Status of Homoeopathic Medical College Libraries in Karnataka: A Study

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Abstract

In the era of information explosion, every library cannot meet all the demand of their users due to their changing needs. Medical college librarians are efficiently dedicated to update the qualitative and need based collection for the best use of the resources for the greater satisfaction of their users.[1] The aim of the study was to explore the status of Homoeopathic medical college libraries in Karnataka. To meet this aim, the study analyzed the collection, staff, resources, services, ICT, automation and e-resources status in Homoeopathic Medical college libraries of the Karnataka.

Keywords
Homoeopathic Medical College; staff, Library resources;, Services;Automation; HELINET.

Electronic access
The journal is available at www.jalis.in

Journal of Advances in Library and Information Science
ISSN: 2277-2219 Vol. 10. No.3. 2021. pp.187-192

1. Introduction

The medical college libraries play an important role in the promotion of medical education and health care.[2] The main aim of medical education is to develop the medical manpower to fulfil the requirements of the nation. For that medical libraries are the primary source of knowledge to the teaching faculty, undergraduate and postgraduate students.[3]
An attempt is made to examine the status of homoeopathic medical college libraries of the Karnataka. A survey was conducted to find out whether these libraries are fully equipped, to serve the community. In Karnataka Homoeopathic medical education is being imparted through 11 colleges. Among 11 only one college is funded by the government and the remaining 10 colleges are funded by the private management. All the 11 colleges in Karnataka are affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bangalore.[4]

All Homoeopathic Medical College libraries are educational libraries, where users are using library resources for educational, research and for clinical purpose. The users are teaching faculty, undergraduate and postgraduate students, hospital staff and nonteaching staff members of the college. The users of the Homoeopathic stream are specialized users because they are interested in research, theoretical as well as clinical medical literature, it can also be stated that these libraries are also acting as special libraries as specific collection is also based on medical sciences.

2. Need for the Study:

This study is restricted to the Status of Homoeopathic Medical College Libraries in Karnataka: A Study. The main aim of the study was to understand more about the availability of information resources and services in Homoeopathic Medical Colleges libraries.

3. Scope and Limitation of the Study:

The scope of the study is restricted only to the Homoeopathic Medical College libraries affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences in Karnataka state.

4.Objectives of the Study

- To find out the present status of library services in Homoeopathic Medical College libraries.

- To find out the availability of Library resources in Homoeopathic Medical College Libraries.
- To study the present status of human and other infrastructural facility of Homoeopathic Medical College Libraries.
- To find out the ICT Infrastructure Facilities and status of Library Automation in Homoeopathic Medical College Libraries.
- To suggest measures to improve the current status of Homoeopathic and Medical college libraries.

5.Methodology

The present study is based on primary data collected from the Homoeopathic Medical College librarians through a well designed questionnaire and personal interviews. The researcher has distributed questionnaires to the 11 Homoeopathic Medical College librarians of Karnataka state. The study has received 100% response from all 11 Homoeopathic medical college librarians.

6. Data Analysis And Interpretation

6.1 Number of Homoeopathy Medical Colleges in Karnataka:

In Karnataka there are total 11 Homoeopathic Medical Colleges as per the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences Affiliation permission.

Table 6.1: Total No. of Homoeopathy Medical Colleges in Karnataka

Type of Homoeopathic Colleges	No. of Colleges	Percentage
Private	10	91
Government	01	9
Total	11	100

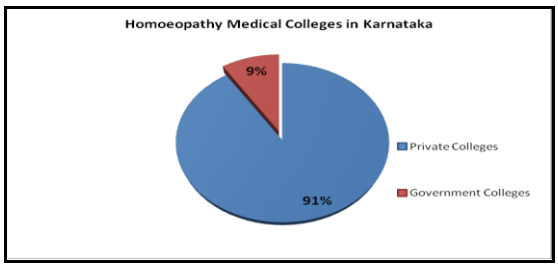


Figure 6.1 Total no. of Homoeopathy Medical Colleges in Karnataka

The Table 6.1 and Figure 6.1 show the total number of Homoeopathic Medical Colleges in Karnataka state. The study has received responses from the 11(100%) Homoeopathic Medical colleges. Out of these 11 Homoeopathic Medical Colleges, there are 10 (91%) private and only 01 (9%) Government Homeopathic Medical College in Karnataka.

6.2.Library Personnel

A skilled and effective library staff is the foundation of the health science library. The qualified librarians supported by other staff members make the library truly functional.

