
PERFORMANCE OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SOURCES AND SERVICES OF SIVAKASI BRANCH LIBRARY IN VIRUDHUNAGAR DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines performance of public library sources and services of Sivakasi branch library in Virudhunagar district. The public library helps the students, users and members to collect the reference materials so as to face competitive examination. The public library is the local centre of information, making all kinds of knowledge and information readily available to its users. Besides it public library is useful to the researchers to complete their research work as well public library is the best powerful instrument to provide ability, skill, innovativeness, positive thinking and so on. A library provided essentially as a public service, financial largely out of public money, open with few restrictions small payment or nonpayment. This includes help with searching the internet, which you can do from most public libraries these days.

Keywords: Peoples University, Information Technology, Human Resources Development, Information Centers.

INTRODUCTION

Public libraries play a vital role in the development of human resources. Human Resources Development is one of the services rendered by a public library. Public Library is the "People's University" an agency national educational work. It serves for the general public. All categories of people get opportunity to utilize the library. For many people, this is what a library is - a publicly funded institution that provides books for loan and is used mainly by the very old and the very young. It is probably divided into Lending and Reference, and the Lending stock is split between fiction and non-fiction. The threat to the public library comes partly from the fact that fewer people now read for pleasure, and those who do are more likely to buy their books from Borders or Water stones than borrow them from the library, and, on the non-fiction and reference sides, information is easily and quickly obtainable from the WWW, without the need to make a trip to the library. However, public libraries provide much more than that, such as materials for entertainment and information in a wide range of media. You will also find a lot of information about local services across the spectrum, tailored to the needs of the community served by the library. Above all, you will find professional librarians who are trained to help you find exactly what you are looking for.

PUBLIC LIBRARY – DEFINITION

Public library: A public library is an entity that is *established under state enabling laws or regulators to serve a community, district, or region*, and that provides at least the following: 1) an organized collection of printed or other library materials, or a combination thereof; 2) paid staff; 3) an established schedule in which services of the staff are available to the public; 4) the facilities necessary to support such a collection, staff, and schedule; and 5) is supported in whole or in part with public funds.

A non-profit library established for the use of the general public and maintained chiefly by public funds.

BRANCH LIBRARY

A branch library can be defined as a subject collection located outside the main library. According to Webster's dictionary, a library is "a place in which books, manuscripts, musical scores, or other literary and artistic materials are kept for use but not for sale, a collection of literary or artistic materials, or an institution for the custody or administration of such a collection." However, the definitions found by CGR both in interviews and in research were much more complex and varied. Since this study focused on the RPL branch system, CGR asked city and library officials "what is the role of a branch library, and what is your ideal of what a branch library should be?" Here are some responses that illustrate the range of how leaders in the community view branches:

"Libraries are places to get information",

"Branches are in the book business",

"Branch libraries are part of the bundle of services people expect in their neighborhoods,"

"A branch library is a community resource center",

"Branches of the future are not going to be community or social centers",

"A branch library exists to help people find the information they need and to promote reading",

"My idea is that the branch library of the future would be like a Borders bookstore in the neighborhood",

FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC LIBRARY

The public libraries are expected to perform following functions:

- 1.To serve adult and self education programs of the country.
- 2.To serve a cultural and spiritual center to enlighten general public.
- 3.To serve as a community centre to conduct cultural events and community participation.
- 4.To provide reference and referral services to the general public.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The present study discusses the performance of public library sources and services of Sivakasi branch library in Virudhunagar district. The analysis of nature and type of information required by students in the important aspect of studying information student users' attitude towards public library sources and services is determined by the level of their motivation are taken in to the students level of their study attempts to assess the and collecting various sources and services from libraries.

METHODOLOGY

The required primary data is collected with the help of a suitable questionnaire. This study consists of both primary and secondary data. The percentage is used as a statistical tool.

The researcher has collected 120 samples from the library users and its members in Sivakasi Branch library on the basis of random sampling method. Secondary data is collected from the related registers, records, reports and registers.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the present study were:

1. To analyses the membership pattern of Sivakasi branch library in Virudhunagar district.
2. To analyses of types of materials used by the respondents.
3. To study distribution of satisfaction of Sivakasi branch library facilities
4. To study problem while information seeking from Sivakasi branch library.
5. To study distribution of information sources from Sivakasi branch library.
6. To study distribution of difficulties while seeking information
7. To study satisfaction of reference system available.
8. To study opinion about the library collection

DATA COLLECTION

The data was collected by using empirical methods of questionnaire. The data collected through the questionnaire was analyzed with averages and simple percentages. At first, study was conducted to test the feelings of the respondents in answering the questions. At the time of collecting the filled questionnaire each respondent was requested to offer their comments and opinions on various concepts included in it. Then the well tested questionnaires were distributed personally to the student users of Sivakasi branch library. Sufficient time was given to the respondents in furnishing the information.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

TABLE : 1 DISTRIBUTION OF LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP

S:No	Educational level	Yes	No	Total
1	Up to S.S.L.C.	8	4	12
2	+2	14	8	22
3	Diploma	23	11	34
4	Degree	39	13	52
Total		84	36	120
Percentage		70.00	30.00	100.00

TABLE:1 show the library members of student users. Most of the users (70 %) are the members of the library. Only (30 %) percent of library users are not member of library.

TABLE : 2 ANALYSES OF TYPES OF MATERIALS USED BY THE RESPONDENTS.

