

Awareness about Public Libraries in Vellore District: A Study

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Abstract: This study determines the user awareness about the Public Libraries and their services in Vellore District. Objective of the paper is to study the frequency of the visit and reasons for Non Use of the Library. Dependency of Library Resources for Socio – Economic Development and their use of library on the particular day of their visit. Research methodology- Vellore Distric has 179 Public libraries it includes, branch library, village libraries and partime library and one Distric Central Library. Among these five blocks of libraries selected for data collection. A systematic questionnaire has administered for data collection. Findings - It is found that more than 85 per cent of the respondents in all the libraries under study are disseminating the local information for the community developments. However, the fact “Area library supports lifelong learning in the present educational system” is opined positively by 84 per cent and 71 per cent , 87 per cent of the Ambur and Ranipet, Vellore public libraries respectively. Suggestions were given to conduct awareness programme and orientation programme among the public about the features and benefits of reading in Public Libraries.

I. Introduction

The Public Library as a social institution, it is an instrumental for social developments and as well as supplemental to the informal educational system of the society. The Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation was established in Calcutta (Kolkata), its basic aims is supporting library movement in the country in general, and the promotion of rural libraries in particular in the remote corner of the country. For these reasons RRLF provides financial assistance for public libraries as matching grant. At present it is assisting the State Central Libraries, District Central Libraries. Under which many states and Union Territories have been developed the rural public library services in the country. Apart from these, RRLF provides assistance to libraries towards organization of workshops, conferences and exhibition of books. The Public Library services existed from very ancient times, Public Library System (PLS) is of recent concept. “Public Library means a Library including its branches and delivery stations established or maintained and managed by a Local Library Authority under Public Library Act”. The Public Library System in every state has been supported and maintained by the state government. This system functioning and services are covered by the library legislation enacted by the concern state. But so far only 20 Indian states are enacted the public library legislation. However, here it is to note that the important roles played by the UNESCO for the development of the public libraries throughout the world.

II. Review of Literature

Thanuskodi, S. (2012) identified the Public libraries are essential since they improve literacy, stimulate imagination and expand personal horizons. They also inform and empower citizens, enable access to a common cultural heritage and support education at all levels. Also, a positive relationship is observed between public library and literacy level, which in turn, contributes to increase in economic productivity. This study evaluates library services and gives suggestions for the improvement of district central libraries in Tamilnadu, India. Subramanian, N. (2014) identified the electronic information use patterns of Yercaud tribal students in Salem district Tamil Nadu. This paper describes the background of the Yercaud tribal area, ICT facilities available in Yercaud, the awareness of school and college students about electronic resources. D’Elia, (1987) conducted in-house surveys of patrons were conducted in each of the 20 libraries of Fairfax County Academic Library System. While the libraries differed in the amount of resources made available to the patrons, the analyses of the survey data indicated that: there were no significant differences among the samples in the reasons given for selecting the library to visit; there were no significant differences among the samples in their uses of the library; there were significant differences among the samples in their evaluations of the facilities of the library visited; and there were no significant relationships between the patrons’ uses of the library and either their reason for selecting the library or their evaluations of the library’s facilities.

III. Objectives

1. To know the availability of Public Libraries in Vellore District
2. To know the different type of users
3. To know the awareness about the public libraries among the people

4. To identify the facilities provided in the libraries
5. To study the level of satisfaction of the users

IV. Research Methodology

There were five blocks of Public libraries in Vellore District undertaken for the study, namely Alangayam, Ambur, Ranipet, Kaveripakkam and Vellore. A systematic questionnaire has prepared for the data collection. The data collected were fed in to the computer excel sheet for analysis. SPSS system of software package applied for data analysis.

V. Need of the study

The Public Libraries are driving force for the socio-economic and cultural development of the country. In this context, the saliently the public libraries work for the betterment of cultural, social, educational, development of the country. According to the need this study undertaken.

VI. Limitations of the Study

This study intends to study the community roles of the public libraries of the Vellore District. Even among the public libraries only five libraries were selected for the testification of the objectives and hypotheses of the study.

