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**Influence of Public Library on Human Development concerning
Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu, India**

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Abstract:

Generally, a Public library is where individuals access information and ideas. Access to information is crucial; it accelerates individual advancement and corporate, educational development. Information is treated as an economic resource or catalyst to growth and make good decisions. The information society is a society in which the quality of life and prospects for social change and economic development depend upon access to information to meet their needs and requirements. This article discusses the impact of the public library on human development. The researcher selected Tirunelveli district central library as the sample unit for the study.

Keywords: Public library; Knowledge Society; Collection Development; Human development.

Introduction:

Libraries are often considered essential to having an educated and literate population. Information is a vital resource indispensable for the progress of any individual and that of a nation. So access to the right or relevantly updated information to its users is required at the right time for any literate society. Any information society needs information at every step. Public libraries help to empower people in the enrichment, orientation and development of the citizens towards inculcating national pride and a good sense of national culture.

The public library can be a vital force for local community development and empowerment and play a significant role in a community's social and cultural development. In this context, the public library can be viewed as a social and cultural institution that offers an ever-changing range of cultural resources for the community. This can be particularly important in rural and disadvantaged communities. The public library is regarded as a people's institution. It is the local gateway to knowledge that provides primary conditions for life learning and facilitates the cultural development of the individual and social groups. The public library provides services to all, irrespective of age, sex, caste, religion, education, and social status. Generally, all users get the material relevant to their needs and requirements in the public library.

2. Profile of sample unit:

The District Central Library, Tirunelveli, was set up in 1952; at that point, it was controlled and managed by District Central Library Affiliation. It shields Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli Thatchanallur, and Melapalayam with a populace of 12,24,319 men and 12,68,870 ladies. During 2000-2001, the absolute number of individuals utilised in the library was 1,71,421. It works at 2/32, North High Ground Street, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli - 627 002. Phone No: 0462-2561712, E-mail: dcltnvopac@gmail.com. The working hours of the library Morning 8.00 am to Night 8.00 pm and occasions on Friday, second Saturday, and Government Occasions

3. Review of Literature:

Bossaller, J. S. (2016). explained the rural public libraries as E-Governance Service Providers. This paper indicated that the Government sector also applies the Information Communication Technology mechanism to provide various services to the public for Social, Economic, and Political Development. The study suggested that the rural public Libraries should link Government and people in delivering Government information, services, and resources. Rural public libraries can also serve their community.

Bomman Sathivelmurugan (2018) analysed Tiruppur District Central Library users' descriptive details. He used the survey method and questionnaire tool for the collection of Primary data. From the survey, the Employability of the respondents is mainly Private company employees, Self-employees, Daily-wage workers, Job-seekers, Students and Unemployed people. The researcher clearly describes the users' Educational qualifications, Membership details, Occupation, and Frequency of the Library. It gives a complete picture of the demographical information of the Public Library users.

Baada (2019) attempted to assess the user perception of the quality of public library services in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana using the LibQUAL+ model. A survey method was adopted for this research. 180 visitors are used for this work by convenience sampling technique. The results showed that patrons were dissatisfied with the library environment for learning, internet connectivity and computers and current library print and electronic resources. The absence of internet connectivity and digital collections are significant issues. The researcher recommends that public librarians market their services to the general public and relevant stakeholders.

Taufiq, M, Rehman, S & Ashiq, M (2020)¹ researched the level of User Satisfaction with Resources and Services and the problems faced by the public library users of Public Libraries Lahore, Pakistan. A survey method and structured questionnaire were designed to collect data. They used a convenience sampling technique for sample selection. The findings showed that the majority of the respondents tended to visit the public library daily and were satisfied with the circulation service. However, they were dissatisfied with the internet-based services and lack of a library-user relationship. This study results also highlight the need for government policies to devise a benchmark for quality service delivery in public libraries in Pakistan.

Viji P Librarian, Balasubramanian P. (2020) The study attempts to examine the use of library resources and services among postgraduate students in Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Tirunelveli Library. The questionnaire was used as the core research instrument. 75 copies of the questionnaire were circulated to the students; the return rate was 68%. The significant findings were; the majority of the postgraduate students use the library regularly. Their primary purpose of visiting the library is to consult research materials. They used more internet sources, and their major challenge was lack of time. They were also satisfied with the library services. Suggestions were offered to improve the library services.

