AVAILABILITY OF LIBRARY RESOURCES AND SERVICES IN PHARMACY COLLEGES OF KARNATAKA: A STUDY

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This study attempts to examine the information resources and services available in Pharmacy college libraries in the central part of Karnataka. The survey method was adopted and the questionnaire tool was used for data collection. A total of 6 pharmacy colleges have been selected for this study. The findings of the study shows that, all libraries selected under this study do not receive any funds from the government or UGC, they merely depend on student fees and institutional funds. The majority of Pharmacy college libraries under this study have not purchased library resources according to the norms of AICTE. Only 50% of libraries have partially automated, only two libraries using barcode technology and two libraries have OPAC facility. As far as e-resource is concerned HELINET consortium is common among all libraries. This study recommends that libraries need to have staff pattern as per the norms of AICTE. Pharmacy college libraries need to add a variety of resources such as patents, research reports, encyclopaedias, yearbooks, etc. to meet the information needs of the user community. The higher authority needs to provide a sufficient budget to improve the resources, services and infrastructure of the library.

Keywords: Library Resources, Library Services, Pharmacy College Libraries, Karnataka, Survey

INTRODUCTION

Education transforms the quality of life of future generations of children and young people and thereby of society. Education is still a basic social need for the growth and development of an aspirational society (KJA 2016). Pharmacy education is one important subject in the field of health sciences and considered as a product and industry-oriented education. There are more than 75 Pharmacy institutions in Karnataka offering pharmacy education with different courses like D. Pharm, B.Pharm., M.Pharm., Pharm.D, and Ph.D. Pharmacy education aims to produce graduates in pharmacy to serve in different pharmaceutical setup. Library and Information centres act as the heart of any academic institution, which offers a variety of learning resources and user-friendly library services to

their academic community to accomplish their goals. Libraries are equally responsible to satisfy the vision and mission of any institution. Where the libraries stand for strong support, by providing integrated collection and good services to their users, then the parent institution definitely achieves excellence in their academic and research activities.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Various studies have been conducted related to the availability and use of library resources, services, infrastructure, and facilities. Here a few studies reviewed similar to the present study. Jeyshankar et al. (2009) studied the information-seeking behavior of dentists in Chennai of Tamil Nadu state. The results showed that 50.72% of 69 dentists stated that they visited the library everyday. The study also showed that conference proceedings (mean=3.35) and general books (mean=3.20) were in high demand whereas reference books were highly used by the dentists. The study suggested strengthening the library collection of dental colleges. Sampath Kumar and Biradar (2010) surveyed on the use ICT in 31 college libraries in Karnataka, India. The study recommended sanctioning of more funds for the betterment of libraries and libraries must have adequate computer systems, software, and internet facilities for library automation and extension of services. Besides this, librarians also put their effort into adopting automation. The study highlighted that lack of budget, lack of manpower, lack of skilled staff, and lack of training are the main reasons for not automating the library activities.

Dhavandan et. al. (2012) studied the use of e-resources and services in selected four medical colleges of Puducherry. The authors observed that 80% of the respondents find electronic resources as relevant and up to date. The majority of the respondents i.e., 65.33% found e-resources were easy to use, followed by 62.66% of the respondents found the e-resources fast and timely. Tahamtan et al. (2015) conducted a study on the drug information-seeking behavior of health care professionals in Iran. The study found that the health care professional used books, manuals, search engines, and databases related to medical science very frequently to obtain the required information. Moreover, less than 50% of respondents consult colleagues to get medical information for educational and research purposes. The study stated the relationship between the information organization and its repeated search. The respondents pointed out the problem of lack of time for searching the required information. Ramesh Babu and Selvamani (2016) surveyed to know the information-seeking behavior of faculty members of Pharmacy College in Tamil Nadu. All the respondents collectively opined that library resources were used for teaching and research purposes. Information is used to increase the promotional opportunities followed by to prepare for special lecturers. The study also found a significant relationship between the faculties' designation and the dependency on formal and documentary resources. Oriogu et al. (2017) studied information-seeking behavior by health professionals on the Internet in Federal Medical Centre, Abuja. The study covered 49 medical

professionals of which 83.70% have an average level of Internet usage skill. The study found that the respondents rarely used electronic books, e-journals, whereas they only used African Journal Online (AJOL) and Nursing Journals. The study strongly suggested the requirement of training to effective use of Internet resources.

