Use of Public Libraries in Vellore District: A Study

Sangeetha S.
Research Scholar
Alagappa University
Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu
e-mail: sangita197718@gmail.com

Harish H T
Librarian & Head
Sai Vidya Institute of Technology
Bengaluru- 560064
e-mail: drharishht19@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The present study examines the category of users, Availability of reading materials to visit libraries at Vellore Public Library Tamilnadu. The major findings of the study category of users per day in 3rd grade of District Branch Libraries (DBL) of Vellore district majority are others in DBL, Thimiri i.e., 30(25%) and second highest is teachers and faculty members in DBL, Arcot i.e., 30(20%). The availability of reading materials need by clientele in 3rd grade DBL of Vellore district is Missing or Not Found at all in DBL, Ammoor i.e.,19(31.66%).

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

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"

Usually, the book has been playing a very significant and salutary role. The abodes of books are usually called as "Libraries". A library also has been a wonderful work of man. In simple terms, a library is a place where books of several types, published and even hand-written materials of value and virtue with both distant and recent origins are arranged scientifically and preserved carefully. Readers can use then there itself or borrow for an period use than and return them promptly without damages of any sorts. Libraries are always considered as store houses of knowledge even since their existence in pre-historic period.

The major sphere of work of the Madras library association was the public library system of the country. For twenty years, the association engaged itself without respite in preparing the awakening public to sense their library rights. In 1948, the government of Madras give a lead in the development of the public library system of the country by placing the Madras public libraries act on the statute book for the help of the state and local library authorities, a hand book published in 1953 (34). In 1954, this example stimulated the neighbouring state of Hyderabad to put its own public libraries act on the statute book. As a result of the reorganizing of the states of India in 1956, a library act is now in force in the whole of the

Madras state and Andhra Pradesh. It is also in force in some of the districts of Kerala, Mysore state and Bombay state, transported to them from Madras, Andhra Pradesh and Hyderabad. There observer chance of all the states in south India soon having a comprehensive statutory public library system.

Related Studies

Karunakar N & Patil (2018) they opined that Public library is a library that is accessible by the general public and is generally funded from public sources (such as taxes) and operated by civil servants. Public libraries today play an important role in the life of the community. Totally 200 users were surveyed with the help of a structured questionnaire as a tool for data collection. The main aim of the study is to find out the people of branch library users have the habit of reading or not. Reading makes that full man, conference a ready man, writing an exact man is a very popular quotation of the great philosopher Sir Francis Bacon. The study mainly focused on language preferences, purpose of visit of library, types of reading materials used by the public library users, Frequency of library visit by the public library users, amount of time spent in library, level of satisfaction with available resources. For this purpose the researcher prepared a well structured questionnaire as a tool for data collection and same has been analyzed and presented in the tables. The article concluded with summarized the results highlights the major findings and suggestions.

Sanjukta Sahoo & Trishna Bhui (2018) they reveals that the highest number of contribution in public library research has been done in the year 2013 with 7 number of thesis. The keywords like library, public, study, development etc are mostly used in the title of the theses. From zipf's law, rank and frequency of words have been calculated. Tridib Tripathi from Burdwan University has guided the highest number of theses during the study period. Karnataka University ranked first by contributing highest number of theses on public library from 1977 to 2016 and solo guided researches are more predominant than jointly guided research.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study have been as follows;
- To ascertain which category of people use library more.
- To find the availability of materials is sufficient to users.
- To know which factor influence user.
- To find out User's expectations as regards to the book collection.

Scope and Limitation of the Study

The present study focused on collection from only 10, 3rd grade District Branch Libraries (DBL) in Vellore district from 49, 3rd grade libraries. Only 10, 3rd grade DBL from 49, 3rd grade libraries are included.

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.

1. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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