Table 6.2 Availability of Library Staff

Library Staff	Frequency	Percent	P-Value
Librarian	11	29.73	0.001
Asst. Librarian	9	24.32	
Library Assistant	6	16.21	
Attendant/ Peon	11	29.73	
Total	37	100	

The above Table 6.2 and Figure 6.2 shows that all 11(29.73%) Homoeopathic Colleges have the post of librarian, one in each, while only 9 (24.32%) colleges have Assistant librarians, 6(16.21%) library Assistants and the Attendant/ Peon posts in all 11 Homoeopathic Colleges. The Chi-Square test revealed a significant outcome based on the p-value (0.001< 0.05) which is less than the standard 0.05 value as assumed for the above test.

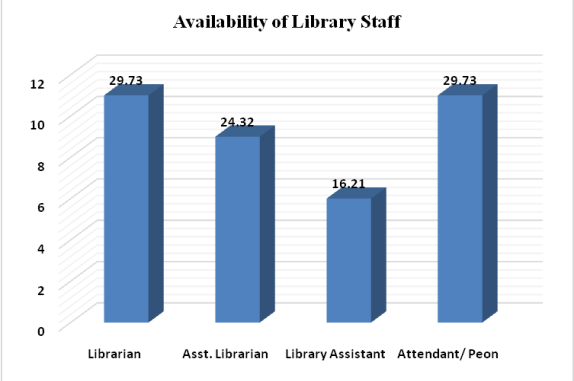


Fig. 6. 2 Availability of Library Staff

6.3 Library Collection

Homoeopathic Medical College libraries are like special libraries. The book collection mainly includes recommended textbooks on various medical subjects for undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Table 6.3.1 Library Collection of Total Books

Total Books	Frequency	Percent	P-Value
1000-5000	1	9.09	0.004
5001-10000	6	54.54	
10001-15000	4	36.36	
Above 15000	0	0	
Total	11	100	

The table 6.3.1 shows the Homoeopathic college library collection of books. There is only one (9.09%) Homoeopathic library having the total books in the range of 1000-5000, followed by 6 (54.54%) libraries in the range 5001-10000 and 4 (36.36%) libraries in the range of 10001-15000. For above 15000 there is no books collection in any Homoeopathic library. The Chi-Square test revealed a significant outcome based on the p-value (0.004 < 0.05) which is less than the standard 0.05 value as assumed for the above test.

Table 6.3.2: Library Collection of Subscribed Journals

Number of Journals	Frequency	Percent	P-Value
0 - 10	4	36.36	0.016
11 - 20	5	45.45	
21 - 30	1	9.09	
31 - 40	0	0	
Above 40	1	9.09	
Total	11	100	

In Homoeopathic Medical College libraries journal collection have a vital importance. The above table 6.3.2 illustrates the journal holdings in Homoeopathic college libraries. 4(36.36%) of Homoeopathic colleges have the journal subscription collections range between 0-10. The maximum number of journals in the range between 11-20 is by 5(45.45%) of Homoeopathic libraries, followed by 21-30 only 01(9.09%) of Homoeopathic libraries respectively. Not a single library is having journal collection in the range of 31-40. Only one (9.09%) library has the subscribed journals collection above 40. The Chi-Square test revealed a significant outcome based on the p-value (0.016 < 0.05) which is less than the standard 0.05 value as assumed for the above test.

Table 6.3.3: Library Collection of Thesis/ Dissertations

Thesis/Dissertations	Frequency	Percent	P-Value
0 -100	0	0	0.053
101 -200	1	14.28	
201 -300	1	14.28	
301-400	2	28.57	
401 – 500	1	14.28	
Above 500	2	28.57	

The data from the above Table 6.3.3 reveals that, only the postgraduate colleges have the collection of Thesis/Dissertations. Out of 11 only 3 equally Homoeopathic libraries have the Dissertation collection in the range of 101-200,201-300 and 401-500. Out of 11 only 2(28.57%) libraries have Thesis/Dissertations collection in the range of 301-400. 2(28.57%) libraries have the collection above 500. The Chi-Square test revealed a significant outcome based on the p-value (0.053 < 0.05) which is less than the standard 0.05 value as assumed for the above test.

Table 6.3.4: Library Collection of Non-Book Materials

Non-Book Materials	Yes		No		P-Value
	N	%	N	%	
Maps	0	0	11	100	NA
Charts	10	91	1	9	0.056
Microforms	7	63.64	4	36.36	0.023

N-Numbers

From the above Table 6.3.4 it clears that majority 10(91%) of Homoeopathic libraries have the Charts Collection in their libraries. All 11(100%) Homoeopathic libraries are not having Maps in their libraries. Whereas 7(63.64%) libraries have the Microforms collection and the remaining 4(36.36%) are not having the Microforms respectively.

