

Information seeking behaviour of Senior College Teachers in Osmanabad District Degree Colleges affiliated to Dr. Babaseheb Ambedkar Marathwad University, Aurangabad

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Abstract:

This paper examines the information-seeking behaviour of users of Senior Colleges in Osmanabad district affiliated to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad. The purpose of the study was to investigate the various aspects of information need and information-seeking behaviour of Senior College Teachers in Osmanabad district. An online questionnaire is prepared with Google form and survey was conducted. This paper investigates that majority of the Senior College Teachers still prefer Text books & reference books for their teaching purpose and for research activities they may prefer online information resources. They also expect more and more online resources should be available within their college library. In seeking of information the college teachers facing problems of insufficient information resources in the library, lack of subject knowledge of library staff and lack of IT literacy.

Introduction:

In college libraries presently most of the research studies are carried out on information seeking behaviour of users. These studies are essential to understand the information needs of the users and their possible answers. At present the users are well versed with the new technological developments and to meet their information needs college libraries should develop 'Information Seeking behaviour Modules'.

This is the age of Information in which a large amount of information is generated on regular basis and from this large amount of information the users need to understand which information authentic, reliable and of useful for them. To determine such needs libraries should conduct user's surveys from time to time. The user needs guidance form library such as how to find the information of their interest from the internet, what kind of sources are available online, how to assert required information from authentic sources, what are primary, secondary and tertiary sources of information etc.

The present study specifically focuses on searching and retrieving information. Information seeking behavior research can focus on improving information system; everyday life information seeking; information search process and Information seeking process.


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Objective of the Study:

1. To identify subject area of college teachers.
2. To know the sources of information college teachers primarily used.
3. To discover the information needs of the college teachers.
4. To determine the college teachers information demand and use.
5. To establish the problems that college teachers encounter in information seeking.
6. To offer better library services to its user in more conventional way.

Hypothesis of the Study:

1. College teachers prefer reference books more compare to text books for note making.
2. College teachers undertake research studies most.
3. College teachers are well familiar with online information sources.
4. They might face problems with information searching.
5. They still using general search engines (eg. Google, Yahoo search, Find.com etc) for their specific information needs.
6. Now-a-days they usually consults librarian for their information needs

Scope and Limitations of the Study:

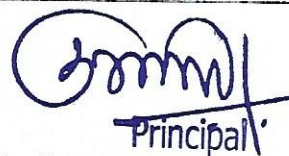
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University comprises of colleges in four districts of Marathwada region. These are Aurangabad, Jalna, Beed and Osmanabad. For the present study has its scope of investigation limited to the college libraries within Osmanabad District.

Methodology:

The study has been conducted on college libraries of Osmanabad district affiliated to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad. Survey method is used to carried out the present study to understand the information seeking behaviour of the college teacher and for data collection a structured questionnaire is prepared with the help of google form and responses were collected.

Data Analysis and Interpretation:

As the data for present study is collected through google form (on online platform) so as to the data also analyzed with the same Interpretation of the data analysis is given below accordingly.



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The online link of the questionnaire is distributed through Google form among senior college teachers in Osmanabad district affiliated to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad and total 86 teachers were responded to the online questionnaire.

1. Geographical Distribution of the Responses.

In Osmanabad district there are 8 Tahsil (Taluka). Among those maximum responses are from Tuljapur Tahsil i.e. 46.5%. Followed to Tuljapur Tahsil the second most responses are from Omerga Tahsil i.e. 23.3%. And from Osmanabad Tahsil 19.8% responses are collected. Besides these three thasil's very few responses are collected.

