

Identifying Information Needs of School Teachers in Sri Lanka and Factors Affect for their Information Needs

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Abstract

The main objective of this study is to examine school teachers' information needs and the relationship between demographic and professional factors with their information needs. The population of the study consisted of graduate school teachers in government schools in Sri Lanka. The sample consisted with 440 teachers and cluster sampling method was applied for the sample selection. A self-administered questionnaire was used as the main data collection tool and the received data were analyzed SPSS (21.0). The study found that most of the teachers need information on particular subject that they taught, followed by classroom management and teaching resources and it was found that there is no significant relationship between the factors and teachers' information needs.

Keywords: *Information needs, School teachers, Influential factors, Government schools*

Introduction

Information needs can be defined as “a state that arises within an individual, recommending some genre of a gap that requires filling. When applied to the word information, as in information need, what is suggested is a gap that can be filled with some knowledge or information”. (Dervin, 1983) Anyway information need is an important concept that employed by information professionals when studying information seeking pattern of any user group or individuals. Teachers require various types of information for teaching particularly for imparting knowledge with learners which is the main task of teaching and for self-development. (Adeoye and Popoola, 2011) Therefore the information needs of school teachers should be paid more attention as most important matter since the extent to which the teachers are informed determines to a large extent the knowledge to be imparted to the students.

On the other hand, if teachers may not receiving an effective information provision it may adversely affect for the learning outcomes of the students and impacts on education in a country as a whole. Therefore studying the information needs of school teachers and their level of satisfaction towards them are prime necessities and this study certainly will guide for establishing a formal systematic channel of information provision to meet school teachers' information needs.

Moreover, it was identified from the literature that no studies have yet been conducted in Sri