

# University Libraries in Assam: Driving Progress on Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education)



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# INTRODUCTION

- ❖ Sustainable Development Goal as adopted by the UN acknowledges the importance of quality education as one of the key objectives.
- ❖ The main aim of Sustainable Development Goal 4, which pertains to quality education, is to ensure that education is accessible, equitable, and of high quality for all individuals.
- ❖ It seeks to promote the cultivation of lifelong learners among all individuals.
- ❖ Assam Agenda 2030.
- ❖ Libraries are not just repositories of books but also play dynamic role in promoting academic advancement and facilitating lifelong learning



# LITERATURE REVIEW

**01** United Nations, 2015; 2016

**02** Igbinovia, 2017

**03** Benson, Akpom, and Onyam, 2019

**04** Atta-Obeng and Dadzie, 2020

**05** Agormedah et al..., 2020

**06** Adarkwah, 2021

**07** Elumalai et al..., 2021

**08** Pokhrel and Chhetri, 2021

**09** Dei & Asante, 2022

**10** Mashroofa, 2022

# OBJECTIVES

01

To find out the contribution of University libraries of Assam to promote high-quality education and lifelong learning

03

To find out the provisions and facilities for people with disabilities provided by University libraries in Assam to achieve SDG 4

05

To investigate the difficulties university libraries of Assam face in advancing the information and abilities necessary for chances for lifetime learning

02

To assess the level of awareness and understanding among academic librarians regarding the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a specific focus on SDG 4

04

To understand how university libraries in Assam facilitate access to information during the pandemic to support quality education

# METHODOLOGY

- Survey method has been adopted to carry out the present study.
- Questionnaire tool has been used for data collection.
- By keeping in mind the objectives of the study a structured Google questionnaire was prepared and questionnaire link was shared with all of these university libraries.
- The study targeted all 22 universities in Assam and received responses from 20 university libraries.



# DATA ANALYSIS

**Table: 1** List of Universities Responding to Survey

SI No	Name of the Institutions
1	Gauhati University
2	Cotton University
3	Tezpur University
4	Assam University
5	Dibrugarh University
6	Bhattadev University
7	Birangana Sati Sadhani Rajyik Vishwavidyalaya Golaghat
8	Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskriti and Ancient studies university
9	Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University
10	Madhabdev University
11	Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalay
12	Majuli University of Culture
13	National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam
14	Assam Agricultural University Assam
15	Assam Science and Technology University
16	Assam Women's University
17	Assam down town University
18	Royal Global University
19	Assam Don Bosco University
20	Assam Kaziranga University



# Familiarity with SDG 4

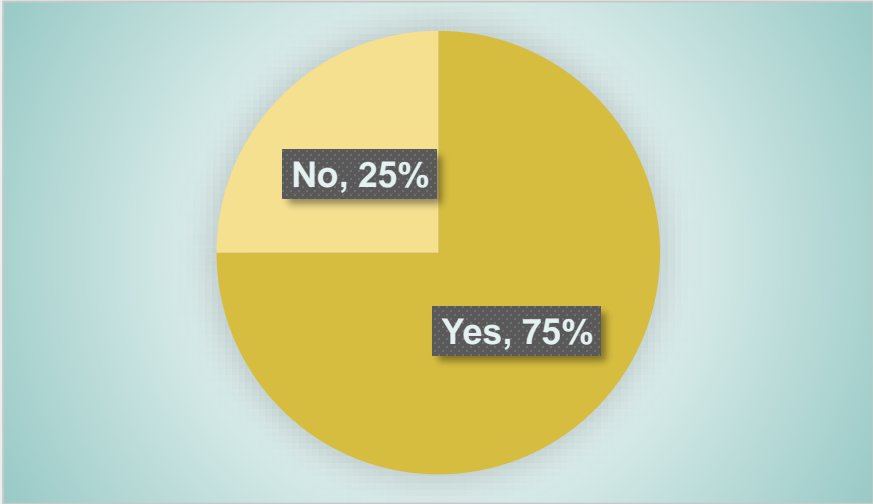
Table: 2 Familiarity with SDG 4

Familiarity	Respondents	Percentage
Familiar	12	60%
Somewhat Familiar	8	40%
Not familiar at all	0	0



