

A Study on Functioning Of Rural Library in Dindigul District - With Special Reference to Batlagundu Block

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Abstract

Public libraries have a good role in promoting their people by giving information by many ways. Such as providing books, magazines, periodicals and newspapers. The libraries have a greater role for providing general knowledge to youths for their carrier exams. During the British rules itself there are provisions of public libraries and enacted acts for their smooth functions through financial helps by the administration. After independence so many states have passed the libraries act. TamilNadu is the first state which enacted public library act in independent India. There are state libraries, district libraries and rural libraries. Rural library is the grass root level and more important since it provides the rural information to the rural people /rural youths who could not reach to district/state libraries. A library means an organised collection of books, other printed material and in some cases special materials such as manuscripts, film and other sources of info like print, audio

etc. There are hindrance in the functioning of libraries due to infrastructural, amenities and financial. The funding from government is not justified. Hence they forced to take membership fee from the publics. Still 100% of rural people are not utilising the facilities which requires wide publicity and frequent counselling .the libraries still can do better to their rural people.

Introduction:

A library is an organized collection of books, other printed materials, and in some cases special materials such as manuscripts, films and other sources of information. Its collection can be print, audio, or visual materials, including maps, prints, documents, microform, CDs, cassettes, videotapes, DVDs, video games, E-books, audio books, and other many types of electrical resources. The places where this material is stored include public libraries, subscription libraries, and private libraries, and material can also be in digital form,



stored on computers or accessible over the internet. Libraries range in size from a few shelves of books in small organizations library and collections of several million items in the larger national and academic libraries.

Meaning of Rural Library

Rural is an exact term that can mean different thing to different people. Attempts at defining rural range from demographic to psychological. In fact, defining rural becomes more of a subject term than what is defining by any dictionary.

While rural is commonly treated as a single idea careful reviews have pointed out its multidimensional nature (Deavers, 1992; Miller and Luloff, 1981). Most uses of the term “rural” reflect a mixture of different ways in which a place (or group of people) can be described as distinctively rural. Drawing on this premise, one can identify at least four basic dimensions of meaning: Demographic, Economic or Occupational, Social structure, and Cultural.

Tamil Nadu Library Legislation

Tamil Nadu is the first state that enacted Public Libraries Act in independent India. It came into force with effect from 1

April 1950. The objectives of the Act are contained in its Preamble as, “An act to provide for the establishment of public libraries in the province of (Madras) Tamil Nadu and the organization of comprehensive rural and urban Library Service therein”. It has 19 sections. The salient features of this Act are given below:

- 1) This Act facilitates establishment of Public Libraries in the State.
- 2) Constitution of State Library Committee for the purpose of advising the government on such matters relating to libraries.
- 3) Provision for appointment of Director of Public Libraries to control, direct and supervise public libraries.
- 4) Constitution of Local Library Authorities, one for the City of Madras and one for each district.
- 5) Every Local Library Authority shall levy in the area a library cess in the form of a surcharge on property tax or house tax at the rate of six paise per rupee.
- 6) The Government shall contribute Library Fund to each of the Local Library Authority, except the City of Madras, to the amount of library cess collected.
- 7) The Act amended Sec.9 of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, Central Act XXV of 1867 to the effect that every



printer shall deliver five copies of each book to the State Government out of which four will be deposited in the State Central Library, Madras. Tamil Nadu was very rich in public libraries. The Connemara Public Library was opened for the public in 1896 and became the State Central Library from 1 April 1950. There is a tremendous growth and development of public libraries since an enactment of Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Act 1948 being the first state in India with Library Legislation.

Rural Public Library

A public library is Peoples University and an asset of democratic country; it has its base the rural library. The term 'rural library' means the library which is situated and served the rural areas, free of charge or for a nominal fee. It is considered as a library open to all the rural people irrespective of race, region, colour, sex, language status, educational attainment etc. It is available for use to all who have desire of using it. A rural library is an integral part of mass education program and its main aim is rural development. The prime objective is to take forward the backward community, the neglected and the suppress people of the society through various programs and to

preserve the literacy heritage of the local social life.