Kumar and Sing (2018) discussed the usage of e-resources available under N-LIST, UGC Infonet, ICMR, ERMED, and HELINET Consortium in the libraries of Private Medical Colleges of Uttar Pradesh. The study shows that most of the respondents are using the e- resources @N-LIST, UGC Infonet consortium, mainly the e-journals regularly for seeking information. The study found that, maximum libraries are partially/ fully automated and 85.71 % of selected libraries allocated budgets for purchase of books, subscription of e-resources, e-consortia etc. Ebong et al. (2019) examined the availability and accessibility of e-resources to medical library users in Nigerian universities. Results of the study showed that the availability of e-resources in all the medical libraries was rather low, about 30.9% on the average. All e-resources were rarely accessible to all categories of users in medical libraries. Majority of respondents agreed that, inadequate ICT skills, time constraints and inadequate library space, high cost of subscription, poor internet services, inadequate infrastructure, light fluctuations and lack of competent IT persons were noted as major impediments. Priyaa et al. (2020) surveyed on the availability of e-resources in the Theni Medical College Library, Tamil Nadu, India. The survey revealed that the students are visiting the library regularly to access medical e-resources and they demanded for services, such as OPAC, e-mail alerts and mobile enabled library services need to be provided. Mahadevan and Vijayakumar (2020) surveyed ICT based information services of Pharmacy Colleges in South India. The results showed that most pharmacy libraries have CD ROM, e-journals, and audio-visual materials. Some pharmacy college libraries are fully automated, some are partially automated, and some are functioning manually. Most of the pharmacy libraries connected with network facilities. Most of the pharmacy college libraries are using CSIR, INFLIBNET and INDEST-AICTE consortium.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

Libraries are the heart of every academic institution as it supports teaching, learning, and research activity. Libraries are now moving from traditional resources to dynamic and flexible e-resources. (Navalur et al., 2012). So far, pharmacy institutions in Karnataka have invested lot of funds in providing infrastructure for library resources and services. As of now there was no attempt made to realize the impact and utility of library resources and services in pharmacy college libraries of Karnataka. Further, no comprehensive study has been conducted to know the availability and use of information sources in Pharmacy college libraries in Karnataka. The study brings out the findings, which help the stakeholders of the Pharmacy college libraries to plan strategies to enhance the capabilities of the existing library system. In this context, it is essential to conduct a study on the availability of library resources and services in selected pharmacy colleges in Karnataka.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the present study are:

1. To know the availability of information resources and services in selected Pharmacy college libraries of Karnataka.

2. To know the Source of funds and utilization of funds in Pharmacy college libraries of Karnataka state.

3. To know the physical and ICT infrastructure in selected Pharmacy college libraries.

4. To suggest some measures for the betterment of library resources and services in Pharmacy colleges.

SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study is confined to Pharmacy Colleges coming under the jurisdiction of Davanagere, Chitradurga, Shimoga, Chikkamagaluru, and Tumkur Districts which are located in the central part of Karnataka state in India. There are 75 Pharmacy colleges which offer degree courses in Karnataka. The study is restricted to the central part of Karnataka state, which covers the above-mentioned districts. Keeping in mind the focus of the study, the Pharmacy colleges of five districts covered in the study to collect the data. All the selected colleges affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, (RGUHS) Bangalore, recognized by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and approved by the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI). The respondents of the study are limited to the librarians of the selected pharmacy colleges under the study.

Table 1: List of Selected Pharmacy colleges under study

Sl. No.	Name of the college	Year of Establishment	District	Affiliated to
1	SCS College of Pharmacy, Harapanahalli (SCSCP)	1979	Davanagere	RGUHS
2	Bapuji Pharmacy College, Davangere (BPC)	1992	Davanagere	,,
3	SJM College of Pharmacy, Chitradurga (SJMCP)	1984	Chitradurga	,,
4	National College of Pharmacy, Shimoga (NCP)	1967	Shimoga	,,
5	Priyadarshini College of Pharmacy, Koratagere (PCP)	2002	Tumkur	,,
6	Sri Siddaganga College of Pharmacy, Tumkur (SSCP)	1984	Tumkur	,,

(Source: Pharmacy Council of India) (No Pharmacy college exists in Chikkamagaluru District)

METHODOLOGY

To meet the above-said objectives, a survey method was adopted for this study, and a questionnaire tool was used to collect data from the respondents. The researcher has personally visited the libraries selected under study, and interacted with respective librarians. A structured questionnaire was prepared which consisted of 56 questions related to library resources, services, infrastructure, and other basic information. A questionnaire circulated among the librarians of selected pharmacy colleges. The collected data

has been organized, processed, and presented in tabular form using MS Excel. Analysis and interpretation of data have been done systematically.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

The data collected through the questionnaires are presented and compared using tables and figures and analyzed by using the simple calculation method subsequent sections for easy comprehension.

