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A Study of Information Seeking Behaviour of Faculty in Government Medical Colleges of Karnataka

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Abstract – **Information is regarded as the basic need of every human being in addition to air, water, food and shelter. It is an important ingredient for the socio economic and healthy development of a nation. The study has identified the importance of information particularly in the field of medial sciences. It is observed that the study on information needs of faculty in Government Medical colleges of Karnataka emphasizes that the existing medical college library infrastructure in terms of collection, services and other facilities are more to be strenghthened.**

Keywords: **Library infrastructure, facilities**

I. Introduction

Information is regarded as the basic need of every human being in addition to air, water, food and shelter. In every walk of life it has become an important ingredient. Information is a raw material for a right decision making from personal to governmental level. It is an important ingredient for the socio economic and healthy development of a nation.

Information plays a vital role in organizational life and in day to day activities. Information Technology, information age and information revolution are familiar terms in day to day life. With the growth of information, every one needs it in an increasing variety and capacity with diversity of levels frequency, volume and use.

Therefore, information needs of particular group of users and information flow from specific situation/institution is difficult to determine. The use of information is so complex that there cannot be a single system to take up the task of effective retrieval without assessing their needs.

II. Need for The Study

A faculty doctor needs information for three purpose namely for teaching, for research and and for clinical treatment. A doctor like, many other professionals needs latest information. Knowledge in medicine is growing at an overwhelming rate with the invention of new drugs, new diagnostic techniques and treatment being introduced. Therefore Doctors need latest developments of information that are taking place in their fields.

The promise of good health to people of Karnataka seems to be far from reality. Though greater attempts are being made in preventing diseases and extending life of people. Karnataka is faced with continued health threats characterized by spread of infectious diseases like Malaria, Dingu, Cholera, Typhoid, Diarrhea, Mal nutrition, high levels of infant and maternal mortality, low level of life expectancy and deteriorating health care facilities.

III. Medical Education in India

Medical Education in India is as old as Indian History. It existed the Vedic times, the Hindu, Muslims and in British periods. It has its beginning about three thousand years before the birth of Christ. The history of medicine may be in three phases Ayurveda, Unani and Allopathy. Ayurveda medicine which has been dated to be the oldest and is believed to have initiated and practiced between 2000 and 3000 BC. The first books on medicine written in India are charaka Samhita and Sushruta Samhita. Medical education during this period was imparted through the Brahminical system where in individual training of students was done by skilled practitioners in Guru-Shishya parampara.

The allopathic system of medicine was first introduced in India in the 16th century with the arrival of European missionaries. The first medical school was started in Calcutta in 1824 followed by another at Chennai. In 1845 a medical college was started in Bombay followed by the opening of two more medical colleges at Hyderabad and Indore.Since independence in 1947 there has been a rapid expansion of educational institutions at all levels and as such, a rapid growth of medical colleges can be gauged by the fact that eight medical colleges were established between 1947 and 1950.

In 1956 the prestigious All India Institute of Medical Sciences was established. In addition to this a number of other institutions for medical research were established under the Indian Council of Medical Research. India is a federal Government with states having full autonomy in Education and Health matters. Many Medical Colleges in the states are affiliated to the respective State Universities.

IV. Objectives of The Study

1. To trace the growth and development of Medical colleges and their Libraries in Karnataka;
2. To study the information needs of faculty Doctors of Government Medical Colleges of Karnataka;
3. To compare the information seeking behaviour of respondents by age, sex and designation;
4. To examine the motivating factors for information seeking behaviour among the respondents;
5. To examine the faculty opinions abut the comprehensiveness of respective institution's library collection;
6. To identify the various channels of information, the faculty Doctors make use in information seeking;
7. To analyze the extent of use and dependence on various sources of information for teaching and research.

V. Literature Review

The review of related literature is an essential component for the research. It is regarded as the back-bone of research activity and it gives necessary input to the investigator to frame the research study on the selected topic. So far as the field of "information needs and information seeking behaviour" of a particular group is concerned, a large number of studies have been conducted and it is expanding rapidly. A number of research reports, articles, books and conference proceedings on the subject have been published. Undoubtedly conceptual development and research output in information seeking behaviour is increasing.

Faculty doctors working in Medical colleges play a vital role in primary care. Clinical Governance and advances in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) dominate the agenda for change. The aim of this literature review is to indicate publications that have made a significant contribution of the information wants, needs, behaviour and preferences of Faculty Doctors in the Government Medical Colleges of Karnataka and there by to identify areas in which there is scope for further research.

