Chapter IV

Summary, Findings & Recommendations
The investigator has taken up the present study entitled "CONTRIBUTION OF FACULTY MEMBERS TO THE FLOW OF INFORMATION: A STUDY AT SELECTED UNIVERSITIES IN ANDHRA PRADESH", of which the brief summary of the study, findings, recommendations, suggestions received from respondents, and areas for further research are presented in this chapter.

4.1 Summary:

Today we are living in the age of information. A large amount of information is being generated every moment. The information may be available in the form of documents and/or non-documents. This information gathered from them is a dynamic and unending resource that affects all disciplines and all walks of life.

The goal of a university is to promote research, give training, generate and also transfer information. A teacher, the pillar of the university, is the key figure of the present study.

The present study is aimed to study the professional development of the university teacher, which is the root cause for flow of information, and the information seeking behaviour, methods followed for generating and transferring information by the university teachers.
The population selected for this study is from Andhra University, Visakapatnam, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, Osmania University, Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh. Glimpse of those selected universities are presented in chapter one, along with objectives, hypotheses, methodology of the present study.

Basing on the objectives the collected data, which is presented in the form of tables and diagrams is analysed and hypotheses are tested.

The following are the findings drawn after the analysis of data collected from the respondents.

4.2. Findings:

4.2.1 Professional development of university teachers

- Almost all the members both from arts faculty and science faculty are having the opinion that it is necessary to become members in professional bodies/associations. Less than half of the total respondents are members in professional associations at various levels, except at national level. The number of international membership is very discouraging.

- The information provided by the professional associations/bodies is very useful to the university teachers.

- More number of science respondents visited foreign universities compared to arts respondents.
Experience in the profession is giving teachers a chance to visit Indian and foreign universities. Most of the professors from arts and science faculties visited Indian and foreign universities on academic or research work.

Equal interest is observed among the faculty members in sharing and exchanging their views and experiences by taking part in seminars, conferences etc at various levels, irrespective of their faculties.

There is a significant difference in participation in seminars, conferences etc. with regard to cadres.

Most of the respondents from faculty of Arts and also of science attended the orientation and refresher course as participants in Assistant Professor and Associate Professor cadres.

Large number of professors from both the faculties participated in orientation and/or refresher courses as resource persons. Almost equal percentage of Professors acted as co-ordinators. It can be concluded that opportunities like resource personnel, co-ordinator etc. come to a teacher by virtue of their cadre and experience.

All the respondents are satisfied with regard to orientation/refresher courses, they have attended.
The faculty members of both arts and science gave first preference to teaching, second to research and third to extension services.

4.2.2. Information Seeking behaviour of University teachers

- Large number of faculty members are maintaining personal libraries, which shows the interest of faculty members relating to acquiring, preserving and utilizing recorded information that contributes to the flow of information.

- Foreign journals are being subscribed by less number of respondents. However Science teachers are found to be more inclined towards subscribing when compared to arts.

- Comparatively it is the Assistant professors from both the faculties, who are subscribing for foreign journals which shows that the young generation of teachers are very keen in quenching their thirst in their respective subject information. This is a healthy practice in this fast moving information age.

- Faculty members depend on libraries to update their knowledge.

- Most of the respondents are frequently consulting their concerned subject materials in department/university libraries.

- The respondents are not satisfied with available subject material in the department/University Library.
Most of the respondents agreed that the library is highly useful in generation of information. Arts faculty rely and believe that library is the laboratory for social scientist. Hence, it is highly useful in information generation.

Science faculty members are more in number, when compared to arts faculty members with regard to using Internet for information seeking.

Internet plays a vital role in the areas of communication and research.

Most of the faculty members felt that department is the convenient place for internet browsing to seek and communicate information.

All the respondents have visited libraries and information centers other than university library for their research and academic work.

Most of the faculty members are aware of the various information centers and research institutions etc related to their profession. It is found that the Science teachers are more enthusiastic in knowing them than the arts teachers.

Most of the Associate Professors and Professors, in both the faculties are aware of the professional Information Centers/Research Institutions, when compared to Assistant Professors.
Majority of the faculty members are receiving abstracting and indexing services from Information Centers and Research Institutions.

All cadres of science faculty members seek information mainly for research purpose, but most of the arts faculty members seek information mainly for teaching purpose. All the respondents give least preference to extension services.

With regard to giving top priority to research work in their profession a slight difference of preference is seen among Assistant Professors and other cadres.

