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FACTORS INFLUENCE THE USE PATTERN OF LIBRARIES AMONG STUDENTS – A CASE STUDY OF SELECT AFFILIATED COLLEGES OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE NORTH COASTAL ANDHRA REGION

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ABSTRACT

The present study throws light on the Use Pattern of information by UG and PG students of selected Engineering Colleges of North Coastal Andhra Pradesh. Information literacy forms the basis for lifelong learning. It Initiates, sustains, and extends lifelong learning through abilities, which

may use technologies but are ultimately independent of them. Therefore, an attempt has been made in this study to identify the pattern of Information using Information tools and the perceptions of students of the engineering colleges in North Coastal Andhra region. The Primary data gathered through questionnaire from the UG & PG Engineering students, also discuss about the frequency of use pattern of the libraries and the purposes for which it is used. The analysis of the data is presented across the Gender of the user, the level of programme pursuing and the location of the college situated.

KEY WORDS : Pattern Of Libraries , Colleges Of Engineering And Technology , Information literacy forms.



INTRODUCTION :

The term Information has been derived from two Latin words 'Forma' and 'Formatio'. Both these terms convey more or less the same meaning of giving scope to something and forming a pattern. All terms such as Knowledge 'Facts', 'News' 'Message' etc are used as synonyms or near synonyms to information. Information means communication of knowledge about an event of given condition or the spread of knowledge derived from observation, study experience or instruction. One can at least assign some expected value to pieces of information, which could affect the course of action chosen by the individual. Further, information has more of an incremental value than the absolute value.

Instruction to use library resources more effectively through directed and structured lessons and demonstrations are the core services useful in maximizing the library use. Commonly used terms such as library instruction, library orientation, user education and bibliographic instruction indicate the process of helping users in terms of how to use the library.

NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

The review of literature reveals that a very limited study has been conducted so far about the usage of information by the UG & PG Engineering students, and needs further research.

It is also observed that students of urban area colleges visit the libraries more frequently than that of rural area colleges. Similarly, various other determinants also contribute significantly towards the use of Libraries.

Hence, an attempt is made in this study to know the impact of proximity to the College Gender of the student, level of the Courses (UG or PG) etc while using the libraries .

The General objective being to examine the factors influencing the students to visit libraries, the specific objectives are as follows.

OBJECTIVES

- To examine the impact of location of the college for visiting the college libraries.
- To identify the frequency of visits to libraries according to gender of the students.
- To assess the relation between frequency of visit and various other factors such as course levels etc.
- To present a summary of major findings and offer suggestions accordingly.

METHODOLOGY

For the successful conduct of any research study and meaningful inferences, an appropriate methodology is indispensable. The present study is to analyse the utilization of Engineering College Libraries by the students related to various branches of Engineering in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh. The study is mainly based on the primary data collected from the UG & PG students of various branches of engineering. The primary data required for this study was collected through a well tested questionnaire. The questionnaire was distributed to the students of engineering colleges in the North Coastal Andhra Pradesh. Sufficient time was given to the respondents to furnish the information.

Size of the Sample:

A sample of 5 percent of UG students and 10 percent of PG students are taken for the study. The sample consists of 1416 UG Students and 355 PG Students. Here, Stratified Random Sample is used status being the subject of the study.

Scope of the study:

In this study an attempt is made to analyse the “Use Pattern of UG and PG Students in the Libraries of affiliated Colleges of Engineering Technology and Management in North Coastal Andhra Region”. (Visakhapatnam, Vizianagram & Srikakulam) in Andhra Pradesh. There are 49 Colleges of Engineering Technology and Management in this region apart from two university colleges and one college of deemed university. Further among these 49 Colleges, 33 Colleges are offering only UG Programmes. Hence deleted from the study. Thus there are only 16 Colleges in this region offering UG and PG Programmes, besides two University colleges and one Deemed University college. Hence, the study is limited only to the 16 colleges offering both UG & PG Programmes affiliated to JNTU & Andhra

University in North Coastal Region in Andhra Pradesh.

