

Information Seeking Behavior of Students of Shri Muktanand College Library, Gangapur

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ABSTRACT

This study has made a good attempt to judge the information seeking behavior of students in Shri Muktanand College Library. The study looked at the problems faced by students while seeking information. Analysis on the basis of study it is found that students have been shown more affection to formal collection in the library. As well as the information seeking from electronic resources with internet has given more preference.

Keywords: *Information, Information Seeking, Information Seeking Behavior, User, College library, Formal resources, Informal resources.*

INTRODUCTION

Information is an important resource of progress of modern society depends upon a provision of "Right kind of information in the right format at the right time" understanding the information needs as well patterns and making available the information to the user appropriately is very essential. According to the collection of right information for the right use at right time is essential for sources in all works (Borse, 1997).

Information is a very important key resource for every organization. It is an essential input for all types of institution. Information seeking is a basic activity included in by all people and manifested through a particular behavior. It is also an aspect of scholarly work of most interest to academic librarian who retrieve to develop collections, services and organizational structures that facilitate information seeking. There is universal assumption that man was born innocent or ignorant should actively seek knowledge. A information seeking is thus a natural & necessary mechanism of human existence.

According to Wilson (2000), information seeking behavior includes "those activities a person may engage in when identifying their own needs for information searching for such information in any way, and using or transferring that information.

The information seeking behavior of users largely depends on the environment in which he/she has been brought up and in which he/she presently lives. The present developments in the global information infrastructure also have led to the tremendous influence and changes in the pattern of information seeking behavior (Babu, 1994).

Information seeking behavior is necessary to trace the roots of users needs into three categories i.e. physiological, cognitive, and psychological needs. User needs are basically of the cognitive type because these involve the learning of skills (Kumar, 1993). Information seeking behavior differs among user groups. College libraries must understand the information needs of students in order to address those needs. The study explores the information seeking behavior of undergraduate students.

Shri Muktanand College Library:

To achieve the objectives of Marathwada Shikshan Prasarak Mandal in socio-economic, educational and cultural development of the Maharashtra and to supplement formal education with reading material, Shri Muktanand College library was established along with college in 1970. Shri Muktanand college library has to undertake the responsibility of collecting and supplying right information to the right reader at the right time, as well as to organize, store and provide access to information on this basis.

Research Methodology:

The structured questionnaire was used for collecting information from students of Shri Muktanand College. Factual questions, opinion and attitude questions, self perception questions and standards of action questions were used. The questionnaire has been formulated based on the assumptions according to the information seeking behavior pattern of students of ShriMuktanand College Library. For this study out of 3500 students, 350 were selected by adopting simple random sampling method. These selected students were requested through questionnaires to furnish the data.

Data Analysis and Interpretation:

A total of no. 350 structured questionnaire were distributed to the students of Shri Muktanand College, Gangapur. Total 331 questionnaires were received. The data obtained under various heading were analyzed and are interpreted as below.

