CHAPTER - 6

SUMMARY,
FINDINGS AND
SUGGESTIONS
CHAPTER 6
SUMMARY, FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

6.1 Introduction

The colleges Libraries constitute a significant segment of Libraries in Andhra Pradesh. The core functions of these libraries namely collection and organisation and dissemination of information and knowledge have remained the same. The ways to carry them out, however, have undergone change due to application of Information communication technologies. Offering effective service has become a challenging task for the Librarian. Crucial to rendering satisfactory service on the part of the Librarian is a good understanding of the Information Seeking Behaviour of the user. The Librarian needs to familiarize himself with the various modes and means of information seeking, information retrieval and information behaviour of teaching faculty of a college. These indeed are the focal point of the present study. The investigator has chosen a sample of 11 colleges in Rayalaseema region. The primary data has been collected through a structured questionnaire from a sample of 514 teachers. In order to elicit information about the library another questionnaire has been served to all the Librarians of the college libraries under study. Secondary data was collected from the records and registers of the concerned institutions. The data analysis has been carried out through simple statistical techniques like
Weighted Average, Chi-Square etc., which led to significant findings on the Information Seeking Behaviour of college teachers.

The review of literature revealed that there are few empirical studies from the application perspective in Indian context. Most of the studies were conducted in the western context. This lack of empirical research as reflected in the published Indian literature adds greater value to the present study. The literature search yielded items which guided the researcher to opt methods and techniques adopted in the present study.

The present study comprises of six chapters. They are:

Chapter - 1: Introduction
Chapter - 2: Information Seeking Behaviour
Chapter - 3: Review of literature
Chapter - 4: Growth and development of Higher Education in Andhra Pradesh with special reference to Rayalaseema region.
Chapter – 5: Data analysis and interpretation
Chapter – 6: Summary, Findings and Suggestions.
The objectives of the study:

1. To trace the growth and development of Degree Colleges and their Libraries in Andhra Pradesh.
2. To study the information needs and ISB of teaching faculty working in the Degree colleges of Rayalaseema.
3. To differentiate the ISB of respondents by age, sex and designation.
4. To examine the motivating factors for ISB among the respondents.
5. To examine the attitude of faculty towards library collection in various college libraries under study.
6. To identify the various channels of information the teaching faculty makes use in information seeking.
7. To analyze the extent of use and dependence on various sources of information for teaching and research.
8. To offer suggestions based on the study.

The universe of the study covers all the college libraries in Rayalaseema region. The 11 sample colleges were purposively random. A total number of 660 questionnaires were served to the teachers working in these colleges. The researcher could receive 514 questionnaires with responses filled there in. The data for the study was collected primarily through two questionnaires. Questionnaire – 1 is distributed among teaching faculty. The questionnaire consists of 14 parts:
Part - 1 : General Information
Part - 2 : Library utilization
Part - 3 : Motivation of respondents
Part - 4 : Respondents' dependence on formal documentary sources, informal and interpersonal sources
Part - 5 : Use of Library services
Part - 6 : Delegation or non delegation of respondents for information.
Part - 7 : Sharing of the information with colleagues by respondents.
Part - 8 : Respondents attending conferences/seminars and interactive meetings.
Part - 9 : Professional activities of respondents
Part - 10 : Respondents' dependence on bibliographic reference for information.
Part - 11 : Respondents search for databases for information
Part - 12 : Affecting respondents' environment in ISB.
Part - 14 : Respondents' dependence and satisfaction over information sources.
The second questionnaire served to the Librarians, consists of 13 parts:

Part – 1 : Name of the Institution.
Part – 2 : Qualifications of the Librarian.
Part – 3 : Total Library collection.
Part – 4 : Total number of national and international periodicals in the library.
Part – 5 : Total number of non book materials available in the Library.
Part – 6 : Total number of teaching faculty in the college.
Part – 7 : Total number of library staff working in the Library.
Part – 8 : Computerization details of the Library.
Part – 9 : Use of Software in the Library.
Part – 10 : Automated sections in the Library.
Part – 11 : Availability of departmental library in the college.
Part – 12 : Databases available in the Library.
Part – 13 : Services offered by the Library to the Users.

The data collected through questionnaires was classified under meaningful heads and necessary tabulation was made. Conclusions and generalizations have been drawn on the basis of the information collected through the questionnaires.
6.2 Major findings

The key findings revealed from the study are:

6.2.1 Degree colleges in Rayalaseema

- It has been found that there are 51 Government Degree Colleges and 25 Private Aided Colleges established during the years from 1916 to 1994 in Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh.