Table 6.3.5: Special Collections

Special	Yes	No	P-

Collections	N	%	N	%	Value
Govt. Book Bank Scheme	7	63.64	4	36.36	0.031
Poor-Cum-Merit students Book Bank	0	0	11	100	NA

N=Numbers

It can be observed from the above Table 6.3.5 that majority of 7(63.64%) Homoeopathic libraries have the special collection under the Govt. Book Bank Scheme and only 4(36.36%) libraries are not having the same. These books are supplied by the State Government for SC and ST students. Poor-Cum-Merit students Book Bank collection is not available in all 11(100%) Homoeopathic libraries. The Chi-Square test revealed a significant outcome based on the p-value (0.031 < 0.05) which is less than the standard 0.05 value as assumed for the above test.

6.4 Library Infrastructure Facilities:

Table 6.4: Physical Infrastructure availability in library

Physical Facilities	Yes		No		P-Value
	N	%	N	%	
Chairs	11	100	0	0	NA
Tables	11	100	0	0	NA
Staff Reading Room	11	100	0	0	NA
Research Cabins	0	0	11	100	NA
Air Conditioning	0	0	11	100	NA
Periodical Racks	11	100	0	0	NA
Newspaper Table	11	100	0	0	NA
Notice Board	11	100	0	0	NA
Photocopying facilities	10	90.9	1	9.1	0.163
Internet Section	10	90.1	1	9.1	0.210
Suggestion Box	11	100	0	0	NA
Lighting/ Ventilation	11	100	0	0	NA

N=Numbers

The above Table 6.4 indicates that all the (11) 100% Homoeopathic College libraries having good Physical Infrastructure availability in their libraries regarding Chairs, Tables, Staff Reading Room, Periodical Racks, News paper table, Notice Board, Suggestion Box and Lighting / Ventilation.

Research Cabins and Air Conditioning is not available in all the (11) 100% Homoeopathic College libraries. Photocopying facilities and Internet Section is not available in one (9.1%) library respectively.

6.5 ICT Infrastructure Facilities:

Table 6.5: Availability of ICT Infrastructure Facilities

ICT Infrastructure Facilities	Yes		No		P-Value
	N	%	N	%	
Computers:					
Server Systems	11	100	0	0	NA
Desktop Computers	11	100	0	0	NA
Laptops	1	9	10	91	0.163
Printers	11	100	0	0	NA
Scanners	8	72.7	3	27.3	0.059
Photocopier	1	9.1	10	90.9	0.163
Portable Hardisk	0	0	11	100	NA
Telephone/ Intercom	11	100	0	0	NA
E-Display Board	0	0	11	100	NA
CC TV	11	100	0	0	NA
Barcode Readers	8	72.7	3	27.3	0.059
UPS	11	100	0	0	NA
LCD Projector	0	0	11	100	NA

N=Numbers

The application of equipments, especially computers, it is considered important in the changing information environment. With an interest to know the availability of such ICT infrastructure facilities and their use in Homoeopathic College libraries, the data has been collected and is displayed in Table 6.5
The table reveals that 100% Homoeopathic (11) librarians indicated that Computers for (Server Systems, Desktop Computers), Printers, Telephone/ Intercom, CC TV and UPS facilities are made available in their libraries for the users.

Portable Hardisk and E-Display Board are not available in the libraries. LCD Projectors are available only in the class rooms of the colleges. Majority of 8(72.7%) colleges have Scanners in their libraries. Followed by Barcode Readers in 8 (72.7%) Homoeopathic libraries. Photocopier is available in only 01 (9.1%) Homoeopathic libraries.

6.6 Library Automation and Networking:

Table 6.6.1: Library Automation

Particular	Yes		No		P-Value
	N	%	N	%	

library Automated	8	72.72	3	27.27	0.059

N= Numbers

Automation is the essential need of developing libraries towards advanced use. The status of library automation is good as out of 11 Homoeopathic libraries 8(72.72%) have completed automation and only 3(27.27%) libraries have not completed the automation but the process is in progress. The detail analysis is in Table 6.6.1

Table 6.6.2: Level of Computerization

Level of Computerization	Frequency	Percent	P-Value
Fully	2	18.18	0.053
Partially	6	54.54	
Initiated	3	27.28	

N= Numbers

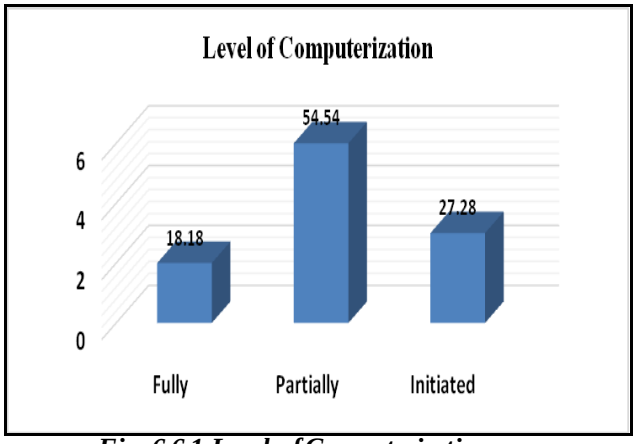


Fig. 6.6.1 Level of Computerization

The above Table 6.6.2 and Figure 6.6.1 shows the level Computerization of Homoeopathic college libraries. Only 2 (18.18%) of Homoeopathic libraries are fully computerized, while 6 (54.54%) of libraries are partially automated and remaining 3 (27.28%) of libraries initiated the process respectively.