General Information about Institution

The table 2 shows that all selected Pharmacy colleges are purely unaided colleges and are almost located in the urban area. All colleges are more than 20 years old; NCP Shimoga is the oldest college. SJMCP is accredited by NAAC and SCSCP accredited by NBA, BPC applied for accreditation, and rest of the colleges not accredited. Almost all colleges offer the course viz. Diploma, UG, PG, and Pharma.D. All colleges have qualified librarians as prescribed by AICTE except PCP Koratagere.

Table 2: General Information of the Institution

Name of College	District	Year of Establish ment	Qualifi-cation of Librarian	Type of Institution	Loca-tion	Courses offered	Accreditat ion Status with Grade
S.C.S. College of Pharmacy, Harapanahalli	Davanagere	1979	MLISc	Unaided	Urban	Diploma, UG, PG, Pharma.D	NBA, B+
Bapuji Pharmacy College, Davangere	Davanagere	1992	MLISc	Unaided	Urban	Diploma, UG, PG, Pharma.D	Applied
SJM College of Pharmacy Chitradurga	Chitradurga	1984	MLISc	Unaided	Urban	Diploma, UG, PG Pharma.D	NAAC, B++
National College of Pharmacy Shivamogga	Shivamogga	1967	MLISc	Unaided	Urban	Diploma, UG, PG, Pharma.D	NA
Priyadarshini College of Pharmacy, Koratagere	Tumkur	2002	BLISc	Unaided	Urban	Diploma, UG, PG	NA
Sri Siddaganga College of Pharmacy, Tumkur	Tumkur	1984	MLISc	Unaided	Urban	Diploma, UG, PG, Pharma.D	NA

Note: NA Means Not Accredited

Infrastructure

It is clear from the table 3 the majority colleges have one professional staff and one non-professional staff. Only two colleges have semi-professional staff. SSCP has more number of library staff, which includes professional, semi-professional, and non-professionals staff.

Table 3: Status of Library Staff

College Name	SCSCP	BPC	SJMCP	NCP	PCP	SSCP
Professional staff	1	1	1	2	1	2
Semi-Professional staff	1	0	0	0	0	2
Non-Professional staff	1	1	1	2	2	2
Total	**3**	**2**	**2**	**4**	**3**	**6**

Item wise Library Budget

All selected Pharmacy colleges are unaided colleges, they do not receive any funds from the government or UGC, and they merely depend on student fees and institutional funds. From the year 2000 to 2018, the source of library funds gradually increased. Some libraries depend on only student's fees and some libraries depend on both student's fees and institutional funds. The table 4 enumerates item wise budget of the library for the last 18 years at five years intervals. Items include books, periodicals, e-resources, furniture, binding and miscellaneous. Almost all libraries spent money on a priority basis. The first priority was given to books and second priority was given to periodicals. Nowadays second priority was given to subscribe e-resources and third preference was given to print journals. Pertaining to 2018 budget, SJMCP Chitradurga has spent the highest amount (Rs. 15.5 Lakhs), followed by SSCP (7.77 Lakhs) and BPC (5.25Lakhs).

Course wise Library Users

The table 5 indicates the course wise library users. All Colleges offers different types of pharmacy courses viz Diploma, UG and PG courses. Whereas four colleges offer 6 years Pharma. D course. As far as library membership is concerned SCSCP (740), followed by SJMCP (675) and SSCP (612) have more library users.

