



Awareness and Perception of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among Library Professionals in Assam: A Study

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INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Adoption of SDGs (2015):

Universal call to action by the United Nations.

Goals: End poverty, protect the planet, ensure peace and prosperity by 2030

- ❖ Role of Library Professionals in Promoting SDGs.

- ❖ Knowledge Gap on SDGs in Assam:

Limited understanding of how much library professionals in Assam know about the SDGs.

- ❖ Constraints & Opportunities in Assam:

Limited resources and infrastructure

Language barriers and cultural diversity

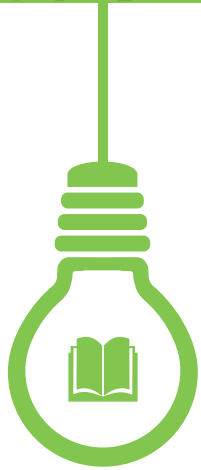




LITERATURE REVIEWS:

1. Mathiasson and Jochumsen (2022)
2. Awodoyin and Ojo (2021)
3. Missingham (2021)
4. Noh (2021)
5. Benson et al. (2019)
6. Hijji and Alhinaai (2003)
7. Goswami & Sarma (2019)
8. UNDP (2015)
9. UN (2015)

OBJECTIVES:



To evaluate the level of awareness among library professionals in Assam about the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



To identify the sources from which library professionals in Assam acquire information about the SDGs.



To find out the attitudes and perceptions of library professionals in Assam towards the role of libraries in promoting and achieving the SDGs



To analyze the challenges faced by library professionals in Assam in actively engaging with and promoting the SDGs within their institutions and communities



METHODOLOGY:

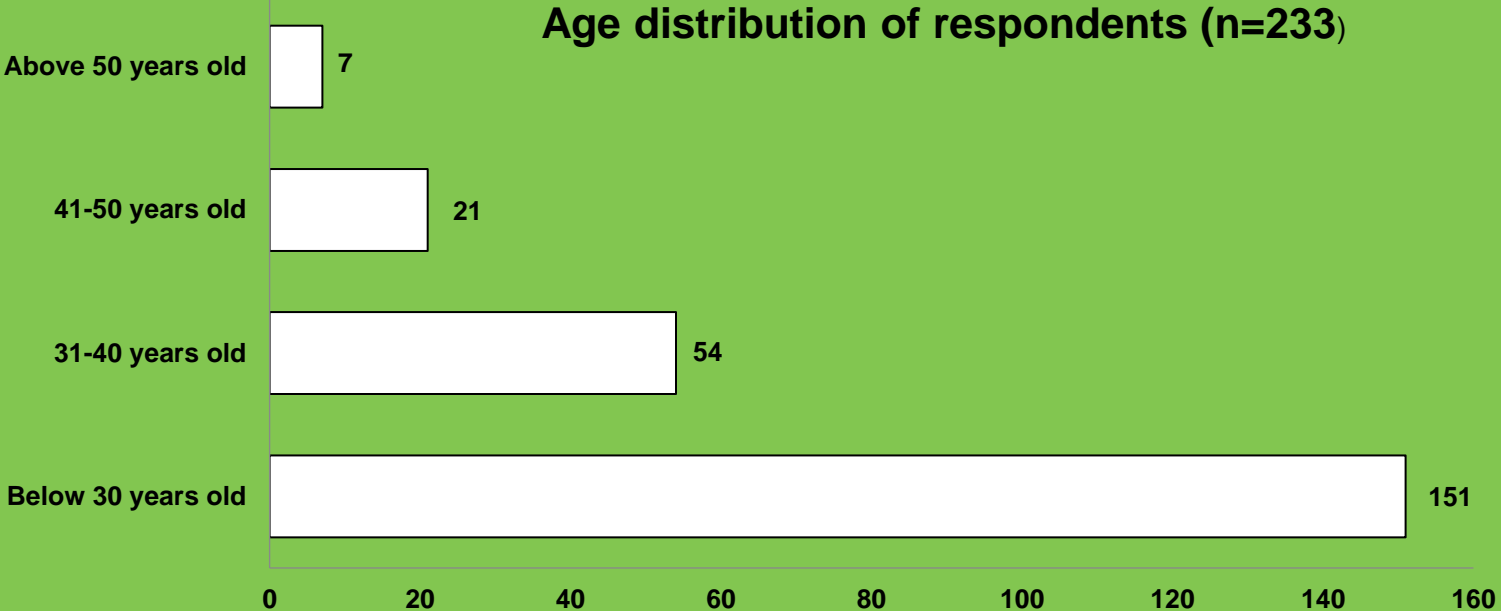
- ❖ Survey research method was employed.
- ❖ Data collection technique: Questionnaire technique
- ❖ Sent to Assamese library professionals both offline and online.
- ❖ A total of 233 Library Professionals responded to this distribution.
- ❖ After the data were gathered, they were tabulated and statistical techniques were used for analysis. Therefore, the only source of data used in this study's conclusions is the information provided in the questionnaire that respondents returned.

