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IN KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION



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LEARNING INFORMATION RESOURCES THROUGH ELECTRONIC MODE AMONG TIRUNELVELI MEDICAL COLLEGE STUDENTS : A STUDY

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Introduction

Digital world having all the information through the electronic mode is possible at 24X7. The electronic information sources are from electronic mail, consortia, electronic group, social media like whatsapp, twitter, and face book. The medical students were getting all the medical information from WHO reports, Pubmed database, BMJ database, Science Direct, John Wiley publications, Proquest medical library, Cochrane Library, Springer Journals and also consortia like TNMGR e-Consortium and ICMR consortium of e-resources. This paper examines the students' usage of learning information resources through electronic mode.

Institute Profile

Tirunelveli Medical College fondly referred to by its alumni as TVMC, is a government run premier medical institution in South India. The college is under affiliation to the Tamilnadu Dr. MGR Medical University, Chennai, State of Tamil Nadu. The College and its constituent hospital are located in a sprawling campus of 228 acres at High grounds in the city of Tirunelveli. The Government of Tamilnadu under the leadership of the then Chief Minister of the State of Tamil Nadu Shri. K. Kamaraj laid foundations for a new District Head Quarters Hospital on 4th January 1958 which was later opened to public use on 11th December 1961. Further under a legislative direction during Shri. K. Kamaraj's regime, it was decided to establish a new Medical College at Tirunelveli. The Tirunelveli Medical College was inaugurated on 26th September 1965, under affiliation of the University of Madras. A total of 75 students were admitted for the MBBS course for the academic year 1965-66. The institute was granted a full recognition by the Medical Council of India in 1977. The graduate admissions were further increased to 150 a year since 2003. The College celebrated its Silver Jubilee in July 1990 and celebrated the Golden Jubilee during July of 2015.

About the Library

The library of Tirunelveli Medical College and Hospital has more than 40000 volumes of books with 22793 new editions. All print books are located on the ground floor of the library as per the data provided in the CML Catalog. The Central library spreads on two floors with specialized collections of books, journals in Basic Medical Sciences, Medical and Surgical Specialties, Biotechnology, Radiology and Laboratory Medicine. The Library has a Video Conferencing facility which provides teaching through EDUSAT. The library is administered by a team of well trained staff who are experts in selecting, acquiring, organizing, maintaining and making accessible a collection of printed and non-printed, study materials

that will support the educational, research and public health programmes of both students and the faculty. Responding to the varying needs of the faculty, students and administration of the library services and resources, the library helps users with point-of-use instruction, personal assistance in conducting literature research and other reference services. The library has a dedicated e- Journal access named Dr Harishankar E Journal Division which has access to more than 1500 medical journals in as many as 45 disciplines. All e journals are accessed through the e-Journal portal of the TN Dr MGR Medical University.

Objectives of the Study

- To find out the gender-wise participation
- To find out the level of learning information sources through electronic mode.
- To find out the gender-wise level of learning information sources through electronic mode.

Null Hypothesis

- There is no significant difference between male and female students' level of learning information sources through electronic mode.

De-limitations of the study

The findings of this study are mainly applicable to the medical students of Tirunelveli Medical College located in Tirunelveli.

Methodology

This study attempts to examine the use of learning information sources through electronic mode by the medical students in Tirunelveli Medical College and Hospital. The researcher selected 150 respondents from this college and responses were collected from 112 respondents. The investigator has used the percentage analysis and 't' test for analysing the data.

Analysis of the Study

Table 1 Gender – Wise participation in this study

S.No	Gender	Number of Students	Percentage
1	Male	87	78
2	Female	25	22
3	Total	112	100

Source: Primary Data

Table 1 shows that 78 percent of the male medical students and 22 percent of the female medical students participated in this study.

Table 2 Overall Usages of Learning Information Resources through Electronic Mode

S.No	Level	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low	25	22.3
2	Moderate	71	63.4
3	High	16	14.3

Source: Primary Data

Table 2 shows that, overall 63.4 percent of the medical students were using the learning information sources through electronic mode at moderate level, followed by 22.3 at low level and 14.3 at high level.

Table 3 Gender – Wise Usage of Learning Information Sources through Electronic Mode

Gender	Electronic Mode		
	Low	Moderate	High
Male	22	56	9
	25.3%	64.4%	10.3%
Female	3	15	7
	12.0%	60.0%	28.0%

Source: Primary Data

Table 3 shows that, overall 64.4 percent of the male medical students were using the learning information sources through electronic mode at moderate level, followed by 25.3 at low level and 10.3 at high level. 60 percent of the female medical students were using the learning information sources through electronic mode at moderate level, followed by 28 at high level and 12 at low level.

Table 4 Hypothesis (Gender-wise Difference)

Gender-wise					
Electronic Mode	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value
	Male	87	18.24	5.611	2.145
	Female	25	21.20	6.205	

Source: Primary Data

(At 5% level of significance the table value of 't' is 1.96)

Table 4 shows that, calculated 't' value is greater than the table value. Hence the respective hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, there is significance difference between male and female students' level of learning information sources through e-environment. From the mean value, it is inferred that female students are better than male students.

Major Findings of the Study

- 78 percent of the male medical students participated in this study.
- Overall 63.4 percent of the medical students were using the learning information sources through electronic mode at moderate level.
- 64.4 percent of the male medical students were using the learning information sources through electronic mode at moderate level.
- 60 percent of the female medical students were using the learning information sources through electronic mode at moderate level.
- There is significant difference between male and female students level of learning information sources through electronic mode.

Suggestions

- Provide more updated and latest e-resource packages.
- Provide mobile services for exchanging the information resources.
- Provide e-group to medical students for sharing all the information.

Conclusion

Medical students show more awareness in learning information resources through electronic mode. This study finds that the female students are better than male students, regarding the usage of resources in e-mode. Government and college management are creating the awareness for using the e-resources. Girl students must give more importance to the use of resources in e-mode.

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