Assessing the Status of Privately Operated Public Libraries: A Case Study of Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar, Bethuadahari, Nadia

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Structured Abstract:

Purpose: Public libraries play a significant role in preserving cultural heritage, providing access to information, and promoting literacy in local communities. The primary goal of this research is to assess the current status of Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar, a privately operated public library located in Bethuadahari, Nadia district, including its infrastructure, resources, membership, and role in the community. Additionally, the study aims to identify the challenges faced by the library in its operations and the strategies adopted to overcome these challenges.

Design / Methodology / Approach: A case study approach was employed to gather both qualitative and quantitative data. Data collection methods included surveys, interviews with library staff and users, and direct observation of library operations. The study examined aspects such as the physical infrastructure, collection size, accessibility, services offered, funding sources, and community engagement of the library. A SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis was also conducted to evaluate the performance and future potential of the library.

Findings: The findings revealed that Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar is a well-established private library for general public with a wide range of resources, including books, journals, and periodicals. However, the library faces challenges such as limited funding, out-dated infrastructure, and a lack of digital resources. Despite these obstacles, the library remains an important cultural hub, serving as a space for educational and community activities.

Membership is predominantly comprised of local residents, with active engagement in reading and research.

Utility / Significance: Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar is a valuable resource for the Bethuadahari area, but its growth and sustainability are hindered by financial constraints and infrastructural issues. Recommendations include securing sustainable funding, incorporating digital resources, and expanding community outreach programs. Future research could explore comparative studies of other private libraries in the region to identify best practices and strategies for improvement.

Keywords Private libraries, Public libraries, Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar, Community engagement, Infrastructure, SWOT analysis, Bethuadahari, Nadia.

Type / Nature of Article: Case Study.

Introduction:

Public libraries play a crucial role in preserving knowledge, fostering reading habits, and contributing to the cultural development of a community. In India, where the government has invested significantly in govt. aided public libraries, privately operated public libraries often remain a lesser-explored domain of study. This research aims to evaluate the status of privately operated public libraries through a case study of the Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar in Bethuadahari, a small town in the Nadia district of West Bengal. Established on November 5, 1929, this library has been serving the local population for decades, offering a rich collection of books and other resources. The study aims to understand the current operations of Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar and its impact on the local community and the challenges it faces in an increasingly digital world. Through a detailed evaluation, this study seeks to highlight the strengths and areas for improvement in private libraries like Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar, and offers insights into how such libraries can evolve to better serve their patrons while continuing to preserve the cultural heritage of their region.

Objectives of the Study:

The primary objectives of this study are:

➢ To evaluate the overall status and functioning of Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar.

➢ To assess the collection and categorization of library resources.

➢ To analyze the impact of the library on its users.

➢ To examine the technological infrastructure and services available at the library.

➢ To investigate the financial sustainability and funding of the library.

➢ To explore the role of the library in promoting cultural activities.

➢ To identify the challenges faced by the library.

Review of Literature:

The study conducted by **Elias and Lubua (2024)** explores the interplay between usability, functionality, and reliability in shaping user satisfaction within a library management system at a higher learning institution in Arusha, Tanzania. Employing a quantitative approach, the study tested hypothetical statements to measure the impacts of these three dimensions (usability, functionality, and reliability) on user satisfaction. The results reveal a strong correlation between the quality of usability, functionality, and reliability and user satisfaction. The research advocates for institutions to priorities these factors when selecting and adopting LMS to enhance user acceptance.

The research conducted by **Munshi and Ansari (2023)** highlights collection development and library services in the Nadia district of West Bengal by exploring the practices, policies, and management of public libraries. The study utilized a questionnaire-based methodology, gathering data from chief librarians or library-in-charges of 11 public libraries in Nadia district. The findings indicate that public libraries in Nadia district actively engage in collection development aligned with user needs. The study reveals that the libraries priorities purchasing books from the annual book fair based on user demand, showcasing an adaptive collection strategy. The study highlights the operational aspects; it does not evaluate user satisfaction or the impact of these services on the community. Future research could benefit from incorporating user feedback and examining how these libraries adapt to changing information needs in the digital age.