VII. Data Analysis & Discussions

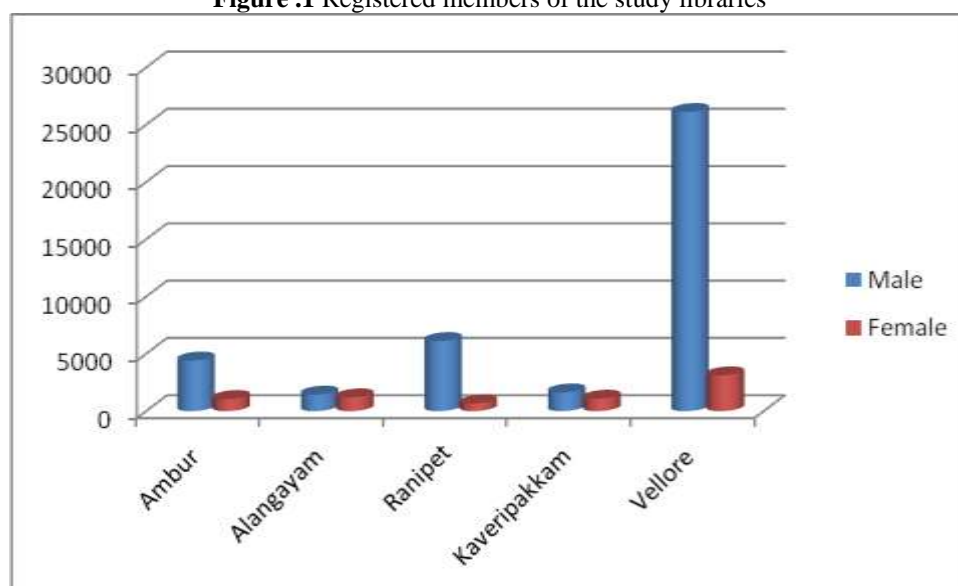
7.1 Registered members of the study libraries

The total number of registered members of the study libraries of the study in the Table.1 and Figure.1 The table 1 out of 29229 number of readers, 4412 male and 1051 female members are registered in the study libraries in Ambur library. In the Alangayam library 1435 male and 1197 female members are registered. In Ranipet 6112 male and 669 female members are registered. And 1630 male and 1080 female members are registered in Kaveripakkam Public library.

Table.1 Registered members of the study libraries

S. No	Name of the Library	Male	Female	Total no of Readers
1	Ambur	4412	1051	5463
2	Alangayam	1435	1197	2632
3	Ranipet	6112	669	6781
4	Kaveripakkam	1630	1080	2710
5	Vellore	26109	3120	29229

Figure .1 Registered members of the study libraries



It is observed that most of the male member registered in Ranipet library and most of the female members are registered in Alangayam library.

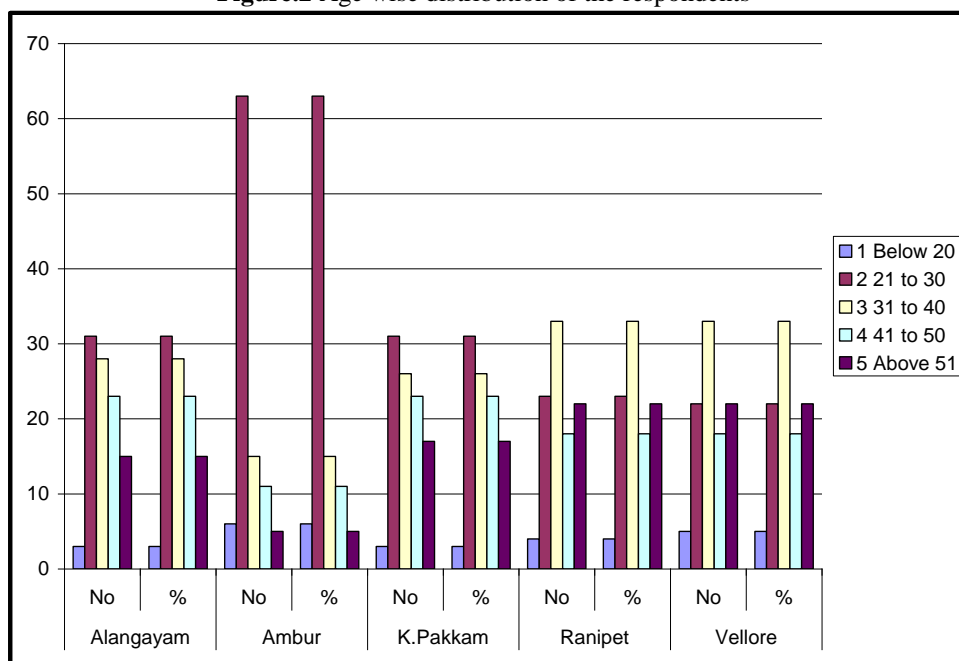
7.2 Age wise distributions of the respondents

