

IMPORTANCE OF INFORMATION AMONG THE RESIDENTS OF GIRLS HOSTEL: A STUDY OF KURUKSHETRA UNIVERSITY KURUKSHETRA

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Abstract

This work is regarding the information needs and its importance for the female residents of girl's hostel in Kurukshetra University. Maximum female respondents are from post graduate stream 59 (47.2%). Maximum female 96 (76.8%) residents required information on entertainment. Internet is the major source to get information and 112 (89.6%) female are using this particular source. 92 (73.6%) females required information on mess charges. Hostel notice board is the major source of information for females of Kurukshetra University.

Key Words: Information Need, Girls Students, Kurukshetra University.

1.0 Introduction

Information has its own glory in this modern era. Human being existence cannot be imagined without presence of this notion. In continuation of this phenomenon several studies has been conducted and this present one has also elaborated this notion. The present study revolves around the ingredient, popularly known as information and this study is a fruitful outcome of the exercise to understand the importance of this element (information) among the female residents, residing in hostel of Kurukshetra University. Moreover, this study brings out the various multiple dimension of information and how varied segments of information has its deep impact on the daily lives of the females on whom this study has been conducted. Through this study, a lesson puts which keep us in active mode so that we can remain on our tenterhooks as the information has not any permanent or stable identity, perhaps it can be identified as something which has its relevance based on the subject on which information required.

2.0 Objectives of the study

The present study has the following objectives:

- To find out the information needs of the respondents for different purposes.
- To know the sources used to get information.

- To discuss information need for health service.
- To examine the need for the library within hostel premises

3.0 Methodology

Survey method was employed to conduct this using a structured questionnaire containing close ended questions relation to the importance of information in different dimensions. Data was collected using the said questionnaire form the target population i.e. female students who reside in the different hostels in girl's hostel complex of Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra. Simple random sampling was adopted while collecting the data and sample framing from the said population. A total number of 150 questionnaires were distributed among the female residents of girl's hostel complex where 125 duly filled-in questionnaires were received back which were taken for further data analysis.

4.0 Results analysis and discussion

Table 1 is about the age distribution of the female residents on whom this research was conducted. At the outset, the whole bunch of residents were distributed on the basis of age. Under this division, four age brackets were formed and the first one was between 18-21 and there were 43 (34.4%) female residents fall under this category. The second group was of age bracket between 22-25, in which the majority of residents 52 (41.6%) were part of it, thereafter comes the age bracket of 26-29 and here 23 (18.4%) females expressed their views and the last one was the smallest group of only 7 (5.6%) female residents who were exclusive respondents in this research.

Table 1. Age-wise distribution

Age (years)	No. of Respondents	Percentage
18-21	43	34.4
22-25	52	41.6
26-29	23	18.4
30&Above	7	5.6

Table 2. Qualification-wise distribution

Qualification	No. of Respondents	Percentage
UG	26	20.8
PG	59	47.2
M.Phil.	18	14.4
PhD	22	17.6
Total	125	100

Table 2 is about qualifications of the female respondents of girls hostel and the females from undergraduate till PhD scholars were all proud participants in this research. The majority of females were from Post Graduate level as 59 (47.2%) females in this category responded to the questionnaire and the second in the ladder were undergraduate female which were 26 (20.8%) in numbers. The most senior female residents belonged to PhD and here the number of females were 22 (17.6%) who efficiently put their views and the last group belonged to M.Phil students under which only 18 (14.4%) respondents shared their views.

Table 3. Information needs on various dimensions

Subject	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Job\ Employment	78	62.4
Health	81	64.8
World Affairs	77	61.6
National Affairs	86	68.8
Economy	62	49.6
Education	91	72.8
Entertainments	96	76.8
Society	89	71.2
Environment	73	58.4
Polity	56	44.8
Career	90	72
Spirituality	49	39.2

Table 3 is an attempt to evaluate the different information needs in varied spheres of the female residents, it was observed that majority of female residents 96 (76.8%) were passionate to gather the information related to entertainment and in second place comes the educational needs of female residents and here good number of females 91 (72.8%) were well acquainted with this particular need. The most likely to be relevant field for students whether male or female is related to Career and same concern related to career was observed in this research among the female residents where 90 (72.00%) females were keen to gather information related to career. Female residents were also particular to accumulate information related to society and 89 (71.2%) of the female respondents fall under this category. It was also noted that female residents were also keen to remain aware about the national affairs and world affairs events as 86 (68.8%) and 77 (61.6%) females showed their inclination towards these segments. Society and Environment were also important segments which was still alive in the mindset of female residents as 89 (71.2%) females and 73 (58.4%) females were in favour of these two segments. Spirituality was also somehow still exists in

good number in females mind as 49 (39.2%) females like to gather information in this field. Health and Economy were also prominent in the list of concerned information for female residents as 81 (64.8%) females and 62 (49.6%) females were inclined towards this stream.