Library Literature

There is little research in the field of library and information studies dealing with rural staffing issues. No research was located pertaining to factors affecting the recruitment and retention of library directors working in rural public libraries. However the literature and research that does relates in some way to the proposed topic is briefly reviewed here.

Rural Library funding shortage is existing. They are special consequence currently because, along with older better understood express like salaries, books, and building maintenance, rural library budget makers need to add items for information technology machinery, communications network, and software and media collection. Libraries serving population 1000 and 10000 (a vast majority of rural library) had per capita support two or three dollars less than the national average .The problem of low per capita support and relatively small budgets is fundamentally related to the use tradition of local taxation to support local government services. It also is related to the



historically low rate of taxes on rural land, farm equipment, and out buildings. Some rural districts are poor because their districts are poor. Others are poor because their constituencies, who have the means to do so, choose not to support their libraries. Still, others have funds because they have won solid tax support from middle-income and business constituencies.

Rural Libraries apportion their smaller budgets in different ways. The biggest different is that rural libraries, with the smallest budgets, spent the smallest proportions of those budgets on staff and more on collection (chute, 1992). That is not an accident it is only a policy choice. Those libraries are forced to choose between books or staff. The relatively low percentage of total budget spent on staff helps explain the low number of library professionals (with and without an ALA accredited MLS) found in rural libraries. The percentage of total full time equivalence in rural libraries with an ALA accredited MLS ranges from 2.5 percent for libraries serving less than 1000 persons to 19.5 percent serving populations of from 10000 to 24999 (chute, 1992, p.27). By way of comparison, the city of state. To Louis public library, with of trust less of

rural libraries have made conscious budget decisions, first to spent less overall on staff, and second, to employ less well-trained staff. In other words, rural libraries have maximized books and minimized their institutional ability to offer skilled professional library service or management.

Rural libraries established since 70 percent of Indian population live in rural areas. Our central government is trying to restructure the rural areas in all five years plans. The results of the plan show that there is an improvement but it is not as expected as in the plan. There are many factors involved in restructuring the rural communities. One among them is to establish the libraries at rural areas to provide right information to the right user at right time.

Objectives of Rural libraries

Vision / Mission statement:

- To promote public Library Movements
- To provide lifelong self-Education

Main activities:

- Popularizing to public library movement
- Providing adequate infra-structure facilities
- Providing Reading materials
- Research building and mobilization of funds

Public Libraries Movement in Tamil Nadu

The Madras Public libraries Act, 1948 the first of its kind in India was brought into force from the year 1950. Under the provision of this Act the following units are functioning in this state:

S.No:	District	State Central Library	District Central Library	Branch Library	Mobile Library	Village Library	Part-time Library	Total
1.	CONNEMARA PUBLIC LIBRARY (Chennai)	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
2.	CHENNAI	-	1	138	-	-	18	157
3.	COIMBATORE	-	1	105	4	134	54	298
4.	CUDDALORE	-	1	63	-	39	23	126
5.	DHARMAPURI	-	1	25	0	61	19	106
6.	DINDIGUL	-	1	53	0	83	22	161
7.	ERODE	-	1	100	1	120	34	256
8.	KANCHEEPURAM	-	1	65	1	49	16	132
9.	KANYAKUMARI	-	1	13	-	39	23	126
10.	KARUR	-	1	26	-	50	4	81
11.	MADURAI	-	1	60	1	59	8	129
12.	NAGAPATTINAM	-	1	40	-	42	10	93
13.	NAMAKKAL	-	1	43	-	60	39	143
14.	NILGRIS	-	1	45	-	26	7	79

