

INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIORS OF MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE RAJASTHAN STATE: A SURVEY

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the information-seeking behaviors of MLAs in Rajasthan, India, and investigates their use of information sources, including the assembly library and other avenues for information. A well-structured questionnaire was administered personally and e-mailed to MLAs to collect data on the use of available databases and resources that support their legislative work. The study found that MLAs largely use these resources for reference purposes in their research work. Overall, the study provides insights into the Information-Seeking Behaviors of MLAs in Rajasthan and highlights the importance of providing access to relevant resources for effective legislative work.

KEY WORDS: MLAs, Information Seeking Behavior, Information Need, Rajasthan

Introduction:- Information seeking behavior of legislatures has been a topic of interest throughout history, as it plays a crucial role in the decision-making process of legislative bodies. Here are a few historical examples of information seeking behaviors of legislatures: Roman Senate: In ancient Rome, the Senate relied on a system of information gathering and dissemination known as the "Commentarii" 1911. Senators would write and circulate commentaries on the political events of the day, providing their colleagues with information and analysis of the issues at hand.

British Parliament: In the 18th and 19th centuries, the British Parliament developed a system of committee hearings to gather information from experts and stakeholders. This system allowed parliamentarians to become better informed on a wide range of policy issues and helped to shape the development of British public policy. US Congress: In the United States, the Library of Congress was established in 1800 to provide lawmakers with access to information and resources. Today, members of Congress rely on a wide range of sources for information, including government agencies, think tanks, and advocacy groups.

Indian Parliament: The Indian Parliament has established a research unit called the "Lok Sabha Secretariat" to assist lawmakers with information and analysis. The research unit provides lawmakers with research papers, briefing notes, and other materials to help them make informed decisions. These historical examples demonstrate the importance of information-seeking behavior for legislative bodies and the different approaches that have been taken to gather and utilize information over time.

Review of Literature:-

Information seeking behavior refers to strategies for locating information and has three elements: systems, information, and people. Information-seeking behavior of politicians is an important area of research, as it provides insights into how political decision-making is influenced by the information available to politicians. A review of the literature on the information-seeking behavior of politicians reveals several important themes Thapisa, A.P.N. (1996). One important theme is the role of information in shaping political decision-making. Researchers have found that politicians seek information to develop their understanding of policy issues, evaluate policy options, and make decisions. This information-seeking behavior can be influenced by a range of factors, such as the level of uncertainty surrounding an issue, the availability of resources to gather information, and the political context. Another important theme is the sources of information used by politicians. Ellis, David (2002), Researchers have found that politicians rely on a variety of sources, including experts, interest groups, constituents, and the media. However, the extent to which politicians rely on these sources can vary depending on the issue at hand and the political context. A third theme is the impact of information-seeking behavior on political outcomes. Some studies have found that information-seeking behavior can improve the quality of political decision-making and lead to more effective policy outcomes. However, other studies have found that information-seeking behavior can be biased or limited by political considerations, leading to suboptimal outcomes, Wilson, T.D. (1981). Overall, Kuhlthau, C. C. (1991), the literature on the information-seeking behavior of politicians highlights the importance of understanding how politicians gather and use information in their decision-making processes. This knowledge can be used to develop strategies to improve the quality of political decision-making and enhance the effectiveness of the public policy.

Objectives of the Study:-

- To find out the awareness of users regarding the various information sources keeping MLAs informed on current affairs and issues.
- To identify the nature, purpose and type of Information sought by users.
- To gather data about the sources of information available to MLAs.

- To find out the users' strategy searching to the document required by them.
- To determine the factors that influence the information needs and information seeking habits of users.
- To determine the information needs of the MLAs in state assemblies.
- To find out the user's opinion about the language which they prefer.

The Methodology Employed:-

This study is devoted to the data analysis and interpretation of questionnaire responses within the conceptual framework of the study and with the help of statistical tools and techniques. Interpretation is essential because the usefulness and utility of research findings lie in proper interpretation. It is a basic component of research. During this stage coding of all open-ended and closed questions was undertaken.

The present study was conducted with a total of 100 questionnaires distributed among the Rajasthan MLAs, which is 50% of the total number of MLAs. Out of the 100 questionnaires distributed, 75 questionnaires were returned by the users, which is 75% of the distributed questionnaires. The investigator selected only 67 questionnaires out of the 75 for the analysis of data, which is 67% of the returned questionnaires. Eight questionnaires were rejected because of incomplete responses from the respondents. Overall, the study was conducted on a sample of 67 MLAs out of the total of 200 MLAs in Rajasthan, and the data analysis was based on the responses from these 67 MLAs.