RESULT AND ANALYSIS

Demographic Characteristics :

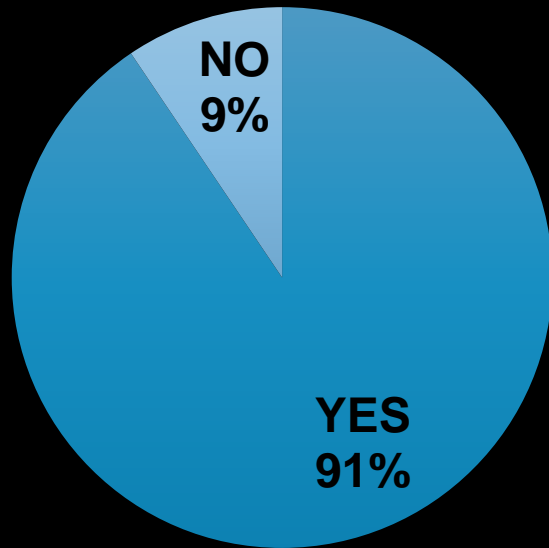
Gender	No of Respondent	Percentage (%)
Male	128	55 %
Female	105	45 %

Gender Distribution of Respondents (n=233)



Level of familiarity with SDGs:

Familiarity with SDGs:



SDG Goals	Completely Unfamiliar	Not Very Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Quite Familiar	Very Familiar
No Poverty	6	9	73	93	52
Zero Hunger	5	11	71	99	47
Good Health and Well-being	9	11	95	79	39
Quality Education	3	10	46	109	65
Gender Equality	5	12	68	93	55
Clean Water and Sanitation	7	14	84	77	51
Affordable and Clean Energy	13	19	64	98	39
Decent Work and Economic Growth	9	23	97	65	39
Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	5	17	88	76	47
Reduced Inequality	9	19	94	66	45
Sustainable Cities and Communities	11	26	81	79	36
Responsible Consumption and Production	14	21	99	70	29
Climate Action	4	17	86	75	51
Life Below Water	21	33	97	57	25
Life on Land	12	24	102	59	36
Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	7	17	99	69	41
Partnerships for the Goals	9	23	91	77	33