15.	PERAMBALUR	-	1	25	-	35	4	65
16.	PUDUKOTTAI	-	1	32	-	39	6	78
17.	RAMANATHAPURAM	-	1	49	-	21	11	82
18.	SALEM	-	1	57	1	72	24	155
19.	SIVAGANGAI	-	1	50	-	46	19	116
20.	THANJAVUR	-	1	50	1	41	16	109
21.	THENI	-	1	62	-	44	8	115
22.	THIRUVANNAMALAI	-	1	41	-	70	23	135
23.	THIRUVALLUR	-	1	65	1	46	11	124
24.	THUTHUKUDI	-	1	45	-	54	14	114
25.	TIRUCHIRAPALLI	-	1	56	1	61	3	122
26.	TIRUVARUR	-	1	27	-	43	8	79
27.	TIRUNELVELI	-	1	96	1	80	10	188
28.	VELLORE	-	1	59	-	65	25	150
29.	VILLUPURAM	-	1	61	-	65	15	142
30.	VIRUDHUNAGAR	-	1	91	-	49	15	156
31.	KRISHNAKIRI	-	1	25	-	60	19	105
	Total	1	30	1667	12	1727	487	3924

Under the jurisdiction of these Libraries the following services are rendered:

1. Mobile library services
2. Home delivery services
3. Library services for children
4. Library services for prisoners in jail
5. Library services for estate workers and remote settlers on the hills



6. Library services for police personal
7. Hospital library services
8. Rural library services

Rural Library Services

The fundamental aim of the rural library is to provide timely, pertinent, accurate and reliable information services to all the rural population.. The following are some of the important services that may be provided;

- Information with emphasis on local history, local commerce and industry, local Agricultural produce and local places of tourist attraction and facilities, local and general employment opportunities, Statistics-government and provide and career development information.
- Information about census; Population-Male, Female, Age group, Literacy, percentage, professionals, Rural and Urban forest etc., (National Resources)
- General information on state and the country.
- Cultural activities are-arranging lectures by eminent persons on

different subjects, Dreams, debate etc.

Services in Rural Area

The network of rural mobile should use to a greater extent for the dissemination of information to local communities. The potential of the library in rural areas to support rural business by the provision of employment and training information needs to be exploited in consultation with the economic development staff of the planning department. It is suggested that the experiment of providing small libraries in village shops.

Advantage of Rural Libraries Services

The rural library helps different sectors of the community by providing right information to the reader at the right. For example, it will help children to create reading habit, unemployment youths to get better jobs and farmers to improve agricultural production. Libraries of all countries are functioning for social



development by extending these activities and services, sharing books, extension lectures on various topics such as child labour, epidemic diseases, reading habits and environmental production.

Rural Library Present Scenario

The public libraries arose worldwide along with group in education, literacy, and publication. Every country has own public library history with influential leaders. Monarchs, wealthy people, and philanthropists have all made a contribution to society in the form of public library development. India is no exception. Libraries were established in ancient India mainly by the patronage extended by emperors, major capitalists, and scholars. Indian emperors and kings were supported scholars and scholarships. There is evidence of well-developed libraries even in the sixth century A.D. the famous Nalanda University in Bihar had its own magnificent library with a massive collection of manuscripts covering the universe of knowledge. Admission to library was restricted to scholars. Other ancient universities, such as Taxila and Vikramashila, also had valuable libraries. Muslim influence in India during the 13th century A.D. marked the dawn of

another era of learning and scholarship. The Maharaja of Tanjuar started the famous Saraswati Mahal Library in 17th century A.D. It remains a unique institution in its nature of collection and services.

Libraries established by the kings and capitalist functioned like private institutions and the admission was limited. Service to the general public had to wait for the British. Unfortunately, the arrival of the British and resulting political disorder also brought chaos to the Indian way of life.

Library provides a variety of services to a wide range of user groups. Although most college Libraries have a core set of services related to the provision of documents and information each library defines the limits of its service areas and its relative priorities among them differently. Rarely does these organizations operate equally well in all areas. Because library services are multidimensional, so is library effectiveness. No single global measure of library effectiveness can summarize this multiplicity of services and clients. A single measure assesses. Only one dimension of library performance. Multiple measures help to construct a more three dimensional



picture. So effectiveness must be measured by a set of measures covering the major.

Library Function

The General Used Measures For The Library Services Are:-

- Overall user success, including success at various library activities overall satisfaction and ease of use.
- Materials availability and use.
- Facilities and equipment availability and use.
- Information services.

