

CONSTRAINTS FACED BY THE MUSEUM FUNCTIONARIES TO CONTROL MUSEUM ENVIRONMENT.

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ABSTRACT

An attempt has been made to find out the constraints faced by the museum functionaries in control of museum environment. Museum environment plays an important role to maximize the life of textiles and other artifacts conserved in the museum. The chief cause for decay in textiles is almost always the environment in which they are displayed and stored. Apart from the environment, various constraints namely technological, economical, psychological and social constraints are encountered by the museum functionaries which creates bottlenecks for growth of museums. After personal interview of the museum functionaries, it was found that there were number of constraints which retard the growth of museums. It was necessary to assess the intensity of these constraints encountered which were responsible for the condition of the museums and possible remedial suggestions have been given for planners as well as for museum functionaries for smooth running of museums.

INTRODUCTION

“Museum is a building or institution dedicated to the acquisition, conservation, study, exhibition and educational interpretation of objects having scientific, historical, cultural or artistic value.” Museums form the treasure house of any country. It throws light on the culture and heritage of that country. Apart from being the best way to know history, museums are also a good means of education. Most museums in Rajasthan have an incredibly large collection of objects like paintings, textiles, sculptures, manuscripts and jewellery. Rajasthan has a number of museums with a most delightful collection of display. Old textiles help to learn the traditional designs and styles as they are the base for the upcoming modern design forms. A rich collection of beautifully decorative textiles which are rich in techniques, diversified fashion and full of color and pattern provides a wealth of understanding, which is not possible through the written word alone. Conservative textiles show the rich cultural heritage for a long term period. This is achieved through proper way of storage, display, repair and stabilization of textiles, but various constraints namely technological, economical, psychological and social are being encountered by the museum functionaries which creates bottle-

necks for growth of museums. Keeping this in view, the present study was conducted to find out these constraints.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in twenty museums of Rajasthan using purposive experimental research design, where textiles are displayed. Three employees from each museum were selected randomly for the present study. For research purpose, samples of 60 museum workers were selected to find out various constraints in maintaining the museum environment. Interview technique was used for data collection. For this purpose, a schedule was developed consisting of 36 statements after deep discussion with museum functionaries and experts who were closely associated with textile conservation field.

These constraints were rated on 3 point continuum scale ranging from very serious, serious and least serious and the weightage of 3, 2, 1 was assigned, respectively. Based on the responses obtained from museum functionaries, total score for each problem was worked out and this total score was converted into mean percent score. The ranks were also assigned depending upon the MPS showing the intensity of these constraints. Further, all

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constraints were categorized into 4 major fields and were discussed separately.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Technological Constraints

It can be seen from the Table 1 that lack of facilities for maintenance and repair of textiles (79.44%) was found to be most serious technological constraints encountered by the museum functionaries. perhaps this was due to non availability of conservation laboratory and skilled conservators.

The table further reveals that lack of specialized skill to maintain the museum environment (78.89%), lack of skilled manpower (76.67%), technological gap between approved conservation practices and available one (74.44%), outdated technology (71.67%) were perceived as serious technological problems by museum functionaries. These findings predicted that untrained workers and unskilled

Table 1: Technological constraints encountered by the museum functionaries n=60

S.No.	Constraints	MPS	Rank
1.	Lack of technical know-how	68.33	VII
2.	Lack of specialized skill to maintain the museum environment	78.89	II
3.	Lack of skilled manpower	76.67	III
4.	Lack of training for skill development	68.89	VI
5.	Lack of facilities for maintenance and repair of textiles	79.44	I
6.	Technological gap between approved conservation practices and available one	74.44	IV
7.	Outdated technology	71.67	V
8.	Lack of physical facilities like Computers, Internet and fax facilities, Show cases, Mannequins	65.55	IX
9.	Lack of storage and display area	62.78	X
10.	Non-availability of technologies in time	66.67	VIII
11.	Non-availability of improved technology	68.33	VII

manpower could not use the available technology effectively. This outdated technology created bottlenecks for economic growth of museums

Latest technologies are of no use if it is not communicated to the museum functionaries in time. Hence, diffusion of technology in time to the skilled museum functionaries can play a vital role. Lack of training for skill development (68.89%) was also found serious constraint. The findings are supported by Vepa (1992), who reported that skill up gradation can be achieved through training programmes conducted at various levels.

