

Student's Attitudes towards Library Services in Secondary Schools of Bangalore Rural District: A Study

Abstract

The present study was carried at secondary school libraries in Bangalore Rural District in Karnataka State. This study investigated the library resources and its reflect on use of library services by student community. Survey method was adopted for the study and the data collection was done by questionnaire method. Two questionnaires per school is distributed to 62 schools and received 116 Questionnaires from 58 schools (93.54%). Major findings of the survey found that, poor collection of resources are one of the major issue in secondary school library. School libraries should open beyond school hours to enable the students the opportunity to study after the school hours. The results of the study reveal that a good number of students visit library for their daily activity. Inadequate computers and problem of internet connectivity were found to be the major drawback in school library.

Keywords: Secondary School Library, Library Services, Reading Habits, Academic Performance, Library Influence.

Introduction

A school library is one of the important tool in child education. It's a part and parcel of that school where a collection of books, magazines, newspapers and other materials are housed for use by teachers and students for learning and recreational activities. Generally library is calling as a storehouse of knowledge and useful to all types of users. It's also called as a storehouse of resources and it provides lot of opportunities to the teachers and students to acquire the knowledge. Library in schools is an inseparable aspect of education and development of culture. Also Libraries are found in secondary schools with the aim of contributing to the intellectual development of teachers and students. The activities which take place in secondary school libraries involve collection of books and other materials organized by library professionals and placed in proper place in library for the use of the students and teachers. Development of skill in reading and library use habit are some of the important activities of the school library in almost all the schools. Library is also called as a foundation stone of ancient as well as modern educational structure. Education system and library related activities are twin sisters and one cannot live without help of the other. Without proper library related activities any secondary school cannot be conceived. Also open access system is one of the important tool in library. The books under this system are very useful to students and teachers because they can individually select books as per their interest.

Ours is the age of information explosion and invention and universe of knowledge and discoveries is rapidly increasing its dimensions. A good majority of students enter into different courses after they leave their school education and in future, they become the active members of society. In order to keep alive and bring more vitality into what they learnt at their schools, they have largely depended on the libraries in their institution. A good study habit is one of the important tool for good academic performance. Therefore, it is important to create learning area, inviting and comfortable place for school students in their school library. Thus, it is essential for the school authorities to develop good library in their school premises and it is important to students to develop reading habit that will equip them for excellent performance in their school education system.



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Secondary schools education is more important in rural areas because of its terminal and transitional nature. Involvement of rural people in the primary and secondary education is highly limited because of economic, social and other major issues. A under graduation is a status symbol in rural areas and it's a high level qualification for rural people. "Secondary Education Commission in this connection recognized as early as in 1952 (Mudaliar Commission Report) the importance of secondary education and has this to say the secondary school must make itself responsible for equipping students adequately with civic as well as vocational efficiency and qualities of character that go with it, so that they may be able to play their part worthily and competently in the improvement of national life. They should no longer emerge as helpless, shiftless individuals who do not know what to do with themselves and can only think of either crowding the colleges which for the majority are a cul-de-sac or as a last and reluctant resort, take up some clerical or teaching job for which they have no natural inclination"¹⁰. Until recently the library was considered to be a store house for the recorded experience of mankind. The library was thus expected to collect, arrange and preserve reading material and makes these available on demand. A library that performed these four functions was supposed to have functioned satisfactorily. But the library of today not only opens its door more widely, but also has moved out of its four walls to reach larger target groups. Totally the secondary school libraries are complex institution as far as its operations, objectives, management, services and sources of finance are concerned. In this situation secondary school libraries are very important area for children to grab knowledge for their development.

Secondary School Libraries in Rural Area

Libraries in secondary schools play a important and significant role in developing and supporting reading habits by providing a relevant materials to students community. Secondary school libraries serve students and teachers by providing relevant materials and information to meet their various needs for their future challenges. Libraries in schools help different level students to discover for themselves, by self study and learning and also how to access dictionaries and other materials as per their needs. Totally its realized through the services of librarian who are responsible for inculcating information literacy skills in younger generation.

