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A Study on Library and Information Science Research: Purpose and Motivation Factors

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Abstract

The study investigates to find out the purpose and motivation factors for the LIS research. The data was collected from the Research Scholars who are presently engaged in the research. The questionnaire method was adopted to collect the data from the respondents. A total of 110 respondents have responded out of 130. It is found that majority of research scholars are doing research to upgrade their qualifications followed by to become subject expert and also to get promotion. It is further found that LIS Education, Teachers of LIS and Application of IT/ICT in Libraries have also strongly motivated the Research Scholars to pursue the research. The study is further recommended that the Teachers of LIS and Librarians should encourage the professional colleagues to produce good research output in Library and Information Science.

Keyword: Research Purpose, Motivation, LIS, Research Scholars, LIS Professional, NET/SET

Introduction

Research is a process of acquiring new knowledge and helps to improve problem solving and decision making in the workplace. In general, the research out put in Library and Information Science is growing tremendously during recent years. Perhaps, many universities in India have introduced research programmes in LIS to promote research activities. The application of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in the library services is an important



motivating factor for LIS professionals to pursue research. The Department of Library and Information Science, Academic libraries and Professional Associations are organizing a good number of innovative

programmes on various topics related to Library and Information Science, which is not only helps the LIS professionals to develop their knowledge, skills etc., but also gives a platform to select the research problems as well as helps to find the solutions for problems.

Review of Literature

Montanelli and Stenstrom (1986)¹ found that research promotes advancement and recognition for librarians and librarians who conduct research are likely to be more receptive to changes and have more effective relationship with other faculty. Cullen (1998)² revealed the motivational factors that LIS practitioners do not engage in research. Powell et.al (2002)³ informed that research is necessary for LIS practitioners to create new knowledge and contribute to the growth of LIS as a profession, improve problem solving, decision making and equip libraries for optimal information services to other researchers. Manda (2000)⁴ reported that librarians are not conducting research and thus publish less. Avemeriautulu (2005)⁵ noted that one of the motivating factors for scholarly publications by LIS professional is the availability of publications which contain the needed languages for publication and how to use them. Mabawonku (2005)⁶ informed that LIS professionals are motivated to publish especially in oversea journals to enhance visibility and satisfy the need of employers. Anunobi and Emerole (2008)⁷ found that LIS practitioners were motivated by the availability of funds and inspiration for their research and also involved in the research to get promotion.

Objectives of The Study

- To find out the purpose of research among LIS Research Scholars
- To analysis the various motivation factors for the research

Methodology

The study was conducted among LIS Research Scholars who are presently pursuing M.Phil and Ph.D research programmes under fulltime and part-time schemes in various Universities/Colleges in Tamil Nadu. A well structured questionnaire was designed to collect the data from the respondents. It was divided into three sections namely Personal information, Purpose of research and Motivation factors for the research. A total of 130 questionnaires were distributed and 110 research scholars have responded (84.61%). The National Eligibility Test (NET) or State

Eligibility Test (SET) is an essential qualification for appointment of College Librarian/Assistant Librarian in Colleges/Universities in India and those candidates are also largely pursuing research in Library and Information Science. Hence, researchers are also considered them as the respondents. The data collected were analyzed by SPSS.

Data Analysis and Findings

Purpose of the Research

The study was focused to analysis the purpose of research in LIS. In order to analysis , five purposes related to research were identified , analyzed on nominal scale “YES” and “NO” and the same is given in table 1.

Table 1
PURPOSE OF LIS RESEARCH

S.No	Description	Yes	No	Total
1.	To get promotion	76 69.1%	34 30.9%	110 (100%)
2.	To get job	54 49.1%	56 50.9%	110 (100%)
3.	To upgrade qualifications	99 90%	11 10%	110 (100%)
4.	To become subject expert	84 76.4%	26 23.6%	110 (100%)
5.	To maintain social status	60 54.5%	50 45.5%	110 (100%)

The respondents were asked to indicate the purpose of their research. It can be seen from table 1 that majority 99(90%) of respondents are doing research “To upgrade the qualifications” and followed “To become subject expert” 84(76.4%). It is further observed that a good number of research scholars are indicated the purposes of research such as ‘To get promotion’ 76(69.1%) and “To maintain Social Status” 60(54.5%). It is also found that 54(49.1%) of respondents are doing research “To get Job in LIS”.

