

## Research Paper

## INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR AMONG SCIENCE STUDENTS AT HIGHER-SECONDARY LEVEL.

Dr. Shashi Wanjari

Associate Professor Department of Education  
Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University Nagpur.Vaishali Mahakulkar  
research scholar Nagpur.*Abstract*

*The present paper is based on a survey conducted on the information seeking habits of science students at higher-secondary level. The paper points out the purpose of information, the major sources of obtaining academic information among the students. The study also tries to find out student's satisfaction from the identified sources.*

**Introduction**

Information is rightly regarded as the power where information is concerned, there are the haves and the have nots. We are no stranger to the power of information. Our very lives depend on it. Presently, information goes with out saying that, last but not the least, we talk about it, we seek it, we exchange it and we pay for it (Laloo,2002).

New technologies have affected the information seeking process. These new technologies have affected every function and process in universities, schools, libraries and information centers. Computers and other electronic instrumentation have provided libraries with many advantages storing, organizing, retrieving and providing access to information are the main process that have been positively affected. Computers and new information technologies have greatly enabled information specially locating and retrieving information (Chen, 1982).

**Information Seeking Behaviour**

When need is felt for any thing, more often than not, people take action in order to satisfy that need. Different strategies or modes of action are resorted to. The same applies for the satisfaction of information needs. An individual realizes that he needs information, he knows that in all probability the information will not come to him on its own, therefore he has go to about seeking it. What strategies or processes he resorts to, in order to satisfy the need "Information behaviour as those activities a person may engage in when identifying his or her own needs for information, searching for such information in any way, and using or transferring that information" (Wilson, 1999). "Information seeking behaviour is mainly concerned with who needs what kind of information for what reasons; how information is found, evaluated and used" (Kumar, 1990).

**Need For The Study**

Many a time when the issue of quality in education, focus has always been on the important of resources and facilities and quality of teaching and research. Even when there are good facilities and quality teacher, student's achievement may still be hampered due to some student factors, principle among which is the way they seek and organize academic information.

Hence, the way students organize their learning and search for

Academic information could be considered very situation gets more chaotic, especially when students are given Assignments and information of their higher education. They need to Search for information on their own, consequently it is expected, that they consult appropriate sources for academic information.

**Scope**

The scope of the study is restricted to five junior colleges of science faculty in Nagpur city. From these five colleges 200 students i.e. 100 of 11th STD and 100 of 12th STD students were randomly collected.

**Objectives of Research**

- To identify the purpose of information
- To identify the major sources of obtaining academic information.
- To find out students satisfaction from the identified sources.

**Methodology**

The researcher has selected the survey method, as the topic is restricted to the students of 11th and 12th of science faculty.

The conventional technique i.e. Questionnaire was employed for primary data collection and the findings were merged to make the data as authentic as possible.

**Sampling**

Under this topic 200 randomized sampling was done. As the researcher topic is restricted to 11th and 12th students of 5 junior colleges of Nagpur city.

**Analysis and Interpretation**

The data was analyzed by using simple mean percentage.

Table No. 1 : The predominant information required by the students

Required Information	11 <sup>th</sup> class	12 <sup>th</sup> class	Total
Academic Information	68 (68%)	66 (66%)	134 (67%)
Information for personal development	12 (12%)	12(12%)	24 (12%)
Health Information	10 (10%)	11(11%)	21 (10.5%)
Global Information	1 (1%)	2(2%)	3 (1.5%)
Current awareness	9 (9%)	9 (9%)	18 (9%)
Total	100	100	200

Table No. 1 shows that, about 68% of 12th std. students and 66% of 11th std. students required academic information. Information for personal development was predominantly required by 12% of 12th and 11th std. students. About 10% of 11th and 11% of 12th std. students required Health information predominantly. Global information required by 1% of 11th and 2% of 12th std. students. Current awareness required by 9% of 11th std. and 12th std. students. The results show that the predominant information required by students was academic information. Other required information by the students but which may not be as vital as academic information.

This may be because at this level students were concentrating on exam score than any other.

Table No. 2 : The different identified sources used by the students

Sources used	11 <sup>th</sup> std	12 <sup>th</sup> std	Total	
Library	5	28	33	
Text-book	100	97	197	
Reference book	Dictionary	83	92	175
	Encyclopedia	-	5	5
	Yearbook	-	-	-
Journals	5	16	21	
Lecture note & handout	82	88	176	
Consulting & photocopy colleague notes	52	58	110	
New paper reading	40	44	84	
Audio-visual cassettes	4	14	18	
T.V. Program	14	66	80	
CD-ROMs	6	46	52	
Internet	33	74	107	

The table no. 2 shows, that use of library for academic information by 11th std. student was 5% and that of 12th std. students were about 28%. This, indicate that dependence of students on library for the academic information was less. The students of 11th and 12th std. may not aware of use of library.