Table :1

State Rajasthan	Total Members	Questionnaire Distributed	Returned Questionnaire	Selected Questionnaire
MLAs	200	100 (50%)	75 (75%)	67 (67%)

Data Analysis, Interpretation and Discussions:- Based on the data collected with the help of questionnaires, the analysis has been done in the table below: **Party-wise distribution** of Members of Legislative Assemblies Rajasthan: Twelfth Assembly (2003-2008)

Table: 2 Party-Wise Distribution of Rajasthan MLAs

S.No.	Party	Total member in house	%age Total member in house	Interview taken	%age Interview taken	Total %age in 200
1	BJP	120	60	41	61.19	20.5
2	Indian National Congress	56	28	23	34.33	11.5
3	Indian LokDal	4	2	1	1.49	0.50
4	Independent	13	6.5	2	2.99	1.00
5	Others party	7	3.5	0	0.00	0.00
Total		200	100	67	100%	33.5%

The table 2 provides the party-wise distribution of members in the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, along with the percentage of members and interviews taken. The last column represents the total percentage of interviews taken in 200. There are five parties represented in the Assembly, with the BJP having the highest number of members (120) and the Indian National Congress having 56 members. The Indian LokDal has four members, while 13 members are independent, and seven members belong to other parties. The percentage of members and interviews taken is also given in the table 2. For instance, the BJP has 60% of the members in the Assembly and 61.19% of the interviews taken, while the Indian National Congress has 28% of the members and 34.33% of the interviews taken. Similarly, the share of Indian LokDal is 0.5% of the total MLAs and 1.49% of the respondents. Similarly, the 2 'Independent' MLAs out of total 13 represent 2.99% of the respondents which are 1% of the 200 members. In terms of the total percentage of interviews taken in 200, 67 interviews were taken in total, representing 33.5% of the members in the Assembly.

Demographic Details of Respondents:-

In developing country demographic details play a big and vital role in the perception of the behavior of coverage of the study area. Whitmire (2001) found that there was a correlation between background characteristics such as gender, race, and educational qualification. In the demographic details of the respondents the researcher has taken gender, educational qualifications, and caste wise position.

Gender-Wise details:-

The set of responses received i. e the completed questionnaires reflect a sound representative sample of the population of the legislature of Rajasthan in terms of the major demographic variables.

Table: 3 Gender-Wise Details of Rajasthan MLAs

S. No.	Sex	No. of MLAs respondents	% age
1	Male	54	80.60
2	Female	13	19.40
Total		67	100.00

This table 3 provides information about the gender distribution of MLAs in Rajasthan, along with the percentage of MLAs falling under each gender category. The table 3 shows that out of the total of 67 MLAs in Rajasthan, 80.60% are male, while 19.40% are female. Overall, the table 3 indicates that the majority of MLAs in Rajasthan are male, with female MLAs comprising a smaller proportion of the total MLAs. It is important to note that the table 3 provides limited information and does not provide insights into the reasons for the gender distribution or any implications of the same. Further analysis may be required to understand the underlying factors and implications of the gender distribution among MLAs in Rajasthan.

Education Qualification:-

The educational qualification is a real asset since such people have the intellectual capacity to be critical and thus need adequate information to engage themselves in effective and fruitful debate. Educational qualification plays a big role in the understanding of the behavior of respondents as to how to seek and how to understand the things properly in the manner of the system demand of his or work-related functions and problems.

Highest Level of Education and Professional Qualification:-

This table 4 provides information about the highest level of education attained by MLAs in Rajasthan, along with the percentage of MLAs falling under each education category. The table 4 shows that out of the total of 67 MLAs in Rajasthan, information is available for 41 MLAs in terms of their highest level of education. Among these 41 MLAs, the majority (22.39%) have completed their graduation, followed by 11.94% who have completed their 10+2 level of education. Other education levels, such as post-graduation and non-matric/primary level, are also represented among the MLAs, albeit in smaller percentages.