Purpose of LIS Research by Gender

The purpose of research was further analyzed on nominal scale “YES”, and “NO” by gender and the same is given in figure 1.

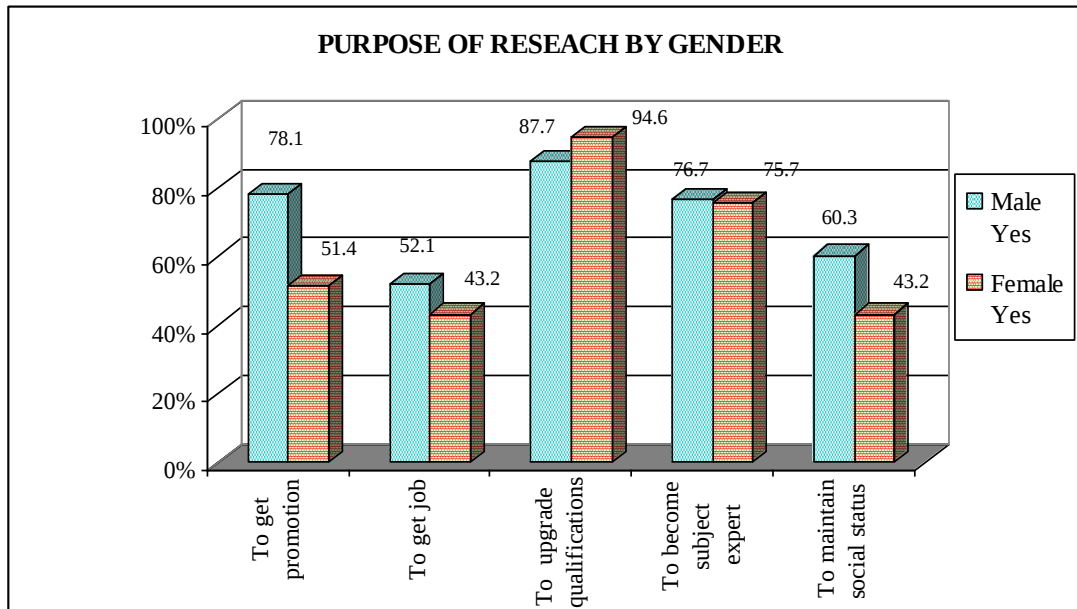


Figure 1. Purpose of Research by Gender

The respondents were asked to indicate the purpose of their research. It can be seen from figure 1 that majority of male respondents 87.7% and female respondents 94.6% are doing research “To upgrade the qualifications”. It is further found that 78.1% of male respondents are doing research to get promotion. It is observed that 76.7% of male respondents and 75.7% of female respondents are doing research “To become Subject Expert”. It is found that 52.1% of male respondents are doing research “To get Job” and 51.4% of female respondents are also involved in the research “To get Promotion”. It is further to note that 60.3% of male respondents and 43.2% of female respondents are pursuing research “To maintain Social Status”.

Purpose of Research by NET/SET and Non –NET/SET Qualified Research Scholars

The purpose of research was analyzed among NET/SET and Non –NET/SET Research Scholars and the same is given in figure 2.

