Continuing Professional Development Programmes for Library and Information Science Professionals in India: An Exploratory Study

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Abstract

This paper traces the contribution of LIS departments and libraries of schools, institutions, organisations and associations in organising Continuing Education and Professional Development (CEPD) Programmes for LIS professionals in India. CEPD Programmes inculcate moral values, disseminate up-to-date information and knowledge as well as develop the skills of LIS professionals. This paper aims to find out the CEPD Programmes organising institutions, their frequency of organisation, geographical locations, by analysing the data collected from the information brochures of such programmes released by the organisers.

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1. Introduction

Library and information science professional associations, institutions, schools and educators play a significant role in the growth and development of innovative ideas and awareness levels of professionals in the present knowledge society. For these purposes, professional associations and institutions organise different Continuing Education and Professional Development (CEPD) Programmes like conferences, workshops, seminars, training, and webinars through which LIS professionals enhance their skills, advance their knowledge and learn new techniques.

LIS Continuing Education and Professional Development (CEPD) Programmes have a significant role in the communication of information among professionals. It acts as primary and secondary sources of information. Conferences, workshops and seminars provide a platform for LIS professionals to interact with each other, discuss the issues and challenges, share their views and present papers that help in their professional up-gradation. These programmes are organised at different levels and are an effective form of research communication. Analysis and interpretation of brochures and conference proceedings are vital to measure the recent trends of CEPD activities in the field of library and information science.

2. Review of related Literature

Sinha (2016) analysed the brochures of 105 regional, state, national and international LIS conferences, workshops and seminars held from January 2012 to July 2014 to analyse LIS research trends. This paper reported that most (70%) of the events were organised on modern trends in LIS subjects related to ICT rather than traditional LIS subjects or old topics.

Harake and Hadagali (2015) examined in the paper about the continuing education programmes for LIS professionals in India and identified all CEPs for the LIS conducting body like INFLIBNET, DESIDOC, NASSDOC, ILA, IASLIC, NISCAIR and explained in detail about their role and contribution in the field of library and information science. Conducting continuing education programmes like workshops, seminars, conferences, webinars, and training programmes are prominent and intellectual activities which increase and upgrade the professionals' skills and knowledge as well as help them to keep up-to-date.

Ajeemsha and Madhusudhan (2014) focused on continuing professional development (CPD) programmes for LIS Semi-Professionals in central university libraries in India. The results of the study showed that CPD training programmes improved the performance of LIS Semi-Professionals in their jobs as well as in their career. The paper also suggested organising more CPD programmes to aware the LIS Semi-Professionals about emerging technologies because present Semi-Professionals are future professionals.

Alimohammadi and Jamali (2012) enumerated common problems of LIS education in developing countries of Asia. They proposed several solutions and suggestions for the development of LIS discipline such as establish new independent LIS schools and departments, recruit qualified faculties and staff, concentrate more on research activities and design the syllabi.

Dasgupta (2009) presented a paper in the World Library and Information Congress: 75th IFLA General Conference and Council, 2009 on the topic of preparing future librarians in India. The author discussed in detail about the status of libraries and library professionals in India, their growth pattern during pre and post-independence era, the role of LIS schools and departments in the development of this profession, current trends in LIS education in India, problems and their solutions in LIS. The author also stressed that continuing education programmes and orientation programmes are essential not only for faculty members but also for librarians for updating knowledge and increasing their skill set.

Karisiddappa (2004) presented a paper in 'World Library and Information Congress: 70th IFLA General Conference and Council' and examined the library and information science professionals competencies, LIS education scenario, skills and model curriculum for developing countries. This paper also focused on the role of LIS education and training programmes as well as on the importance of new technology for the growth and development of LIS professionals skills according to future demands.

This paper aims to analyse the growth pattern and recent trends in CPD programmes in library and information science discipline and attempts to understand the role and contribution of LIS departments and libraries of schools, organisations, institutions in organising national and international CEPD Programmes in India. This study also helps in designing the brochures of such programmes as brochures play a significant role in the communication of information related to CEPD Programmes.

