REVIEW ARTICLE

USE OF LIBRARY BY THE STUDENTS AND STAFF OF AYURVEDA MEDICAL COLLEGES-A USER SURVEY

[1]Dr. A. Vijayakumar and [2]Sandhya V. Pillai

[1]Karppagam University, Coimbatore-641 021 and Librarian, D.B College, Sasthamcottah, Kollam, Kerala-690 519, India
[2]Karppagam University (Karppagam Academy of Higher Education), Coimbatore-641 021 and Librarian, Pankagakasthuri Ayurveda Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India

ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
	In this age of information, everybody expects to get timely, reliable and precise information that they want to acquire. In the wake of rapid technological advancement, the library has to function in accordance with the changing needs. Today libraries are undergoing tremendous changes in their functioning by adopting latest technology. Ayurveda medical college libraries goal is to provide the student, staff, the scholar and the workers with the maximum tools acquired for the advancement as for as acquisition of knowledge. The present study explores the use of library resources by PKAM-Pankagajasthuri Ayurveda Medical College (self financing), Thiruvanathapuram.

INTRODUCTION

In today's environment 'customer is the king', says Bazin and all services of the libraries are centered on users only. Earlier libraries were regarded as non – profit organizations. If this is the notion in today's environment, libraries will not sustain in this competitive world and the day may come where there will be no budget for libraries and they have to maintain themselves by generating funds or by marketing their products or service . One needs to reach out to the users and advertise / market the services. If they see the value of the services, they will support & oppose for such a valuable institutions as libraries to be closed or scale down. Education, especially at higher level has been described more as a process of learning than teaching, signifying the self efforts to be put in by the students. According to this concept, student in higher education are the to be provided with the facilities necessary for mastering the subject matter, techniques, skills, habits of thought and method of work of their chosen fields. The library is an important instrument in education. In the changing educational environment in India, the role of libraries in education especially in higher education is very significant. The library has been defined as a trinity of three constituents, namely the books, the readers and the staff. Libraries are a direct incentive to the development of educational, social and cultural activities.

*Corresponding author: Dr. A. Vijayakumar
Karppagam University, Coimbatore-641 021 and Librarian, D.B College, Sasthamcottah, Kollam, Kerala-690 519, India.

Ayurveda college libraries

One view of the early history of ayurveda asserts that around 1500 BC ayurveda's fundamental and applied principles got organized and enunciated. In this historical construction, Ayurveda traces its origins to the Vedas, Atharvaveda in particular, and is connected to Hindu religion. Atharvaveda (one of the four most ancient books of Indian knowledge, wisdom and culture) contains 114 hymns or formulations for the treatment of diseases. Ayurveda originated in and developed from these hymns. In this sense, ayurveda is considered by some to have divine origin. Indian medicine has a long history, Atharvaveda and is one of the oldest organized systems of medicine. Its earliest concepts are set out in the sacred writings called the Vedas, especially in the metrical passages of the, which may possibly date as far back as the 2nd millennium BC. According to a later writer, the system of medicine was received by Dhanwanthiri from Brahma and Dhanvantari was defined as the god of medicine. In later times his status was gradually reduced, until he was credited with having been an earthly king named Divodasa.

The Ayurveda college library perform a variety of functions by way of helping students with textbooks, parallel studies, reference books, digital library facilities and periodicals as well as maintaining an efficient reference and information services. Library is not merely a store house of reading material collected for preservation, but it also functions as a dynamic instrument of education to feed the intellect of the student,

laying stress on the role and utility of the college library, the following facts are to be stressed

1. Library is the heart of the institution
2. Methods and fashions in education change from generation to generation but each generation uses the library as a means of realizing aim, hence library remains a great conservator of learning.
3. A quality education is impossible without quality library.
4. Library is an essential to maintenance of free access to ideas.

Pankajakasthuri Ayurveda Medical College

The Pankajakasthuri Ayurveda Medical College Kerala's first self financing Ayurveda Medical College was inaugurated and dedicated to the public on the 28th of August 2002, by the honorable chief minister of the state, Sri. A. K. Antony. The college has the support of a 150 Bed hospital (to be increased to 300 beds), of which 50beds are reserved for the economically weak, who come for treatment and cure. They would be offered free treatment. The college is being initiated as a part of our undeterred endeavor to spread the fame of Ayurveda, the traditional Indian system of healing and healthy balanced living, in the country and abroad. The college provides excellent standards in practical clinical training and research facilities, both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The college aims to promote Ayurveda through trend-setting education, intensive research and developments programmes, expert guidance on the basic principles etc. with a view to propagate this ancient branch of science at a global level.

