

ROLE OF DISTRICT AND VILLAGE LIBRARIES IN THE SOCIO – CULTURAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THANJAVUR

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Abstract

The library now is the chief instrument for the accumulation and dissemination of man's intellectual heritage. The value of information as an important and crucial factor in the social and economic development and progress of a nation is increasingly recognized in the present decade in comparison to ever before, and the public library plays an important role in the disseminating types of information to its readers. The role of the public library in our society is a living force for popular education and dissemination of knowledge and culture. The role of modern public library is just what a temple had been till about a hundred years ago. In those days the temple was used as the center of various social, cultural and spiritual activities of a village. Under the present changed circumstances, the public library shall have to play a similar role. It has to enter the very heart of the life of the village people and should take special interest in adult education and the activities alike; public library also serves as a storehouse of information from which each reader can draw whatever he requires.

Keywords: Information Access; Information Society; Information Literacy; Public Libraries; Internet Access; Knowledge Society; Collection Development; Rural Library; Rural Community; Literacy; Information Seeking; Community Development and Empowerment; Socio-cultural Development.

Introduction

Generally a library is a place where individuals access information and ideas. Access to information is very crucial; it accelerates the level of individual advancement as well as corporate educational development. Access to information focuses on the rights of individual to have access to the information at the right time. Its importance is also seen as a determining factor to economic, social and political development of any nation irrespective of their culture, ethnicity, language, etc (Oyeronke, 2012)

In this information age, information is treated as an economic resource or as a catalyst to development and for making good decision. Information society is a society in which the quality of life as well as prospects for social change and economic development depends upon access to information to meet their needs and requirements whether the resources are in print, non-print/ electronic or in any format (Martin, 1995). Access to information is also access to internet with the emergence of information and communication technology (ICT). The internet has become another means of accessing information thereby overcoming inequality of information in a society. With information and communication technology, there is a wide gap or disparity in the availability, access and utilization of information between the developed and developing nations which gave rise to the concept of digital divide. According to (Orakpor, 2007), the libraries can bank on the internet for the right information for users, in the right form and at the right time.

Importance of the Study

Modern society is considered an information as well as learning society. Information has changed the quality of life. Information society is going to treat libraries as nodal points of local information dissemination. A public library is considered an essential part of the society as it plays a very important role in the development of the community. The social progress depends largely on education which is provided to the common people. Only if some social institution continuously disseminates the information required for keeping the people capable of analyzing and discussing a given situation at a given time their decisions that affects society will be right. Public libraries only can play this role efficiently.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES

Public library has been rightly called ‘a people’s university’ because it provides education, information, recreation and culture. All activities of the public libraries are designed to facilitate the use of resources, to remove barriers, to invite use, to guide reading, to reward the goals of each individual, services provided by the public library must be planned in relation to other facilities in the community served. Standards for services must recognize the necessary variations in library programmes required by different communities.

The services performed by the modern public libraries are:

- ❖ Logical organization of materials for convenient use through shelf arrangement, classification, and cataloguing;

- ❖ Lending of materials so that they may be used in the location and at the times suited to each individual;
- ❖ Provision of information services designed to locate facts as needed;
- ❖ Guidance to individuals in the use of educational and recreational materials;

Assistance to civic, cultural and educational organizations in locating and using materials for programme planning, projects and the education of the members.

According to Dr. S. R Ranganathan, the public library services should:

- ❖ Help the life-long self-education of one and all;
- ❖ Furnish up to date facts and information on all subjects to one and all;
- ❖ Provide harmless and elevation use of leisure to one and all; and
- ❖ Acquire and arrange source materials for research.

Review of Literature

The literature review is the key component of any research study and process. The research ideas are drawn and further developed into concepts from this source and finally developed into theories. The literature review provides a bird's eye view of the past researches done so far in that area to a researcher. Some of the important literatures useful in this study have been mentioned chronologically in descending order.