Pharcy, Hossain, and Kikon (2022) evaluated public library services in Murshidabad district contribute to this ongoing discourse by providing valuable insights into user experiences and expectations. The methodology employed by the study involved a

comprehensive survey of library users, utilizing questionnaires and interviews to gather primary data from 20 public libraries and 150 responders. The sampling strategy included a balanced representation of both rural and urban libraries, providing a nuanced understanding of service usage across different contexts. The findings align with broader trends in library research, emphasizing the necessity for ongoing evaluation and adaptation of services to enhance user satisfaction and engagement. By addressing the identified gaps and focusing on resource enhancement, public libraries can continue to fulfill their vital role as community centers for learning and information access.

Rayapudi and Irrinki (2021) provide a comprehensive evaluation of library services at KLEF Guntur and KLEF Hyderabad, emphasising user perspectives and satisfaction levels. The methodology employed by Rayapudi and Irrinki involved a structured questionnaire distributed to a substantial sample of 1,920 library users, ultimately analyzing 1,640 completed responses. This quantitative approach is effective in capturing user satisfaction across diverse demographics. The study found that user satisfaction is closely linked to the availability and quality of electronic resources, along with the overall physical environment of the library. This research contributes meaningfully to the understanding of library services and user satisfaction, highlighting the critical role of electronic resources and physical facilities.

The study by **Nayek and Mondal (2020)** specifically addresses the scenario of public libraries in the Karimpur Block of Nadia district, West Bengal. This work is essential in understanding the multifaceted challenges faced by these institutions, particularly as they attempt to serve their communities in the face of numerous systemic obstacles. The research employs a comprehensive survey methodology, incorporating structured questionnaires directed at both librarians and library users of 7 public libraries. The findings illuminate critical infrastructural deficiencies within the libraries, such as inadequate ICT facilities and a lack of basic user amenities, including sanitation and reading spaces. Additionally, the study underscores the urgent need for increased funding and resources for public libraries. The study advocates for immediate recruitment to fill vacant librarian positions, emphasizing that the presence of qualified staff is crucial for the sustainability of library services.

The research conducted by **Mondal, Paik, and Orang (2019)** provides insight into the working conditions and difficulties that faced by public libraries in Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal, India. The study employed a mixed-methods approach, integrating both primary and secondary data collection techniques. Primary data were gathered through field surveys utilising questionnaires, supplemented by telephonic interviews with library staff and direct interviews with selected respondents. The research highlighted the pressing challenges faced by public libraries in Paschim Medinipur and underscores the need for systemic changes to enhance their functionality and reach. By addressing staffing shortages, improving infrastructure, and engaging with the community, these libraries can evolve into vibrant centers of learning and support for rural populations.

Mollah and Sarkhel (2017) provide a comprehensive exploration of how community information centers (CICs) function in disseminating crucial information about the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) in Murshidabad district. This Study employed a multi-stage random sampling method to ensure a representative sample from the Murshidabad district. Their systematic approach involved selecting 4 CD Blocks, followed by the random selection of Gram Panchayats and inhabited villages, culminating in a total of 80 respondents surveyed through a structured questionnaire. The study reveals a stark reality among the eight surveyed villages, only two had public libraries, and neither played a significant role in disseminating information related to NSAP. This finding illustrates the missed opportunity for libraries to act as conduits for vital governmental information, particularly regarding welfare programs aimed at improving rural livelihoods.

Scope of the Study:

This study focuses on evaluating the status of Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar, a private library in Bethuadahari, Nadia district, West Bengal. It covers key aspects such as the infrastructure, resources, user engagement, technological setup, financial sustainability, and cultural activities of the library. The study aims to provide insights into the functioning and challenges of the library and its impact on the local community.

Limitations of the Study:

The study is limited to a single case study of a private library in a small town, which may not be representative of all private libraries. Due to time and resource constraints, the research

does not include a comparative analysis with other libraries or an in-depth statistical analysis. Additionally, the lack of technological infrastructure and internet access in the library may limit the scope of exploring modern library management practices. Data availability and user feedback may also present certain limitations.

Methodology

This study adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative research techniques. Data is gathered through:

- ❖ Interviews with library staff, donors, community members, and local government representatives to gain insights into the challenges faced by the library and potential solutions.

- ❖ Surveys conducted among library users to assess their satisfaction with the services of the library and to understand their perceptions of its role in the community.

- ❖ Document Analysis of the financial records, annual reports, and membership data to examine funding sources and expenditures.

