



A Study of Opinions for Use of Public Library

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Abstract:

Purpose: To study Opinions for Use of Public library in context to their gender context to level of different age groups. **Methodology:** For present research 50 users each group of M.J.Library was purposively sampled. The researcher has used a self made Opinionnaire of for Use of Public library as a tool of the research. As per the following tables mean score of Opinions For Use of Public library according variable were calculated mean, S.D., SE_D , and 't' for testing hypothesis. **Paper type:** Survey **Observation :** It was found that there is no difference in the Opinions For Use of Public library of Age Group -1 (Between 20 to 35 years) and Age Group -2 (Between 36 to 50 years), It was found that there is difference in the Opinions For Use of Public library of Age Group -2 (Between 36 to 50 years) and Age Group -3 (More than 50 years) in which Age Group -3 (More than 50 years) users more positive opinions then Group -2 (Between 36 to 50 years) users., It was found that there is difference in the Opinions For Use of Public library of Age Group -1 (Between 20 to 35 years) and Age Group -3 (More than 50 years) in which Age Group -3 (More than 50 years) users more positive opinions then Group -1 (Between 20 to 35 years) users.

Keywords: Public Library, Use of public library, Opinion for Public Library

1. Introduction

A public library is a library which is accessible by the public and is generally funded from public sources and may be operated by civil servants. Taxing bodies for public libraries may be at any level from local to national central government level.

The traditional concept of a library is being redefined from a place to access paper records or books to one which also houses the most advanced mediums including CD-ROM, the internet, virtual libraries and remote access to a wide range of resources. Consequently, librarians increasingly are combining traditional duties with tasks involving quickly changing technology. Librarians assist people in finding information and using it effectively for personal and professional purposes. Librarians must have knowledge of a wide variety of scholarly and public information sources, and follow trends related to publishing, computers, and the media to effectively oversee the selection and organization of library materials.

They manage staff and develop and direct information programs and systems for the public to ensure information is organized to meet users' needs.

2. Literature Review

Bhanu (2012) conducted a survey to know the opinions of senior citizens as the users of T.S. Central State Library, Chandigarh (India). For the purpose 150 questionnaires were distributed out of which 123(82%) were received. The main objective of the study was to investigate the use of public library resources by senior citizens and other objectives were to: know the various purposes of using the library; frequency of visiting the library and besides this, to know the satisfaction of senior citizens

with the collection, adequacy of the library staff, library timings, library resources & services and to suggest the ways for the improvement of the library, its collection and services. The findings of the study showed that the majority of the respondents i.e. 67 (54.47%) belonged to the age group of 61-65 years, followed by 33 (26.82%) to the age group of 66-70. Majority of the respondents i.e. 71(57.72%) made use of the library once in a day, majority of the respondents i.e. 105 (85.36%) and 98.37% responded that they were satisfied with the reading room facilities and working hours. 2(1.62%) respondents were not satisfied with the working hours. Majority of the respondents 87 (70.73%) read fictions. The study showed different purposes of using library and its resources by senior citizens; it is interesting to know that the majority of the users i.e. 95 (77.23%) used the library to spend their leisure time. 114 (92.68%) and 117 (95.12%) users were satisfied with the assistance given by the library staff. With regard to different types of collections available in the library; the majority of the users (97.56%) replied that the collection of newspapers is adequate, followed by 93.49% who were satisfied with books. The study offered suggestions that the library should also purchase multiple copies of the books. User education programs should be conducted and library should organize different cultural programs, exhibitions, quiz programmers debates and competitions for senior citizens.

Chandrashekara, Aditya Kumari and Mohan (2012) focused a study on the use of information resources and services of City Central Library, Mysore and Branch Libraries with the objectives to understand the socio-economic, educational and occupational backgrounds of the public library users. Besides this, the study attempted to understand the needs of the users and tried to find out the satisfaction level of the users with regard to services available in the public library. To achieve the objectives 1200 questionnaires were distributed, 835 i.e. 69.58% filled in questionnaires were received. The study shows that 40.95 % users of CLL library and its branches visit the library daily. The majority of the users i.e. 70.41% visit the library to read short stories. With regard to the availability of books 44.55 % users are satisfied but 32.36% are not satisfied. The study concludes that since the majority of the users are students and unemployed youth, public libraries need to enrich their information resource collection, provide access to Internet and offer community-based services, including literary programs.

