

STUDENT USERS' ATTITUDE TOWARDS PUBLIC LIBRARY SOURCES AND SERVICES OF SANKARANKOVIL BRANCH LIBRARY

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ABSTRACT

The impact information technology on information professionals has become deeply rooted that demands continuous improvement of professional skills of the information professionals. The public library helps the students, users and members to collect the reference materials so as to face competitive examination. 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.

Keywords: People's University, Information Centres, Human Resource Development

1. INTRODUCTION

Modern Society as learning society information has changed the quality of life information cautiousness is widespread now and is reflected in the modern society information treats library as nodal points of local information dissemination. A public library is considered as an essential part of society as it plays a vital role in the diffusion of ideas the creative use of leisure time preservation of national heritage, social, cultural and educational development of the community.

A public library is intended as an auxiliary educational institution providing a means of self-education which is endless, which is giving reliable information freely and without partiality or prejudice on a wide variety of subjects. It satisfies the interest of readers while they enter in to the library because it possesses large number of books, journals, magazines, periodicals, reports and news papers. For the purpose of study, library is maintained either by Government or Trusts or societies where any member of the public can become member irrespective of class, caste, creed, and sex. Income or political beliefs are considered to be public whether the membership or services are free or chargeable. By and large, public library is inextricable and imperative to change readers' attitudes.

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. Human resources cannot be compared with the country's other natural resources such as, Water resources, soil and mineral resources because human resources are the nucleus of all other activities. Hence, it is the duty of

the Government to enrich human resources in all spheres. The part played by public libraries in enriching human beings cannot be much emphasized.

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

“Information communication, library and community development” edited by **Ramesh Babu B and Gopal Krishnan S (2004)** is a two volume festschrift in honour of C.P. Vashishth. The festschrift includes 76 papers on various themes. Some articles are related with the rural development, such as information support for rural development, public libraries as community information centres and their role in rural development, community information sources and library services for rural people, outreach centres for inspiring rural change in India, Panchayat Raj and rural public libraries in India.

Perumalsamy K and Karunanithi R (2002) everybody needs information and a farmer needs most. Library is an important instrument in bringing about cultural, social, scientific and technological transformation of a society. The existing documents related to the user’s need, to organize and display them in various ways and finally to meet the user’s exceptions. If a library fails to do so, it will fast become an extinct species. Owing to this basic fight for survival libraries need to, move in pace with the latest trends.

Raju K A (2000) in his article emphasis’s on a need for redesign the traditional public library and its services to the information needs of rural areas. He also describes public information centres established by NIRD. The main objective of PICs (Public Information Centres) will be to provide information on rural development programmes. He has discussed various issues involved in it.

Thye Chan Seng (1995) highlighted that public libraries in Singapore provide information regarding referral services according to the needs of rural community, so that they can face the problems of their daily life.

“Library as rural community resource centers” edited by **Vashishth C P (1995)** contains papers and proceedings of the workshop on rural community resource centers, held at New Delhi, August 28-29, 1992.. The volume contains twenty one papers to mainly relate the rural community rural information resource centre sect.

Prasad H N (1992) has attempted to present a clear exposition of the fundamental elements of information needs and users. The book describes various phenomena of information need and user needs, it also describes some major user studied conducted in the world.

Sarada K (1986) concluded that, the available sources of information are under utilized. Information needs are categorized in two parts, firstly common needs which includes health and hygiene, child care, family welfare, employment, housing, food, credit and market facilities. Secondly special needs of people like farmers, women, labours, students ect. The contents includes chapters on village community, library survey, the library and the community, information needs, forms of library services and library policies.

3. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The information needs can be assessed on the basis of duration and quantum of the utilization in search of information in libraries of their users; and so the time aspect had been brought within the purview of the present study. 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. The present study discusses the "**Student users' Attitude towards Public Library Sources and Services of Branch Library Sankarankovil**".

4. METHODOLOGY

This study consists of both primary and secondary data. The required primary data is collected with the help of a suitable questionnaire. The researcher has collected 90 samples from the library users and its members in Sankarankovil Branch library on the basis of random sampling method. Secondary data is collected from the related registers, records and reports. The percentage is used as a statistical tool.

4.1 Objectives

The following are the major objectives of the present study:

- i) To analyse the membership pattern of the Sankarankovil public library in Tirunelveli district.
- ii) Identification of the information needs of the village community and designing the probable means for satisfying their needs;
- iii) To find out the opinion about the information sources.
- iv) To find out the factors which affect the process of information seeking.

4.2 Data Collection

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

4.3 Limitations

The study is confined to the users of branch library in Sankarankovil. Investigator has taken only Sankarankovil 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 rural area of Sankarankovil Taluk alone.

5. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table – 1 Distribution of Library Membership

S. No	Educational Level	Yes	No	Total
1	Up to +2	18	6	24
2	Diploma	6	3	9
3	Under Graduate	30	3	33
4	Post Graduate	18	6	24
Total		72	18	90
Percentage		80.00	20.00	100

Table 1 shows the library members of student users. Most of the users (80%) are the members of the library. Only 20 percent of library users are not members of library.