3. Objectives

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To enumerate the institutions/associations hosted CEPD Programmes during the study period for LIS professionals;
2. To identify the types of CEPD Programmes organising institutions/associations, viz, Government or Non-government;
3. To find out the zone wise geographical location of CEPD Programmes organised in India;
4. To compare the series wise or individual organisation of CEPD Programmes in India during the study period; and
5. To calculate the page length of the brochures of LIS CEPD Programmes.

4. Research methodology

The methodology applied in the present study is descriptive and analytical in nature. Since, this study analyzes the contents available in the brochures of national and international 136 CEPD Programmes (Conferences, Workshops and Seminars) of library and information science held in India during the study period, so all the required data for analysis have been taken from the information brochures of CEPD Programmes released by the organising institutions.

The scope of the study is limited to national and international CEPD Programmes, covering conferences, workshops and seminars organised in India by LIS professionals or LIS schools during 1st January 2019 to 31st December 2019 (i.e., One-year period). Other CEPD Programmes such as Webinars, invited lectures, online videos, invited talks, colloquia have not been included in this study.

5. Analysis and findings

This research study was conducted using the contents available in the brochures of 136 LIS continuing education and professional development programmes (conferences, workshops and seminars) which were organised in India during the study period. Based on collected information following objectives were analysed and interpreted in the form of tables and figures.

5.1 LIS CEPD Programmes hosting institutions/associations

Table 1 indicates the 136 LIS CEPD Programmes hosting institutions/associations of India. All such programmes were organised by 98 universities, institutions, and associations during the study period.

Table 1: LIS CEPD Programmes hosting institutions/associations (n=136)

S.N.	Name of CEPD Programmes hosting institutions	No. of Programmes hosted	Percentage of Programmes hosted
1	INFLIBNET, Gandhinagar	7	5.15
2	University of Mumbai	5	3.68

3	Manonmaniam Sundaranar University	5	3.68
4	CSIR- NISCAIR, New Delhi	5	3.68
5	Anna University, Coimbatore	3	2.21
6	University of Kolkata	3	2.21
7	The Gandhigram Rural Institute	3	2.21
8	Alagappa University	2	1.47
9	Aligarh Muslim University	2	1.47
10	Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow	2	1.47
11	BIMTECH, Greater Noida	2	1.47
12	Goa University	2	1.47
13	IIM Bangalore	2	1.47
14	NIT Rourkela	2	1.47
15	Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam	2	1.47
16	Savitribai Phule Pune University	2	1.47
17	Shivaji University Kolhapur	2	1.47
18	Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth Pondicherry	2	1.47
19	TERI	2	1.47
20	University of Delhi	2	1.47
21	University of Madras	2	1.47
22	Ambedkar University Delhi	1	0.74
23	Anna Centenary Library	1	0.74
24	Annamalai University	1	0.74
25	Aryabhatta Knowledge University, Patna	1	0.74
26	Assam University, Silchar	1	0.74
27	Assam Women's University	1	0.74
28	B.S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science & Technology	1	0.74
29	Bangalore University	1	0.74
30	Bennett University	1	0.74
31	Bhabha Atomic Research Centre	1	0.74
32	Bharathidasan University	1	0.74
33	Biju Patnaik University of Technology, Orissa	1	0.74
34	Birla Global University	1	0.74
35	Birla Institute of Management Technology	1	0.74
36	Central University of Tamil Nadu	1	0.74
37	Cochin University of Science and Technology	1	0.74
38	DELNET, New Delhi	1	0.74