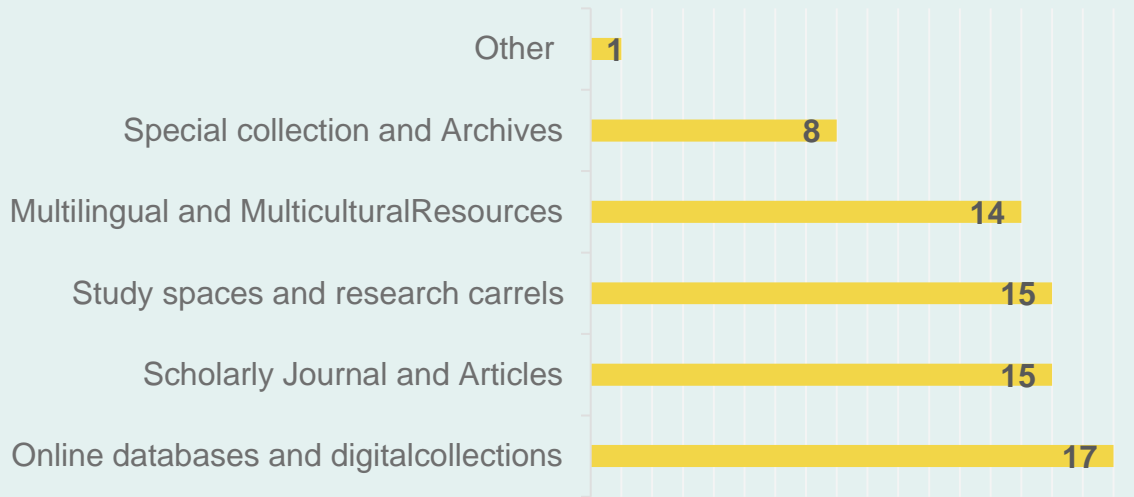
# Library Initiatives for Quality Education