6.2.2 Sample size

- The sample represents two categories of respondents namely Readers, and Lecturers comprising of 514 respondents drawn from 11 Degree Colleges in Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh. Nearly 78 % of the teaching faculty responded. (Table 5.1)

6.2.3 Background information of Degree College libraries

- No Degree college library is providing data base and ICT services. (Table 4.1).
- No automation of libraries was found in 70 % of the libraries. (Table 4.1).
6.2.4 Background information of the respondents

- A majority of the sample respondents (73.54 %) are found to be Males. (Table 5.5 & Fig 5.4 Fig 5.5).
- 58.36% of the respondents fall under the age group of between 41 and 50 years. (Table 5.6 & Fig 5.6).
- As many as 84.82% of the respondents are Lecturers and only 15.18% are Readers. (Table 5.7 & Fig 5.7).

6.2.5 Library use

- About 53.11% of the respondents every day visit the institutional library followed with different frequency of visits like more than once in a week, once in a week, and occasionally. (Table 5.8 & Fig 5.8)
- 81.72% of the respondents indicated the non existence of departmental libraries. (Table 5.15 & Fig 5.13).
- There is significant difference between different age groups of respondents and their time spending in the library. (Table 5.13 & Fig 5.11). There is also significant difference between males and females in spending their time in the institutional library. (Table 5.14 & Fig 5.12). These findings have been proved by Chi square tests.
- 72.18% of the respondents didn't visit other libraries. (Table 5.16 & Fig 5.14).
6.2.6 Formal documentary and non formal documentary sources required

- The highly required documentary sources of information are text books followed by hand books/reference books which has proved by tests of weighted average. Findings also revealed that as many as 49.61% of respondents frequently seek information from Internet sources. (Table 5.19 & Fig 5.15)

- Respondents depend mostly on personal experience followed by consulting experts in the field and consulting colleagues. (Table 5.20 & Fig 5.16).

6.2.7 Motivational factors

- To prepare for class room teaching, guiding students projects, for general awareness, for participating in seminars /conferences, and for preparing notes for special lecturers are the major motivating factors of the respondents in seeking information. (Table 5.21 & Fig 5.17).
6.2.8 Dependence on Bibliographic reference sources

- 54.3% of the respondents depend on Library catalogue, 53.7% of the respondents on browsing library shelves followed by 43.4% of the respondents on browsing book shops sources. (Table 5.22 & Fig 5.18).

6.2.9 Dependence on formal/documentary and informal/Interpersonal sources

- 35% of the respondents depend equally on both formal and informal sources. (Table 5.23).

6.2.10 Use of Institution’s Library services

- Among the various library services Borrowing of books, Reference service, Reprography service and Inter library loan are highly ranked services being used by the respondents under study. This has been proved by Weighted Averages. (Table 5.24).
- There is no much ranking difference among other library services.
6.2.11 Delegation of work

- About 40% of the respondents are in the habit of delegation of work for information collection, either occasionally, moderately or frequently. (Table 5.25 & Fig 5.19, Fig 5.20).
- Lack of time is the prime reason and involvement of team members is the second reason for delegation of work. (Table 5.26).
- Respondents mainly delegate work for factual data such as design data and physical data. (Table 5.27 & Fig 5.21).
- It is found that there is much significant difference between designation and their delegation of information. The findings were substantiated by tests of Chi square tests. (Table 5.28).
- It is found that there is no significant difference between the sex and age and their delegation of information. The findings were substantiated by tests of Chi square tests. (Tables 5.29 & 5.30).

6.2.12 Sharing of information with others

- It has been found that sharing of information with subordinates and juniors is highly rated. (Table 5.31 & Fig 5.22).
- There is significant difference between the designation and sharing of information with superiors, peers and colleagues. (Tables 5.32 & 5.33).
6.2.13 Conferences/Seminars

- It is observed that 99% of the respondents do attend seminars/Conferences. (Table 5.35 & Fig 5.23).
- 61.3% of the respondents substantially depend on conferences/seminars. (Table 5.38).

6.2.14 Use of databases

- It has been found that 61% of the respondents marginally depend on databases (Table 5.40).

