CHAPTER 6

FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS & CONCLUSION

6.1 Introduction

Analysis of data on information needs and information seeking behaviour of the sample respondents are presented with inferences in chapter 5. Present chapter deals with major findings and observations based on the data analysis performed in chapter 5. In this chapter major findings are broadly classified under suitable headings substantiated by relevant table and figure numbers.

6.2 Findings

6.2.1 Medical colleges in Karnataka

It has been found that there are 10 Government medical colleges established during the years from 1924 to 2007 importing medical education in Karnataka (Tables 1.1 & 1.2)

6.2.2 Sample size

The sample represents four categories of respondents namely Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors and Tutors/Lecturers comprising of 855 respondents drawn from 10 Government Medical Colleges in Karnataka. More than 79% of the sample respondents from 90% of the medical colleges. (Table 5.1) complied with filled in questionnaires.

5.2.3 Background information of Medical Colleges Libraries

I. All the Medical college libraries are providing data base and ICT services (Table 4.1)

II. No automation of libraries was found in 90% of the libraries. (Table 4.1)

III. It was found in some of the libraries that Internet facility was sponsored by NRI faculty Members of that college. (Table 4.1)
5.2.4 Background information of the respondents

I. A majority of the sample respondents (73.9%) are found to be males. (Table 5.3 & Fig 5.2).

II. While 38.5% of the respondents fall under the age group of between 31 and 40 years. (Table 5.4 & Fig 5.3).

III. As many as 28.5% of the respondents are Tutors/Lecturers. Professors, Associate Professors & Assistant Professors almost equally represented the sample (Table 5.5)

IV. For Clinical treatment purpose 178 (20.8%) faculty members have not responded, for method of collecting information sources (Table 5.42%). For dependence on information sources (Table 5.51%) and for satisfaction on information sources (Table 5.63).

6.2.5 Library use

I. About 25.5% of the respondents occasionally visit the institutional library followed with different frequency of visits like more than once in a week, once in a week and every day (Table 5.6 & Fig 5.5)

II. 92.5% of the respondents indicated the existence of departmental libraries.(Table 5.13 & Fig 5.8)

III. There is significant difference between different age groups of respondents and their time spending in the library (Table 5.11). On the other hand there is no significant difference between males and females in spending their time in the library. (Table 5.12). These findings have been proved by chi square tests.

IV. 85.4% of the respondents didn’t visit other libraries. (Table 5.14).
6.2.6 Formal documentary and non formal information sources required

I. The highly required documentary sources of information are evidence based regularly updated text books followed by Standard journal reviews and journal articles which has proved by test of weighted average. Findings also revealed that as many as 63% of respondents frequently seek information from internet sources. (Table 5.17).

II. Respondents frequently seek information by way of discussion with colleagues followed by continuing medical education lectures as informal source of information. (Table 5.18).

6.2.7 Motivational factors

I. To guide students projects and research scholars, to prepare class room teaching, for participating. For participating in seminars and conferences and for checking the authenticities of the clinical information are the major motivating factors of the respondents in seeking information. (Table 5.19 & Fig 5.11).

6.2.8 Dependence on formal/documentary and informal/inter personal Sources

I. Journals, Reference books, Books (other than hand books and reference books) have been rated as “Highly depended sources” of information. This has been proved by Weighted Arithmetic Mean. (Table 5.21).

II. While 49% of the respondents depend more on formal/documentary sources than information/inter personal sources. (Table 5.21).

6.2.9 Use of Institution’s Library services

I. Among the various library services borrow of books, Journal/periodical circulation, Internet and Reference service are highly ranked services being used by the respondents under study. This has been tested by Weighted Averages. (Table 5.22).
II. There is no much ranking difference of other library services (Table 5.22).

6.2.10 Delegation of work

I. About 65% of the respondents are in the habit of delegation of work for information collection, either occasionally, moderately or frequently. (Table 5.23 & Fig.5.13).

II. Lack of time is the prime reason and involvement of team members is the second reason for delegation of work. (Table 5.24).

III. Respondents mainly delegate work for diagnostic and clinical findings. (Table 5.25 & Fig 5.15).

IV. It is found that there is much significant difference between designation, gender and age and their delegation of information. The findings were substantiated by tests of chi square. (Table 5.26, 5.27 & 5.28).

6.2.11 Sharing of Information with others

I. It has been found that sharing of information with “Superiors” is highly rated (Table 5.29)

II. There is significant difference between Designation and sharing of information with superiors, peers and colleagues (Table 5.30 & 5.31).