Figure: 1 Library Initiatives for Quality Education

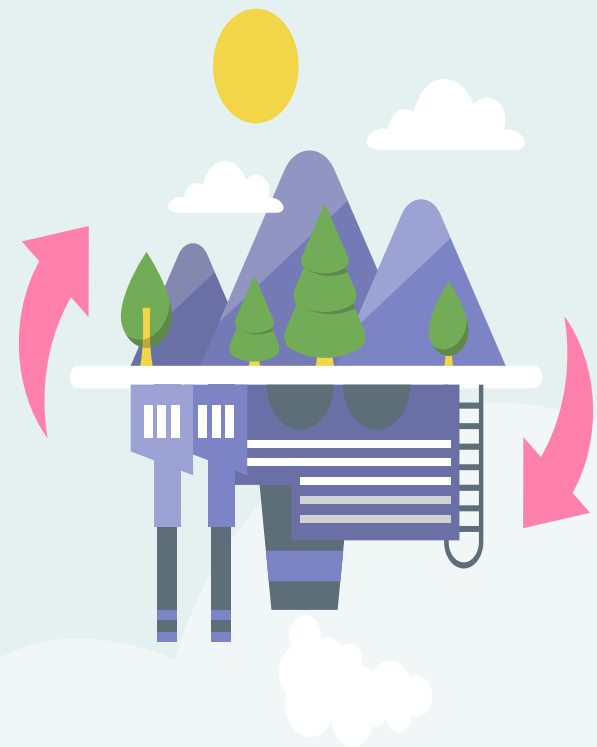


# Resources & Services to support Quality Education

Figure:2 Resources and Services to support Quality Education



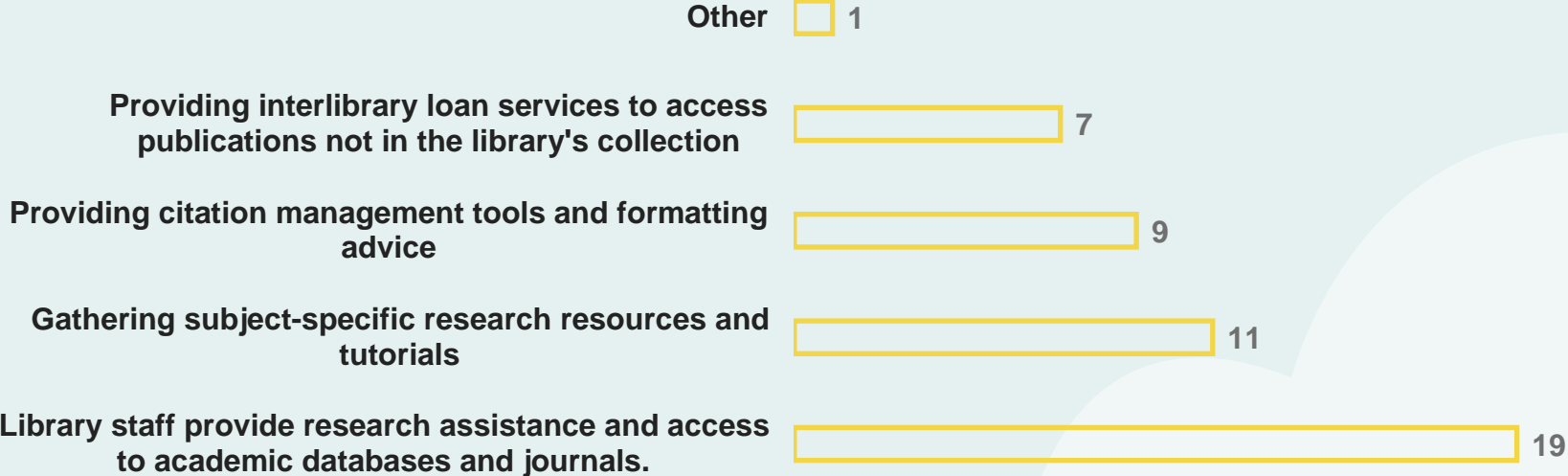
Note: multiple options are permitted (n=20)





# Libraries supporting students in their academic endeavors

Figure 3: Libraries support to students in academic endeavors



Note: multiple options are permitted (n=20)