Table – 1

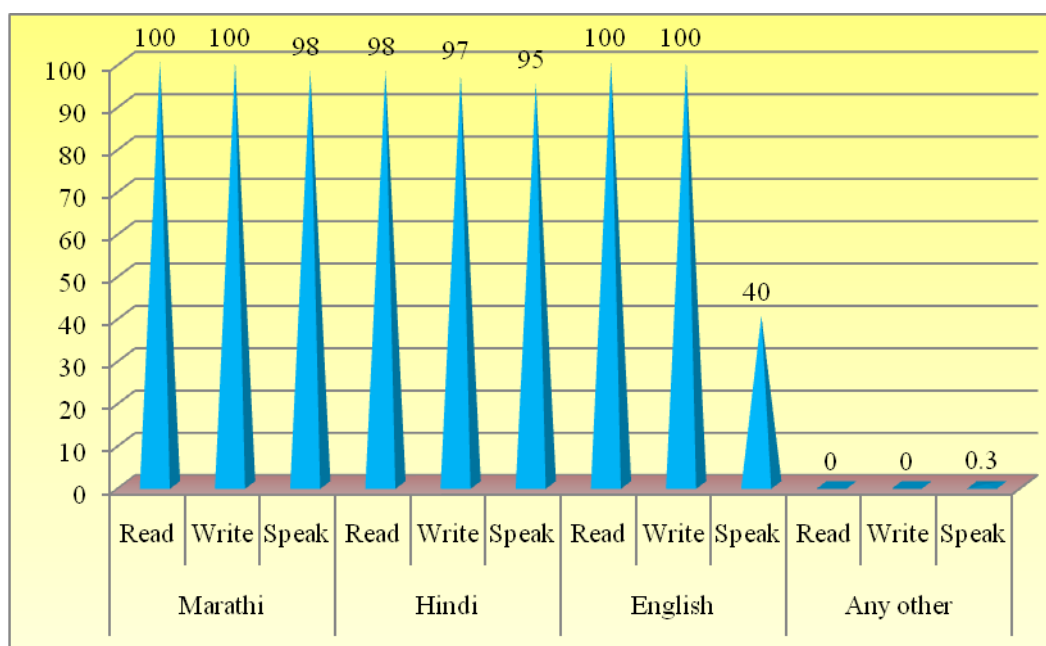
Language known by students

Marathi			Hindi			English			Any other		
Read	Write	Speak	Read	Write	Speak	Read	Write	Speak	Read	Write	Speak
331	331	326	323	322	316	331	331	134	-	-	Korian
100%	100%	98%	98%	97%	95%	100%	100%	40%	0%	0%	0.3%

Table -1 shows the languages known by the students in percentage.

Graph - 1

Language known by students



It was hypothetically assumed that the students have knowledge of various languages. Data collected in this regard was analysed and found that 100 percent students read, 98 percent write and 98 percent speak Marathi 98 percent students can read 97 percent can write and 95 percent can speak Hindi language and 100 percent students read and write English language and only 40 percent students speak English language other than this Only 0.3 percent students speak other language i.e. Korian.

Table – 2

Languages used by students for reading

Marathi	Hindi	English	Any other
99.69%	69.48%	88.82%	-
330	230	294	-

Graph - 2

Languages used by students for reading

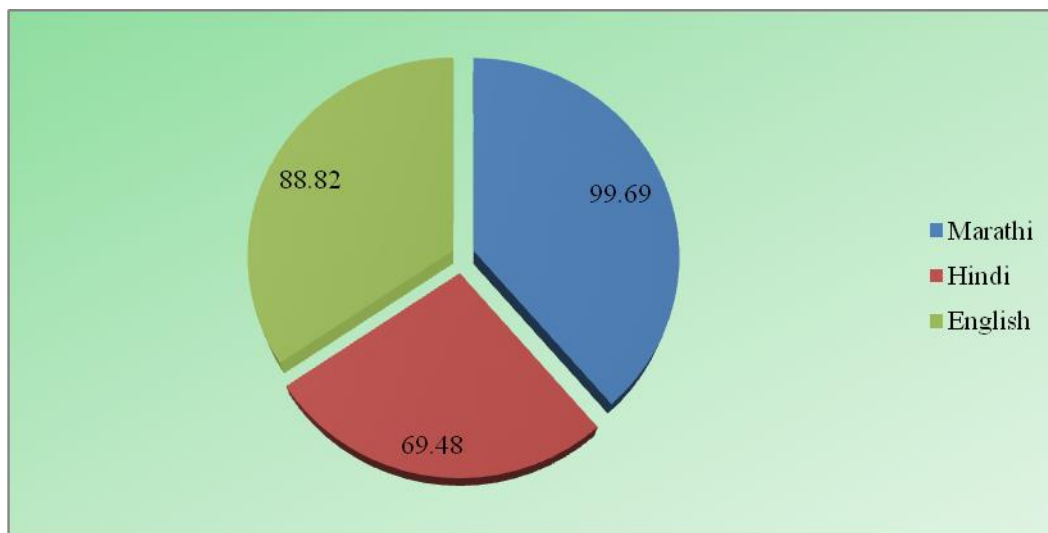


Table - 2 shows that 99.69 percent students use material which is in Marathi language in the library for reading and 88.82% students use material in English language for reading and only 69.48 percent students use material which is in Hindi language for reading i.e. Books, News paper, periodicals etc.

Therefore it is observed that more no. of students prefer Marathi and English language material for their study purpose and less no. of students use Hindi language material in the library.