4. Statement of Problem:

Public libraries have an authoritative function in the general public. It outlines citizens, communicates with individuals, and receives mindful networks. The free streaming nature of public libraries bolsters the education program tied with social qualities for network improvement. Public libraries are nearby doors to data for individual and social events. Public libraries give a regular stage, make an emotional commitment towards the social capital, instructive and recreational improvement of neighbourhoods networks, and upgrade fine qualities among individuals. So our Tamilnadu government goes through a colossal sum each year for keeping up and the advancement of public libraries in the state. The issue is that public libraries are expanding the perusing propensities for the overall population, the library's assets, and approaches staff building clients' education disposition. These reasonable inquiries should be replied to, which is the current article's focal point. The Tirunelveli district central library has been chosen as the sample unit for the present study.

5. Study Objectives:

- To identify the demographic profile of the users of the public library.
- To study the influence level of public libraries in human development.

6. Null and Alternative Hypotheses

H₀: The sources and services of the public library are not influenced human development.

H₁ The sources and services of the public library are influenced the human development.

7. Scope of the study

The present study focuses on analysing sources and services of the district central library. The resources available in the library, staff approaches, and respondents' literacy attitude. The researcher tries to analyse how the reading habits, resources general, and team approach impact human development. To investigate the effect of the public library on human development, the researcher considers the reading habits of respondents, resources available, infrastructure, frequency and purpose of visit, time spends in the library, and staff service of the library.

8. Methodology

A sample consisting of 150 respondents using District Central Library, Tirunelveli, was selected by adopting a simple random sampling technique. Visitors register and membership register provided the framework of the respondents to be covered. The researcher constructed a vital questionnaire and personally distributed it to all the selected 150 respondents. The researcher received 132 fully completed responses only. The response rate is 88 per cent. Secondary data relating to the study was assembled through newspapers, magazines, the internet and records maintained by the library

9. Limitations

- ⇒ The researcher used the simple random sampling technique to select the respondents, and the sample size was limited.
- ⇒ The empirical study depends on the responses of respondents.

10. Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1
Age of the Respondents

Sl.No	Time spent in the library	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Below 25 years	23	17.42
2.	25 – 40 years	34	25.76
3.	40 – 55 Years	45	34.09
4.	Above 55 years	30	22.73
	Total	132	100

Table 1 discloses the age-wise classification of selected respondents. It is observed that a maximum of 34.09 per cent of the respondents have belonged to the age group of 40 – 55 years. 25.76 per cent 25 – 40 years, and 22.73 per cent of the respondents are belonged to above 55 years. Besides, 17.42 per cent of the respondents have come under the category of above 55 years.

Table 2
Time spent in the library

Sl.No	Time spent in the library	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Daily	29	21.97
2.	Thrice in a week	38	28.79
3.	Twice a week	42	31.82
4.	One in a week	23	17.42
	Total	132	100

Source: Primary Data

The above table shows that a maximum of 42 respondents (31.82 per cent) visited the library twice a week, followed by thrice a week, daily and once a week, which constitutes 28.79 per cent, 21.97 per cent cent cent and 17.42 per cent respectively.