Library Resources

The table 6 shows the types of print resources available in selected Pharmacy college libraries. About the total number of books, SCSCP (11495) followed by SSCP (11098) and NCP (9840) have the highest number of books respectively and the remaining libraries have books within 4000 to 7000. This variation depends on the year of establishment and number of courses offered in the college. All libraries have given more emphasis on books, bound volume of journals, theses and dissertations, handbooks and manuals, and reference sources i.e. dictionaries and encyclopaedias. No library has a collection of bibliographies, standards, patents,

Table 4: Item wise Library Budget (Rs. In Lakhs)

Colleges	Year	Expenditure					Total
		Books	E-Re-sources	Perio-dicals	Furniture and Equipment's/ICT	Binding/ Miscell-aneous	
SCSCP Harapa-Nahalli	2000	0.6	0.1	0.25	0	0.05	**1**
	2005	0.78	0.12	0.25	0	0.5	**1.65**
	2010	1	0.35	0.3	0	0.06	**1.71**
	2015	1.25	0.35	0.35	0	0.06	**2.01**
	2018	1.2	0.3	0.3	0	0.05	**1.85**
BPC Davanagere	2000	0.75	0	0.25	0	0	**1**
	2005	1.5	0	0.3	0	0	**1.8**
	2010	1.25	0	0.3	0	0	**1.55**
	2015	4	0	1	0	0.1	**5.1**
	2018	4		1.25	0	0	**5.25**
SJMCP Chitradurga	2000	1.55	0.02	0.543	0	0.05	**2.163**
	2005	2.15	0.25	0.537	0	0.45	**3.387**
	2010	3.7	0.35	0.564	0	0.07	**4.684**
	2015	2.4	3.2	0.54	0	0.06	**6.2**
	2018	9.735	5	0.61	0	0.1	**15.445**
NCP Shivamogga	2000	0.2	0.4	0.3	0	0	**0.9**
	2005	0.3	0.4	0.3	0	0	**1**
	2010	0.4	0.4	0.3	0	0	**1.1**
	2015	0.5	0.5	0.4	0	0	**1.4**
	2018	0.6	0.5	0.4	0	0	**1.5**
PCP Koratagere	2000	3	03.5	0.2	2	0	**5.55**
	2005	1.5	0.35	0.2	0	0.02	**2.07**
	2010	1	0.35	0.2	0.5	0.03	**2.08**
	2015	1.5	0.35	0.2	0	0	**2.05**
	2018	0.2	0.35	0.2	0	0	**0.75**
SSCP Tumkur	2000	1.25	0	0.25	0	0.05	**1.55**
	2005	1.5	0	0.4	0	0.07	**1.97**
	2010	2	0	0.5	0.5	0.1	**3.1**
	2015	3	2.42	0.5	0	0.25	**6.17**
	2018	3	2.42	1	1	0.35	**7.77**

Table 5: Course wise Library Users

Courses	SCSCP	BPC	SJMCP	NCP	PCP	SSCP	Total
Diploma	200	120	120	180	120	120	740
Undergraduate	240	200	280	200	240	280	1200
Postgraduate	40	14	48	50	18	28	180
Pharma. D	180	180	180	0	0	120	660
Research Scholars	0	0	2	0	0	3	5
Faculty members	45	21	27	20	28	33	146
Non-teaching staff	35	6	18	15	25	28	102
Total	740	541	675	465	431	612	3033

Table 6: Types of Print Resources

Sources	SCSCP	BPC	SJMCP	NCP	PCP	SSCP
Books	11495	6800	7142	9840	3705	11098
Bound volumes	1500	265	251	600	200	545
Theses/Dissertations	1000	200	400	500	120	210
Yearbook	0	0	5	0	0	25
Dictionaries	100	10	20	50	100	20
Encyclopaedias	150	30	27	25	40	60
Bibliographies	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monographs	0	0	70	0	0	0
Standards	0	0	0	0	0	0
Research Reports	0	0	8	2	0	0
Patents	0	0	0	0	0	0
Conference Proceeding	0	0	0	0	0	0
Directories	0	0	0	10	0	0
Handbooks/Manuals	0	0	200	60	1000	400
Others	0	0	0	0	0	0

and conference proceedings. Only two libraries have yearbooks and research reports, only one library has monographs and one library has directories. As far as overall print collection is concerned SJMCP and NCP have more variety of print resources.

Books Added to Library in Last Five Years

According to AICTE Norms, the Pharmacy college library should add 500 volumes and 100 titles every year. The table 7 represents the books added to the library in the last 5 years. All libraries procured books according to their budgetary provisions. Among all libraries, SJMCP, and SSCP have purchased more number of books. PCP and SCSCP is in 3rd place and 4th place respectively. The remaining two libraries purchased less than 400 books in the last 5 years. The above data shows that majority of Pharmacy college libraries have not purchased books according to the norms of AICTE.