With regard to informal channels majority of the arts respondents have given first preference to consulting a professional colleague to seek information followed by invisible colleges. In the case of science respondents, most of them have given first preference to invisible colleges followed by consulting professional colleague to seek information. Both faculties have given least preference to technological gatekeepers and e-sources.

With regard to formal channels, most of the arts and science respondents primarily prefer primary sources.
4.2.3 Information Generation / Transfer of University Teachers:

- With regard to informal channels, majority of the arts respondents have given first preference to invisible colleges to transfer information followed by consulting a professional colleague. In the case of science respondents, most of them have given first preference to invisible colleges followed by consulting a professional colleague to transfer information.

- With regard to formal channels, all the respondents preferred primary sources to transfer information.

- The faculty of arts prefers single authorship contributions, while science faculty prefers joint authorship contributions in seminars and conferences etc.

- Publishing papers under shared authorship can be clearly visualized among science faculty members when compared to arts faculty members. Contributions to flow of information through publication is more in science faculty than in arts.

- The participation in seminars, conferences etc. and publications are very discouraging at international level both in arts and science sections. But, science contributions are on the upper side than the arts contributions.
Most of the respondents irrespective of their cadres are actively involved in supervising research programmes leading for the award of M.Phil degrees and Ph.D degrees. Experience in the profession will have direct impact on supervising research programmes in the concerned subject area.

Publishing books/monographs independently, is more in faculty of arts than in faculty of science. While, publishing books/monographs under shared authorship is more in faculty of science than in faculty of arts.

There is significant difference between Associate Professors and Professors with regard to the contributions to the flow of information. This may be because of the experience of Professors, which is more than the Associate Professors and Assistant Professors in faculty of arts and faculty of sciences.

Faculty of science is greatly involved in generating new information with regard to under taking minor and major research projects than faculty of arts. The percentage of combined works is also high in science faculty than arts faculty.

Faculty of science has keen interest in disseminating and exchanging new information through invisible colleges than faculty of arts. More national level seminars are organized by both the faculties, than state and International level seminars.
4.2.4 Environmental Factors:

- Most of the respondents are highly satisfied in information transfer through teaching followed by research and extension services.

- Very less number of respondents are less satisfied with regard to their effort to transfer information through teaching, research and extension services.

- The respondents expressed that the reason for less satisfaction with regard to teaching, is due to lack of required information sources.

- Coming to the research point of view, most of the respondents also expressed the same reason i.e. lack of required information sources.

- The reasons given by the respondents for less satisfaction with regards to extension services are lack of time, lack of finance, lack of required information sources and also because of heavy work load.

- Most of the respondents from both the faculties are satisfied with regard to provision of financial and administrative support given by parent and professional bodies.

- Awards and fellowships not received by good number of respondents from both the faculties.
4.3. Conclusions

Following are the conclusions drawn from the study:

➢ University teachers prefer to attend seminars, conferences, workshops etc., visit other Indian/Foreign universities for academic purposes, enroll in professional associations and participate in orientation and refresher courses for professional development.

➢ University teachers depend on their libraries, other libraries and professional associations for gathering information.

➢ University teachers require information mostly for research than teaching and extension services.

➢ University teachers highly use informal channels to gather information and use formal channels to transfer information.

➢ Irrespective of their cadres the members of the faculty have interest in generation of information.

➢ Science faculty contributes under shared authorship than the Arts faculty to the flow of information in their respective fields through writing articles to journals, conferences, seminars etc., writing books/monographs, research projects etc.

➢ Working environment and other related factors have direct impact on information generation and transfer viz. infrastructure facilities, library services etc.
University teachers are satisfied with regard to the financial and administrative support given by the parent and professional associations/bodies for information generation and transfer.

Significant differences prevail between Science and Arts faculty in gathering, generating and transferring information.

4.4. Recommendations:

* Initiation by the colleagues and senior faculty members, who have already become members, in various professional bodies is very much essential to make the non-members as members. If each and every faculty member becomes a member in some professional bodies he/she will definitely has the opportunity of updating his/her knowledge in that particular subject area and also can popularize his/her views through the publications of those professional bodies.

* Professors from both the faculties are participating more in exchanging their expertise by visiting universities both at national and international level, as is observed from the analysis. The faculty members, who belong to the other cadres, also must put their sincere effort in this direction, following the footsteps of their predecessors. The Proper guidance from the Senior faculty members and authorities is highly essential in this regard.
All the respondents attend orientation and refresher courses which are useful to their academic and professional career. (This must be maintained). Irrespective of cadre and experience, faculty members who have excellence are to be identified and must be given an opportunity to act as resource persons.