The age wise distributions of the respondents of the five libraries under study have been presented in the Table.2 and Figure.2 It is seen from the table and figure that, young aspirants belonging to 21 – 30 age group are more participated in the Ambur public library comparing with that of other libraries under study. It is to note that more than 30 percent of this age group of respondents are participated in the study from Alangayam and Kaverippakkam public libraries but 23 percent and 22 percent of this age group participated in Ranipet and Vellore public libraries respectively. However, the respondents belonging to the age group of 31 to 40 years participated more than 25 percent in all the libraries under study. And <20 years and >50 of age group participated minimum in all the libraries under study. The results shows that between the age of 21 to 40 years are more participated, thus, this study is analysing the socio- economic roles of these libraries from the point of views of the young aspirants who are visiting these libraries for various purposes ranging from recreational, reading to career growth.

Table.2 Age wise distribution of the respondents

Sl. No	Age	Alangayam		Ambur		K.Pakkam		Ranipet		Vellore	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Below 20	3	3	6	6	3	3	4	4	5	5
2	21 to 30	31	31	63	63	31	31	23	23	22	22
3	31 to 40	28	28	15	15	26	26	33	33	33	33
4	41 to 50	23	23	11	11	23	23	18	18	18	18
5	Above 51	15	15	5	5	17	17	22	22	22	22

Figure.2 Age wise distribution of the respondents



7.3 Sex wise distribution of the respondents

The male respondents are dominated in the study as it is seen from the Table.3 In the entire libraries understudy, 70 to 90 percent of males are participated. Subsequently, 8 percent to 30 percent female are participated in all the libraries under study.

Table.3 Sex wise distribution of the respondents

Sl. No	Sex	Alangayam		Ambur		K.pakkam		Ranipet		Vellore	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Male	70	70	81	81	88	88	78	78	92	92
2	Female	30	30	19	19	12	12	22	22	8	8

7.4 Library Members

The membership data is presented in the Table.4 indicates that many are nonmember of the library. And it is seen from the table that 28 percent in Alankayam public library and 41 per cent in Ambur public library and 38 percent and 21 percent in Ranipet and Vellore public libraries respectively are nonmember of these libraries. Life membership less than 30 in Kaveripakkam and Ranipet public libraries respectively and 32 percent in Vellore and 49 percent in Alangayam public libraries are participated in the survey. Subsequently, the ordinary membership is also less than 48 percent in all the libraries under study.

Table .4 Library Membership details

Sl. No	Membership patterns	Alangayam		Ambur		K.pakkam		Ranipet		Vellore	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Life Member	49	49	21	21	16	16	22	22	32	32
2	Ordinary Member	23	23	32	32	48	48	39	39	40	40
3	Non Member	28	28	41	41	36	36	38	38	21	21

7.5 Regularity of the Library Use

Among the respondents of the libraries, Table.5 indicates that 77 percent of the Vellore respondents are regular user of the library. Followed by this, 67 percent and 65 percent of the respondents of the Alangayam public library and Ambur public library are the regular user. And the regular user constituted into 61 percent in Kaveripakkam. Though, most of them are non-members of the library but they are regular visitors.

Table.5 Regularity of the Library Use

Sl. No	Are you a regular User of your Library	Alangayam		Ambur		K.pakkam		Ranipet		Vellore	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Yes	67	67	65	65	61	61	63	63	77	77
2	No	11	11	29	29	6	6	29	29	18	18

7.6 Frequency of the respondents visit

It is seen from the Table.6 that almost more than 70 percent of the respondents of the libraries are regular visitors of their respective library as they stated that they are daily, weekly, visiting their library. From these results, it can be interoperated that for their information need for their occupation and other reasons, they fully depending upon their libraries, More over a negligible percent of the respondents in all the libraries are irregular visitors.

