliferates, libraries stand as trusted sources of accurate and verified knowledge.

The on-going evolution of libraries is a testament to their ability to respond to the emerging needs of a rapidly changing world. As society progresses, libraries will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in shaping the future by embracing innovation, fostering community connections, and upholding the fundamental principles of intellectual freedom. In essence, the story of libraries is one of continual adaptation and transformation, ensuring their enduring relevance in the information age.

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