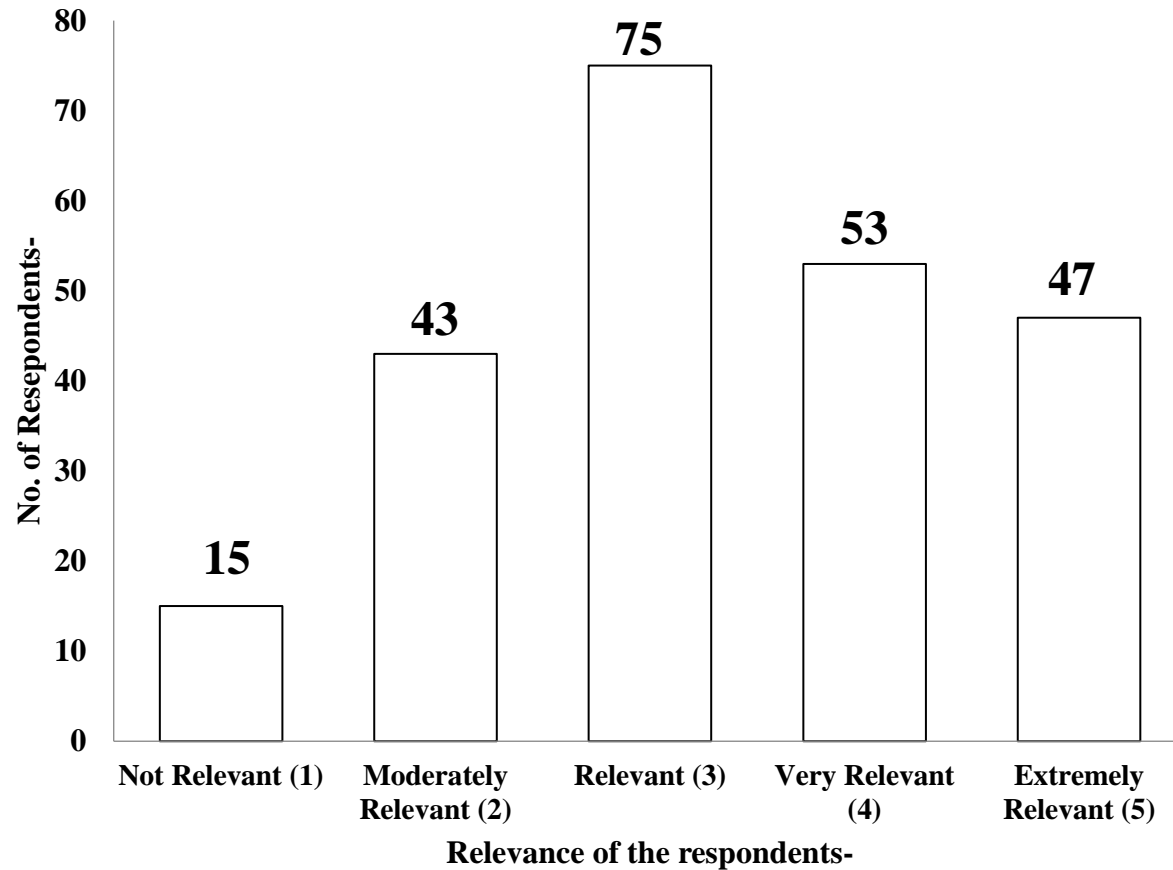
Most progressed SDGs:

Goals	No of respondents
No Poverty	44
Zero Hunger	44
Good Health and Well-being	86
Quality Education	189
Gender Equality	132
Clean Water and Sanitation	56
Affordable and Clean Energy	51
Decent Work and Economic Growth	49
Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	47
Reduced Inequality	88
Sustainable Cities and Communities	47
Responsible Consumption and Production	34
Climate Action	59
Life Below Water	15
Life on Land	19
Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	64
Partnerships for the Goals	47

Relevance and Importance of SDGs:



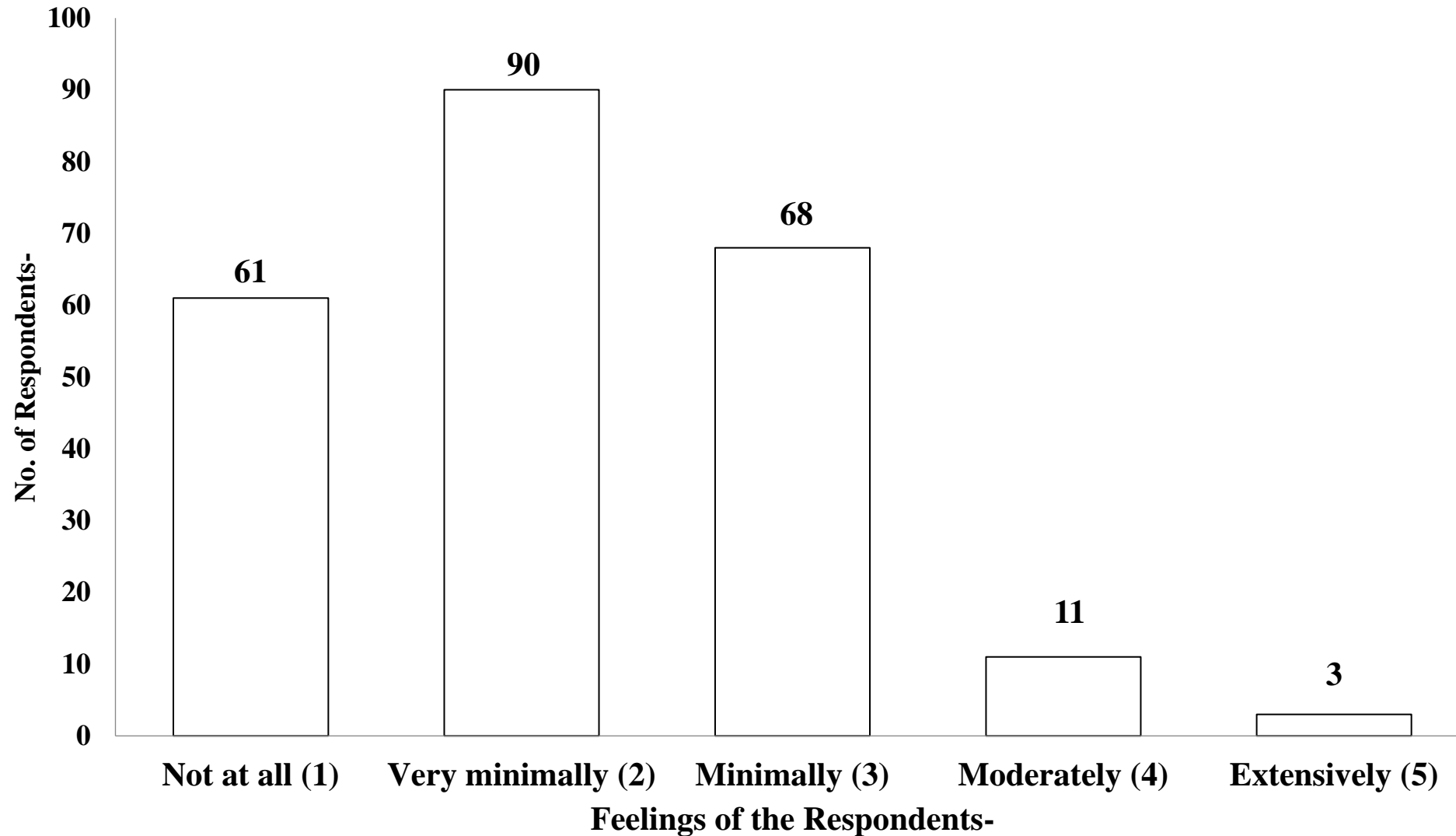
Relevance of SDGs



Importance on SDG

Response	No. of Respondents-	Percentage
Not important (1)	1	0.43
Moderately Important (2)	12	5.15
Important (3)	82	35.19
Very Important (4)	63	27.03
Extremely Important (5)	75	32.18