Table: 4 Highest Level of Education of MLAs

Educational Qualification	No. of respondents	% age
Uneducated	1	1.49
Non-Matric/ Primary level	3	4.48
Matriculation	4	5.97
10+2	8	11.94
Graduation	15	22.39
Post Graduation	7	10.45
M.Phil/ PhD	3	4.48
Chartered accountant	1	1.49
B. TECH	2	2.99
MBBS/ MD/MS	4	5.97
LLB/LLM	16	23.88
B.ED/M.ED	3	4.48
Total	67	100%

Professional Qualification:-

The table 4 also delivers information about the professional qualifications attained by MLAs in Rajasthan, along with the percentage of MLAs falling under each professional qualification category. Table 4 shows that out of the total of 67 MLAs in Rajasthan, information is available for 26 MLAs in terms of their professional qualifications. Among these 26 MLAs, the majority (23.88%) have completed their LLB/LLM, followed by 5.97% who have completed their MBBS/MD/MS. Other professional qualifications, such as B.Tech and B.Ed/M.Ed, are also represented among the MLAs, albeit in smaller percentages. It is important to note that the table 4 provides limited information and does not provide insights into the quality or relevance of professional qualifications for the MLAs, or the potential implications of their professional qualifications for their work as MLAs. Further analysis may be required to understand the underlying factors and implications of the professional qualifications of MLAs in Rajasthan.

The respondents constitute well-placed people in society. The majority where their general level of education was very impressive. Judging by the findings of the research, nearly all the MLAs have

qualifications beyond the elementary school education. The lowest qualification was secondary school/teacher training, but a very large number had attained some level of university education.

Social class of the respondents:-

India is a place of very prosperous cultures and diversities so caste plays a major role in Indian politics and impacts on the behavior of politicians. Table 5 shows the caste wise distribution of respondents of the Rajasthan MLAs.

Table: 5 Social Class of the Respondents MLAs

Social Class	General	OBC	SC	ST	Total
No. of respondents MLAs	39	8	11	9	67
Percentage	58.21%	11.94%	16.42%	13.43%	100%

The table 5 rounds information on the social class of the respondents among the MLAs. There are four social classes represented in the table 6: General, OBC, SC, and ST. Out of the 67 respondents, 39 belong to the General social class, which represents 58.21% of the total respondents. Eight respondents (11.94%) belong to the OBC social class, 11 respondents (16.42%) belong to the SC social class, and nine respondents (13.43%) belong to the ST social class.

Perception of Information:-

Table 6 show the perception of information by MLAs as being all published and unpublished materials on any given topic. These sources can be categorized either as documentary or non-documentary sources but due to the special nature of the information regarding constituencies these are categorized in a separately in Table, 6.

Table: 6 Perception of Information by the MLAs

Types of categories	Rajasthan(N=67)	
	Response	% age
All published and unpublished materials	56	83.58
All items in newspapers, radio, and TV	43	64.18
All items in Government publications, circulars, reports, and pamphlets	61	91.04
All discussions at meetings, conferences, seminars, and workshops	43	64.18

(Multiple responses were permitted)

Based on the table 6, it shows the perception of information by the MLAs in Rajasthan. There were 67 respondents in total. The respondents were asked to select the types of categories from which they perceive information. Multiple responses were permitted, which is why the total number of responses for each category may add up to more than the total number of respondents. Out of the 67 respondents: 56 (83.58%) perceived information from all published and unpublished materials. 43 (64.18%) perceived information from all items in newspapers, radio, and TV. 61 (91.04%) perceived information from all items in Government publications, circulars, reports, and pamphlets. 43 (64.18%) perceived information from all discussions at meetings, conferences, seminars, and workshops. Table, 6 indicates that most of the respondents perceive information as being all published and unpublished materials on given topics. It is, however, interesting to note the low ranking given to items in newspapers, radio and television. One would have expected a higher ranking for this source of information as it is mainly dominated by the government-owned media. Similar views were recorded in Thapisa's study.

Requirements of Information:-

The requirements of information for an MLA (Member of Legislative Assembly) can vary depending on the context and purpose of the request. However, some common types of information that may be required for an MLA are:

Constituency Information: This includes details about the MLA's constituency, such as population, demographic data, and economic conditions. This information can help the MLA understand the needs and issues of their constituents better.

Legislative Information: This includes details about the legislative process, such as procedures, rules, and regulations of the legislative assembly. It also includes information about bills, acts, and other legislative documents. This information can help the MLA participate in debates and discussions in the assembly effectively.

Government Policies and Programs: This includes information about various government policies, programs, and schemes, such as healthcare, education, social welfare, and infrastructure development. This information can help the MLA assess the impact of government policies on their constituents and provide feedback to the government.