It is a known, proved and accepted fact that the libraries play a vital role in generation and dissemination of information. The respondents are getting information not only through their departmental or central libraries, but are also from information centers and research organisations, personal libraries and through subscription of journals in their subject fields. As most of the respondents expressed dissatisfaction regarding the libraries, measures are to be taken to improve the resources and infrastructure facilities in their university libraries. As library is the laboratory to the social scientists, improved library facilities enable the social scientists to contribute more to the flow of information filling the gap which is existing between the scientists and social scientists.

Measures are to be taken in providing internet facility in libraries and, in departments, and creating awareness among the users, relating to the availability and utility of internet, which will show positive effect on generation and transfer of information.
It is observed from the analysis that majority of the science respondents preferred research and arts respondents preferred teaching. Less concentration is observed on extension activities. As India is a developing country, and there is a dire need of the fruits of research reach to gross root level, the faculty must make themselves involved in extension activities for proper and timely communication of the research results. This can be taken up at University level and in association with other voluntary organizations.

With regard to publication of articles, and research work clear observation is that, almost fifty percent did not respond to it which shows the inactive tendency of the respondents. Hence, the publishing tendency must be activated either conditionally or by providing incentives.

Measures are to be taken to improve the infrastructure facilities, financial assistance, provision of required information sources and manpower which enable the faculty to contribute effectively in a free working environment, concentrating equally on the important functions of the university, viz., teaching, research and extension.

Encouragement in the form of financial and administration support in organizing conferences etc., fellowships and awards by the parent and professional bodies will add flavour to the performance of the faculty. This is being provided to some extent and should be provided at a greater extent.
4.5. Suggestions from the respondents:

Following are the suggestions received from the respondents from the open ended question (Q. No. 33) are placed as they are.

Every teacher should publish important information in regional language and distribute among the rural people.

Online services must be improved and more journals must be procured in the department library/university library.

Counseling, Monthly informal meetings and discussions, counseling centers may gather the information and give guidance according to the needs of the people.

1. New papers are to be introduced.

2. Creativity is to be recognised and encouraged.

3. Collaborative teaching, research and extension are to be encouraged.

4. Papers taught should have utility to the community.

5. Extension activities should be a part of social service curriculum.

6. All facilities and changes in curriculum facilitating extension activities.

7. Forget hierarchy if you want innovation.
8. Education, Employment, health and other thrust areas are to be identified with demand for further attention.

9. Social science departments have to be extensively involved in field counseling.

10. Multi-disciplinary research should be encouraged.

* The flow of information will automatically improve once deserving weightage is given to research work when it comes to career development.

* The faculty should involve in more constructive activities and collaborative research.

* Every librarian ought to have the service motto.

* i. Improve the network facility.

   ii. Organise more national and international meets/conferences to exchange of latest information.

* i. Self motivation

   ii. One should develop professional personality which involves professional interest, professional concern, self-discipline, work ethics which will contribute to exchange and extension of knowledge.

* Computerised library is a must.
IT should be strengthened at the department and University levels.

1. Mindset of the people is to be changed
2. Transparency is required.

1. The Indian authors have to undertake creative and original writings.
2. The teachers in higher education should give equal importance to teaching and research.
3. New scholars should avoid pseudo-research.

1. Modern applications must be their suit to modern needs.
2. Applicability part is given priority than theory.

Designing the appropriate system for the flow of information and distribute the right information to right persons in right time at a right place through a right channel for a right purpose.

4.6 Areas for further research:

In the process of research, the following areas are suitable for further research.

From the analysis it is observed that though the respondents of both the faculties expressed that it is necessary to become members in professional bodies, only less than half of the respondents became members of professional bodies at various levels. The reasons for not becoming members are yet to be studied.
Regular and periodic evaluation of the teacher enables him/her to make himself/herself competent in the profession. Feedback in the form of self appraisal, evaluation by the students, colleagues, experts and authorities is necessary. Feedback, which could not be included in the present work, must be taken care of in further research of this type.

Even though this type of studies are having great value to know the level of contribution of university faculty members to the flow of information, very less number of studies are conducted in this particular area. Hence, this area may be concentrated more by the departments like library and information science, education and continuing education etc and also as interdisciplinary research.

This type of studies may be extended to other faculties also, unlike the present study which is confined to arts and science. As the trend is towards establishing standards through assessment and accreditation, this type of studies, at various levels, enable the authorities, know the strength and weaknesses of their own institutions, with regard to teaching, research, and extension, paving way to improve themselves.