100% of 11th std. depends on text book for academic information while 97% of students of 12th std. depends on text book for academic information. This show, that among students textbooks are still the most important source for academic information. The textbooks are helpful for the preparation of examination.

83% of 11th std. students used dictionary and 92% students of 12th std. used dictionary for information. About 5% of 12th std. students used encyclopedia. Yearbook not used by students. The result show, that use of dictionary was more than encyclopedia. The use of year book not found. This may be due to the fact that students use dictionaries for specific search such as meaning or spelling of words. Moreover, dictionary is the familiar reference book available in most houses. The exhaustive search for a specific subject by the student is comparatively less and encyclopedia is not familiar one in home library because of the fact that it is costly. Yearbook is also not known by the students.

About 5% of 11th std. and 16% of 12th std. students use journals. This analysis show, that the students do not prefer to read journal. Very less percentage of students interested to read journal. The students who were participated in quiz competition and project presentation of science exhibition may used the journal and students not aware about journal.

82% of 11th std. students depend upon lecture note and handout for academic information, while that of 12th std. students about 88% used lecture not and handout for the

academic information. This reveals that the dependence of the students was found more on lecture notes. The lecture note and handout will help the student for the preparation of exam. This is the cheapest and easily available information source of information about 52% of 11th std. and 58% of 12th std. students were consulting and photocopy colleague note, while 48% of 11th std. 42% of 12th std. students were not consulting and photocopy notes. The analysis of the data show, that dependence upon consulting and photocopy notes is not more. This may be due to their more dependence on the textbooks and lecture notes for the preparation of examination. The student get the notes in the lecture. The students were busy with their college, practical and classes.

40% of 11th std. students and 44% of 12th std. students read newspaper. 60% of 11th std. and 56% of 12th std. student were not reading paper. The analysis of the data shows that less no of students are interested in reading news paper. As the students were busy with their daily rutting like college and tuition-classes. They pay more attention on their study and less bother about current awareness about the world. This may be due to presence of so many news channels on T.V. so they may get the their required information on T.V.

4% of 11th std. and 14% of 12th std. students were using cassettes for academic information while 96% of 11th std. and 86% of 12th std. students were not using audio-visual cassettes for the academic information. Analysis of the data revealed that less no. of students use audio-visual cassettes. The cost of audio-visual devise is more and hence the students may not use it.

14% of 11th std were watching educational T. V. program while 86% of 11th std. students were not watching the educational T. V. program. 66% of 12th std. students watch educational T. V. program and 34% of 12th std. students were not watching the T. V. program. The analysis show that less percent of 11th std students were watching T. V. program while more no of 12th std. students were watching educational T. V. program. 12th std. student have to face the entrance exam for graduation. For the preparation of the entrance exam they may get the current knowledge, new information in field of science from educational T. V. program.

6% of 11th std. students use CD-ROM while 94% of 11th std. students didn't use CD-ROM for the academic information. 12th std. students about 46% used and 54% did not use CD-ROM for the academic information. On analysis of data show that less number of students using CD-ROM. This may be the high cost of CD-ROM. Every body may not have computer at their house.

33% of 11th std. students use Internet and 67% of 11th std. students did not use the Internet. 74% of 12th std. students use Internet while 26% of 12th std. students were not using Internet. The result shows that 12th std. students use Internet more than 11th std. students. This may be because 12th students have project for optional subject and 11th std. students do not have project.

Table No.3 : Level of satisfaction of information obtained.

Response	11 <sup>th</sup> std.	12 <sup>th</sup> std.	Total
Very satisfied	78%	59%	137(68.5%)
Satisfied	15%	33%	48(24%)
Less satisfied	7%	8%	15(7.5%)
Dissatisfied	-	-	-
Total	100	100	200

with the identified sources while 15% were satisfied and 7% were less satisfied. About 59% of 12th std. were very satisfied with the sources while 33% were satisfied and 15% were less satisfied with the identified sources of information.

Majority indicated they are very satisfied with all the information they are getting from the identified sources.

#### **Findings**

- In the higher-secondary level, the main purpose of information by the students was academic information for study, for preparing exam.
- The students mostly depend on their text-books as a main source of information. The students used lecture note and handout as a examination point of view.
- There is clear indication that they are very satisfied with all the information they are getting from the identified sources.

#### **Suggestions**

- The college should boost up library and library services for attracting the students.
- The college should arrange library orientation program for the students at the beginning of the college so that the students get aware of different sources of the information in the library.
- The college should provide internet facilities to students.
- Organized quiz competition and exhibition on science, debate, discussion on new happenings in science field in which maximum number of students should participate in it

#### **Conclusion**

The importance of reading for total self-development is recognized. Reading is a creative activity and is involved deeply with all phases of life. It continues to be an indispensable means of securing knowledge even after the emergences of new media. The students of the present age will have to use this powerful tool to correct the deficiencies arising out of the present system of education and to understand different areas of knowledge, which is essential for a better tomorrow.

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