A Secondary school library without a professional staff or librarian is like a classroom without a teacher. An good school library involves in more than making books available to students and letting learners borrow those books. An standard school library is directly supports student's learning, thinking, reading habits and their exploration of the society. Only well trained professional staff can match students with appropriate resources and also help children to develop inquiry nature and reading habits in their student life. Apart from this, the school librarian can provide relevant materials to their teachers to develop professional standard in their

carrier. School librarians involve with every student in the library and guide students to take books, dictionary according to their age and advice to think critically, providing the library materials and support for individual learning in school time and beyond and nurturing their creativity.

In our country as per 7th All India School Education Survey 73.99% of rural secondary schools are having library facility in their schools, whereas 84.85% of urban secondary schools are having library facility in India⁸. But the condition of the library is very bad compare to urban secondary schools because of ignorance, illiterate parents, distance of school and negligence from concerned authorities. The school libraries have always been an indispensable adjunct to their school. Traditionally school libraries offered book issue facility and students can browse through some of newspapers in their library and there was no concept of innovative services. Actually It's a place for innovative thinking and catalyst to individuals but unfortunately nobody taken it serious and adopted good library system. Because of the dull development by library, its directly affect on student's performance and they loose their interest in libraries. Finally its directly reflect on their higher education and development.

Socio-economic and cultural development of a society depends on education and research. Libraries play an vital role in all stages of education especially in secondary education system and based on the good education, one can built his/her carrier in higher education. But unfortunately the secondary school libraries are still not considered as an instrument of learning process. Even if resources available in school library are not utilized to the desired extent because of non appointment of library professionals. "Sam Pitroda, Ex-chairman of National Knowledge Commission explained the future road map for the growth and development of academic libraries by imbibing core issues such as, set up a national commission on libraries, prepare a national census of all libraries, revamp LIS education, training and research facilities, re-assess staffing of libraries, set up a central library fund, modernize library management, encourage greater community participation in library management, promote information communication technology applications in all libraries, facilitate donation and maintenance of private collections, and encourage public private partnerships in LIS development"⁷. The National Curriculum Framework (2005) of the NCERT also attributes great significance to the library method of teaching and learning in schools. However, the prevailing picture of secondary school libraries in Bangalore rural district is contrastingly different. A lot needs to be done in order to provide secondary schools with well organized libraries. Currently, the situation is such that a few books locked in a small room or classroom is given the status of a library in absence of library professionals. Totally healthy use of leisure is a matter of great importance in secondary school life, so that the leisure time is not devoted to negative and destructive activities. The school library

should cater to the recreational needs of its users by stocking books and other relevant materials suited for the purpose.

Review of Literature

According to Bamidele (2015), students in any school library requires professional staff members for better usage of library sources and services. The study recommends that teacher should also mandate students to use the school library for their study and it can help attain high academic achievement. The author further stated that, school libraries should encourage students to develop their reading habits and library use habits for their better future. This study showed that, majority of the students were interested in the library related study but authorities fail to provide proper facilities in their schools.

Das and others (2015) explained the status of libraries in schools. The authors further stated that, the role of authorities, governments and non-government organizations are very important in the development of library section. They further stated that, the collection development policies, programmes, evaluation, procedures, techniques of collection development and tools considerably influence utility and image of the concerned school library. The survey result also reflects on activities of school librarians for the development of school libraries.

Doust (1999) assed the important of school library services in Zimbabwe and also discussed the high cost of library services in developing countries. He has further stated that, libraries in schools are almost non-existent and where they do exist usually consist of gift books and which are useless to the student's community. The author further stated that, library professionals are not yet been recognized in almost all schools. The researcher further stated that, lack of funding is another major issue reflect on library sources and services in almost all schools.

Jato and others (2014) has described that library facilities are important tool to children in their school education. The researchers explained about study habits, use of libraries and student's performance in secondary schools. They further stated that, school libraries should open beyond school hours to enable the students the opportunity to work in library after their school hours. The major findings of the study revealed that irregular use of school libraries by the students was one of the major reasons for their poor performance.

Priti (2013) discussed the status of library and its reflect on students community in secondary schools in Chhattisgarh. The author further stated that, it is also essential to provide a good quality of library services to the student's community for their better future. The researcher further described that, the aim of a good school library is to become a force for educational excellence and it developing reading interests in students when they are young so that books may serve as life long sources of knowledge for them.