Table 4. Information Sources used to get information

Sources	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Newspapers	83	66.4
Social Media	99	79.2
Radio	43	34.4
Information Centre	26	20.8
Television	63	50.4
Books	49	39.2
Library	71	56.8
Internet	112	89.6
Others	38	30.4

Table 4 is related to those information sources, used to get information and as natural the maximum number of female residents 112 (89.6%) depend on the internet for the information on various spheres. Social Media was another source through which information is gathered by 99 (79.2%) female residents and after this Newspapers and Library were another sources of information where 83 (66.4%) and 71 (56.8%) females gather information from these two sources. Female residents also showed their confidence towards media, as television and radio were preferred by 63 (50.4%) and 43 (34.4%) females. Information centres were the least preferred source to collect information as only 26 (20.8%) female consulted it for information.

Table 5. Information needs regarding hostel

Purpose	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Health Facility for Resident	87	69.6
Mess Charges	92	73.6
Mess Meal Menu	90	72

Hostel Timings	83	66.4
Library Facility	66	52.8
Sports-related information	53	42.4
Cultural Activity	49	39.2
Others	41	32.8

Table 5 talks about the specific information needs of female residents regarding hostel specifically. Here maximum females 92 (73.6%) were concerned about information regarding mess charges and also closely required information related to mess meal menu where 90 (72.00%) females showed their interest. Health facility for women residents was also a information to be concerned with and here 87 (69.6%) females showed their inclination. Other information regarding hostels timings, library facility, sports related, cultural activity were also required by good number of female residents and the number of residents were as follow hostel timing 83 (63.44%) females, library facility 66 (52.8%) females, sports information 53 (42.4%) females, cultural activity by 49 (39.2%). Other information except these items was required by 41 (32.8%) females.

Table 6. Information Source used to get information about the hostel

Sources	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Hostel Information Booklet	98	78.4
Hostel Notice Board	104	83.2
Friends	84	67.2
Hostel Workers/Staff	76	60.8
Hostel Warden	69	55.2
Hostel Orientation	23	18.4

Table 6 deals with the sources through which information was collected by the female residents. Among the sources, hostel notice board was the most prominent one as 104 (83.2%) females depended on this information source. Next comes the hostel information booklet through which 98 (78.4%) females collected information. Friends also played an important role as 84 (67.2%) female residents gathered information with the help of their friends, thereafter, hostel workers/ staff members comes in as they were the source of providing information to 76 (60.8%) females. 69 (55.2%) females relied on hostel warden for collecting the information. Hostel orientation was also one of the important source through which information was provided to female residents as 23 (18.4%) females depended on hostel orientation for information.

Table 7. Information needs for health purpose

Purpose	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Living Healthy Life	64	51.2
Healthy Foods	83	66.4
Common Disease	52	41.6
Medicine	74	59.2
Chronic Disease	43	34.4
Free Health Check Up	69	55.2
Yoga	77	61.6

Table 7 revolves around the health information required by the female residents. Maximum number of females 83 (66.4%) were found anxious about the information related to healthy foods. Medicines were also in high priority as 74 (59.2%) females were of the opinion that information regarding medicines is essential for them. Living Healthy Life related information was required by 64 (51.2%) females which tells much about healthy mindset of female residents. Yoga related information was prominently needed by females as 77 (61.6%) of them sought information on this particular field. Females were also found consciousness about the information related to free health check-up, under this category 69 (55.2%) females showed their concern. Information on common and chronic diseases were also substantially obtained by females of hostel as 52 (41.6%) females and 43 (34.4%) females considered these fields.

