Information Use Pattern of Faculty of Pharmacy Colleges in Chennai: A Study

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Abstract – **This study investigated information use pattern of Faculty of Pharmacy colleges in Chennai. This study is based on survey method through questionnaire. Respondents were collected from nine pharmacy colleges, in Chennai. A total of 180 questionnaires were distributed and out of which 120 responded. It is concluded that advanced training for faculties at different levels should be started. The pharmacy educational institutions should provide new innovative document delivery services and better facilities to satisfy the needs of their pharmacy faculties in the electronic environment.**

Keywords: **Information Use Pattern, Pharmacy Colleges**

I. INTRODUCTION

The human need for information is boundless and endless. People need information for different purposes and objectives. They need information for making decisions, career development, conducting research, gaining more knowledge, confirming or refuting issues, and the list goes on. Thus, satisfying information needs plays a vital role in shaping human thinking, attitudes, behaviors, communications, and teaching process. Pharmacy is an important part of paramedical sciences. Pharmacy is the health profession that links the health sciences with the chemical sciences, and it is charged with ensuring the safe and effective use of medication. The libraries are responsible for providing knowledge and information sources to the students, faculties, administrators and staff of the academic institutions they collect a variety of materials to support teaching, research and learning activities.

II. SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following objectives are formed for this study.

1. To identify the designation-wise, and gender-wise of the respondents.

2. To identify the sources of information used by the respondents.

3. To find out the Information requirements of the respondents.

4. To the frequency library visit and time spend in library by the respondents.

5. To analyse the problems faced by the faculty of pharmacy.

III. METHODOLOGY

This study is based on Survey Method through questionnaire. Respondents were collected from nine pharmacy colleges, in Chennai. A total of 180 questionnaires were distributed and out of which 120 responded.

IV. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The development of pharmacy education in Chennai is evident from the fact that the state has 9 pharmacy colleges in Chennai. In Chennai one Government Pharmacy College, and six private Pharmacy colleges affiliated to the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University; and two deemed universities namely Sri Ramachandra Medical University, and Vel's University in Chennai.

The data in Table I presents, C.L. Baid Mehta College of Pharmacy, established in the year of 1984, followed by Madras Medical College 1988, K.K. College and Vel's College of Pharmacy 1992, and Sri Ramachandra University, and Maharaj College of Pharmacy 1993, Annai Vellankanni College of Pharmacy established in the year1995, and Mohammed Sathak College year of established 1998.

C.L. Baid Mehta college of pharmacy was established in the year of 1984. It is one of the old private pharmacy colleges affiliated to the Dr.M.G.R. Medical University. It is cleared from the analysis that C.L Baid Mehta College has responded more (17.5%), and followed by Vel's University (14.3%), and Sri Ramachandra University (13.3%).

The Table II shows that out of 120 respondents, 28 belong to Pharmaceutics followed by Pharmaceutical Bio Technology (11), Pharmaceutical Chemistry (29), Pharmacy practice (9), Pharmacognosy (12), Faculty of Photo Pharmacy & Phyto Medicine (5), Pharmacology (16), and Pharmaceutical analysis (10). The highest respondents belong to Pharmaceutical Chemistry (29), and second one is Pharmaceutics (28), and third rank goes to Pharmacology (16).

TABLE I LIST OF PHARMACY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN CHENNAI AND RESPONSES RECEIVED

S.No.	Name of the College / University and Year of Estd.	Total No. of Questionnaires Distributed	Total No. of Questionnaires Responded	Percentage
1	Annai Veilankanni College of Pharmacy, 1995	15	9	7.5
2	C.L.Baid Mehta College of Pharmacy,1984	25	21	17.5
3	Jaya College of Pharmacy,2005	20	10	8.3
4	K.k.college of Pharmacy. 1992	20	10	8.3
5	Madras Medical College of Pharmacy,1988	25	13	10.8
6	Maharaji College of Pharmacy,1993	15	12	10.0
7	Mohammed Sathak College of Pharmacy, 1998	15	12	10.0
8	Sri Ramachandra Medical University (Deemed) 1993	25	16	13.3
9	Vel's University (Deemed) 1992	20	17	14.3
	Total	180	120	100.0

TABLE II DEPARTMENTS WISE DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS

S.No.	Departments	Asst. Professor n= 81	Associate Professor n = 15	Professor n= 24	Total (n=120)	Rank
1	Pharmaceutics	19 23.5%	2 13.3%	7 29.2%	28	2
2	Pharmaceutical Bio Technology	7 8.6%	3 20.0%	1 4.2%	11	5
3	Pharmaceutical Chemistry	15 18.5%	3 20.0%	11 45.8%	29	1
4	Pharmacy Practise	6 7.4%	3 20.0%	0 .0%	9	7
5	Pharmacognosy	11 13.6%	0 .0%	1 4.2%	12	4
6	Fac. of phyto pharmacy&phyt omedicine	2 2.5%	1 6.7%	2 8.3%	5	8
7	Pharmacology	13 16.0%	2 13.3%	1 4.2%	16	3
8	Pharmaceutical Analysis	8 9.9%	1 6.7%	1 4.2%	10	6
	Total	81	15	24	120	