The library was visited in person, and questionnaires were distributed to 112 users and all four library employees. Of these, 100 respondents completed the questionnaires correctly and agreed to participate in interviews. Various statistical tools were employed to analyse the collected data.

Library Overview:

The Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar is a well-established private library located in Bethuadahari, a small town in the Nakashipara block of Nadia district, West Bengal. The library has a long-standing presence in the community, serving as an important cultural and educational hub.
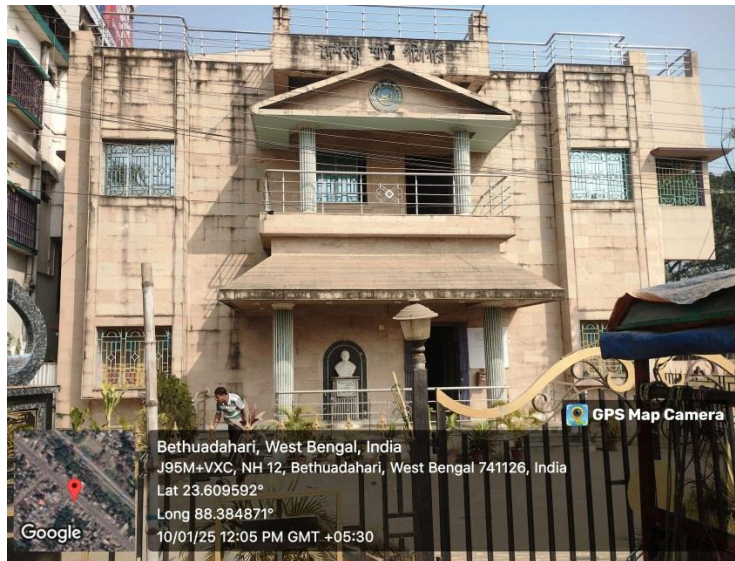
Image-1: Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar

- **Location:** The library is situated in Bethuadahari, P.O: Bethuadahari, P.S: Nakashipara, Dist: Nadia, Pin: 741126, West Bengal. The town is known for the Bethuadahari Wildlife Sanctuary, which draws both locals and tourists, highlighting the importance of the area. The location of the library at the heart of this region makes it a crucial resource for the surrounding population.

- **Year of Establishment:** Founded in 5th November, 1929, the library has over nine decades of history. Its establishment marks its deep roots in the local community and its role in promoting literacy and knowledge in the area for generations.

- **Total Area:** The library occupies an area of 54 decimal, providing space for its collections, reading rooms, and other essential services. The size of the library allows it to cater to the needs of its users, though it may face limitations in terms of expansion or modernizing its infrastructure.

- **Librarian:** The library is currently headed by Uttam Dey, who has more than six years of experience in library management. His expertise ensures the smooth operation of the library and contributes to its continued relevance in the community.

- **Total Staff:** The library employs a total of four staff members. Despite its small team, these staff members play a key role in managing the daily operations, assisting patrons, and maintaining the extensive collection of the library.

- **Total Users:** With 1,622 registered users, the library has a dedicated user base, consisting of both children and adults. This indicates that the library is an active centre of learning and community engagement, serving a diverse group of individuals who rely on its resources for personal, educational, and professional growth.

Library Resources:

The collection of books and periodicals is a critical component of any library, serving as the foundation for its educational and informational services. Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar has a well-maintained and diverse collection, though it faces certain limitations in terms of modern resources. Table-1 illustrates the diversified resources of the library.

Table-1: Library Resources

Sl. No.	Items	Number of Holdings
1.	Books	12010
2.	Magazines	22
3.	News Papers	00
4.	CDs / DVDs	00
5.	Maps	00
6.	Manuscripts	00
7.	E-resources	00

The library houses a collection of 12,010 books, which form the core of its resources. This extensive collection caters to a wide range of subjects, providing valuable knowledge to its users. The diverse nature of the books supports both general reading and academic needs, making the library an essential resource for the local community. The library maintains 22 magazines, which offer users access to current trends, research, and entertainment. Magazines play a crucial role in keeping patrons informed about the latest developments in various fields such as politics, culture, science, and technology. While the number of magazines is modest, it reflects the library's efforts to provide contemporary reading materials for its users.

