

Determinants of Information Use Pattern in Higher Education

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Abstract – This paper aims at analyzing the determinants of information use pattern in higher educational institution. Information seeking behaviour has become one of the basic necessities of human life, especially in the modern informatics world. Everyone needs information for various purposes. In fact, almost all activities depend on information in the regional, national and international level. The role and impact of information seeking pattern occupy vital role in higher education. In fact, students of higher education use information to enrich knowledge in the field of their own interest. However, there are factors which determine the information use pattern in higher educational institutions. It is interesting to note that in Kanyakumari district of Tamilnadu all kind of educational facilities are available except law and veterinary science. People give more importance to higher education. Hence, an attempt has been made to discern the determinants of information use pattern in Kanyakumari district of Tamilnadu.

Keywords: Library Resource, Information Use Pattern, High Socio-Economic Background, Information Technology, Higher Education.

I. INTRODUCTION

Library is the most important and powerful organ of higher education. It disseminates knowledge and information which are the heart of education. It is the growing organism in terms of staff and books in accordance with the introduction of new courses and a number of facilities, and students. Every higher educational institution gives due importance to its growth and developments. Moreover, efforts are taken to maximize the use of library. Every higher educational institution gives due importance to its growth and developments. Moreover, efforts are taken to maximize the use of library. The success of education

depends on the quality of teachers and library resources. The best method of teaching is the encouragement and development of the habit of self-learning.

This is possible only through the medium of information use pattern, hours of library use, number of books read, number of visits for reference, in a day or week and the use of information technology. At the same time, the information use pattern varies from country to country, region to region, time to time and even user to user. This is because the number of factors which determine the information use pattern of students in different types of higher educational institutions.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Doraisamy Naick (2013) has observed that the information use pattern of students depend on their purpose of study. They need low standard books for examination purpose, medium standard books for respective subject improvement and standard books for research works. Moreover, the information seeking patterns are based on their requirements. Kannapanavar and Manjunatha stresse that information seeking and use pattern behavior of professionist is contributing much in the modern electronic and technological devices. Jeya Prakash et.al (2013) has analysed about information seeking behavior and use pattern of users in engineering colleges. The study concludes that information seeking behavior is motivated by a wide variety of factors, such as personal, professional, and entertainment. The successful operation of library depends greatly to the choice of library collection. It is also observed that lack of library facilities affect the preparation and use pattern of the students. Motivation and development of awareness, among them enhance library use pattern.

III. AIM AND METHODOLOGY

This paper focuses on the determinants of information use pattern in higher educational institutions in Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu. The study uses stratified random sampling with a view to analyse the information use pattern of students studying in different types and levels of higher education. Infact, on the basis of gender, 100 male and 100 female students, were selected. Further, on the basis of socio-economic background, 100 students belong to high socio-economic background and 100 students belong to low socio-economic background were selected for study. Moreover, on the basis of nature of course, 100 students were selected. And 100 graduates and 100 post graduates, were selected to examine the determinants of information use pattern with reference to the level of studies. For this purpose, the investigator visited different types of higher educational institutions to observe and interview the students personally in order to arrive at a meaningful conclusion about information use pattern.

IV. DETERMINANTS

The followings are the factors which determine the information use pattern in higher education.

1. Gender

Gender is the first characteristic by which the humans are classified into two-male and female. It determines the information use pattern in higher educational institutions. It is seen that out of the 100 male students, 27-31 percent respondents visit library for reading newspaper or consulting reference books. It is 48-59 per cent female respondents in arts and science colleges and 84-91 per cent males and 96 per cent females in engineering colleges. It shows that more number of female students use library resources than the number of male students. Thus, it can be concluded that gender is one of the determinants of information use pattern in educational institutions.

2. Socio-economic Background

The entire students population has been classified as students belonging to high socio-economic background and students belonging to low socio-economic background. Socio-economic background refers to respondents' parental education, nature of employment and type of occupation,

family tradition and income. It is discerned that out of 100 samples belong to high socio-economic background, 89 per cent use library resources where as it is 53.7 per cent in the case of samples belong to low socio-economic background. It reveals that socio-economic background of the respondents determines the information use pattern in the study area.

