

Information Seeking Behaviour of Post Graduate Students of Government Science College, Bangalore: A Study

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Abstract - This Study was designed to examine information seeking behaviour of PG Students at Government Science College Library, Bangalore. The study intended with an aim to explore the information usage among PG students. Closed ended questionnaire was used to collect the data from respondents. A total of 200 samples out of 319 students. Among the 200 hundred questionnaires distributed, 127 were completely answered and returned. The findings of this study revealed the information needs of PG students in Government Science College. The majority of students who are visiting library are females; also, the majority of the PG students are visiting library once in a week. The main purpose of the visit to the library is for accessing exam related information for their study.

Keywords: Information Seeking Behaviour; PG Students; Government Science College

I. INTRODUCTION

The remarkable improvement in the academic libraries in India is due to the sustained financial support of the UGC. The library being the nerve center of the academic institutions renders effective service to university and all its activities, including teaching, learning and research. Realizing the worth of the library and its part in the higher education, the UGC accepted the recommendations of the several committees and directives to improve the library services in universities and college libraries.

The Government Science College was established as an intermediate college by the visionary Maharaja (King) of Mysore, his highness Sri Nalvadi Krishna raja Wodeyar on 1st April, 1921. Today, GSC finds it pride in the Annals of higher education as one of the pioneer institutions in providing quality Higher education in Karnataka. The institution has taken giant strides to meet the requirements of the academic scenario by offering UG and PG science courses. GSC offers 22 UG and 7 PG combinations of science subjects ranging from basic science to advanced courses. Government Science College is the only Government College in the state to have achieved the coveted status of A+ grade with CGPA 3.54 in the 3rd cycle of NAAC in 2016. The college has also been conferred with CPE status for the 2nd cycle in succession.

A. The Knowledge Centre of Government Science College

The library of Government Science College is one of the oldest libraries in the city with majestic edifice and is a treasure trove of knowledge, housing 78000 books 47 International and National Journals, 72 technical magazines etc., The library strives to provide access to latest information in various domains of the science subjects, helping students and faculty to enhance their knowledge.

II. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

To provide better services, quality information, and improve collection development practices, it is essential to find the information seeking behaviour of the library users. There was no such study made previously on information needs and seeking behaviour of PG Students at Government Science College, Bangalore. This study is intended to understand the pattern of information use and library resources of Postgraduate science students.

III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Some of the significant studies that were conducted previously relevant to the Post Graduate students. Ahmed Khan & others (2011) conducted a study on Usage of ICT by the Education students at Islamia University in Bahawalpur, Pakistan (IUB) and found that "A large number of the respondents reported that they utilize ICT at their departmental computer lab. Significant number of the respondents mentioned that they use internet daily and mostly for study purpose". Williams Nwagwu (2012) tried to trace out the variances "in information tasks as well as the pattern and used characteristics of information sources by postgraduate students in arts and engineering faculties in Nigeria's premier university, the University of Ibadan.

Altaf Shaik (2013) investigated the internet usage of B.Ed students at Pune University. The study used questionnaire as data collection tool. The findings show that 66% of the respondent's access internet at home, followed by 30% at college computer lab. They used the Internet for a variety of purposes which include for communication (90.6%), doing

class assignments (43.5%), to update knowledge (32.9%) and to supplement lecture notes (27%)”.

Aondoana Daniel Orlu (2016) in his study explores the “appreciating information seeking behaviour of postgraduate students concluded linking the dynamics of information seeking to emotions and behaviour. This research is an in-depth empirical research on emotions and behaviour among Master's students at Manchester metropolitan university. Emotions and behaviour also have a direct or indirect effect on the style of learning that students use”.

IV. OBJECTIVES

Some of the objectives of the study are:

1. To identify the frequency and purpose of visiting the library
2. To know the time spent in the library to obtain information
3. To find out the use of social media
4. To identify the challenges and barriers of information seeking by the PG students

V. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This study is only limited to PG students of Government Science College, Bangalore, Karnataka. This survey is conducted to provide better services, offer quality information, and intended to improve collection development.

VI. METHODOLOGY

The survey research pattern was used for this study. The population consisting of students who are admitted to Post Graduate Degrees in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Microbiology, Biotechnology, Botany and Zoology at Government Science College, Bangalore were selected for the present study. The data has been collected with the help of structured questionnaires. The questionnaire is distributed personally to the students to collect relevant data. Investigators received a response from 127 respondents. Efforts were made by the author to obtain reliable information from the respondents. The number of questionnaires distributed and responses received are presented in the following tables.

VII. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

This study discusses post-graduate student’s information needs and seeking behaviour at Government Science College, Bangalore. This study is intended to understand the seeking behaviour, pattern of information use, library services and resources of Post Graduate science students.