Table 7: Books Added to Library in Last Five Years

Financial Year	SCSCP	BPC	SJMCP	NCP	PCP	SSCP
2014-2015	111	67	159	40	400	280
2015-2016	114	15	292	30	500	181
2016-2017	154	22	213	40	0	408
2017-2018	206	220	604	35	500	713
2018-2019	410	60	2007	55	200	915
Total	995	384	3275	200	1600	2497

Periodicals Subscription

The table 8 shows the periodicals subscribed to the library. Bapuji College of Pharmacy, SCS College of pharmacy, National College of Pharmacy subscribes more number of periodicals. Priyadarshini College of Pharmacy has subscribed less number of periodicals.

Table 8: Periodicals Subscription

Periodicals	SCSCP	BPC	SJMCP	NCP	PCP	SSCP
National Journals	26	60	15	22	4	18
International Journals	13	30	10	20	4	4
Magazines	8	0	2	0	4	3
Others/Newspapers	10	2	4	2	5	10
Total	57	92	31	44	17	35

Types of Electronic Resources

The table 9 shows the types of electronic resources available in the libraries. The data shows that all college libraries have electronic resources, which include e-books, e-journals, CD/DVD, and access to online databases. It is also observed that, all libraries have the accessibility of HELINET consortium of RGUHS, because RGUHS was made it mandatory to have access

to HELINET database, which offers different packages according to the courses offered by the colleges. SJMCP and SSCP have purchased a top package of HELINET and rest of the libraries purchased a basic package.

Table 9: Types of Electronic Resources

Resources	SCSCP	BPC	SJMCP	NCP	PCP	SSCP
E-books	80	100	6226	100	150	6226
E-Journals	89	90	2804	120	200	412
CDs/DVDs	159	90	250	50	50	50
Online Access to Database	HELINET	HELINET	HELINET	HELINET	HELINET	HELINET

Frequently used Databases

The table 10 shows the frequently used databases. HELINET database is the top priority of the users because, it includes more number of e-books e-journals related to Pharmacy subject, rest of the online databases are underutilized.

Table-10: Frequently used Databases

Name of Database	SCS COP					BPC					SJM COP					NCOP					P COP					S COP					Average
	5	4	3	2	1	5	4	3	2	1	5	4	3	2	1	5	4	3	2	1	5	4	3	2	1	5	4	3	2	1	
Medline												4																		1	0.83
Pub Med.													3																	1	0.67
HELINET	5						4				5						4									5					3.83
Scopus														2																1	0.50
Access Pharmacy												4					4													1	1.50
PDR Electronic Library																			2											1	0.50
International Pharmaceutical Abstract												4				5														1	1.67
DRUGDEX (Micromedex)													3						2							5					1.67
Lexi Drug												4							2											1	1.17
E- Facts														2						1										1	0.67
Any other																															0.00

5=Most Frequently, 4= Frequently, 3= Less Frequently, 2=Not At All, 1=Can't Say

Library Services

The table 11 shows the types of library services offered to users. All libraries provided the services viz. reference, reprographic, internet browsing, printing service, and almost five college libraries provide book bank, SDI, CAS, and user

education. Only two libraries provide online services, three libraries provide interlibrary loan and circulation of accession list; four colleges provide open access and newspaper clipping services. None of the library provides translation service and compilation of bibliographies. Although SJMCP, NCP, and SSCP provides more services to their users.

Table 11: Types of Library Services

Services	SCSCP	BPC	SJMCP	NCP	PCP	SSCP
Book lending	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reference Service	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Interlibrary loan		✓	✓			✓
Reprographic	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Compilation of bibliographies						
Translation service						
Internet Browsing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Book Bank		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
S.D.I	✓		✓		✓	✓
Newspaper clipping	✓	✓	✓	✓		
CAS/ Routing of periodicals	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
OPAC				✓		✓
Circulation of Accession List			✓	✓	✓	
Online service				✓	✓	
User education		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Printing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Other (if any)						Scanning, Lamination

Table 12: Average Transaction per day

Documents	SCSCP	BPC	SJMCP	NCP	PCP	SSCP
Books	100-150	40-50	200-250	100-150	40-50	50-60
Periodicals	5-10	10-15	25	50-60	20-25	25-30
Reference Books	100-110	20-30	150-200	75-100	25-50	40-50
E-Resources	50-60	40-50	50-150	25-50	30-50	50-60
Others						

Circulation / Usage

The table 12 describes the average transaction of documents per day. Books are always the most frequently used form of library resources. Reference books, periodicals, journals, and e-resources are the most used resources. As far as book transaction is concerned SJMCP has the highest transaction per day. SCSCP and NCP have 100 to 150 transactions per day. Due to the advancements in ICT nowadays, e-resources are attracting users towards the library.

