

# A Study on Resources and Services in the Nursing College Libraries at Bangalore City, Karnataka

M. Aravinthan<sup>1</sup> and G. Venkatesh<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor, Library and Information Science Wing, Directorate of Distance Education, Annamalai University, Annamalaiagar - 608 002, Tamil Nadu, India

<sup>2</sup>Ph.D. Research Scholar, Dept. of Library and Information Science, Annamalai University, Annamalaiagar - 608 002, Tamil Nadu, India.

Email:maravinthan59@yahoo.com

(Received on 20 March 2013 and accepted on 19 July 2013)

**Abstract** - Education is the transmission of civilization. Well educated and skilled people are key to creating, sharing and disseminating knowledge effectively. It is as old as the history of mankind. It forms the basis for the development and progress of individual and human society. Importance of human resources and the role of education in development has been well recognized. Education is considered as critical input for economic and social development. It is an instrument to imparting knowledge and training to people leading to their empowerment. Majority of the library users are satisfied with the availability of textbooks and magazines followed by periodicals and general books. Inadequacy of electronic resources was stated by some users. The number of multiple copies is not enough. There should be more books by Indian authors. The users of the library were asked to indicate how they find required reading material and books. Majority of the users said it is by browsing through the shelves. Some said they consult the library staff and seek their help in finding books. Some students admitted that they take help from their class fellows. A few users said that they use catalogue to locate books. This infers that the methods followed by the students to find the required books in the libraries vary. Majority of the students who use the library stated that catalogue is not up-to-date. A high percentage of library users follow the method of browsing and checking the racks and consulting the library staff.

**Keywords:** Medical Science, Internet, Search Engines, e-journal, Medical Data Bases, User education, File Transfer Protocol

## I. INTRODUCTION

Rapid social and economic growth in countries of the world has resulted in an increase both in the number of

elderly people who are prone to degenerative and chronic diseases, and new patterns of illnesses that are brought on by social and economic factors such as occupational hazards, accidents, and environmental poisonings caused by air pollution, noise and contaminated water. Communities are struggling with a large number of people across the lifespan, who receive minimal or no health care because they cannot afford or access services. Moreover, public concerns regarding quality, cost, access and fragmentation of health care have contributed to a shift in care from the more traditional acute care settings to the community. This has led to changes in nursing practice.

Nurses have always cared for individuals, families and communities in their practice. Recently, there has been an increase in the number of nurses working outside the hospital, primarily in community-based settings that focus on individuals and families. There is also increasing emphasis on community-focused nursing care with the community as the client.

The population of ageing and chronically ill patients is increasing, and, coupled with the complex social conditions of today, has led to illhealth, which increases hospital care expenses. Professional health services are not capable of meeting the ever-increasing demands of health care in this changing health culture. Evidence suggests that increasing attention to healthy lifestyles and healthy behaviours prevents health problems and reduces health risk and threats. Strengthening the community health-care system based on primary health care is thus the focus of health-care reform. Practically and preferably, professional nursing services

focusing on providing health care and services to the entire community is an ideal solution to meeting the demands of community health care.

Confronted with changing health-care systems and needs, nursing educators must now visualize nursing and nursing education from a different perspective. Students must be prepared to meet the needs of populations rather than institutions. They must form new partnerships in the community if they are to be prepared for health care in the next century, giving health back to the home and community. In many nursing programmes, educators have tried to adjust to this change by increasing the amount of time that nursing students have to spend in the community. Some nursing programmes have modified the course design of community health nursing education in the baccalaureate curriculum. The focus of teaching of such diverse course designs ranges from individuals, to families, to groups and populations.

As we move forward toward to ensure that knowledgeable and capable nurses work in the community health-care system, we must make efforts to strive for solutions to many tough questions in advancing nursing education. What are the functions and areas of work of community health nursing in our community health-care system? How do educator's best illustrate community health nursing functions and areas of work as learning phenomena for students? How can students be effectively educated to perform community health nursing functions competently? What are the settings in which good practices/best practices in community health nursing are implemented? How do workers develop such good practices/ best practices? What will be the mainstream knowledge that forms the basis of practice in community health nursing? How do educators develop such essential knowledge to ground education in community health nursing?