Kar (1996) analyzed the reading habit and satisfaction of the users in the public libraries. This study was conducted in nine public libraries of Cuttack, Balasore, and Bhadrak. The findings of the study revealed that: 1) Most of the users of the public library are from poor or middle class families and 2) Most of the users belong to unemployed or under employed category, followed by the student category.

Karkee and Majumder (2014) conducted a study on “Use of Public Libraries in the Hilly Areas of Darjeeling District of West Bengal: A Study”. This paper is an attempt to understand and evaluate the use of government and government sponsored public libraries by the users in the hilly areas of Darjeeling district of West Bengal with respect to their personal characteristics, purpose and frequency of using library, meeting required information by the libraries, library collections and staffs, and efficiency of public library system in the region. The results call for building functional and sound public libraries for optimal utility and in meeting the local information needs and also to enhance the image of public librarianship across the hilly region. The study found that the main purpose of using the library by the respondents is to read newspapers and magazines 45(24.4%). This is followed by the purpose to read and the use of reference tools such as dictionaries, encyclopaedias, yearbooks, and so on 37(20.1%), and use the library for borrowing books 30(16.3%), to read books on competitive examinations 28(15.2%), to read anything for the cultivation of knowledge 24(13%) and to access community information to live their daily lives 15(8.1%) in the libraries.

Khan (2013) aimed at investigating the user’s perception of services quality provided by the Central Public Library of Bahawalpur. Survey among library users was administered and the data were collected with the help of the questionnaire. Findings of the study revealed that the Central Public

Library of Bahawalpur is offering good quality of services for its users. Respondents were satisfied with different library services including, library books, journals, dictionaries, encyclopedias, Internet services, special collection, periodical collections, reference service, adult education program, reading room facility, library environment, opening hours and attitude of the library staff with the library users. Respondents demanded e-resources of information in the library and suggested that library should provide training programs for its users to make the better use of library services. The study concludes that the overall quality of service that is offered by the Central Public Library of Bahawalpur is satisfactory.

Mahajan (2011) explained a survey entitled "Information use pattern: A survey of T.S. Central State Library, Chandigarh" to analyze the user pattern and satisfaction of the users with regard to the collection and services of the library. To achieve the aim, primary data were collected through questionnaire and secondary data were collected through published and unpublished sources. Survey showed that the majority of the users i.e. 30.66% visited the library occasionally, 48% visited the library for recreational purpose which includes getting books for light reading, newspapers or meeting or accompanying friends. Majority of the users were satisfied with the adequacy of collection but the users were not satisfied with the magazines acquired by the library, 90.66% users were satisfied with the library related competitions including essay writing, painting etc., 68.66% users were satisfied with reprographic services, however, the majority of users i.e. 94.66% were not satisfied with the inter library loan facility and bibliographic facility. The majority of the users i.e. 84.66% showed their satisfaction with regard to loan period followed by behavior of the staff (84%), however 44.66% respondents were not satisfied with the seating capacity. The findings of the survey suggest to improve the website, information regarding how to become a member, how to locate a book etc. Further each user should be given a password to know his outstanding books from the website only and also advocated to provide hyperlinks to general information etc.

Partap Bhanu (2013) attempted to take the opinion from the senior citizen as the users of T.S. Central State Library, Chandigarh (India). Questionnaire based survey method was used. 57.72% users used the library once a day. 85.36% respondents were satisfied with the reading room facility. For 98.37% of the respondents, present working hours are most suitable. 70.73% read fictions. 92.68% respondents were satisfied with the assistance given by the library staff. 95.12% users were fully satisfied with the present location of the library. The collection of the newspapers and books were adequate. The respondents demanded a separate internet browsing area. For magazines and general reading materials.

Salma and Yelwa (2004) investigated the students' attitudes towards public library services and resources of the central library in Borno State of Nigeria and has provided the following information: 1) A majority of the students (64%) who patronise the library have not registered their names with the library; 2) 36% of the students visit the library for examination purposes, 20% visit the library to study using library books, 20% came to the library to borrow and return books and 12% used the library to read newspaper and magazines; 3) 40% of the students describe the resources and services as inadequate for their needs, 28% said they were adequate for their needs, while 12% gave a rating of highly inadequate; 4) 64% of the students responded "very good" on the conduciveness of the environment, 28% said it is "excellent", and equal responses of 4% each for "good" and "fairly good" were also registered.