39	Don Bosco Institute of Technology, Bangalore	1	0.74
40	Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow	1	0.74
41	DRTC, Bangalore	1	0.74
42	Gujarat Power Engineering and Research Institute	1	0.74
43	Guru Nanak Dev University	1	0.74
44	Guwahati University	1	0.74
45	ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management	1	0.74
46	IIHMR University	1	0.74
47	IIT Bomboy	1	0.74
48	IIT Gandhinagar	1	0.74
49	IIT Jammu	1	0.74
50	IIT Ropar	1	0.74
51	INMANTEC	1	0.74
52	Institute of Public Enterprise, Hyderabad	1	0.74
53	Jadavpur University, Kolkata	1	0.74
54	Jain University, Bangalore	1	0.74
55	JNU, New Delhi	1	0.74
56	Kerala University and KLA	1	0.74
57	Kerala University Of Fisheries And Ocean Studies	1	0.74
58	Kerala Library Professionals' Organisation	1	0.74
59	Khallikote University	1	0.74
60	KIIT Bhubaneswar	1	0.74
61	KVS Zonal Institute of Education and training, Chandigarh	1	0.74
62	M. P. Bhoj University	1	0.74
63	Madurai Kamaraj University	1	0.74
64	Manav Rachna International Institute of Research And Studies	1	0.74
65	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology	1	0.74
66	Medi-Caps University	1	0.74
67	Model Finishing School, Science & Technology Museum	1	0.74
68	National Brain Research Centre, Manesar	1	0.74
69	National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (Divyangjan), Kolkata	1	0.74
70	National Law University, Delhi	1	0.74

71	North Maharashtra University	1	0.74
72	O. P. Jindal Global University	1	0.74
73	Palamuru University	1	0.74
74	Panjab University	1	0.74
75	Parul University	1	0.74
76	Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law	1	0.74
77	Ranchi University	1	0.74
78	Sambalpur Public Library	1	0.74
79	Sardar Patel University	1	0.74
80	Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute Kolkata	1	0.74
81	Saurashtra University, Rajkot	1	0.74
82	Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya	1	0.74
83	Sree Balaji Medical College and Hospital	1	0.74
84	Sri Venkateswara University	1	0.74
85	SVKM'S NMIMS	1	0.74
86	Tamilnadu Teachers Education University, Chennai	1	0.74
87	The Central Government Library Association	1	0.74
88	Thiruvalluvar University	1	0.74
89	Tumkur University	1	0.74
90	U P Rajarshi Tandon Open University	1	0.74
91	University of Calicut	1	0.74
92	University of Gour Banga	1	0.74
93	University of Hyderabad	1	0.74
94	University of Kalyani	1	0.74
95	University of Petroleum and Energy Studies	1	0.74
96	University of Rajasthan	1	0.74
97	Vignana Jyothi Institute of Management	1	0.74
98	Visvesvaraya Technological University	1	0.74
	Total	**136**	**100.00**

The above Table 1 clearly shows that INFLIBNET hosted the highest 7 (5.15%) number of LIS CEPD Programmes and placed the 1st rank, University of Mumbai, CSIR-NISCAIR and Manonmaniam Sundaranar University placed the 2nd position with 5 (3.68%) programmes. At the same time, University of Kolkata, Anna University Coimbatore and The Gandhigram Rural Institute hosted 3 (2.21%) LIS CEPD Programmes in India and all jointly got the 3rd position.

5.2 Types of host institutions as government or non-government

Table 2 and fig. 1 explains the types of host institutions as government or non-government. In this research study, all LIS CEPD Programme organising institutions/associations have been grouped into two broad categories viz, government or non-government.

Table 2: Types of Host Institutions (n=136)