Data Analysis and Discussion:

Students were asked to state how often they visit the library in order to know whether there are any gender differences in the frequency of visit to the library (among girls and boys) in the colleges located in urban and rural areas. It is usual to observe that Students in the urban colleges visit more frequently than students in the rural colleges and male students visit the library more frequently than female students. Hence it is hypothesized as follows and to test the above hypothesis Chi-Square test is used.

In this section Frequency and purpose of visit to the library by selected students in the study area are presented.

1. Frequency of visit according to gender in colleges and Location of the college

Location of the colleges and gender and course of the study (UG/PG) are considered for the analysis of frequency and purpose of visit to the library by the students.

Students were asked to state how often they visit the library in order to know whether there are any gender differences in the frequency of visit to the library (among girls and boys) in the colleges located in urban and rural areas. It is usual to observe that Students in the urban colleges visit more frequently than students in the rural colleges and male students visit the library more frequently than female students. Hence it is hypothesized and as follows.

Ho: There are no gender and location specific differences among students in the frequency of visit to the Library.

To test the above hypothesis Chi-Square test is used.

Assuming that students in urban colleges visit the library more frequently than students in rural colleges, a detailed examination is made to analyse the gender difference in the urban and rural colleges.

Data relating to frequency of visit by gender in colleges situated in urban and rural areas are presented in Table-1.

Table -1
Frequency of visit according to gender in colleges situated in urban and rural areas

Location of colleges	Gender	Frequency of Visit						chi square value
		Daily	Twice	Once	Once	Once	Total	
Urban area Colleges	Male	175	124	37	15	6	349	11.26
	%	50.14	35.53	10.60	4.01	1.72	100	
	Female	75	86	23	5	10	199	
	%	37.69	43.22	11.56	2.51	5.03	100	
	Total	250	210	60	12	16	548	
	%	45.62	38.32	10.95	2.19	2.92	100	
Rural area Colleges	Male	317	307	143	32	19	818	42.08
	%	38.75	37.53	17.48	3.91	2.32	100	
	Female	162	136	134	47	14	493	
	%	32.86	27.59	27.18	9.53	2.84	100	
	Total	479	443	277	79	33	1311	
	%	36.54	33.79	21.13	6.03	2.52	100	

It can be seen from the Table -1 that

- i) In colleges located in Urban areas, while 50% of the males visit the library daily it was only 38% among females.
- ii) In colleges located in rural areas, while 39% of the males visit the library daily and 38% more twice in a week. This percentage comes to 33 for females visiting daily and 28% more twice in a week.

Thus the differences are found to be significant in the levels of frequency of visit to the library among boys and girls both in colleges located in urban areas the calculated Chi – Square value is found to be 11.26 which is statistically significant at 5% level, , as well as in rural areas The calculated Chi – Square value is found to be 42.08, which is statistically significant at 1% level.

Thus the hypothesis that There are no gender and location specific differences among students in the frequency of visit to the Library can be rejected statistically at 1% level; i.e. students in the urban colleges visit more frequently than students in the rural colleges and male students visit the library more frequently than female students.

2. Frequency of visit to the library and purpose of the visit by gender and location.

Data relating to frequency and purpose of visit to the library by the students in the select colleges according to gender and location of the colleges – urban/rural are presented in Table-2.

Assuming that the purposes of the visits to the library will be different from male to female and from a rural student to a student from urban college, it is hypothesised as given below.

Ho: There is no difference between location and gender with regard to the purposes of visit to the libraries among engineering students.