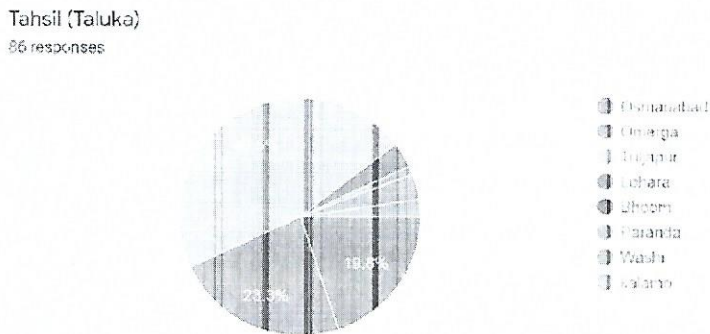


Figure : 1

2. Reason for seeking the information.

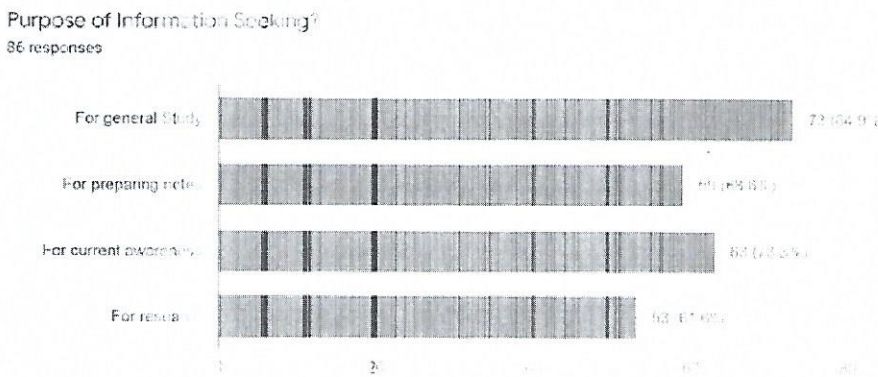


Figure 2

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Above Bar Chart Shows that most of teachers seeking of information for general study purpose i.e. 84.9%. Followed to this they are also seeking information for their general awareness in the subject i.e. 73.3%. And for note making purpose 68.6% teachers are seeking information. Now teachers are also engage in their research activity i.e. 61.6% teachers are seeking information for research purpose.

3. Use of information sources for seeking information.

Following figure shows that Still teachers are depends on text books most i.e. 75.6% teachers are using it. After text book journal articles are also used as information resource i.e. 74.4%. Now the online sources are also used on large scale i.e. 67.4%. And still reference books are also used by the teachers i.e. 64%.

Information Sources used for seeking information.

60 responses

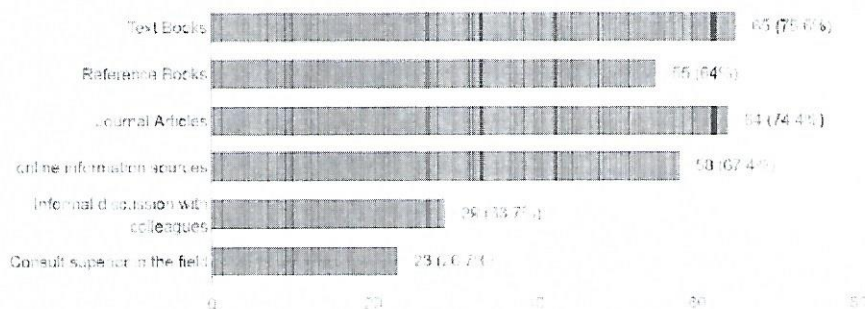


Figure 3

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4. Respondents frequency to visit library.

Frequency of visit to library
87 responses

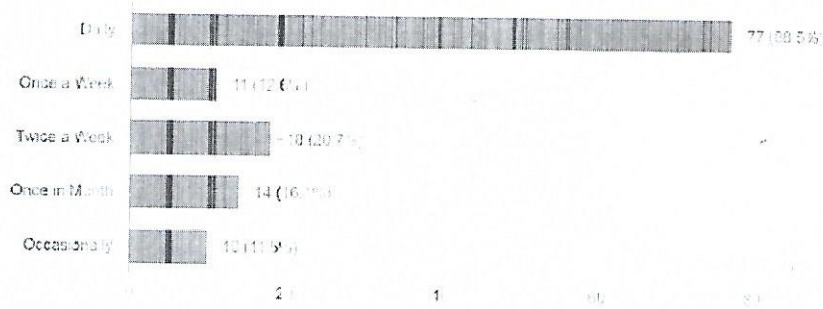


Figure 4

Above Figure Shows that maximum number of teachers are visiting daily to the library i.e. 86.5% teachers are visiting daily.

5. Use of OPAC for Searching Books in the Library.

Use of OPAC for searching books,
87 responses

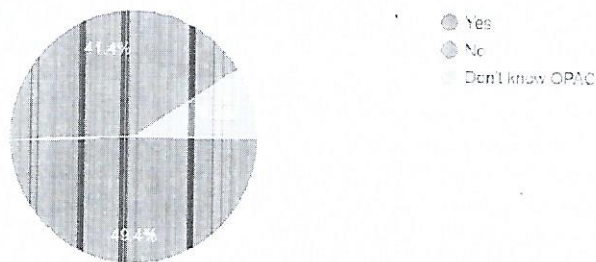


Figure 5

Above figure shows that 49.4% college teachers are using Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) service for searching books in college libraries. 41.4% teachers are not aware of this service. And 9.2% teachers are even don't know what is OPAC.


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6. Use of Internet for Online Searching.