6.2.12 Conferences/Seminars

I. It is observed that 70% of the respondents do attend seminars/conferences (Table 5.32 & Fig 5.17).
II. While 79% of the respondents substantially depend on conference/seminars (Table 5.35).

6.2.13 Use of databases

I. It has been found that 54% of the respondents marginally depend on Medical databases (Table 5.37) and it is found that “Index Medicus” is the most frequently used database (Table 5.38).

6.2.14 Information collecting methods

I. It is found that respondents collect information mainly from institutional library, departmental library and personal library for teaching. (Table 5.40).

II. Where as information collecting methods for research is mainly from institutional library, Conference/Seminars followed by Discussion with colleagues (Table 5.41).

III. For treatment the method of collecting information is primarily from discussion with colleagues. Conferences/Seminars and Drug advertisement literature (Table 5.42). The findings in information collecting methods have been proved by weighted average tests and confirmed by STDV tests.

6.2.15 Dependence on information sources

I. From this study it has been observed that books, journals as well as therapeutic sources of information are highly dependable sources for teaching. (Table 5.43 & Figure 5.20).

II. It has been observed that there is significant difference between respondent’s designation and on their dependence on books, journals and their personal sources of information for teaching. (Table 5.44, 5.45 & 5.46).
III. It has been found that respondents mainly depend on journals, books and informal/interpersonal sources of information for research (Table 5.47).

IV. There is no significant difference designation of faculty members and their dependence on books for research (Table 5.48) where as there is difference between designation of faculty members and their dependence on journals and inter personal sources of information for research (Table 5.49 & 5.50).

V. Quite interestingly it is found that for treatment purpose the respondents mainly depend on informal/inter personal sources of information followed by therapeutic references and journals (Table 5.51).

VI. It is observed that there is significant difference between designation of faculty members and on their dependence on informal sources, therapeutic references and on journals for treatment (Table 5.52, 5.53 & 5.54). All the findings or observations on dependence on information sources for the purpose of teaching, research and for treatment are proved by tests of weighted average, Chi square and confirmed with STD tests.

6.2.16 Satisfaction with information sources

I. It is found that the respondents are highly satisfied with books and journals for teaching (Table 5.56) and there is significant difference between designation of faculty members and their satisfaction with books and journals for teaching (Tables 5.57 & 5.58).

II. Journals and dissertations are highly satisfied sources for research (Table 5.59) and for research purpose also there is significant difference between respondents designations and their satisfaction with journals, dissertations and internet (Table 5.60, 5.61 & 5.62).

III. It is found that for clinical treatment faculty members are highly satisfied with informal sources followed by journals (Table 5.63) and the faculty members designation has significant difference with informal/inter personal source, journals, therapeutic sources for treatment (Tables 5.64, 5.65 & 5.66).
6.2.17 Hypotheses testing

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

1. There exists uniformity in the information seeking behaviour of the faculty members of Government Medical colleges in Karnataka. The hypothesis is not proved to be valid in majority of the parameters taken to study ISB: it is valid in only one case i.e. gender Vs Time spent in the library (Table 5.12).

2. The designation of the faculty influences the information seeking behaviour. The hypothesis is found to be valid in most of the cases except in the case of Designation Vs dependence on books for research (Table 5.48).

3. The faculty members of Government Medical colleges mostly depend on host/parent institution library for information and or satisfied. The hypothesis is found to be valid.

4. The faculty members of Government Medical Colleges avail and depend on more than one channel of information sources. This hypothesis is found to be valid.

5. There exist differences in the degree of relevance and dependence on the nature and type of information sought by the faculty members. The hypothesis is found to be valid.

6. There exists heterogeneity in the motives for information seeking by faculty members. The hypothesis is found to be valid.

7. Formal and documentary sources dominate the informal and interpersonal sources in the information seeking behavior. The hypothesis is found to be valid.

6.2.18 Suggestions to medical college libraries

Medical education and research have drastically changed in their concept and character due to advances in bio-medical sciences. These changes demand support from their respective libraries to collect, sort and recall the wide variety of information.
6.2.19 Use of Library services

In this study it has been found that a few services such as book lending, periodical, reference and internet are only high ranked services found from the library. Keeping in view of the importance of a variety of documentation and ICT enabled services, it is suggested that all Government Medical colleges in Karnataka should provide such services. To promote the awareness of such services, the librarians should conduct user education programmes for promotion of the availability of library services and resources. It is also possible to conduct periodically user studies to find out the extent of non utilization of library services.

