

## Evaluation of Information Services For Medical Education With Special Reference To The Information Services Rendered By Medical College Libraries In Western Maharashtra



\* Dr. Manohar Ganapati Shinde



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\* Librarian & HOD, Yashwantrao Chavan Warana, Mahavidyalaya, Warananagar

### ABSTRACT

*The aim of medical education is to develop proper manpower in the field of health-care and health welfare; such manpower is to be developed in accordance with the needs of the country. In this endeavour, the medical college library plays a vital role and serve as one of the fundamental sources. It plays role directly in promoting medical education and its various programs. It is the main source of information for the students, teachers, researchers and all clinical staff of the hospital, which are affiliated to the medical colleges. The various types of users are benefited by the specialized information services provided by the medical college libraries. The most significant and essential feature of any medical college library is to provide latest information of the knowledge concerned with modern developments in the related faculty of science and technology.*

### Introduction

It is widely acclaimed and well acknowledged in the entire faculty of medical science education, that the edifice of the plannings, organization and information is mainly based on the service rendered by the medical college libraries. The present study specifically points out the salient features, system and development in the medical college libraries mainly in the Western Maharashtra viz Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara, Solapur and Pune districts in Maharashtra state.

It is, therefore, highly essential to know the purpose and needs of the earnest information required by the user as per his/her related course of study and its proper service provided by the college library to fulfil the needs and purpose of the study.<sup>1</sup> Medical school libraries are particularly important in the Educational process. Effective training in the complexities of modern medicine required self-learning. This can best be obtained by reading and working in medical school libraries.<sup>2</sup> Amongst health science libraries, the medical college libraries have an explicit function as a real centre of intellectual effort, as an active educational instrument in modern teaching and research.

The Libraries are the blood veins as the different channels of knowledge of human knowledge and they are the fundamental sources of information. Libraries play vital role in advancement of human life.<sup>3</sup>

### 2. Significance of The Present Study

The well-equipped medical college library satisfies the function and working of the medical college to serve the society and the country at large as it supports planning and implementation of the health

organization and their development programmes. It is the dire need of such development and organization of health science and various departments in the developing countries like India to release such medical information and technology to overcome various problems in health departments and their organizations in rural as well as Urban India. The efficiency and effectiveness of such medical information provided in the medical college libraries are considered basically significant in view that they generate everlasting efforts continuously to meet the changing situations and problems in the medical profession. Thus, it is quite significant that the evaluation of the information services rendered by the medical college libraries are sufficiently helpful to the entire society and the country at different levels of the health organization.

### 3. Scope of The Study

Though the geographical limit of the present research is limited with the medical college libraries only in Western Maharashtra; the use of information technology in medical education is limitless and cannot be confined to specific area of medical education in the modern medical education is developing at per in consideration of the human health organization and its development at different levels. The medical college libraries comprehend three core elements in this respect viz. 1. The information user 2. Information sources 3. Information services The Table A shows the total medical colleges undertaken for the study which confine the scope of the paper.

### Review of Literature

Avale<sup>4</sup> have focussed on the information needs of medical practitioners in Aurangabad city of

Maharashtra state. The main objective of this study was to find out information need of private and Governmental medical practitioners, employed, survey method and questionnaire techniques for compilation of data.

- i) Government doctors have more zeal for research than private practitioners.

TABLE.A

District	MBBS	BAMS	BDS	BHMS	Total
Kolhapur	02	04	01	04	11
Sangli	01	03	01	01	06
Satara	01	01	--	01	03
Solapur	01	01	01	02	05
Pune	04	06	02	03	15
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>40</b>

- ii) Private practitioners are more engrossed in developing their practice.

- iii) Library facilities and information sources are not easily accessible to the private doctors.

- iv) Private practitioners give more importance to information obtained from colleagues and experts.

Kumar<sup>5</sup> has carried out a survey on new information technologies in Health Science Libraries in India with the help of questionnaire and personal interview method to pin-point the need for development of these technologies appropriately. Reasons for poor technological applications and suggestions for the applications were also discussed in the study.

Pathan<sup>6</sup> has compared the medical college libraries in America (USA) and India. He has reported that medical colleges in India has less collection of volumes from medical colleges in USA. Anand<sup>7</sup> had made a case study on the library facilities in a group of medical colleges in a city, which are in close proximity. The findings revealed that duplicate foreign subscriptions were being made by all these libraries and which was more than the budget of one of the three libraries. The author recommended for cooperation among the libraries which will save money.

Advani<sup>8</sup> et.al have carried out a detailed study to determine the most needed periodicals by the users of a medical college. They have reported that New England Journal of Medicine was identified to be the most referred Journal followed by British Medical Journal, JAMA, Nephron, WHO - Technical Report series and so on. Their analysis has revealed that approximately 20% of the Journals subscribed by the college were not read in the period under study by its users. Taner<sup>9</sup> et.al have carried out study on the use of some select reference sources by the medical professionals at St. John's medical College library, Bangalore. They have reported that nearly 80% of the clientele uses Index medicus which justifies its acquisition. The use of Excerpta medica was less, but intensive referred by specialists. Further, current contents were used by 62% of the users.