Currently, the library does not subscribe to any newspapers. This is a notable limitation, as newspapers are a vital resource for staying updated on local, national, and global events. The absence of newspapers may hinder the library's ability to offer real-time news and developments to its users, potentially impacting its relevance in the fast-paced information

age. The library does not have any CD or DVD collections. In today's digital age, multimedia resources like CDs and DVDs can provide additional learning opportunities through educational videos, documentaries, and software. Their absence limits the library's ability to offer multimedia-based resources for users who may benefit from them, particularly in areas like language learning or computer skills. The library also lacks a collection of maps. Maps are valuable for students, researchers, and general users who need to understand geography, history, or spatial data. The absence of maps may limit the ability of the library to serve users with specific research needs related to geography or navigation. The library does not offer any electronic resources, such as e-books, digital journals, or online databases. In an increasingly digital world, the availability of e-resources is important for offering users access to a broader range of information, especially for academic and research purposes. The lack of e-resources limits the library's ability to meet the needs of users who prefer digital learning methods or those who are unable to visit the library physically. The library does not have any manuscripts in its collection. Manuscripts, particularly rare or historical ones, can be invaluable resources for researchers and scholars. The absence of such materials indicates a gap in the capacity of the library to support high-level academic research, especially in fields like history, literature, and cultural studies.

Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar has a strong foundation in terms of its book collection and periodicals. However, the lack of newspapers, CDs/DVDs, maps, e-resources, and manuscripts highlights several areas for improvement. Expanding its collection to include more diverse and modern resources would enhance the library's ability to serve the changing needs of its community and keep up with advancements in digital learning. Integrating these resources would also increase its relevance and appeal, especially to younger and more tech-savvy users.

Infrastructure and Facilities:

The infrastructure of a library is an essential factor in providing a conducive and comfortable learning environment for its users. Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar offers several facilities that support its function as a community hub for education, research, and cultural activities. Table-2 highlights the key infrastructural details of the library.

Table-2: Infrastructural Facilities

Sl. No.	Infrastructural Facilities	Number
1.	Reading Room	02

2.	Seating Capacity	25
3.	Children Section	01
4.	Auditorium	01
5.	Parking Area	01
6.	Toilet	02
7.	Water Purifier	01

The library has two reading rooms, offering quiet spaces for reading, studying, and using library resources without distractions. These rooms help accommodate different groups of users simultaneously. With a seating capacity of 25, the library can comfortably serve a moderate number of patrons. However, this may become limiting during peak usage times or if user attendance increases.

Image-2: Reading Area

The library includes a designated children's section, providing a specialized area for younger readers. This is a crucial feature as it helps foster reading habits from an early age. The section likely offers age-appropriate books and resources, catering specifically to the educational needs and interests of children, thereby encouraging their engagement with the library.

The availability of an auditorium is an important infrastructural feature, as it allows the library to host meetings, workshops, lectures, and community events. This space supports the library to organize community engagement and cultural activities, providing a venue for discussions, seminars, and collaborative learning opportunities.
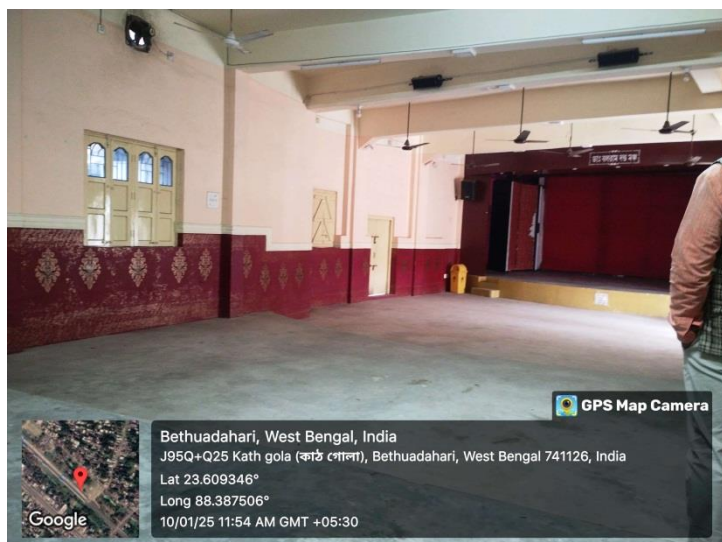
Image-3: Auditorium

The library has a parking area, which is a valuable facility for users who travel by private vehicles. This feature is especially important in rural and semi-urban areas, where public transportation may be limited, and individuals may prefer to drive to the library. Having a parking area enhances the accessibility of the library for a wider range of users.