Table - 3

Different types of Reading materials preferred by students for study

Sr. No.	Type of Material	Always	Sometimes	Never
1	Books	80.96%	19.03%	0%
2	Periodicals / Journals	14.19%	70.09%	15.71%
3	Other reference books	16.31%	68.88%	14.80%
4	Dictionaries / Encyclopedias	0.60%	61.02%	38.36%
5	E-Books	18.12%	38.06%	43.80%
6	E-Journals	21.45%	28.39%	50.15%
7	Any other	-	-	-

Graph - 3

Different types of Reading materials preferred by students for study

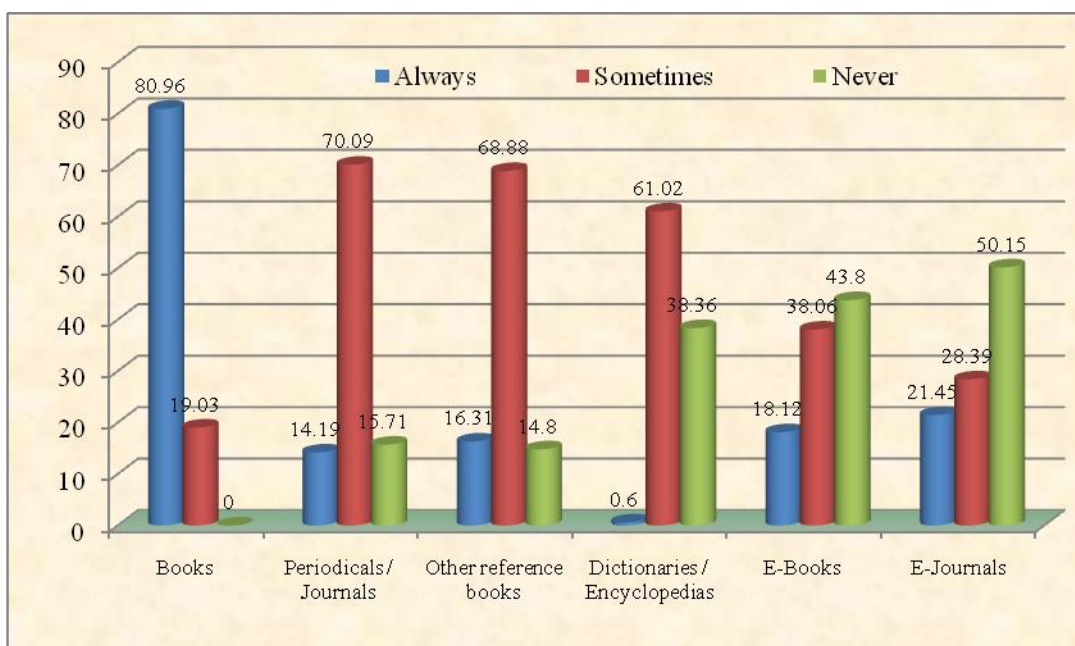


Table -3 shows that majority of students i.e. 80.96 percent always used books for their study and only 21.45 percent students always prefer E-journals for study. Then 70.09 and 68.88 percent students sometimes use periodicals / journals and other reference books for the study. Lastly 50.15 and 43.80 percent students are not satisfied with E-journals and E-books that's why they never use them.

Table - 4

Communication Media / channels used by students for study

Sr. No.	Status of Communication media used	Informal media	Formal media	No. of students
1	Communication media used	100%	100%	331
2	Communication media for used	0	0	

Table - 4 shows that 100 percent students have used both informal and formal media of communication for their study.

Table - 4.1

Informal media of communication

Sr. No.	Informal communication media used by students	No. of students	Percentage
1	Discussion with subject teachers	320	97%
2	Discussion with seniors and colleagues	251	76%
3	Discussion with librarian for reference staff of library	293	89%