Constituent Feedback: This includes feedback and grievances received from constituents on various issues such as infrastructure, public services, and other government schemes. This information can help the MLA understand the issues faced by their constituents and take appropriate action.

Budgetary Information: This includes information about the state budget, revenue, and expenditure. This information can help the MLA understand the allocation of funds for various projects and programs and provide feedback on the same.

Other General Information: This includes any other relevant information, such as demographic data, health and education indicators, employment data, etc., that can help the MLA make informed decisions and policies for the welfare of their constituents.

Table: 7 Requirements of Information

Particular	MLAs (N=67)	
	Frequency	%age
When preparing for legislative Assembly speeches, debates and questions	56	83.58
When preparing answers for enquiries from the MLAs	49	73.13
When doing statistical or data analysis and budgeting	15	22.39
Participation in conferences, Radio/TV, seminars	15	22.39
Historical objections	5	7.46

(Multiple responses were permitted)

The table 7 represents the requirements of information among respondents, they were asked to select one or more options from the given list of requirements of information, and their responses are presented in terms of both frequency and percentage. According to the table 7, the most common requirement of information among respondents in Rajasthan is when preparing for legislative Assembly speeches, debates, and questions, with 56 individuals or 83.58% of respondents selecting this option. The second most common requirement is when preparing answers for enquiries from the MLAs, with 49 individuals or 73.13% of respondents selecting this option. The other options were less commonly selected, with only 15 respondents or 22.39% selecting each of the following options: when doing statistical or data analysis and budgeting, and when participating in conferences, radio/TV, seminars. Finally, only 5 respondents or 7.46% of respondents selected historical objections as a requirement of information. It's worth noting that respondents were allowed to choose multiple options, which explains why the total percentage of responses exceeds 100%.

Purpose of Information Seeking:

The purpose of use depends on the level of the users and their subjects of interest. Various parameters were given in the questionnaire about the purpose and users mentioned their choice. Different purposes and

percentage of responses are shown in the table, 8 as elected representatives, MLAs are expected to be vigilant regarding every incident, accident, disturbance, development etc. happening in society. MLAs routinely require current information as well as retrospective information for various purposes. India is a developing country that's why expectation of the people is more from the representative of their constituency. Politicians face various types of work-related problems: like criticism of opposition, preparing of budget, historical and tradition objection on his personality, ideology of his party, commitment to work of his obligation etc.

Information Seeking Activity in the Past and Future Prospects:-

In this section researcher sought the information behavior of MLAs on the perceptions of past and future consult for information according to the area of interest and types of information they used.

Area of Interest for Information Seeking:- MLAs deal with every profession found in their area. They must solve each and every problem in their constituency; therefore, they need information on almost every subject. The favored areas of interest of MLAs are shown in descending order of priority in table 8. Almost every MLA came into politics with the intention to serve society. Thus, there is no surprise when this study reveals that MLAs require information on issues falling under the jurisdiction of the social welfare department (e.g., old age pension scheme, old age homes, children's homes, women's empowerment, scheduled caste and scheduled tribes' welfare schemes, minority welfare schemes, rehabilitation of the destitute, etc.). Health Care, Social Security Benefits and education are also high on the list of fields on which MLAs require information regularly.

Type of Information Activities:- Was there need of information seek for problem solving of different needs of his/her own society and political life from voting behavior to every day need? Table 8 indicates whether information was sought by MLAs Rajasthan on various topics in the past or not. Respondents were asked to indicate (from a list of twenty-four) the reasons why they had wanted various types of information in the past (see Table 8). an open question which asked respondents to give examples of occasions when they had required looking for information to help them plan, solve a problem, or understand something better. While these respondents felt that past examples of information need were too many to specify, the remainder indicated a wide range of situations in which a need had arisen.

This table 8 shows the types of information sought by MLAs, along with the number and percentage of respondents who seek each type of information. The data is based on a survey or study conducted on a sample of MLAs in Rajasthan. The categories of information sought include politics and the Indian government, state government, local council, local area development, employment/job opportunities,

education, housing, health and safety at work, healthcare, social security benefits, family/personal matters, financial matters, taxation, consumer and credit, business opportunities, legal information, equal rights and discrimination, immigration and nationality, citizens' rights, crime and security, transport and travel, technology and communications, environmental information, and leisure and recreation.