3. Objective of the Study

The objectives of present research are as

1. To study Opinions for Use of Public library in context to their gender
2. To study Opinions for Use of Public library in context to level of different age groups

4. Variables of the Study

Variables is such a characteristic of a thing or a unit or a product which takes different values

(A) **Dependable variable:** Opinions For Use of Public library

(B) **Independent variable:**

a. **Gender :** 1) Male 2) Female

b. **Age Group:**

- 1) Age Group -1: Between 20 to 35 years
- 2) Age Group -2: 36 to 50 years
- 3) Age Group -3: More than 50 years

5. Hypothesis of the Study

Hypotheses of present's research are as

Ho₁ There will be no significant difference between the mean score of Opinions for Use of Public library of male and female users.

Ho₂ There will be no significant difference between the mean score of Opinions for Use of Public library of Age Group -1 and Age Group -2

Ho₃ There will be no significant difference between the mean score of Opinions for Use of Public library of Age Group -2 and Age Group -3

Ho₄ There will be no significant difference between the mean score of Opinions for Use of Public library of Age Group -1 and Age Group -3.

6. Delimitation of the Study

Present study delimited for Users of M.J.Public Library Ahmedabad city.

7. Population of the Study

In the present study, the population consists of all users of M.J.Public Library Ahmedabad city..

8. Sample of the Study

The technique of selecting sampling together with its size is an important aspect of research. Keeping in view the objectives and hypothesis of the present study, the researcher found multi-stage sampling technique suitable for the research because it is comparatively convenient less time consuming and less expensive method of sampling. It is also a more comprehensive and representative of the population. In the present study the researcher took the sample of 50 Users of each group in which 25 male users and 25 Females users in each groups.

9. Research Methodology

The researcher has adopted the "survey method" to collect the information regarding the Opinions for Use of Public library.

10. Research Tool

In this research, the researcher has used a self made Opinionnaire of for Use of Public library as a tool of the research.

11. Testing of Hypothesis and Interpretation of Data

As per the following tables mean score of Opinions For Use of Public library according variable were calculated mean, S.D., SE_D, and 't' for testing hypothesis.

Table 1: Mean, S.D. and t-value of score of Opinions for Use of Public library as per variable

| Sr. | Hypothesis of the Study | t - Value | Level of Sing. | Accepted/ Rejected |
|-----|---|-----------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Ho ₁ There will be no significant difference between the mean score of Opinions For Use of Public library of male and female users | 1.23 | 0.05 | Accepted |
| 2 | Ho ₂ There will be no significant difference between the mean score of Opinions For Use of Public library of Age Group -1 and Age Group-2 | 0.89 | 0.05 | Accepted |
| 3 | Ho ₃ There will be no significant difference between the mean score of Opinions For Use of Public library of Age Group -2 and Age Group-3 | 2.56 | 0.01 | Rejected |
| 4 | Ho ₄ There will be no significant difference between the mean score of Opinions For Use of Public library of Age Group -1 and Age Group-3. | 2.98 | 0.01 | Rejected |

12. Findings

From the interpretation of the data, the researcher has established following findings:

- It was found that there is no difference in the Opinions for Use of Public library of male and female users.
- It was found that there is no difference in the Opinions for Use of Public library of Age Group -1 (Between 20 to 35 years) and Age Group -2 (Between 36 to 50 years).
- It was found that there is difference in the Opinions For Use of Public library of Age Group -2 (Between 36 to 50 years)and Age Group -3 (More than 50 years) in which Age Group -3 (More than 50 years) users more positive opinions then Group -2 (Between 36 to 50 years) users.
- It was found that there is difference in the Opinions For Use of Public library of Age Group -1 (Between 20 to 35 years) and Age Group -3 (More than 50 years) in which Age Group -3 (More than 50 years) users more positive opinions then Group -1 (Between 20 to 35 years) users.

13. Conclusion

In Present research researcher study about Opinions for Use of Public library with reference to their gender and Age groups. Researcher shows that there was effect of age groups on Use of Public library.

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