## Educational Program and Workshop Frequency



## Libraries partnership with external organisation

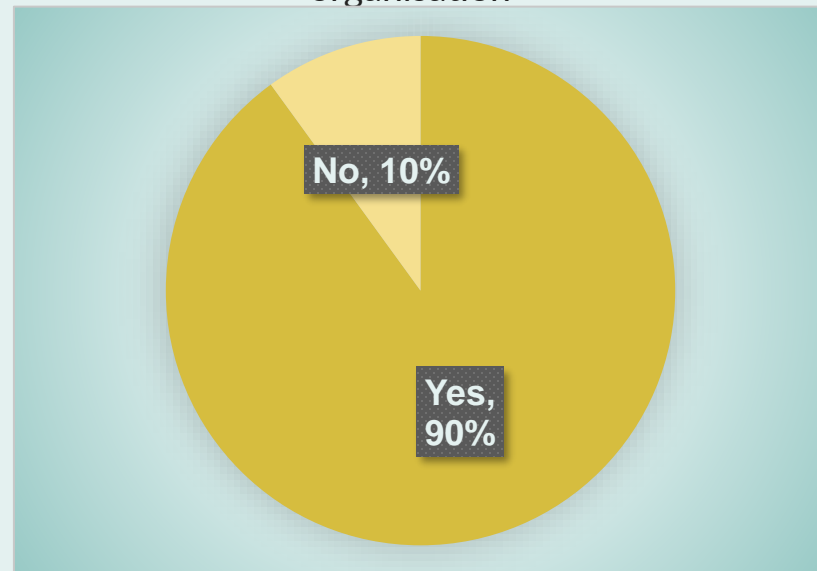


**Table: 3** Frequency of Educational Programs/Workshops

Frequency	Percentage
Once a month	15%
Occasionally	80%
Never	5%



**Figure: 4** Libraries partnership with external organisation

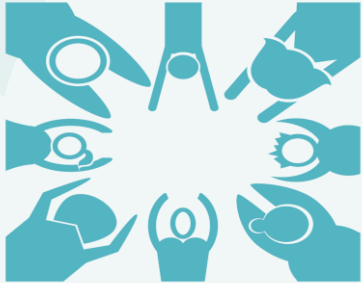


# Community Outreach and Engagement

Table 4: Community Outreach and Engagement

Library initiative	Respondents	Percentage
Implementing accessibility services for people with disabilities	10	50%
Hosting exclusive events for unaffluent patrons	6	30%
Providing mobile library services	3	15%
Collaborating with local organizations	8	40%
Other	4	20%

Note: multiple options are permitted (n=20)



# Provision for People with Disabilities

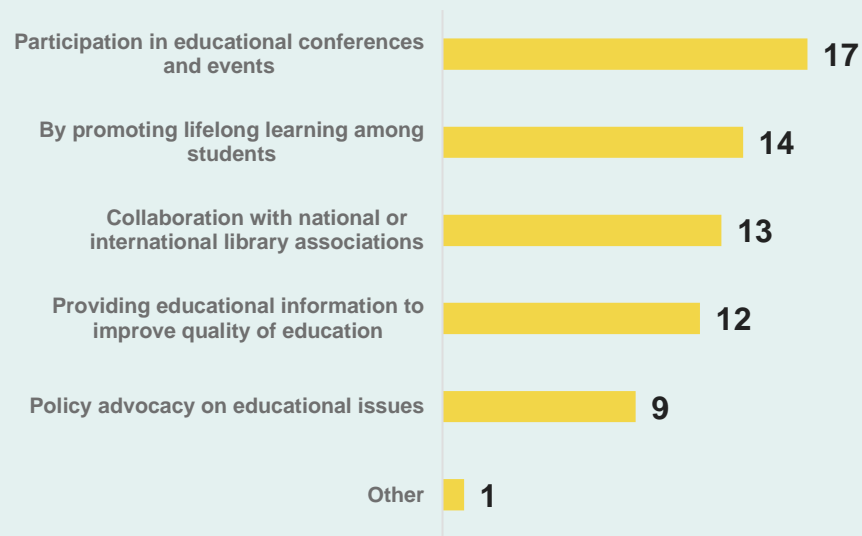
Table 5 Provision for People with Disabilities

Options	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	9	45%
No	11	55%



# Libraries contribution in advancing SDG 4

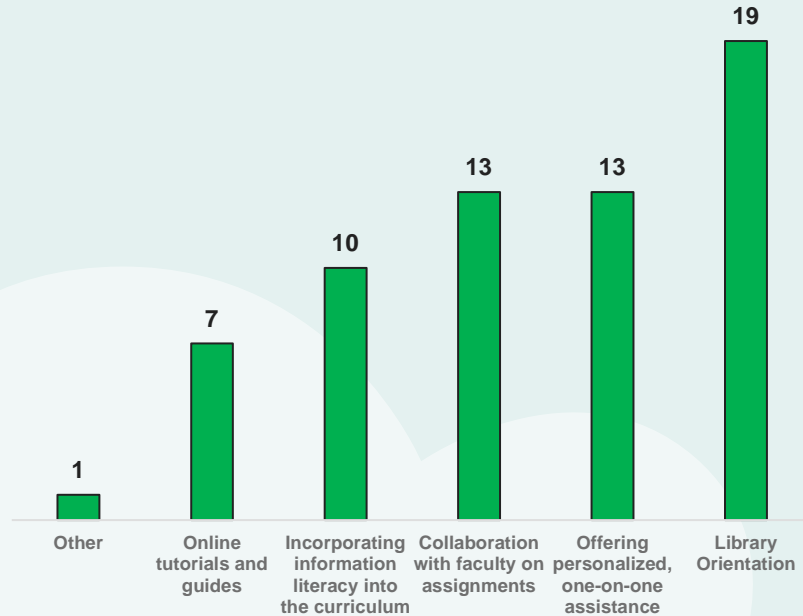
Figure: 5 Libraries contribution in advancing SDG4



