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Impact of Public Libraries with reference to Public Library at Tenkasi

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Abstract

This study deals with impact of public library at Tenkasi. It will have a strategic role in knowledge-intensive industries like digital media. They will also be mainstays of community-based cultural planning and development. The amount of information available will grow, and much of it will be of questionable value and accuracy. Public libraries will play an increasingly significant role in the literacies of the twenty-first century that enable people to select, assess and use the information that will best meet their needs public libraries are increasingly seeing themselves as playing an important role in community development

Key Words: Public libraries, Demographic profile, Satisfaction level, Tenkasi

Introduction

Public library is a social organization which is established on the thought of democracy and it is an institution for the people, by the people and of the people. S.R. Ranganathan defined it as a library owned and maintained by the public of its area for the socialization of its books and kindred materials for free service to the people of the area. Librarians Glossary defines public library as a library provided wholly or partly from public funds, and the use of which is not restricted to any class of persons in the community but is freely available to all. Encyclopedia

of Library and Information Science defines that Public Library is a public institution, supported by taxation, one that opens its collections, facilities and services, with distinction to all students. It always strives to meet the informational, educational and recreational needs of the community by providing collection and services. Maximum utilization of library resources and services by the users is the main motive of a public library. Public libraries cater to needs of all sectors irrespective of age sex occupations social or economic status. Public library serves the public.

Public Libraries have always been at the heart of the communities they serve. They are accessible and safe spaces providing access to huge resources of information and knowledge. The primary purpose of the public library is to provide resources and services in a variety of media to meet the needs of individuals and groups for education, information and personal development including recreation and leisure.

Services and Programmes of Public Library

The following are the main services and programmes

- Lending service
- Reference Service
- Audio Video Service
- Reprographic Service
- Encouraging every educated person to become a member of the library.
- Providing basic amenities to libraries.
- Construction of new library buildings.
- Modernizing the libraries by introducing latest techniques.

Functions of public library

- Collection and preservation of knowledge.
- Useful in basic education.
- Assistance in research work.
- Helpful in self-study.
- Help in perfect personality Development

Review of Literature

Aharony, Noa (2010) studied the use of Twitter in public and academic libraries. Micro blogging is a relatively new phenomenon in online social networking that has become

increasingly prevalent in the last few years. This study explores the use of Twitter in public and academic libraries to understand micro blogging patterns. Analysis of the tweets was conducted in two phases: (1) statistical descriptive analysis and (2) content analysis. The research findings show there are some differences between public and academic libraries, including the number of tweets, linguistic differences, and content. However, it seems that using Twitter in libraries enables both kinds of libraries to broadcast and share information about their activities, opinions, status, and professional interests. The research findings are relevant for librarians and information scientists who wish to better understand and explore the phenomenon of library

Niekerk, F.V. (2014) in his article entitled, “The Management of information resources for the public library” (contributed to an issue devoted mainly to a National Symposium on Information for all, Cape Town, South Africa, February 1994) discussed the management of information resources to the Cape Provincial Library Service. He outlined informal and formal resources available to its users, and described what it is doing to address the information needs of its students and school children, and of other individuals and groups in the community. He examined the problem areas which may force librarians to amend the service they provide to address the needs for all sectors of the community. He discussed how to create informal information sources and described formal resources that should be included in every library’s stock.

Rajasekhar. A. (2016) in his article entitled, “Towards access to information in rural India” studied rural areas in India characterized by limited land availability, low literacy, inadequate health, sanitary and drinking water facilities. In spite of over five decades of independence, the rural scenario has not changed much and 75 percent of rural people are either manual laborers or artisans. In view of a variety of structural disadvantages (illiteracy, malnutrition and the social complications of caste in Indian Society), there is a need to redesign the traditional public library and its services to deal with the information needs of rural areas

