

## Postgraduate research and Medical libraries: An analytical study of the library of Postgraduate Medical Institute, Peshawar

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### Abstract

**Objective:** The main objective of the study was to evaluate the Postgraduate Medical Institute library with respect to its services, resources, facilities, functions, and user's satisfaction.

**Study Design:** Survey method was used for the collection of data.

**Place and duration of the study:** This study was conducted in Postgraduate Medical Institute Library of Peshawar from June-September 2020.

**Material and Methods:** To conduct this study the researcher developed both open and closed ended questionnaire. The questionnaire was pre-tested among 10 senior Trainee Medical Officers (TMOs). The questionnaire was personally distributed by the researcher among the 300 doctors who were using the library for studying text books and review of literature. The response rate was 100%. The data were analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Science version 20.

**Variables and type of analysis:** Efforts were made to assess satisfaction of users with existing library services and resources at PGMI library Peshawar. Simple percentage is used as data analysis tool.

**Results:** The results of the study showed that 90% of the users were satisfied with the resources and services. Eighty-five percent users' visited the library on daily basis. The study also showed that 60% of the users' utilized the library for studying preparation for postgrad examination purpose. High-speed internet and provision of electronic resources were reported as deficient.

**Conclusion:** The result of the study showed that majority of the library users' satisfied from the library resources and services. The study will be helpful to the administration to improve the library resources & services to meet the demand of medical professionals.

**Keywords:** Library, Medical Research, Postgraduate Medical Institute

### Introduction:

United State National library of medicine defined the medical library as "The libraries found in hospitals, medical schools, and in medical or health associations. These libraries continued to provide the latest research to the author, also designed to assist physicians, health professionals, medical students, patients, consumers and medical researchers in locating health and scientific information to improve, update, access and evaluate health care services".<sup>11</sup> Medical library is a library, which is meant for the health care

professional, students, patients, consumers, and researchers for improving their education and information and to evaluate health care. The locations of these libraries are in hospitals. Medical schools, medical research centers, and health association's centers. The prime objective medical library is to acquire information, make accessible the acquire information for the further use of medical professional. Ahmad recorded the function of medical libraries as: "The medical library is a center in which the medical knowledge would be stored systematically and to which the

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medical professionals could apply of the most recent information on their subjects.<sup>1</sup> The concept of ready access to a comprehensive store of recorded knowledge has constituted an idea towards which may have worked” The prime objective of the medical libraries is to provide library and information services to meet the information needs of its highly sophisticated clients and to fulfill the mission of its parent organization because library in not an end but means to an object. The library is physical place to accomplish its mission. Weise wrote that now-a-days library is supposed to be; a physical symbol of the search for knowledge; a heaven for study and center for print and electronic information; an alternative support in medical education and research.<sup>2</sup>

Literature Review for the study: The researcher studied the previous literature published in the area of medical library resources and services and medical students’ perception regarding the medical libraries. The researcher also finds the gap between the previous studies. Jafarey, N.A et al. (1971) conduct a research and describes that the medical practitioners facing lack of medical libraries in Pakistan.<sup>3</sup> The medical literature is very expensive and libraries don’t have sufficient budget to purchase medical books and journals. He concludes that medical libraries develop a pool of libraries. Through this pool of libraries the will share their resources which other, this is known as resource sharing. He concluded that through inter library loan a library will acquire books and journals available in the pool libraries. According to Moran (1996) conducted a research on the role of departmental medical libraries. He concludes that departmental medical libraries play a vital role by providing information to and meet the information needs medical students and institutions.<sup>4</sup> Haq & Midrar (2014) conduct a study on topic “Development of Health Science Libraries and Medical librarianship in Pakistan. The study describes the historical development and role of medical libraries in Pakistan. The study revealed that the role of medical librarian is become more important in this modern era of information technology. The research explores that the medical libraries start