**Note:** multiple options are permitted (n=20)

# Ways libraries promote information literacy

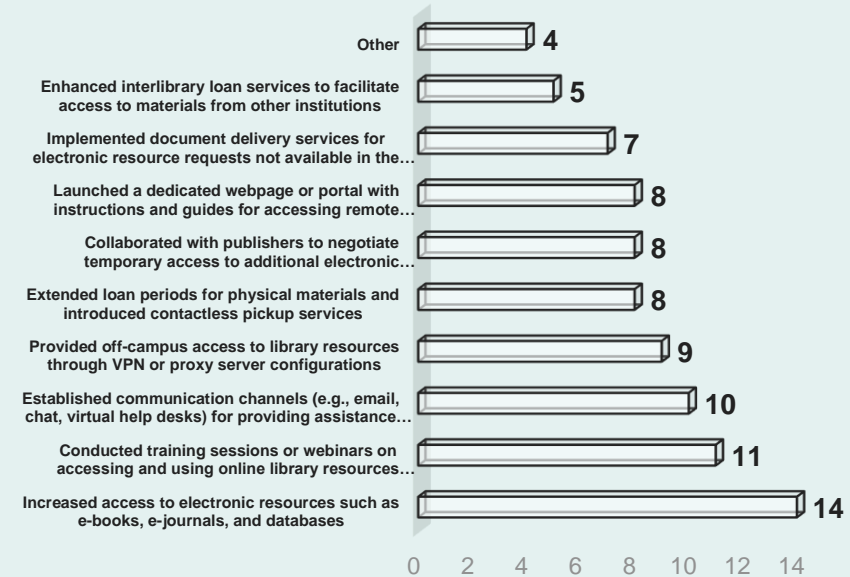
Figure: 6 Ways libraries promote information literacy



**Note:** multiple options are permitted (n=20)

# Library Services provided during pandemic

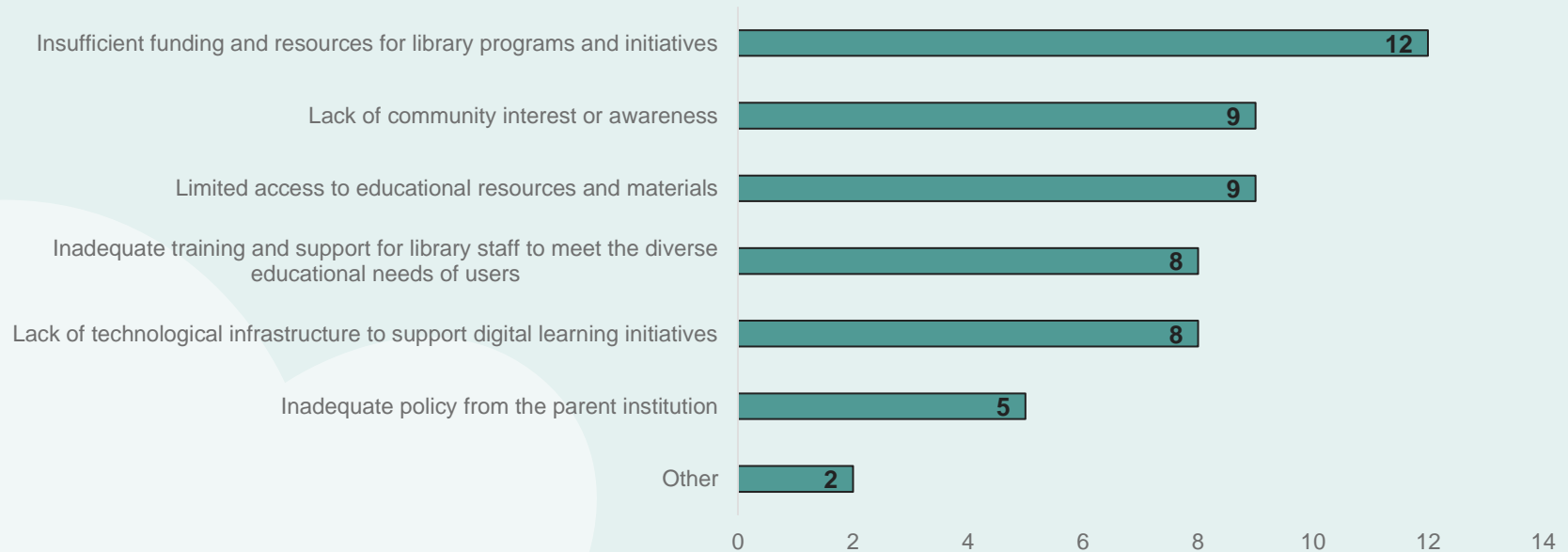
Figure: 7 Services provided by libraries during pandemic