When stating about nursing as a profession, one always gets the picture of Florence Nightingale, the pioneer of nursing profession. She was born to English parents on May 12, 1820 in Florence, Italy. She was entitled 'Lady of the lamp'. Her work is well known and well recognized worldwide.

She had got the opportunity of receiving good (best) education and also traveled throughout Europe and could make good contacts which really helped her to achieve the "mission" in her life. She came across individuals who were concerned with the reforms of social institutions such as prisons and hospitals. In 1853, she spent three months in Kaiserswerth, Germany. In the same year she was appointed as Superintendent of Institution for the care of sick - gentle women in London.

In 1854, during the Crimean war, when women nurses were considered to be revolutionary, Florence Nightingale demonstrated quality nursing care along with 38 other nurses. After her extensive service at the Crimean war, efforts of Florence resulted in the appointment of the Royal Commission on the health of the Army. As one of the consequence, The Army Medical School was founded in 1857.

During her lifetime, her work and devotion enlightened the whole society. She was the founder of Nightingale School for nurses, the first ever of its kind. In 1907, she was conferred "The Order of Merit" by the King.

## II. NURSING PROFESSION IN INDIA

On 15th August 1947 India became independent and self governmentation. Social changes were taking place rapidly but an alarming absence of public health and sanitary measures continued. The ratio of nurse to patient remained dangerously low. The opening of nursing schools associated with college gave nursing profession a higher social and economic status, than it had previously known. The formation of many commission and committees, establishment of INC and tremendous work of TNAI brought about change in nursing education post independence.

## III. LITERATURE SURVEY

To get the background information about the topic of this study and to start the work properly, it is important to scan the available literature on the topic. This process continued throughout this work. In reviewing the literature, general to specific approach was used. The review was done from the primary, secondary and tertiary sources of information. Some books were also consulted to have the clear idea about the scope of the topic under study. Literature survey

was conducted for finding the general information about the nursing colleges and their libraries. It was started from 1970 onwards to find what literature is available and what research work has been done on this aspect. For this purpose, Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA), University News, Guide to Indian Periodical Literature and some other important journals in library science were consulted. Articles and books were consulted related to technical education. After getting the basic idea about the type of information to be collected, two questionnaires were designed which were basically used for collecting the data and information on nursing college libraries.

Singh *et al.* (1989) "An Evaluative Study of Services Provided by Delhi University Library System". Author measured the satisfaction of research scholars with services provided by the Delhi University library system. No particular collection was found to be excellent. Majority of users were satisfied with circulation and reference service.

Chavez *et al.* (2005) carried out a survey of the students, faculty and staff to measure their satisfaction with the Paradise Valley Community College Library under title "Library User Survey: Resources, Facilities and Circulation Service". Findings revealed that generally users were satisfied with the resources, facilities and circulation service. It was recommended to repeat survey in two years to compare satisfaction level of students.

In a study titled "Satisfaction of the Career Seekers in the Resources and Services of Libraries in Kerala" Koovakki and Jalaja (2005) ascertained the level of satisfaction of career seekers in the resources and services of university, college and public libraries. Survey revealed that users using university libraries were most satisfied and using public libraries were least satisfied. A difference was also observed between the level of satisfaction of male and female users.

To ascertain the level of effectiveness of F.S. Idabacha Library, Uganneya and Idachaba (2005) conducted a survey of the students and teachers under name "Information System Effectiveness: A User's Satisfaction Approach Study of Francis Sulemanu (F. S.) Idachaba Library, University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Benue State, Nigeria". Circulation

and Information Technology services were deficient. Frequency of use of library was low, which indicates that library did not meet information needs of users properly. Respondents suggested the introduction of new journals and the Internet service to improve the library system.

Liu and Allmang (2008) conducted a survey through online tool 'Survey Monkey' to reveal the user's satisfaction under title "Assessing Customer Satisfaction at the NIST Research Library: Essential Tool for Future Planning". Questionnaire addressed library resources, services, customer preferences and impact of libraries on customer's work. It revealed that journals continued to be the most valuable resource for NIST scientists, with overwhelming preferences for e-journals.