The Annual Review of Information Science and Technology (ARIST) review the literature on "Information needs and uses". Fourteen volumes during the year 1966 to 2010 have provided elaborate review on the subject. The concepts on information needs and uses interspersed in these volumes of ARIST are seminal and fundamental in the area of Information Seeking Behaviour (ISB). All the observations made in further studies seem to be more or less restatements of what were observed in the volumes of ARIST. Since 1966 Three International Conferences on research in information needs, information seeking and use in different contexts, held at Tampere, (Finland) Sheffield, (UK) and Gothenburg,(Sweden) presented a collection of papers representing huge variety of research done in the area of information concepts with a wide and different geographical coverage of researchers.

VI. Methodology

This study has been limited to the faculty doctors working in Government Medical Colleges of Karnataka. There are 19 Govt. Medical colleges in Karnataka. The investigator has limited this study to Government Medical colleges only taking in to consideration of their year of establishment. Library facilities and infrastructures number of working faculty doctors. Questionnaire was framed to the Librarians of Government Medical Colleges to obtain information

regarding library facilities, staff particulars. Based on the data obtained from the Librarians questionnaire a structured questionnaire has been designed to obtain data from the doctors of Government medical colleges. The questionnaire covers the information Elicits information regarding institution, designation, age, sex, visiting the library, services, information required, , Delegation, Sharing of information, attending conferences, seminars and motives for seeking information.

VII. Data Analysis

This section presents the data collected from faculty doctors with regard their information needs and information seeking behavior has been analyzed Data was distributed by means of structured questionnaire among 370 faculty doctors working 19 government colleges.

It has been observed that doctors primarily collect information to guide the student's projects/research

Table I Frequency of Distribution of Respondents by Motivation to Seek Information 5.19

S.No.	Purpose	Extent of use					Weighted Average	Standard deviation	Rank
		Non motivator	Weakest motivator	Average motivator	Fairly motivator	Strongest motivator			
01	To prepare for class teaching	3(1.1)	2(0.7)	116(43.4)	87(32.6)	59(22.1)	2.73	50.6	2
02	To guide students projects/research scholars	3(1.1)	20(7.5)	86(32.2)	85(31.8)	73(27.3)	2.76	39	1
03	General awareness for new knowledge	7(2.6)	61(22.8)	139(52.0)	54(20.2)	6(2.2)	1.96	54	7
04	For participation in seminars/conferences etc.	5(1.9)	32(12)	72(27)	144(53.9)	14(5.2)	2.48	56.8	3
05	To increase promotional opportunites	2(0.7)	58(21.7)	93(34.8)	86(32.2)	28(10.5)	2.29	38.5	6
06	To prepare for special lecture notes	8(2.99)	81(30.3)	133(49.8)	31(11.6)	14(5.2)	1.85	53	9
07	To setting up question papers	65(24.3)	36(13.5)	114(42.7)	45(16.9)	7(2.6)	1.59	40	10
08	Toconduct programmes,workshops,etc	47(17.6)	84(31.5)	95(35.6)	29(10.9)	12(4.5)	1.53	35.4	11
09	For checking the authenticity of clinical information	26(9.7)	34(12.7)	67(25)	72(27)	68(25.5)	2.45	21.6	4
10	To broaden the area of attention and work done in related areas	60(22.4)	19(7.1)	76(28.5)	106(39.7)	6(2.2)	1.92	41	8
11	To crystallize broad and vague assertions	164(61.4)	70(26.2)	17(6.4)	11(4.1)	5(1.9)	0.5	67	6
12	For the diagnosis and therapeutic treatment of patients and for the management of clinicval practice	9(3.37)	56(21)	86(36.2)	73(27.3)	43(16)	2.31	30	5
13	For pleasure of doing good work, self fulfillment and self satisfaction	61(22.8)	128(47.9)	27(10.1)	38(14.2)	13(4.9)	1.30	45	12
14	To have visibility among peers	59(22.09)	145(54.3)	46(17.2)	13(4.9)	4(1.5)	1.09	56	13

scholars. This has weighted average of 2.76. 86 (32.2%) of the doctors indicated that guiding student projects is an average motivator.85 (31.8%) as a fairly motivator and 73 (27%) as the strong motivator. Doctors collect information for class room teaching .This has a weighted average 2.73 and ranked as 2nd in table 5.19. Among the doctors who felt that class room teaching is the 2nd motivating factor for collecting information. 116 (43.4%) felt it as an average motivator.87 (32.6%) as a fairly motivator and 59(22%) as a strong motivator. For participation in seminars and conferences is found as third nature with weighted average of 2.48. 144(54%) of the doctors felt that participation in seminars is a fairly motivator to seek information and 72(27%) opined this as an average motivator. The motivating factor for checking the authenticity of clinical information occupies the fourth place with weighted average of 2.45. For the diagnosis and therapeutic treatment of patients and for the management of clinical practice has the fifth place with 2.31 weighted average. Among the all the least motive to collect information was to crystallize broad and vague assertions with 0.5 weighted average.