TABLE III SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED BY THE RESPONDENTS

S.No.	Sources of Information	Asst. Professors n= 81	Associate Professors n = 15	Professors n= 24	Total (n=120)	Rank
1	Discussion with colleague	26 32.1%	4 26.7%	8 33.3%	38	5
2	Consult a knowledgeable person in the field	31 38.3%	3 20.0%	9 37.5%	43	4
3	Consult Supervisor	4 4.9%	1 6.7%	1 4.2%	6	13
4	Discussion with librarian	8 9.9%	0 .0%	5 20.8%	13	10
5	Review Journals	6 7.4%	2 13.3%	1 4.2%	9	12
6	Abstracting Journals	27 33.3%	3 20.0%	14 58.3%	44	3
7	Indexing journals	19 23.5%	4 26.7%	3 12.5%	26	6
8	Library catalogues	13 16.0%	2 13.3%	6 25.0%	21	8
9	Textbooks	8 9.9%	3 20.0%	2 8.3%	13	10
10	Thesis/dissertations	39 48.1%	4 26.7%	6 25.0%	49	2
11	E-Resources/Journal Books	12 14.8%	1 6.7%	4 16.7%	17	9
12	Web Resources	36 44.4%	5 33.3%	12 50.0%	53	1
13	Reference Sources	32 39.5%	5 33.3%	7 29.2%	44	3
14	Technical Reports	15 18.5%	3 20.0%	4 16.7%	22	7
15	Primary Journals	3 3.7%	1 6.7%	1 4.2%	5	14
16	Conference Proceedings	9 11.1%	0 .0%	3 12.5%	12	11

The Table III shows thatthe respondent's opinions on the sources of information in Web resources. Nearly half of the respondents have positive opinion (53), followed by thesis/dissertation (49) respondents, reference sources, and abstracting journal. Fourth rank goes to consult knowledgeable person in the field (43), and Fifth rank goes to discussion with colleague (38). From the table it is found that majority of respondents have positive opinions in web resources, thesis/dissertation abstracting journals, and consult knowledgeable person in the field.

The Table IV indicates that more than 1/3 of the respondents visiting the library 'almost every day'(49), followed by 'once in a week' (34) and 'more than once in a week' (21), ' occasionally" visited the library (8), 'once in a fortnight' (5), 'once in a month' (3) to get relevant sources and to update their knowledge. It is found that more than half of the respondents have an habit of visiting the library every day. On the other hand meager percent of respondents (1.2%) visit the library once a fortnight.

TABLE IV FREQUENCY OF LIBRARY VISITS

S.No.	Frequency	Asst. Professor n= 81	Associate Professor n = 15	Professor n= 24	Total (n=120)	Rank
1	Almost every day	33 40.7%	5 33.3%	11 45.8%	49	1
2	Once in a week	26 32.1%	4 26.7%	4 16.7%	34	2
3	More than once in a week	14 17.3%	2 13.3%	5 20.8%	21	3
4	Once in a fortnight	1 1.2%	3 20.0%	1 4.2%	5	5
5	Once in a month	3 3.7%	0 .0%	0 .0%	3	6
6	Occasionally	4 4.9%	1 6.7%	3 12.5%	8	4
	Total	81	15	24	120	

TABLE V TIME SPENT IN LIBRARY BY THE RESPONDENTS

S.No.	Frequency	Asst. Professors n= 81	Associate Professors n = 15	Professors n= 24	Total (n=120)	Rank
1	more than 20hrs per week	5 6.2%	1 6.7%	2 8.3%	8	6
2	Between 16 and 20 hrs	5 6.2%	2 13.3%	2 8.3%	9	5
3	Between 11 and 15 hrs	11 13.6%	3 20%	3 12.5%	17	4
4	Between 7 and 10 hrs	15 18.5%	3 20.0%	6 25.0%	24	2
5	Between 4 and 6 hrs	30 37.0%	4 26.7%	8 33.3%	42	1
6	less than 4 hrs	15 18.5%	2 13.3%	3 12.5%	20	3
	Total	81	15	24	120	

The Table V presents that nearly 1/3 of respondents (42) stated that they use the library 4 to 6 hours, followed by 7 to 10 hours (24), less than 4 hrs (20) and 11 to 15 hrs (17), and 16 to20 hrs (9), and more than 20 hrs per week (8). Meager percent (6.7%) of respondents have visiting more than 20 hrs per week. It is found that more than 1/3 respondents are visiting library 4 to 6hrs and 7 to 10 hrs. The other respondents visit on different periods such as less than 4 hrs, 11 to 15 hrs, and more than 20 hrs per week.

