

IMPACT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY IN THOOTHUKUDI

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ABSTRACT

The study examines the effects of Tuticorin's public library on local community development. The most crucial resources for ensuring accurate, secure, and equitable access to information are libraries. It serves as a civic hub for ongoing information dissemination. It catalyzes decency and is a significant indicator of a mature society. The evolution of the library as an institution is a logical and natural result of parallel advancements in several fields of human knowledge. Books are essential for intellectual survival, just as food is for human existence. A living archive of historical culture, libraries support intellectual pursuits that foresee advances in the future. The present study is analyzed to determine the sort of information that Thoothukudi's District Central Library's users need and To evaluate the effects of the city's public library on community development. A structured and well-designed set of 122 data were calculated as other required information about the research topic.

Keywords: Public Library, Impact of Community Development.

Introduction

Public libraries are institutions for the people, by the people, and of the people. They are social institutions founded on the idea of equality. According to S.R. Ranganathan, it is a library that is run and owned by the local community to share books and similar resources with residents as a free service. The Library has a history of serving as a library of record, and its contents are representative of a wide range of many cultures, nations, and tongues. Major topic collections in languages other than English have been added to the library over the years since many gift collections originate from donors and collectors with global interests. Prints, microforms, sound recordings, films, audio and video materials, maps, blueprints, and other architectural drawings are among the significant collections in other formats, even though the majority of the resources are in print format (books, manuscripts, periodicals, newspapers, documents, etc.). With a focus on inter-institutional collaboration and resource sharing, electronic goods and related management elements have entered the realm of library services. A separate section on library formats contains a comprehensive overview of formats and format-related collection development. Individual library users of all ages can access services and activities by visiting the library in person, calling, writing, or using technological

means of contact. These clients include not just members of the general public but also international scholars and academics.

Review of Literature

A library is a collection of books, legal documents, technological advances, recreational activities, and government publications useful to the average citizen. To identify the gap in the existing study effort, knowledge of the following connected literature was crucial:

Naresh Kumar and Ashu Shokeon (2014) identified that 61% of the respondents were very much satisfied with the collection of newspapers, and 37% were very much satisfied with the collection of current magazines.

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Owusu-Acheaw M's (2015) Study of undergraduate students revealed satisfaction with overall services as the library played an important role in achieving diversity objectives.

Sriram B and Rajeev M's (2016) study of 640 respondents revealed 11% were staff members. 58% were between 30 and 40 years of age. 24% visited several times a day for various purposes.

Suresh Kumar P's (2017) study of service quality of the University Libraries in Kerala found that 60% were satisfied with the knowledge and courtesy of employees. Lighting and Ventilation were much appreciated. Effective utilization of the resources, services, and products can be achieved through the development of a quality marketing approach

Profile of Sample Unit

The district library of Thoothukudi was established in 1952 and functions at Toovipuram 9th Street, Toovipuram, Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu 628002. The Library provides the following functions.

- ❖ Renders best library service to society.
- ❖ To promote the public library movement.
- ❖ To provide lifelong self-education
- ❖ Popularizing to public library movement
- ❖ Providing adequate infra-structural facilities
- ❖ Providing reading materials.

Objectives of the Study

- ❖ To determine the sort of information that Thoothukudi's District Central Library's users need;
- ❖ To evaluate the effects of the city's public library on community development.

Methodology

To gather primary data, a survey approach will be employed. We'll use the questionnaire approach to get the necessary information. The data will be gathered via stratified random sampling. A structured and well-designed set of 150 questionnaires were circulated to gather data and other required information about the research topic. Eight of the 130 questionnaires that were gathered were

rejected due to missing information, 122 data were tabulated, basic percentages were applied, and analysis was done on them.

Null and alternative hypothesis

H0 There is no relationship between Community Development through the services of Public Libraries in a demographic profile.

H1 There is no relationship between Community Development through the services of Public Libraries in a demographic profile.

Analysis and Interpretation of data

Table 1
Age-wise Distribution of Respondents

Age of the Respondents	No. of Respondents	Percentage on Total
Below 18	13	10.66
18 - 25	26	21.31
25 - 55	49	40.16
Above 55	34	27.87
Total	122	100

Source: primary data

Fig 1 Age-wise Distribution of Respondents

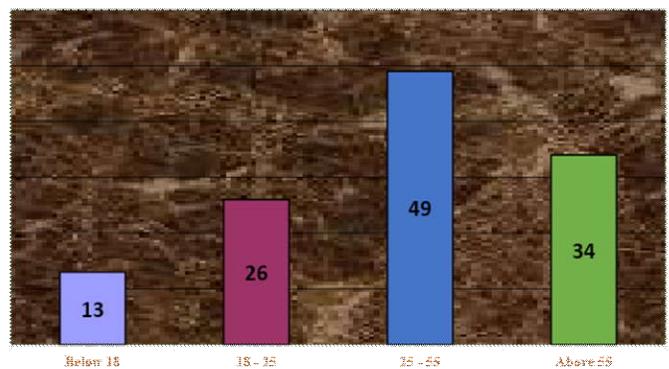


Table 1 discloses 40.16 percent of respondents belonged to the age group of 25 – 35, followed by 27.87 percent above 55, 21.31 percent 18 – 25, and 10.66 percent of respondents come under the age group of below 18. The maximum number of respondents belongs to the middle-aged category.