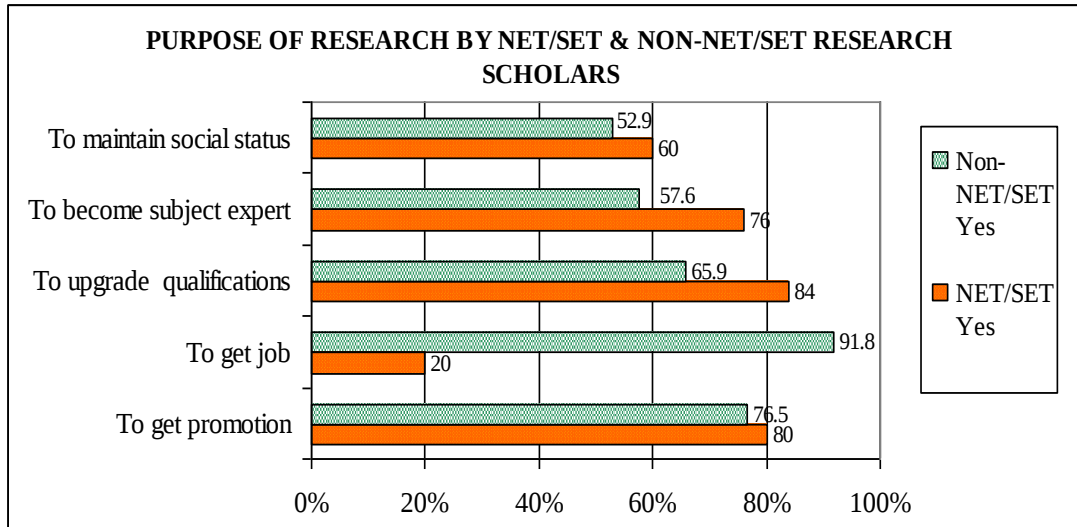


Figure 2. Purpose of Research by NET/SET and Non-NET/SET Qualified Research Scholars

The respondents were asked to indicate the purpose of their research. It can be seen from figure 2 that majority of 84% of NET/SET qualified Research Scholars are pursuing research “To upgrade qualifications” and majority of Non-NET/SET qualified Research Scholars 91.8% are doing research “To get Job”. It is further found that 80% of NET/SET Research Scholars and 76.5% of Non-NET/SET Research Scholars are also involved in the research “To get promotion”. A good number of NET/SET qualified Research Scholars (76%) and 57.6% of Non-NET/SET Research Scholars are doing research “To become Subject Expert”. It is only 60% of NET/SET qualified Research Scholars and 52.9% of Non-NET/SET Research Scholars are doing research “To maintain Social Status”

Purpose of Research by Designation

The purpose of research was further ascertained by designation on nominal scale such as “YES” & “NO” and the same is given in table 2.

Table 2
PURPOSE OF LIS RESEARCH Vs DESIGNATION

S.No	Description	Librarian n=54		Assistant Librarian n=20		Library Assistant n=17		Research Scholars n=19	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
1.	To get promotion	41 75.9%	13 24.1%	19 95%	1 5%	15 88.2%	2 11.8%	5 26.3%	14 73.7%
2.	To get job	17 31.5%	37 68.5%	12 60%	8 40%	9 52.9%	8 47.1%	17 89.5%	2 10.5%
3.	To upgrade qualifications	50 92.6%	4 7.4%	17 85%	3 15%	13 76.5%	4 23.5%	16 84.2%	3 15.8%
4.	To become subject expert	42 77.8%	12 22.2%	15 75%	5 25%	11 64.7%	6 35.3%	14 73.7%	5 26.3%
5.	To maintain social status	32 59.3%	22 40.7%	11 55%	9 45%	13 76.5%	4 23.5%	4 21.1%	15 78.9%

The respondents were asked to indicate the purpose of their research. It can be seen from table 2 that majority of Librarians 50 (92.6%) are doing research “To upgrade Qualifications”, 19(95%) of Assistant Librarians, 15(88.2%) of Library Assistants are pursuing research for promotion .It is further observed that 17(89.5%) of Research Scholars are researching “To get Job”. It is followed by 42(77.8%) of Librarians are doing research “To become Subject Expert”, 17(85%) of Assistant Librarians, 13(76.5%) of Library Assistants and 16(84.2%) of Research Scholars are pursuing research “To upgrade their qualifications”. It is also observed that a good number of Librarians 32(59.3%), Assistant Librarians 11(55%), Library Assistants 13(76.5%) and least number of Research Scholars 4(15%) are also engaged in research “To maintain Social Status”.

Motivation Factors for the Research

Motivation is an important for research. In this study , eight motivation factors were identified, analyzed on “Likert” five point scale such as “ Strongly Disagree”, “Disagree” “Undecided” , “Agree” & Strongly Agree” and same is given in table 3.