Table -2
Frequency and purpose of visit by gender and location

1. Colleges located in urban areas									Grand total	P Value
Purpose of visit	Males				Females			Total		
	More often	Some times	Occas- sionally	Total	More often	Some times	Occas- sionally			
Reading Text books	208	88	53	349	127	51	21	199	548	0.974
%	59.6	25.21	15.19	100	63.82	25.63	10.55	100	548	-1.704
Reference material	156	96	97	349	104	56	39	199		
%	44.7	27.51	27.79	100	52.26	28.14	19.6	100	548	-1.914
Borrowing and lending	158	94	97	349	107	50	42	199		
%	45.27	26.93	27.79	100	53.77	25.13	21.11	100	548	2.201
Net surfing	84	67	198	349	32	37	130	199		
%	24.07	19.2	56.73	100	16.08	18.59	65.33	100	548	0.011
Recreational reading	58	77	214	349	33	29	137	199		
%	16.62	22.06	61.32	100	16.58	14.57	68.84	100		
2. Colleges located in rural areas										
Reading Text books	497	197	124	818	278	130	85	493	1311	1.558
%	60.76	24.08	15.16	100	56.39	26.37	17.24	100	1311	0.875
Reference material	407	196	215	818	233	145	115	493		
%	49.76	23.96	26.28	100	47.26	29.41	23.33	100	1311	-3.178
Borrowing and lending	364	219	235	818	264	121	108	493		
%	44.5	26.77	28.73	100	53.55	24.54	21.91	100	1311	1.988
Net surfing	214	176	428	818	105	102	286	493		
%	26.16	21.52	52.32	100	21.3	20.69	58.01	100	1311	0.260
Recreational reading	201	150	467	818	118	63	312	493		
%	24.57	18.34	57.09	100	23.94	12.78	63.29	100		

It can be seen from table - 2 that

a) In urban colleges, among students 60 percent of the males visit the library 'more often' and 25 percent more 'sometimes' for reading textbooks; 45 percent 'more often' and 28 percent more 'sometimes' for reference material; 45 percent 'more often' and 27 percent more 'sometimes' for barrowing and returns and 24 percent 'more often' and 19 percent more 'sometimes' for net surfing. In urban colleges among students 64 percent of the females visit the library 'more often' and 26 percent more 'sometimes' for reading textbooks; 52 percent 'more often' and 28 percent more 'sometimes' for reference material; 54 percent 'more often' and 25 percent more 'sometimes' for barrowing and returns and 16 percent 'more often' and 19 percent more 'sometimes' for net surfing. From the above analysis it is clear that the differences in habits of the students for the purpose for which they visit the library are found to be significant in the case of a) barrowing and returns and b) netsurfing. In the case of barrowing and returns it is noted that relatively a large proportion of females used the library facilities and in the case of netsurfing male students utilized this facility better. In the case of barrowing and returns the differences are found to be statistically significant at 10 percent level and in the case of netsurfing the differences are found to be statistically significant at 5 percent level.

b) In rural colleges, among students 61 percent of the males visit the library 'more often' and 24 percent more 'sometimes' for reading textbooks; 50 percent 'more often' and 24 percent more 'sometimes' for reference material; 45 percent 'more often' and 27 percent more 'sometimes' for barrowing and returns and 26 percent 'more often' and 22 percent more 'sometimes' for net surfing. In rural colleges among students 56 percent of the females visit the library 'more often' and 26 percent more 'sometimes' for reading textbooks; 47 percent 'more often' and 29 percent more 'sometimes' for reference material; 54 percent 'more often' and 25 percent more 'sometimes' for barrowing and returns and 21 percent 'more often' and 21 percent more 'sometimes' for net surfing.

From the above analysis, it is clear that the differences in habits of the students for the purpose for which they visit the library are found to be significant in the case of

a) barrowing and returns and
b) netsurfing. In the case of barrowing and returns it is noted that relatively a large proportion of females used the library facilities and in the case of netsurfing male students utilized this facility better. In the case of barrowing and returns the differences are found to be statistically significant at 1 percent level and in the case of netsurfing the differences are found to be statistically significant at 5 percent level.

3. Frequency and Purpose Visit and Course of Study Data relating to frequency and purpose of visit to the library by the students in the select colleges according to their present course of study in colleges of both rural and urban areas are presented in Table -3

The sample of students in the study consists of both undergraduate and postgraduate courses. It is assumed that post graduate students visit the library more frequently than undergraduate students. The null hypothesis formed is as follows.

Ho: There is no association between the frequency of visit to the Library among students and their course of study (UG/PG).