Below Table 6.1 and Figure 6.1 shows rregarding category of users per day in 3rd grade DBL of Vellore district majority are others in DBL, Thimiri i.e., 30(25%) and second highest is teachers and faculty members in DBL, Arcot i.e., 30(20%). The least are researchers in DBL, Melvisharam i.e., 1(1.02%) and Womens are Nil in DBL, Melvisharam. Researchers are Nil in DBL, Thimiri, DBL, Kaveripakkam, DBL, Panapakkam, DBL,Minnal, DBL,Kalavai, DBL,Ammoor.
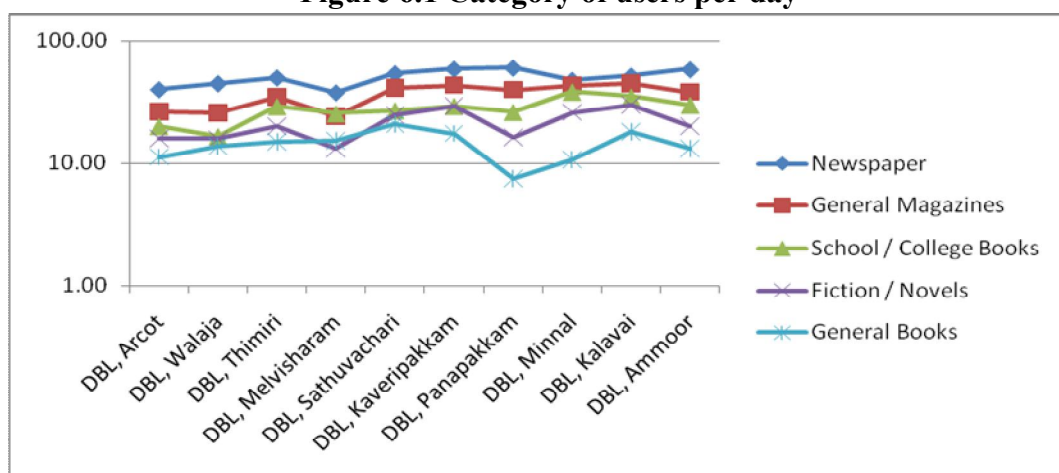
Table 6.1 gives details about Category of users per day of 10, 3rd grade district branch libraries of Vellore district

Sl. No.	Category of Users	DBL Arcot	DBL Walajah	DBL Thimiri	DBL Melvisharam	DBL Sathuvachari	DBL Kaveripakkam	DBL Panapakkam	DBL Minnal	DBL Kalavai	DBL Ammoor
1.	Teachers & Faculty Members	30 (20)	20 (3.79)	10 (8.33)	10 (10.20)	7 (8.23)	10 (11.76)	15 (18.75)	15 (23.07)	6 (10)	5 (8.33)
2.	Researchers	5 (3.33)	10 (6.89)	- Nil -	1 (1.02)	2 (2.35)	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Students	10 (6.66)	20 (10.34)	10 (8.33)	20 (20.40)	17 (20)	10 (11.76)	15 (18.75)	10 (15.38)	10 (16.66)	11 (18.33)
4.	Children	11 (7.33)	15 (10.34)	20 (6.66)	5 (5.10)	10 (11.76)	12 (14.11)	10 (12.5)	7 (10.76)	7 (11.66)	8 (13.33)
5.	Unemployed	20 (13.33)	25 (17.24)	25 (2.83)	20 (20.40)	15 (17.64)	23 (27.05)	15 (18.75)	5 (7.6)	8 (13.33)	7 (11.66)
6.	Retired	25 (16.66)	20 (13.79)	10 (8.33)	15 (15.30)	7 (8.23)	10 (11.76)	7 (8.75)	10 (15.38)	5 (8.33)	4 (6.66)
7.	House wives	21 (14)	20 (13.79)	15 (12.5)	- Nil -	10 (11.76)	12 (14.11)	8 (10)	8 (12.30)	10 (18.33)	11 (16.66)
8.	Others	28 (18.66)	15 (10.34)	30 (25)	27 (27.55)	17 (20)	8 (9.41)	10 (12.5)	10 (15.38)	14 (23.33)	14 (23.33)
9.	Total	150 (99.97)	145 (99.98)	120 (99.98)	98 (99.67)	85 (99.97)	85 (99.96)	80 (100)	65 (99.96)	60 (99.97)	60 (99.97)

Note: *within the parenthesis indicates percentage*

The above Table 6.1 gives details about Category of users per day of 10, 3rd grade district branch libraries of Vellore district

