

# INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR AMONG B.Ed. COLLEGE STUDENTS IN PUDUCHERRY: A CASE STUDY

**R.Rajesh**

Library Assistant  
Central Library  
Pondicherry University, Puducherry.

**Dr. G. Sivasubramaniyan**

Assistant Librarian  
Central Library  
Pondicherry University, Puducherry

**L.Kalpna**

Semi-Professional Assistant  
Central Library  
Pondicherry University

**Abstract:** The study was designed to investigate the Information Seeking Behaviour (ISB) of 90 B.Ed. Students from Co-operative College of Education in Puducherry. In this study, the current Information Seeking Behaviours of Student-teachers are described and discussed from Information Seeking perspective. The data were collected from 90 Students from Co-operative College of Education. The key survey questions were on profile characteristic of students, students Information seeking behaviour, and beliefs of students on information seeking behaviour. The results revealed that majority of teacher educators believed that there information seeking behaviour help them in attaining continuing professional development.

**Keywords:** Information Seeking Behaviour, B.Ed.Students, Library and Information Science, Education, Case Study etc.

## 1.0 Introduction

“Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information on it.”  
— Samuel Johnson

Wilson (2000) defines purposive seeking for information as a consequence of a need to satisfy some goal. In the course of seeking, the individual may interact with manual information systems (such as a newspaper or a library), or with computer-based systems (such as World Wide Web). Information-seeking behavior considered as a vital area in recent research in library and information science. Fulfilling the library users' information needs is the major task of librarians in educational institutions starting from school education to university education. According to Bruce (2005), "information plays a significant role in our daily professional and personal lives and we are constantly challenged to take charge of the information that we need for work, fun and everyday decisions and tasks." Recent literatures on information seeking behaviour reveal that students' information seeking behaviour helps them in updating their knowledge, refining their attitudes, developing skills and performing better practices to excel in their education. Information seeking behaviors among B.Ed. students is the need of the hour, since; the programme has been revised from one year to two years and the students should clear CBSE-CTET (Central Teacher Eligibility Test) for getting jobs after the course. This present study investigates information-seeking behavior among the students of Co-operative College of Education, Puducherry.

## 2.0 Rationale and Background of the Study:

Teachers play key role in the information age. They are the role models of future students. Student – Teachers information seeking help them in their teaching –learning process. Therefore, they should empower themselves on current teaching methods/approaches, knowledge, attitude, classroom teaching/learning process, through lifelong learning practices (Thamizhiniyan, 2015). Information Seeking Behaviour empowers student-teachers for their overall development during the course and after the course of B.Ed.

**3.0 Methodology**

The study was carried out by survey method based on questionnaire through interview method. The questionnaire contained both open ended and close ended questions. The questionnaire was administered to all B.Ed. students both in first and second years. The questionnaire to the 90 students consisted of the items on: profile characteristics of the students, students Information seeking behaviour, and beliefs of students on information seeking behaviour. The data were analyzed using simple frequency and percentage (table 1 to 5). The results of the study were presented through tables and discussed under the three sections namely; profile characteristics of the students, students Information seeking behaviour, and beliefs of students on information seeking behaviour.

**4.0 Results and Analysis :**

Co-operative College of Education has two years B.Ed. programme. For this study 90 students were selected from both the years of study. With regard to the distribution of respondents by sex, all of them were female.

**Table 1. Students Information Seeking Behaviour Through Library**

Do you update KAP for the course through Information Seeking Behaviour?	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	90	100
No	0	0
Total	90	100

With regard to the students' information seeking behaviour, all the B.Ed. students responded that (100 percent) they update Knowledge, Attitude and practices (KAP) through information seeking behaviour. The table shows that information seeking behaviour helped them to update their Knowledge, Attitude and practices.

**Table 2. Students' Information Seeking Practices**

The way of updating your learning for KAS through library?	Frequency	Percentage
Reading books	58	64
Reading Journals, Magazines	23	26
Reading newspapers	9	10
Total	90	100

Information seeking practice is self-directed, motivated from within in most of the time. With focusing frequency of updating Knowledge, Attitude and Skills (KAS) for the programme (table 2), most of the students 58 (64 percent) opined that through reading books they update their KAS and 23 (26 percent) students opined that they update their KAS through Journals and Magazines and 09 (10 percent) students responded that they update their KAS through reading newspapers.

**Table 3. Students' Information Seeking Behaviour Through Other Modes**

Do you update your learning KAS through other modes apart from library?	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	90	100
No	0	26
Total	90	100

With regard to students information seeking behaviour from other modes (table 3), all the students responded that (100 percent) they updated their Knowledge, Attitude and Skills related to their learning. The data showed that the students were also interested in empowering themselves through other modes.

**Table 4. Students' Information Seeking Practices Apart from Library**

The most way of updating your learning for KAS through other modes?	Frequency	Percentage
Pursuing Distance/Open/Online courses	11	12
Attending training programmes	59	66
Participating in workshop/seminar/conference	20	22
Total	90	100

In response to updating Knowledge, Attitude and Skills(KAS) through other modes (table 4), more number of students (66 percentage) opined that attending training programmes were their mode of information seeking related to their learning. 22 percentage of students opined that participating in workshop/seminar/conference is

their modes of information seeking. Minimum number of students (12 percentage) opined that their mode of information seeking is doing Distance/Open/Online courses.

**Table 5. Students' Information Seeking Behaviour for Continuing Professional Development**

Do you believe that Information Seeking Behaviour enhances your CPD?	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	90	100
No	0	0
Total	90	100

With regard to the students' belief of information seeking behaviour enhances continuing professional development (table 5), all the students (100 percentage) responded that information seeking behaviour help and enhance their continuing professional development. The data showed that students strongly believed that information seeking behaviour can empower them as teachers in future.

### 5.0 Findings and Conclusion

With the study found that all B.Ed students' responded that (100 percent) they update Knowledge, Attitude and practices (KAP) through information seeking behaviour. With focusing frequency of updating Knowledge, Attitude and Skills (KAS) for the programme, most of the students 58 (64 percent) opined that through reading books they update their KAS and 23 (26 percent) students opined that they update their KAS through Journals and Magazines and 09 (10 percent) students responded that they update their KAS through reading newspapers. The highest number of students (66 percentage) opined that attending training programmes were their mode of information seeking related to their learning. 22 percentage of students opined that participating in workshop/seminar/conference is their modes of information seeking. The lowest number of students (12 percentage) opined that their mode of information seeking is doing Distance/Open/Online courses. All the students (100 percentage) responded that information seeking behaviour help and enhance their continuing professional development. The data showed that students strongly believed that information seeking behaviour can empower them as teachers in future.

On the whole, the findings show that Information Seeking Behaviour through library and other modes highly help the students to transform themselves in updating their Knowledge, Attitude and Skills in teaching-learning process of the two year B.Ed. programme. Aire-wessels (1990:361 in Kakai et al, 2004) refers information seeking behaviour as the way people search for and utilize information. As Kakai et al. (2004) rightly observe that, students' information seeking behaviour engages dynamic or purposeful information to complete course assignment, prepare for class discussions seminars, workshops, conferences etc.

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