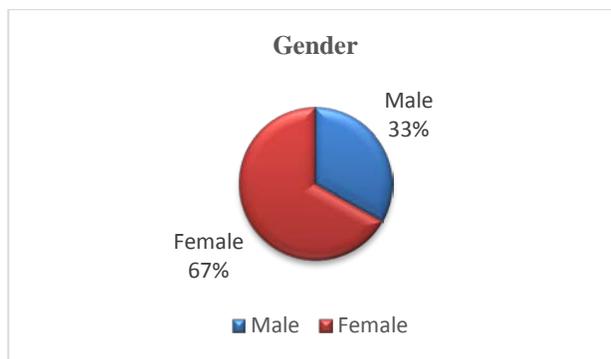


Fig.1 Gender wise distribution

Fig.1 shows the gender wise distribution of respondents of the study. It is clear that mainstream 85 (67%) of the respondents are female group and rest 42 (33%) are male. It is clear that majority of the Post Graduates in the study are female students.

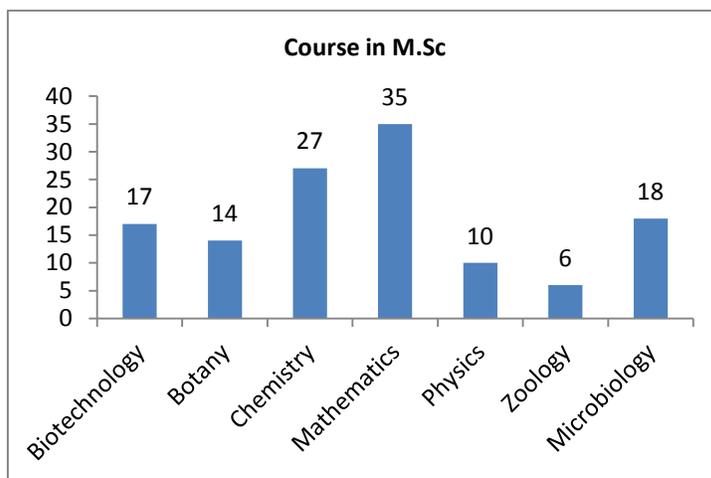


Fig.2 Courses wise distribution

Fig.2 refers the following PG courses are offered by the college in different combinations. Mathematics students are responded 35%, Chemistry 27 % followed by Microbiology 18%, Biotechnology 17% and Botany 14%, Physics 10% and very least respondents are Zoology.

TABLE I FREQUENCY

Sl.No.	Frequency	Percentage
1	Daily	20 (16%)
2	3 or 4 times a week	39 (31%)
3	Once in a week	43 (34%)
4	Rarely	25 (19%)
Total		100 %

Table I shows the frequency of visit to the college library by the Post Graduate students. The data from the above table clearly depicts that the majority of the respondents 43 (34%) visit the library once in a week, the reason behind this is that the Science students are normally busy with their theory as

well as practical classes and hence they hardly find any time in a week. The frequency of their visit is by 3 or 4 times a week by 39(31%), daily by 20 (16%)and totally among PG students Rarely 25 (19%) are visiting library.

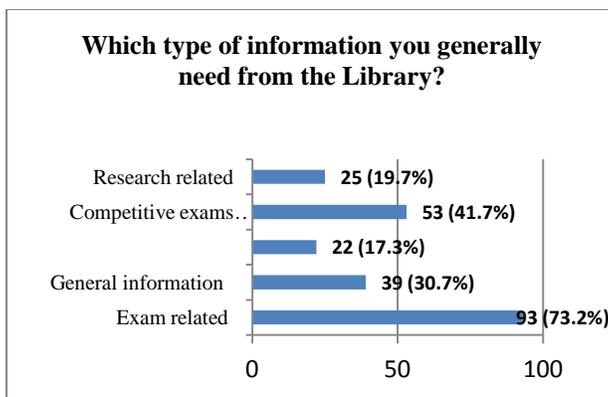


Fig.3 Type of information

Fig.3 shows the data relating to type of information needs for Post Graduate Science Students. Majority 93 (73.2%) of the respondents opined that they need exam related information for preparing for their academic exams,

followed by 53 (41.7%) competitive exam related information, for general information 39 (30.7%) and research related 22 (17.3%).

TABLE II PURPOSE OF VISITING THE LIBRARY

Sl.No.	Purpose	Percentage
1	Reading news papers	43 (33.9%)
2	Reading books to improve G. K	58 (45.7%)
3	Obtaining books for personal study	16 (12.5%)
4	Relaxation	10 (7.9%)
Total		100 %

Table II describes the data connecting to purpose of visiting to the library by the Post graduates. Majority 58 (45.7 %) of the respondents opined that their visit to the library is for reading books to improve general knowledge, followed by

43 (33.9%) for Reading News Papers, 16 (12.5%) for Obtaining books for private study. For relaxing purpose 10 (7.9%).