Graph 4.1

Informal media of communication

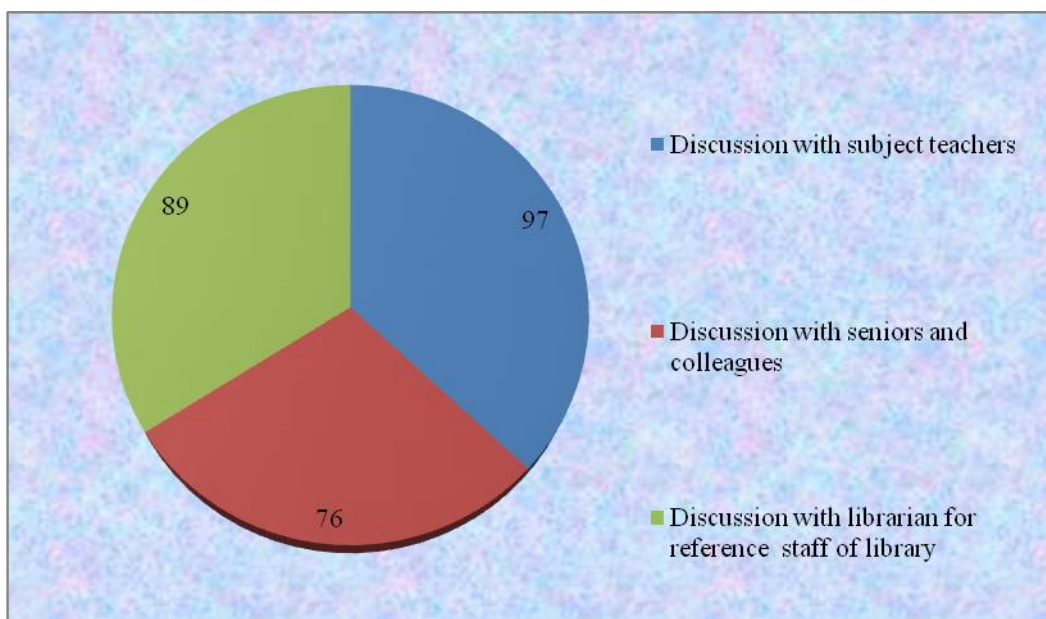


Table - 4.1 shows that 97 percent students consulted their subject experts in the field. 89 percent students discussed with the librarian or reference staff of the library for reference material and 76 percent students discussed with seniors and colleagues for their study purpose.

Table 4.2

Formal Media of Communication

Sr. No.	Formal communication media used by students	No. of students	Percentage
1	Radio	226	68%
2	TV	312	94%
3	Internet	331	100%
4	E-books	205	62%
5	E-journals	221	67%
6	Libraries	302	91%

Graph 4.2
Formal Media of Communication

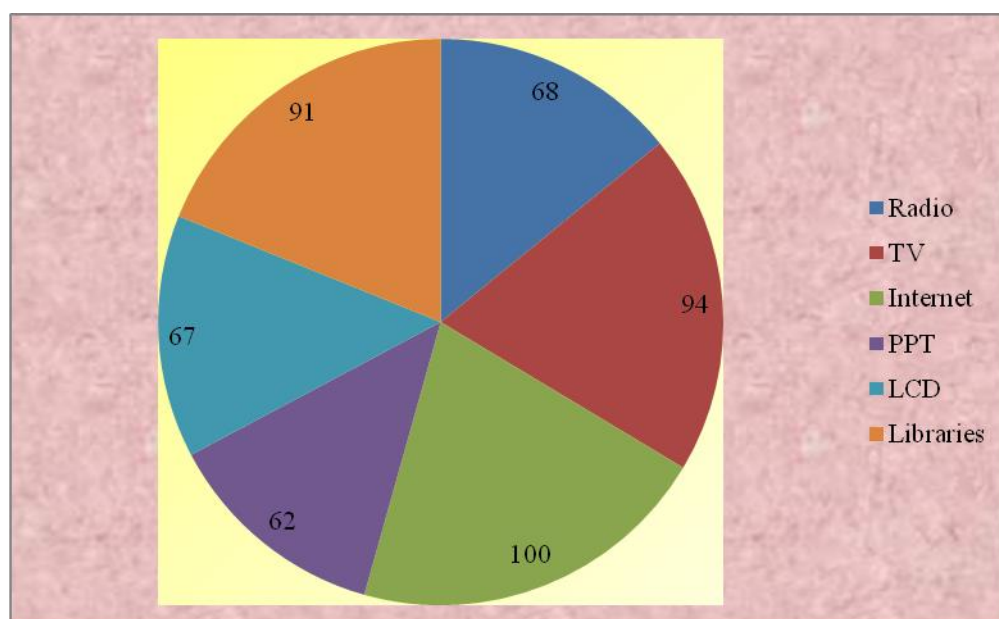


Table - 4.2 shows clearly that 100 percent students used internet for study, 94 percent students used T.V. and 91 percent students used library for their study only 68, 67 and 62 percent students used Radio, E-journals, and E-books for their study.