Table: 8 Types of Information Sought

S. No.	Category	MLAs=67	
		Number	% age
1	Information about politics & the Indian Government	50	74.63
2	Information about the state Government	47	70.15
3	Information about your local council	42	62.69
4	Local Area Development	58	86.57
5	Employment/job opportunities	55	82.09
6	Education	46	68.66
7	Housing	23	34.33
8	Health and Safety at work	28	41.79
9	Health Care	39	58.21
10	Social Security Benefits	25	37.31
11	Family/Personal matters	21	31.34
12	Financial matters	36	53.73
13	Taxation	39	58.21
14	Consumer and Credit	24	35.82
15	Business opportunities	36	53.73
16	Legal information	49	73.13
17	Equal rights and Discrimination	37	55.22
18	Immigration and Nationality	21	31.34
19	Citizens' rights	52	77.61
20	Crime and Security	58	86.57
21	Transport and Travel	31	46.27

22	Technology and Communications	26	38.81
23	Environmental information	12	17.91
24	Leisure and Recreation	18	26.87

(Multiple responses were permitted)

The table 8 also confirmations that the most sought-after types of information are related to politics and the Indian government, state government, and local area development. Other important types of information sought include employment/job opportunities, education, healthcare, taxation, legal information, and citizens' rights. The least sought-after types of information include environmental information and leisure and recreation. It is also worth noting that multiple responses were allowed, indicating that MLAs in Rajasthan may be seeking information on several different topics.

Differenced Information Demand Table:-

The data from this table 9 has been analyzed in three ways: (1) Use of information sources. (2) Perceived value of information from different sources. (3) Comparison of the value of information from each source. (Past vs Future). In order to understand the complexity of the problems involved in seeking relevant information, it is important to first establish the range of subjects that are of interest to MLAs. There are twenty-four main levels at which information are required. Researcher drew differenced statistics based on types of information sought in the past and future demand of information. Table 9 shows the past Vs future of information use. i.e. what in the past was the information used situation and what are the information demands for the future as predicted by the respondents of MLAs of Rajasthan. The table 9 also shows the difference between the percentage of respondents who demanded information in the past and the percentage of respondents who would demand information in the future.

Table 9: MLAs: Past Vs Future Differential Information Demand

Category	In Past		In Future		Difference between Past & Future	
	Respondent	Respondent (in %age)	Respondent	Respondent (in %age)	Respondent	Respondent (in %age)
Information about politics & the Indian Government	50	74.63	55	82.09	5	7.46
Information about the state Government	47	70.15	64	95.52	17	25.37

Information about your local council	42	62.69	46	68.66	4	5.97
Local Area Development	58	86.57	62	92.54	4	5.97
Employment/job opportunities	55	82.09	61	91.04	6	8.96
Education	46	68.66	47	70.15	1	1.49
Housing	23	34.33	41	61.19	18	26.87
Health & Safety at work	28	41.79	28	41.79	0	0.00
Health Care	39	58.21	46	68.66	7	10.45
Social Security Benefits	25	37.31	55	82.09	30	44.78
Family/Personal matters	21	31.34	22	32.84	1	1.49
Financial matters	36	53.73	64	95.52	28	41.79
Taxation	39	58.21	60	89.55	21	31.34
Consumer & Credit	24	35.82	45	67.16	21	31.34
Business opportunities	36	53.73	45	67.16	9	13.43
Legal information	49	73.13	59	88.06	10	14.93
Equal rights & Discrimination	37	55.22	48	71.64	11	16.42
Immigration & Nationality	21	31.34	37	55.22	16	23.88
Citizens' rights	52	77.61	65	97.01	13	19.40
Crime & Security	58	86.57	58	86.57	0	0.00
Transport and Travel	31	46.27	45	67.16	14	20.90
Technology & communications	26	38.81	41	61.19	15	22.39
Environmental information	12	17.91	20	29.85	8	11.94
Leisure & Recreation	18	26.87	22	32.84	4	5.97

Some of the key observations from the table 9 are: The demand for information about the state Government and citizens' rights is expected to increase significantly in the future, with a difference of 25.37% and 19.40%, respectively. The demand for information about housing and taxation is also expected to increase significantly, with a difference of 26.87% and 31.34%, respectively. On the other hand, the demand for information about health and safety at work and crime and security is expected to remain the same in the future, with a difference of 0%. The demand for information about environmental information is expected to increase, but to a lesser extent, with a difference of 11.94%.