Ravichandran, L. (2017) made a critical study on the status of public libraries in India. Out of 28 states and 7 Union Territories in India, only 17 have enacted public library legislation from 1948 to 2010 and the progress of library legislation is very slow. The authors have provided statistics on public libraries – 30 State Central Libraries, 40 Regional / Divisional Libraries, 364 District Libraries, 4658 City/Town Libraries, 49,758 Villages and altogether there are 54,851

libraries in India. The national per capita expenditure on public libraries is only 0.07 paise and there is no stable financial provision for public libraries either in states or union territories. The public libraries in India have not yet started use of ICT like in other countries. Though the reading habits of public have changed from print to electronic, the public libraries yet to start acquiring electronic/digital resources. Finally, the authors concluded saying that central and state governments have responsibility under democratic fabric to strengthen public libraries in India

Objectives of the Study

The study was conducted based on the following objectives:

- ✓ To know the frequency and purpose of visit to the Public library
- ✓ To measure the satisfaction level of selected respondents

Methodology

Researcher make an attempt to analyze users' satisfaction towards the services of public library at Tenkasi. It is to identify the demographic profile of respondents, frequency of visit and purpose of visiting the library. A sample consisting of 125 respondents using public library situated at No. 13, main road, Tenkasi 627811 was selected by adopting simple random sampling technique. The data were collected with the help of a structured interview schedule prepared in a very simple language.

Table 1
Gender of Respondents

Gender	Number of Respondents	
	No	%
Male	74	59.2
Female	51	40.8
Total	125	100

(Source: Primary Data)

Fig 1
Gender of Respondents

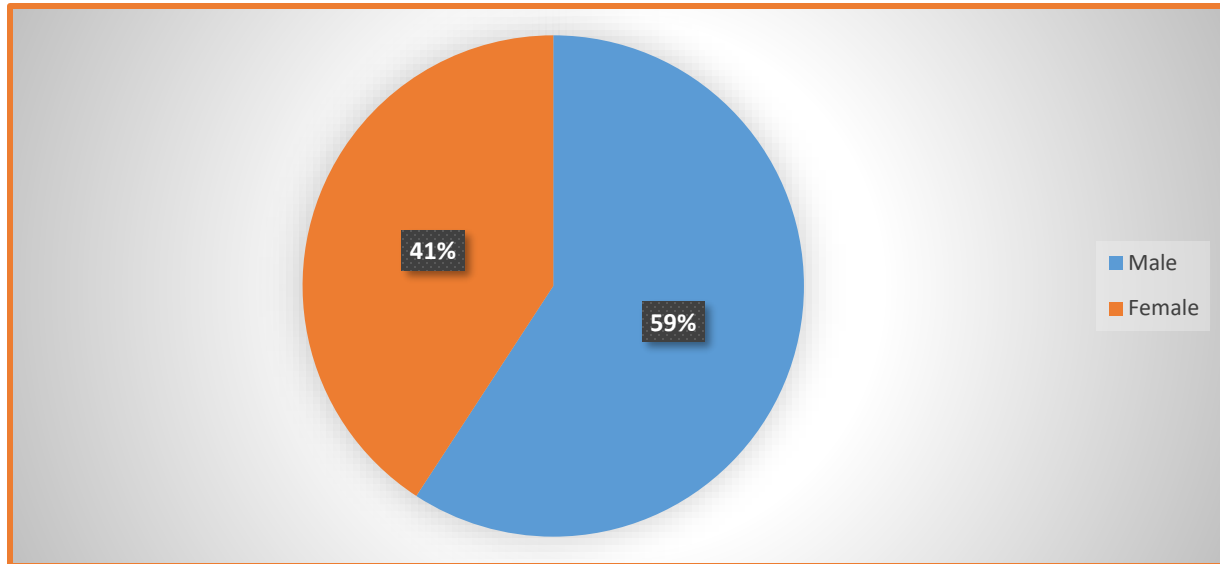


Table 1 shows the gender wise distribution of respondents, which shows that 74 (59.2%) respondents were male and 51 (40.80%) respondents were female.