The library is equipped with a water purifier, ensuring that users have access to clean drinking water during their visit. This reflects the commitment of the library to providing a comfortable and accommodating environment for its patrons. Additionally, the library offers separate toilet facilities for male and female users, which are essential for their convenience and well-being. Access to clean and functional washrooms is a basic requirement for public spaces, and their availability significantly enhances the infrastructure of the library, especially for longer visits.

Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar offers a range of essential infrastructural facilities, including reading rooms, seating capacity, a children's section, a conference room, parking area, drinking water, and washrooms. These facilities contribute to creating a welcoming and functional environment for its users. However, the limited seating capacity and space might require attention as the library's user base grows. The current infrastructure supports the role of the library as a valuable resource for the local community, though expansion and modernization may be considered in the future to better accommodate growing needs.

Technology and Automation:

The technological infrastructure of Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar is quite limited, which may impact the efficiency and modernization of its services. Below is an explanation of the available technology and automation features at the library:

The library has only one computer available, which is likely used for basic tasks such as record-keeping. However, having just one computer limits the capability of the library to serve multiple users simultaneously for digital research, browsing, or other technological needs. The library has two printers, which provide essential printing services for its users. These printers are likely used for personal or educational purposes, allowing patrons to print documents, assignments, or research materials. While this is a helpful service, the capacity may be insufficient for handling high demand during busy times.

The presence of a photocopy machine allows the library to offer reprography services, enabling users to make photocopies of books, articles, and other materials. This is a valuable resource for students and researchers who need to replicate specific content for further study. However, relying on a single machine may cause delays during peak usage times, limiting the efficiency of this service.

The library does not provide internet access, which significantly limits its ability to support digital learning and online research. In this digital age, access to the internet is crucial for users who require up-to-date information, online journals, e-books, or other web-based resources. The absence of internet access restricts the efficiency of the library to meet the evolving needs of its community.

The library does not have an automated system for managing its collection or services. Automation can streamline library processes, such as cataloguing, issuing books, and managing user records. Without automation, the library is likely relying on manual systems, which may be time-consuming and prone to human error, especially as the collection of the library grows.

Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar has a basic level of technology in place, but the lack of internet access, automation, and ILMS software hinders its ability to efficiently manage resources and provide modern services to its users. Expanding and upgrading the library's technological infrastructure could improve operational efficiency and enhance the overall user experience, making it more aligned with the needs of the digital age.

Document organization in the Library:

Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar follows the DDC (Dewey Decimal Classification) system for organizing its books, which is widely accepted and ensures systematic categorization. The cataloguing follows AACR2R (Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, Second Revised Edition), a standard used for creating bibliographic records.

Financial Status:

The financial health of a library is critical to its operation and sustainability. According to the available data:

❖ **Last Financial Year Fund Received:** Rs. 30,904.00

While the library receives some financial support, the funds appear to be modest, which can affect its ability to acquire new books, maintain infrastructure, and modernize its operations. As a private library, it is not eligible for government grants, making it crucial for the library to explore alternative sources of funding. Seeking additional financial support through mass funding, donations, or partnerships could help address these financial constraints and ensure the continued growth and development of the library.

Cultural and Community Activities:

Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar plays an important role in not only providing educational resources but also in promoting cultural and community activities. The involvement of the library in organizing such events enhances its value as a community centre, fostering intellectual and cultural engagement.

The library hosts a variety of cultural activities, such as book fairs and poetry sessions with local poets. These events create opportunities for users to engage with literature and the arts, encouraging participation in discussions and performances that enrich the local culture. By organizing these cultural activities, the library strengthens its role as a community hub. It fosters a sense of belonging and unity among users, promoting intellectual exchange and creative expression. These events not only attract book lovers but also engage a wider audience, encouraging people to come together, interact, and share ideas.

The library also publishes an annual newsletter titled 'Probaho', which serves as a platform for sharing updates, news, and articles related to the library's activities. This newsletter provides users with information about upcoming events, reports on past cultural activities, and may feature contributions from local writers or community members. The publication of

'Probaho' further reinforces the role of the library as an active participant in community engagement and cultural promotion.

Services Provided by the Library:

Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar offers a range of essential services to meet the informational and educational needs of its users. Table- 3 displays the various services provided by the library.