Reasons for Seeking Information:- To carry the analysis further Respondents were asked to indicate (from a list of sixteen reasons) the reasons why they had wanted information in the past (see Table 10).

Table: 10 Reasons for Seeking Information

S. No	Reasons for seekig information	MLAs N = 67	
		Number	% age
1	Political reasons	58	86.57
2	Voting behavior reasons	63	94.03
3	For political decision-making	54	80.60
4	For administrative purpose	55	82.09
5	For publication	28	41.79
6	Work-related reasons	45	67.16
7	Religious reasons	20	29.85
8	Family personal reasons	28	41.79
9	For developments	60	89.55
10	Historical objection	23	34.33
11	Health reasons	36	53.73
12	Financial / Economical reasons	46	68.66
13	Legal reasons / security	41	61.19
14	Business/commercial reasons	37	55.22
15	For work with a representative/interest group	16	23.88
16	Educational reasons	53	79.10

(Multiple responses were permitted)

Table 10 presents the past reasons for wanting information among the MLAs in Rajasthan. The table 10 shows that the most common reason for wanting information in the past was voting behavior reasons (94.03%) of the MLAs stating so. This is followed by, for developments (89.55%), political reasons, with 86.57% and for educational reasons (79.10%). Other reasons for wanting information in the past include financial/Economical reasons (68.66%), work-related reasons (67.16%), and legal reasons/security (61.19%). Interestingly, only a minority of MLAs stated that they wanted information for religious reasons (29.85%) or for family/personal reasons (41.79%). Overall, the results suggest that MLAs in Rajasthan have

had a strong interest in obtaining information for political reasons, as well as for decision-making and administrative purposes. However, there also seems to be a significant focus on educational and developmental reasons.

Preferred Sources of Information:-

Approach for information Frequently or Occasionally: Respondents were given a list of organizations and people and asked to indicate whether they would approach them for information frequently or occasionally. People prefer to turn to their close others, such as friends and family, when they need help (see Clark, 1983; Wills, 1991). Hence, it is particularly significant to picture help-seeking and the effect of help-seeking on causal attributions for helping within close relationships. Table 11 shows the frequency of approaching different sources for information. includes two categories, "frequently approach" and "occasionally approach." The table 11 reveals that the most frequently approached source for information is family and friends, with 82.09% of respondents reporting that they frequently approach this source. This is followed by academic libraries (34.33%), offices of government departments and agencies (31.34%), and panchayat or municipal corporations (29.85%).

Table: 11 Frequently or Occasionally Approach for Information

Source	'Frequently Approach' for Information		'Occasionally Approach' for Information	
	No of response	%age	No of response	%age
Offices of Government departments and agencies (e.g. Inland Revenue, Benefits Agency)	21	31.34	17	25.37
Panchayat or Municipal corporation	20	29.85	15	22.39
Local council offices	18	26.87	36	53.73
Post Offices	2	2.99	5	7.46
Academic libraries	23	34.33	25	37.31
Professional/Trade Associations	13	19.4	28	41.79
Information and advice centers	12	17.91	32	47.76
Chambers of Commerce	5	7.46	14	20.90
Family and friends	55	82.09	12	17.91

(Multiple responses were permitted)

In terms of occasionally approaching sources for information, local council offices are the most popular choice with 53.73% of respondents reporting that they occasionally approach this source. This is followed by information and advice centers (47.76%), professional/trade associations (41.79%), and chambers of commerce (20.90%). Post offices are the least frequently approached source for information with only 2.99% of respondents reporting that they frequently approach this source and 7.46% occasionally approaching it. Overall, the table 11 suggests that MLAs in Rajasthan rely on a variety of sources for information, with family and friends being the most frequently approached source and local council offices being the most popular occasional source.

Information Seeking Language: Prefer to Obtain Information:-

Language plays the most impact variable on the information seeking behavior, on the sources, provider, and seeker. Seekers use the language to know and understand properly and effectively, that is why there is demand for information in his/her own language which one can read and write smoothly without feeling any kind of hindrances. Understanding language gives a boost to work on what they want from the system of information. Table 12 below indicates the users' opinion about language and the preferred language of the MLAs. A question was asked to find out the language preferred by the MLAs. The options for language were English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhojpuri, Rajasthani, Jaipuri/Marwari, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Gujarati, Awadhi, Marathi, and Sindhi.