Fig 1

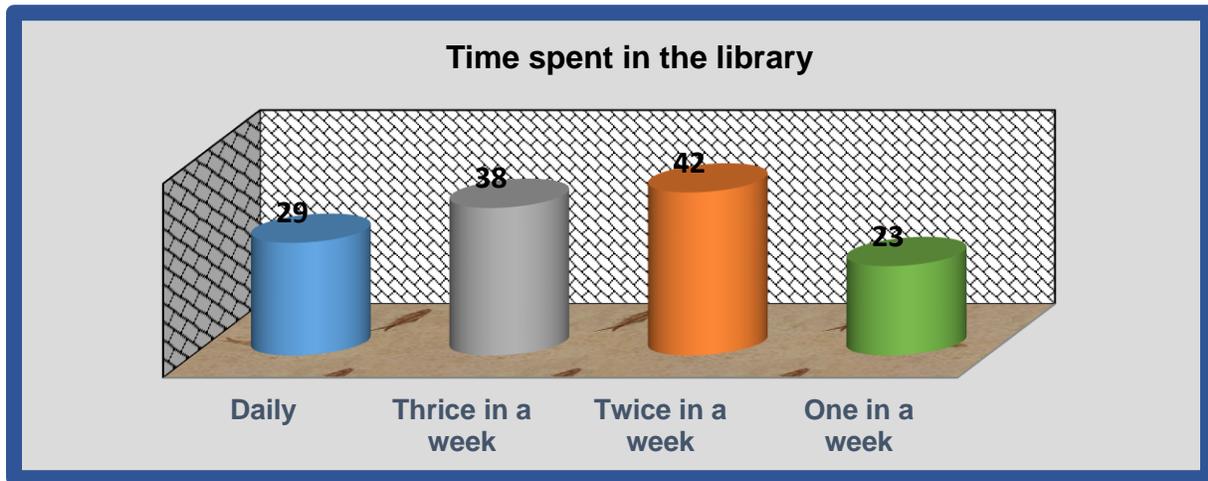


Table 3

Purpose of Visiting the Public Library

Purpose of Visiting	No. Of respondents	Percentage
Borrow/return books	22	16.67
Read books / magazines	29	21.97
Read newspapers	33	25.00
To update the current information	25	18.94
Obtain information needed for jobs/career	14	10.61
To know the social activities	9	6.82
Total	132	100

Source: Primary Data

Table 3 shows respondents' purpose of visiting the public library. It is observed that a majority of the respondents (25 per cent) visit the public library to read newspapers, followed by 21.97 per cent to read books and magazines, and 18.94 per cent of the respondents see the library to update the current information. It is further noted that 16.67 per cent of the respondents go to the library to borrow or return the book, 10.61 per cent to obtain information needed for

jobs/careers, and only 6.82 per cent of the respondents visit the library to know the social activities.

Table 4
Functions of Public Library for human development

Sl.No	Parts of the Public Library	Code
1.	Local information centre	PL1
2.	Depository of local information needs	PL2
3.	Lifelong learning centre	PL3
4.	Formal and non-traditional education centre	PL4
5.	Library as a promoter of social life	PL5
6.	Library as preservation of cultural heritage	PL6
7.	Library as the personal creativity development centre	PL7
8.	Library as a place of recreation and leisure interests	PL8
9.	Library as a centre for national integration	PL9
10.	The library is the gateway of knowledge	PL10