Table-3: Services Provided by the Library

Sl. No.	Type of Service	Service Provided or Not
1.	Circulation	Yes
2.	Reference	Yes
3.	Reading Area	Yes
4.	Reprography	Yes
5.	Internet Access	No
6.	Library Orientation/ Outreach Program	Yes
7.	CAS (Current Awareness Services)	Yes
8.	SDI (Selective Dissemination of Information)	Yes

The library offers circulation services, allowing users to borrow books and other materials for a specified period. This is one of the core services of the library, enabling patrons to take resources home for further reading and study. The library provides reference services, offering assistance to users in finding specific information from books, journals, or other resources. This service is essential for users conducting research or seeking detailed information on particular topics. The library has dedicated reading areas, providing a quiet and comfortable environment for users to read, study, or engage with library resources. These spaces are crucial for enhancing the library's function as a learning centre. The library offers reprography services, such as photocopying, allowing users to make copies of books, articles, or other materials. This service is particularly beneficial for students and researchers who need to duplicate specific content for study or research purposes. The library conducts orientation and outreach programs, which help familiarize new users with the library's services, collections, and policies. These programs also encourage community engagement and promote the library as an essential educational resource in the area. The library offers Current Awareness Services (CAS), which keep users informed about the latest developments in their areas of interest. This service may include updates on new arrivals, recent

publications, or upcoming events, ensuring that patrons stay up-to-date with relevant information. The library also provides Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) services, which involve offering personalized information to users based on their specific needs or interests. This service helps users stay informed about new materials, research findings, or publications that are most relevant to their academic or professional pursuits.

The library does not provide internet access, which is a notable limitation in today's digital age. Without internet facilities, users cannot access online resources, e-books, or other web-based information, limiting their research and learning opportunities.
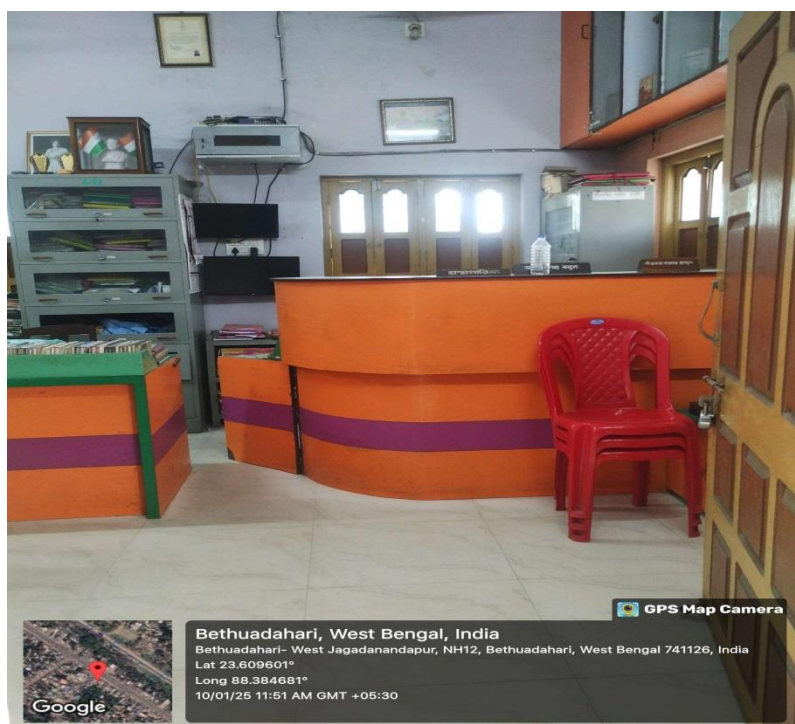

Image-4: Circulation Desk

Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar offers a comprehensive range of services, including circulation, reference, reprography, and various information dissemination services like CAS and SDI. However, the absence of internet access limits the efficiency of the library to provide modern digital resources. Expanding internet facilities and other technological upgrades could further enhance the services of the library and accessibility for its users.

Overall User Survey:

Gender wise distribution of respondents:

The data on gender distribution of respondents reflects the demographic breakdown of those who participated in the survey conducted at Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar. The gender-wise distribution is as follows:

Table-4: Gender wise distribution of respondents

Male	Female
79	21

The survey data shows a gender disparity, with a higher proportion of male respondents compared to female respondents. Further research or targeted outreach might be required to understand the reasons behind this disparity and to encourage greater female participation in library activities.