#### IV. NEED OF THE STUDY

While many studies have been done on the libraries of engineering colleges and universities in Karnataka. A careful study of literature reveals that there has been no comprehensive study on the nursing college libraries of this region as a topic of advanced research. In view of the gap that exists in the literature on this subject, the present study proposes to focus its thrust mainly on 'A Study on Resources and Services in the Nursing College Libraries at Bangalore City, Karnataka'. These libraries provide important services to the students in nursing disciplines and their teachers. Therefore, this work has been selected to study the state of libraries, their use and services and the evaluation of the satisfaction level of students and teachers using these libraries.

#### V. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study aims to examine the aspects relating to the growth and development of libraries in nursing colleges in Bangalore and services provided by them.

1. To study the growth and development of nursing education in India with special reference to Karnataka;
2. To study the growth and development of nursing college libraries under study;
3. To evaluate the existing infrastructure and resources available and the services provided in the nursing college libraries under study;

4. To identify initiatives taken by libraries with regard to computer applications for automating library services;
5. To examine the staff pattern of individual nursing college libraries;
6. To know the user satisfaction level with resources and services available in the libraries;
7. To offer some solutions to the problems being faced by these libraries;
8. To suggest ways for improving resources and services.

#### VI. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

A large number of educational institutions in various disciplines exist in the Bangalore. Regarding nursing colleges, these are 172 in number. Among them, 1 Government nursing colleges and 171 are Private nursing colleges. So, it was difficult to conduct a survey of all nursing colleges. Keeping in view to present accurate and comprehensive information, it was decided to delimit the scope of survey. The survey was restricted to 40 nursing colleges have also been taken in the study to find the present state of infrastructure facilities available and the satisfaction of users's needs with library services. The nursing colleges covered under study are shown in the following Table I.

#### VII. METHODOLOGY

By method, we mean a systematic approach towards particular phenomena. It denotes a procedure, tool or technique used by the researcher to generate data, analyses data or both on the basis of empirical observations and logical reasoning. By methodology, we mean a logic scientific investigation to describe, to explain and to justify the methods. It is observed that methodology in practice lays down the procedures and steps that are generally adopted by a researcher in studying the research problem. These procedures are justified by means of scientific observations. It is concluded that the primary objective of all research is "Search for Knowledge." This whole process can be termed as methodology, which acts as a guide line while investigating the problem. The present study is an attempt to survey the resources and services of nursing college libraries of Bangalore, and the extent of their use by the users.

TABLE I NURSING COLLEGES COVERED UNDER STUDY

Sl. No.	Name of the Nursing Colleges
1	AECS Maruthi College of Nursing
2	Acharya College of Nursing
3	Adarsha College of Nursing
4	Bangalore City College of Nursing
5	Bhagawan Mahaveer Jain College of Nursing
6	Bhuvan College of Nursing
7	CMR College of Nursing
8	China College of Nursing
9	Dayananda Sagar College of Nursing
10	Diana College of Nursing
11	Dr. John's College of Nursing
12	Dr. Shyamala Reddy College of Nursing
13	East West College of Nursing
14	Florence College of Nursing
15	Garden City College of Nursing
16	Global College of Nursing
17	Goutham College of Nursing
18	Government College of Nursing
19	Hina College of Nursing
20	Hosmat College of Nursing
21	KKECS College of Nursing
22	KR College of Nursing
23	KVS College of Nursing
24	Kempegowda College of Nursing
25	KTG College of Nursing
26	Lakeside College of Nursing
27	Mahatma Gandhi College of Nursing
28	National College of Nursing
29	Oriental College of Nursing
30	Rajarajeswari College of Nursing
31	Rajiv Gandhi College of Nursing
32	Royal College of Nursing
33	Sarvodaya College of Nursing
34	Shekar College of Nursing
35	SJB College of Nursing
36	Sneha College of Nursing
37	Sri Ramakrishna College of Nursing
38	Srinidhi College of Nursing
39	St. John College of nursing
40	Varalakshmi College of Nursing

