

Public Libraries in Vellore District: A Study**Harish H T**

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ABSTRACT

The present study examines the Study of data collected from librarians and users by administering questionnaires among them to elicit their attitude towards reading habits and purpose of the visiting of libraries at Vellore Public Library Tamilnadu. It indicates the purpose of reading, preference of language, form of library collection, assistance from the library staff in the use of resources and services necessary to help users meet their information requirements. The findings are that people are unable to visit the library regularly due to lack or shortage of time, and literature is mostly read by the serious users and magazines and newspapers are the most common forms preferred by the readers.

Keywords : Users Study; Information Seeking Behavior; Public Library, Vellore public library.

1. INTRODUCTION:

The ability of a nation to use and create knowledge as capital determines its capacity to empower and enable its citizens by increasing human capabilities. India needs knowledge – oriented paradigm of development to give its people and institutions a competitive advantage in all fields of knowledge. Libraries, specially the public libraries, have been termed the people's university by UNESCO. Public libraries manifesto issued by the UNESCO considers public library as a living force for education, culture and information”

The National knowledge commission therefore “took it as one of its first initiative to review library services and to examine the present standards of public, private, institutional and specialized libraries and create mechanisms and institutions that will serve the people”

Reading is considered as a stepping stone to success, not just in schools but also throughout the adult life of an individual. Reading is regarded as a process, a mode of thinking, a kind of real experience and it involves many complex skills: the ability to perceive printed words, to skim for information and then perhaps read intensively. With adult readers, it is also found that reading contributes significantly to job success, career development and ability to respond to change. “Reading makes an informed citizen fit for democracy. Effective reading is pre-requisite for full participation in modern society” is the UNESCO’s view.

Reading habit has been an area of active interest among the librarians and information scientists. It results from the recognition of some need perceived by the user, who as a

consequence makes demand upon formal system such as libraries, information centres, or other persons in order to satisfy the perceived need.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

A significant case study was done by Dhanasekar P (1993) to look in to the Public Library Services to Children in Madras City; Tamilnadu . He concluded that the number of circle libraries with children's section is too small to cater to the needs of children of the city of Madras. There are fewer female children going to Libraries than male children. There are fewer children in the lower age groups and lower levels in schools using the libraries than children in higher age groups and higher classes. No library has any worthwhile collection of materials other than books. The book collection in the libraries and their use by children both reveal a strong bias towards fiction. This situation needs to be corrected by developing a more balanced collection. Interestingly children from lower economic groups constitute a major segment of library users.

A significant case study was done by Purushothaman A (1998) to look in to the Public Library Services in Neyveli; Tamilnadu. He concluded that the input and the output of the Neyveli Public Library are found to be better than the average input and the output of the public libraries coming under the legislation based public library system of Tamilnadu in general and the public libraries in South Arcot District in particular. The figures relating to registration as a percentage of population indicate a downward trend in the Neyveli Public Library. It is suggested that the library should formulate strategies that help it reaching the public more effectively. The turn over rate is found to be decreasing from 10 to 2 over the period of 26 years. It is also found out that the number of persons visiting the library also has come down during the past 25 years. Neyveli public library is not put to satisfactory use of the public.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of this study have been as follows;

- To know whether people still manage to go to the library despite their busy schedules.
- To find out the reasons responsible for people not going to the library.
- To ascertain which group of people go to the library more.
- To find out the language of preference for reading.
- To know whether people find reading pleasurable or boring.
- To find how much time people spend on reading.
- To know the impact that reading has on the people.
- To find out User's expectations as regards to the book collection, and the services of the library staff.

4. SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The present study focused on collection from only 10, 3rd grade DBL in Vellore district from 49, 3rd grade libraries. Grade I, Grade II, Record clerk and local libraries are not included in data collection, only 10, 3rd grade DBL from 49, 3rd grade libraries are included.

5. METHODOLOGY

Questionnaire Method has been employed to elicit the required information. Some questions were open-ended and some were choice questions. The investigator personally distributed

and collected the response by reaching each respondent. This facilitated in collecting ninety percent response.

6. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

6.1 DETAILS ABOUT AGE GROUPS OF USERS OF 10, 3RD GRADE DBL OF VELLORE DISTRICT

Age has an important influence on the use of information in general and public library Resources in particular. It is assumed that younger the age, higher is the usage of public library resources. But the study found that the higher in age members use public library more. The Age wise details of DBL public library user's respondents are shown in table 6.1 and figure 6.1. The age of the users of 10, 3rd grade DBL of Vellore district is arranged in different age groups. It is clear from the table that majority of the respondents numbering 46-55 years are being the majority i.e.35 (24.13%) in DBL walaja. The least number of visitors according to age group are from above 65 years i.e. 2(2.35%) in DBL, kaveripakkam. The table clearly shows that users in the age group between 46 and 55 are the highest.