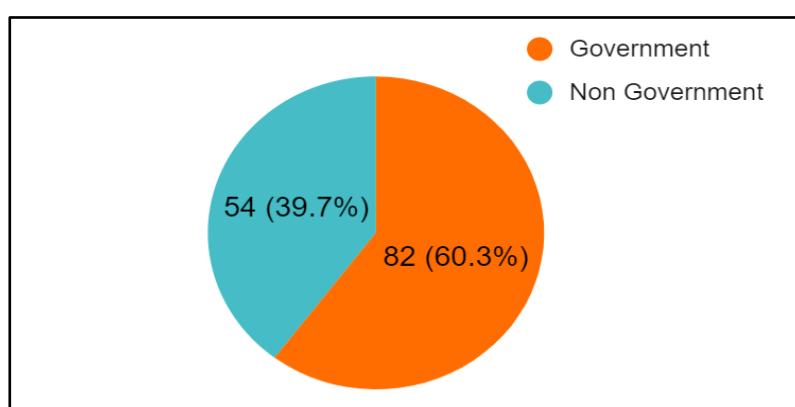| S.N.	Types of Host Institute	Total	Percentage
1	Government	82	60.29
2	Non-government	54	39.71
	Total Sum	**136**	**100**

Fig. 1: Types of host institutions (n=136)

The above table 2 and fig. 1 shows that Government institutions organised 82 (60.29%) LIS CEPD Programmes while non-government institutions organised 54 (39.71%) such programmes in India during the study period.

5.3 Zone wise geographical location of CEPD programmes

The zone or region wise geographical distribution of national and international LIS CEPD Programmes in India is depicted in table 3. For this research study, India has been categorised into six zones, and all Indian states and territories have kept under these zones.

Table 3: Zone wise geographical location of CEPD Programmes (n=136)

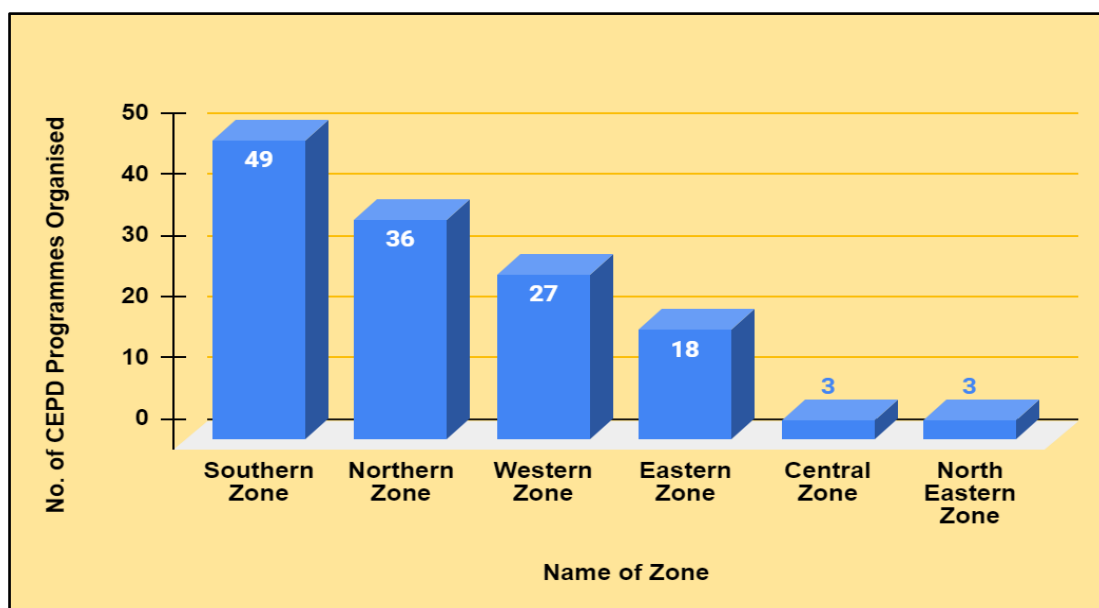| S.N.	Name of Zone	No. of Programmes Organised	Percentage
1	Southern Zone	49	36.03
2	Northern Zone	36	26.47
3	Western Zone	27	19.85
4	Eastern Zone	18	13.24
5	Central Zone	3	2.21
6	North Eastern Zone	3	2.21
	Total Sum	**136**	**100.00**

Fig. 2: Zone wise geographical location of CEPD Programmes (n=136)

Table 3 and fig. 2 reveals that out of 136 LIS CEPD Programmes, the highest 49 (36.03%) number of such programmes were organised in Southern Zone and placed the 1st rank, Northern Zone organised 36 (26.47%) such programmes and got the 2nd position, Western Zone organised 27 (19.85%) such programmes and placed the 3rd rank, Eastern Zone organised 18 (13.24%) such programmes and placed the 4th rank while Central Zone and North Eastern Zone both organised the 3 (2.21%) such programmes and got the 5th and last position.