**Note:** multiple options are permitted (n=20)

# Challenges faced by libraries in promoting Quality education

**Figure:8** Challenges faced by the libraries in promoting quality education

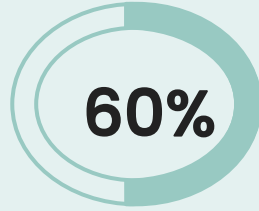


**Note:** multiple options are permitted (n=20)

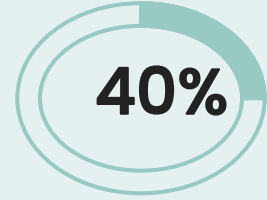
# FINDINGS



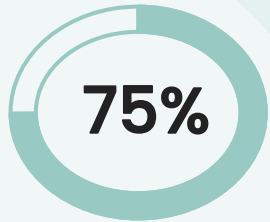
Aware about the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals



Familiar with SDG 4



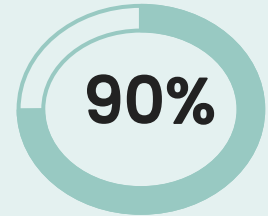
Some level of familiarity with SDG 4



Libraries have undertaken initiatives in support of quality education.



Libraries hold workshops on an occasional basis



Formed partnerships with external organizations

# FINDINGS

Insufficient funding and resources for library programs and initiatives (60%).

Lack of community interest and awareness and Limited access to resources and materials (45%)

## CHALLENGES

Lack of technological infrastructure to support digital learning initiatives and inadequate training and support for library staff (40%)

Inadequate policy from parent institution (25%)



# FINDINGS

(45%) revealed that their libraries have provision for people with disabilities

## Cotton University

Divyangjan corner  
Braille collection and software's  
and hardware's for PWD

## Tezpur University

Braille Collection, Library Guide for  
visually impaired, PC with special  
software JAWS.  
Wheelchairs and Ladder

## Dibrugarh University

Lift from ground to 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Ramp in stack and entrance  
Visually Impaired Section  
Ergonomic PCs, Specialized Scanners,  
Specialized PC Keyboard  
Braille Printer

# SUGGESTIONS

**01**

Active role in promoting sustainable development goal 4 by organizing events related to SDG.

**02**

Organize educational programmes and workshop for academic skill development frequently.

**03**

Offer information literacy and digital literacy courses in order narrow the digital gap, and evaluate reliable sources.

**04**

Collaborate with external organizations to improve the efficiency and scope of educational programs, facilitating access to information, and to cultivate lifelong learning within communities

# CONCLUSION

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- ❖ Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4, which seeks to guarantee equitable and accessible access to education and encourage lifelong learning, is greatly aided by university libraries.
- ❖ University libraries in Assam play a vital role in sustaining high-quality education by giving students access to pertinent material, organizing educational seminars and activities, encouraging students to pursue lifelong learning, fostering information literacy, etc.
- ❖ Libraries should make concerted effort to eliminate physical, technological, and other barriers to inclusive education.



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# THANK YOU