Table 8. Information sources consulted to get information regarding health

Sources	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Doctors	94	75.2
Social Media	63	50.4
Free Health Check UP Camps	78	62.4
Newspapers	53	42.4
PHC/UHC	59	47.2
Health Workers	46	36.8

Table 8 signify about the sources through which health related information is obtained by females and here as obvious, Doctors were the most prominent source through which information was provided to the females as highest number of females 94 (75.2%) obtained information from them. Next in the list was Free health check-up camps as the source

of information, under which 78 (62.4%) females got the health information from this particular source. Social Media was also one of the crucial source through which 63 (50.4%) females received the health information. PHC/UHC, also played a crucial role as a source in providing information, where 59 (47.2%) females depended on this particular source for health information. Newspapers and Health Workers were also important sources through which health related information was provided to the female residents, as 53 (42.4%) females and 46 (36.8%) females obtained information from these sources.

Table 9. Information needs for Cost Consciousness

Purpose	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Cost of Books	84	67.2
Cost of Eating Items	89	71.2
Cost of Gym\Yoga	77	61.6
Cost of Printing/Xerox	81	64.8
Cost of Stationary	62	49.6
Any other	52	41.6

Table 9 symbolise information needs of regarding cost consciousness of the female residents and the results speaks in itself as maximum number of females 89 (71.2%) was concerned about the cost of eating items, thereafter comes the prices of books which mattered for 84 (67.2%) females. As all the females were students under different departments so they required reading material which they get Xeroxed and 81 (64.8%) females required the information concerning their prices. Female residents were also really concerned about the fee of Gym/ Yoga, where 77 (61.6%) females required information on this particular matter. Stationery was also one of the essential item whose price related information was required by females and here the number of women were 62 (49.6%). The last option was other related items whose prices required by females and here the number of female residents were 52 (41.6%).

Table 10. Information sources for Cost Consciousness

Sources	No. of Respondents	Percentage
University Price List	79	63.2
Market(Campus/City)	86	68.8
TV	23	18.4
Newspaper	57	45.6
Shopkeeper	82	65.6

Social Media	38	30.4
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Table 10 reveals the sources through which cost related information was obtained and here maximum information related to prices of items were obtained by females from shops or market situated inside the campus as well outside the university and 86 (68.8%) females got this information from this source, later shopkeepers were the source to provide information related to prices of the items and here the number of females were 82 (65.6%) who depended on this particular source. 79 (63.2%) female residents got the information regarding prices from the University Price List. Newspaper and Social Media were also the major components which distribute the information regarding cost of different items among the female residents and here 57 (45.6%) females, 38 (30.4%) females were depended on newspaper and social media.

5.0 Findings

- 100% response has been achieved as all the 50 participants in the survey had responded to the questionnaire.
- Majority of the respondents 70% belongs to the age group up to 25 years.
- 38(76%) respondents of this study were researchers while only 2(4%) respondents have UG courses qualification.
- 41(82%) of respondents need information about general knowledge and 7(14%) respondents for the economy.
- Majority of respondent's i.e. 42 (84%) use the Internet to get information whereas only 1(2%) respondent used radio for this purpose.
- Maximum 33(66%) respondents need information about mess charges, 9(18%) for sports-related information.
- Majority of respondents i.e. 37(74%) go through notice board to get information regarding hostel residents.
- A maximum number of respondents 32(64%) need course-related information and 17(34%) respondents need information about fees structure.
- 44(88%) respondents use Internet and 30(60%) consult to their teachers for getting information regarding education purpose.
- Majority of the respondents 39(78%) need information regarding healthy foods and 5(10%) on chronic diseases for health purpose.
- 42(84%) respondents get information from their doctors regarding health issues.
- 41(82%) respondents need information regarding the price of books whereas only 7(14%) regarding the price of gym/yoga for economic purposes.
- 34(68%) respondents consult university price list for getting information.
- All the respondents of this survey know about the library.
- 47(94%) respondents have knowledge about the free of cost provision of books from the libraries.
- Majority of respondents i.e. 40(80%) feel the need of library within the hostel premises.
- Majority of respondents i.e. 27(54%) do not visit any other library.

6.0 Conclusion

It is clear from the study that a large number of respondents need information regarding the subject (general knowledge). It has also been found that mess charge is the most important need of the respondents, followed by education, health, and economic purpose. The finding of this study indicates that the respondents need the suitable library timings in the hostel. Most of the respondents are of the opinion that they cannot visit another library due to the same timing of the library and department.