Behera and Parida in their study discussed the information need of different rural communities and the impact of rural libraries in achieving their socio-economic development and found that the rural libraries are useful in satisfying the information needs of different communities in their day to day life (Behera&Parida, 2014).

Lamani, Talawar and Kumbar examines the present status of District Central library, Dharwad and the role of this public library as Community Information Centre in contributing towards community development by fulfilling the information requirements of community. They found that the District Central Library, Dharwad failed in providing community information service to their surrounding community members because the resources in this centre is not adequate to fulfill the needs and requirements of the different community groups (Lamani, Talawar and Kumbar, 2014).

Adewusi in his study discussed the impact of community information centres on community development in four communities in Nigeria employing survey research method using mainly questionnaire among teachers, traders, farmers, fish sellers, civil servants, students and others as respondents. The results of study are that the availability of community information services were rare in the communities and the communities yearn for provision of well stocked community information centres with a view to empowering, changing and transforming their life socially, economically, technologically, educationally and politically for the betterment (Adewusi, 2013).

RESEARCH DESIGN

The formidable problem that follows the task of defining the research problem is the preparation of a design of the research project, popularly known as “research design”. A research design is the arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure. In fact, the research design is the conceptual structure within which research is conducted; it continues the blueprint for the collection, measurement and analysis of data. As such the design includes an outline of what the researcher will do from writing the hypothesis and its operational implications to the final analysis of data. A good design is often characterized by adjectives like flexible, appropriate, efficient, and economical and so on. Generally, the design which minimizes the bias and maximizes the reliability of the data collected and analysed is considered a good design. The design which gives the smallest experimental error is supposed to be the best design in many investigations. Similarly, a design which yields maximal information and provides an opportunity for considered the many different aspects of many problems is considered most appropriate and efficient design in respect of many research problems. Thus, the question of a good design is related to the purpose or objective of the research problem and also with the nature of the problem to be studied. A design may be quite suitable in one case, but may be found wanting in one respect or the other in the context of some other research problem. One single design cannot serve the purpose of all types of research problems. The present study is descriptive in nature. It tries to analyse the status of the village libraries, users’ opinion toward library sources and services of village libraries in Thanjavur. It also gets the information with regards to the demographic

characteristics of the librarians and their opinion about the sources and services of village libraries in Thanjavur.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The study is entitled as “Role of District and Village Libraries in the Socio – Cultural Educational Development of Thanjavur”. The study intends to investigate the library users and Librarians of Village Libraries in Thanjavur regarding their opinion on library sources and services. The study seeks to describe the demographic characteristics of the library users in terms of gender, age, marital status, domicile sector, family status, religion, qualification and occupation and etc. The following are the major areas which have been studied from the opinion of the library users and librarians through questionnaires.

- ❖ Frequency of visiting the library
- ❖ Purposes of visiting the library
- ❖ Materials consulted for information
- ❖ Newspaper reading
- ❖ Arrangement of books on the shelves
- ❖ Information searching pattern of the users
- ❖ Experience in using ICT based resources
- ❖ satisfaction with borrowing facilities of the library
- ❖ Opinion about satisfaction attained over seeking the information from the Books and Journals / Magazines
- ❖ Infrastructure of the village library
- ❖ Extension activities of the village library.
- ❖ Services of the village library.
- ❖ Influence of the village library services.
- ❖ Opinion about the overall sources and services of the Library.
- ❖ Demographic characteristics of village librarians
- ❖ Get the opinion from the librarians regarding the sources and services of the village libraries.

Objectives of the Study

The Main Objective of This Study is to Examine The Effect of “Role of District and Village Libraries in the Socio – Cultural Educational Development of Thanjavur”.

1. To study the demographic characteristics of the library users and librarians of Village Libraries in Thanjavur.
2. To study the frequency of visiting the library by the users
3. To know the purpose of visiting the library
4. To find out the users' preference of using reading materials
5. To study the awareness of using E-resources by the users of the village libraries.

NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Users are the key and dynamic components of any library. Hence, their needs have to be identified. Specially, the needs of the users gain importance in today's knowledge society. The Government spends a lot of money on public library enlistment for the benefit of the communities in the rural as well as urban areas without partiality. This money is utilized in public libraries for collection, development and services. Hence, periodical user's studies have to be carried out to get the opinion from the respondents about collection and services. The users are the important components in any information system. To create information awareness and to promote the use of information, it is necessary to know the needs of the users. Assessment of the users' needs has been developed by the present age of information explosions. According to Ranganathan's fifth law of library science, a library is a growing organism. As the growth of library is based on the satisfaction of the users, the views of the users are necessary to develop the library facilities and services. Surveying the users' needs is helpful to find out the requirements of the users. The extent of usage of the existing library resources and the ways and means to increase the utilization are to be studied. So the researcher carried out the present study to find out this information.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is based a survey method. The basic objective is to measure the Use of of "Role of District and Village Libraries in the Socio – Cultural Educational Development of Thanjavur". A well structured questionnaire was framed to collect the primary data. The questionnaire method was used for the present study to collect the necessary primary data, keeping in view the objectives of the study. In addition to questionnaire method, interview schedule and observation method were also used to collect required information as a supplement to the questionnaire method. The data collected has been analyzed and interpreted using simple percentage techniques.

DATA COLLECTION

The data serve as the bases or raw materials for analysis. Without an analysis of factual data no specific inferences can be drawn on the questions under study. Inferences based on imagination or guess work cannot provide correct answers to research questions. The relevance, adequacy and reliability of data determine the quality of the findings of a study. Data form the basis for testing the hypothesis formulated in a study. Data also provided the facts and figures required for construction measurement scales and tables, which are analysed with statistical techniques. Inference on the results of statistical analysis and tests of significance provide the answers to research questions. Thus, the scientific process of relevant data and their accuracy.

STATISTICAL TOOLS USED FOR ANALYSIS

Information collected through survey was analyzed by using different conventional statistical tools like tables, figures, percentages, mean, Standard Deviation, Co-efficient of variation, Chi-square test, t-test and ANOVA two way ,After the collection of primary data, they are analysed by using the tool of SPSS (Statistical Packages for Social Sciences). Necessary tables are generated using the package and analysed to bring out interpretation.

LIST OF VILLAGE LIBRARIESTHANJAVUR DISTRICT

NUMBER OF TALUKS 8

1. Kumbakonam
2. Orathanadu
3. Papanasam
4. Pattukkottai
5. Peravurani
6. Thiruvaiyaru
7. Thiruvudaimarudur

BENEFITS OF THE RESEARCH

Expected outcome of the research

1. The traditional claim of the medicinal plants will be scientifically proved.
2. The novel medicinal agents will be derived
3. Simple, cost effective drug from natural source will be developed

4. Toxic and side effects of the currently available drug will be nullified
5. Making the use of herbal drug in the global market will be developed through modern research Innovation effectiveness of new drug.

Conclusion

Public libraries have moral right to provide access to information to all which can be used for self empowerment, economic, educational and nation development. It is also supposed that the public libraries should help in accessing information regarding required materials, and information literacy programmes needed by its community users.

The rural libraries and rural community resource centres should have well developed infrastructure for the smooth flow of information and should be encouraged to take part in the integrated rural library programmes. Trained library personnel should be appointed for managing and running the activities of rural libraries and rural community resource centres. The rural libraries by developmental activities and programs strengthen rural public libraries in supporting rural development and empowerment. Public library acts as vital thing in the development of communities, particularly in a rural and disadvantaged community. It has been established as an essential element in the life of community members, as it provides information that is essential for the community progress. In the age of information society of today, there is information explosion in all the disciplines. To collect, organize and disseminate the information effectively and efficiently professionally qualified and trained personnel are required. They should also have good communication skills only then the public libraries can perform their role as the institution of lifelong learning. With growing complexities of the present day society and the increasing demands for information, it is important for more community development oriented activities to supplement traditional library services in developing nations. Active small and rural public libraries can add significantly to the quality of life in rural communities.

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