INTRODUCTION:

Education is one of the largest activities in the India. It is as important as any other resource for the nation’s economic and industrial development because it is the key to human resource development. This gains importance as an activity not merely because of the size of the people but more so because of institutionalized knowledge – the principal repository, producer, disseminator and transmission of all forms of knowledge. Knowledge explosion and information explosion have expanded the catchment areas of learning at such a rapid pace that any field becomes obsolete in less than a decade. Library supplements a great deal in achieving educational goal and serves as a gateway for academic world. Libraries in general play an important role in the socio-economic and educational development of the state. Library is a social institution, the development of the libraries led to the development of a state as well as the nation. The library and information science profession requires a systematic education to make them dedicated for the cause to serve the humanity for the all round development. Depending upon the prevailing educational system, the library science education has undergone changes since its beginning in the nineteenth century. Graduate, undergraduate and PG Programmes in library and information science are growing in size and scope.

The present programmes like Certificate, Diploma, Bachelor’s Degree, PG Diploma, Master’s Degree, M. Phil., Ph. D. are recognized by UGC. Many colleges and universities recognize the importance of this dynamic field and have invested significant new resources into these programs. Their shapes increasingly reflect the academic culture in which they exist. Library and information science has now become a recognized discipline of study like any other.

Gujarat state is remind to historical movement of LIS education, LIS education in India started in 1911, when the Baroda School was started by W.A. Borden due to the initiative taken by Sayaji Rao Gaikwad II, Maharaja of State of Baroda. Since then, India has not looked back and has been striding high in the ladder of LIS education. Today, nearly 100 Universities in India are running the LIS courses and imparting Certificate Course to M. Phil and PhD’s.
Currently eight state universities are given LIS education in Gujarat. These Universities are conducted Certificate, Diploma, Bachelor’s Degree, PG Diploma, Master’s Degree, M. Phil., Ph. D. programmes in LIS subject.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION:

Quality Education:

Quality education for all the students involves three very important components. One is the emergence and the nurturing of life skills, not in the sense of vocational skills, but in the sense of problem-solving skills, creative and critical thinking skills, self-directed learning skills in the students. The second is the imbibing of precious values like Truth, Idealism, Heroism, Perfection, Endless Progress etc.

The last component is the creation of a learning environment which enables the students to learn according to their learning needs and levels, and at their own pace. This component is the most essential for taking into effective consideration the first two components.

LIS Education:

Library and Information Science (LIS) education incorporates a field of professional education that provides the training to the future librarians to manage the libraries and information centers efficiently. The vision of LIS education includes teaching and research in the field of librarianship with a multidisciplinary focus on the issues of information access and equality. It is fundamentally a content centered discipline with information as its subject.
The basic goal of LIS education hence is to provide knowledge and skills needed for the LIS profession in the present age of information overload and the ever decreasing budgets of libraries. Keeping in view the changes taking place in the society, libraries have to sustain themselves with modern technologies of information transmission and communication. For providing effective services, the information professionals need to have knowledge and training in information technology applications and information handling procedures. As a result, the changes in the curriculum in LIS need to be carried out to keep pace with the advances in technology and communication phenomena. The field now encompasses information and knowledge creation, communication, identification, selection, acquisition, organization and description, storage and retrieval, preservation, analysis, interpretation, evaluation, synthesis, dissemination, and management. The library education is such that the library professionals must withstand the continuing and ever changing information requirements and demands of the users and come up as successful professionals.

Objectives of LIS education:

Library Science refers to “The professional knowledge and skill with which recorded information is selected, acquired, organized, stored, maintained, retrieved, and disseminated to meet the needs of a specific clientele, usually taught at a professional library school. . . .”

Information Science deals with “The systematic study and analysis of the sources, development, collection, organization, dissemination, evaluation, use, and management of information in all its forms, including the channels (formal and informal) and technology used in its communication.”

Level of LIS Education:

- Certificate in Library Science:
- Diploma in Library Science:
➢ Bachelor in Library and Information Science:
➢ Master in Library and Information Science:
➢ Post Graduation Diploma Courses in Library and Information Science:
➢ M. Phil. in Library and Information Science:
➢ Ph. D. in Library and Information Science:

**Area and Limitation of Study:**

As per title of the research work, the area of study is limited to LIS education of Gujarat state only.

So, LIS education provides by distance learning centers in Gujarat state will not be included in the study. The area of the study is limited to quality of LIS education.

Although there are over more than 100 universities and institutions offering library and information science course in India providing Certificate in Library science, Diploma in Library Science, Bachelor of Library and Information Science, Master of Library and Information Science, Post Graduation Diploma courses in Library and Information Science, M. Phil and Ph. D. the scope and coverage of the present study is limited to the following eight universities namely –

1. Gujarat University, Ahmedabad
2. Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad
3. Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan
4. Maharaja Krishnakumarsinhji Bhavnagar University, Bhavnagar
5. Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Baroda
6. Sardar Patel University, VV Nagar
7. Saurashtra University, Rajkot
8. Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat

Components of Education Quality:

- **Learning Resources**: Library, E-resources, Digital Library, Journals, E-database, E-books and Study Materials etc…
- **Human Resources**: Qualified Teaching Faculty, Staff -Student Ratio, Visiting Expert Faculty, Technical Staff, Administration and Support Staff etc…
- **Teaching Methods and Equipments**: Projector, Audio- Video facilities, Computer, OHP and High Technological Equipment etc…
- **Curriculum Development**: Latest Subject Selection, Yearly Refreshment and Editing according to Current Crazes etc…
- **Academic Activities**: Academic Tour, Workshop, Seminar, Project, Dissertation work and Training etc…
- **Scholarship and Administration Support**: Financial Support and Co-Operating Administration etc…
- **Infrastructure and Equipments**: Building, Computer Lab, Internet Connectivity, Transformation Facilities and Hostel etc…
- **Accreditation, Evaluation and Assessment**: However, the way Quality Assurance’s key components, Accreditation and Evaluation or Assessment, are defined has a great influence on its implementation and impact. Assessment is about language regarding the nature of teaching, learning, and appropriate inquiry and power regarding how higher education is organized and rewarded.
PROBLEM NARRATION AND JUSTIFICATION

A comprehensive study on the eight universities offering LIS courses in Gujarat have not yet been undertaken so far by any research scholar in library and information science. Besides library and information science education in the country have taken a sea change. Therefore in the changing information scenario, the scholar has made an attempt for a critical and in-depth study of library and information science education especially in Gujarat state which will be benefited by library and information science educators, practitioners and future perspective students desiring to enroll in library and information science. So, such a study is the need of the hour and thus prompted the researcher to take up this research problem.