Table 2

Age of Respondents

Age of Respondents	Number of Respondents	
	No	%
Below - 25	18	14.40
25 - 40	32	25.60
40 - 60	45	36.00
Above 60	30	24.00
Total	125	100

Fig 2

Age of Respondents

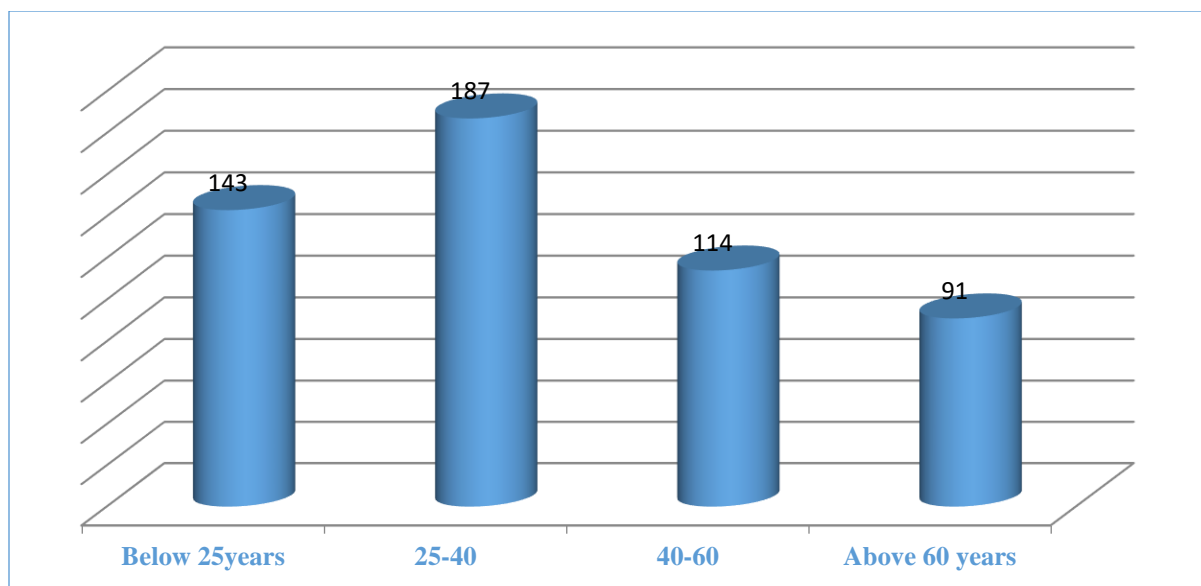


Table 2 presents the data related to the age of respondents. It shows that 18 respondents (14.40%) fall in the age group of below 25 years. 32 respondents (25.60%) respondents fall in the age group of 2-40 years, whereas 45 respondents (36%) was in the age group of 40-60 years. The table clearly indicate that there are 30 respondents (24%) in the age group of above 60 years.

Table 3
Educational Qualifications of Respondents

Educational qualifications	Number of Respondents	
	No	%
Up to higher secondary	19	15.20
U.G	69	55.20
P.G	37	29.60
Total	125	100

(Source: Primary Data)