5.4 Series wise or individual organisation of LIS CEPD Programmes

Table 4 and fig. 3 shows the series wise or individual organisation of national and international LIS CEPD Programmes. Some institutions/organisations/associations organise such programmes in frequency while others organise the programmes irregularly.

Table 4: Series wise or individual organisation of CEPD Programmes (n=136)

Types of LIS CEPD Programmes organised	Total Number of Programmes	Total Percentage of Programmes
Series	17	12.50
Individual	119	87.50
Total	**136**	**100**

Based on above table 4 or fig. 3, it has been found that 119 (87.5%) LIS CEPD Programmes were organised individually or irregularly, while 17 (12.5%) programmes were organised in series out of 136 such programmes.
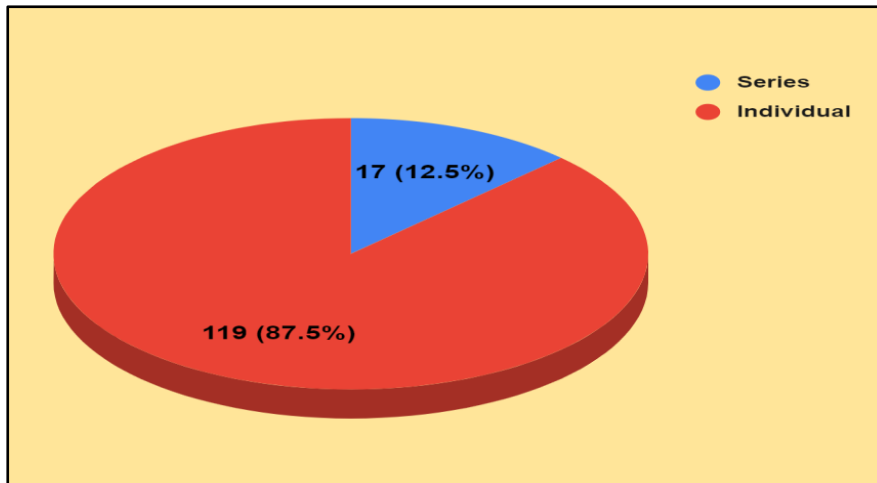
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Fig. 3: Series wise or individual organisation of CEPD Programmes (n=136)

5.5 Page length of the brochure of LIS CEPD Programmes

A brochure of the CEPD programmes contains the information related to the event, which is going to be organized. Table 5 shows the page length of brochures released by the national and international LIS CEPD Programmes organised in India during the study period.

Table 5: Page length of the brochure of LIS CEPD Programmes

S.N.	Page Length of Brochure	Total No. of Brochures	Percentage of Brochures
1	1	7	5.15
2	2	23	16.91
3	3	19	13.97
4	4	30	22.06
5	5	4	2.94
6	6	35	25.74
7	7	6	4.41
8	8	8	5.88
9	10	1	0.74
10	12	1	0.74
11	16	2	1.47
	Total	**136**	**100**

Table 5 indicates that the highest 35 (25.74%) number of brochures had page length six followed by 30 (22.06%) brochures with page length of four and 23 (16.91%) brochures had page length of two. The median page length of released information brochures was found to be of six pages long.

6. Conclusion

Continuing Education and Professional Development (CEDP) Programmes are the soul of learning institutions. These programmes play a major significant role in providing continuing education among library and information science professionals. To fulfill the global demands and develop the skills of LIS professionals, many Indian LIS departments, schools, institutions and associations organised a lot of CEPD Programmes at local, national and international level in India.

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