Table 6.1
Details About Age Groups of Users of 10, 3rd Grade Dbl of Vellore District

S/ N	Range	DBL, Arcot	DBL, Walaja	DBL, Thimiri	DBL, Melvish aram	DBL, Sathuva chari	DBL, Kaveri pakkam	DBL, Pana pakkam	DBL, Minnal	DBL, Kalavai	DBL, Ammoor
1.	Below 15 Years	11 (7.33)	15 (10.34)	20 (16.66)	5 (5.10)	10 (11.76)	12 (14.11)	10 (12.5)	7 (10.76)	7 (11.66)	8 (13.33)
2.	15-25 Years	30 (20)	15 (10.34)	25 (20.83)	20 (20.40)	23 (27.05)	20 (23.52)	20 (25)	10 (15.38)	10 (16.66)	7 (11.66)
3.	26-35 Years	35 (23.33)	20 (13.79)	20 (16.66)	10 (10.20)	17 (20)	21 (24.70)	10 (12.5)	15 (23.07)	6 (10)	15 (25)
4.	36-45 Years	15 (10)	20 (13.79)	11 (9.16)	20 (20.40)	9 (10.58)	12 (14.11)	7 (8.75)	8 (12.30)	15 (25)	6 (10)
5.	46-55 Years	25 (16.66)	35 (24.13)	16 (13.33)	10 (10.20)	10 (11.76)	8 (9.41)	8 (10)	10 (15.38)	15 (25)	14 (23.33)
6.	56-65 Years	20 (13.33)	15 (10.34)	10 (8.33)	5 (5.10)	10 (11.76)	8 (9.41)	5 (6.25)	5 (7.69)	3 (5)	2 (3.33)
7.	Above 65 years	5 (3.33)	5 (3.44)	5 (4.16)	18 (18.36)	3 (3.52)	2 (2.35)	2 (2.5)	5 (7.69)	2 (3.33)	3 (5)
8.	Non - respondent s	9 (6)	20 (13.79)	13 (10.83)	10 (10.20)	3 (3.52)	2 (2.35)	18 (22.5)	5 (7.69)	2 (3.33)	5 (8.33)
	Total	150 (99.98)	145 (99.96)	120 (99.96)	98 (99.96)	85 (99.95)	85 (99.96)	80 (100)	65 (99.96)	60 (99.98)	60 (99.98)

From the above Table 4.1 we can access data about age groups of users of 10, 3rd grade district branch libraries of Vellore district

6.2 DETAILS ABOUT QUALIFICATION OF USERS OF 10, 3RD GRADE DBL OF VELLORE DISTRICT

Qualification has an important influence on the use of information in general and public library Resources in particular. It is assumed that post graduates use of public library resources. But the study found that graduates use public library more. The qualification wise details of DBL public library user's respondents are shown in table 6.2 and figure 6.2. The qualification of the users of 10, 3rd grade DBL of Vellore district is arranged in different groups. It is clear from the table that majority the majority of respondents who visited the 3rd grade DBL of Vellore district are graduates of DBL, walaja i.e., 33(22.75%) and the least are post graduates of DBL Thimiri i.e.,4(3.33%).

Table 6.2
Qualification of users of 10, 3rd grade DBL of Vellore district

Sl. No	Level of Education	DBL, Arcot	DBL, Walaja	DBL, Thimiri	DBL, Melvisharam	DBL, Sathuva chari	DBL, Kaveri pakkam	DBL, Pana pakkam	DBL, Minnal	DBL, Kalavai	DBL, Ammoo r
1.	Below Secondary	21 (14)	22 (15.17)	25 (20.83)	6 (6.12)	13 (15.29)	14 (16.47)	15 (18.75)	8 (12.30)	8 (13.33)	9 (15)
2.	Secondary	10 (6.66)	10 (6.89)	10 (8.33)	15 (15.30)	12 (14.11)	10 (11.76)	15 (18.75)	10 (15.38)	7 (11.66)	6 (10)
3.	Diploma /Higher Secondary	15 (10)	25 (17.24)	25 (20.83)	20 (20.40)	11 (12.94)	18 (21.17)	15 (18.75)	5 (7.69)	6 (10)	7 (11.66)
4.	Under graduate	23 (15.33)	20 (13.79)	15 (12.50)	15 (15.30)	10 (11.76)	10 (11.76)	11 (13.75)	15 (23.07)	9 (15)	11 (18.33)
5.	Graduate	28 (18.66)	33 (22.75)	11 (9.16)	8 (8.16)	12 (14.11)	12 (14.11)	6 (7.5)	8 (12.30)	5 (8.33)	5 (8.33)
6.	Post graduate	25 (16.66)	20 (13.79)	4 (3.33)	7 (7.14)	10 (11.76)	13 (15.29)	10 (12.5)	9 (13.84)	11 (18.33)	8 (13.33)
7.	Non-respondents	28 (18.66)	15 (10.34)	30 (25)	27 (27.55)	17 (20)	8 (9.41)	8 (10)	10 (15.38)	14 (23.33)	14 (23.33)
	Total	150 (99.97)	145 (99.97)	120 (99.48)	98 (99.97)	85 (99.97)	85 (99.97)	80 (100)	65 (99.96)	60 (99.98)	60 (99.98)

Table 6.2 shows the qualifications of users of 10, 3rd grade district branch libraries of Vellore district.

