



THE ROLE OF LIBRARY IN PROMOTING READING CULTURE AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS

(with reference to Thiruvalluvar University College of Arts and Science, Tirupattur District)

Dr. Aarief Basheer

Librarian, Islamiah Women's Arts and Science College, Vaniyambadi, Tirupattur District, Tamil Nadu.

ABSTRACT

Library is one of the most effective tools for promoting, strengthening, and improving a person's intellectual capacity and quality education. The libraries roles are use of the library is compulsory for every semester, establishing library clubs, organizing storytelling events, smart writing/ quiz competition and mobile reading room for promoting reading culture among college students. The present study examined the role of library in promoting reading culture among college students in Tirupattur District of Tamil Nadu. A descriptive research design was used for the study. The questionnaire was used for collecting primary data from college students in Tirupattur District. Age group between 17-20 years by using simple random method. The data were analyzed by using SPSS package-20version. The study has attempted to find out the purpose of visiting library, role of libraries to promoting reading culture and various barriers to visit library among college students. The study used various statistical methods such as; bivariate analysis and multivariate analysis. The various suggestions given here would certainly help the parents, students, teachers and colleges.



KEYWORDS: Concept of library, purpose of visiting library, role of library and hindering factors.

INTRODUCTION :

"Reading a book can enhance the habit of solitary reflection and true enjoyment".

- Mahatriara

Library is one of the most effective tools for promoting, strengthening, and improving a person's intellectual capacity and quality education. A library is a sequence of rooms or building where books may be read or borrowed. It has been established to store books, periodicals (newspapers, books, articles, magazines, manuscripts, documents) and other resources for reading, viewing, listening, studying and reference. According to Lisbdnetwork (2014) a library is a collection of books, magazines, newspapers, and other materials made available for students to borrow or use for reference. The role of libraries as an information bank of knowledge and a source of inspiration, promoting literacy & education, community hubs, preserving cultural heritage, promoting social justice and equality (Levine-Clark, M., & Carter, T. M. 2013). The college students are open windows to the world, encourage to explore, aspirations for achievement and enhances the standard of living and best citizens in the world.

Generally, the main purpose of visiting libraries are exam preparation, personal development, free stuff (free newspapers, magazines, audiobook, CD, DVD, videos, eBooks, Wi-Fi, computer & internet access), library events (books sales, workshops, reading competition, storytelling competition, watching family films and puppet show), Unusual discoveries, opportunities to bond with minded people, quit personal space and book rental, searching for simple information, promoting lifelong learning, gathering for fun and integrate the information (Andrea Cannon. 2023). Reading has become a powerful pillar of effective communication for people, especially college students. There are diverse ways of promoting reading habits among college students such as; forming library clubs, mobile reading tents, book talks, story hours, awarding & rewarding for regular users, mandatory for library assignment in academic side (Samuel Ejembi Oji & Idris Habibu. 2011). Even though, some of factors that are hindering the college students to visit and read in the libraries such as; library always closed, outdated materials, playing sports, watching TV, lack of interest to reading books, chatting on social media (Whatsapp, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), phone addiction and love affair etc. 3

Therefore, present study will assist in considering different essential factors needed for improving and promoting effective reading culture in present and future time.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Libraries have a crucial role in improving education, literacy, and the growth of creative thinking abilities. It offers access to information, resources, as well as the local community, fostering a sense of belonging and encouraging lifelong learning. Additionally, libraries are crucial for preserving and promoting the social justice, equality, and cultural heritage. Therefore it is essential for any society that promotes the values access to knowledge, education and opportunity. Libraries can be divided into different types based on various factors like physical existence, collections, and services. Only one common way to categorize the library based on physical presence such as academic library (school library, college library and university library), public library, special library and national library. According to Chloe Lister (2022) students are setting an example of a good reader by using the library, which is one of its greatest benefits. A student who develops a close relationship with the library learns that resources like books are easily accessible. In additions some of major benefits can offer by libraries are reduces stress, increase empathy, love of learning, expands imagination, increase languages and literacy skills (Prytherch. R. 2016). There are diverse ways of promoting reading habits among college students such as; forming library clubs, mobile reading tents, book talks, story hours, awarding & rewarding for regular users, mandatory for library assignment in academic side (Samuel Ejembi Oji & Idris Habibu. 2011). College students are not utilize library resources because required materials are not available, lack of time to search, materials collected from teachers, get help from family members, internet and their personal books (Mubashrah Jamil. et. al. 2016). And also the college students are highly engage with playing sports, watching TV, lack of interest to reading books, chatting on social media (Whatsapp, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram), phone addiction and love affair.