3. Nature of course

This study covers students studying various courses such as B.A., B.Sc., M.A., M.Sc., B.E. M.Ed., B.Tech., B.Sc (Nursing) and M.B.B.S. degree courses. The course they study also determines the information use pattern to a large extent in the study area. Out of the 100 respondents in arts and science course, 29-33 per cent visit library for information and books. It is 81-94 per cent in engineering course and 100 percent in medical course. It shows that type of course determines the information use pattern in higher educational institutions. This is because students studying medical and engineering courses depend more on library resources for study than that in arts and science students.

4. Level of study

Level of study is also another important factor which determines the information use pattern. In fact, the information use pattern is different from graduate to post graduate students. It is seen that the use of hours in library, use of resources and communication information technology depend on the level of studies. The study shows that out of each 100 graduate students in the different subject, 28 per cent in arts and science college, 83 per cent in engineering college and 8.92 per cent in medical college use library resources. But, it is 74-91 percent in arts and science college, 97 percent in engineering colleges and 100 per cent in medical college use library resources in the post graduate levels. It reveals that less number of respondents (28%) use library resources at graduate level where as it is higher (74-91%) at post graduate level. Thus, level of study also determines the information use pattern of students.

5. Quality of Library Staff

An attempt is made to examine whether the personality of library staff determine the information use pattern in higher educational institutions. The study shows that keeping path

finders, revising and publishing the upto date data catalogue, introducing the new arrivals and available communication information technology, helping the students to locate the required material, kindness, sympathy and helping attitude of the library staff maximize the use of library resources. Out of the 100 respondents 39 per cent are of the view that the personality of the library staff affects the information use pattern in higher educational institutions.

6. Library Resources

The level of information use pattern depends on the availability of library resources. It includes the availability of books, periodicals, computer with internet, newspaper, e-book, e-journals reprographic and current awareness service facilities available in a library. In fact, current publication, all types of newspapers, and journals, communication technology motivate the respondents for information use. Out of the total respondents 76 per cent accepted that the information use pattern depends on library resources and facilities available in educational institutions. There is a positive relationship between the availability of library resources and information use pattern.

7. Library Facilities

Library facilities such as seating arrangement, availability of space, and furniture, ventilations, lightening, tidiness, airing, separate reading room for male and females, library consultant, display of current arrivals, reference section and conducive environment influence the information use pattern to a large extent. About 92.8 per cent respondents studying in arts and science, medical and engineering colleges accepted that library infrastructural facilities determine the information use pattern in educational institutions. Thus, library facilities enhance the use pattern of students.

8. Library Hours

The effective information use pattern depends on library hours. It refers to the opening and closing time of library or working hours. It is very important to note that library should be kept opened at least before and after half an hour other than college working hours. Moreover, library hours should be reserved for one or two days in a week to use library. Among the total respondents 97 per cent accepted

that fixation of library working hours and reservation of hours in time table motivate them to utilize the library effectively. It is noted that higher the library working hours, more will be the utilization pattern of library of the students.

9. Quality of Faculty

The information use pattern is also influenced by the quality of faculties. It is seen that some faculties stick on particular book or study materials for preparations of the students from the examination point of view. This is not a healthy atmosphere for learning. In fact, the faculty should use the library and have the knowledge of current information and resources available so as to inform and encourage the students to make better use of library resources. About 68 per cent respondents are of the view that the attitude and motivation of faculties towards the library determines the information use pattern in higher educational institutions.

10. Encouraging self-learning

Self-learning is the best method of teaching and learning process. It not only saves the dependency of students on teachers but also develops reading habit and personality of them. The frequent provision of assignment and seminar work encourage self learning. This is possible through the effective use of library. In this regard, teachers' role is very important. They should encourage the student to depend on their own legs for acquiring knowledge and information seeking. It is seen that about 73 per cent respondents accepted that encouragement of self-learning induce them to utilize the library effectively. Thus, self learning process is one of the important determinants of information use pattern of the students.

11. Knowledge of Information Technology

Operational knowledge in technology is very essential to utilize the library effectively. In fact, most of the current information and knowledge can be accessible only through the medium of computer with internet facilities. Hence, every one needs operational knowledge in communicate information technology. Those who do not have knowledge in modern technology cannot utilize library effectively. It is discerned from the study that about 43 per cent respondents do not use library due to lack of knowledge in technology.