Fig 3
Educational Qualifications of Respondents

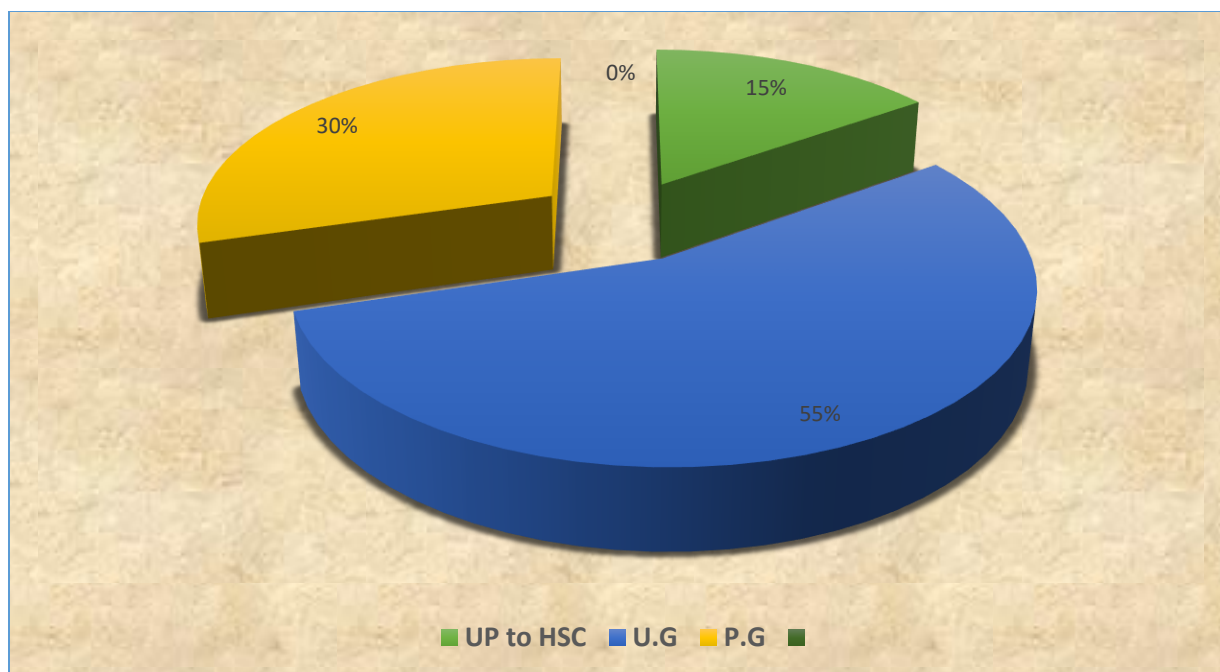


Table 3 displays that out of 125 respondents, maximum numbers of respondents, i.e., 69 representing 55.20 per cent of total respondents, were graduates followed by 37 respondents (29.60 %) were post graduates, and 19 respondents (15.20 %) are up to higher secondary.

Table 4
Frequency of Library Visit

Frequency of Visit	Number of Respondents	
	No	%
Daily	19	15.20
Once in two days	22	17.60
Twice a week	37	29.60
Once a week	21	16.80
Once a month	15	12.00
Rarely	11	8.80
Total	125	100

(Source: Primary Data)