Table: 12 Preferred Language

S.No.	Language	No of the Respondents MLAs	
		Frequency	%age
1	English	11	16.42
2	Hindi	51	76.12
3	Urdu	0	0
4	Bhojpuri	0	0
5	Rajasthani	5	7.46
6	Jaipuri /Marwari	0	0
7	Punjabi	0	0
8	Sanskrit	0	0
9	Gujarati	0	0

10	Awadhi	0	0
11	Marathi	0	0
12	Sindhi	0	0
Total		67	100

The table 12 reports the frequency and percentage of respondents who preferred each language. The majority of MLAs (76.12%) preferred Hindi, while 16.42% preferred English and 7.46% preferred Rajasthani. No respondents preferred the other languages listed in the table. The remaining options (Urdu, Bhojpuri, Jaipuri/Marwari, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Gujarati, Awadhi, Marathi, Sindhi) did not receive any responses and no one preferred, although linguistic survey of the India map indicated their prevalence. The table 12 specifies that Hindi is the most commonly preferred language among the MLAs surveyed. This information could be useful for various purposes, such as government communication, documentation, and policy-making, where the language preference of the target audience needs to be taken into consideration.

Sources of Information:-

Like any other professionals, MLAs have been also using various documentary and non-documentary sources for obtaining their information (see Tables 13, 14 and 15) Researcher tried to find out sources that are commonly used by the respondents for the coverage of their gap of knowledge from various types of sources that are used.

Information Sources: News Paper

Table 13 offerings information sources used by the MLAs of Rajasthan. The data about the sources of latest information in relation to overall sample revealed the highly referred information sources. Multiple choices of responses were given to the respondents as information was collected regarding uses of information sources for public work.

Table: 13 Information Sources: News Paper

S.No.	Particular	Respondents MLAs	
		No of responses	%age
1	The Times of India	35	52.24
2	Hindustan Times	18	26.87
3	The Hindu	23	34.33
4	Indian Express	16	23.88
5	The Chronicle	15	22.39
6	Aaj	6	8.96
7	Amarujala	23	34.33
8	Dainikjagaran	9	13.43
9	Dainikbashkar	45	67.16
10	Jansatta	20	29.85
11	Sahara	22	32.84
12	The Economics Times	25	37.31

(Multiple responses were permitted)

This table 13 shows the responses of the MLAs when asked about their preferred newspapers as a source of information. The data shows that most popular newspaper among the MLAs is Dainik Bhaskar, with 67.16% of respondents indicating that they use it as a source of information. The Times of India is the second most popular newspaper, with 52.24% of respondents indicating that they use it as a source of information. Other popular newspapers include Hindustan Times, The Hindu, Indian Express, and Amar Ujala. A significant proportion of respondents (more than one-third) indicated that they use multiple newspapers as a source of information. This is significant in the sense that Dainikjagaran and Dainikbashkar is very informative on social and political activities in Rajasthan sub-region. Another significant point to consider is the high ranking given to one of the Hindi newspapers, Amarujala. This paper has often been associated with government views and therefore regarded as “pro-government”. Politicians were most dependent than others groups of professional on newspaper contacts for acquisition of useful information. Their primary information source is newspapers to know the information. Local newspaper is the primary source to know the information than other sources.

Political Magazine and Journal:- Table 14 show the use of journal and political magazine by the MLAs, suggests that political journals 74.63% and 82.09% used official publications are the most commonly used sources of information among the MLAs. This could be due to the fact that political journals and official publications are widely available and are considered to be credible sources of information.

Table: 14 Political Magazine and Journal

S.No.	Particulars	No of responses	%age
1	Political Journal	50	74.63
2	Indian Magazine	45	67.16
3	International Magazine	20	29.85
4	NGO Reports Publication	11	16.42
5	Private Company Reports	19	28.36
6	Official Publications	55	82.09

(Multiple responses were permitted)

The use of Indian magazines is also high, which may reflect the interest of the respondents in domestic politics and policy issues. On the other hand, the use of international magazines and NGO reports publication is relatively low, which may suggest that the respondents are less interested in international affairs and the work of non-governmental organizations. The use of private company reports is also relatively low, which may indicate that the respondents are less interested in business and economic issues. Overall, the data suggests that the respondents rely on a range of sources of information, with political journals and official publications being the most commonly used sources. The findings of this study can be useful in understanding the information-seeking behavior of politicians and can be used to inform the development of strategies to improve the quality of political decision-making.

