A STUDY OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES IN RADHANAGARI TAHSIL

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Abstract:

The present paper dwells upon the public library services rendered at RadhanagariTahsil, its current status and problems of public libraries in RadhanagariTahsil. The key points considered for the analysis are public library services, extension activities, periods of extension activities and the availability of ICT facilities to draw the valid findings. The analysis reveals that CAS services are preferably provided by (66.66 %) of libraries. Most of the libraries carried out extension activities such as book exhibitions and cultural programmes annually. Further, it is noticed that only 17.77% of libraries have the availability of computers.

Keywords: Library, Services, Public Library, Extension, Communication, Period, Facilities etc.

1 Introduction

A library collection is a source of information and similar resources made accessible to a defined community for reference or borrowing. There are four types of libraries: i.e. Academic, Special, National, and Public. The academic library plays a very vital role in enhancing the teaching-learning process of a teacher and student. The special library provides information sources on a particular subject for specialized and limited readers. Public librariesplay a vital role in developing a person as the best human being. The public library is a practical demonstration of democracy's faith in universal education as a continuing and lifelong process in the appreciation of the achievement of humanity in knowledge and culture. A public library is a library that is open to the general public and is often supported by public funds, such as taxes. Librarians and library paraprofessionals operate it, as do civil servants. Public libraries share five fundamental characteristics. The first is that taxes generally support them (usually though any level of government can and may contribute). A

board governs them to serve the public interest, open to all, and every community member can access the collection; they are entirely voluntary in that no one is ever forced to use the services without charge.

Public libraries exist in many countries worldwide and are often considered essential to having an educational and population. Public libraries are distinct from research libraries and school libraries. Their mandate is to serve the general public information needs. Public libraries also provide free services such as school story time to encourage early literacy quite, a study and work area for students and professional or book clubs to encourage appreciation of literature in adults. Public libraries temporarily allow users to take books and other materials off the premises. They also have a non-circulating reference collection and provide computer and internet access to patrons. The public library is regarded mainly as the people's university. It had a tremendous development in India from the early period to till date at various stages. Most Indian states now have free public library services to develop the people. It is also an essential landmark in the history of public library services in India. As a result, 2007 marks the centenary of free public library services in India. The public library provided facilities for the communities regardless of color, age, nationality, language, status or level of educational attainment. There is a close relationship between the library and society and hence an agency for helping the all-round development of the community. In public libraries, the facilities are provided without any cost or requiring any membership. Public libraries play a vital role in the upliftment of the country. They are also called storehouses of knowledge because they provide the general public with relevant information. Public libraries menace a library meant for public use. A public library is a non-commercial library which is accessible to the public. The main aim of public libraries is to provide free public access to reading material. It is leaving a force for education, culture and information.

2 Importance of the study

The main task of public libraries is to provide books & periodicals for the public. The public library also provides books and other materials to every reader, from children to older persons. In addition to their circulating collection, public libraries usually offer reference books, such as encyclopedias, dictionaries, phone books & unique or expensive academic works. These books may not be available for borrowing except under particular circumstances. Reference books that are frequently used, such as phone books, may be housed in a special section called a ready reference.

The public library helps to develop interest in reading among all kinds of readers. The library is a comprehensive & huge science to learn; there are four basic library types, as mentioned above. But an essential public library still needs to be made

aware of the research. Therefore there is a need to focus study & research on public libraries. Studying & researching public libraries will help every needed reader for easy access. So this is the researcher's topic title effort to study and research the public library in RadhanagariTahsil. Public libraries are libraries that contain reading material relevant to public use. It aims to provide free public access to information for educational enlightenment and the community's welfare.

3 Statement of the Problem

The subject of the present study is "Study of Public Library Services in Radhanagari Tehsil." The main objective of this study is to understand the various services and practices offered by public libraries.

4 Objectives of the study

This study was carried out to study the public libraries available to users to promote their use.