Figure 6.1 Category of users per day

6.2 DETAILS ABOUT AVAILABILITY OF READING MATERIALS NEED BY CLIENTELE IN 10, 3RD GRADE DBL OF VELLORE DISTRICT
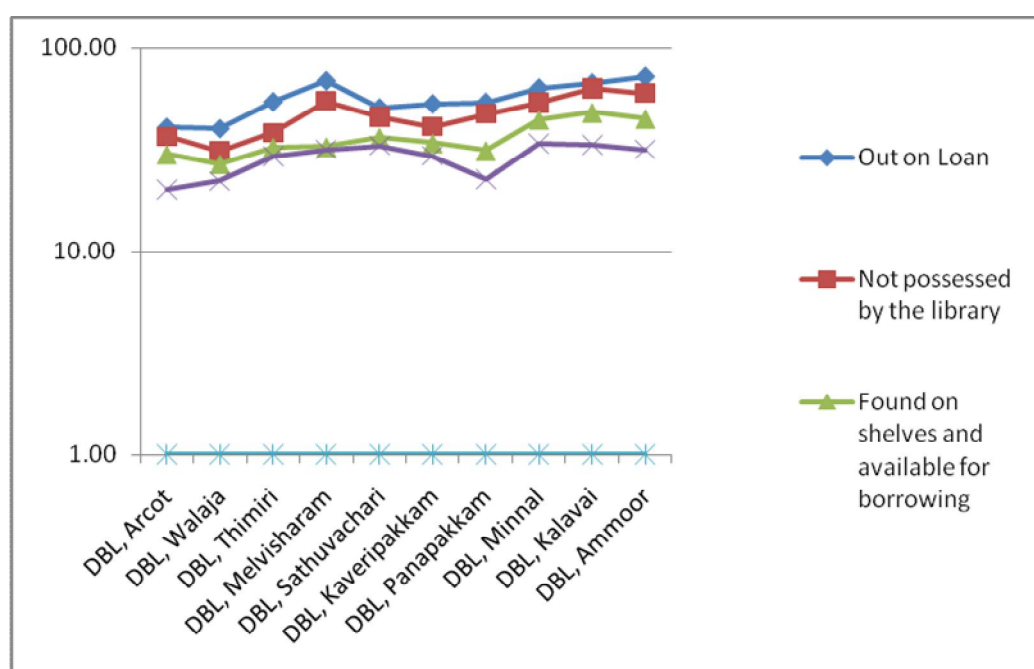
Availability of resources has an important influence on the use of information in general and public library Resources in particular. Regarding availability of resources in 3rd grade DBL of Vellore district shown in table 6.2 and figure 6.2. Major findings in availability of reading materials need by clientele in 3rd grade DBL of Vellore district is Missing or Not Found at all in DBL, Ammoor i.e.,19(31.66%).

Table 6.2 Availability of Reading Materials Need by clientele

S/N	Materials Needed	DBL, Arcot	DBL, Walaja	DBL, Thimiri	DBL, Melvisharam	DBL, Sathuvachari	DBL, Kaveripakkam	DBL, Panapakkam	DBL, Minnal	DBL, Kalavai	DBL, Ammoor
1	Out on Loan	61 (40.66)	58 (40)	65 (54.16)	67 (68.36)	43 (50.58)	45 (52.94)	43 (53.75)	41 (63.07)	40 (66.66)	43 (71.66)
2	Not possessed by the library	55 (36.66)	45 (31.03)	46 (38.33)	54 (55.10)	39 (45.88)	35 (41.17)	38 (47.5)	35 (53.84)	38 (63.33)	36 (60)
3.	Found on shelves and available for borrowing	45 (30)	39 (26.89)	39 (32.5)	32 (32.65)	31 (36.47)	29 (34.11)	25 (31.25)	29 (44.61)	29 (48.33)	27 (45)
4.	Not found at all (Missing)	30 (20)	32 (22.06)	35 (29.16)	31 (31.63)	28 (32.94)	25 (29.41)	18 (22.5)	22 (33.84)	20 (33.33)	19 (31.66)
5.	On reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 6.2 gives details about availability of reading materials need by clientele of 10, 3rd grade district branch libraries of Vellore district

Figure 6.2 Availability of Reading Materials Need by clientele

6.3 DETAILS ABOUT FACTORS NOT INFLUENCING THE USERS OF 10, 3RD GRADE DBL OF VELLORE DISTRICT

6.4

A factor has an important influence on the use of information in general and public library Resources in particular. Regarding factors not influencing the users in 3rd grade DBL of Vellore district shown in table 6.3 and figure 6.3. Major factors not influencing the users in 3rd grade DBL of Vellore district are opening hrs not convenient by users of DBL, kalavai i.e., 29(48.33%) and lack of books by users of DBL, Ammoor i.e., 29(48.33%).