Table.6 Frequency of the respondents visit

Sl. No	Frequency of the respondents visit	Alangayam		Ambur		K.pakkam		Ranipet		Vellore	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Daily	43	43	34	34	55	55	32	32	21	21
2	Weekly	36	36	40	40	36	36	40	40	50	50
3	More than once in a week	6	6	14	14	2	2	18	18	8	8
4	Fortnightly	5	5	0	0	0	0	6	6	9	9

VIII. Findings

The findings of the study are listed below:

Age: A majority of the respondents of the study belongs to the age group between 15 to 30 years. The constituted 54 per cent. And also 60 to 70 years age group respondents are less participated in the study and they constituted lowest of 2 per cent. The middle age group i.e. 31 to 59 years age group constituted nearly 50 per cent.

Sex: 37 per cent of male respondents are participated in the research and the remaining respondents are belongs to female category. The result shows that the male community is more than that of the female in the Indian context. Thus, the majority of the public library users belong to male community.

Education: A majority of the respondents of the survey belongs to the academic community. They constituted more than 30 per cent. The presented data is also revealed that a quiet number of farmers (22%) are the users of the library. The other type of respondents constituted to teachers and businessman are participated in equal percentage of 20 and labour are participated in lowest percentage of 8.

36 per cent of respondents have completed primary are secondary level education. And 52 per cent of respondents of the study are both UG and PG graduates. It is observed that they are unemployed graduates of different disciplines. They mostly come for the general news readings and seeking employment opportunities books in dailies and weekly. About 12 per cent of respondents belong to the Technical education they are also come to the library for the above said purposes. It is observed that the Public Library mostly serves to the educated youths.

Community Status of the Respondents: A considerable number of downtrodden respondents are participated in all the libraries under study. And more than 70 per cent of the respondents of the study are participated both from Backward and Most Backward Communities. A few respondents from Forward Community are participated in Alangayam, Kaveripakkam and Ranipet public libraries.

Occupational Status of the Respondents: 52 per cent of the Ambur library respondents are employed, followed by this 47 per cent of Alangayam and 41 per cent of Vellore and 40 per cent of Ranipet library respondents are employed. And 31 per cent of Kaveripakkam library respondents are employed. As per as agricultural occupation is concerned 38 per cent and 19 per cent of Kaveripakkam and Alangayam public libraries respondents are involving in to primary sector of cultivation and farming. It is found that less than 10 per cent of the respondents are belonging to agricultural labourer sector.

IX. Suggestions

1. Alangayam Public Library: User and public at large are of the opinion that there should be a separate reading room section for children and ladies. Library should have additional rooms to keep reference books safely. The library should have Internet and Wi-Fi connectivity to access for latest information on the e-journal and e-book.
2. Ambur Public Library: Ambur Public library reader's opinion that there should be drinking water facilities, rest room facilities, internet facilities, more number of general knowledge books and competitive study materials. Further they demanded for separate reference book section, more space for reference section and more number of furniture's.
3. Kaveripakkam Public Library: Kaveripakkam public library reader's opinion that there should be need more books related to agriculture, cultivation, farming and marketing, internet and UPS facilities, restrooms facilities and more number of Tamil magazines.
4. Ranipet Public Library: In this library reader's opinion that there should be drinking water facilities, rest room facilities, internet facilities, more number of medical books, books on feminism and competitive study materials.
5. Vellore Public Library: Vellore Public Library reader's opinion that there should be Wi-Fi and OPAC facilities, parking facilities, drinking water facilities, rest room facilities. Regarding the addition of books they needed more number of medical books, books on feminism, competitive study materials, separate reference book section and a separate section for childrens.

X. Conclusion

The main aim of the Public library is to educate all the people irrespective of caste, creed, and age at a very nominal fee. A good book is equal to a great friend one who reads good books, he will be a broadminded and knowledgeable person. To impart general the public libraries play major role. A reader's forum was also formed to increase the awareness in reading habits among the general public. The readers, educationists and those who are very much interested in the well being and improvement of the libraries. According to the study number of users gradually increased. The study is also proves the immense helpfulness of the public libraries for various reasons such as agriculture, entrepreneurship, employment opportunities, health and hygiene as well as support for informal education. But, these libraries are functioning without the basic amenities, and this is the conditions for all the public libraries in the country. Proper care must be taken to provide at least the basic amenities to them. And every human being must understand that the public libraries are "temple of learning".

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