TABLE II SHOWING THE DISTRIBUTIONS & RESPONSE OF THE QUESTIONNAIRES

No. of Colleges Covered	40
Total questionnaires distributed among library users	800
Questionnaires received at the time of Survey	440
Questionnaires received in response to first reminder	110
Questionnaires received in response to second reminder	170
No response	80
Total questionnaires received	720
Response rate	90.00 %

**VIII. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Analysis of data is the ultimate step in research process. It is the link between raw data and significant results leading to conclusions. This process of analysis has to be result oriented. In other words, it must aim at setting objectives and hypotheses. According to Richard Budd, analysis “leads eventually to summarizing procedures resulting in some sacrifice of details. Frequencies and column are summarized in tables as averages and percentages are transformed into indices or attention scores to be used as a single variable in subsequent analysis”.

The present study reports the analysis of data gathered through the questionnaire designed for nursing college students. The responses are coded and characterized by course and gender as the basic variable.

TABLE III GENDER WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Female	585	81.25
Male	135	18.75
Total	720	100.00

A study of data in Table III indicates the gender distribution of respondents. It could be noted that out of the total 720 respondents, majority of the respondents (81.25%) belong to the female group and the rest of them (18.75%) are males. It is concluded that female nurses constitute more in number than male nurses, indicating the presence of female domination in nursing profession in Karnataka.

TABLE IV COURSE WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

Course	No. of Respondents	Percentage
B.Sc. Nursing	496	68.88
M.Sc. Nursing	224	31.12
Total	720	100.00

A study of data in Table IV indicates the course wise distribution of respondents. It could be noted that out of the total 720 respondents, 68.88% of them have B.Sc. Nursing Course and 31.12% of them possess M.Sc. Nursing Course. It is concluded that majority of the respondents have B.Sc. Nursing Course.

TABLE V FREQUENCY OF DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS VISITING LIBRARY

Sl. No.	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1	Daily	91	12.5
2	Twice a Week	79	11
3	Weekly	69	9.5
4	Fortnightly	33	4.5
5	Monthly	217	30
6	As and When needed	231	32
Total		720	100.00

In the present chapter, an empirical analysis of the information asked from the 720 respondents via collecting primary data have been presented and discussed. The question-wise observed interpretation of the responses of the respondents visualized the whole picture. For analysis purpose, the frequency distribution tables have been made. Table-V presents the frequency distribution for the question that ‘How often the library is visited by the students’.

It is evident from the given distribution that the majority (about 38 %) of the total respondents visit the library when they needed. Therefore, a majority of the students who are visiting the library are not regular user. Such students who irregularly visit the library are in majority. It is also evident that only 23.5 % [i.e. 12.5 % + 11 %] students have the habits of frequently visiting the library. The analysis of the causes behind the frequent library visit of the students reveals that 35 % students are not visiting the library because required books are not available. 30 % of the respondents blame unhelpful attitude of the staff as a factor responsible for non-frequent visit of the students to the library. The rest of the four factors share approximately equal weight-age of the respondents.

TABLE VI FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF PURPOSE FOR WHICH LIBRARY FACILITIES UTILIZED

Sl. No.	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1	To borrow and return books	109	15.14
2	To read newspaper/magazines	127	17.64
3	To consult reference books	92	12.78
4	To get reference service	90	12.50
5	To read general books	83	11.53
6	To read subject books	74	10.28
7	To complete the class room assignments	68	9.44
8	To prepare for next class	30	4.17
9	Photo copy of material	47	6.53
Total		720	100.00

Further, a thorough analysis of the purpose for which the library is used reveals that the majority of the respondents 17.64 % user their libraries for reading newspapers and magazines (Table-VI). Another 15.14 % of the respondents used their library facilities for borrowing or returning the library books. However, only 12.78 % of the students used this facility for consulting the reference books suggested by their teachers. A similar percentage of the respondents also used the same facility to avail reference services for completing their assignments. Thus, from the analysis of the purpose for which library has been used reveals that about 58% of the total respondents used the library facilities for only four reasons explained above and rest of the respondents 42 % have used the same for another purpose such as for reading general books 11.53%, for reading subject books 10.28%, to complete class-rooms assignments 9.44%, to prepare for next class 4.17% to get photocopies from the books 6.53%.