Fig 4
Frequency of Library Visit

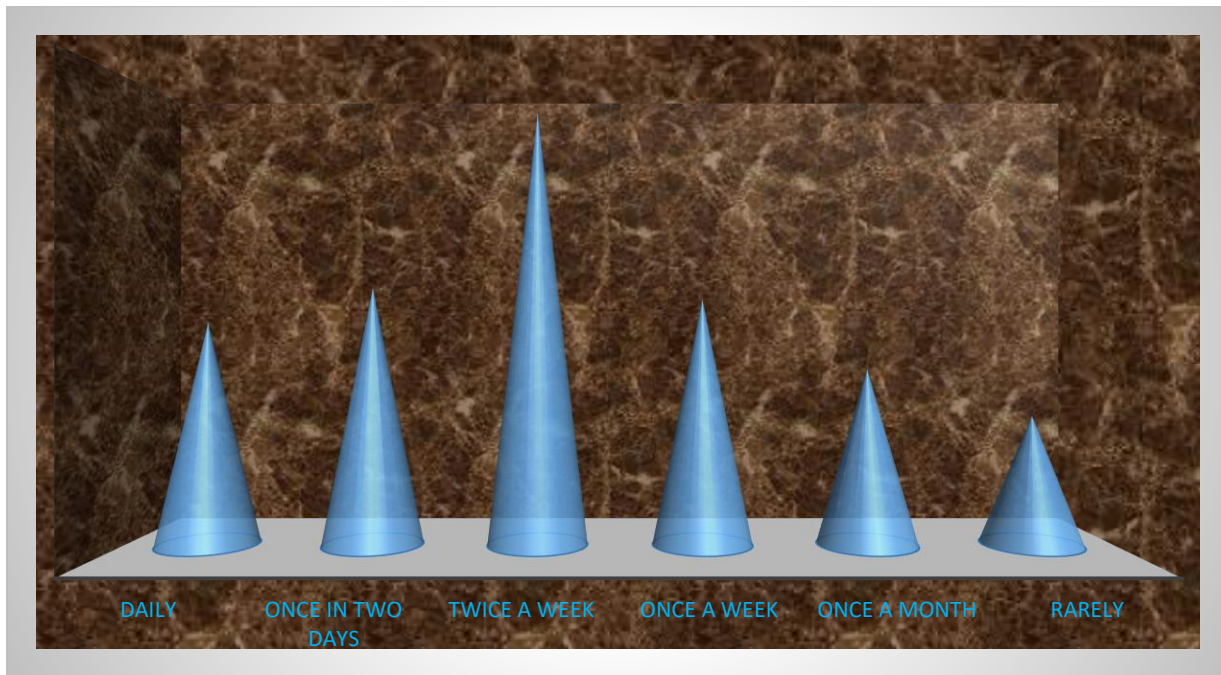


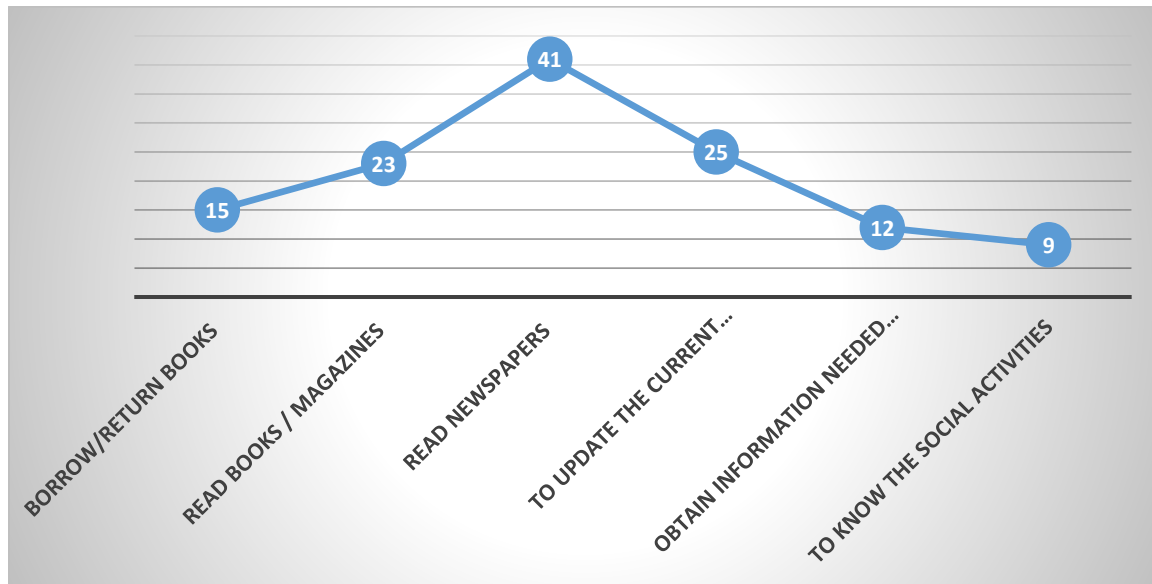
Table & Figure 4 shows the frequency of visit to the public library by the selected respondents. The data from the above figure clearly depicts that majority of the respondents 37(29.60%) visit the library Twice a week, followed by once in two days 11 (17.60%), once in a week 15 (12%) and daily 19 (15.20%).