TABLE III ICT SERVICES

Sl.No.	ICT Services	Yes	No	Total	Percentage
1	Do you expect from the Library to provide e-mail-based reference or information service?	114	13	127	100%
2	Do you think the Library should have a Face book, Twitter or WhatsApp based services	52	75	127	100%

Table III the current study examines the use of the internet by the postgraduate students to gathering information, for exam preparation, assignments writing and seminar purposes. From the above table the responses reveal that all the students 114 (89.76) opined that they expect E-mail based reference services and about only 13 (10.24%)

readers expressed their opinion about not having any internet-based e-mail or reference services.

Majority of students 52 (40.94%) responded on social media-based services is being expected and about 75 (59.06%) responded that they are least interested in either of the social media-based services.

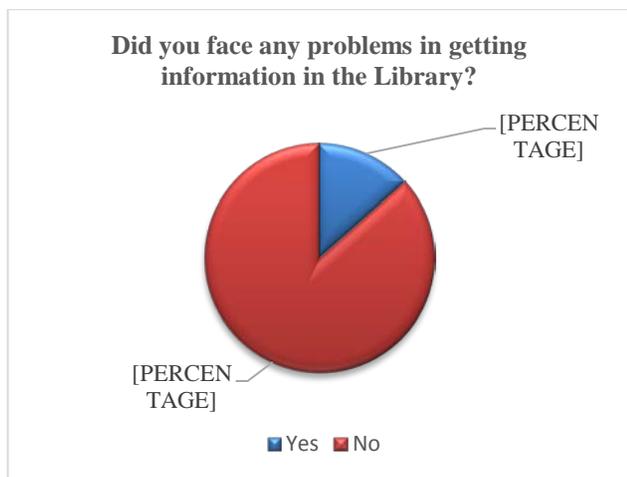


Fig.4 Challenges and barriers of seeking information

When respondents faced problems while seeking the information in the library, one question was asked. Analyzing the responses presented in the above table, it shows that majority of the respondents 110 (78.74%) opined that required material is available in their library followed by 17 (13.38%) opined that they are facing problems to get the relevant information from the library.

TABLE IV TYPES OF PROBLEMS FACED

Sl.No.	Problems	Total	Percentage
1	Inadequate books	120	94.4 %
2	Lack of information retrieval tools	3	2.3%
3	Ignorance of finding information	4	3.14%
4	Lack of co-operation among library staff	0	0%
5	Any other	0	0%
Total			100.00

To know the problems faced by the respondents in seeking the information in the library, one question was asked. The responses are mentioned accordingly in the above table. It shows that majority of the respondents 120 (94.4%) opined the inadequacy books in the library followed by 4 (3.14%) opined the ignorance of finding books or information and about 3 (2.3%) lack of information retrieval tools.

Fig.5 represents the current library services. Majority 77 (60%) respondents have opined that the library services are good followed by 39 (31%) rated excellent and about 11(9%) opined that the library services are just ok, none of the student quoted the library services as not good.

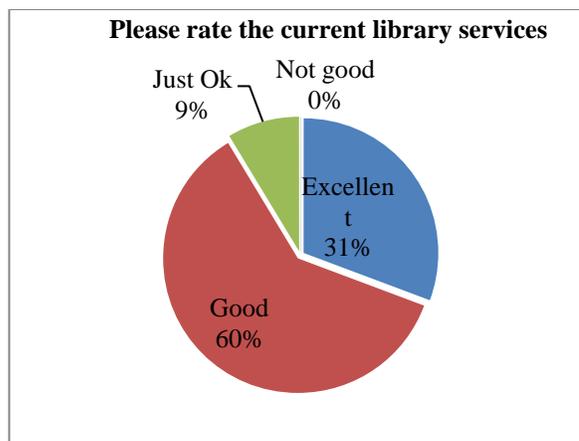


Fig.5 Current library services

VIII. FINDINGS

The study found that majority of the post graduate students visiting the college library once in a week and female students are the majority to visit the library. The main purposes of the visit for the majority of the respondents is for accessing exam related books and also for reading books to improve their general knowledge. We have found from an observation that the students often prevail a busy college schedule and hence find least time for visiting library. Information and Communication usage among science PG students is very good and they now expressed that the On-line services are required for them to cope with their busy schedule. Participants in this study express the required material availability in the library but the major obstacle as of now is to seek information in the college library by on-line services.

IX. RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of this study, the following suggestions and recommendations have been made to improve the use of Library and information services and facilities efficiently.

1. Library has to conduct Orientation programs for students and instructors in certain intervals to promote effective utilization of library resources and services.
2. Library authority should concentrate on collection development program at the College Library. Students need must be procured on priority basis.
3. Periodic Quiz, essay competitions, book review and presenting best library user award etc. may attract more users towards the library.
4. The list of websites which are useful to the students should be displayed on the computer lab.
5. Online Services should be given to PG students
6. Library staff should always pre-requisite access to the correct information requirements and to obtain students' needs.

X. CONCLUSION

The outcomes of this study exposed that students use the library to update their knowledge which is a significant aspect; as they are the future teachers, this attitude may play a key role in the class room teaching and learning. Respondents also preferred both printed and electronic form of information for their academic purpose. This shows the importance of electronic information to support their academic work.

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