Objectives

1. To know the frequency of user's visit to the library
2. To find out the purpose of the user's visit
3. To find out the factors those attract the use of library
4. To find out the user's satisfaction level
5. To suggest the measures for improvement of the library

Use of Library by the students and staff of Ayurveda College

The data collected through the observation, interview and checking of registers. The questions of interview are standardized. The use of such questions enables standardized results. This can be treated. Students and teachers are the important part of an academic institution. They need different types of information for their study purpose and teaching. This study conducted to find out the use pattern of teachers and students of Ayurveda medical college library.

Findings

Library use

1. Members of library include Teachers, Non teaching staff and students of this college.
2. 80% students and 70% teachers are the regular visitors of the college library.

3. 55% teachers and 56% students are everyday visitors of the library.20% teachers and 24% students visit twice in a week and 20% teachers and 12% students visit casionally.

4.90% teachers and 80% students select the books from the library according to their   own. 10% teachers and 20% students use catalogue to select the books.

Information sources

4. Text books are mostly used sources by teachers and students.
5. Most of the teachers and students use subject books.
6. Periodicals in the library are not adequate to satisfy the needs of the library users.
7. All teachers and students satisfied with the subject books in the library.
9. A mostly referred reference book from the library is Dictionaries. Next preference   goes to   Encyclopedias
10. Digital library facilities are not satisfied with the teachers and students.

Information services

11. Most of the students and staff are satisfied with the services provided by the library.
12. All the teachers and 94% students are satisfied with the working hours of the library.
13. Users of the library mainly depend on reference books, periodicals and subject books.

Facilities

14. 95% teachers and 92% students are satisfied with the location of the library.
15. Lighting, Ventilation and cleanliness of the library is very sufficient but the
    furniture and reading space provided by the library is not sufficient.
16. Services provided by the library staff are satisfactory.
17. Staffs available in the library are also sufficient.

General opinion

18. 65% staff and 64% students are satisfied with the overall function of the library.

Suggestion for improvement of the library

Suggestions received from the library users

1. Journals and English literature must be purchase more.
2. Photocopying facilities and internet facilities should be provide in a better way.
3. Reading space and furniture in the library should be increased.
4. Demanded books should be purchased more in number.
5. The books and other materials should be arranged properly and kept dust free.

Suggestions made by the investigator

1. Number of books and periodicals must be increased.
2. The library should improve the digital library facilities.
3. Library should also improve library services like CAS, SDI services, inter library loan services etc.
4. For enhancing the effective use of library resources and library services user orientation programmes must be conducted.
5. Display of new additions should be introduced to make the user awareness of the newly arrived books.

Conclusion

The Ayurveda college library encourages and fulfills the need and requirements of the teachers and student. This study has revealed that majority of the users are satisfied with the organization and function of PKAM Library. If user orientation programmes are planned and executed properly, an awareness of the facilities available in the library can be created among users which results in the maximum use of the library.

REFERENCES

Association of college and research libraries: standards for college libraries. College and research libraries news.36 (9) oct 1975.

Bavakutty, M. Libraries in Higher Education. New Delhi: Ess Ess publications, 1988. pp.1-5.

Griffin, N History and development of the Idaho Health Science Library daho Librarian 53. 2 (Nov 2001).

Handbook of PKAM.

http://en.wikipedia.org/

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia.

http://www.wikipedia.org/

Khan, A A A Finance of the medical college libraries: a study Lucknow Librarian 23. 2 (Apr 1991): 51-55.

Kumar, R P Application of modern technologies in health science libraries in India: a survey Aslib Proceedings 45. 3 (Mar 1993): 63-67.

Singh, P.B.; Pravin S. Rana 2002. Banaras Region: A Spiritual and Cultural guide. Varanasi: Indica Books. p. 31.

Webster's New World college Dictionary; ed.4. Wiley dream tech.p.1410-1412.

www.google.com.

****