Table - 5
Students view towards importance of library

Sr. No.	Importance of Library	No. of Students	Percentage
1	Use of library is important	322	97.28%
2	Use of library is less important	9	2.71%

Graph - 5
Students view towards importance of library

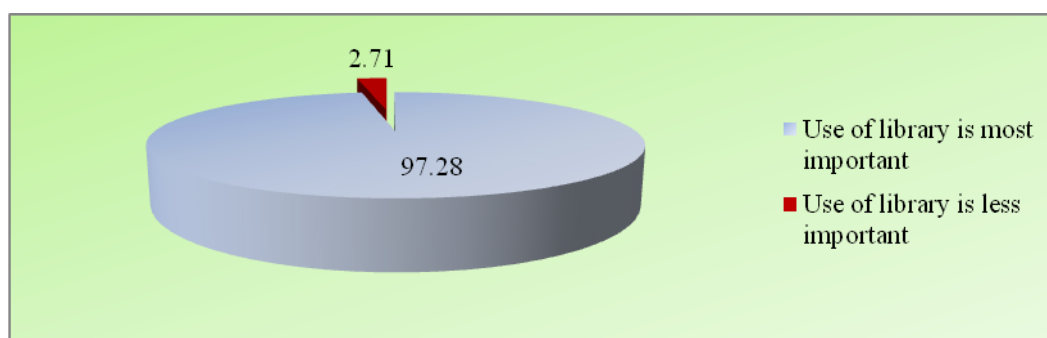


Table - 5 shows that 97.28 percent students think that the use of library is most important and easy method for seeking information. Apart from this 2.71 percent students think use of library is less important.

Table - 6

Students view towards less importance of library

Sr. No.	Less importance of Library Due to reasons	No. of Students	Percentage
1	Yes	197	59.51%
2	No	134	40.48%

Graph - 6

Students view towards less importance of library

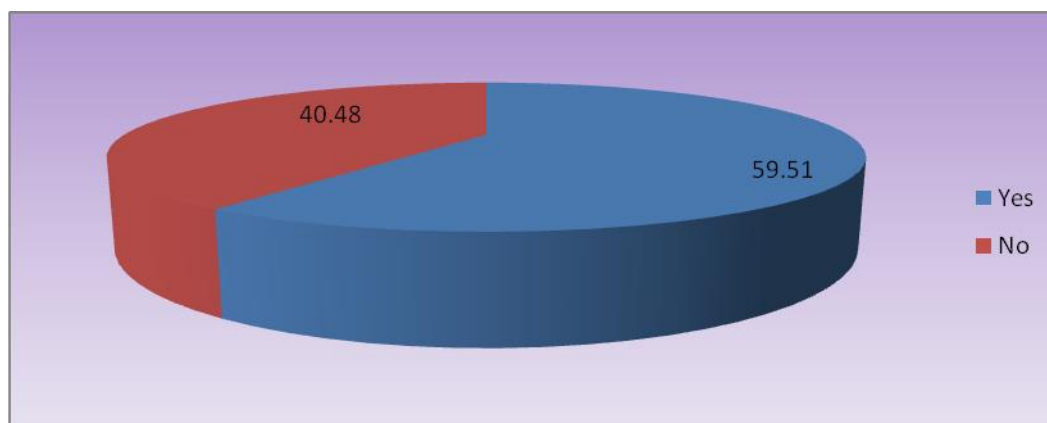


Table - 6 shows that 59.51 percent students think that the library use is less important and 40.48 percent students don't think so.

In addition to this it is also analysed that 59.51 percent students have negative approach in respect to library use. In regard to this it was assumed that there might be certain reasons which have created negativity among students. In this purpose the students were requested to quote certain reasons which cause negativity about the use of Libraries.