Following Pie Chart shows that at present most of the college teachers are well aware about online information sources and they use these sources frequently.

Use of Internet for Online Search.
87 responses

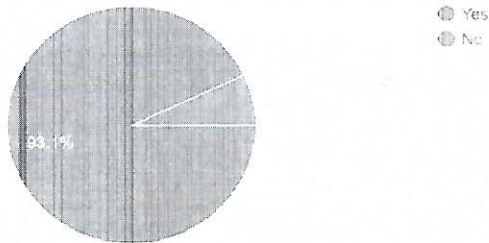


Figure 6

7. Preferred sources for online information search.

There are many sources of information available on online platform among these sources following figure shows that 'Shodhganga: Online Repository of Thesis' is the most preferred online source i.e. 82.8% by the teachers. Followed to Shodhganga Google Scholar is also used by the teachers i.e 63.2%. After these two 'N-List project from INFLIBNET' merged with 'E Shodh Sindhu' and 'Shodhagangotri : Online Repository of final Synopsis of the theses are also use on large scale i.e. 48.3%.

Which Sources used for online information search.
87 responses

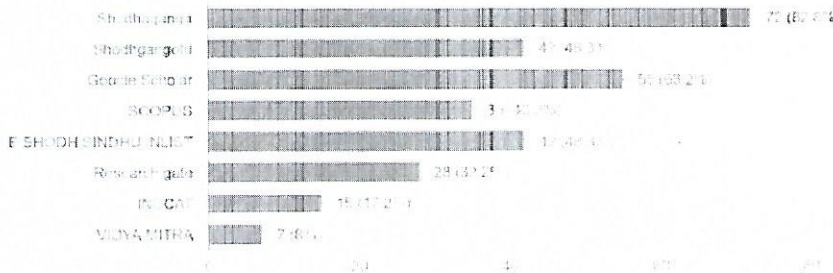
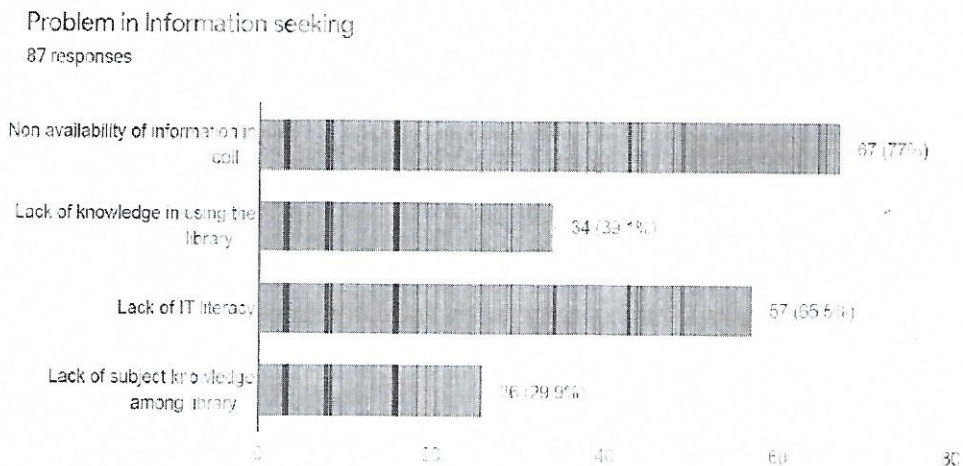


Figure 7

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8. Problems in information seeking.



Above figure shows that most of the libraries are lacking information in physical format i.e. 77% teachers are not able to find their required information in the college library. Many teachers are not aware of handling library resources and 'IT literacy' is also a major problem in seeking information i.e. 65.5% teachers admitted that they are not able to search authentic online resources 29.9% library staff also not well versed with the online information sources.

Conclusions :

In Osmanabad District there are near about 20-25 senior colleges affiliated to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad. Among these college teachers most of them are still prefer text books and reference books for their teaching purpose and for research activities they may use journal articles and online information sources. As an average 50% teachers are using OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) service for searching book in the college libraries but still 50% of the teachers are unaware of OPAC. Now-a-days online information sources such as 'Shodhaganga', 'Shodhgangotri' 'Google Scholar', SCOPUS, N-LIST, etc. are also preferred by the college teachers.

In Information seeking college teaches usually facing problems of insufficient resources in the college libraries; lack of knowledge in handling online resources by library staff; lack of IT literacy among teachers etc.

Suggestions:

1. College libraries should increase their annual budget and half of it should be spent on online resources.
2. Library staff should attend training programmes regarding technological developments in the field of library.
3. Libraries should arrange user guidance programmes in handling library resources and IT literacy.

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