

## **UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES IN PUBLIC LIBRARY IN SOUTH PART OF TAMILNADU WITH REFERENCE TO VIRUDHUNAGAR, TUTICURIN, TIRUNELVELI & KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT LEVEL**

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### **Abstract**

*Library movement is a saga of organized growth and development of libraries giving the details of establishment, maintenance and functioning of libraries in a geographical proximity. It is imperative on the part of the democratic country like India to establish the service institutions like public libraries in order to strengthen the democratization of information and to promote the social, cultural, historical and scientific and technical knowledge in the public at large.*

**Keywords:** *Public Library, user community, utilization, knowledge*

### **Introduction**

The libraries have played a vital role in the social, political, economic and cultural development of the society. They had a significant role in the preservation and advancement of culture, formal and self-education and reading for leisure. No country in the world can progress without providing free public library services to the citizens. It is imperative on the part of the democratic country like India to establish the service institutions like public libraries in order to strengthen the democratization of information and to promote the social, cultural, historical and scientific and technical knowledge in the public at large.

### **Public Libraries in Tamil Nadu**

In Tamil Nadu, the Public Libraries are functioning as per “Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Act” which has been enacted in the year 1948 and the rules have come into force from the year 1.4.1950. It is very important to mention that the Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Act, 1948 is the first of its kind enacted in India. The Tamil Nadu Public Library Movement has been spread over all its Districts, which consists of State Central Library, District Central Library, Branch Libraries, Village Libraries, Part-time Libraries and Mobile Libraries etc.

### **State Central Library of Tamil Nadu**

The Connemara Public library, Chennai, is the State Central Library of Tamil Nadu. The Connemara Public Library started in the year 1896. It was named in commemoration of Lord Connemara, the then Governor of Madras who laid the foundation stone for this Public Library in 1890. It became the Tamil Nadu State Central Library from 1.4.1950 as per the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Public Library act, 1948. The entire expenditure for maintaining the library is

met by government of Tamil Nadu. It becomes one of the four national repositories under the provisions of Delivery of Book Act, 1954. After the enactment of this Act, the Publishers of India should send one copy of their publication to the Connemara Public library, Chennai. In accordance with the above Act, the Connemara Central Library has become one of the National Libraries. Accordingly, the Connemara Public Library has been receiving the publications of all books in the national languages, periodicals and Newspapers since 10.09.1955.

### **Challenges in Public Library System in Tamil Nadu**

- National adult education program NAEP implementation in an intensive way.
- National literacy mission
- Emergence of distance education program, under the education policy of government of India.
- Impact of information technology
- Trend forwards network creation and effective utilization
- Manpower planning and development
- Proper collection of library cess and full remittance to the local library authorities
- Conducting of readers forum in every library

### **The District Central Library**

The district central library occupies the third place in the library service to the public. District Central Libraries governed and controlled by the Director of Public Libraries. Each District Central Library covers a particular district and caters the needs of the entire branch, village and Part-time libraries in that particular district. The Directorate of Public Libraries selects and purchases the books to all the Districts as well as local libraries. District Central Library headed by a District Library Officer/ Librarian in each District. The District Central Library functions as to co-ordinate and supervises the entire branch, village, part-time libraries and their functions.

**Table 1**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Libraries</b>	<b>Number</b>
1	District Central Libraries	32
2	Branch Libraries	1925
3	Mobile Libraries	10
4	Village Libraries	1821
5	Part – Time Libraries	742
6	Connemara State Central Public Library	1
7	Anna Centenary Library	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4531</b>

### **Objectives of the Study**

The following objectives are framed for the purpose of the present study.

- Profile of the selected District Libraries in terms of year of establishment, number of registered users, documents collection, average number of visitors per day and newspaper magazine subscribed
- To analyze the extent of use of library facilities and services by faculty Members.
- To find out the purpose for which they seek and collect information.
- To identify the major sources of information.
- To assess the usefulness of various sources of information.
- To enquire into the utilization of library services.
- To assess the user satisfaction on library services.