Table 2
Frequency of Visiting Library

Frequency of Visiting Library	No. of Respondents	Percentage on Total
Almost daily	19	15.57
Thrice a week	25	20.49
Twice a week	33	27.05
Once a week	45	36.89

Source: primary data

It is known from table 2 that a maximum of 36.89 percent of respondents come to the library once a week regularly, followed by 27.05 percent twice a week, 20.49 percent thrice a week, and 15.57 percent of respondents come to the library almost daily.

Fig 2 Frequency of Visiting Library

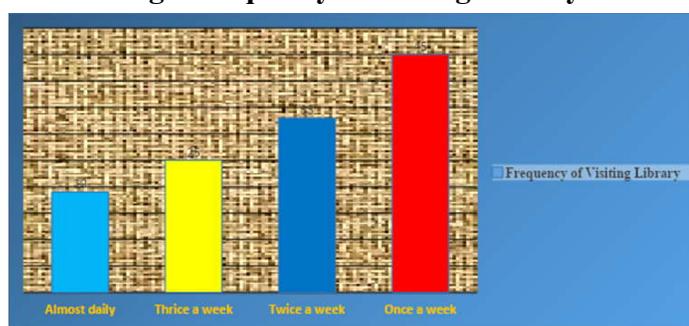


Table 3

Educational Qualifications of Respondents

Educational Qualifications of the Respondents	No. of Respondents	Percentage on Total
Below Higher Secondary	21	17.21
Graduates	54	44.26
Post-Graduation	34	27.87
Others (Professional courses)	13	10.66
Total	122	100

Source: primary data

Table 3 divulges a maximum of 44.26 percent of respondents are graduates, followed by 27.87 percent postgraduates, 17.21 percent below higher secondary, and 10.66 percent comes under the category of others.

Table 4
Community Development through the services of Public Library

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Sl. No	Statement	Yes	No opinion	No	WAM	Rank
1	Newspaper & Magazines	67	22	31	3.984	V
2	Agricultural information	79	24	19	4.098	III
3	Environmental information	77	35	10	3.459	XII
4	Morten technical information	54	42	26	3.525	XI
5	Education & Training	57	40	25	4.213	II
6	Business Information	84	29	7	4.328	I
7	Employment information	87	29	6	4.082	IV
8	Current affairs	80	28	14	3.649	VII
9	Political information	70	21	31	3.639	IX
10	Health care information	69	23	30	3.607	X
11	Religious information	57	45	20	3.844	VI
12	Family-related information	64	44	17	3.738	VII
13	Govt./ Local body information	63	41	18	3.18	XIV
14	Weather-related information	53	27	42	3.213	XIII
15	Others (General)	49	37	36	3.084	XV

Source : primary data

Table 4 reveals the ranking of variables for the library that provides services for community development. The first rank was given to the statement “Business information” with a mean score of 4.328, followed by the second rank to “Education & Training,” third rank to “Agricultural information,” and the last rank for others (General).

Table 5 Tests of Between-Subjects Effects					
Dependent Variable: Community Development through the services of Public Library					
Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	21.795	10	0.208	0.572	0.834
Intercept	730.314	1	730.35	327.426	0
Category	0.674	2	0.346	0.672	0.013
Gender	0.606	1	0.408	0.856	0.007
Frequency	0.665	2	0.437	0.947	0.001
Purpose	1.252	4	0.515	0.897	0.008
Error	39.646	114	0.352		
Total	1430.727	122			
Corrected Total	41.639	121			
a. R Squared = .048 (Adjusted R Squared = -.036)					

Findings of the study

- ❖ It was found that respondents belonged to the age group of 25– 55 years and mostly came to the library.
- ❖ Most of the selected respondents come to the library once a week.
- ❖ It is observed that the maximum number of respondents are graduates.
- ❖ A Maximum number of respondents read the business-related information, followed by education and agricultural information.
- ❖ It is concluded that there is a significant relationship between the demographic profile of respondents and their attitude towards the Impact of Community Development through the Public Library.

Conclusion

The study is particularly helpful in understanding library patrons, accessible resources, usability, and the district-wide effects of the Thoothukudi District Central Library, among other things. A better approach to learning about the resources, services, and facilities offered by the District Central Library of Thoothukudi is through this research. The current study focuses on the usability of the information available through the public library, desirable

modifications that the users would want to see, and the issues that users encounter when using the library. It makes recommendations to improve the Thoothukudi District Central Library's resources' usability and address user issues.

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