

## UTILIZATION OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION RESOURCES AND SERVICES: A CASE STUDY OF DISTRICT CENTRAL LIBRARY, RAMANATHAPURAM

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### Abstract

*In the modern age library has become part and parcel of the cultural life of man. Every village, town, city and educational institution has/ strives to have a library. Library caters to the varying needs of the people, belonging to different classes and creeds, in each and every nook and corner of the world. This paper discusses the Utilization of Library sources and Services of District Central Library in Ramanathapuram, Tamilnadu. In this study, 21.2% of students use the District Central Library in Ramanathapuram, more than one third of the respondents spend an hour in the District Central Library, more than one fourth of the respondents' opinion on library as a community service centre is very important, 38.8% of the respondents agree with Librarians conduct the extension activities on a regular basis, and 47% of the respondents are satisfied with overall satisfaction of the visit the library.*

**Keywords:** Public Library, District Central Library, Information Services, Information resources, Library sources

### Introduction

Public Libraries are considered an essential part of modern society. They provide information, education, recreation, entertainment and inspiration, to all members of our society without any distinction of caste, creed, sex or religion. Being democratic institutions, operated by the people, for the people they are the heart of the citizens. Their users are diversified and belong to varied fields like: engineering, law, science and technology, agriculture, medical science, etc. in addition to this students and community members of the society belonging to different vocations and professions, are also the users of the public library. The public libraries should become citizen - centred and there should be a close and willing partnership between libraries and public as a whole<sup>1</sup>.

The library system may be said to provide accessibility of service through national, state, district, block and village libraries, deposit centres and mobile libraries together with a pool of resources and services, in depth and in variety, used in common by all the outlets. A public library of whatever kind on becoming a part of a systems, assumes a new role of being a vital link connecting the base with the full resources of the system and through it, the resources of the state and, is neither weakened nor eliminated. On the other hand, its membership of a system enables it to bring to its users resources and services which will not otherwise be available. The local library, thus, rises in stature and

serves a wide region while at the same time serving its local clientele with richer diverse resources and library services than before<sup>2</sup>.

### Objectives of the Study

The following are the main objectives of the study:

1. To find out the time spend for reading in the library per day per hour.
2. To study the preferred to use of reading materials.
3. To find out the opinion on valuable of journals and books.
4. To find out the how important is the library as a community services centre.
5. To find out the overall satisfaction of the visit to the library.

### Methodology

The present study is a descriptive method. The questionnaires have been used to collect the primary data. There are 100 Questionnaires were randomly distributed to the library users of District Central Library in Ramanathapuram, Tamilnadu and 85 filled questionnaires were received back by the researchers. Hence 85 questionnaires are used for data analysis and interpretation. Data have been collected on September 2015.

### Data Analysis and Interpretation

**Table 1: Gender and Marital Status - wise distribution of respondents**

Particulars		No. of Respondents	Percentage
Gender	Male	47	55.3
	Female	38	44.7
<b>Total</b>		<b>85</b>	<b>100</b>
Married status	Married	52	61.2
	Unmarried	33	38.8
<b>Total</b>		<b>85</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data

Table 1 presents the gender and age- wise distribution of respondents. In this study, 47 (55.3%) respondents belong to the category of male while 38 (44.7%) respondents female. Hence most of the respondents are male. Among the overall 85 respondents, a majority of 52 (61.2%) respondents belong to married category while 33 (38.8%) of them unmarried.

**Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Status -Wise respondents**

S. No.	Status of users	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Teacher	11	12.9
2.	Government Employee	15	17.6
3.	Farmer	7	8.2
4.	Business men	10	11.8
5.	Un Employed	16	18.8
6.	Student	18	21.2
7.	Others	8	9.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>85</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data

Table 2 indicates that status-wise respondents. In this study the 11 respondents (12.9%) are Teachers, 15 respondents (17.6%) are Government Employees, 7 respondents (8.2%) are farmers, 10 respondents (11.8%) are business men, 16 respondents (18.8%) are unemployed and 18 respondents (21.2%) are students. Besides cited above, there are some others status of the users (9.4%) also. Hence a majority of the users belong to the category of students who use the District Central Library, Ramanathapuram.