### **Hypotheses**

Based on the above mentioned objectives, the following hypotheses have been formulated and tested in the present study

- H-1 There is no relation between year of establishment of libraries (district levels) and (i) their document collection; (ii) number of registered members; (iii) number of visitors per day; and (iv) number of books circulated.
- H-2. There is no significant difference between the Public Library members of educational qualification and sources of information used.
- H-3 There is no significant difference between the Public Library member's purpose of using internet such as education, entertainment, news, sports, health and other purposes.
- H-4 There is no significant difference in the opinion of Public Library members of district central Library with regard to overall effectiveness of library such as collection, infrastructure, services, library support, internet facility and computerized activities/operations.
- H-5 There is a significant difference between the outsourcing of Professional-Manual and to elicit users' opinion towards Professional-Automated Activities and Services.
- H-6. There is no relation between age of the respondents and (i) frequency of visit to the library; and (ii) time spent in the library district levels.
- H-7. There is no significant difference among the respondents' purpose of information seeking behavior with respect to district and implementation of Information and communication Technologies.

### **Methodology**

In the present study, Random sampling is adopted to obtain the representative sample. The universe of population consists of public libraries in all the districts of Tamilnadu State, users of these libraries. Four districts were selected from each of this southern part of Tamilnadu, Literacy rate of the district was used as the criteria for the selection of the public libraries at district levels.

**Table 2 Population and Literacy Statistics**

Name of the district	Population of District under study	Gender	Population of the district Gender wise	Lillterate	Literacy Rate of the district under study
Virudhunagar	72,296	Male	35,889	31,237	87.03%
		Female	36,407	29,692	81.55%
Tuticorin	1,750,176	Male	865,021	703106	81.28%
		Female	885,155	649,591	73.38%
Tirunelveli	3,077,23	Male	1,520,912	1,210,710	82.50%
		Female	1,556,321	1,062,747	76.09%
Kanyakumari	1,870374	Male	926,345	780541	84.26%
		Female	944029	768197	81.37%

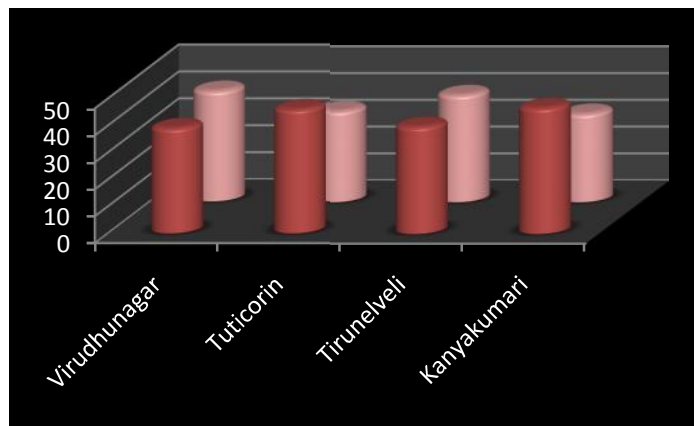
**Source;** Census 2001.[http:// www.censusindia.gov.in/towns/asp](http://www.censusindia.gov.in/towns/asp)x

### Findings of the Study

**Table .3**

S. No	Public Library	Year of Establishment	Total No. books	Library member
1.	Virudhunagar	1961	1,06,620	11708
2.	Tuticorin	1954	86,134	15,500
3.	Tirunelveli	1952	1,32,953	22,408
4.	Kanyakumari	1955	1,00,526	14572

### Gender Wise Respondents



Out of 320 respondent's 8.43 percent are below 20 age group and 22.5 age Group and 23.43 percent users are 30-40 age group and 15 percent users are found above 50 age group.

**Table .4 Distributions of Public Library Users According to Frequency of Library Visit**

S. No	Public Library	Frequency of Lib. Visit				
		Daily	Weekly	Weekly Twice	Monthly	Holidays
1	Virudhunagar	15(18.75)	18( 22.5)	10( 22.5)	24(30.0)	13 (16.25)
2	Tuticorin	9(11.25)	21(26.25)	13(16.25)	16(20.0)	12 (15.0)

3	Tirunelveli	19(23.75)	8(10.0)	13( 16.25)	109( 12.5)	30( 37.5)
4	Kanyakumari	5(6.25)	24( 30.0)	21( 26.25)	20( 25.0)	10 (12.5)
<b>Total</b>		<b>48(15.0)</b>	<b>71(22.18)</b>	<b>57( 17.81)</b>	<b>70 (21.87)</b>	<b>65 (20.31)</b>

From the total respondents 48 percent users of them visit daily, 22.15 percent users visit weekly, 17.81 percent users visit the Public Library on twice a week whereas 21.87 percent users visit the Public Library holidays. The numbers of persons who visit the Library weekly are more in number than others.