Table 13: Selection of Books for Library

Authority	SCSCP	BPC	SJMCP	NCP	PCP	SSCP
Library Committee		✓	✓	✓		✓
Principal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Librarian	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Teachers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Students			✓		✓	✓
Any Other						

ICT Infrastructure

The table 14 indicates the availability of Information and Communication Technology tools and equipment, which includes computers, television, videocassette recorder, overhead projector, LCD projector, photocopy machine, printer, scanner, fax machine, web camera, CCTV camera, and barcode reader. Data reveals that all college libraries have a good number of computers, photocopy machines, whereas, three colleges have overhead projectors, almost all libraries have LCD projectors and printers. Only 3 colleges have CCTV cameras and web cameras, two colleges have barcode readers. All college libraries have a digital library facility for giving accessibility to electronic resources to their users.

Table 14: Availability of ICT Tools and Equipment

ICT Tools/ Equipments	SCSCP	BPC	SJMCP	NCP	PCP	SSCP
Computer	11	25	21	40	20	22
Television	0	1	0	0	1	0
Videocassette recorder	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overhead projector	1	0	0		2	1
L.C.D. Projector	2	2	0	10	2	4
Photocopy machine	1	1	1	1	2	2
Printer	2	8	1	2	2	2
Scanner	2	2	1	2	1	1
Fax Machine	1	1	0	0	1	0
Web camera/CCTV	0	0	1	5	2	0
Barcode Reader	0			1	0	1
Any other	0	0	0	0	0	0

Library Automation

Among 6 Pharmacy college libraries, only three college libraries have been using library automation software viz. Easylib, E-Lib, and Newgen Lib. With the help of automated system, acquisition, circulation, and cataloguing functions have been performed and two libraries automated their serial control functions.

Use of Barcode Technology

Barcode Technology is one of the most widely used technology to automate functions of the library. Out of 6 only 3 (50%) libraries have automated and two libraries used Barcode Technology; in these two libraries, one library uses barcode technology for annual stock verification and circulation purpose and another library using barcode technology only for circulation purposes.

SUGGESTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the data, the authors suggested some recommendations, which will help the librarians and management authorities to improve their library resources, services, and facilities.

1. The higher authority of colleges need to provide a sufficient fund to improve the information resources and services of the libraries of Pharmacy colleges of Karnataka.

2. Pharmacy college libraries need to develop a more research-oriented source of information such as patents, back volumes, standards, yearbooks, bibliographies to maintain an integrated collection in the library.

3. The study recommends that the Pharmacy college libraries of Karnataka need to have staff patterns according to the norms set by AICTE. This will enhance the strength of working professionals in the library system.

4. Since the majority of Pharmacy college libraries have not followed AICTE norms for purchasing library resources, it is suggested to follow AICTE norms for purchasing books, journals, and other reading materials.

5. Nowadays, users are attracted towards e-resources. libraries need to take the necessary steps to subscribe to more e-resources and it is essential to provide ICT tools and equipment to use e-resources. Pharmacy college libraries need to take initiatives to develop quality infrastructure, a voluminous collection of e-resources. Moreover, the necessary steps need to be taken to create awareness about the available resources in the library.

6. Only 50% of libraries adopted library automation, only 2 libraries out of 6 have OPAC, only 2 libraries using bar code technology. Hence, this study recommends to automating all Pharmacy college libraries by using appropriate ILMS (Integrated Library Management Software) to quicken the library's day-to-day activities.

7. HELINET database is most used among pharmacy college library users. It is suggested that, library professionals need to create awareness among users about other databases such as Scopus, Access Pharmacy, Lexi-Drug, DRUGDEX (Micromedex), etc.

8. The majority of selected pharmacy libraries are not providing services such as Inter-library loan, compilation of bibliographies, OPAC, online services, etc. Hence, it is suggested to the authorities to provide these services for the benefit of the users.

It can be concluded that the need for the evaluation of pharmacy libraries is highly significant in terms of its resources, services, and infrastructure available for the benefit of students, researchers as well as professionals in the pharmaceutical field. The pharmacy college libraries are an integral part of an academic teaching and learning process, use of existing knowledge is as important as the discovery of new knowledge.

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