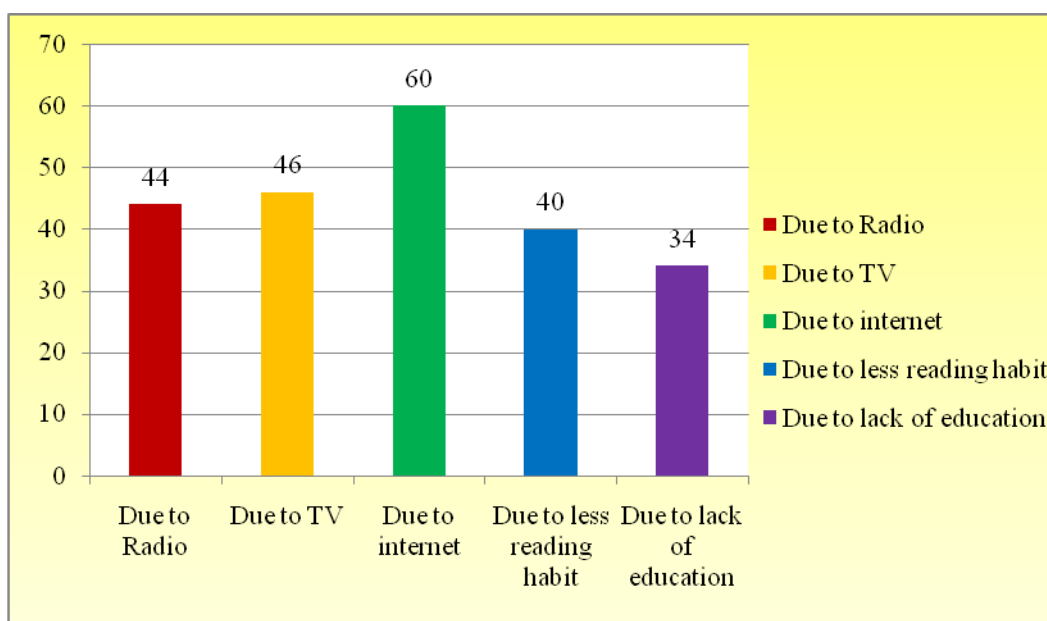
Table – 6.1

Classification of Reasons for library uses is less important

Sr. No.	Reasons for library use is less important	Percentage
1	Due to Radio	44%
2	Due to TV	46%
3	Due to internet	60%
4	Due to less reading habit	40%
5	Due to lack of education	34%

Graph - 6.1

Classification of Reasons for library uses is less important



The table - 6.1 shows that 60% students have reason, due to Internet, 46 percent students have reason due to T.V., 44% students have reason due to Radio, 40%, 34% students think library use is less important due to less reading habit and lack of education.

According to this table it is observed that today's age is information technology (IT) age and every one can access information through internet in a second, that's why they don't want to go to libraries and spend a lot of time for searching books and access information.

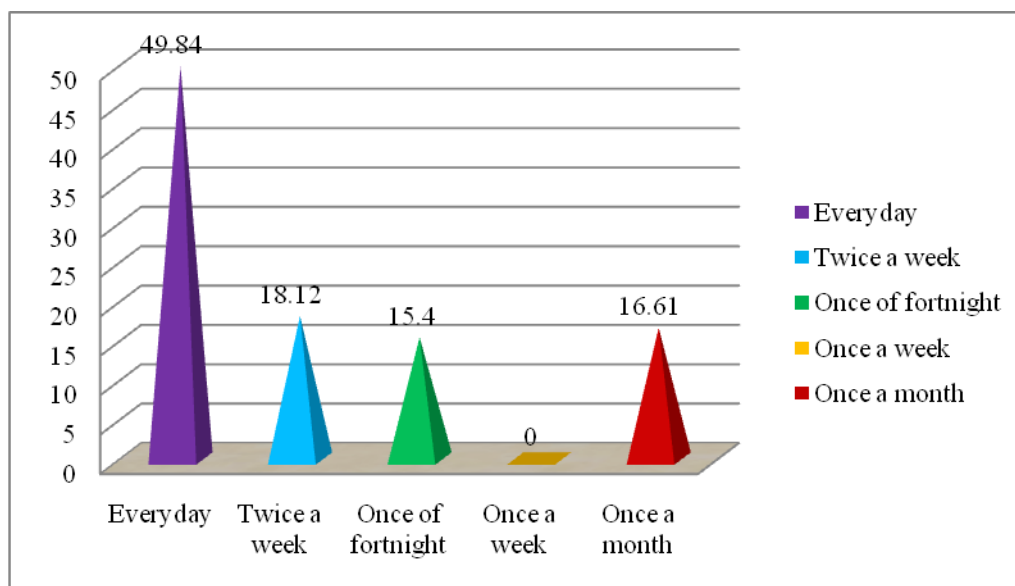
Table -7

Frequency of visits to library

Sr. No.	Library visits by students	Percentage
1	Everyday	49.84%
2	Once a week	18.12%
3	Twice a week	15.40%
4	Once forth night	0%
5	Once in month	16.61%