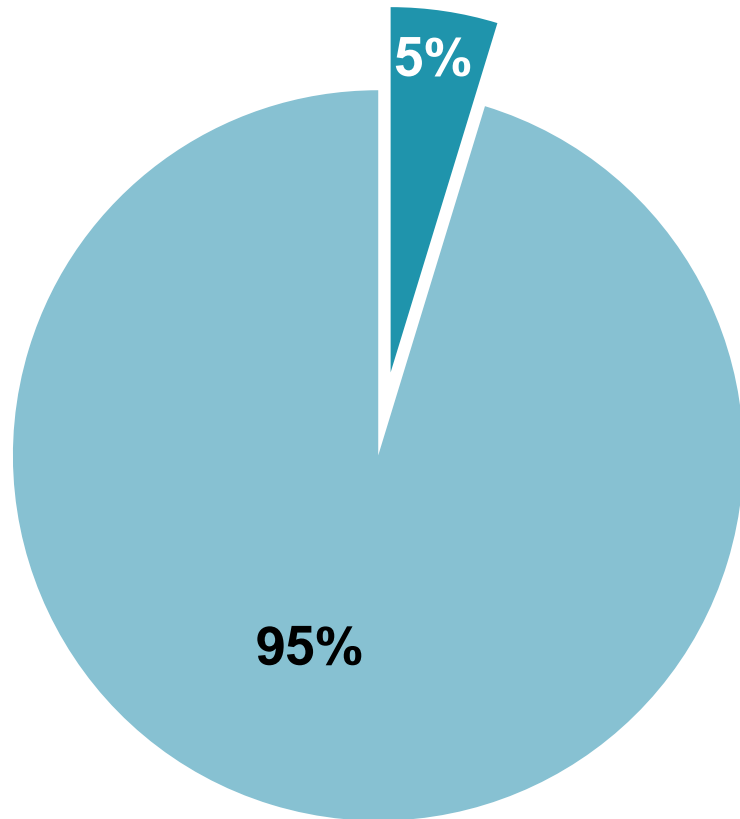
Perceptions on SDG Integration into Library Services and Programs :



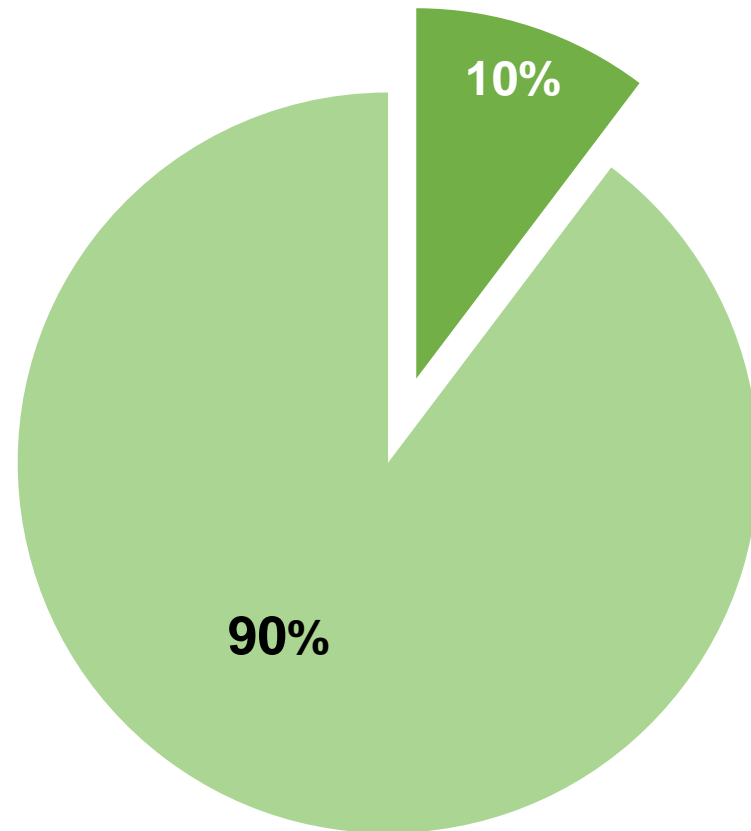


Availability of Resources and Collaboration to promote SDGs:

Availability of Resources



Collaboration to promote SDGs



Personal commitment to promote SDG:

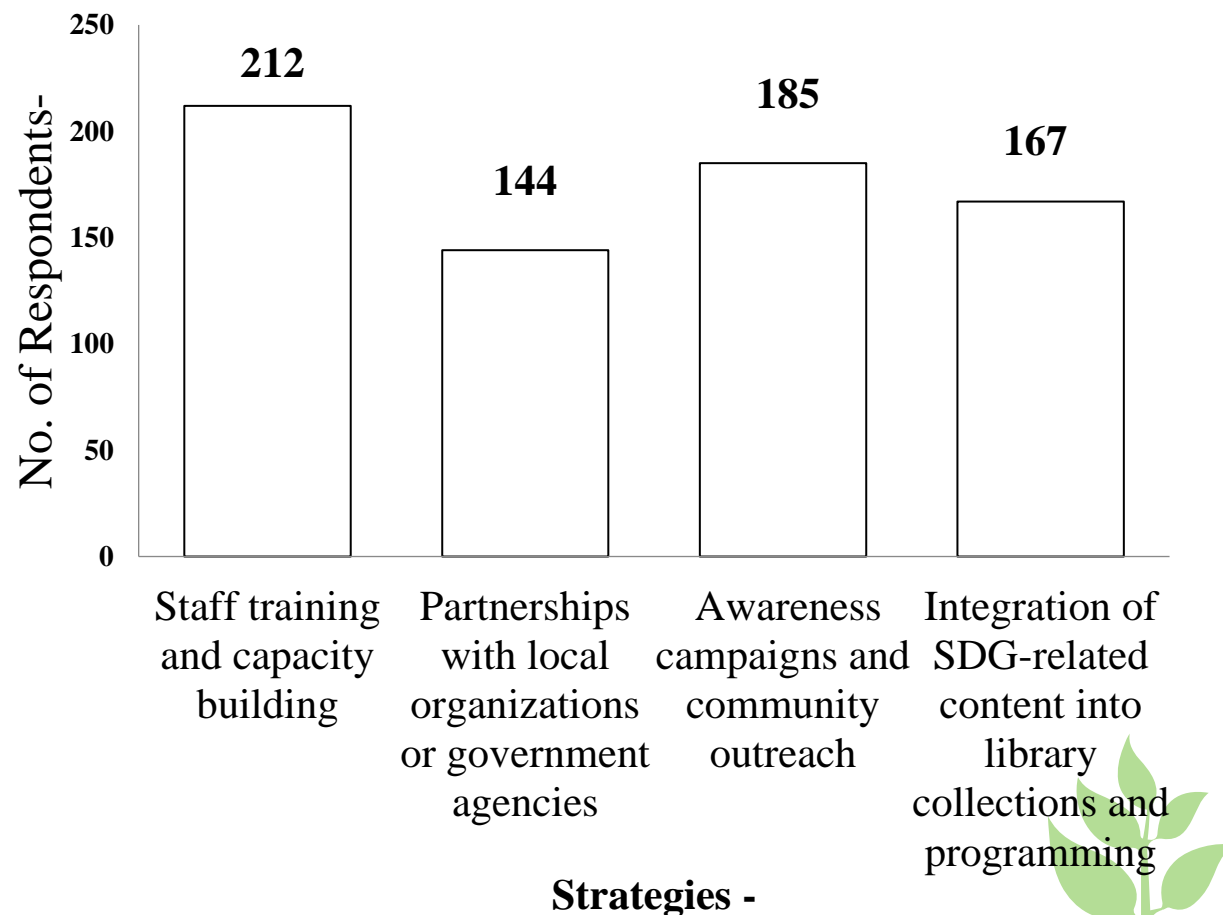
Responses	No. of the Respondents	Percentage
Not committed	11	4.72
Slightly committed	16	6.87
Neutral	49	21.03
Moderately committed	53	22.75
Strongly committed	104	44.54



Challenges and Strategies to enhance the integration of SDGs:

Challenges:

Challenges	No. of Respondents	percentage
Lack of awareness about SDGs among library staff	169	72.53
Limited resources (budget, staff time) to dedicate to SDG initiatives	143	61.38
Difficulty in integrating SDGs with existing library services	130	55.79
Lack of support from library administration	119	51.07
Unclear connection between SDGs and the role of libraries	80	34.33
Lack of training and exercise.	151	64.80
Others	11	4.72



Strategies to enhance SDGs:



FINDINGS

Most libraries have made strides in SDGs like Quality Education (81.11%) and Gender Equality (56.65%), while fewer have prioritized goals such as Life Below Water (6.44%) and Life on Land (8.15%).