**Table 3: Time Spend for Reading in the Library per Day per Hour by Male and Female Respondents**

S. No	Gender	Hours (%)				Total N
		One hour	Two Hours	Three hours	More than three hours	
1.	Male	18 (38.3)	12 (25.5)	9 (19.1)	8 (17)	47
2.	Female	12 (31.5)	10 (26.3)	8 (21.1)	8 (21.1)	38
Total		30	22	17	16	85

Source: Primary data

Table 3 reveals that time spend for reading in the library per day per hour by male and female respondents. Among the overall male respondents, 18 respondents (38.3%) spend their time for reading an hour, 12 respondents (25.5%) two hours, 9 respondents (19.1%) three hours and 8 respondents (17%) more than three hours in the library. Among the overall female respondents, 12 respondents (31.5%) spend their time for reading an hour, 10 respondents (26.3%) two hours, 8 respondents (21.1%) three hours and 8 respondents (21.1%) more than three hours in the library. Hence a majority of the respondents spend an hour in the District Central Library, Ramanathapuram.

**Table 4: Preferred to use of reading materials**

S. No.	Types of Materials	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	General Books	22	25.9
2.	Subject books	21	24.7
3.	News Paper	27	31.8
4.	Employment News Paper	15	17.6
5.	Story Books	8	9.4
6.	Journals/Magazine	11	12.9
7.	E-Resources	7	8.2
8.	Reference collections	5	5.9
9.	Others	4	4.7
Total N=85			

Source: Primary data

It is evident from the table 4 that 22 (25.9%) respondents preferred to use general books, 21 (24.7%) subject books, 27 (31.8%) newspaper, 15 (17.6%) employment newspaper, 8 (9.4%) story books, 11 (12.9%) journals/magazines, 7 (8.2%) e-resources, 5 (5.9%)

reference collections. Besides cited above, there are some other sources also (4.7%). Hence a majority of the respondents preferred to use Newspapers and their Second choice goes to General books.

**Table 5: Valuable of Journals and Books by Marital Status-wise respondents**

S. No	Marital Status	Opinion (%)				Total N
		Relevant	Moderately relevant	Highly relevant	Not relevant	
1.	Married	17 (32.7)	11 (21.2)	14 (26.9)	10 (19.2)	52
2.	Unmarried	14 (42.4)	11 (33.3)	5 (15.2)	3 (9.1)	33
<b>Total</b>		<b>31</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>85</b>

Source: Primary data

Table 5 reveals the valuable of journals and books by marital status-wise respondents. Among the overall married respondents, 17 respondents (32.7%) report that valuable of journals and books are relevant, 11 respondents (21.2%) moderately relevant, 14 respondents (26.9%) highly relevant and 10 respondents (19.2%) not relevant. Among the overall unmarried respondents, 14 respondents (42.4%) report that valuable of journals and books are relevant, 11 respondents (33.3%) moderately relevant, 5 respondents (15.2%) highly relevant and 3 respondents (9.1%) not relevant. Hence a majority of the married and unmarried respondents report that valuable of journals and books are relevant.

**Table 6: Users' Opinion on Library as a Community Service Centre**

S. No.	Adequacy	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Very important	16	18.8
2.	Important	23	27.1
3.	Somewhat important	13	15.3
4.	No Comments	18	21.2
5.	Not important	15	17.6
<b>Total</b>		<b>85</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data

Table 6 deals the users' opinion on Library as a community service centre. In this study, 16 respondents' (18.8%) opinion on library as a community service centre is very important, 23 (27.1%) important, 13 (15.3%) somewhat important, 18 (21.2%) respondents have not expressed any comments and 15 (17.6%) not important. Therefore more than one fourth of the respondents' opinion on library as a community service centre is important.