Fig 2

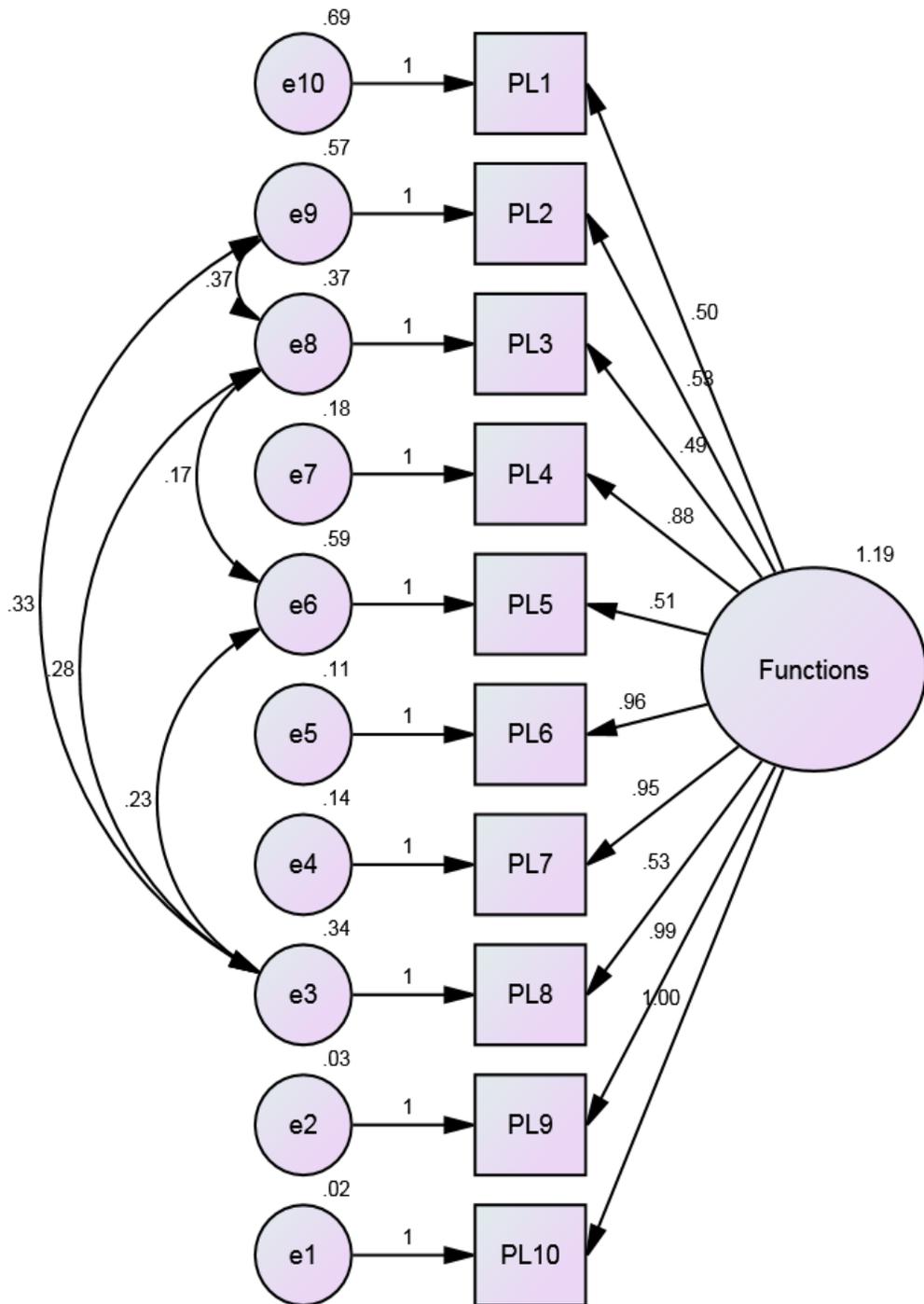


Table 5

Model fit summary of Structural Equation Model

Indices	Value	Suggested Value
Chi-Square value	7.156	--
Degrees of Freedom	10	--
Chi-Square value / Df	0.715	< 5.00 (Hair et al., 1998)
P Value	0.864	> 0.05 (Hair et al., 1998)
GFI	0.986	> 0.90 (Hu and Bentler, 1999)
AGFI	0.967	> 0.90 (Hair et al., 2006)
NFI	0.969	> 0.90 (Hu and Bentler, 1999)
CFI	0.985	> 0.90 (Daire et al., 2008)
RMSEA	0.004	< 0.08 (Hair et al., 2006)

From table 5, it is acknowledged that the calculated P-value is 0.864, which is greater than 0.05, which indicates a perfect fit.

Table 6

Standardized Regression Weights: (Group number 1 - Default model)

Dependent Variables	Relationship	Independent Variable	Estimate	Item Reliabilities	Standardised error Variance
PL1	<---	Functions of Public Library for human development	.994	0.988	0.012
PL2	<---		.990	0.980	0.020
PL3	<---		.703	0.494	0.506
PL4	<---		.939	0.882	0.118
PL5	<---		.955	0.912	0.088
PL6	<---		.589	0.347	0.653
PL7	<---		.916	0.839	0.161
PL8	<---		.663	0.440	0.560
PL9	<---		.610	0.372	0.628
PL10	<---		.549	0.301	0.699
CR 0.823			AVE 67.13		

Confirmatory factor analysis was executed with the ten variables to illuminate the Respondents' level of agreement regarding functions of the public library for human

development. The extracted Loadings/ Regression weights of the Variables under the "Sales Promotion" were acceptable, and items had significantly adequate loadings. The CFA analysis reveals that standardised factor loading varies from 0.549 to 0.994. The reliability of the above-said variables are measured through the Cronbach alpha (0.8234), more significant than the threshold value of 0.50, and indicates that all the variables are helpful to measure the "functions of the public library for human development." The average variance explained was 67.13. A good rule of thumb is an AVE of 0.50 or higher indicates adequate convergent validity. The construct reliability is 0.823. The rule of thumb for a construct reliability estimate is that .7 or higher suggests good reliability. Hence, it is concluded that the Respondents' agreement regarding public library functions influence human development.

Table 7

Respondents' profile variable and the level of agreement regarding the functions of the public library influence human development.

Tests of Between-Subjects Effects					
Dependent Variable: Variables under the head" Psychological Factors."					
Source	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	512.244 ^a	62	8.262	36.218	.000
Intercept	2114.862	1	2114.862	9270.848	.000
Age	73.501	4	18.375	80.551	.000
Edu	14.123	4	3.531	15.478	.000
Occup.	17.743	4	4.436	19.445	.000
Inco	21.542	4	5.386	23.609	.000
Error	.000	0	.	.	.
Total	102.426	79	.228		
Corrected Total	5301.000	131			
a. R Squared = .793 (Adjusted R Squared = .769)					

Table 7 exposes the outcomes of two way Anova between the Profile variables of the selected respondents and their level of agreement regarding functions of the public library

influences human development. "R squared" is 0.793 more than 0.60, revealing the suitable model fit, and the "F" value of the independent variables are more than one. Furthermore, the beta value of the profile variables is less than 0.01 at a 99 per cent level of confidence. Hence it is concluded that there is a significant association between the profile variables of the selected respondents, and their level of agreement regarding the public library functions influences human development.