Table 6.3 Factors not influencing the users

Sl. No	Reasons for irregular use	DBL, Arcot	DBL, Walaja	DBL, Thimiri	DBL, Melvisharam	DBL, Sathuvachari	DBL, Kaveri pakkam	DBL, Pana pakkam	DBL, Minnal	DBL, Kalavai	DBL, Ammoor
1.	Lack of books	56 (37.33)	45 (31.03)	34 (28.33)	30 (30.61)	32 (37.64)	26 (30.5)	48 (60)	28 (43.07)	23 (38.33)	29 (48.33)
2.	Noisy environment of library	23 (15.33)	30 (20.68)	5 (4.16)	7 (7.14)	15 (17.64)	6 (7.05)	16 (20)	5 (7.69)	11 (1.83)	16 (26.66)
3.	Lack of seating space/ arrangement	25 (16.66)	24 (16.55)	13 (10.83)	19 (19.38)	39 (45.88)	13 (15.29)	40 (50)	12 (18.46)	39 (65)	26 (43.33)
4.	Distance	16 (10.66)	7 (4.82)	3 (2.5)	8 (8.16)	24 (28.23)	8 (9.41)	4 (5)	-	25 (41.66)	16 (26.66)
5.	Invisibility/ improper location of the library	11 (7.33)	8 (5.51)	18 (15)	6 (6.12)	16 (18.82)	12 (14.11)	8 (10)	-	9 (15)	17 (28.33)
6.	Lack of transportation. Facility	12 (8)	-	3 (2.5)	2 (2.04)	19 (22.35)	4 (4.70)	6 (7.5)	-	21 (35)	4 (6.66)
7.	Lack of cordial helpful and understanding staff	8 (5.33)	15 (10.34)	13 (10.83)	5 (5.10)	16 (18.82)	5 (5.88)	4 (5)	6 (9.23)	3 (5)	21 (35)
8.	Opening hours not convenient	22 (14.66)	25 (17.24)	30 (25)	16 (16.32)	12 (14.11)	24 (28.23)	14 (16.47)	17 (26.15)	29 (48.33)	24 (40)

Factors not influencing the users of 10, 3rd grade district branch libraries of Vellore district are shown in table 6.3

6.4 DETAILS ABOUT USER'S EXPECTATIONS REGARDING TO BOOK COLLECTION OF 10, 3RD GRADE DBL OF VELLORE DISTRICT

Library collections have an important influence on the use of information in general and public library Resources in particular. Regarding factors not influencing the users in 3rd grade DBL of Vellore district shown in table 6.4 and figure 6.4. Major expectation of the users in 3rd grade DBL of Vellore district are more books in different subject area by users of DBL, Panapakkam i.e., 48 (60%) and additional space with chairs and tables by users of DBL, Kalavai i.e., 39 (65%).

Table 6.4 User's expectations as regards to the book collection

S/N	Desired improvement	DBL, Arcot	DBL, Walaja	DBL, Thimiri	DBL, Melvisharam	DBL, Sathuvachari	DBL, Kaveripakkam	DBL, Panapakkam	DBL, Minnal	DBL, Kalavai	DBL, Ammoor
1.	More books in different subjects areas.	56 (37.33)	45 (31.03)	34 (28.33)	30 (30.61)	23 (27.05)	26 (30.5)	48 (60)	28 (43.07)	23 (38.33)	29 (48.33)
2.	Additional space with chairs and tables.	25 (16.66)	22 (15.17)	13 (10.83)	19 (19.38)	39 (45.88)	13 (15.29)	40 (50)	12 (18.46)	39 (65)	26 (43.33)
3.	Modern photo copy unit	41 (9.33)	43 (29.65)	28 (23.33)	21 (21.42)	25 (29.4)	28 (32.94)	21 (26.25)	22 (33.84)	14 (23.33)	10 (16.66)
4.	More reference books	31 (20.66)	24 (16.55)	18 (15)	15 (15.30)	9 (10.58)	10 (11.76)	19 (23.75)	19 (29.23)	18 (30)	16 (26.66)
5.	Computerization of library holdings	34 (22.66)	41 (28.27)	28 (23.33)	18 (18.36)	24 (28.23)	29 (34.11)	32 (40)	9 (13.84)	13 (21.66)	5 (8.33)

The above table 6.4 gives details about User's expectations as regards to the book collection by users of 10, 3rd grade district branch libraries 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. Present generation users are very much interested to receive the information in different ways information is an essential for all every one. Public libraries are a worldwide phenomenon it is a local gateway to knowledge. The public library is a dynamic institution providing access to all kinds of information to the general public therefore it is popularly known as a peoples university and the public libraries should be developed by providing adequate funds for modernise the public libraries by the government to develop the quality of services.

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