Table 5
Purpose of Visiting the Library by the Respondents

Purpose of Visiting the Library	Number of Respondents	
	No	%
Borrow/return books	15	12.00
Read books / magazines	23	18.40
Read newspapers	41	32.80
To update the current information	25	20.00
Obtain information needed for jobs/career	12	9.60
To know the social activities	9	7.20
Total	125	100

Fig 5

Purpose of Visiting the Library by the Respondents



Above table 5 shows that the 41 (32.80%) respondents are visit in the public libraries for purpose of read the newspaper'25(20%) respondents were mentioned purpose to update the current information. Borrow/Return books in the public libraries was mentioned by 15 (12%) of users and 12 (9.60%) users are used to obtain information needed for jobs/career in public libraries. It is concluded that the very less 9 (7.2%) respondents are used public libraries purposely to know the social activities.

Table 6

Users Satisfaction level regarding Services provided by the Public library

Variables	Satisfaction level				Pearson's Chi-square	“p” Value
	High	Medium	Low	WAS		
Circulation Services	71 (58.60)	42 (33.60)	12 (9.60)	3.944	2.983	0.0328
Reservation Services	46 (36.80)	49 (39.20)	30 (24.00)	3.256	3.283	0.0285
Periodical Services	68 (54.40)	47 (37.60)	10 (8.00)	3.928	2.850	0.0251

Current Awareness Service	67 (53.60)	51 (40.80)	7 (5.60)	3.961	2.510	0.0278
Reprography Service	42 (33.60)	39 (31.20)	44 (35.20)	2.968	2.781	0.0178
New arrivals	60 (48.00)	43 (34.40)	22 (17.60)	3.608	3.105	0.0189
Drinking water and rest room	47 (37.60)	54 (43.20)	24 (19.20)	3.368	2.518	0.0215
Browsing facilities	39 (31.20)	28 (22.40)	58 (46.40)	2.696	2.147	0.0208
Photo Copying	51 (40.80)	38 (30.40)	36 (28.80)	3.240	3.283	0.0251
Assistance from Staff	62 (49.60)	48 (38.40)	15 (12.00)	3.752	3.252	0.0328
Maintenance of library	57 (45.60)	49 (39.20)	19 (15.20)	3.608	3.074	0.0325
Rules and regulations	49 (39.20)	38 (30.40)	38 (30.40)	3.176	2.750	0.0251
Working hour	69 (55.20)	48 (38.40)	8 (6.40)	3.976	2.518	0.0308
Locality of library	59 (47.20)	37 (29.60)	29 (23.20)	3.481	2.510	0.0275
Environment of library	53 (42.20)	46 (36.80)	26 (20.80)	3.432	2.425	0.0212

The above table 6 divulges satisfaction level of users regarding services of public library at Tenkasi. Maximum of 71 (58.60%) respondents were highly satisfied with the “Circulation Services” of library, followed by 69 (55.20%) were satisfied with working hours of the public library and 68 (54.40%) are satisfied with periodical services of library. To test the Null-hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between the demographic profile of the respondents and their level of satisfaction, a Pearson’s chi-square test was applied. The results are indicated that ‘P’ Value for all the variables is less than the confidence level at 5% .

Findings of the study

- ✓ It is found that maximum respondents visit twice a week to the public library
- ✓ Maximum users visit the public library to read the newspapers and to update the current information

- ✓ The users of the public library are highly satisfied with Circulation service and working hour.
- ✓ The respondents expressed medium level satisfaction with Drinking water and rest room of the library
- ✓ The users having low level satisfaction with Browsing facilities and rules and regulation of the library.

Conclusion

A fundamental principle of the public library is that its facilities must be available to all and not focused to one group in the community to the elimination of 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 for the collection, preservation and promotion of 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 a variety of 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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