Table 8

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.839 ^a	.704	.696	.51841

Table 8 reveals the model summary for the regression analysis. The multiple "R" value of 0.839 indicates a significant correlation between the variables. "R" square shows the goodness of fit, and both values are more than 0.60.

Table 9

ANOVA						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	337.505	15	22.500	83.723	.000 [*]
	Residual	141.899	116	.269		
	Total	479.404	131			
a. Dependent Variable: Human development						

Table 9 discloses the "Value 83.723 with 15 degrees of freedom and the significance value 0.000 at 99 confidence level. It indicates the independent variables in a multiple linear regression model are significant.

Table 10
Association between Infrastructural Facilities and Job Satisfaction.

Model		Coefficients				
		Unstandardised Coefficients		Standardised Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	15.469	3.558		9.802	.000
	Local information centre	3.095	.024	1.126	4.001	.000*
	Depository of local information needs	3.111	.022	1.151	5.141	.000*
	Lifelong learning centre	2.030	.022	1.047	2.348	.016**
	Formal and non – formal education centre	.008	.029	-.009	2.268	.789**
	Library as promoter of social life	.226	.069	.187	3.265	.001*
	Library as preservation of cultural heritage	3.398	.028	11.528	14.474	.000*
	Library as personal creativity development centre	2.098	.032	.136	3.046	.002**
	Library as a place of recreation and leisure interests	4.602	.059	.621	10.133	.000*
	Library as a centre for national integration	-.319	.080	-.192	-3.970	.000*

*Significant at 1 per cent level

** Significant at 5 per cent level

*** Not significant.

Table 10 discloses the regression coefficient for the dependent variable human development and the independent variables functions of the public library. The "t" value of the independent variables denoted * and ** are convergent strength, and the corresponding

significance value is less than 0.01/0.05. These variables influence human development, and the variables "Formal and non-formal education centre" do not influence human development.

11. Findings of the Study:

- The study revealed that a maximum of 34.09 per cent of the respondents have belonged to the age group of 40 – 55 years. 25.76 per cent 25 – 40 years, and 22.73 per cent of the respondents are belonged to above 55 years. Besides, 17.42 per cent of the respondents have come under the category of above 55 years.
- It is found that It is observed that a maximum of 34.09 per cent of the respondents have belonged to the age group of 40 – 55 years. 25.76 per cent 25 – 40 years, and 22.73 per cent of the respondents are belonged to above 55 years. Besides, 17.42 per cent of the respondents have come under the category of above 55 years.
- It is observed that a majority of the respondents (25 per cent) visit the public library to read newspapers, followed by 21.97 per cent to read books and magazines, and 18.94 per cent of the respondents see the library to update the current information. It is further noted that 16.67 per cent of the respondents go to the library to borrow or return the book, 10.61 per cent to obtain information needed for jobs/careers, and only 6.82 per cent of the respondents visit the library to know the social activities.
- There is a significant association between the profile variables of the selected respondents and their level of agreement regarding the public library functions that influence human development.
- The regression coefficient for the dependent variable human development and the independent variables functions of the public library. The "t" value of the independent variables denoted * and ** are convergent strength, and the corresponding significance value is less than 0.01/0.05. These variables influence human development, and the variables "Formal and non-formal education centre" do not influence human development.

12. Suggestions:

- ↗ The public library should be used as a lifelong learning centre for society.
- ↗ The public libraries have good infrastructural facilities to attract more users.
- ↗ Our libraries should be functioning as a local information centre.
- ↗ The public library should promote the social life of users.
- ↗ Public libraries should be functioning as the gateway of knowledge to all types of people.

Conclusion

A fundamental principle of the public library is that its facilities must be available to all and not focused on one group in the community to eliminate others. Provision should be made to ensure services are equally available to minority groups who, for some reason, are not able to use the mainstream services. Public libraries are locally based services for the benefit of the local community and should provide community information services. The services and collections they provide should be based on local needs, which should be assessed regularly. The public library should be a key agency in the local community to collect, preserve, and promote local culture in all its diversity. This can be achieved in a variety of ways, for example, the maintenance of local history collections, exhibitions, storytelling, publishing of items of local interest and developing interactive programmes on local themes. The public library should provide a wide range of materials in various formats and in sufficient quantity to meet the needs and interests of the community. The culture of the local community and society must be reflected in the resource collection.

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