Table – 2 Distribution of Information Sources

S. No	Information Sources	Up to +2	Diploma	Under Graduate	Post Graduate	Total	%
1	Television	1	1	2	2	6	6.67
2	Radio	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Cinema	1	-	-	1	2	2.23
4	News paper	10	5	14	6	35	38.88
5	Magazines	6	1	3	3	13	14.44
6	Books	6	2	14	12	34	37.78
Total		24	9	33	24	90	100

Table 2 shows the majority of respondents (38.88%) seek information from news papers. A large number of students (37.78%) seek information from books. 14.44 percent of respondents like to seek information from magazines.

Table – 3 Analysis of Types of Materials Used by the Respondents

S. No	Materials	Up to +2	Diploma	Under Graduate	Post Graduate	Total	%
1	Text books	4	1	11	6	22	24.45
2	Periodicals	5	-	5	4	14	15.55
3	News papers	7	4	8	3	22	24.45
4	Government Publication	-	1	2	1	4	4.44
5	Pamphlets	-	-	-	1	1	1.11
6	General Knowledge books	7	3	7	9	26	28.89
7	Other	1	-	-	-	1	1.11
Total		24	9	33	24	90	100

Table 3 shows the type of materials used by the students. It is clearly seen that 28.89 percent of respondents are using General Knowledge books. 24.45 percent of student respondents are using in text books and newspapers. 15.55 percent of respondents are using periodicals. 4.44 percent of respondents are using in Government publication. Only 1.11 percent of student is using other books and pamphlets.

Table – 4 Distribution of Satisfaction of Library Facilities

S. No	Educational Level	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Total
1	Up to +2	5	17	2	-	-	24
2	Diploma	3	5	1	-	-	9
3	Under Graduate	6	19	8	-	-	33
4	Post Graduate	9	12	3	-	-	24
Total		23	53	14	-	-	90
Percentage		25.56	58.89	15.55	-	-	100

Table 4 shows the distribution of satisfaction of the users with the existing library facilities. 58.89 percent of the users satisfied with students to the present library facilities. 25.56 percent of the users satisfied to same extent and the remaining 15.55 percent of the users were fairly satisfied with the current library facilities.

Table – 5 Opinion about the Library Collections

S. No	Educational Level	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Total
1	Up to+2	6	17	1	-	-	24
2	Diploma	3	4	2	-	-	9
3	Under Graduate	5	22	6	-	-	33
4	Post Graduate	9	13	2	-	-	24
Total		23	56	11	-	-	90
Percentage		25.56	62.22	12.22	-	-	100

Table 5 shows the opinion about the library collections. It reveals that most of the (62.22%) student respondents that the collections are good. 25.56 percent student respondents felt that the collections are very good. 12.22 percent student respondents that the collections are fair.

Table – 6 Satisfaction of Reference system Available

S. No	Educational Level	Yes	No	Total
1	Up to +2	23	1	24
2	Diploma	6	3	9
3	Under Graduate	30	3	33
4	Post Graduate	22	2	24
Total		81	9	90
Percentage		90.00	10.00	100

Table 6 shows the satisfaction of respondents of reference system available in the library. 90 percent respondents of students are satisfaction of library reference services. Only 10 percent

respondents of students are not satisfied with reference services.

Table – 7 Distribution of Difficulties while Seeking Information

S. No	Difficulties	Up to +2	Diploma	Under Graduate	Post Graduate	Total	%
1	Language	4	2	4	7	17	18.89
2	Distance	5	2	12	7	26	28.89
3	Money	3	2	2	1	8	8.89
4	Electricity	2	-	4	3	9	10.00
5	Inadequate facility of library	1	-	2	2	5	5.56
6	Any other	9	3	9	4	25	27.77
Total		24	9	33	24	90	100

Table 7 shows the major difficulties (28.89%) of respondents unable to obtain their required information due to distance.

Table – 8 Problems while Information Seeking

S. No	Problems	Up to +2	Diploma	Under Graduate	Post Graduate	Total	%
1	Materials is not Available	10	6	12	11	39	43.33
2	lacks Proper Reading Facilities	14	3	21	13	51	56.67
Total		24	9	33	24	90	100

Table 8 indicates that 56.67 percent respondents felt that library proper reading facilities. 43.33 percent respondents felt that the facilities are not available in the library to their information needs.

6. SUGGESTIONS

1. There is an essential need to make the rural people literate/educated for understanding the importance of information in their lives.
2. Some orientation camps from to time should be held at local/village level in rural areas to make the rural people aware that information can change their life.
3. Information structure in every village in state/country should be strengthened to ensure required information support for speedy rural development.
4. Career guidance programmes should be run for rural educated persons/students, and also provide them technical training, so that they can get employment.
5. A number of people in rural areas are not familiar with computers. Computer may be that tool for providing information to the rural people. In rural areas most of the people are not familiar with the Internet. While internet can play a vital role in the rural

development, maximum rural libraries should be connected with internet, and with the help of library professionals rural people should be made with it.

7. CONCLUSION

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 utilise the library. The public libraries should be established in the “center of the city”. The public libraries promote the use of the public as education agencies for the individual; promote the creation of specialized resources; promote the use of public libraries as information centers; promote the use of public libraries as referral points to specialized source of information; promote and encourage the use of public libraries as centers where individuals can take part in the arts in a positive way; encourage the use of public libraries as cultural information centers; and promote the provision of general leisure materials for the individuals; and promote the provision of leisure and amenity services of special groups in the community.

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