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USE OF KARNATAKA DIGITAL PUBLIC LIBRARY BY THE AGRICULTURISTS IN MYSORE REGION: A STUDY

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Abstract

Public Library is serving as a community information center by providing information to the society, individual and agricultural communities to solve their existing problems. It is the democratic institution which plays a major role in social, economic and cultural development of the various communities by providing information, educational and entertainment facilities. Today, Public libraries are started to upgrade its collections from print form to digital form for reaching new generation. Department of Karnataka Public library initiated Karnataka Digital Public Library Services to fulfill the information needs of the people. Karnataka State has four Region, Mysore, Bangalore, Gulbarga and Belgaum. The Mysore Region comprises of eight districts of Mysuru, Mandya, Kodagu, Chamarajanagar, Hassan, Chikmagalur, Dakshina Kannada, and Udupi District. The study has been carried out in Mysore Region to know the use of Karnataka Digital Public Library (KDPL) by the Agriculturists. This paper highlights about the frequency of visit to the Karnataka Digital Public Library. The paper also ascertains the purpose of using KDPL by the agriculturists and it explains about the helpfulness of Karnataka Digital Public Library collection, Level of Satisfaction with Karnataka Digital Public Library Service, Problems faced while using the Karnataka Digital Public Library by agriculturists. The paper also gives various suggestions for more and effective utilization of Karnataka Digital Public Library in Mysore Region

Keywords: Karnataka Digital Public Library, Agriculturists, Mysore Region, Karnataka

1. Introduction:

Public library is made to serve the purpose of intellectually and to educate the people informally irrespective of gender, caste, and religion. Information is not only the requirement of professionals, teachers, and students but also of the agriculturists to enrich the productivity in agricultural sector. The public library provides digital resources and services to the agriculturists to fulfill their information needs.

The Department of Public Libraries in the state of Karnataka has been one of the best in the entire country in its network as well as services. It came into existence from 1st November 1966 consequent upon the implementation of Mysore Public Libraries Act, 1965. Karnataka has been the third state in the country to come under a Library Act. The Department of Public Libraries has been established by the Government of Karnataka in order to inculcate interest in education. The Karnataka Digital Public Library (KDPL) was launched by Department of Public Libraries in Karnataka in 2020 for its citizens. KDPL portal has become a major source of information for teachers, students, researchers, and agriculturists. KDPL operates on a cloud-based platform, covering 30 districts, 23 cities, and 216 taluks across the Karnataka state. KDPL offers its members to access e-books, e-journals, videos, and other sources in various fields.

An Agriculturist is a person engaged in agriculture raising living organisms for food or raw materials. The term agriculturists usually apply to people who do some combination of raising field crops, orchards, vineyards, poultry or other livestock. An Agriculturist might own the farmed land or might work as a labourer on land owned by others but in advanced economies Agriculturist is usually a farm owner while employees of the farm are known as farm workers or farmhands. However, in the not-so-distant past, a farmer was a person who promotes or improves the growth of (a plant or crop etc.) by labour and attention to land or crops products or raises animals (as livestock or fish).

According to the Karnataka Land Reforms Act, 1961 'Agriculturist' means a person who cultivates land personally.

Today Agriculturists also using digital resources to access community information, for getting marketing information for the cultivated crops, to know about the pest and disease control information, access latest information on agriculture, new technology and methods in agriculture.

2. Objectives of the Study:

1. To know the use of Karnataka Digital Public Library (KDPL) by the Agriculturists in Mysore Region.
2. To ascertain the purpose of using KDPL by the agriculturists
3. To find out the helpfulness of Karnataka Digital Public Library collection
4. To identify the problems faced by Agriculturists while using the Karnataka Digital Public Library
5. To examine the level of satisfaction with KDPL resources and services
6. To suggest the various measures for more and effective use of KDPL

3. Scope & Limitation of the study:

The scope of this study is limited to eight districts of the Mysore Region of the State of Karnataka i.e. Mysore, Mandya, Hassan, Chamarajanagara, Dhakshina Kannada, Kodagu, Chikkamagalur, and Udupi Districts of Mysore Region chosen purposely for the study. Further, the study concentrates on Branch Libraries from the Mysore region. There are forty-four taluk Branch Libraries functioning under the purview of District Central Libraries in the Mysore Region. Two Branch Libraries were randomly selected from each District for the Agriculturist's survey to know the use of Karnataka Digital Public library Services.

