Use of Libraries by Differently Abled Degree Students in Trivandrum District: A Comparative Study

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Abstract - **This paper is a study of the information seeking behaviour of Differently abled degree students in Trivandrum district. Two types of physically handicapped students are selected as sample. First are deaf students from National Institute of Speech & Hearing (NISH), and second is Physically Handicapped (Orthopedically) students from various colleges from the Trivandrum district. Questionnaire is used for data collection and percentage analysis is used for comparing the data. This study reveals that most of the deaf students locate their information by the help of the college librarian and most of the NISH students are satisfied with the present facilities given in the library. In the case of PH (O) students locate their information by the help of internet and most of the students are not satisfied with the present facilities given in the library.**
Keywords: **Information, information seeking behavior, e-resources, speech and hearing impaired students, National Institute of Speech and Hearing Library, Physically handicapped students.**

I.INTRODUCTION

Information seeking behavior is a behavior of human activity similar to writing, driving or talking on the phone. Information seeking behavior can be defined as a process from confusion to clarity. It includes action or strategies undertaken to locate needed Information. Auster defined information seeking behaviour as "The field composed of studies that are concerned with who need what kind of information and for what reasons, how information is found, evaluated and used and how these needs can be identified and satisfied"(1982). Wilson described information seeking behaviour as the totality of human behaviour in relation to sources and channels of information, including both active and passive information-seeking, and information use (2000).

II.NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPEECH & HEARING (NISH)

National Institute of Speech & Hearing (NISH), set up in 1997, is a prestigious venture of the Kerala State Social Welfare Department. It is a comprehensive, multipurpose institution dedicated to the total rehabilitation of speech and hearing-impaired persons across the state. Three bachelor degree courses are conducting for speech and hearing impaired students at National Institute of Speech &Hearing (NISH), Trivandrum**.** The library at NISH has a collection of 2000 Books including 200 reference books, periodicals and reprints on subjects ranging from anatomy, audiology, speech, and psychology to electronics. It also has a collection of CD ROMs, audio and video cassettes. The library is fully computerised with local software developed by NISH technology division and uses DDC 22 for classification. It also maintains card catalogue for easy material searching by the students.

III.OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the study are

1. To determine the information needs of differently-abled degree students in Trivandrum district.
2. To find out the most frequently used information sources by differently abled students in Trivandrum district.
3. A comparative study to identify the various methods adopted to locate information resources.
4. To find out whether there is enough documents or resources in the library to satisfy the information needs of the students.
5. To suggest measures to improve and vitalize the library on the basis of the observed information seeking behavior of the students.

IV.METHODOLOGY

This study is aimed to identify information seeking behavior of differently abled students from Trivandrum district. Two types of physically handicapped students are selected as sample. The first type is NISH students who are deaf and dump and the second type is the physically handicapped students, i.e. orthographically challenged students, who belonged to various Arts and Science Colleges in Trivandrum district. The total number of Students in NISH is 300. Out of these students 200 are deaf and dump students. The total population is 200. Twenty five percentage of the total population is taken as sample. And 40 physically handicapped (Ortho) degree students from Government Arts College, University College and Government Women's college, Trivandrum. Questionnaire is used to collect data from the students. In data analysis percentage data is derived.

V.DATA ANALYSIS

The data collected through questionnaire were analysed to derive necessary results. Different aspects analysed are:

The students were asked to record whether they use the library regularly or not. It is found that majority of the deaf and dump students and the PH students use their regularly.

TABLE 1 USE OF LIBRARY

Nature of Use	NISH students (No. of respondents)	% of respondents NISH	Other PH Degree students	% of respondents PH(O)S
Regular	30	60	30	75
Not regular	20	40	10	25
Total	50	100	40	100

Table 1 shows that 60 percentage of the deaf students and 75 percentage of PH (O) students are regular users of the library.

The students were asked to report the frequency of visit they are making in the library. It is found that majority of students were daily visiting the library.

TABLE 2 FREQUENCY OF VISIT TO THE LIBRARY

Sl. No.	Frequency of visit	No. of respondents NISH PH (deaf)	% of visit NISH	Other PH Degree students	% of respondents PH(Ortho)
1	Every day	15	30	12	30
2	Twice in a week	10	20	10	25
3	Very rarely	20	40	10	25
4	Never	5	10	8	20

Table 2 Shows that 30 percentage of the students visit the library every day and 10 percent of students never visited the library at all. In the case of PH (O) students 30 percentage of the students visit the library every day and 20 percentage of students never visited their library.