Graph - 7

Frequency of visits to library



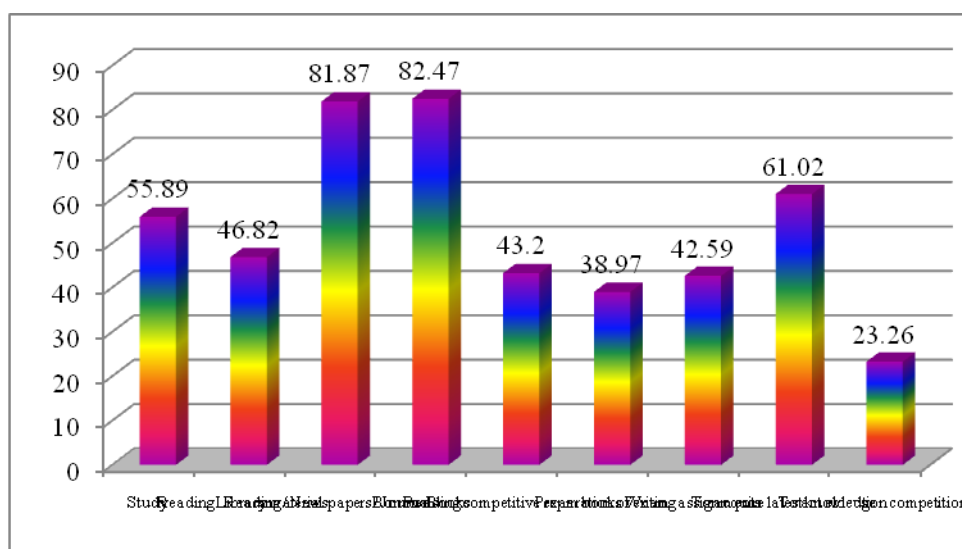
Students were asked about their frequency of visit to library. Table - 7 indicates that the majority 49.84% of students visit the library everyday, the 18.12 percent respondents visit library once week. Few students 15.40 percent and 16.61 percent visit their library twice a week and once in month respectively.

Table - 8

Purpose of Library use

Sr. No.	Purpose behind library use	Percentage
1	Study	55.89%
2	Reading Library material	46.82%
3	Reading / Newspapers / Journals	81.87%
4	Borrow Books	82.47%
5	Reading competitive exam books	43.20%
6	Preparation of exam	38.97%
7	Writing assignments	42.59%
8	To acquire latest knowledge	61.02%
9	To act elocution competition	23.26%

Graph - 8
Purpose of Library use



Respondents indicated the purpose of library use 55.89 percent students use library for study, 82.74 percent students consult the library to Borrow books, 81.87 percent use library for reading newspaper and journals and 61.02 percent for keeping their knowledge up-to-date, 43.20% and 23.26% students visit library for reading competitive exam books and for elocution competition.

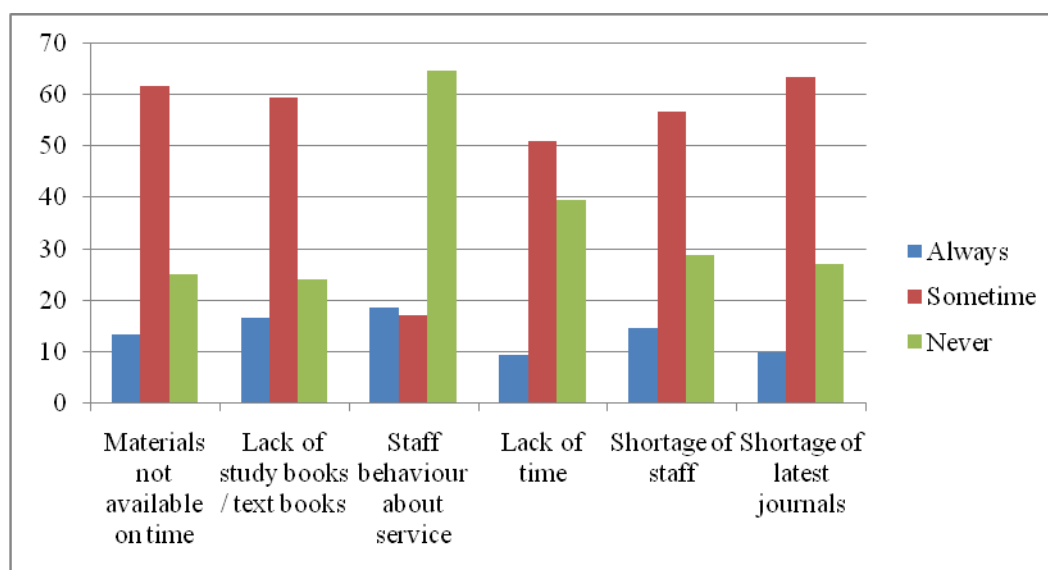
The study looked at the problems faced by students while seeking information. The following table reveals the difficulties in detail. This data is also useful for library management.

