



Impact of Library Usage on Academic Performance among first year Medical Students

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Abstract

Objective: *The study is planned to know the impact of library reading on academic performance and to improve the library infrastructure and facilities because it helps to enhance the knowledge by providing the collection of books, journals and favourable place.*

Method: *The present study is done on 100 1st year medical student in Government Medical College Azamgarh U.P. by taking data from library incoming and outgoing register. Data was compiled in the form of rows and columns in tabular form, pie chart and compared.*

Results: *In this study we found almost 50 % students were visiting library among that 16 % were females. The students, who were visiting library, increased their marks from pre-university to university examination.*

Conclusion: *The results shows positive correlation between library study with students' academic achievements, their knowledge as well as personality development but it's not mandatory to spend time in library with positive results always because good academics also depends on the dedication and hard work.*

Keywords: *library study, academic performance, utilization of library.*

Introduction

In medical education one has to be a good learner to maintain their knowledge and develop their skills to give the best medical care to patients as well as to achieve best academic position as student. A good study habit and interest in seeking knowledge is very important. For good study habit it is essential to create a comfortable and informative place to study.

Medical library as a centre of information plays a very important role in medical education. Library helps to enhance the knowledge by providing the collection of books, journals, place to study and new modern library provides internet and computer but this is also very important that how students are using library? How much they are gaining from library?⁽¹⁾

The institution might be having good collection of books and journals but utilization of library by the students depend on the number of factors: personal choice- weather students wants to sit in library or he/she is comfortable in hostel, selection of books and journals study place in library weather that is comfortable or not, environment of library, distance from hostel, behaviour of library staff.⁽²⁾ But if all the facility available in the library then the issue raises that does Students Really Studying or Some Other Objective?

Material and Method

This study was planned at government medical college, Azamgarh Uttar Pradesh. The research method used in this study is data collection by the student entry register present in the library of medical college. The data was collected in year 2016 of 1st year MBBS students.

The collected data has information in columns like name of students, no. of days present in library, number of hours present in library, number of hours and days between their pre-university and university exams, marks obtained in pre university exam and finally the final academic achievement by the student in university examination. The

collected data was compiled and compared among student’s presence, pre university exam marks and university exam marks.

Aims

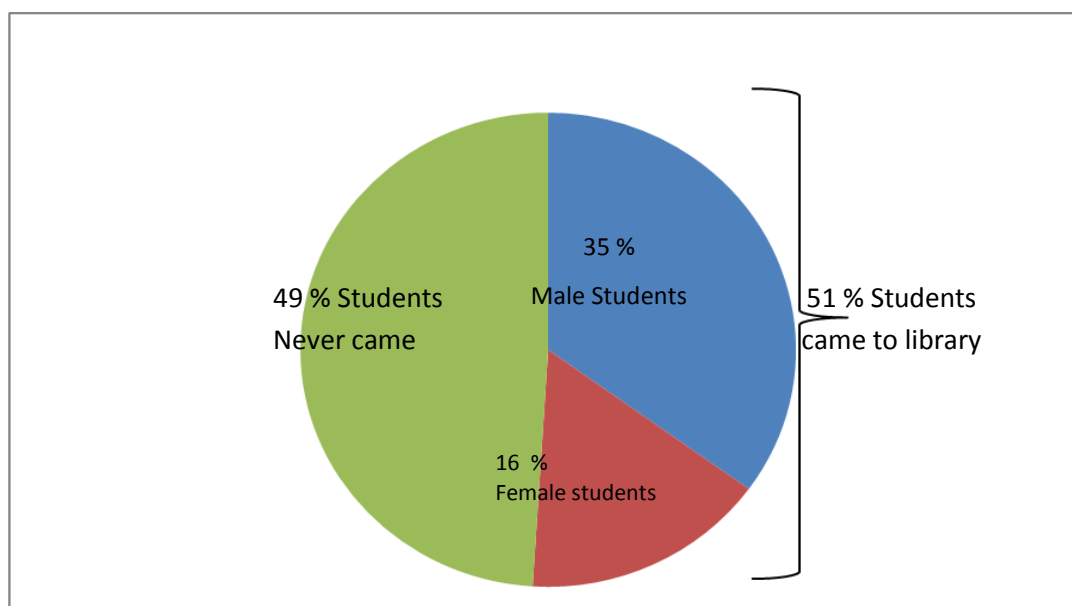
To know the use of library by 1st year medical students and their academic performance in Government Medical College, Azamgarh Uttar Pradesh.

Objective

- To find out the extent of use of library.
- To investigate the relationship between study habits, use of library and academic performance.
- To suggest ways to improve the resources in library.