METHODOLOGY

The research design was done under descriptive design, which has described the Role of Library in Promoting Reading Culture among College Students, with special reference to Thiruvalluvar University College of Arts and Science College, Tirupattur District of Tamil Nadu. A tool is a scientific component by which the required data are collected from the college students. The research respondents were met and collected primary data from Thiruvalluvar University College of Arts and Science, Tirupattur and data were analyzed using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences). Therefore, the sampling technique is probability sampling by using simple random method. The total sample size is 103.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

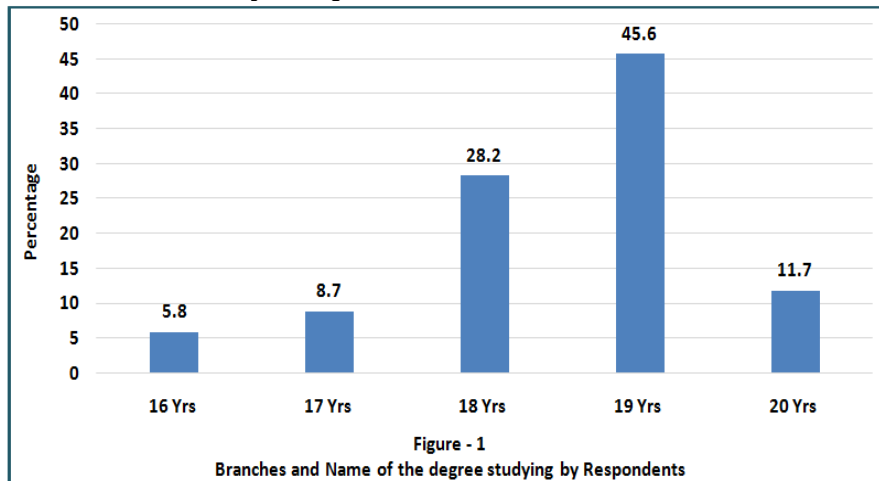
The analysis and interpretation has been organized into describing the demographic profile of college students, purpose of visiting and reading libraries, role of library in promoting reading culture

among college students in Thiruvalluvar University College of Arts and Science and various barriers. The primary data being presented in the form of single frequency, inferential analysis in order bring better conclusion.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

Age

India’s Right to Education Act 2020, free and compulsory education is ensured to every child between the ages of three to 18 years. Following figure explain the age of students who are presently studying in Thiruvalluvar University College of Arts and Science.



Age plays a vital role in decision-making and maturity in selecting the appropriate schooling. According to the above data, the majority (82.4%) all students are fall into the age group between 17–19 years old and enrolled as undergraduate students in college-level courses. The student is 20 years old, which is just over one tenth (11.7%) of their age.

**Table - 1
Branches of degree**

Branches of degree	No. of Respondents	Percent
Arts	39	37.9
Science	64	62.1
Total	103	100.0

Arts and Science Colleges a vibrant and broad intellectual environment for learning. The largest colleges provide the greatest number of programmes and the quality of education. The above table reveals that majority (62.1%) of the science students are highly participated in the study means science students frequently using the college library comparatively arts students.

Table - 2
Branches of degree and name of the degree studied by the Respondents

Name of Degree	No. of Respondents	Percent	Mean
B. Sc Physics	25	24.27	M=2.83
B. Sc Mathematics	18	17.47	
B. Sc Computer Science	21	20.38	
B.A English	15	14.56	M=2.00
B.A Tamil	5	4.85	
B.Com General	6	5.82	
BCA	8	7.76	
BBA	5	4.85	
Total	103	100.0	

The primary objective of the Arts & Science programme is to provide students a complete, interdisciplinary skills and ability. Nearly one fourth 24.27 percent of B.Sc. Physics students from the science major while, less than two-tenths 14.56 percent of B.A. English students major in arts background who are frequently use the college library than students from other disciplines.

FREQUENCY OF VISITING AND USING THE COLLEGE LIBRARY

The library serves as a store for information that is collected for processing, retrieval, and distribution to the college students at the appropriate time.