Table 3
Motivation Factors For The Research

S.No	Description	SD	DA	UD	A	SA	Total
1.	LIS Education	5 4.5%	6 5.5%	14 12.7%	48 43.6%	37 33.6%	110 (100%)
2.	Teachers of LIS	2 1.8%	11 10.0%	16 14.5%	47 42.7%	34 30.9%	110 (100%)
3.	Librarians/Library Staff	9 8.2%	11 10.0%	14 12.7%	46 41.8%	30 27.3%	110 (100%)
4.	Social Factors	6 5.5%	8 7.3%	25 22.7%	53 48.2%	18 16.4%	110 (100%)
5.	Application of IT/ICT in Libraries	9 8.2%	3 2.7%	17 15.5%	48 43.6%	33 30.0%	110 (100%)
6.	Promotional avenues in LIS Profession	6 5.5%	8 7.3%	13 11.8%	57 51.8%	26 23.6%	110 (100%)
7.	Job Opportunities in LIS	4 3.6%	7 6.4%	12 10.9%	55 50.0%	32 29.1%	110 (100%)
8.	Family members/Friends	3 2.7%	15 13.6%	22 20.0%	42 38.2%	28 25.5%	110 (100%)

The respondents were asked to indicate the motivation factors for research. It can be seen from table 3 that majority of respondents 37(33.6%) are strongly agreed that “LIS Education” has motivated for the research, followed by 34(30.9%) of respondents strongly agreed that “Teachers of LIS” is another motivating factor for the research. It is strongly agreed by 33 (30%) of

respondents that “Application of IT/ICT in Libraries has also motivated for the research. A good number of respondents 32(29.1%) are strongly agreed that “Job opportunities in LIS” further motivated for the research. The factors such as “Family members/Friends 28(25.5%) “Social Status” 18(16.4) are also motivated for the research.

Motivation Factors for the Research by Gender

Motivation factors for research was further ascertained by gender on “Likert” five point scales and the same is given in table 4.

Table 4
Motivation Factors For The Research Vs Gender

S.No	Description	MALE n=73					FEMALE n=37				
		SD	DA	UD	A	SA	SD	DA	UD	A	SA
1.	LIS Education	4 5.5%	5 6.8%	10 13.7%	28 38.4%	26 35.6%	1 2.7%	1 2.7%	4 10.8%	20 54.1%	11 29.7%
2.	Teachers of LIS	2 2.7%	8 11%	11 15.1%	29 39.7%	23 31.5%	0 .0%	3 8.1%	5 13.5%	18 48.6%	11 29.7%
3.	Librarians/ Library Staff	9 12.3 %	6 8.2%	5 6.8%	29 39.7%	24 32.9%	0 .0%	5 13.5 %	9 24.3%	17 45.9%	6 16.2%
4.	Social Factors	5 6.8%	4 5.5%	17 23.3%	36 49.3%	11 15.1%	1 2.7%	4 10.8%	8 21.6%	17 45.9%	7 18.9%
5.	Application of IT/ICT in Libraries	9 12.3 %	2 2.7%	10 13.7%	26 35.6%	26 35.6%	0 .0%	1 2.7%	7 18.9%	22 59.5%	7 18.9%
6.	Promotional avenues in LIS Profession	4 5.5%	6 8.2%	7 9.6%	37 50.7%	19 26%	2 5.4%	2 5.4%	6 16.2%	20 54.1%	7 18.9%
7.	Job Opportunities in LIS	3 4.1%	5 6.8%	7 9.6%	36 49.3%	22 30.1%	1 2.7%	2 5.4%	5 13.5%	19 51.4%	10 27%
8.	Family members/ Friends	1 1.4%	12 16.4 %	18 24.7%	28 38.4%	14 19.2%	2 5.4%	3 8.1%	4 10.8%	14 37.8%	14 37.8%

(SD= Strongly Disagree, DA =Disagree, UD= Undecided, A=Agree, SA= Strongly Agree)

The respondents were asked to indicate the motivation factors for the research. It can be seen from table 4 that majority of male respondents are strongly agreed that “LIS Education” 26(35.6%) and “Application of IT/ICT in Libraries” 26(35.6%) are motivated for the research whereas majority of female respondents are strongly agreed that “LIS Education” 11(29.7%) and “Teachers of LIS” 11(29.7%) are also motivated for the research. It is also strongly agreed by the male respondents that the factors such as “Librarians/Library Staff” 24(32.9%) and “Teachers of LIS” 23(31.5%) are motivated for the research and a good number of female respondents are strongly agreed that “Family members/Friends” 14(37.8%), “Job Opportunities” 10(27%) are further motivated for the research.