For clinical treatment, faculty members depend on patient data. It is suggested for storing the entire patient’s treatment data of the attached hospitals to the medical college in their respective libraries in an electronic form, makes it available through resource sharing to other government medical colleges libraries for clinical guidance. It is found from this study that faculty members depend on information from therapeutic sources published by pharmaceutical companies for treatment. It is suggested to the pharmaceutical companies to provide the information regarding their manufactured products to the medical college libraries. This will in other way boost up their product sales also. It is suggested that Medical college libraries should secure, preserve and disseminate information provided by pharmaceutical companies to the faculty members.

It is found from this study that faculty members depend on informal information sources like discussions with colleagues, seminars/conferences and interactive meetings for clinical treatment. It is suggested that medical college libraries which are information resource and dissemination centers should become a platform for informal information exchange also. In this context it is better if the library is re-named as “Information Resource Centre”

6.2.20 Collection development

In this study faculty members expressed their needs for sources of information for teaching, research and for clinical treatment. Therefore it is suggested that all Government Medical College libraries shall acquire secondary and tertiary sources of information in medicine. If there are financial constraints in procuring these sources the best prescription is to become consortium of medical college libraries for sharing information resources.
ICT has brought a revolutionary change in the field of biological and medical sciences. Keeping these changes, libraries of Government medical colleges in Karnataka shall strive for a better choice between print and electronic media of information resources. For optimum utilization or information resources the acquisition policy of the medical college libraries should be need oriented.

6.2.21 Digital Libraries and Wi-Fi Internet facilities

It is found in this study that some of the Non-resident Faculty members who have studied in respective Government medical colleges are sponsoring the well equipped digital libraries with internet facilities. It is suggested that the management of other medical colleges also should seek the support NRI faculty members of who are old students of that college for sponsoring electronic libraries with better internet and Wi-Fi facility.

6.2.22 Human resource development of the library

Man power plays a pivotal role in information management. Keeping in view of the present man power in medical colleges, it is suggested to initiate the following HRD programmes for the management of information survives:

I. To initiate steps in filling up all the vacant posts in the library by suitable qualified persons.

II. Provision of Orientation and Refresher course programmes to the medical college libraries to acquire more information handling techniques.

III. Encouraging libraries for participating in National Regional seminars and workshops.

6.2.23 Motivators to seek information

It is found in this study that designation of the faculty members have direct impact on the motivating factors for ISB. Therefore the medical college managements should create conductive atmosphere to promote more refined information search process. Research outputs may be encouraged by attractive incentives.
6.2.24 Government Medical college Libraries networks

Exchange of information is possible over long distances, within no time by the advent of computers and ICTs. The resultant outcome of ICT applications is the information networks. In this study Karnataka Government Medical college libraries networks has been proposed for sharing the online medical journals, books and other medical information resources in electronic form on co-operative basis. The basic rationale of the distributed networks is the sharing of different information resources of the network consortia is sharing of different information resources of the network members by each other.

6.2.25 Limitations

A network consortia programme will be successful so long as each participating libraries finds it beneficial to it. The attitude of participating libraries is important in the success of the programme. The success of network consortia depends to a large extent on the willingness of the library staff to cooperate.

6.3 Suggestions for further Research

This investigator has identified the following topics for further research based on the presented study.

i. Information needs and Information Seeking Behaviour of Post Graduate Medical Students in Government Medical Colleges.

ii. Information needs and Information Seeking Behaviour of Physiotherapists in Medical Colleges.

iii. Information needs and Information Seeking Behaviour of Dentists in Dental Colleges.

iv. Design and Development of Medical Information system for studies on Bio-Medical Sciences.

v. User’s attitude towards the application of ICT in Medical Colleges.

vi. Comparative study on the information needs and information seeking Behaviour between users of corporate and Government Medical Colleges.

vii. A survey on the Medical Para medical and Dental colleges libraries in Karnataka.
6.4. Conclusion

The study on Information needs and Information Seeking Behaviour of faculty members of Government Medical colleges in Karnataka emphasizes that the existing medical college library infrastructure in terms of collection, services and other facilities are more to be strengthened. Government Medical colleges are suffering from financial constraints. The limited man power resources hinder the provision of effective information services.

The investigator stresses that present libraries should accept the challenges being forced by ICT which would supplement and complement the ISB of users. The librarians should completely transform themselves with the changing scenario. ISB will be fruitful only with balanced collection of information resources provision of ICT based services in addition to the services offered by the information professionals.

The duties of faculty members in Government Medical Colleges in Karnataka in three aspects of teaching, promoting as well as involving in research and finally safe guarding the lives of the poor people by the clinical treatment is really applaud able. In fulfillment of the desired functions, it is the responsibility of the Librarians of the Medical colleges to support the faculty members duties with the required information sources for a prospering healthy national.