Types of Documents Sought:-

Historical Document: Knowing the party's vote-share and major source of competition at the previous election is important when targeting constituencies and in the determination of how the candidate and local party should attempt to persuade the electorate that their message is more appropriate than that of a rival party.

State Gazette/Census: The political strategist needs to monitor the demographic structure of the constituency on an ongoing basis so that changes can be identified and key voters and citizen groups

(outside an election) located so that appropriate action can be taken. Thus, census data statistics are important in determining the location of the relevant groups since socio-economic (and other relevant targeting) data may have been mapped in the census. This table 16 presents the types of documents that were sought by the MLAs. The table 15 shows the following information: It is also worth noting that multiple responses were permitted, which means that an MLA could have sought more than one type of document. The most sought-after type of document is Geographical document/map/chart, with 82.09% of MLAs seeking such documents. State gazette/census is the second most sought-after type of document, with 80.60% of MLAs seeking them. Historical documents and Biographies are also sought after, with 55.22% and 43.28% of MLAs seeking them respectively. Finally, only 34.33% of MLAs sought Survey reports.

Table 15 Types of documents the sought

S.No.	Particular	MLAs	
		No of responses	%age
1	Biography	29	43.28
2	Historical document	37	55.22
3	Geographical document/map/chart etc.	55	82.09
4	State gazette/ census	54	80.60
5	Survey report	23	34.33

These data suggest that no single mechanism for enabling access to information should be seen as the ultimate solution to the information needs of the MLAs. Rather a complementary range of solutions must be offered to the legislators.

Best Source of Information about the Indian State:- . Which of the following would you describe as the best source of information about the Indian Union?

Table 16 demonstrates the best source of information about the Indian state in the eyes of MLAs of one of the major states of India. The questionnaire then went on to determine which of a range of given media or agencies were the best source of information on Indian states.

Table: 16 Best Source of Information

S. No.	Best Source of Information	Response	
		Frequency	%age
1	Don't know	0	0
2	Libraries	7	10.45
3	Newspapers	22	32.84
4	Political parties	12	17.91
5	Advisory agencies (e.g. Citizens Advice Bureaux)	0	0
6	Television/Radio	13	19.40
7	Special representative groups	8	11.94
8	Government departments	5	7.46
9	Professional/Trade associations	0	0
Total number of respondents		67	100.00

Based on the responses of the members of legislative assembly of Rajasthan, newspapers seem to be the best source of information with a frequency of 22 respondents, which represents 32.84% of the total respondents. The second-best source of information according to the respondents is television/radio with 13 respondents, representing 19.40% of the total respondents. Libraries, political parties, special representative groups, and government departments also received responses, but with lower frequencies. Professional/Trade associations and advisory agencies (e.g. Citizens Advice Bureaux) did not receive any responses.

Findings and Conclusion:-

The researcher conducted this study on information seeking behavior among MLAs through a questionnaire. Despite acknowledged limitations and a small sample size, the researcher believes that the data gathered is sufficient to develop meaningful theories. The study found that MLAs value information highly in a political context and use a wide range of categories in their legislative and national duties, as well as in their personal lives. Based on the data analysis, the researcher provided recommendations for improving the perception of MLAs within information need studies. Additionally, the researcher suggests that MLAs should assess themselves in terms of their strengths and weaknesses related to information seeking. Future research

recommendations are also provided. Information plays a crucial role in decision-making, and its value is closely tied to the decisions that result from its use. The value of information can vary depending on the specific needs and circumstances of the individuals or organizations that use it. Therefore, it is important to consider the specific needs and circumstances of the users when providing information, as well as the timing of when it is provided. Providing information in a timely and relevant manner can increase its value and contribute to more informed decision-making. Following recommended should be experimental.

- i. The methodology should be developed specifically for the government sector and tested on a trial basis on a larger, more representative sample.
- ii. An attempt should be made to develop techniques to assess the potential risk of poor information feed into a political arena.
- iii. Further studies should be undertaken on decision-making processes and information gathering behavior in order to assess cultural and organizational influences on information flow design.
- iv. A demand monitoring system is required to determine what MLAs are currently doing or debating to provide needed information.
- v. The development of techniques to increase awareness of the full range of information resources available should be continued.

The role of information in the work of the MLAs has been acknowledged. However, a better understanding of the information needs and the information-seeking patterns of decision makers is fundamental to the achievement of the MLAs' job objectives. It is when these needs have been determined that efforts can be made to satisfy them.

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