**Table 7: Opinion on Librarian Conduct the Extension Activities on Regular Basis**

S. No.	Opinion	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Strongly agree	14	16.5
2.	Agree	33	38.8
3.	Disagree	16	18.8
4.	No comments	10	11.8
5.	Strongly disagree	12	14.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>85</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data

It is illustrated from table 7 that, 14 respondents (16.5%) strongly agree with Librarian conduct the extension activities on a regular basis, 33 respondents (38.8%) agree, 16 respondents (18.8%) disagree, 10 respondents (11.8%) have not expressed any comments and 12 respondents (14.1%) strongly disagree. Hence most of the respondents agree with Librarian conduct the extension activities on a regular basis.

**Table 8: Overall Satisfaction of the Visit the Library by Male and Female Respondents**

S. No.	Gender	Satisfaction (%)					Total
		Fully Satisfied	Partially Satisfied	Partially Not Satisfied	Fully Not Satisfied	No comments	
1.	Male	10 (21.3)	11 (23.4)	13 (27.7)	7 (14.9)	6 (12.7)	47
2.	Female	11 (28.9)	8 (21)	8 (21)	6 (15.8)	5 (13.2)	38
Total		21	19	21	13	11	85

Source: Primary data Chi-Square value: 0.94

df: 4

Table 8 deals the overall satisfaction of the visit the library by male and female respondents. Among the overall male respondents, 10 respondents (21.3%) are fully satisfied with overall satisfaction of the visit the library, 11 respondents (23.4%) are partially satisfied, 13 respondents (27.7%) are partially not satisfied, 7 respondents (14.9%) are fully not satisfied and 6 respondents (12.7%) have not expressed any comments. Among the overall female respondents, 11 respondents (28.9%) are fully satisfied with overall satisfaction of the visit the library, 8 respondents (21%) are partially satisfied, 8 respondents (21%) are partially not satisfied, 6 respondents (15.8%) are fully not satisfied and 5 respondents (13.2%) have not expressed any comments.

### Testing of Hypothesis

#### H<sub>0</sub>: Null Hypothesis

There is no association between the male and female respondents and their opinion on overall satisfaction of the visit the library.

### Chi-Square Summary Result

Chi- square Calculate Value	Degrees of Freedom	Chi- Square Table Value @ 5%	Inference
0.93	4	9.488	Not significant / Null hypothesis accepted

Source: Computed data

The table value of chi-square for 4 degrees of freedom at 5% level of significance is 9.488. The calculated value of chi-square is lower than this table value and hence the Null hypothesis is accepted. It is concluded that there is no association between the male and female respondents and their opinion on overall satisfaction of the visit the library.

### Findings

- More than half of the respondents belong to the category of male.
- More than three fifth of the respondents belong to married category.
- 21.2% of students use the District Central Library of Ramanathapuram.
- More than one third of the respondents spend an hour in the District Central Library in Ramanathapuram.
- 31.8% of the respondents preferred to use newspapers.
- 36.5% of the married and unmarried respondents report that valuable of journals and books are relevant.
- More than one fourth of the respondents' opinion on Library as a community service centre is very important.
- 38.8% of the respondents agree with Librarian conduct the extension activities on a regular basis.
- 47% of the respondents are satisfied with overall satisfaction of the visit the library.
- There is no association between the male and female respondents and their opinion on overall satisfaction of the visit the library.

### Conclusion

It is true that the users of the public library rarely mention specifically its political or democratic purpose. However, they do see it as an impotent agency for enlightening children, as a place for study and a point of access to knowledge and culture from every part of the world, as a source of information on the local community, and as a place where they can find the resources and skills to enable them to obtain information on vital issues of the day. In developing countries public libraries have been considered as an important institution for educational and cultural development of the society. The study found that a majority of the library users are satisfied with information sources and services rendered by the District Central Libraries in Ramanathapuram. It is suggested that the authorities of Public library should enhance the collections of E-resources for the betterment of the library users regarding their research and competitive examination etc.

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