4. Research Methodology:

A survey method is employed and a questionnaire for agriculturists and librarians was developed for data collection based on the objectives of the study in English and later converted into the regional language Kannada. Primary data has been collected by the use of structured questionnaires containing face-to-face interviews and focus group discussions. The investigator has collected the supplementary information by visiting the karnatakadigitalpubliclibrary.org. The collected data were tabulated and analyzed using the Jeffreys's Amazing Statistics Program (JASP) software. The tables and figures were prepared using the MS Excel software wherever found necessary.

5. Analysis and Interpretation of Data:

The data collected from the agriculturists were analyzed and presented in the following elements;

5.1 Sample respondents of agriculturists and Branch Libraries:

Table 1: Sample Respondents of agriculturists and Branch Libraries:

Sl.No.	Districts	Name of Branch Library	Questionnaires Distributed	Responses Received	%
1	Dakshina	Branch Library, Putturu	50	49	98
2	Kannada	Branch Library, Bantwala	50	46	92
3	Udupi	Branch Library, Kundapura	50	49	98
4		Branch Library, Saligrama	50	44	88
5	Chikkamagalur	Branch Library, Tarikere	50	40	80
6		Branch Library, Koppa	50	43	86
7	Kodagu	Branch Library, Kushalanagar	50	47	94
8		Branch Library, Virajapete	50	43	86
9	Hassan	Branch Library, Arasikere	50	41	82
10		Branch Library, Channarayapattana	50	45	90
11	Mysuru	Branch Library, KR Nagara	50	44	88
12		Branch Library, T Narasipura	50	47	94
13	Mandya	Branch Library, Madduru	50	46	92
14		Branch Library, Nagamangala	50	46	92
15	Chamarajanagar	Branch Library, Yalanduru	50	44	88
16		Branch Library, Kollegala	50	45	90
Total			800	719	89.87

Table 1 explained that totally of 800 questionnaires were distributed among the agriculturists who visited the 16 branch libraries. A total of 719 usable questionnaires were received from the agriculturists with an 89.87% response rate.

5.2 Gender-wise of Agriculturists

Table 2 provides the details about the gender of the respondents in the study.

Table 2: Gender-wise distribution of respondents

Gender	No. of Respondents (N=719)	Percent
Male	453	63.01
Female	266	36.99

The majority of the respondents were male (63%) and only around 37% were female respondents.