Hence it is realized that latest technology developed at the research labs should be diffused effectively in time to the museum functionaries. It is prerequisite to train the museum functionaries by equipping them with skills and managerial competence so that they can successfully use the available improved technology.

Economical Constraints

It is evident from the Table 2 that lack of sufficient working capital/ budget (79.44%) was the most serious economical constraints whereas, inadequate amount advanced through financing agencies (77.22%), inadequate budget for follow up programme

Table 2: Economical constraints encountered by the museum functionaries n=60

S.No.	Constraints	MPS	Rank
1.	Poor economic status of museum	57.78	VII
2.	Lack of sufficient working capital/ budget	79.44	I
3.	Budget is not properly distributed under different heads	62.22	VI
4.	Inadequate amount advanced through financing agencies	77.22	II
5.	Funds allocated for conservation work are diverted for other activities	62.78	V
6.	Inadequate budget for follow up programme	74.44	III
7.	Lack of funds for publicity and advertisement of the museum	69.44	IV

(74.44%), lack of funds for publicity and advertisement of the museum (69.44%) were found serious economical problems perceived by the museum functionaries. Funds allocated for conservation work was diverted for other activities (62.78%), budget was not properly distributed under different heads (62.22%) and poor economic status of museum (57.78%) were found as least serious constraints. Many of the museums failed in getting the required assistance from financial institutions because of their cumbersome procedure. On the other hand, museums had no sufficient working capital/ budget, for purchasing material and machinery for conservation laboratory and salary for conservators. Due to lack of sufficient finance, they could not adopt the proper materials/equipments for control of museum environment. Thus, there is need to strengthen the network of financial institutions by providing sufficient funds to the museum functionaries in time.

Psychological Constraints

It is apparent from Table 3 that lack of motivation on part of individual (86.11%), poor professional

Table 3: Psychological constraints encountered by the museum functionaries n=60

S.No.	Constraints	MPS	Rank
1.	Lack of motivation on part of individual	86.11	I
2.	Dissatisfied behavior of the authorities	67.22	VII
3.	Salary is not according to work	74.44	IV
4.	Job hopping	66.11	VIII
5.	Poor professional and social recognition to work	82.22	II
6.	Problem regarding service rules and regulation for promotion	66.67	VI
7.	Dissatisfaction with power and authorities	67.78	V
8.	Dissatisfaction with work load and its distribution	81.67	III
9.	Non availability of conveyance facilities	63.33	IX
10.	Lack of healthy work environment	66.11	VIII
11.	Lack of recognition/ Credit go to others	62.22	X

and social recognition to work (82.22%), dissatisfaction with work load and its distribution (81.67%) were very serious psychological constraints as perceived by the respondents. Hence, it is suggested to provide psychological support to the respondents in form of awards and rewards. The table further shows that salary was not according to work (74.44%), dissatisfaction with power and authorities (67.78%), problem regarding service rules and regulation for promotion (66.67%) were serious psychological constraints.

Further, many of the museum functionaries were well qualified and had some professional attainment also, had a strong need for job hopping which decreased their attention towards their museums.

Social Constraints

A perusal of the Table 4 indicates that increasing number of entertainment resources (79.44%), illiteracy, poverty and conservative attitude of public (77.22%), lack of public motivation (74.44%), lack of co-operation from public (70.55%), and less interest of public (69.44%) were found serious social problems perceived by the museum functionaries.

Table 4: Social constraints encountered by the museum functionaries n=60

S.No.	Constraints	MPS	Rank
1.	Lack of public motivation	74.44	II
2.	Lack of co-operation from public	70.55	III
3.	Illiteracy, poverty and conservative attitude of public	77.22	I
4.	Less interest of public	69.44	IV
5.	Lack of media's responsibilities	57.78	VI
6.	Lack of cooperation and coordination among different museum functionaries	62.78	V

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the above findings, it could be concluded that there were various constraints faced by museum functionaries. These constraints were so severe and they created barriers in the development of museums.

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