PUBLIC LIBRARY DEFINITION

To fulfil its purposes the public library must be reading accessible and its door open for free and equal use by all members of the community. Regardless of race, colour, nationality, age, sex, religion, language status or educational attainment.

❖ Public Libraries Act: Salient feature

In India so far eight states have passed libraries legislation

❖ Tamil Nadu public libraries Act (1948)

Originally the act was named as madras public libraries act Tamil Nadu state was established in 1947 but then its name was madras. On 1st Jan 1969 its name was changed as Tamil Nadu public Libraries Act.

❖ Salient Features:-

- (1) Constitution of state level library committee with the education ministers of the state (as chairman) and many other members, along with the director of libraries (secretary).
- (2) Appointment of director of libraries (as and District listing of his/her powers and responsibilities).

Rural Library Services through the RRRLF Schemes (RAJARAM MOHAN ROY LIBRARY FOUNDATION)

Our country is entirely a rural-based and about 70-80% of the populations are living in rural areas/sub-urban areas. These areas contribute to the entire work-forces, labour and thrust of the country. We see that these areas remain in darker side of the education. Academies like schools, colleges, and institute hardly reach the thick

populations of poor people and neglected persons in far off places. The human resource development are therefore, shattered. In this critical juncture, the rural libraries have more positive roles to play. But that is not the exact position. It should be around 2 lacks libraries (10 times). This is a tentative figure. There are about 6 lacks villages in India. It is not guaranteed that these libraries were true representatives of villages. These are voluntary institutions. They render services leisure times. Moreover accesses to these libraries are not free as required under public libraries. Subscriptions/fees are charged for use of the libraries. Therefore these libraries are subscription voluntary bodies. Some libraries also receive grant-in-aid from Govt. to manage the organization.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

D, Elia (1980) in his Article, “patron “uses and evaluation of library services”, conducted a study with the primary objective of the development and testing of a conceptual model for adult use of the public library. This study proposed a definition of library use, which recognizes three distinct dimensions of use: 1) Non use and use, 2) frequency of use, and 3)

Intensity of use. The study was based on variable such as library use, characteristics and behaviour of individual relationship to the library. In order to test this model data were collected from 202 residents of the Syracuse metropolitan area (USA) by means of a telephone interview survey. Results indicated that 1) individuals characteristics have association with library use, 2) users of the public library found the library more accessible than did non-users, 3) there was no difference between non users in their degree of awareness of library services and 4) frequency and intensity of use was related to awareness of special library programs.

Spiller (1980) in his Article has studied the providers of function for public libraries for this purpose a survey was conducted at four service points in British libraries. The major finding are: 1) Readers like to read recreational novels rather than serious novels; 2) Most of the borrowers novels for self-use and very few of them borrow novels for others; 3) 54% of the novels had been chosen are of Hmong adults and Hmong students do not read or write in their native tongue, some major public libraries in the united states where there is a large community of Hmong, collect Hmong



language materials; 4) Often the public libraries provided services like story time for children, literacy programs and computer classes but they are never publicized among the Hmong community, 5) 90% of Hmong people never go to the libraries to meet their information needs; they either rely on family or necessary information or they go to the agencies, organization, and centres in their community. The author opines that public libraries should take a proactive role in providing services to the Hmong and he also adds that the library story time program would be a great catalyst for libraries to introduce the library to among people.

Odini (1990) in his Articles, “public library development in developing countries with special reference to African countries. “Has pointed out the need for and the role of the public libraries, and the planning cycle that could be applied in the management of public library development. He has stressed the importance of assessment of the needs of library users and the evaluation of current library services and resources in the planning process.

Ramaiah (1993) in his articles, “public libraries and public finance in India, “critical perspective on public library

finance in India has stressed that public libraries required mandate of law and adequate finance for their efficient functioning, growth and sustenance. Various aspects of financial provisions were discussed. It was suggested that a proportional method of providing a certain percentage either of the education budget or the regular state budget for the public library development is advisable.