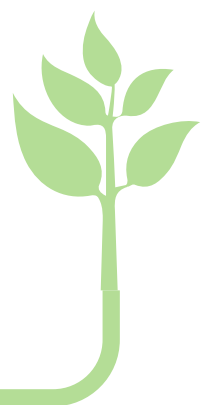
Out of the respondents, 32.19% find SDGs relevant to library work, while 6.44% consider them not relevant to library operations.

Most respondents (35.19%) view it as “Important” for a library professional to be knowledgeable about the SDGs, with only a minimal percentage (0.43%) considering it “Not Important”.

Most respondents (38.63%) see their library’s integration with SDGs as ‘Very Minimal’, with 4.72% viewing it as ‘Moderate’, and 1.29% considering it ‘Extensive’

95.3% indicated their libraries lack sufficient resources and support for integration, with only 4.7% confirming otherwise. The majority (89.7%) didn’t collaborate with external groups for SDG library efforts, while only 10.3% (24 people) did

44.54% strongly committed to promoting SDGs through their library work. Surprisingly, 11 respondents expressed unwillingness to promote SDGs. The top challenge, selected by 169 respondents, is “Lack of awareness about SDGs among library staff.” Following closely, 151 respondents identified “Lack of training and exercises” as their main obstacle.



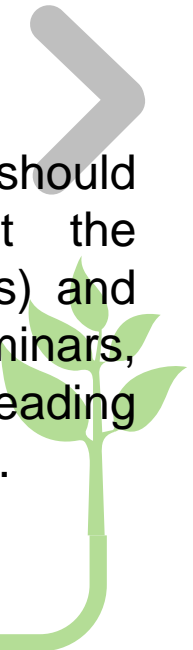
SUGGESTIONS

The government should play a pivotal role by prioritizing awareness campaigns about SDGs among library professionals through workshops, seminars, and training programs.

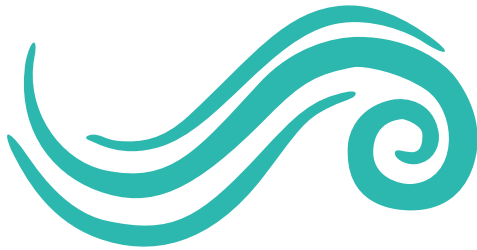
The Government should allocate fund and resources specifically aimed at promoting SDG integration within libraries, including grants for capacity-building initiatives and the acquisition of relevant materials.

Libraries should prioritize initiatives focused on enhancing integration, leveraging partnerships with external groups for support and collaboration

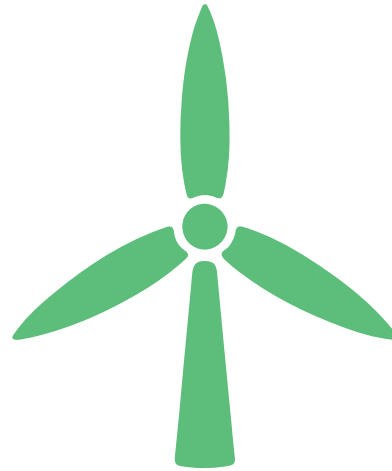
Library professionals from Assam should actively engage in learning about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and stay updated by participating in seminars, webinars, workshops, and by regularly reading about SDG initiatives and developments.



CONCLUSION:



Libraries have played a major role in furthering the UNs Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by providing access to information that helps countries achieve these goals. If library professionals engage strategically and particularly construct activities around the SDGs, libraries can have a significant impact.



The current study shows that there is still a knowledge and involvement gap in the sector even while library professionals of Assam have a solid awareness of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



It is anticipated that library professionals from Assam will acquire advocacy skills to demonstrate the role libraries can play by 2030 within the SDGs timeframe.



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Thank You