To test the above hypothesis Chi-Square test is used.

Table 3 - A, B & C
Frequency and Purpose of Visit and Course of Study

A. Colleges located in urban & Rural areas together									Grand Total	P Value
Frequency & purpose	PG			Total	UG			Total		
	More often	Somet imes	Occassi onally		More often	Somet imes	Occassi onally			
Reading Text books	276	115	52	443	834	351	231	1416	1859	5.79
%	62.30	25.96	11.74	100.00	58.90	24.79	16.31	100.00		
Reference material	241	121	81	443	659	372	385	1416	1859	2.89
%	54.40	27.31	18.28	100.00	46.54	26.27	27.19	100.00		
Borrowing and returns	231	114	98	443	662	370	384	1416	1859	1.98
%	52.14	25.73	22.12	100.00	46.75	26.13	27.12	100.00		
Net surfing	119	107	217	443	316	275	825	1416	1859	1.97
%	26.86	24.15	48.98	100.00	22.32	19.42	58.26	100.00		
Recreational reading	136	64	243	443	274	255	887	1416	1859	5.03
%	30.70	14.45	54.85	100.00	19.35	18.01	62.64	100.00		
B. Colleges located in urban areas										
Reading Text books	76	30	10	116	259	109	64	432	548	-40.35
%	65.52	25.86	8.62	100.00	59.95	25.23	14.81	100.00		
Reference material	63	37	16	116	197	115	120	432	548	-29.73
%	54.31	31.90	13.79	100.00	45.60	26.62	27.78	100.00		
Borrowing and lending	63	34	19	116	202	110	120	432	548	-30.53
%	54.31	29.31	16.38	100.00	46.76	25.46	27.78	100.00		
Net surfing	32	18	66	116	84	86	262	432	548	-15.22
%	27.59	15.52	56.90	100.00	19.44	19.91	60.65	100.00		
Recreational reading	25	22	69	116	66	84	282	432	548	-13.13
%	21.55	18.97	59.48	100.00	15.28	19.44	65.28	100.00		
C. Colleges located in rural areas										
Reading Text books	200	85	42	327	575	242	167	984	1311	0.869
%	61.16	25.99	12.84	100.00	58.43	24.59	16.97	100.00		
Reference material	178	84	65	327	462	257	265	984	1311	-21.55
%	54.43	25.69	19.88	100.00	46.95	26.12	26.93	100.00		
Borrowing and returns	168	80	79	327	460	260	264	984	1311	-21.9
%	51.38	24.46	24.16	100.00	46.75	26.42	26.83	100.00		
Net surfing	87	89	151	327	232	189	563	984	1311	-12.73
%	26.61	27.22	46.18	100.00	23.58	19.21	57.22	100.00		
Recreational reading	111	42	174	327	208	171	605	984	1311	-9.61
%	33.94	12.84	53.21	100.00	21.14	17.38	61.48	100.00		

a. The following conclusions can be drawn from Table 3A when the students as a whole are considered.

- Regarding the purpose of visit being 'reading text books', it is noted that 62 percent of the Postgraduate students visit the library 'more often' followed by 26 percent more 'sometimes' while 59 percent of Undergraduate students visit the library 'more often' followed by 25 percent more 'sometimes'. In this case the differences are found to be statistically significant at 1 percent level.
- Regarding the purpose of visit being 'reference material', it is noted that 54 percent of the Postgraduate students visit the library 'more often' followed by 27 percent more 'sometimes' while 47 percent of Undergraduate students visit the library 'more often' followed by 26 percent more 'sometimes'. In this case also the differences are found to be statistically significant at 1 percent level.
- Regarding the purpose of visit being 'barrowing and returns', it is noted that 52 percent of the Postgraduate students visit the library 'more often' followed by 26 percent more 'sometimes' while 47 percent of Undergraduate students visit the library 'more often' followed by 26 percent more 'sometimes'. In this case the differences are found to be statistically significant at 5 percent level.
- Regarding the purpose of visit being 'net surfing', it is noted that 27 percent of the Postgraduate students visit the library 'more often' followed by 24 percent more 'sometimes' while 22 percent of Undergraduate students visit the library in 'more often' followed by 19 percent more 'sometimes'. In this case the differences are found to be statistically significant at 5 percent level.