Haniff Uddin (2000) in his Articles, “The Role of Rural Libraries Developments of Bangladesh” has emphasized the importance of establishing rural libraries in each and every village of Bangladesh. They are: 1) to sensitive the people to better health, water supply and sanitation, 2) to find out government policy, 3) to provide better crops, 4) to prevent and control environment pollution, 5) to provide text book and teaching aids, 6) to provide sport facilities, and 7) to prevent and control social problems. The study explored the inter linkage between libraries and rural development and also highlighted some rural aspects of the country.

M. Gosh (2005) In his article “The Public Library System In India: Challenges And Opportunities” he said that “The



current situation of Indian public libraries has been viewed by some as follows: the public library system in India is condemned to remain peripheral to the actual information needs of the masses; that it is in a depressed state, and serves as little more than a warehouse of recreational reading materials, a majority of which are in regional languages. This paper suggests possible remedies on how to transform the situation, and details are technological developments which are already showing the potential to change public libraries in rural India for the better”.

Mr. Admin in his article “Modernization of Rural Libraries” march 10th, 2011, expressed that “the fundamental aim of the Rural Library is to provide timely, pertinent, accurate and reliable information service to all the rural community. The rural library helps different sectors of the community by providing right information to the right reader at the right time. For example, it will help children to create reading habit, unemployed youths to get better jobs and farmers to improve agriculture production. Libraries of all countries are functioning for social development by extending these activities

and services, sharing books, extension lectures on various topics such as Child labour, epidemic diseases, reading habits and environmental production”.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is a catalogue of the various phase facts relating to the formulation of a research effort. It is the arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data such a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose.

Title of the study

The title of the present study is “A Study on Functioning of Rural Library in Dindigul District - with Special Reference to Batlagundu Block.

Statement of the Problems

The libraries are one of the best instruments which help to build up best citizen, and also a humanitarian person. Now days the young people are losing the habits of book reading, and they are not ready to make the books as their friends, that too in some of the rural area of Tamil Nadu, they are not having the facilities of libraries. But the government of India, and Tamil Nadu sanctioned funds for construction the

libraries in the villages, which helps rural students, and also ordinary people who are interested in reading of books and newspaper and journals. The Government of Tamil Nadu has taken concerted efforts to establish Libraries in rural areas in order to improve the knowledge of the people. The government has spent huge amount of money for the establishment, maintenance and utilization of libraries, however, people are not making use of the benefits provided by the government.

Objectives of the Study

- To find out the promotion of rural development through rural library.
- To find out the schemes for rural library.
- To analyze the benefits from the library to rural peoples and students.
- To examine the function and performance of rural library.
- To analyze the peoples participation in the library.

Sample

The sample was undertaken in Batlagundu Block in Dindigul District.

Sources of Data

The proposed study is mainly based on both primary and secondary sources of information data.

(a) Primary data:

Primary data are first hand information collected from the respondents through various methods such as interview, observation, etc. the researcher directly collects the data from the respondent.

Primary data will be collected from the respondents who have access to library by using interview schedule and case study methods.

(b) Secondary data:

Secondary data is related to the study that has been already taken from journals, reports, books, and research articles. It is second hand information the researcher used existing data as a base to explore further information related to this study.

Tools for data collection

To collect the required information from the respondents, interview schedule was administrated to the respondent through informal interviews and discussions to elicit information relating the rural library users in

the Batlagundu Block in Dindigul District.
The tool used for the data collection for this

study is interview schedule.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

TABLE: 1

Respondents Based Upon Having the Library Membership Card

S.NO	Having Library Membership Card	NO. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	83	83%
2	No	17	17%
	Total	100	100%

The above table shows that 83% of the respondents are having the library membership card, and remaining 17% of the respondents are not having the library membership card.

TABLE: 2

Utilization of the Library

S. No.	Utilization of the Library	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	64	64%
2	No	36	36%
	Total	100	100%

Out of 100 respondents, 64% of the respondents are utilising the public library for preparing the government group exams, general knowledge books and reading facilities.

TABLE: 3

Library Enrich your knowledge or not

S.No.	Enrich of Knowledge	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	85	85%	85%
2	15	15%	15%
	Total	100	100%

The above table shows that 85% of the respondents are in the opinion that the libraries have an important role to improve their knowledge.