TABLE VII FREQUENCY OF DISTRIBUTION OF USAGE OF STUDY MATERIAL IN THE LIBRARY

Sl. No.	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1	General Books	11	1.50
2	Text Books	121	16.80
3	Reference books	144	20.00
4	Periodicals	126	17.50
5	Newspapers	61	8.50
6	General Magazines	49	6.80
7	Microfilms/Microfiches	56	7.80
8	Maps, Charts, Diagrams	50	7.00
9	CD-ROMs	50	7.00
10	Websites/Internet	52	7.30
Total		720	100.00

Further, when the respondents were asked to give ranking to the choices given in the Table- VII, Column II and tick five choices which they avail quite often while using the library then the majority of the respondents (20 %) use reference books referred by teachers followed by the periodicals and journals (17.5 %) while their sitting in the library. There are only 16.8 % respondents who have answered in the favour of text books.

TABLE VIII CATEGORY WISE RESPONDENTS' DEPENDENCE ON SOURCES

Category	Personal Collection at Home	Public Library	College library	University Library	Professional Seniors and Colleagues	Total
B.Sc. Nursing	92 (18.32)	71 (14.11)	59 (11.58)	117 (23.79)	157 (32.21)	496
M.Sc. Nursing	64 (28.51)	67 (29.36)	17 (8.09)	47 (20.85)	29 (13.19)	224
Total	156 (21.69)	138 (19.15)	76 (10.42)	164 (22.82)	186 (25.92)	720

Data presented in Table-VIII indicate the category wise respondents' dependence on sources. It could be noted that majority of the B.Sc. nursing respondents (32.21%) depend on professional colleagues and seniors. Majority of the M.Sc. nursing respondents (29.36%) depend on public library. It could be seen clearly from the above discussion that B.Sc. Nursing students depend mainly on their professional colleagues and seniors.

### IX. CONCLUSION

The study presented in the preceding chapters has attempted to provide a picture of the nursing libraries in the Bangalore and to bring out the various problems and difficulties faced by them. The State Government must look at and assess these problems and give priority in finding solutions to them. Fiscal resources must be enhanced considerably to enable the libraries to build up substantial collections needed for their users. Suitable accommodation and equipment should be provided with competent staff to render at least basic support services and help the students in their learning process. Access to information must be made more easy, and an environment conducive to learning and assimilating information be developed. Book selection policies and administrative policies relating to the libraries in the nursing institutions must be changed. The importance and relevance of the library as the centre of knowledge and resources required for development of skills and competence and understanding must be recognized and accepted fully if the role of the library is to be realized.

REFERENCES

- [1] Chavez, John; Espinoza, Lori; Mullane, Muriel; Fiske, Kerry; and Lochhart, Brian "Library User Survey: Resources, Facilities and Circulation Service", Report on survey results. Available from <http://www.paradisevalley.edu/library/assessment/LibraryUserSurveyResults.pdf> (01-02-09) (2005).
- [2] Koovakki, Dinesh and V. Jalaja, "Satisfaction of the Career Seekers in the Resources and Services of Libraries in Kerala", *ILA Bulletin*, Vol. 41, No. 1, pp. 26-30, 2005.
- [3] Liu, Rosa and Allmang, Nancy "Assessing Customer Satisfaction at the NIST Research Library: Essential Tool for Future Planning", *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship*, No. 54. Available from <http://www.istl.org/08-summer/article3.html> (22-03-09) 2008.
- [4] Singh, Dev Raj, S.M. Abbas, and V. Mani, "An Evaluative Study of Services Provided by Delhi University Library System", In C. P. Vashishth (Ed.), *Library and Information Services in India: Assessment and Effectiveness*. (Seminar papers, Thirty-Fourth All India Library Conference Calcutta, December 20-23, 1988), Delhi: Indian Libraries Association, pp. 25-40, 1989.
- [5] S.A.Uganneya and J.A.Idachaba, "Information System Effectiveness: A User's Satisfaction Approach Study of Francis Sulemanu (F. S.) Idachaba Library, University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Benue State, Nigeria", *International Library Movement*, Vol. 27, No. 3, pp. 165-172, 2005.