

## **Awareness, utilization and opinion of central library amongst undergraduate students of Rural Dental College, Loni, Maharashtra – A cross sectional study**

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**Running Title:** Awareness, utilization and opinion of central library amongst undergraduate students

### **Abstract:**

**Background:** Education plays most important role in building socio-economic development of any country. Education always is being instrumental in bringing the change and to bring this change training the minds of educated people is must. Academic institutions all over the world play a vital role in society by preparing future generations. The knowledge can be gained from the central library of institutions. **Material and Methods:** A structured cross-sectional survey was carried out during February to May 2022 as per the Helsinki declaration (World Medical Association, 2013). This cross sectional survey included 16 questions which were divided in 5 sections. It was developed in Google form and the link was shared with participants. The target population was all undergraduate and postgraduate students of Rural Dental College. 220 participant's responses were recorded. **Results:** 220(88%) responses were recorded out of 250(100%) participants. All the questions were compulsory so all responses were complete. 168 (76.4%) were females and 52 (23.6%) were males. Most of the participants want free access to digital library. The curriculum should have dedicated time slot for visiting library every day according to 184 (83.6%) participants. **Conclusion:** There is need to imbibe the importance of visit to reference section of library. The digital resources should be made available freely to all stakeholders. The university

should encourage the utilization of the library and orient the undergraduate students about the facilities provided.

**Key Words:** Library, Utilisation, Opinion, Undergraduate Students, Dental

**Introduction:**

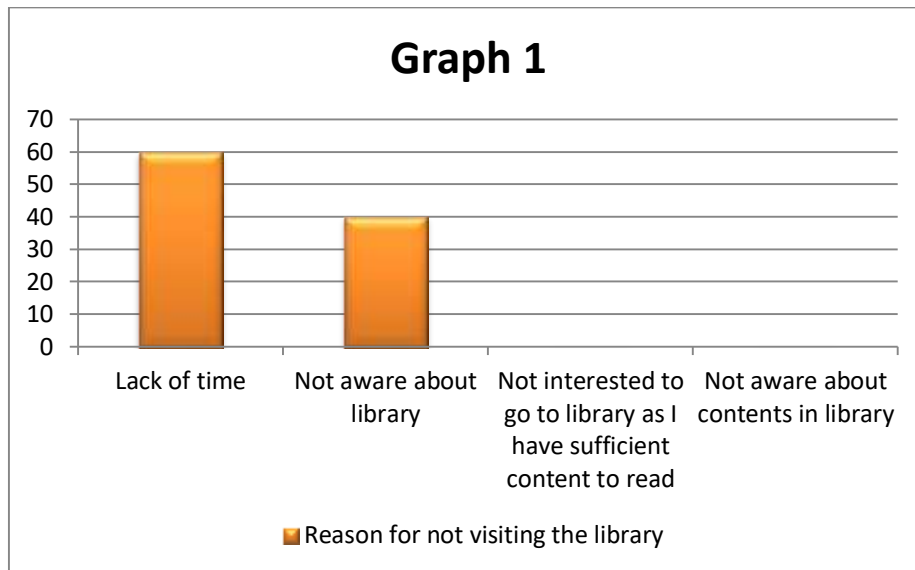
Education plays most important role in building socio-economic development of any country. Education always is being instrumental in bringing the change and to bring this change training the minds of educated people is must.<sup>1</sup>Academic institutions all over the world play a vital role in society by preparing future generations. Following generations obtain the knowledge from these institutions to fulfil their dreams and responsibilities more efficiently. The knowledge can be gained from the central library of institutions. The stakeholders of library are students, faculties and administrators with diverse needs. Libraries have collection of variety of information from different sources. The information is helpful in supporting research and learning activities.<sup>2</sup>Hence, the library plays the crucial role in academic institutions and it is considered as heart of the institution. This is because a good library has been recognised as essential ingredient for research and impactful teaching as well. The library resources contribute to knowledge upgradation and provide comprehensive knowledge to seekers. The major objective of any health university is to motivate all the students to become life-long learners and update themselves day to day.<sup>3</sup>Medical science is the most evolving, hence even the national bodies make universities compulsory to have adequate number of books, journals, both national and international publishers, digital library etc.<sup>4</sup>This study was conducted to evaluate the awareness, utilisation and opinion about central library amongst undergraduate students of the institute.