Motivation Factors for the Research by NET/SET & Non-NET/SET Research Scholars

The motivation factors were also ascertained among NET/SET & Non-NET/SET passed Research Scholars and the same is given in figure 3.

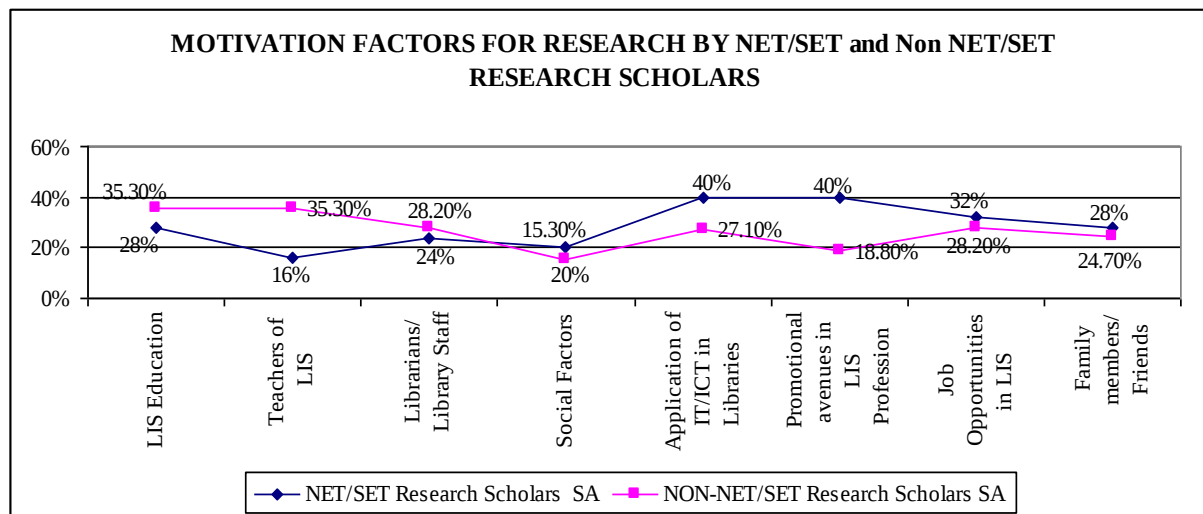


Figure 3. Motivation factors for research by Vs NET/SET & Non-NET/SET Research Scholars

The respondents were asked to indicate the motivation factors for research. It can be seen from figures 3 that majority of NET qualified Research Scholars are strongly agreed that “Application of IT/ICT in Libraries” 10(40%) and “Promotional Avenues” 10(40%) are equally motivated for the research and majority of Non-NET/SET Research Scholars are strongly agreed that “LIS Education” (35.30%) and “Teachers of LIS” (35.30%) are motivated for their research. It is further observed that 32% of NET/SET qualified Research Scholars and 24(28.2%) of Non-NET/SET

Research Scholars are strongly agreed that “Job Opportunities” in LIS has further motivated for the research, followed by 28% of NET/SET qualified Research Scholars also strongly agreed that both “LIS Education and Family members/Friends” are equally motivated for their research. It is strongly agreed by Non-NET/SET Research Scholars that “Librarians/Library Staff” 24(28.2%) and “Application of IT / ICT in Libraries” 23(27.1%) are further motivated for the research. It is further observed that only very least (18.8%) number of Non-NET/SET Research Scholars are motivated for the research by “Promotional Avenues in LIS Profession”.

Motivation Factors for the Research by Designation

Motivation factors for research was further ascertained by gender on Likert five point scales and the same is given in table 5.

