District Central Libraries in Rayalaseema Region of Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the functioning, library resources, services, and problems existing in the District Central Libraries of Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh. A survey was conducted using questionnaire tool for collecting data from the librarians of the District Central Libraries (DCL) regarding collection development, sources of grants, manpower, library services, physical and ICT infrastructural facilities, etc. The study reveals that majority of the libraries are possessing the collection in the range of 40,000 to 50,000. Further, it is also found that lack of staff, ICT facilities, lack of sufficient budget are the main problems faced by these libraries in Rayalaseema region.

Keywords: Public libraries, library services, library resources, Rayalaseema, Andhra Pradesh

1. INTRODUCTION

Public libraries are playing an important role in the society for its all-round development. These are run by the government, volunteer organisations, and other individuals for the benefits of the public without expecting profit. It is a social institution for the dissemination of knowledge, promotion of learning, and advancement of education and research. It is open to all irrespective of any distinction and denomination. A library has to serve the needs of a large number of people by a large number of personnel for a large number of purposes. It is also called as the 'People's University'.

There are four district central libraries, 272 branch libraries, 20 village libraries in Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh (AP). Some of these libraries were existing from the year 1870 onwards. This study has been chosen to examine the present status in terms of book resources, services, financial resources, manpower, ICT infrastructure facilities and physical facilities existing in the DCL of Rayalaseema.

The study will help the authorities of the governments and librarians to improve the sources and services by providing sufficient funds, staff, and infrastructure facilities. This will facilitate the users to get better services in the public libraries.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Sarada[1] conducted an intensive study of Branch Library in Pendurthi village in Visakhapatnam district, AP. The study also analysed the information needs of the village community and examined the nature of the policy of the government towards the public library. The findings of this study are: (a) Telugu fiction occupies a large portion of the collections; (b) 80% of the loaned books are novels, short stories and other forms of fiction; (c) A stationary group uses the library frequently for reading newspapers and magazines; (d) A large percentage (79.79%) who belong to the middle class in term of social and economic status use the library; (e) The educational, social, informational and cultural functions of the library have been almost completely neglected; and (f) Since the library functions as a government agency, it provides information about citizens and the programmes of the government.

Islam[2] has carried out a research on the current status and structure of public library systems and services in Great Britain and Bangladesh. It evaluates the British public library systems, passage of various Acts, various library authorities, and total number of public libraries, constituent libraries, computerised acquisition, cataloguing, classification, literature search, and library finance.

Vijayakumar & Kumar[3] have made quantitative study on the different aspects of rural libraries such as functions, staff, finance, collections, services and facilities in Shimoga district of Karnataka. Ranjith[4] had conducted a study on the rural libraries in Kerala. Data were collected on books and periodicals collection, membership, working hours, circulation of books, daily average attendance of members, grade, yearly grant, other assistance received, and reading habits of public.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the present study are to:

(a) Know the sources, services, funds, manpower, etc., available in the public libraries of Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh

(b) Ascertain the ICT facilities available in the libraries under study

(c) Make suggestions for improvement of the sources, services and other infrastructure facilities in the libraries under study.

4. METHODOLOGY

A survey method was used to collect the data from the librarians of District Central Libraries in Andhra Pradesh. A structured questionnaire was prepared to collect data from four librarians of district central libraries in Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh. Questionnaire contains various questions pertaining to the membership, collection development, grants, physical facilities, human resources, source of funds, general satisfaction survey, reference satisfaction survey. The data was collected from four DCL librarians of Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh during the period of June 2016 to October 2016.

5. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

The data collected from librarians of district central libraries of Rayalaseema is analysed and interpreted in the following paragraphs.

5.1. Membership

Four libraries were enrolling good number of membership in their libraries. It is clear that Chittor (9135) and Kurnool (8878) DCLs have enrolled more number of library membership compared to other District Central libraries. Anathpuram library enrolls membership (7167) followed by Kadapa (6473).

5.2. Total Collection

The Libraries were processing different categories of collections like textbooks, reference books, subject books, children books, etc. In this regard, a question was posed with respondents to provide the total collection details of their libraries and the data showed that Chittor DCL is in the first place in holding the most number of books (51116) compared to other libraries, followed by Kadapa (49500), Anantapuram (49000) and Kurnool (36250) books.

It is clear from Table 1 that in all the libraries the human resources available were below 15 in numbers.

Table 1. Human resources available in various libraries

District	Human resources
Chittor	11
Kadapa	10
Kurnool	9
Anantapuram	12

5.3. Category-wise Library Collection

Table 2 presents the category-wise book collection of study libraries. Table 2 shows that DCL Anathapuram has maximum subject books (14000) and Fiction books, (22361), followed by Chittor, Kurnool and Kadapa. Children books: DCL Chittor (4690) has maximum number of children books followed by Kurnool (4560), Kadapa (4325) and Anantapuram (1096). In case of Competitive books Kadapa DCL (9560) has maximum number collection followed by Chittor (8934) Kurnool (3540) and Anantapuram (2559) books. Whereas in case of Reference book collection Kadapa DCL (14407) has the maximum followed by Chittor (7653) Anantapur (7500) and Kurnool (4950). Quick reference collection: Kurnool DCL (1000) is having more quick reference books, followed by Kadapa (318), Chittor (310), Anathapuram (193).

Table 2. Category-wise book collection

Category of books	Chittor	Kadapa	Kurnool	Ananthapuram
Subject books	7856	1173	2350	14000
Fiction	21723	19717	19850	22361
Children books	4690	4325	4560	1096
Competitive Books	8934	9560	3540	2559
Reference books	7653	14407	4950	7500
Biographies	187	58	650	134
Dictionaries	123	260	350	59

5.4. Subscribed Newspapers, Magazines & Journals

All the libraries are subscribing to popular journals, magazines and newspapers. Table 3 shows that Kadapa DCL is subscribing to 94 Journals, Newspapers followed by Kurnool with 76, Anantapuram with 73 and Chittor with 67.

Table 3. Subscription of Newspapers, Magazines and Journals

District	Newspapers	Journals/Magazines
Chittor	12	55
Kadapa	14	80
Kurnool	14	62
Anantapuram	11	62

5.5. Technical Processing of Books

All the District Central Libraries in the study are following DDC in classifying the books and AACR2 for cataloguing of books.

Table 4 shows that the library automation was completed in Kurnool DCL. The automation work is under progress in other district central libraries. The Internet service is provided in all the Libraries. Printing facility is also available in the libraries under the study area.

3. Vijayakumar, M. & Kumar N. Problems and prospects of rural libraries. *SRELS J. Info. Manag.,* 2001, **38**(2), 165-76.

4. Ranjith, K.S. Rural libraries of Kerala. CDS Publications, Trivandrum, 2004.

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