Age wise distribution of respondents:

The age-wise distribution of respondents provides insights into the demographic profile of library users at Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar. The data is as follows:

Table-5: Age wise distribution of respondents

10-25 Age Group	26-40 Age Group	41-55 Age Group	56-70 Age Group
55	38	07	00

The library appears to attract a younger demographic, with the majority of its users falling between the ages of 10 and 25. This highlights the importance of the library as an educational resource for students. The lower participation from older age groups may suggest potential areas for outreach to increase engagement from middle-aged and senior individuals. Further efforts could be made to promote library services to these age groups, perhaps through targeted programs or services tailored to their needs.

Education Level wise distribution of respondents:

The data on the education level of respondents provides a clearer understanding of the types of library users and their educational backgrounds at Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar. The distribution is as follows:

Table-6: Education level wise distribution of respondents

School Student	Graduate	Postgraduate	Research Scholar
63	35	02	00

The majority of library users are school students, followed by undergraduate students. However, the library has limited engagement with postgraduate students and no participation from research scholars. This may suggest that the library is more oriented toward supporting the educational needs of younger users and less equipped for the advanced research requirements of higher-level scholars. There may be potential for the library to expand its resources and services to cater to postgraduate and research-level users in the future.

User Satisfaction:

User satisfaction is a critical measure of how well the library meets the needs and expectations of its patrons. The data collected from the survey highlights the level of satisfaction regarding various aspects of the library such as infrastructure, resources, and services. Table-5 indicates an analysis of the user satisfaction data.

Table-7: User Satisfaction

Sl. No.	Infrastructure & Resources	Excellent	Good	Average	Not Satisfied	Not Known
1.	Overall Infrastructure	51	29	10	05	05
2.	Document Holdings	35	25	20	15	05
3.	Document Organization	33	12	16	32	07
4.	ICT Facility	22	09	19	44	06
5.	Cultural and Community Activities	55	23	15	05	02
6.	Staff Behaviour	57	33	05	02	03

Overall, the library receives positive feedback in several areas, such as infrastructure, cultural activities and staff behaviour, but there are notable concerns regarding document organization and ICT facilities. The high level of dissatisfaction with the ICT facilities and document organization suggests areas that require attention and improvement to meet the evolving needs of library users. The library emphasis on cultural and community engagement appears to be highly appreciated by its patrons.

Challenges and Areas for Improvement:

1. **Automation and Digitalization:** The lack of automation in cataloguing and management of resources is a significant challenge. Incorporating an automated library management system could streamline operations and improve efficiency. Additionally, the absence of internet access limits the ability of the library to offer digital resources, such as e-books and online journals. The integration of digital resources could enhance the overall services of the library.

2. **Funding and Resource Acquisition:** The financial resources of the library are limited, supported by a modest annual budget. As a private library, it relies entirely on mass

funding and membership fees for its operational expenses. Given the limited financial support, the library faces challenges in expanding its resources and enhancing its infrastructure. To address these constraints, the library could seek additional funding through local philanthropists, political leaders, business initiatives, grants, or partnerships with educational institutions. Such external support could significantly contribute to expanding the collection, improving its infrastructure, and introducing modern technology, ultimately enhancing its services and accessibility for the community.

3. **Multimedia Resources:** There is a lack of newspapers, CDs, DVDs, and maps. The inclusion of such multimedia resources could provide a more well-rounded educational experience for the community. Moreover, it would cater to various user preferences, especially for younger audiences who are more inclined toward digital media.

4. **Community Outreach:** While the library already conducts cultural activities, it could further expand its outreach programs to engage the local community. By offering workshops, book clubs, and other educational initiatives, the library could become an even more integral part of the community.

Conclusion:

Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar, a privately operated public library located in Bethuadahari, Nadia, has a rich history and serves a vital function within its community. With a collection of over twelve thousand books and dedicated staff, the library has managed to sustain its operations over the years. However, several areas for improvement, including the lack of internet access, automation, and multimedia resources, need to be addressed. In the age of digital information, it is essential for private libraries like Desh Bandhu Smriti Pathagar to modernize in order to remain relevant and continue serving the educational and cultural needs of their communities. By investing in technology, expanding its resources, and seeking additional financial support, the library can enhance its services and further its mission of fostering knowledge and cultural development in the region.

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