Table 5. Motivation Factors Vs Designation

S. No	Description	Librarian n=54					Assistant Librarian n=20					Library Assistant n=17					Research Scholars n=19				
		SD	DA	UD	A	SA	SD	DA	UD	A	SA	SD	DA	UD	A	SA	SD	DA	UD	A	SA
1.	LIS Education	4 7.4%	3 5.6%	8 14.8%	24 44.4%	15 27.8%	1 5%	2 10 %	3 15%	10 50%	4 20%	0 .0%	0 .0%	1 5.9%	6 35.3%	10 58.8%	0 .0%	1 5.3%	2 10.5%	8 42.1%	8 42.1 %
2.	Teachers of LIS	1 1.9%	7 13%	10 18.5%	25 46.3%	11 20.4%	1 5%	2 10 %	3 15%	6 30%	8 40%	0 .0%	1 5.9%	2 11.8%	6 35.3%	8 47.1%	0 .0%	1 5.3%	1 5.3%	10 52.6%	7 36.8 %
3.	Librarians/Library Staff	5 9.3%	4 7.4%	8 14.8%	24 44.4%	13 24.1%	3 15%	1 5%	1 5%	8 40%	7 35%	0 .0%	3 17.6%	3 17.6%	4 23.5%	7 41.2%	1 5.3%	3 15.8%	2 10.5%	10 52.6%	3 15.8 %
4.	Social Factors	2 3.7%	4 7.4%	12 22.2%	25 46.3%	11 20.4%	2 10%	1 5%	4 20.0%	10 50%	3 15%	1 5.9%	2 11.8%	4 23.5%	8 47.1%	2 11.8%	1 5.3%	1 5.3%	5 26.3%	10 52.6%	2 10.5 %
5.	Application of IT/ICT in Libraries	5 9.3%	1 1.9%	7 13.0%	28 51.9%	13 24.1%	3 15%	1 5%	3 15.0%	5 25%	8 40%	0 .0%	1 5.9%	2 11.8%	6 35.3%	8 47.1%	1 5.3%	0 .0%	5 26.3%	9 47.4%	4 21.1 %
6.	Promotional avenues in LIS Profession	3 5.6%	3 5.6%	6 11.1%	28 51.9%	14 25.9%	2 10%	3 15 %	4 20%	9 45%	2 10 %	0 .0%	2 11.8%	0 .0%	9 52.9%	6 35.3%	1 5.3%	0 .0%	3 15.8%	11 57.9%	4 21.1 %
7.	Job Opportunities in LIS	3 5.6%	5 9.3%	7 13.0%	24 44.4%	15 27.8%	1 5%	2 10 %	2 10%	11 55%	4 20%	0 .0%	0 .0%	1 5.9%	10 58.8%	6 35.3%	0 .0%	0 .0%	2 10.5%	10 52.6%	7 36.8 %
8.	Family members/Friends	3 5.6%	4 7.4%	9 16.7%	24 44.4%	14 25.9%	0 .0%	6 30 %	5 25.0%	3 15%	6 30.0%	0 .0%	5 29.4%	4 23.5%	4 23.5%	4 23.5%	0 .0%	0 .0%	4 21.1%	11 57.9%	4 21.1 %

(SD= Strongly Disagree, DA =Disagree, UD= Undecided, A=Agree, SA= Strongly Agree)

The respondents were asked to indicate the motivation factors for research. It can be seen from table 5 that majority of Librarians are strongly agreed that both “LIS Education” 15(27.8%) and “Job Opportunities in LIS” 15(27.8%) are equally motivated for research whereas majority of Assistant Librarians are strongly agreed that “Teachers of LIS” 8(40%) and Application of IT/ICT in Libraries 8(40%) are equally motivated for the research. It is further observed that majority of Library Assistants 10 (58.8%) and 8(42.1%) of Research Scholars are also strongly agreed that “LIS Education” motivated them for research. It is observed that 14 (25.9%) of Librarians are strongly agreed that “Promotional Avenues” in LIS profession and “Family members/Friends” 14(25.9%) are equally motivated for the research. A good number of Assistant Librarians 7(35%), Library Assistants 7(41.2%) are also strongly agreed that “Librarians/Library Staff” further motivated for the research.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The growth and development of research output in LIS is increased like other disciplines. The LIS Professionals should motivate their colleagues to pursue the research. It is further to state that the job opportunities in LIS are widely available especially for the Research Scholars. Therefore, Teachers of LIS, Librarians should encourage the professional colleagues to pursue the research to produce quality research out put in Library and Information Science.

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