functioning in 1860s and now-a-days there are 120 medical libraries in Pakistan.<sup>5</sup> Iqbal et al. (2012) work on research paper the result of the study reveal that majority of the research scholars were not satisfied with the present library environment.<sup>6</sup> Miraj & Naseer (2013) conduct a study on library resources, services and users satisfaction. The research was conducted at Punjab Institute of Cardiology, Lahore. The study describes that majority of the library users’ were satisfied from the library services like circulation, collection, reference, indexing, library staff behavior and physical facilities available in the library.<sup>7</sup> They further argue that there is need to increase the space, speed of internet, timing and furniture etc. There is need for the library automation of resources and services. Bhatti & Asghar (2010) explore a study on library resources and services and the level of satisfaction of Quaid-e-Azam Medical College Bahawalpur, Pakistan. The medical students were dissatisfied with the resources and services like selective dissemination of information, Current Content services, and Indexing & Abstracting services.<sup>8</sup> The result of the study shows that 38% of librarians were supportive to provide access to materials. Anyaoku (2015) describes in his study “Evaluating Undergraduate Students Awareness and Use of Medical Library Resources: A study of Namdi Azikiwe University, Nigeria”. The study concludes that majority of the users were not aware about the electronic information resources. He further concludes that most of the library users’ utilized library for studying and reading newspapers purpose.<sup>9</sup> Heider reported the passive role of medical college libraries in Pakistan in following words: In fact, neither the present set up of medical education not the teaching practices encourages the use of libraries. The students are required to read some well-known textbooks for their examinations besides the lectures delivered in the class. For the most part, the students depend on class notes for their examinations.<sup>10</sup> The study will be helpful to the administration to improve the library resources & services to meet the demand of medical professionals.

Rational of the Study: This research investigates

Table 1: Frequency of visit the Library (n=300)

Frequency of Visit	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
Daily	170	85	255	85%
Twice a week	2`2	09	31	10.33%
Weekly	05	05	10	3.33%
Occasionally	03	01	04	1.34%
Total	200	100	300	100%

Table 2: Time duration in the library (n=300)

Frequency of Visit	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
More than ten hours	130	07	137	45.67
Eight hours	35	44	79	26.33
Seven hours	15	23	38	12.67
Six hours	05	13	18	6.00
Five hours	15	13	28	9.33
Total	200	100	300	100%

Table 3: Purpose of visits (resources) (n=300)

Purpose of Visit	No of Users	Percentage
For studying Purpose	180	60%
For issuing of books	60	20%
For reading news papers	250	83.33%
For reference materials	150	50%
For research materials	130	43.33%
For use of internet	260	86.67%

Table 4: Library services (Satisfactions)(n=300)

Services	Strongly Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Strongly Dissatisfied
Reference Services	55(18.33%)	80(26.67%)	150(50%)	15(5%)	00(00%)
Internet Services	45(15%)	102(34%)	145(48.33)	03(1%)	05(1.67%)
CAS	30(10%)	50(16.67%)	150(50%)	00(00%)	70(23.33%)
SDI Services	25(8.33%)	25(8.33%)	200(66.67)	33(11%)	17(5.67%)
Reprographic Services	270(90%)	13(4.33%)	15(5%)	02(.67%)	00(00%)

the existing library resources, services, and facilities at the medical libraries under study. The study has also described the effectiveness of their services and satisfaction of users with services and resources. This study is significant in the sense that it has explores all the weak areas of the PGMI library. The recommendations of this study are good sources for the administra-

tion and managers of the library to overcome the mentioned barriers.

Objectives of the study:

- To identify the services and resources of the Library.
- To know the level of satisfaction of the Post Graduate trainees.
- To know the Frequency and duration of the library Post Graduate trainees.

**Material and Methods:**

To achieve objectives of this study, the survey method was adopted to collect the data from the respondents. A paper based questionnaire was prepared according to the objectives of the study and was pre-tested among the 10 senior Trainee medical officers. The questionnaire was re-designed after valuable comments and suggestions from the senior trainee medical officers. The final questionnaire was distributed personally by the researchers among the library users (Questionnaire appendix-I). The questionnaire contained both open and closed ended questions. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS-Version 19) for window was used for quantitative data analysis.