6.3 DETAILS ABOUT FREQUENCY OF VISIT 10, 3RD GRADE DBL OF VELLORE DISTRICT

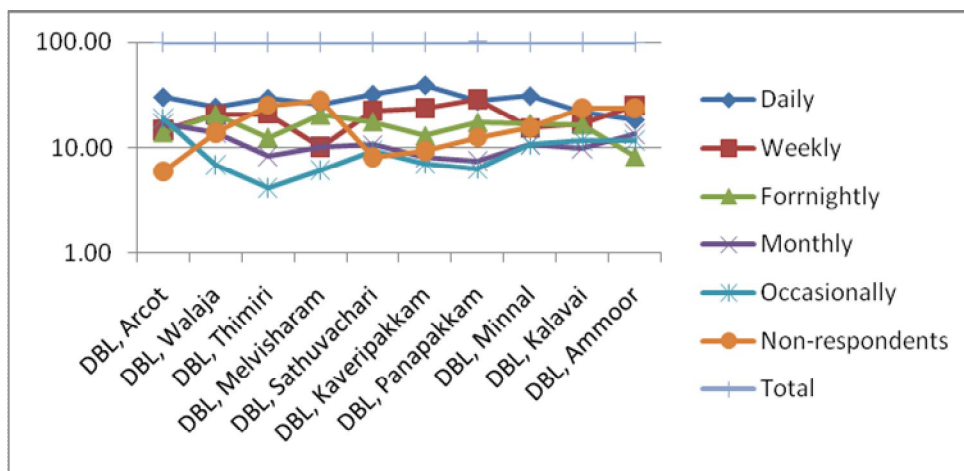
The respondents were divided in to five groups: Daily, Weekly, Fort nightly, Monthly, and Occasionally. Arcot has the highest frequency of visit as daily i.e., 45(30%) and DBL, Thimiri has the least frequency of visit as 5(4.16%). The tabulated data are as follows;

Table 4.3 Frequency of Visit

Sl. No	Frequency	DBL, Arcot	DBL, Walaja	DBL, Thimiri	DBL, Melvisharam	DBL, Sathuva chari	DBL, Kaveri pakkam	DBL, Pana pakkam	DBL, Minnal	DBL, Kalavai	DBL, Ammoo r
1.	Daily	45 (30)	35 (24.13)	35 (29.16)	25 (25.51)	27 (31.76)	33 (38.82)	22 (27.5)	20 (30.76)	13 (21.66)	11 (18.33)
2.	Weekly	22 (14.66)	30 (20.68)	25 (20.83)	10 (10.20)	19 (22.35)	20 (23.52)	23 (28.75)	10 (15.38)	10 (16.66)	15 (25)
3.	Fort nightly	21 (14)	30 (20.68)	15 (12.5)	20 (20.40)	15 (17.64)	11 (12.94)	14 (17.5)	11 (16.92)	10 (16.66)	5 (8.33)
4.	Monthly	25 (16.66)	20 (13.79)	10 (8.33)	10 (10.20)	9 (10.58)	7 (8.23)	6 (7.5)	7 (10.76)	6 (10)	8 (13.33)
5.	Occasionally	28 (18.66)	10 (6.89)	5 (4.16)	6 (6.12)	8 (9.41)	6 (7.05)	5 (6.25)	7 (10.76)	7 (11.66)	7 (11.66)
6.	Non-respondents	9 (6)	20 (13.79)	30 (25)	27 (27.55)	7 (8.23)	8 (9.41)	10 (12.5)	10 (15.38)	14 (23.33)	14 (23.33)

Table 6.3 denotes the frequency of the visit of users of 10, 3rd grade district branch libraries in Vellore district

FIGURE 6.3 SHOWS ABOUT FREQUENCY OF VISIT 10, 3RD GRADE DBL OF VELLORE DISTRICT



CONCLUSION

Public libraries are treasure house of the human knowledge. They are called as social institutions since they play a pivotal role in the developments of the society. More over public libraries are social service organizations. Knowledge should have to be transmitted from earlier generations to later generation and for that public libraries play vital role. The public libraries are the basic information units of the rural India. By the development of public library system it is possible to achieve development in social and economic field of the nation and society.

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