Need for the Study

The study is particularly concerned with rural secondary school libraries, its resources and services and its influence on student's community. Secondary school libraries in rural area are neglected and no serious initiative has been taken from concerned authorities. The school libraries cannot be creative and intellectual area, unless they move to newness. So this needs a thorough study of the school libraries in rural area, so the author therefore, felt necessary to study in detail various aspects of school library in Bangalore rural district. Hence the present study entitled "Student's attitudes towards library services in secondary schools of Bangalore Rural District" is undertaken.

Objectives of the Study

1. To find out the status of library in rural area.
2. To investigate the library use habits of secondary school students.
3. To find out the type of services used by the students.
4. To find out student's use of school library

Methodology

The present study aims to analyze the status of library and its usage by student's community in rural secondary schools. A questionnaire method was used to collect data for the study. The questionnaire dealt with general information of the student and investigated the availability of library, its collection and other resources, services etc. Questionnaire and personal interview of 9th and 10th standard students were used for data collection. Each two questionnaires distributed to 61 schools (122 questionnaires) and 116 questionnaire were received from 58 schools (95.08 %). The data was collected over a period of 3 months during the 2016.

Scope and Limitations of the Study

The scope of the study is limited to library services utilized by students of 58 secondary schools in 22 clusters of Hosakote taluk of Bangalore rural district. The study included government schools, aided schools and unaided private schools in above said area. The study aims at finding out the services utilized by the students community in the said schools.

Data Analysis

Table- 8.1
Distribution of Questionnaires

Distribution of Questionnaires to Schools	No. of Schools Responded	Percentage
62	58	93.54

It is found from the table 8.1 that, out of 62 secondary schools, 58 (93.54%) schools responded to the questionnaire.

Table- 8.2
Gender Wise Distribution of Questionnaires

Gender wise distribution of questionnaire	Number of students	Percentage
Boys	47	40.52
Girls	69	59.48
Total	116	100

From table 8.2, it is found that, among the students community 69 girl students (59.48%) and 47 boy students (40.52%) were taken for study.

Table- 8.3
Library Visit by the Students

Library visit	No. of students	Percentage
Yes	110	100
No	--	--
Total	116	100

The Table 8.3 shows that, out of 116 users from 58 Secondary schools, all the students visit their school library and it shows the importance of the library in schools.

Table- 8.4
Frequency of Visit to the Library by Student Community

Frequency of Visit to The Library	No. of Students	Percentage
Daily	11	9.48
Weekly twice	83	71.55
Once in a week	22	18.97
Monthly	--	--
Occasionally	--	--
Never	--	--
	116	100

It is seen from the table-8.4 that, maximum number of students (83 students) were interested to visit library twice a week (71.55%), 22 students (18.97%) visit the library once in a week and 11 students (9.48%) visit the library daily.

Table 8.5
Convenient of Working Hours of Library

Convenient of Working Hours of Library	No. of Students	Percentage
Yes	101	87.06
No	15	12.94
Total	116	100

It is observed from the table 8.5 that, 101 students were happy with the present library working hours (87.06%) and 15 students were (12.94%) saying that, working hours of the library is not convenient to them.

Table 8.6
Using library OPAC

Using OPAC	No. of Students	Percentage
Yes	--	--
No	19	16.38
Don't know	97	83.62
	116	100

The table 8.6 shows that, out of 116 students, 19 students do not use OPAC facility (16.38%) and unfortunately 97 students (83.62%) don't know about such excellent facility or no library can provide such a facility and it showing the automation status of library.

Table 8.7
Using Internet in Library

Using Internet	No. of Students	Percentage
Yes	9	7.76
No	107	92.24
Total	116	100

The table 8.7 shows that, out of 116 students, only 9 students (7.76%) were using internet in Library and 107 students (92.24%) do not use internet facility or it is not available in library.

Table- 8.8
Seeking Help From the Librarian

Seeking Help	No. of Students	Percentage
Yes	116	100
No	---	---
Total	116	100

Table 8.8 reveals that, all 116 students (100%) were seeking help from the librarian or library incharge teacher for their library work.