The Table VI presents the respondents opinion on use of the services in three point scale. Most of the respondents (75) utilizing journals/periodical circulation services followed by selective disseminations of information (65), abstracting and indexing services (64), current awareness services having (59), and reference service (57). It is found that the field of pharmacy faculties update their knowledge through journals / periodical, selective disseminations of information, abstracting and indexing service, and current awareness, and reference services.

TABLE VI TIME SPENT IN LIBRARY BY THE RESPONDENTS

S.No.	Use of Services	Asst. Professor n= 81			Associate Professor n = 15			Professors n= 24			Total %
		M	S	C	M	S	C	M	S	C	
1	Loan Of Books	35 43.2%	28 34.6%	18 22.2%	6 40.0%	5 33.3%	4 26.7%	6 25.0%	13 54.2%	5 20.8%	120 100
2	Reference Services	11 13.6%	36 44.4%	34 42.0%	4 26.7%	3 20.0%	8 53.3%	0 .0%	18 75.0%	6 25.0%	120 100
3	Bibliographical Service	14 17.3%	33 40.7%	34 42.0%	3 20.0%	5 33.3%	7 46.7%	4 16.7%	16 66.7%	4 16.7%	120 100
4	Current Awareness Services	9 11.1%	39 48.1%	33 40.7%	2 13.3%	5 33.3%	8 53.3%	1 4.2%	15 62.5%	8 33.3%	120 100
5	Selective Dissemination Of Information	21 25.9%	45 55.6%	15 18.5%	3 20.0%	8 53.3%	4 26.7%	4 16.7%	12 50.0%	8 33.3%	120 100
6	Interlib Loan	35 43.2%	31 38.3%	15 18.5%	6 40.0%	4 26.7%	5 33.3%	8 33.3%	12 50.0%	4 16.7%	120 100
7	Repographic Service	35 43.2%	32 39.5%	14 17.3%	3 20.0%	6 40.0%	6 40.0%	6 25.0%	13 54.2%	5 20.8%	120 100
8	Cd-Rom Database Service	21 25.9%	30 37.0%	30 37.0%	1 6.7%	11 73.3%	3 20.0%	5 20.8%	10 41.7%	9 37.5%	120 100
9	Journals/Periodical Circulation	8 9.9%	15 18.5%	58 71.6%	1 6.7%	8 53.3%	6 40.0%	3 12.5%	10 41.7%	11 45.8%	120 100
10	Abstracting And Indexing Service	6 7.4%	27 33.3%	48 59.3%	2 13.3%	6 40.0%	7 46.7%	3 12.5%	12 50.0%	9 37.5%	120 100
11	E-Resource Access	13 16.0%	26 32.1%	42 51.9%	3 20.0%	8 53.3%	4 26.7%	5 20.8%	9 37.5%	10 41.7%	120 100

M= Marginally   S= Substantially   C = Completely

TABLE VII PROBLEMS FACED BY THE FACULTY OF PHARMACY

S.No.	Problems	Asst. Professor n= 81	Associate Professor n=15	Professor n=24	Total (n=120)	Rank
1	Materials Not Available	32 39.5%	5 33.3%	10 41.7%	47	1
2	Library Staff Are Unwilling	2 2.5%	1 6.7%	2 8.3%	5	10
3	Incomplete Info Materials	11 13.6%	2 13.3%	1 4.2%	14	6
4	Information Sources Are Not Located	5 6.2%	2 13.3%	-	7	8
5	Lack of Time	27 33.3%	2 13.3%	8 33.3%	37	3
6	Do Not Know How To Use Catalogue	1 1.2%	-	-	1	11
7	Lack Of Knowledge In Using Library Resources	3 3.7%	1 6.7%	2 8.3%	6	9
8	Information Scattered In Too Many Sources	16 19.8%	-	9 37.5%	25	4
9	Information Is Too Vast	7 8.6%	-	1 4.2%	8	7
10	Some Of Information Materials Are Old And Outdated	29 35.8%	5 33.3%	4 16.7%	38	2
11	Accessibility Problem	14 17.3%	1 6.7%	-	15	5

The problems they face while seeking information has been analyzed and the results are shown in Table VII. About 11 problems are being faced by the respondents and based on the frequency rate the first five ranked problems are given below.

1. Materials not available (47 respondents).

2. Some of Information materials are old and out dated (38 respondents).

3. Lack of time (37 respondents).

4. Information scattered in too many sources (25 respondents).

5. Accessibility problems (15 respondents).

V. Conclusion

The choice of the library collection should meet the need and requirements of the end users. It is recommended that library staff or reference librarians should help faculties to improve their use of Information pattern and find the resources what they are in need. It is suggested that advanced training for faculties at different levels should be given. Content of training programs should be in basic library services, and facilities, method and tools for searching information resources, using the Internet, using online and CD-ROM database, electronic journals and audio/video materials. It is recommended that the pharmacy educational institution's libraries, and infrastructure in term of collections, e-resources, and services, online and services, internet facilities are need to be strengthened. It is suggested that pharmacy educational institutions in Chennai should provide new innovative document delivery services and better facilities to satisfy the needs of their pharmacy faculties in the electronic environment.

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