## 5) Objective of The Study

- To observe the IT/Network based services provided by these libraries.
- To see the adequacy/inadequacy of funds provided for rendering information services.
- To observe resources and tools available for making information services more and more effective.
- To determine physical facilities available for users to get their information.
- To evaluate strength and weaknesses of information services.
- To examine the overall status of the medical college libraries in Western Maharashtra.

## 6) Methodology

The study is mainly based on the survey method. The collection of the data is based on the questionnaire, interview and observation method of the 40 (Forty) medical college libraries in Western Maharashtra. The data obtained by these 40 filled in questionnaires have been analysed, interpreted in the light of objectives of the study and the results have been depicted in succeeding sections.

## 7) Results and Discussions

### 7.1 Number of users in Medical College Libraries

Table 1 outlines the user strength in 40 medical college libraries of Western Maharashtra. The undergraduate students form the actual bulk of user community, their visits to library are more frequent than other groups of users.

#### See Table 1

The Table 2 shows the budget of the eight medical colleges to be below Rs. 1,00,000. The budget of the eight medical colleges in the range of Rs. 1,00,001 to 1,50,000. The annual budget of nine medical college libraries is in the range of Rs. 1,50,000 to Rs. 2,00,000 and the two Institutes in the range of budget Rs. 2,00,001 to Rs. 2,50,000. One of the libraries has the budget between Rs. 2,50,001 to Rs. 3,00,000. Two medical college libraries have the budget between Rs. 3,00,001 to Rs. 3,50,000. Two more libraries have the budget between Rs. 3,50,001 to Rs. 4,00,000. Three medical college libraries have the budget of Rs. 4,00,001 to Rs. 4,50,000 and four college libraries range of budget as Rs. 4,50,001 to Rs. 5,00,000 and there is one library which has the budget above Rs. 5,00,001.

#### See Table 2

### 7.3 National information service

Table 3 shows it is clear that Nine medical colleges have provided of MEDLARS/MEDLINE services free of cost, whereas thirty one medical colleges do not provide these services.

## 8) Conclusions

The study is undertaken with special reference to information services rendered by medical col-

**Table 1 : Number of users in medical college libraries.**

District	No. of colleges	Teaching staff	Post Graduate students	Under Graduate students	Total	Average
Kolhapur	11	194 (17.69)	60 (5.45%)	620 (56.36%)	874	79.45%
Pune	15	224 (14.93)	83 (5.53%)	710 (47.33%)	1017	67.79%
Satara	03	36 (12%)	09 (3.00%)	135 (45.00%)	180	60.00%
Solapur	05	56 (11.2%)	21 (4.27)	195 (39.00%)	272	54.4%
Sangli	06	84 (14.00)	38 (6.33%)	214 (35.66%)	336	59.99%

Note: Number of users / number of Colleges = Average

#### 7.2 Library Budget

**Table 2 : Library Budget**

Annual Library Budget	No. of medical Colleges	Percentage
Below 1,00,000	08	20%
1,00,001 - 1,50,000	08	20%
1,50,001 - 2,00,000	09	22.50%
2,00,001 - 2,50,000	02	5%
2,50,001 - 3,00,000	01	2.5%
3,00,001 - 3,50,000	02	5%
3,50,001 - 4,00,000	02	5%
4,00,001 - 4,50,000	03	7.5%
4,50,001 - 5,00,000	04	10%
5,00,001 - above	01	2.5%
Total	40	100%

**Table 3 : National Information Service**

Services	No. of medical college libraries	Percentage
Provision of MEDLARS/MEDLINE	09	22.5%
Non provision of MEDLARS/ MEDLINE	31	77.5%

#### 7.4 Service offered by libraries

**Table 4 shows analysis of the services offered by W.H.O./N.M.L.****Table No.4: Service offered by Libraries**

Type of Services	No. of medical college libraries	Percentage
Utilization of the N.M.L./W.H.O. Library services	07	17.5%
Non utilization of the N.M.L./W.H.O. Library services	33	82.5%

lege libraries in Western Maharashtra. i.e. Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara, Solapur and Pune District of Maharashtra State. The Health Science Libraries contribute a lot as special libraries since they serve the specific needs of specialized users; but their nature is also an indicator of an academic library since they support and supplement academic medical programmes. Health care librarianship has its own character and tradition determined by the special characteristics of its users and the unusual structure of medical knowledge. It's users are engaged in study in doing research at the highest intellectual levels. They are practitioners, Besides the unique nature of their practice generate a special sense of urgency and value in every supporting activity. The prime importance is assigned to the medical knowledge and maintenance of the health care at individual,

institutional, social and national level, where planning, implementation and evolution of medical knowledge and it's teaching, research and development takes place in medical organization, where the advancement of the medical profession mainly based on the medical college libraries.

Emergence of new information environment, a result of knowledge explosion and the accelerated growth of new technologies prompt the medical college libraries towards networking. Instead of remaining an array of isolated libraries working independently, the medical college libraries of a region such as that of Western Maharashtra can accomplish the needful. The medical libraries can make immense contribution to the quality of medical education, research and practice if they are linked into a network at regional level.

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