S.No	Materials	Up to SSLC	+2	Diploma	Degree	Total	Percentage
1	Text Books	3	5	5	12	25	20.83
2	Periodicals	1	2	4	6	13	10.83
3	Newspaper	5	6	9	17	37	30.83
4	G.K. Books	3	7	10	21	41	34.17
5	Others	-	1	1	2	4	3.33
Total		12	21	29	58	120	100

Table : 2 shows the type of materials used by the students. It is clearly seen that 34.17 % of respondents are using general knowledge books. 30.83 percent of student respondents are using news papers. 20.83 percent of respondents are using text books. 10.83 percent of respondent are using periodicals. Only 3.33 percent of respondents are using in others.

TABLE :3 TO DISTRIBUTION OF SATISFACTION OF LIBRARY FACILITIES:

S. No	Educational Level	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
1	Up to S.S.L.C	4	8	7	-	19
2	+2	1	13	7	-	21
3	Diploma	6	18	12	-	36
4	Degree	9	23	12	-	44
Total		20	62	38	-	120
Percentage		16.67	51.67	31.66	-	100

Table: 3 shows the distribution of satisfaction of the users with the existing library facilities. 51.67 percent of the users good with students to the present library facilities. 31.66 percent of the users satisfied with fair and the remains 16.67 percent of the users were very good satisfied with the current library facilities.

TABLE : 4 PROBLEMS WHILE INFORMATION SEEKING

S.No	Problems	Up to S.S.L.C	+2	Diploma	Degree	Total	Percentage
1	Materials is available	7	20	21	39	87	72.50
2	Material is not available	3	12	8	10	33	27.50
Total		10	32	29	49	120	100

Table: 4 Indicates that 72.50 percent respondents felt that library proper reading materials available. 27.50 percent respondents felt that the reading material facilities are not available in the library.

TABLE : 5 DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION SOURCES

S.No	Information Sources	Up to SSLC	+2	Diploma	Degree	Total	percent
1	Newspaper	5	7	10	13	35	29.17
2	Magazines	4	5	6	8	23	19.17
3	Books	9	7	8	13	37	30.83
4	Others	4	6	6	9	25	20.83
Total		22	25	30	43	120	100

Table : 5 shows the majority of respondents 30.83 seek information from books. The large number of students 29.17 seek information from newspapers. 19.17 percent of respondents like to seek information from magazine.

TABLE:6 DISTRIBUTION OF DIFFICULTIES WHILE SEEKING INFORMATION

S.No	Difficulties	Up to SSLC	+2	Diploma	Degree	Total	percent
1	Inadequate library facilities	6	9	15	32	62	51.67
2	Electricity	4	2	6	8	20	16.67
3	Distance	12	8	4	4	28	23.33
4	Money	6	4	-	-	10	8.33
Total		28	23	25	44	120	100

Table: 6 shows the major difficulties 51.67 percent of respondents unable to obtain their required information due to inadequate library facilities.

TABLE : 7 SATISFACTION OF REFERENCE SYSTEM AVAILABLE

S.No	Educational Level	Yes	No	Total
1	Up to SSLC	6	4	10
2	+2	10	6	16
3	Diploma	20	16	36
4	Degree	42	16	58
Total		78	42	120
Percentage		65	35	100

Table : 7 shows the satisfaction of respondents of reference system available in the library. 65 percent respondents of students are satisfaction of library reference service. Only 35 percent respondents of students are not satisfied with reference services.

TABLE :8 OPINION ABOUT THE LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

S.No	Educational Level	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
1	Up To SSLC	2	9	5	-	16
2	+2	3	12	7	-	22
3	Diploma	5	20	10	-	35
4	Degree	10	25	12	-	47
Total		20	66	34	-	120
Percent		16.67	55.00	28.33	-	100

Table : 8 shows the opinion about the library collections. It reveals that most of the 55.00 percent student respondents that the collections are good. 16.67 percent student respondents that the collections are very good. 28.33 percent student respondents that the collection are fair.

MISSIONS OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

1. Creating and strengthening reading habits in children at an early age;
2. Ensuring access for citizens to all sorts of community information;
3. Fostering inter-cultural dialogue and favoring cultural diversity;
4. Facilitating the development of information and computer literacy skills;
5. Providing opportunities for personal creative development;
6. Providing access to cultural expressions of all performing arts;
7. Providing adequate information services to local enterprises, associations and interest groups;
8. Promoting awareness of cultural heritage, appreciation of the arts, scientific achievements and innovations;
9. Stimulating the imagination and creativity of children and young people;
10. Supporting the oral tradition;
11. Supporting both individual and self conducted education as well as formal education at all levels;

LIMITATIONS

The study is confined to the users of branch library in Sivakasi. Investigator has taken only Sivakasi public library. Stratified random sampling is taken for the study to find out student users' attitude towards public library sources and services of this library. This covers urban area of Sivakasi Taluk alone.

CONCLUSION

The public library, the local gateway to knowledge, provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development of the individual and social groups. The services of the public library are provided on the basis of equality of access for all, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, nationality, language or social status. Specific services and materials must be provided for those who cannot, for whatever reason, use the regular services and materials, for example linguistic minorities, people with disabilities or people in hospital or prison. All age groups must find material relevant to their needs. Collections and services have to include all types of appropriate media and modern technologies as well as traditional materials. High quality and relevance to local needs and conditions are fundamental. Material must reflect current trends and the evolution of society, as well as the memory of human Endeavour and imagination. Collections and services should not be subject to any form of ideological, political or religious censorship, nor commercial pressure.

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