**Materials and Methods:**

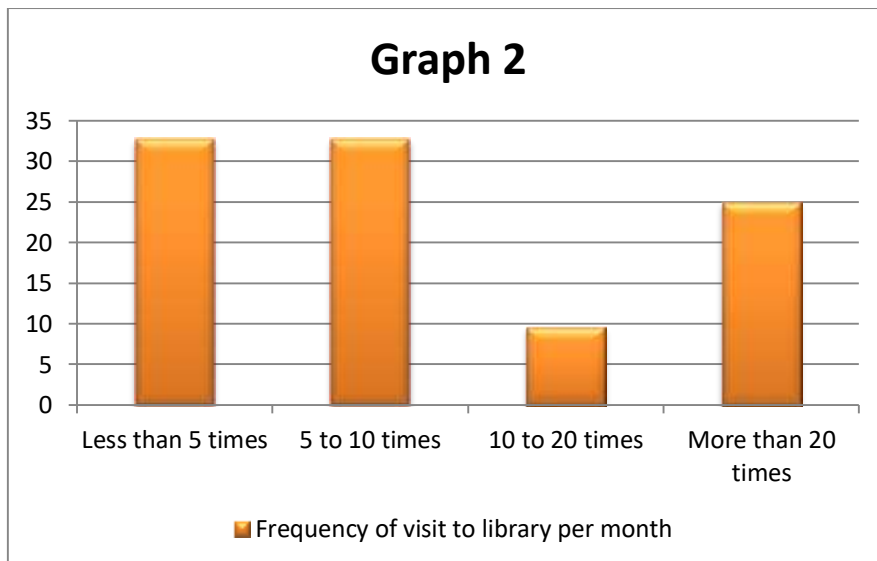
This cross-sectional study was carried out during February 2022 to May 2022 as per the Helsinki declaration (World Medical Association, 2013). Ethical clearance was obtained from institutional ethical committee of Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences-Deemed to be University, Loni (Registration No: PIMS/DR/RDC/2021/480 dated on 14/02/2022). The written informed consent was obtained from all the participants who were willing to be the part of the study. This cross sectional survey included 16 questions which were divided in 5 sections. It was developed in Google form and the link was shared with participants after obtaining the consent. The target population was all undergraduate students of Rural Dental College. 220 (88%) participants out of 250 (100%) showed their willingness to be the part of the study and all responses were recorded. To maintain the anonymity no personal information was asked to the participants. The access to all the responses was with the primary author only to maintain confidentiality. The Google form included brief explanation of the study followed by formal consent statement and was divided into 5 different sections of questions for better understanding. The language of questions in survey was English. An adequate time was given for completion of the survey. All the responses were collected and analysed using the google form spreadsheet and results were obtained. Participants who were not willing to consent for the study were excluded.