Table 6.6.3: Library Membership of Consortium

Particular	Yes		No		P-Value
	N	%	N	%	
Library member of any Consortium	11	100	0	0	NA

N= Numbers

For the above Table 6.6.3 the question, Library member of any Consortium was asked to find whether Homoeopathic College libraries are member of any resource sharing programs, consortium or joint collaboration with any institute like HELINET. All 11 Homoeopathic College libraries are the member of HELINET Consortium of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bangalore.

6.7 Library Services

Table 6.7: Types of Services Provided in Homoeopathic College Libraries

Library Services	Yes		No		P-Value
	N	%	N	%	
Lending	11	100	0	0	NA
Reference Service	11	100	0	0	NA
Inter Library Loan	3	27.3	8	72.7	0.067
Current Awareness Services (CAS)	9	81.82	2	18.18	0.167
Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI)	9	81.82	2	18.18	0.167
Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)	7	63.64	4	36.36	0.087
Document Delivery Services (DDS)	3	27.3	8	72.7	0.067
Photo copy (Xerox) Service (Within Library)	11	100	0	0	NA
Information about New Arrivals	11	100	0	0	NA
News Paper Clipping Service	6	54.55	5	45.45	0.084
Library Orientation/ training Programmes	6	54.55	5	45.45	0.084
Bibliographic Service	4	36.36	7	63.64	0.087
Book Exhibition	7	63.64	4	36.36	0.087
Online Search Service	11	100	0	0	NA
Book Bank	7	63.64	4	36.36	0.087

N= Numbers

Table 6.7 discloses that lending is the main service offered by Homoeopathic libraries. Though there are reservations in offering this service. All the

Homoeopathic 11(100%) libraries are providing borrowing, Reference Service and Information about New Arrivals service to teaching staff.

As almost 9 (81.82%) libraries claim that they provide Current Awareness Services (CAS) and Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) service to their users. Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) is provided only by 7 (63.64%) Homoeopathic libraries.

Document Delivery Services (DDS) is provided by only 3 (27.3%) libraries. Photo copy (Xerox) Service, Information about New Arrivals and Online Search Service is given inside by all Libraries.

Inter Library Loan, it is discouraging to note that only 3 (27.3%) libraries offer inter Library Loan service. News Paper Clipping and Library Orientation service is given by 6 (54.55%) libraries. Book Exhibition and Book Bank service is provided by only 7 (63.64%) of Homoeopathic libraries.

7.Findings

- All 11 Homeopathic colleges have given the response for librarian questionnaire.
- As per the study there are only 01(9.09%) Government Homoeopathic Medical Colleges in Karnataka state. All the remaining colleges are private.
- As per the study only (7) Homoeopathic colleges give Postgraduate education along with Undergraduate and the remaining 4 are only Undergraduate Colleges.
- All 11(29.73%) Homoeopathic Colleges have the post of librarian, one in each, while only 9 (24.32%) Assistant librarians, 6(16.21%) library Assistants.
- All the Homoeopathic colleges are having good library collection of books, Journals, Bound journals and thesis.
- The e-resources are made available by HELINET Consortium of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences to all Homoeopathic College libraries.
- Majority of Homoeopathic (10) libraries have the Charts Collection in their libraries. All (11) Homoeopathic libraries are not having Maps. Microforms are available in only (7) libraries.
- Physical Infrastructure is available in all Homoeopathic college libraries. Only Research Cabins and Air Conditioning rooms are not available in all the libraries.

8. Suggestions

- The Homoeopathic librarians should be deputed for training programmes to develop their IT based skills.
- The medical librarians need to keep update with information resources and their importance to specific information needs.
- The facility of Research cabins in library should be there for the researchers.
- The Homoeopathic libraries are suggested to subscribe more print and e-journals.
- In Homoeopathic College libraries inter-library loan should be in practice.

9.CONCLUSION

The status of Homoeopathic Medical College libraries of Karnataka indicates that these libraries have been able to function satisfactorily as only few libraries has to improve their status regarding library resources and services. One of the most important reasons is inadequate financial resources. Inter-library loan should be in practice so the sharing of resources through cooperation and networking is essential to represent the richest resource of Homoeopathy information in Karnataka. These libraries can provide health information for all and therefore facilitate to achieve good health for all without any side effects.

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