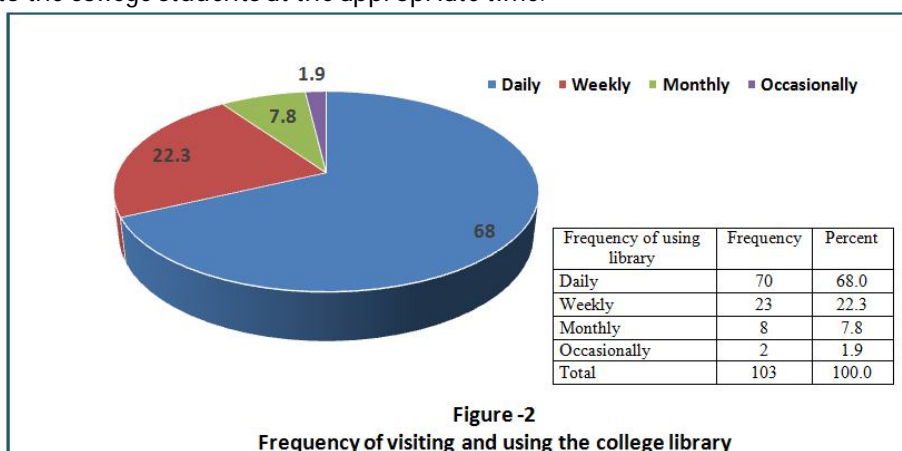


Figure - 2
Frequency of visiting and using the college library

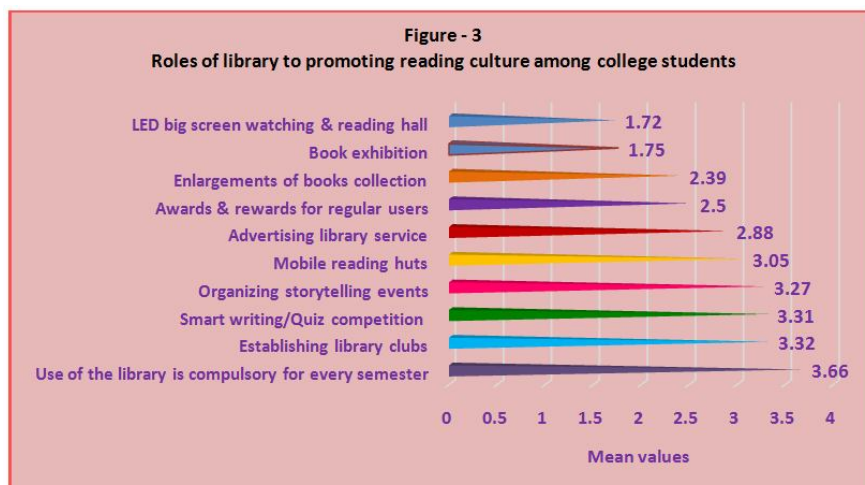
The college students are mostly visited the library once in a week for reading books, making class assignments and for exam preparation and they prefer library books rather than reference material, journal and thesis (Rubina Bhatti. 2013). According to the above figure majority (68%) of the college students are daily visiting and using the college library.

Table - 3
Purpose of visiting and reading in the library

Purpose of using the college library	Frequency	Percent
To recreation / fun	6	5.8
To know recent trends	7	6.8
To assignment	8	7.8
To borrow books	11	10.7
To make photocopy	17	16.5
For personal development	23	22.3
To exam preparation	31	30.1
Total	103	100.0

The results show that the college students have been frequently using library for exam preparation, personal development, making photocopy and borrow books (percentages are 30.1 percent, 22.3 Percent, 16.5 percent and 10.7 percent respectively) on the other hand, sometimes they used library to assignment, know the recent trends and recreation/fun (percentages are 7.8 percent, 6.8 percent, 5.8 percent respectively).

ROLES OF LIBRARY TO PROMOTING READING CULTURE



The above analysis indicates that the libraries roles are use of the library is compulsory for every semester, establishing library clubs, organizing storytelling events, smart writing/ quiz competition and mobile reading huts (mean values are 3.66, 3.32, 3.31, 3.27, 3.05 respectively) to promoting reading culture among college students. According to Jawale J.N. (2020) to encourage a positive reading culture, the librarian's job is to inform and assist students in finding the appropriate information and making necessary, pleasant and amazing reading material available.