It is revealed that the respondents depend primarily on periodicals/journals for information be it for Teaching, Research or for Clinical Treatment. This source (WA 3.39) was ranked as the 1st source of information. The dependence on Hand/Reference books (WA 3.03) was ranked as 2nd source of dependence. The respondents gave third priority to books (WA 2.74). Clinical research reports occupies (WA 2.67) is the 4th dependable source for information. Conference proceedings (WA 2.4) were the 5th ranked dependable formal documentary source in this study. Internet information obtained personally (WA 2.29) was the 6th dependable source of information by the respondents. Abstracting and indexing journals (WA 1.67) was the 7th dependable source of information found in this study. Therapeutic sources (WA 1.64) was the 8th dependable source of information by the respondents. Medical doctors need specific medical information to enhance their knowledge

Table II Frequency of Distribution of Respondents by Dependence on Formal Documentary Sources

S.No.	Documentary information sources	External of dependence					Weighted Average	Standard deviation	Rank
		Extent dependence							
		Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	highly			
01	Books (other than hand books/reference books)	6(2.2)	9(3.37)	99(37.1)	87(32.6)	66(24.7)	2.74	43.5	3
02	Hand books/reference books	5(1.9)	8(3)	68(25.4)	77(28.8)	109(40.8)	3.03	45.4	2
03	Conference proceedings and papers	8(3)	17(6.36)	120(44.9)	102(38.2)	20(7.5)	2.4	53	5
04	Periodical/ journals	6(2.2)	3(1)	26(9.7)	76(28.5)	156(58.4)	3.39	64.3	1
05	Clinical research reports	9(3.4)	19(7.1)	63(23.6)	108(40.4)	61(22.8)	2.67	40	4
06	Official documents including ICMR publications	49(18.3)	134(50.2)	48(18)	29(10.9)	7(2.6)	1.28	48	11
07	Reprints and preprints from fellow professionals	25(9.36)	135(50.6)	84(31.5)	21(7.9)	2(0.7)	1.4	55	10
08	Abstracting and indexing journals (including online/CDROM, print outs)	14(5.24)	96(36)	124(46.4)	30(11.2)	3(1)	1.67	53.4	7
09	Therapeutic reference from drug manufactures	31(11.6)	78(29.2)	121(45.3)	30(11.2)	7(2.6)	1.64	45.7	8
10	Drug advertising literature	130(48.7)	97(36.3)	23(8.8)	14(5.2)	2(0.7)	0.72	56.7	12
11	Personal collections	11(4)	149(55.8)	87(32.6)	19(7)	1(0.4)	1.43	63.2	9
12	Audio/video recordings	33(12.35)	150(56.2)	62(23.2)	19(7)	3(1)	1.28	58	11
13	Internet information obtained personality	17(6.36)	16(6)	117(43.8)	105(39.3)	12(4.5)	2.29	52.7	6

on a day-to-day basis. Particularly with the information providing devices such as e-mail and internet facilities. Medical doctors prefer the use of publishers catalogues as the most important source for new developments in their relevant fields. Personal collections (WA 1.43) occupy the 9th rank in the order of the table. Re prints and pre prints (WA 1.4) ranked as 10. Official documents (WA 1.24) were ranked as 11th dependable source of information. Drug advertising literature (WA 0.72) was ranked as 12. The doctors gave least dependence for Drug Advertisement literature with weighted average of 0.72.

VIII. Conclusion

The study has identified the importance of information particularly in the field of medial sciences. The information needs and information seeking behavior of faculty doctors differ from person to person.It is observed that the study on information needs of faculty in Government Medical colleges of Karnataka emphasizes that the existing medical college library infrastructure in terms of collection, services and other facilities are more to be strengthened .Government Medical colleges are suffering from financial constraints. In fulfillment of the desired functions, it is the responsibility of the Librarians of the Medical colleges to support the faculty doctor's duties with the required information sources for a prospering healthy nation.

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