The students were asked to share the extend of time they spend in the library. Majority of the deaf and dump students and the PH students were using the library for about one hour daily.

TABLE 3 TIME SPEND IN THE LIBRARY PER WEEK

Sl. No.	Duration	No. of students NISH	% Of students	Other PH Degree students	% of respondents PH(O)
1	average 1 hour	20	40	12	30
2	average 1 – 5 hour	15	30	10	25
3	more than 5 hour	10	20	10	25

Table 3 shows that 40 percentage of students use the library on an average of 1 hour and the rest are using it on an average of above 1 hour. In the case of PH students 30 percentage of students use the library on an average of 1 hour, 25% of students use it on an average of 1 – 5 hours and the rest of students use it for more than 5 hours in a week.

Normally students are coming to the library wit a specific purpose. It may be either to get a book for home reading, for reference, for reading news papers and magazines. It is found that majority of the differently challenged students visit the library to borrow books and for reading books and referring reference books.

Table 4 shows that 70 percentage of the deaf and dump students visit the library to barrow and return books. Similarly 65 percentage of PH students also visit the library to borrow books for home reading, and to read books and reference books.

TABLE 4 PURPOSE OF VISIT

Sl. No.	Purpose of visit	No. of respondents NISH	% NISH	Other PH Degree students	% of respondents PH(O)
1	To read books (subject)	35	70	20	50
2	To read print journals	15	30	12	30
3	To consult reference books	30	60	20	50
4	To consult online journals	5	10	12	30
5	To read newspapers	15	30	20	50
6	To borrow and return of books	35	70	26	65
7	To collect question paper	15	30	20	50
8	To collect up to date information	20	40	10	25

The students were asked to record how they locate their needed information. Majority of the deaf and dump students locate their needed information with the help of librarian. At the same time the PH students locate their needed information with the help of internet. Different methods used by differently challenged students are listed as follows.

TABLE 5 METHOD ADOPTED TO LOCATE INFORMATION SOURCE

Sl. No.	Method adopted for search	No. of respondents NISH	% NISH	Other PH Degree students	% of respondents PH(O)
1	Help of online catalogue/Card catalogue	5	10	4	10
2	Assistance of Librarian	30	60	8	20
3	By searching on the shelves	10	20	4	10
4	With the help of internet	5	10	26	65

Table 5 shows that 60 percentage of students locate the information by the help of librarian, 20 percentage of students locate the information by searching on the shelves. Only 10 percentage of students locate the information by searching catalogue and by the help of internet. In the case of PH students 65 percentage of students locate the Information by the help of internet, 10 percentage of students by consulting the catalogue or help from librarian and searching on the shelves.

The students were asked to respond about the adequacy of the facilities available in the library and majority of the deaf and dump students viewed that the facilities in the library are adequate. However, the PH students are of the view that the facilities in their library were not adequate.

TABLE 6 FACILITIES IN THE LIBRARY

Sl. No.	Documents	No. of respondents NISH	% NISH	Other PH Degree students	% of respondents PH(O)
1	Adequate	30	60	16	40
2	Not adequate	20	40	24	60

Table 6 shows that 60 percentage of NISH students are satisfied with the facilities of library and the rest are not satisfied. In the case of PH students 40 percentage are satisfied and the rest are not satisfied with the facilities of library.

VI.FINDINGS

1. Majority of students are regular users of the library.
2. Majority of students visit the library every day.

3. Most of the students spent an average time of one hour in a week.
4. Most of the students visit the library to read, borrow and return books.
5. Most of the deaf students locate their information by the help of college librarian.
6. The PH (O) degree students locate the information by the help of internet.
7. Most of the deaf students (NISH) are satisfied with the present facilities of the library.
8. The PH (O) students are not satisfied with the present facilities of the library.

VII.CONCLUSION

The differently challenged students are facing many difficulties in their life. Still they are doing a great to do higher studies. Library becomes a great help to them in their studies and other information requirements. This study brought out the condition of libraries and the opinion of deaf and dump students and PH (Ortho) students about their library facilities, collections and services. The study results will help the management to improve the facilities of the college libraries for differently able students in Trivandrum district.

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