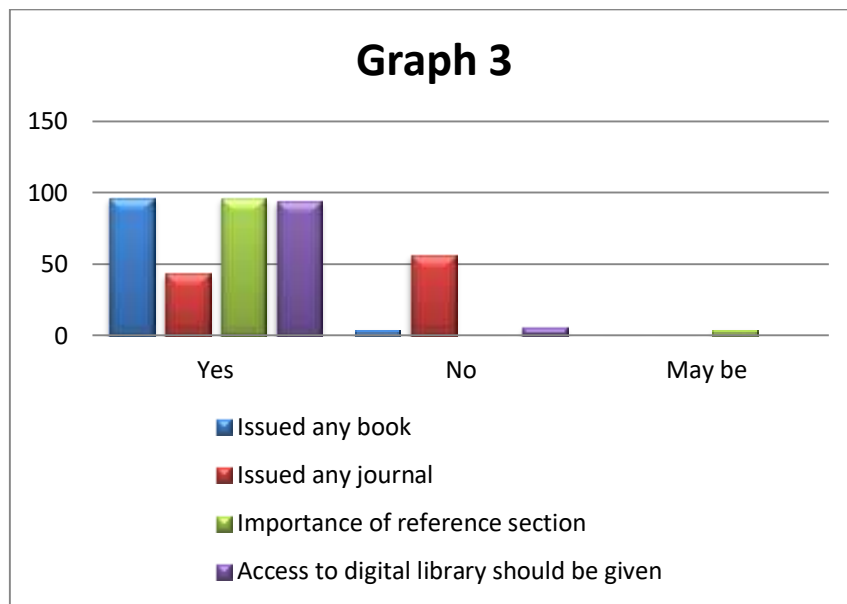
**Results:**

220 (88%) responses were recorded out of 250 (100%) participants. All the questions were compulsory so all responses were complete. In undergraduate course also the maximum 76 (34.5%) responses were from final year students followed by 60 (27.3%) from third year and 25.5% from interns. Out of 220 participants 168 (76.4%) were females and 52 (23.6%) were males. 220 (100%) participants were aware about the library in the university. Only 188 (85.5%) participants know that it is mandatory to have library in dental college as per Dental Council of India, the governing body for all dental colleges in India. 220 (100%) participants have visited the library. 132 (60%) students think lack of time is the commonest reason for not visiting the library. (Graph 1)



Maximum of students, 68 (32.7%), visit library less than 5 times and from 5 to 10 times visit library in a month. (Graph 2) Most of students, to be precised 176 (83%), visited only reading section and no one is aware about digital library. 24 (11.3%) and 12 (5.7%) students had visited reference and journal section respectively. There are 8 (3.6%) students who had not issued any books since there joining. (Graph 3) 96 (43.6%) students had issued journals. (Graph 3) The reference section is important according to 212 (96.4%) participants. (Graph 3) Most of the participants want free access to digital library. (Graph 3) Very less students know that there are international journal subject wise. 164 (74.5%) students want reference section and e books copy in the laptop both. The curriculum should have dedicated time slot for visiting library every day according to 184 (83.6%) participants.





**Discussion:**

This study assessed the usage of library and its resources by undergraduate students of Rural Dental College. The survey found that 220 (100%) students participated in survey were aware about the library in the university and more than 50% students visit library at least 5 times in a month. This is in contrary to other studies which state that physical use of library is less due to advent of digital resources.<sup>5-7</sup>

The reason for usage of library resources can be firstly dental text books is costly and many of the students do not want to buy them. This prompts them to start using library resources for free.<sup>8</sup>In any health university first comes the quality care to each and every patient. This comes with excellent quality education to undergraduate students. Library plays important role in this.<sup>9</sup>Reading section of library was most commonly used section for self-study and for exam preparation. When we compared books and journals section it was found that many of the students didn't issue any journal for reading yet.<sup>10</sup>It signifies that the students are still unaware about the importance of journals in dentistry and they should be motivated to use other sections of library. The undergraduate students feel the importance of reference section in university but the students' visit to reference section is still not satisfied. 198 (90%) stakeholders think that they should be given free access to digital section of library. This will definitely boost up their frequency to visit library and all the digital resources will be used by all stakeholders. Most of the people want to use library and also want e books related to dentistry in their laptop. To increase the interest in library the time table should have dedicated time slot for reading section in library. This will definitely increase their visit to library.

**Conclusion:**

Predominantly the undergraduate students choose to read their own books in library. The library is state of art of any institute and it should be well equipped. The students should be exposed to the reference section at the start of their course. This will bow seeds in their mind regarding importance of library in professional course. The curriculum should incorporate dedicated time slot compulsory for students to visit library. The task should be given to students which make them necessary to use library resources.

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