Table-8.9
Purpose of Visit to the Library by Users

Purpose of Visit	No. of Students	Percentage
To read books	107	92.24
To borrow/return books	116	100
Do class preparation	24	20.68
Do school work	6	5.17
To read popular magazines, newspapers	73	62.93
Use CD's/ DVD's	---	---
Use computers	15	12.93
Use of Internet	9	7.76
To get photocopies/ printouts	---	---
To consult reference books	22	18.97
To know the latest arrivals in the library	---	---
Play games on computers	---	---
To use question papers of previous years	12	10.34
Have lunch	---	---
For time pass	--	--
To meet friends	7	6.03
Because it is library period	116	100

It is observed from the table 8.9 that, the main purpose for visiting their school library by students is to borrow/return books and to attend library period (100%) followed by, to read books (92.24%) and to read popular magazines, newspapers (62.93%). Also services like doing class preparation (20.68%), to consulting reference books (18.97%), to use computers (12.93%), to use question papers of previous years (10.34%), to use Internet (7.76%) , do school work (5.17%) are utilized by students in less percentage. In other side important services like utilization of CD/DVD, photocopy/

printouts, to know the latest arrivals in the library etc., do not avail by students or it is not available in library.

Table 8.10

Use of Library Resources by Users

Use of Library Resources	No. of Students	Percentage
Text books	116	100
Reference books	22	18.97
Dictionaries	12	10.34
Encyclopedias	6	5.17
Gazetteers	---	---
Fiction/Novels	23	19.83
General Knowledge books	63	54.31
Children books	18	15.51
Story books	97	83.62
Science projects	---	---
CD's/DVD's	---	---
Atlases & Maps	7	6.03
Globes	12	10.34
Toys	---	---
Coins	---	---
Mathematical instruments	---	---
Posters	---	---
Charts	8	6.89
Three-dimensional models	---	---
Slides	---	---
Magazines	42	36.20
Newspapers	73	62.93
Computers	15	12.93
Internet	9	7.76
E-resources	---	---

It is observed from the table 8.10 that, entire students community utilizing text books (100%) in library followed by story books (83.62%), newspapers (62.93%), general knowledge books (54.31%) and magazines (36.20 %). Also small amount of fiction / novels (19.83%), reference books (18.97%), children books (15.51%), computers (12.93%), dictionaries (10.34%), globes (10.34%), internet (7.76%), charts (6.89%). atlases & maps (6.03%) and encyclopedias (5.17%) are utilized by students. But few more resources like gazetteers, science projects, CD's/ DVD's, toys, coins, mathematical instruments, posters, three-dimensional models, slides and e-resources etc., are not used by students or it is not available in library.

8.11 Source of information by Students

Source of information	No. of students	Percentage
Home library	---	---
The School library	76	65.52
The Public library	12	10.34
Internet	105	90.51
Friends	22	18.96
Brother/Sister	35	30.17
Father/Mother	13	11.20

It is found from the table 8.11 that, more users using internet (90.51%) for collecting information for their class work followed by school

library (65.52%). Also through brother/sister (30.17%), friends (18.96%), father/mother (11.20%), and students have not used the public library (10.34%) for their studies and also because of rural environment nobody have a library concept at home.

Conclusion

The survey revealed that students in a secondary schools in Hosakote taluk possessed an excellent attitude towards library but because of poor library system they are deprived by opportunities. In the absence of a well-equipped school library system, students move away from the library. Also they pick up just few books here and there aimlessly without any special reference to the nature of work they are engaged in. So author suggested the authorities to develop full fledged library system in their school premises. Also if frequent visits of students to their school library will give chance to them to know about important text books and other materials and it will help in their study. One of the fundamental constituents of a modern library is its building; space, sources, services, internet and ICT enabled services. Libraries should connect to the good Internet bandwidth with good number of computers to enable the students to explore the information worldwide but unfortunately no secondary schools have library in independent building with all the above facilities and its shows condition of secondary school library in Bangalore rural district.

The study finds that the most usable and popular library service in school is book borrow system in library. So conducting library orientation program and regular user education program are required to students in every school and also importance of library has to be taught in library to inculcate reading habits in younger generation. Majority of the students established that they visit the library not only when they have library period.

School teachers and other staff members were employed to manage most school libraries and this would affect on students reading habits. The reading habits of the secondary school students were very bad and its reflect on their academic performances so need to improve library related activities in schools is one of the top most requirement. So it was also recommended that professional librarians should be appointed in secondary schools to provide good services to the younger generation. Open access system is an one of the important practice in school library but unfortunately no library can adopt this policy in their secondary school library and students were facing lot of problems in accessing library materials and they do not know about all the books and other materials available in their library. The author also suggest that, the school library opening hours should be extended beyond school timings, so student community can utilize the library facilities after school hours.

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