Table: 4

Purpose of visiting library

S.No.	Visiting Library	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Book Reading	39	39%
2	News Paper Reading	54	54%
3	Journals and other	7	7%
	Total	100	100%

Out of 100% respondents, 54% of the respondents are having the habit of reading News Papers, 39% of the respondents are having the habit of reading books, and remaining 7% of the respondents have the habits of reading journals and other reading materials.

TABLE: 5

BENEFIT OF THE LIBRARY

S.No	Benefit of the library	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	72	72%
2	No	28	28%
	Total	100	100%

The table shows that 72% of the respondents of the village are the beneficiaries from the library.

TABLE: 6

NEED FOR CHANGES IN LIBRARY

S.No.	Need for change in library	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	92	92%
2	No	8	8%
	Total	100	100%

The table shows that 92% respondents are in the opinion of changes required in the library like Room facility, Fan and Book Self's etc.

FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

Promotion of rural development through rural library: The promotion of rural development through the rural library on the rural people's literacy level has increased. The rural library makes a number of changes

in the rural areas especially on educational development, environmental development and people's attitude. The rural library gives knowledge to rural people socially and politically.

Schemes for Rural Library: It has been found from the study that there are no schemes either from the central or state government for the development, promotion and maintenance of public rural libraries.



Contribution of the rural library: The rural library provides new knowledge to rural peoples and students. The library has number of books available in both English and Tamil. It is found that 85% of the respondents felt that the library provides enrichment of knowledge in many ways. The rural students are preparing for the competitive exams like TNPSC, UPSC, and other group exams. The most of students from rural areas utilize libraries to achieve their goals. The majority (72%) of the respondents are benefited through the libraries.

Function and performance of rural library: In order to maintain and operate an infrastructure we need to concern the details of suitable study, documentation, storage, preservation, presentation and research conditions and other things. It is lifelong learning centre. The public library functions during 9.00 am to 12.30 pm and 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm, and every Friday and second Saturday is holidays.

People's participation: the majority (78%) of respondents are having the habit of regular visiting to this public library. The people are interested in reading books and newspaper. The study shows that majority

(54%) of respondents are having habits of reading newspaper. The people's participation is increased in using the public library in rural areas. The 92% of respondents are in the opinion that they wanted to change the library infrastructure and facilities like room facilities like fan, furniture, and enough space for book stocks.

SUGGESTION

- ❖ All our libraries, including digital libraries and internet serve only a fraction of human kind.
- ❖ Information cannot be accessed by the poor people easily; they find barriers in our libraries.
- ❖ Public address system is used for announcing important news.

CONCLUSION

Each and every village should have a library which is one of the essential needs of a younger generation. A frequent usage of library will promote a huge feedback of knowledge outcome to the society. The number of News Papers, books, GK, reference books, periodicals is insufficient and inadequate in the libraries. The furniture's are uncomfortable in the rural libraries. The reading halls are very small

and parking facilities around the library are inadequate. The working hours of the rural library are in convenient. The cataloguing facilities are not systematic and facilities for accessing the books are improper. The government to provide more facilities/schemes for the public libraries since library is one of most important organization of a nation, which makes better generation in future.

In fact, the village has not been considered as a component of library. Planning and services. On the other hand, the development planners and administrators did not appreciate the multi-faceted role of public library as a centre for information and guidance, a catalyst agent for change, an interpreter of community needs, an agent of social cultural life, an instrument of extension activities, etc. in developmental process. The library is not considered as an input factor in the planning and development process.

Rural Public Library system is very much successful where it provides a vital role in rural people's development. Further one of the village empowerment activities it focuses on women, children, education and library. Library which is one of the ways

promoting knowledge to the rural people. Based upon the study certain suggestion has been carried out. Promoting awareness among the people is lead to the wrathfulness of the library. Members who have registered in the library should promote their children to access the library facilities. Government can provide general knowledge books for competitive exams and others. Library can have some more simple language books and a kid's library section which may attract the children also to the library. When the library can provide the facility then the youngster may get use of it. The working hours of the library may be framed according to the convenience of users.

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