

INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR OF SPEECH AND HEARING IMPAIRED STUDENTS OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPEECH AND HEARING, THIRUVANATHAPURAM:AN ANALYTICAL STUDY

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Abstract *This paper touched upon the information seeking behaviour of speech and hearing impaired students of the National Institute of Speech & Hearing (NISH), Thiruvananthapuram. Questionnaire method and percentage analysis are used for the collection and evaluation of data. This study reveals most of the students use books, they locate their information by the help of the college librarian and most of students are satisfied with the present facilities of the library.*

Keyword: *Information, Information Seeking Behavior, E-Resources, Speech and Hearing Impaired Students, National Institute of Speech and Hearing Library*

ABOUT NISH

“National Institute of Speech & Hearing (NISH), set up in 1997, is a prestigious venture of the Kerala State Social Welfare Department. It is a comprehensive, multipurpose institution dedicated to the total rehabilitation of speech and hearing-impaired persons across the state. The range of services offered at NISH comprise of Audiological rehabilitation, Speech-Language rehabilitation, Pre School and Parent guidance Centre, Correspondence programme, ENT unit, Psychology unit, Technology Division, Job linked Vocational courses, Summer school, Weekend programme, Human resource development, etc.

The Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) is the statutory body of the Government of India empowered with the assessment and accreditation of rehabilitation institutions in our country. The RCI accredited NISH as an Excellent Institution in 2002 in due recognition of the achievements it has made. NISH is the youngest Institute to earn this status”. Three bachelor degree courses are conducting for speech and hearing impaired students at National Institute of Speech & Hearing (NISH), Thiruvananthapuram.

Library

The library at NISH has a collection of 2000 Books including 200 reference books, periodicals and reprints on subjects

ranging from anatomy, audiology, speech, and psychology to electronics. It also has a collection of CD ROMs, audio and video cassettes. The library is fully computerised with local software developed by NISH technology division and uses DDC 22 for classification also maintaining card catalogue for easy material searching by the students.

E Library and Internet

E journal and E-resources through National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content (N-LIST) also available in NISH library.

Special Collection

Sign Language books and DVD movies deaf related “sign language is a language which uses manual communication and body language to convey meaning, as opposed to acoustically conveyed sound patterns. This can involve simultaneously combining hand shapes, orientation and movement of the hands, arms or body, and facial expressions to fluidly express the speaker’s thoughts. Wherever communities of deaf people exist, sign languages develop. Signing is also done by persons who can hear, but cannot physically speak.”

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Information Seeking Behaviour (ISB)

Auster defines information seeking behaviour as “The field composed of studies that are concerned with who need what kind of information and for what reasons, how information is found, evaluated and used and how these needs can be identified and satisfied”. (Auster. 1982)

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study are

1. To determine the information needs of students of NISH , Thiruvananthapuram.
2. To find out the most frequently used information sources.
3. To identify the various methods adopted to locate information resources.
4. To find out whether there is enough documents or resources to satisfy the information needs of the students through its library.
5. To suggest measures to improve and vitalize the library on the basis of the observed information seeking behavior of the students.

Methodology

The total number of students is 300. out of 300 students 200 are deaf and dumb students. This study is aimed to identify the information seeking behavior of speech and hearing-impaired students of NISH. The total population is 200. Twenty five percentage of the total population is taken as sample. Questionnaire method and percentage analysis is done for data evaluation.

Data Analysis

The following questions are analysed for the evaluation

1. Use of Library

The question aimed to identify regular use of the library

Table - 1

Nature of Use	students (No. of respondents)	% of respondents
Regular	30	60
Not regular	20	40
Total	50	100

Table 1 shows that 60% of students using library regularly and 40 % use in the library not regularly.

2 Frequency of visit in the college library by students.

Table 2

Sl. No.	Frequency of visit	No. of respondents	% of visit
1	Every day	15	30
2	Twice in a week	10	20
3	Very rarely	20	40
4	Never	5	10

Table – 2 shows that 30% students visit the library every day, 20 % twice in a week and 40 % very rarely 10% never visit

3.This question is aimed to identify the time spend in the library per week.

Table 3

Sl. No.	Duration	No. of PG students	%
1	average 1 hour	20	40
2	average 1 – 5 hour	15	30
3	more than 5 hour	10	20

Table – 3 shows 40 % of students using library average 1 hour, 30% of students using average 1 – 5 hours and 20% students using more than 5 hours.

4.This question aimed to purpose of visit in the library.

Table 4

Sl. No.	Purpose of visit	No. of respondents	%
1	To read books (subject)	35	70
2	To read print journals	15	30
3	To consult reference books	30	60
4	To consult online journals	5	10
5	To read newspapers	15	30
6	To borrow and return of books	35	70
7	To collect question paper	15	30
8	To collect up to date information	20	40

Table – 4 shows that 70% of the students visit the library for read, borrow and return books. 60% of the students visit to consult reference books 40% of the students come to the library to collect up-to-date information. 30% Of the students get to the library to read print journals, to read news papers or to collect question papers. Only 10% of students visit the the library for consult online journals.

1. This question aimed to assess the method adopted to locate information source.
4. Provide help for using internet and electronic resources.
5. Provide help for academic activities such as projects, seminars etc.

Table 6

Sl. No.	Method adopted for search	No. of respondents	%
1	Help of online catalogue/Card catalogue	5	10
2	Assistance of Librarian	30	60
3	By searching shelves	10	20
4	By help of internet	5	10

Table - 7 shows that 60% of students locate the information by the help of librarian, 20% students locate the information by searching shelves. Only 10 % of students locate the information by searching catalogue and by the help of internet.

7. This question is aimed to know opinion about needed facilities in the library.

Table 7

Sl. No.	Documents	No. of respondents	%
1	Adequate	30	60
2	Not adequate	20	40

Table - 8 shows that 60% of students are satisfied with the facilities of library and 40 % of PG students are not satisfied with the facilities of the library.

Findings

1. Majority of students are regular users of the library.
2. Most of the students spent an average of one hour in a week.
3. Most of the students visit the library to read ,borrow and return books.
4. The use of internet, online resources are very low.
5. Most of the students locate their information by help of college librarian.
6. Most of the students are satisfied with the present facilities of the library.

Suggestion for Library Improvements

1. Provide user education programme effectively.
2. Develop need based collection (including online resources and sign language books)
3. Extend the working time of the library.

CONCLUSION

The overall objectives of this study are to make a comprehensive study of information seeking behavior of students of NISH, Thiruvananthapuram. The outcome of the investigative study helps to improve the facilities of the NISH library.

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