Such respondents visit library to read newspapers only. Thus, knowledge in information technology determines the information use pattern in higher educational institutions. There is a positive relationship between library information use pattern and knowledge of information technology of students.

12. Purpose of Visit

The effective information use pattern is largely determined by the purpose of visiting library. The purpose

of library visit differs from person to person. Infact, reading newspaper, books, consulting reference books, reviewing books and using internet determine the purpose of library visit. It determines information use pattern that is times of visit, and use of library resources. The study indicates that out of the total respondents 76 per cent students visit library for reading newspaper, in arts and science college, and 64 per cent use internet facilities in engineering college. Thus, the purpose of visit also determine the information use pattern in different types of higher educational institutions

TABLE I FACTORS DETERMINING INFORMATION USE PATTERN

| Sl.No. | Factors | No. of Variables | Reliability Co-efficient | Eigen Value | Per cent Variation | Cumulative Percentage |
|--------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Nature of course | 10 | 0.923 | 6.116 | 33.451 | 81.008 |
| 2 | Library resources | 7 | 0.817 | 5.428 | 29.274 | 74.159 |
| 3 | Purpose of visit | 5 | 0.804 | 4.103 | 20.119 | 69.502 |
| 4 | Library facilities | 5 | 0.791 | 3.174 | 17.521 | 61.270 |
| 5 | Library hours | 4 | 0.733 | 2.637 | 14.818 | 78.367 |
| 6 | Quality of library staff | 4 | 0.685 | 2.005 | 10.706 | 82.455 |
| 7 | Level of study | 4 | 0.616 | 1.689 | 8.343 | 66.317 |
| 8 | Quality of faculty | 4 | 0.600 | 1.527 | 6.079 | 60.208 |
| 9 | Self-learning | 3 | 0.543 | 1.406 | 5.286 | 51.200 |
| 10 | Information technology | 3 | 0.497 | 1.290 | 4.514 | 47.691 |
| 11 | Socio-economic status | 2 | 0.364 | 1.108 | 2.937 | 38.062 |
| 12 | Gender | 2 | 0.311 | 1.059 | 1.468 | 33.178 |

Source : Computed Data

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measures of samples Acurately = 0.561

Bartlett's Test of sphericity (Chi-square) = 39,813.447

Degree of freedom = 486

Significance = 0.000

The Eigen value for the first factor namely nature of course factor in 0.923 which reveals that this factor contains much higher information than all other factors. The percentage variation is 33.45 per cent. The nature of course motivates the respondents in information use pattern at the maximum level. The second and third factors namely library resources and purpose of visit, factors account for 29.274 and 20.119 per cent respectively. The fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth factors, namely library facilities, library hours quality of library staff, level of study, quality of faculties, self-learning,

information technology, socio-economic status and gender account for 17.521 percent, 14.818 per cent, 10.706 percent, 8.343 per cent, 6.079 percent, 5.286 per cent, 4.514 per cent, 2.937 percent and 1.468 per cent variance with Eigen value of 3.174, 2.637, 2.005, 1.689, 1.527, 1.406, 1.290, 1.108, 1.059 respectively. Thus, the study concludes that nature of course, library resources and purpose of visit are very important determinants of information use pattern.

V. CONCLUSION

The study concludes that, gender, socio-economic background, nature of course, level of study, quality of library staff, strength of library resources, library facilities, library hours, quality of faculty, encouragement of self-learning, knowledge in information technology and purpose of visit play important role in determining information use pattern of students in higher educational institutions. Therefore, the

study suggests that library should be upto dated with current resources in terms of books, periodicals and electronic devices. There should be well qualified, experienced and dedicated staffs to make use of library resources effectively. He has to display the current materials available. Moreover, there should be a conducive atmosphere such as adequate furnitures, ventilation, lightening and separate reading room for male and female students. The institutional library should be kept open at least half an hour before and after the working hours. Moreover, library hours should be fixed and reserved for one or two hours in a week to the students to utilize the library resources effectively. The faculties should advise the students to utilize the library resources for keeping themselves with up to date knowledge and information. Moreover, they should encourage and develop the self-learning habit to move teaching learning process effective. Training should be given to students to handle the information technology. The authorities of institutions should upgrade the circulation and all other section of libraries. The practice of these suggestions can help the students to make use of library in a better way.

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