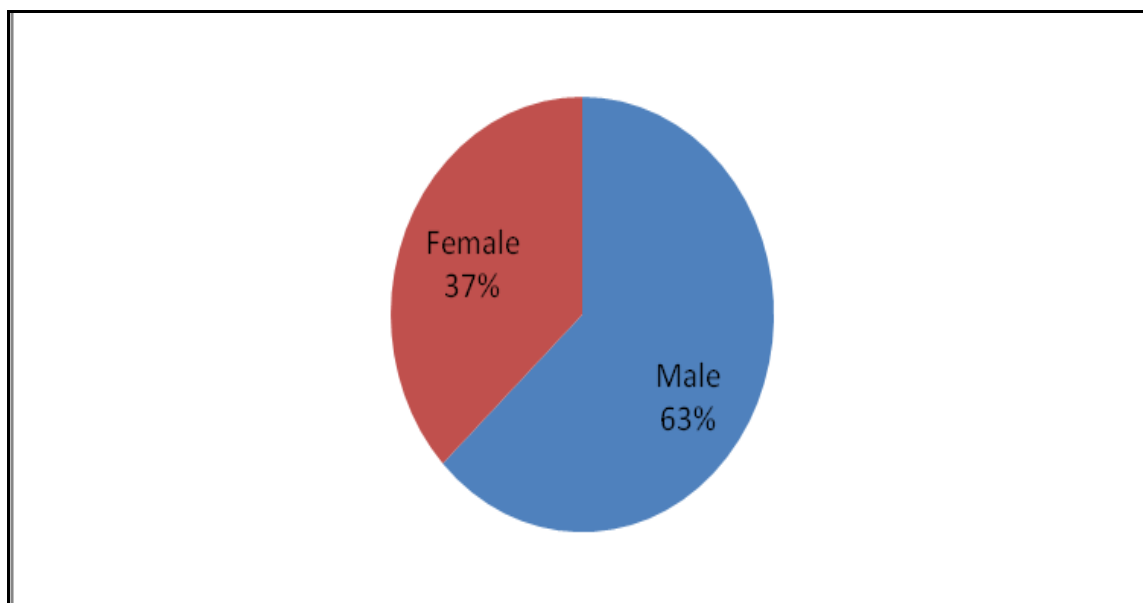


Figure 1: Gender-wise distribution of respondents

5.3 Awareness about Karnataka Digital Public Library

Table 3: Awareness about Karnataka Digital Public Library (N=719)

Karnataka Digital Public Library	No. of Respondents (N=719)	Percent
Yes	452	62.86
No	267	37.13
Total	719	100

Table 3 gives the response to the question of awareness about the Karnataka Digital Public Library among the agriculturists surveyed in the present study. It found that more than 62.86% of agriculturists are aware of the Karnataka Digital Public Library service whereas 37.13% of agriculturists are unaware of it.

5.4 Registered Members of Karnataka Digital Public Library

Table 4 provides the details about the number of surveyed agriculturists who are members of the Karnataka Digital Public Library. It is found that more than 54.93% of agriculturists are registered members of Karnataka Digital Public Library while only 45.06% are not registered.

Table 4: Registered member of Karnataka Digital Public Library (N=719)

Registered member of the KDPL	No. of Respondents (N=719)	Percent
Yes	395	54.93
No	324	45.06
Total	719	100

5.5 Frequency of use of Karnataka Digital Public Library

An attempt has made in this study to find out how frequently agriculturists use Karnataka Digital Public Library.

Table 5: Frequency of use of Karnataka Digital Public Library

Frequency of use of KDPL	No. of Respondents (N=719)	Percent
Daily	96	13.35
Once in a week	116	16.13
Once in a fortnight	78	10.85
Once in a month	66	9.18
Occasionally	39	5.43
Total	395	54.93

Table 5 indicates how frequently the agriculturists using the Karnataka Digital Public Library. Only 13.35% are used the KDPL on a daily basis followed by the once in a week (16.13%), once in a fortnight (10.85%), and once in a month 9.18%). Almost more than 45% of the agriculturists never used the KDPL.

5.6 Purpose of use of Karnataka Digital Public Library

An attempt is made in this study to find out why the agriculturists use Karnataka Digital Public Library.

Table 6 : Purpose of use of Karnataka Digital Public Library (N=719)

Purpose of use of Karnataka Digital Public Library	No. of Respondents	Percent
To access community information	296	41.17
To access latest information on agriculture	306	42.56
To get pest and disease control information	241	33.52
To know about new farming techniques	285	39.64
To access resources on literature	260	36.16
For recreational purpose	156	21.7