Thus in all cases Postgraduate students are found to be visiting the library 'more often' than Undergraduate students.

b. The following points can be noted from Table 3B when the students studying in the colleges located in urban areas are considered.

- i. Regarding the purpose of visit being 'reading text books', it is noted that 66 percent of the Postgraduate students visit the library 'more often' followed by 26 percent more 'sometimes' while 60 percent of Undergraduate students visit the library 'more often' followed by 25 percent more 'sometimes'. In this case the differences are found to be statistically significant at 1 percent level.
- ii. Regarding the purpose of visit being 'reference material', it is noted that 54 percent of the Postgraduate students visit the library 'more often' followed by 32 percent more 'sometimes' while 46 percent of Undergraduate students visit the library 'more often' followed by 27 percent more 'sometimes'. In this case also the differences are found to be statistically significant at 1 percent level.
- iii. Regarding the purpose of visit being 'barrowing and returns', it is noted that 54 percent of the Postgraduate students visit the library 'more often' followed by 29 percent more 'sometimes' while 47 percent of Undergraduate students visit the library 'more often' followed by 25 percent more 'sometimes'. In this case the differences are found to be statistically significant at 1 percent level.
- iv. Regarding the purpose of visit being 'net surfing', it is noted that 28 percent of the Postgraduate students visit the library 'more often' followed by 16 percent more 'sometimes' while 19 percent of Undergraduate students visit the library 'more often' followed by 20 percent more 'sometimes'. In this case the differences are found to be statistically significant at 1 percent level.

Thus it is noted that most of the Postgraduate students studying in urban colleges visited the library more frequently than Undergraduate Students.

c. The following points can be noted from Table 3C when the students studying in the colleges located in rural areas are considered.

- i. Regarding the purpose of visit being 'reading text books', it is noted that 61 percent of the Postgraduate students visit the library 'more often' followed by 26 percent more 'sometimes' while 58 percent of Undergraduate students visit the library 'more often' followed by 25 percent more 'sometimes'. In this case the differences are not found to be statistically significant.
- ii. Regarding the purpose of visit being 'reference material', it is noted that 54 percent of the Postgraduate students visit the library 'more often' followed by 26 percent more 'sometimes' while 47 percent of Undergraduate students visit the library 'more often' followed by 26 percent more 'sometimes'. In this case the differences are found to be statistically significant at 1 percent level.
- iii. Regarding the purpose of visit being 'barrowing and returns', it is noted that 51 percent of the Postgraduate students visit the library 'more often' followed by 24 percent more 'sometimes' while 47 percent of Undergraduate students visit the library 'more often' followed by 26 percent more 'sometimes'. In this case the differences are found to be statistically significant at 1 percent level.
- iv. Regarding the purpose of visit being 'net surfing', it is noted that 27 percent of the Postgraduate students visit the library 'more often' followed by 27 percent more 'sometimes' while 23 percent of Undergraduate students visit the library 'more often' followed by 19 percent more 'sometimes'. In this case the differences are found to be statistically significant at 1percent level.

Thus in rural colleges also it is noted that Postgraduate students are visiting the library more frequently than Undergraduate students in all respects.

CONCLUSIONS

To conclude the above analysis, an attempt is made to present a summary of major findings and offer suitable suggestions for improving the existing scenario.

In general, Male students visit the library more frequently than female students both in rural and urban colleges while relatively they are reported to be more in urban than rural colleges.

As far as the course of the study is concerned, PG students are found to be visiting the library more frequently than UG students. Further the purpose for "Reading Text Books" is reported to be dominating followed by "Reference Material" as their next purpose.

Above all, the data shows that it is only "Occasionally", the libraries are visited by students irrespective of the Gender and Location of the college.

This shows that the reading habits among the students in general are found to be less and need to be rectified.

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