1) To know the various services provided by public libraries in RadhanagariTahsil

2) To find out extension services offered by these public libraries

3) To study the use of ICT (computer and other accessories) for providing library services in public libraries

5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of the present study is limited to 62, B & C grade Public Libraries in RadhanagariTahsil at Kolhapur district. Public libraries are mostly regarded as local information centers which enable the public to locate the information of their choice by providing various services. All these libraries play a vital role in the community's overall development. This study attempts to know the public library practices and how these practices can further increase the use of libraries. If the current services need to be more satisfactory, then steps can be taken to improve these services. Analytical scope pertains to analyzing total data collected from these libraries. The data interpretation is based on information provided by questionnaire respondents. Through this study, we can understand whether the users derive the use of the public library's services. Radhanagari is a tehsil or block in the Kolhapur district of Maharashtra. According to census 2011 information, the sub-district code of Radhanagari block is 04289. There are about 113 villages in the Radhanagari block. Radhanagari is famous for its Dajipur wildlife sanctuary and Laxmi Dam, which ChhatrapatiShahuMaharaj established.

6 Research Methodology

The researcher is going to use the descriptive method to pursue the present study, along with the descriptive method,a historical method will also be used. The

researcher will use the descriptive method to pursue the present study; along with the descriptive method, they will also use the historical method. The population for the present study is 48 libraries, and 45 libraries are responses taken. The present study is based on "Enhancement of public library practices to promote use of these libraries in RadhanagariTahshil".

7 Review of the Literature

1. Pandeewaran, C., Chellappandi, P. & Bhattacharya, S. S. (2021) In his paper entitled "A study on awareness and use of public library services: With special reference to district central library, dindigul" the researcher has reviewed the public awareness of district central libraries and the public's utilization of public library services; for this Study, Central libraries in the Dindigul district are selected. The information about the services provided by the public library in the district has been taken, and awareness about these services among the people. This study has presented the district central library, its importance, the reading material there and the information people have about it.

2. Kumar, S., & Gupta, S. (2020). In his paper entitled "A study on current scenario of public libraries with special reference to Rajasthan" researcher said that public libraries can do an excellent job of bridging the gap between people's 'information scarcity' and 'information richness' in this research. Public libraries can better ensure that communities from all walks of life across India have easy access to knowledge. Keeping this in mind, the Government of India has helped every state to establish quality public libraries across the country under the Digital India Project. In this paper, the current situation of public libraries in India is studied, with particular reference to the public library of Rajasthan. It includes the initiatives taken by the government for the development of public libraries, especially in Rajasthan. It also has challenges and opportunities librarians face in developing shared libraries. It also describes future opportunities for the development of public libraries in Rajasthan, India.

3. Noh, Y., & Chang, R. (2020). In his paper entitled "A study on the factors of public library use by residents" researcher has selected various factors influencing the use and satisfaction of public libraries, reflecting the social changes during the lead-up to the Industrial Revolution. This study examines the characteristics of reading materials, physical facilities, location, staff, programs and services of public libraries, influencing residents' satisfaction and use. The results of this study provide essential information for attracting residents to libraries.

4. Ghosh, M. (2005). In his paper entitled "The Public Library System in India: Challenges and opportunities" The majority of people in India live in rural areas. Today, the Internet and web technology opens up new avenues of interaction between public libraries and civil society. But not every new technology can reach

remote villages. Advances in information and communication technology (ICT) can better connect remote people through a range of technological options. Widespread use of "ICT for Development" enables public libraries to provide better services to people in remote areas. In this article, technology can be used to improve and promote existing library services. A proper library extension program is needed to help the entire rural and urban society. In this study, an attempt has been made to formulate a proposal for using ICT in public libraries in Indian states.
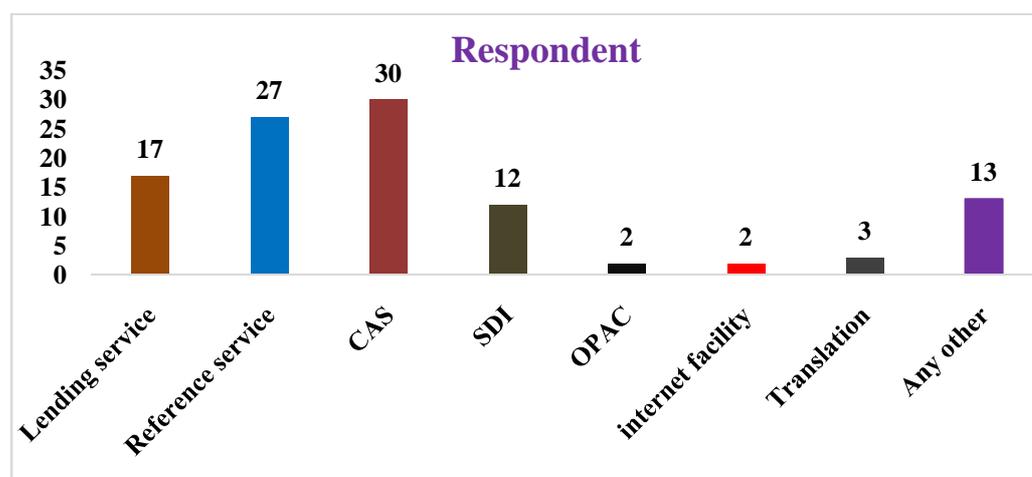
8 Results and Discussions