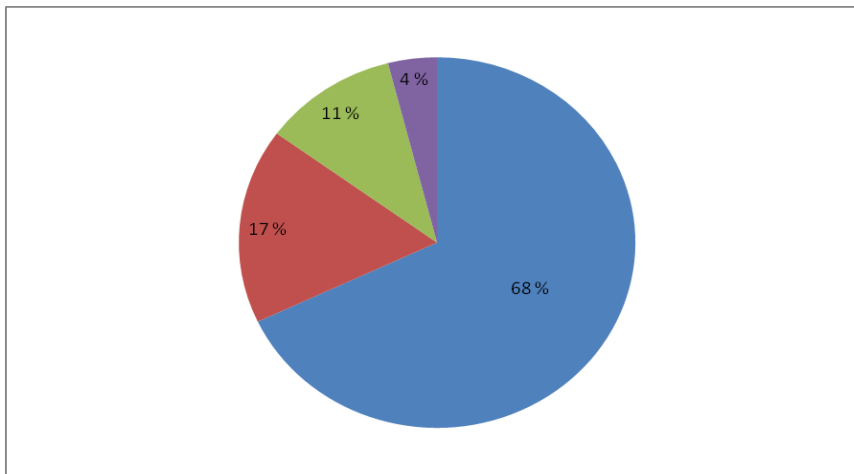
Result

- Out of 100 1st years MBBS Students 51 students came to library regularly, among which 35 were male, 16 were female and 49 never visited the library and out of 51, 38 students were reading their own text book and notes whereas 13 students were depend on library reference book.^(2,7)



- Out of 100 students 68 students increases their marks from pre-university to university exam, 17 students decrease their

marks, 11 students were remain same and 4 students failed.



- Among those 68 students who increase their marks, 45 students came to library regularly and 23 students never came to library. Those 45 students who came to library regularly have variability in their increased marks (table no. 1) and also shows very much variability in their sitting pattern as some students sit for long hours and some use to come irregular and for very less time (table no. 2)

- 11 students who has no or very minimal change in their marks among those 5 students came to library but irregularly and for very less time and 6 students never came to library.
- 17 students who have decreased their marks, among those 5 students came to library and 12 students never came to library. 4 of students were failed in examination among those 1 student came library for very less time and irregularly and 3 students never came to library.

Table no. 1

Serial no.	Increased marks	Number of students
1	10%	15
2	20 %	14
3	30%	10
4	40%	6

- **No. of students came to library and increased marks**

Table no. 2

Hour	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50 hour
No. of students	4	18	10	8	5

- **Sitting pattern of students**
- 23 students who never came to the library also show variability in their increased marks as shown in table no. 3.

Table no. 3

Serial no.	Increased marks	No. of students
1	10%	09
2	20 %	07
3	30 %	04
4	40%	03

- **Marks enhancement of those who never came to library**

Discussion

This is the first study of library use pattern carried out in Government Medical College, Azamgarh and it is useful to compare findings with results reported in literature. Similar study conducted in Chandigarh it showed 56.6 % student were spending less than one hour in library daily, 23.8 % were spending less than 3 hour and 6% were more than 3 hour daily.⁽²⁾ And majority of students preferred to read their own textbooks. So this study concluded that maximum number of students are using library very less often, it could be because of timing issue of library opening and closing time as one study conducted in Nigeria showed there was no library hour on the college time table and library timings were same with the college opening and closing hours.⁽³⁾ As study conducted in western U S showed that apart from the timings of library, staffs is also playing an important role to make students sit in library as

librarian /staff can start instructional programmes of integrated information skills training of medical students. Medical educators can also join the librarian and give training to students. Feedback of library instructions from the students can help librarian to enhance the future library instruction which may be very useful for medical students and relieve their burden. ⁽⁴⁾

Another study conducted in Ghana showed issue of library services such as use of online database, online catalogue, reference queries, improvement of print books, improvement of space in library such as individual study carrels and group study row, IT services such as photocopy, printing and high speed internet connection with WIFI facility. Students who study more by borrowing books , assessing electronic resources and visit to library correlates significantly with their academic achievements. ⁽⁵⁾ A very few number of students read fiction and novels other than their regular textbooks which helps in the development of their personality. ⁽⁶⁾

Study limitation

The limitation of the study was small sample size and time duration. The further study should include large no of students with multiple batches of medical curriculum.

Conclusion

The study reveals that the ratio of student's attendance was fifty: fifty, that's why it is a challenge to the medical institution to improve the quality and facilities of library for better attendance of the students. Students who came to the library for long duration have got good marks but few students could not. While using library, dedication and priorities of person is more important than facilities because good academic achievements show positive correlation with hostel reading also. With all these variables the finding suggests that there is a positive impact of library usage on students' academic achievements and performance.

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