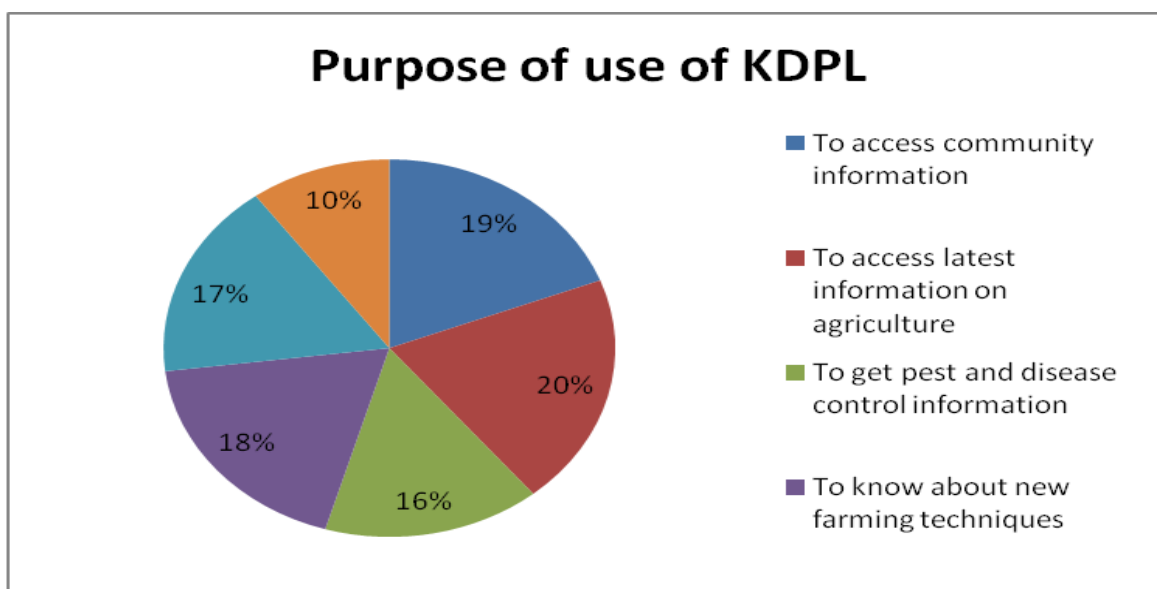


Figure 2: Purpose of use of Karnataka Digital Public Library (N=719)

Table 6 provides why the agriculturists used of Karnataka Digital Public Library. It is found that more than 40% of agriculturists mentioned that they use Karnataka Digital Public Library to access community information and access the latest information on agriculture. Almost more than 30% of agriculturists said that they used Karnataka Digital Public Library to get pest and disease control information, to know about new farming techniques and to access resources on literature.

5.7 Helpfulness of KDPL

Table 7: Helpfulness of Karnataka Digital Public Library collection (N=719)

Helpfulness of KDPL collection	No. of Respondents (N=719)	Percent
Very much	73	10.15
Fair	171	23.78
A little	132	18.36
Can't say	343	47.71

Table 7 gives the response to the question of how much helpful the Karnataka Digital Public Library collection for the agriculturists. Only 10.15% of agriculturists said that the Karnataka Digital Public Library collection is very much helpful while 23.78% agreed that fair and 18.36% mentioned that a little helpful.

5.8 Problems faced while using the Karnataka Digital Public Library

Table 8: Problems faced while using the Karnataka Digital Public Library

Problems faced while using KDPL	No. of Respondents (N=719)	Percent
Lack of awareness on agricultural resources	295	41.03
Insufficient of Community Information	265	36.86
Lack of ICT tools	238	33.10
Language problem	222	30.88
Network issues	211	29.35