6.2.15 Information collecting methods

- It is found that respondents collect information mainly from Institutional library, discussion with colleagues, conferences/Seminars, and outside libraries. (Table 5.44 & Fig 5.25).
- Whereas information collecting methods for research is mainly from institutional library, personal library followed by departmental library. (Table 5.45 & Fig 5.26).
6.2.16 Dependence on information sources

- From this study it has been observed that books, informal/interpersonal as well as newspapers are highly dependable sources for teaching. (Table 5.46 & Fig 5.27).

- It has been observed that there is no significant difference between respondent's designation and on their dependence on books, journals, and internet sources of information for teaching. (Tables 5.47, 5.48, & 5.50).

- It has been found that respondents mainly depend on books, internet services, and articles in journals for research. (Table 5.53).

6.2.17 Satisfaction with information sources

- It is found that the respondents are highly satisfied with books and informal/interpersonal sources for teaching. (Table 5.54 & Fig 5.28) and there is significant difference between designation of teachers and their satisfaction with books, journals and field survey reports for teaching. (Tables 5.55, 5.56 & 5.58).

- Books and articles in journals are highly satisfied sources for research (Table 5.60 & Fig 5.29).
6.2.18 Hypotheses testing

The analysis of the study has given rise to the following conclusions regarding validity of the hypotheses.

1. There exists uniformity in the information needs of the Degree College Teachers under study. The hypothesis is proved in majority of the cases except in the use of Informal/Interpersonal sources (Table 5.49).

2. There is uniformity in the Information Seeking Behaviour of College Teachers under study. The hypothesis holds good in majority of the cases except in the case of satisfaction with books and journals (Table 5.55 & Table 5.56).

3. The age, sex and designation influence the Information Seeking Behaviour. These factors influence the ISB in certain cases: frequency of institutional library visits (Table 5.9), Time spent in the library (Table 5.13 & Table 5.14) and sharing of information with superiors (Table 5.32 & Table 5.33). Hence the hypothesis is partially proved.

4. There exists heterogeneity in the motives for information seeking by Degree College Teachers. The hypothesis is proved to be true because the motivating factors differ among teachers.
5. The faculty mostly depends on post/parent institution's library, for information and they are satisfied by the parent library's collection. The designations of the teacher influence his visit to other libraries. However, majority of the teachers depend on the parent institution's library for their information needs (Table 5.17).

6. Formal and Documentary sources dominate the informal and interpersonal sources in the Information Seeking Behaviour. The hypothesis is proved to be true and hence accepted (Table 5.47, Table 5.48 & Table 5.49).

7. There exists difference in the degree of relevance and dependence on the nature and type of information sought by the Teaching faculty. The hypothesis is accepted in case of books and journals, Field/survey report; but not in other cases like Internet (Table 5.55, Table 5.56 & Table 5.57).

6.3 Suggestions

1. The study revealed that out of the 11 colleges taken for study only three colleges are partially automated. These three colleges are particularly adopting SOUL Software. It is suggested that the SOUL software is adopted in other college libraries also.

2. The staff working in the libraries under study is quite in adequate, and most of them are not skilled in using the computer and the Internet. Necessary
training must be given to the staff in the latest techniques of Information retrieval.

3. Automation of Networking of college libraries ought to be augmented at the earliest.

4. User education Programmes shall be conducted and latest techniques of information retrieved are imparted to the users.

5. Staff plays major role in any library. No library can run without adequate and trained man power. The present situation, the libraries have to train the existing staff to meet the challenges of Information Technology. The staff should be offered necessary training through agencies like INFLIBNET to improve their skills.

6. The Internet facility should be provided to all the departments of the college.

7. There is need to improve Electronic resources, to provide latest information for the user community.

8. The collection of existing books and Journals is not adequate to make the emerging needs of teaching community. Hence, it is essential to concentrate on collection development.
6.4 Scope for further research

While the study is confined to limited number of colleges at micro level. There is need to understand the macro picture of college libraries at wider level. Similar studies, in other types of libraries namely, public libraries and special libraries can be conducted, which are likely to yield significant results. A comparative study of the three types of libraries may also be conducted in order to understand Information Seeking Behaviour of users can be found out. The Information Seeking Behaviour of the users is ever changing concept and the users must be resilient in their attitude towards emerging trends in the field of Library and information science. Resistance to change is an important factor that is to be taken into consideration for effective and fruitful human resource management. Research in this area is very much suggested by the investigator.

Similar studies can be conducted in other areas namely, Telangana and Costal regions of Andhra Pradesh.