Table - 9
Difficulties and problems faced by students while using library

Sr. No.	Difficulties and problems	Always	Sometimes	Never
1	Materials not available on time	13.29%	61.63%	25.07%
2	Lack of study books / text books	16.61%	59.51%	23.90%
3	Staff behavior about service	18.42%	16.91%	64.70%
4	Lack of time	9.36%	51.05%	39.57%
5	Shortage of staff	14.50%	56.79%	28.70%
6	Shortage of latest journals	9.66%	63.44%	26.88%
7	Any other (Pl, specify)	-	-	-

Graph- 9

Difficulties and problems faced by students while using library



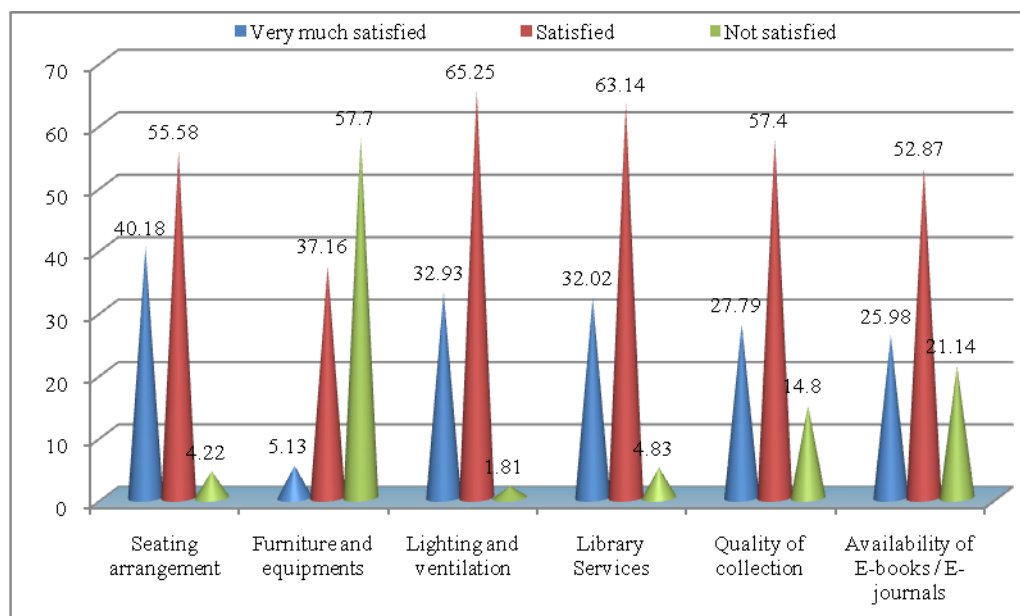
The table - 9 shows that, there are various problems one can come across while seeking information. The responses about these problems are presented in table - 9. It reveals that 61.63 percent respondents often face problems like Material not available on time 59.51 percent students sometime face problems such as Lack of study books or text book, 63.44 percent face the problem, like, shortage of latest journals and 56.79% face shortage of staff for providing library services at the right time and 18.42 percent students are always not satisfied with the staff behavior about service. 64.70% student never faces such type of problems.

Table - 10

Satisfaction level about library

Sr. No.	Satisfaction about library	Very much satisfied	Satisfied	Not satisfied
1	Seating arrangement	40.18%	55.58%	4.22%
2	Furniture and equipments	5.13%	37.16%	57.70%
3	Lighting and ventilation	32.93%	65.25%	1.81%
4	Library Services	32.02%	63.14%	4.83%
5	Quality of collection	27.79%	57.40%	14.80%
6	Availability of E-books / E- journals	25.98%	52.87%	21.14%

Graph - 10
Satisfaction level about library



A majority of students are happy with the lighting and ventilation, library services, quality of collection and seating arrangement but some of the students are not satisfied with furniture and equipments, availability of E-book and E-journals etc.

Conclusion and Suggestions:

The successful operation of a library depends to a large extent on the choice of library collection. The collection should meet the needs and requirements of users. Consequently, librarians must be aware of how user seeks information, knowledge of user information needs and information seeking behavior is imperative for developing valuable collections, and improving facilities and services. Librarian and library staff should help students and improve their information seeking and find the types of information they need.

The central role of the library profession remains the same, but methods and tools for information storage and retrieval continue to grow and change dramatically. Libraries must understand information seeking behavior of user to re-engineer their services and provide information efficiently. The result of this study reveals that the users who are more or less satisfied with library collections and services, but who want training in the use of online information. User education about library is must and should be carried out as workshop training.

Internet is useful tool to search and locate information in a desired field. Therefore internet access center is most essential for fulfilling the user information needs through E-recourses and other useful services of the internet effectively, so the library needs to maintain their interest towards E-Resources & College must ensure adequate and continuous uninterrupted power supply & develop well equipped internet lab for rural and poor students.

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