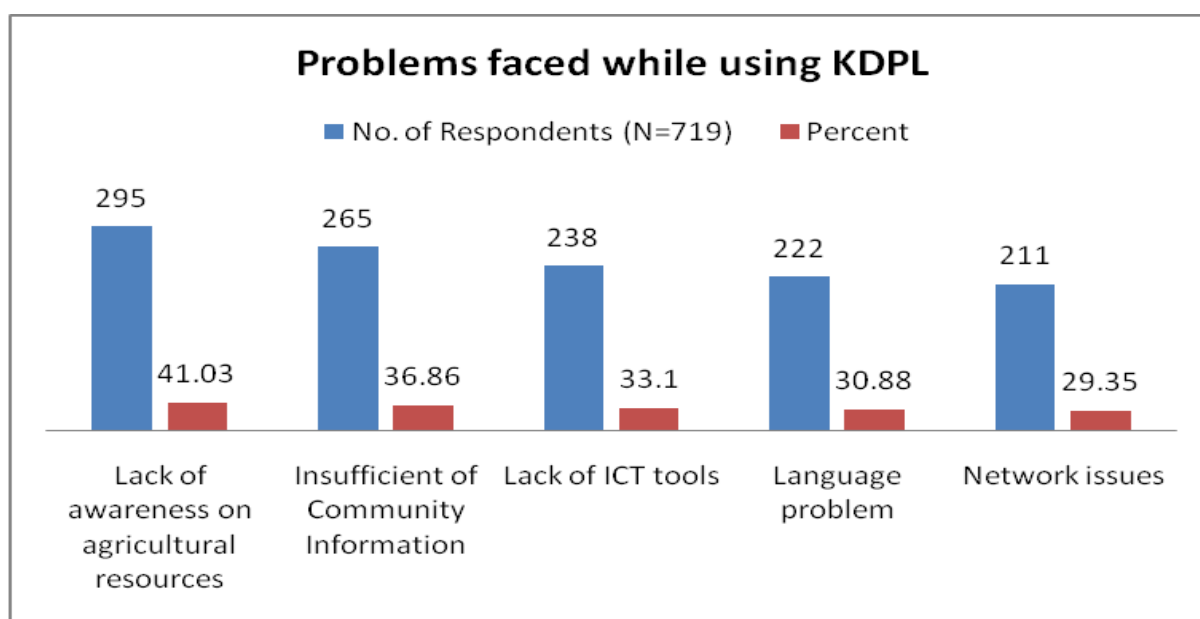


Figure 3: Problems faced while using the Karnataka Digital Public Library

Table 8 and Figure 2 provides about the problems faced by agriculturists while using the Karnataka Digital Public Library (KDPL). The major problem is a lack of awareness about the agricultural resources in the KDPL, followed by insufficient Community information (36.86%), lack of ICT tools to access the KDPL (33.10%), language problems (30.88%), and network issues while accessing the KDPL (29.35%).

5.9 Level of Satisfaction with Karnataka Digital Public Library Service

Table 9: Level of Satisfaction with Karnataka Digital Public Library Services

Level of satisfaction with KDPL	No. of Respondents	Percent
Fully satisfied	29	4.03
Satisfied	142	19.75
Partially satisfied	121	16.83
Not satisfied	23	3.20

Table 9 provides the response to the question that to what extent they are satisfied with Karnataka Digital Public Library services by the agriculturists. Only 19.75% of agriculturists are satisfied with KDPL services, followed by 16.83% of agriculturists who are partially satisfied and 3.20% of agriculturists who are not satisfied with KDPL services. It confirms that Karnataka Digital Public Library needs to be updated its collection by looking into the information needs of agriculturists.

6. Findings and Suggestions:

1. The study found that majority of the respondents were male (63%) and only around 37% were female respondents.
2. It found that more than 62.86% of agriculturists are aware of the Karnataka Digital Public Library service whereas 37.13% of agriculturists are unaware of it.
3. It is found that more than 54.93% of agriculturists are registered members of Karnataka Digital Public Library while only 45.06% are not registered.
4. Only 13.35% are used the KDPL on a daily basis followed by the once in a week (16.13%), once in a fortnight (10.85%), and once in a month 9.18%). Almost more than 45% of the agriculturists never used the KDPL.
5. It is found that more than 40% of agriculturists mentioned that they use Karnataka Digital Public Library to access community information and access the latest information on agriculture. Almost more than 30% of agriculturists said that they used Karnataka Digital Public Library to get pest and disease control information, to know about new farming techniques and to access resources on literature.
6. Only 10.15% of agriculturists said that the Karnataka Digital Public Library collection is very much helpful while 23.78% agreed that fair and 18.36% mentioned that a little

helpful.

7. The major problem is a lack of awareness about the agricultural resources in the KDPL, followed by insufficient Community information (36.86%), lack of ICT tools to access the KDPL (33.10%), language problems (30.88%), and network issues while accessing the KDPL (29.35%).
8. Only 19.75% of agriculturists are satisfied with KDPL services, followed by 16.83% of agriculturists who are partially satisfied and 3.20% of agriculturists who are not satisfied with KDPL services. It confirms that Karnataka Digital Public Library needs to be updated its collection by looking into the information needs of agriculturists.
9. Public libraries need to Upgrade ICT infrastructure and Computerization of Public Libraries will attract more users in the Region.
10. The KDPL should give a more collections on agricultural sector to help the farmers.
11. Financial support should be made for the public libraries in the region to facilitate basic infrastructure
12. Qualified and Skilled staff should be appointed and staff development programmes to be conducted by time to time in the libraries to develop and grow.
13. The public library has to conduct workshop on registration and use of KDPL portal in the Mysore Region.

7. Conclusion:

Agriculturists are the backbone of the society; they need the right information at the right time to make the right decision. Information is very much essential for the Agriculturists Community for their day-to-day problems solving and to enhancing the productivity, profitability, stability and sustainability of the major farming systems. The Karnataka Digital Public library needs to have more collections related to agricultural sector for more and effective use. The department of public library should take necessary steps to build public libraries as community information centre with good ICT infrastructure and resources and the authority also need to provide qualified and skilled library staff to disseminate the right information at the right time and to promote to access KDPL resources. The public library has to conduct workshop regularly on registration and use of KDPL portal in the Mysore Region.

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