❖   **Services provided by Public Library Radhanagari Tehsil**

Table 1: Services provided by Public libraries

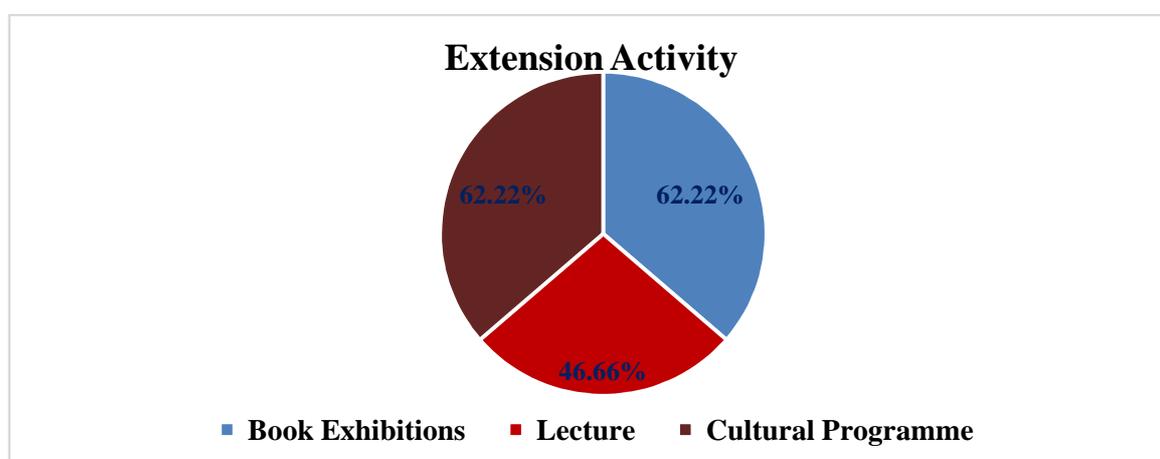| Sr. No.	Services provided in library	No. of Responses	Percentage %
1	Lending service	17	37.77 %
2	Reference service	27	60.00 %
3	CAS	30	66.66 %
4	SDI	12	26.66 %
5	OPAC	02	4.44 %
6	internet facility	02	4.44 %
7	Translation	03	6.66 %
8	Any other	13	28.88 %

Graph 1: Services provided by the public library

The above Table 1 and graph 1 shows the services provided by the library. It is observed that CAS services are preferably provided by (66.66 %) of libraries, followed by reference services provided by 60% of libraries; below that, lending services and SDI services are provided by 37.77% and 26.66% of libraries. Translation, OPAC and internet facility etc. services are provided in a few libraries, i.e., 4.44%.

❖ **Extension Activities of libraries:**
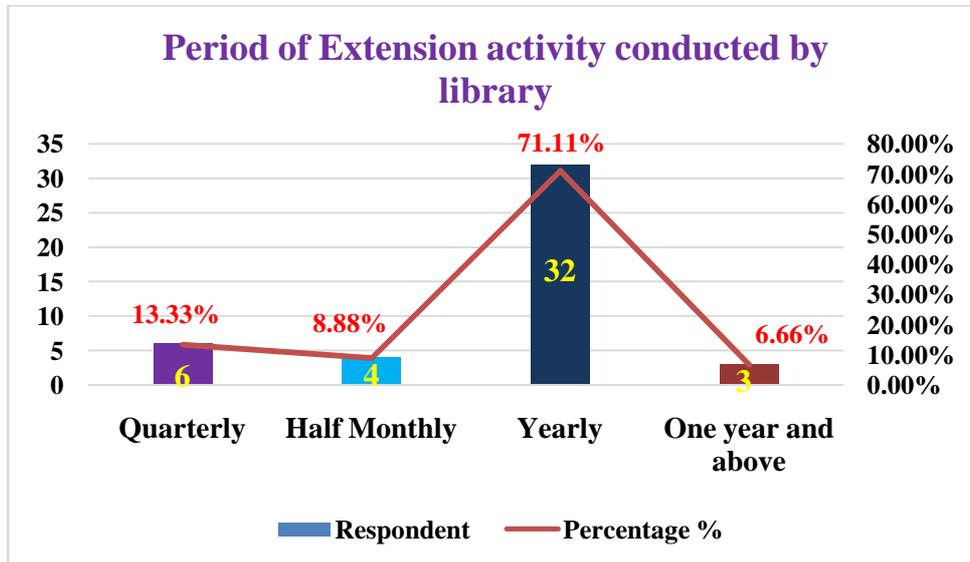
Graph 2: Extension Activities