**Table.5 Distribution of Public Library Users According to Convenient of Library Rules**

S.No	Public Library	Yes x	No y	x <sup>2</sup>	y <sup>2</sup>	xy
1	Virudhunagar	47 58.75	33 41.25	2209	1089	1551
2	Tuticorin	26 32.5	44 55.0	676	1936	1144
3	Tirunelveli	51 63.75	29 36.25	2601	841	1479
4	Kanyakumari	43 53.75	37 46.25	1849	1369	1591
n=4		$\sum x=167$	$\sum y=143$	$\sum x^2=733$	$\sum y^2=5235$	$\sum xy=5765$

Data in table reveals that distribution of Public Library users according to opinion about convenience of Library rules. It is clearly seen that out of 320 respondents 44.68 percent users have their opinion on Library rules as convenient and 45.93 users feel inconvenient about Library rules.

### Karl Pearson's Coefficient Correlation

Karl Pearson's coefficient of correlation between x and y is

$$r_{xy} = \frac{\text{Cov}_{xy}}{\sqrt{\text{var}_x \text{var}_y}}$$

$$= \frac{23060 - 23881}{\sqrt{29340 - 27889} \cdot \sqrt{20940 - 20449}}$$

There is a relationship between the opinions on Library rules

Let X be the respondents opinion on Library rules as convenient

Let Y be the respondents opinion on Library rules as inconvenient

$$= \frac{23060 - 23881}{\sqrt{29340 - 27889} \cdot \sqrt{20940 - 20449}}$$

$$= \frac{821}{843}$$

$$= 0.9739$$

From the result we can see that the value is positive correlation co-efficient. So there is a relationship between the Public Library users convenient about Library Rules.

### Centralised Book Purchase Scheme of Tamil Nadu

A decision to adopt Centralized book purchase scheme to all public libraries in the State was been taken by the Tamil Nadu Government. Also **“Best reading to the largest number with the least cost”** is the motto of the library movement. For the fulfillment of this motto, the government has also formulated a page-price formula for fixing the price to the books purchased to the libraries. For the above two purposes, the government have constituted separate committees. The book selection committee ensures selection of good books to the libraries. Another committee formed to fix the price of the book. The abnormal price fixed by the publishers is regulated through this page-price formula.

### Based on Users Opinion Challenges are Listed

- That inadequate funding is the major challenge faced by the Public library staff in the provision of effective library services to users.
- Lack of awareness was also found to be the major challenge library users' encounter in getting access to information.
- Advances in digital media and technology Librarians know the truth: just because more people are turning to digital resources like eBooks, podcasts and online databases for their information don't mean that libraries are becoming obsolete.
- To ensure timely, precise & reliable accession of Information
- To ensure maximum utilization of knowledge, we need information policies, in order to develop the society.
- They are knowledge centers and contribute to life-long learning.
- Public libraries have always been the door to learning.
- To ensure the growth of information structure.

### Suggestions

1. User education and information literacy programme are the very effective way of creating awareness among the students to handle the electronic information sources hence it is suggested to give more training programme the users of the library.
2. Public libraries should be provided more importance to procure subject books in their library.
3. The student community receiving CAS and SDI service through which they enhance their current development in their field of interest, hence it is suggested more concentration on giving these types of services two its users of the library.
4. Majority of the new users of the library unknown about finding and handling different types of information in their library and in this circumstance it is better to give assistance to the users by the staff of the libraries.

## **Conclusion**

Public Libraries are knowledge centers and contribute to life-long learning. Hence it necessary to aware of the Acts which are essential for the growth of Public libraries. The rapid growth of e-resources and the complexity in managing these resources has posed new challenges for the library professionals. Now we are living in digital environment and obviously it is changing the nature of all the three elements of library i.e. collection, users and staff in every library.

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