**Results:**

The data shows that 255(85%) of the users visit library on daily basis, 31(10.33%) of the users visits the library twice a week and 10(3.33%) of the users come to library weekly table-1. A question was asked from the users to indicate that how much time they spent in the library on each visit. The responses received and analyzed from the data and presented in the table-2. It was note that 137(45.67%) of the users visit the library for more than 10- hours. 79(26.33%) of the users spent eight hours, followed by 38(12.67%) of the users spent seven hours in the library. In order to find out the reasons for visiting the library, the respondents were asked to indicate their major purpose of visit. The collected data shows that there were different purposes, 180(60%) come to library for study, 60(20%) for issue

return, 250(83.33%) for newspaper 150(50%) ticked for reference materials, 130(43.33%) for research materials and 260(86.67%) ticked for the use of internet table-3. The result also shows that most of the users satisfied from the library services table-4.

#### **Discussion:**

From the study, it is evident that library of Post-graduate Medical Institute (PGMI) has rich medical literature (books, journals, clinical documents, newsletters etc) for the fulfillment of information needs of their users. The subjects of Medicine, Surgery, Orthopedic, Anesthesia, Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology was given due attention during the collection development of the library. Journals are the latest research oriented scholarly documents. A good number of national and international journals are being subscribed but still need more allocation of budget for this task. The management of the library should have to probe the latest information needs of the medical doctors for building up more qualitative collection. Reportedly, the library users are satisfied from the available learning resources of the PGMI library, but need improvement as we are living in the era of information explosion. Miraj & Naseer (2013) also conducted a study of the same nature on library resources and services at Punjab Institute of Cardiology, Lahore. Users were also reported as more satisfied from the existing services and resources.<sup>3</sup> Whereas Agboola (2019) was of the view that students of Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria were not satisfied with services and attitude of the library staff. Internet is a good facilitator of the libraries. It assists the readers in retrieval of their required information with ease and more speed.<sup>12</sup> It was pin-pointed that accessibility and usability of internet for online resources is of little importance to the library clientele of the PGMI library and still prefer printed version of information sources. Mavindo (2008) indicated that students of the University Of Malawi College of Medicine preferred both print and electronic resources for their daily information practices.<sup>13</sup> Mirza and Mahmood (2012) also studied user satisfac-

tion about electronic services and resources in Pakistani university libraries.<sup>14</sup> Mookapudaya (2018) conducted a similar study on the use of digital library resources by the Engineering college students. This study elucidated that adequate computer terminals and latest training on emerging technologies can enhance the usage of digital resources.<sup>15</sup> For better use of digital resources at PGMI library, proper training on online searching techniques and access to Higher Education Commission (HEC) digital library is also need of the hour. The study showed that universities of Pakistani libraries offering better resources such as compact disc read only memory databases, virtual reference service, Current awareness services, selective dissemination of information, scanning and printing facilities. The findings of the study reflected that PGMI library has a capacity of 100 users at a time with cooling and heating facilities in summer and winter season respectively. The reference services, reader advisory services and retrieving of research literature are the main features of the library. Rahman (2016) also conducted research on public and private universities libraries to measure their services quality. The findings of the study showed that users' expectation of private sector libraries is lower than the users of public sector libraries and private sector library have high performance than the public sector libraries.<sup>16</sup> Amazing is to note that majority of the medical doctors use the library for more than thirteen hours daily. This shows the interest and reading habits of PGMI library users. The higher ups of the library are required to provide maximum facilities to the readers especially in tough summer and winter seasons. The users should be provided required latest learning material along with technological resources, as the users of this library are lifesavers of the nation.

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#### **Role and contribution of authors:**

Saeed Ullah, collected the data, references and did the initial write up.

Dr. Saeedullah Jan, collected the references and helped in introduction writing.

Dr. Saleem Abdul Sattar Khan, critically review the article and made useful changes.

Dr. Riaz Khan, collected the data, refereces and helped in discussion writing.

Muhammad Yahya Jan, collected the data and helped in compiling the result.

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