The above Graph 2 shows that out of the total number of respondents, 28 libraries carry out Book exhibitions & cultural programme which was 62.22% of the total respondents. Followed by 21 (46.66%) libraries carry out Lecture session for extension of their libraries among the reader.

❖ **Period of Extension Activities Conducted by Libraries:**

Table 2: Period of Extension Activity

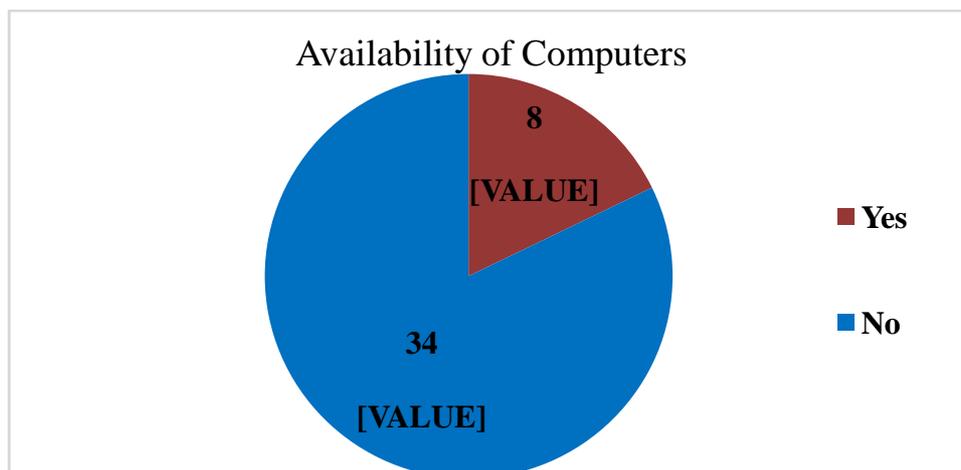| Sr. No.	Extension activities conducted by libraries	No. of Responses	Percentage %
1	Quarterly	06	13.33 %
2	Half Monthly	04	8.88 %
3	Yearly	32	71.11 %
4	One year and above	03	6.66 %
	Total	**45**	**100**

Graph 3: Period of Extension Activities

Period of Extension activity conducted by library

The above Table 2, graph 3 shows the extension activities conducted by the libraries. Libraries carry out extension activities quarterly, half-yearly, yearly and year & above. Maximum, i.e. 75.55% of libraries carry out extension activities yearly. Followed by 24% of libraries carrying extension activity once or twice a month, and only 6.6% of libraries are delayed their extension activity above year.

❖ **Availability of computers:**

Graph 4: Period of Extension Activities

Availability of Computers

The above pie chart shows the availability of computers. It indicates that Only eight libraries, i.e. 17.77% have computers, whereas 82.22% of libraries haven't computers. This pie chart study shows tremendous scope for computerizing the public library sector.

9 Major Findings

1. All the libraries carry out various extension activities i.e. Book exhibition, Lecture science and Cultural programme etc.

2. Most of the libraries haven't any problems in providing services whereas few have someminor problems.

3. It is seen that the maximum number of libraries have Marathi, Hindi and English languages resources. On the other hand few have other languages resources.

4. Only 17.77% of libraries have the availability of computers. On the other hand, more than 2/3 libraries haven't the same.

5. Considering the type of resources, all the public libraries under study occupies Marathi language resources, while 85% of libraries fulfill English & Hindi language resources.

6. Out of total libraries under study, only 25% of libraries can supply rare book services to their clientele

Conclusion

The present study minutely picturizedthe current situation of the public library in RadhanagariTahsil. There is a need to support financial assistance from the Government bodies to strengthen the infrastructural development of public libraries as it is considered as a people's university.

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