**Table - 4
Barriers of notusing the library (Rank order)**

Various barriers	No. of Respondents	Percent	Rank
Chatting on social media (WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram)	91	19.03	1
Playing sports	77	15.10	2
Watching T.V	51	10.66	3
No library periods	48	10.04	4
Phone addiction	47	9.83	5
Love affair	46	9.62	6
Lack of interesting books	37	7.74	7
Opening hours of the library not convenient	26	5.43	8
The Library is always closed	20	4.18	9
Non availability of books	19	3.97	10
Library materials are outdated and have no relevance	16	3.34	11

N=478

The above table described that the majority hindering factors to visiting library and reading culture among college students. There is higher number of respondents have expressed about the hindering factors are chatting on social media (19.03, 1strank), playing sports (15.10, 2nd rank, Watching

TV (10.66, 3rd rank), no library periods (10.04, 4th rank and phone addiction (9.83, 5th rank) comparatively other factors. Reading difficulties may have neurological and cognitive causes. The student's family, college, social, and cultural settings are affecting factors and also emotional, intellectual and intelligence aspects are influencing the reading difficulty among students (Ahmad, Zaheer. et.al. 2021).

Table - 5
Role of library to promoting reading culture among college students by the branches of course

Role of library to promoting reading culture among students	Branches of course	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-test for Equality of Means			Result
					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	
Role of Library	Arts	39	28.1282	2.02847	.820	101	.414	NS
	Science	64	27.6719	3.09149				

The independent sample t-test describes the role of library to promoting reading culture among college students and branches of course studying by respondents in Tirupattur District. Arts programme (mean =28.12) and science programme (mean=27.67). However, statistically speaking, their branches of programme have not significantly proved due to the two tailed significant values more than then 0.05. It is possible to draw the conclusion that there is no appreciable difference between arts and science programme by the role of library to promoting reading culture among college students.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

- Majority (82.4%) of the college students are studying in college with prompt age group between 17–19 years and enrolled as undergraduate students in college-level courses.
- Majority (62.1%) of college students are reported to be studying in science courses and more than one third (37.9%) of college students are studying in the arts course.
- Nearly one fourth (23.4%) of the science group students are frequently using in the college library relatively arts group students.
- Majority (68%) of the college students are daily visiting and using the college library.
- Higher number of college students have been frequently using library for exam preparation, personal development, making photocopy and borrow books etc.
- The higher number of college students have expressed that the roles of libraries include the use of the library is compulsory for every semester, establishing library clubs, organizing storytelling events, smart writing/ quiz competition and mobile reading huts to promoting reading culture among college students.
- There is higher number of college students have stated that there are first five dominated findings of various barriers of not using library such as; chatting on social media, playing sports, Watching TV, no library periods and phone addiction.
- There is no appreciable difference between arts and science programme by the role of library to promoting reading culture among college students.

DISCUSSIONS

- There should be a small library at home to create a literary atmosphere which can attract students to read something other than textbooks.
- College administration should establish a proper and well-stocked library for students
- Proper acknowledgement in the form of prizes and reading rewards for those students who perform better can also produce result-oriented outputs. This strategy may increase their confidence and encourage them to read more on a regular basis.
- Parents should promote a reading culture of literary gift exchanges like gifting a book on a student's birthday to create literary taste among the college students.

- Tutors should play their proactive role like encouraging students to visit the library and borrow some books other than textbooks to read and then manage book talks and library class at least twice a week.
- Transform college library space to make sure it's creative, engaging, and welcoming to all students and teachers. Fill it with colorful displays and comfortable seating for promoting reading culture among college students.
- Increasing the profile of reading, invite students to help. Create a peer-to-peer reading scheme within the college campus,
- Ask volunteers both from arts and science group students to be part of a reading committee who meet regularly to discuss the college improvement targets, reading incentives, and ideas to further promote a strong reading culture.
- To increase the number of course-related books, it is preferable to have large, well-furnished libraries along with ICT resources, which primarily include computers, internet, printer, scanner, and photocopier machines.

CONCLUSION

Library can provide inevitable services to the beneficiaries. The present study highlighted on purpose of visiting library, role of library to promoting reading culture among college students and various factor of hindering the visit library. The findings and recommendations of the study is more apt for students, teachers, parents and government.

REFERENCE

1. Ahmad, Zaheer; Tariq, Dr. Muhammad; Iqbal, Qaiser; and Sial, Tahira Akbar, "Exploring the Factors Affecting the Development of Reading Habits among Children" (2021). *Library Philosophy and Practice* (ejournal). 6307. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/6307>.
2. Andrea Cannon. (2023). 7 Modern Reasons to Visit Your Local Library Today, accessed at <https://www.wisebread.com/7-modern-reasons-to-visit-your-local-library-today>, accessed on 27.05.2023.
3. Chloe Lister. (2022). Benefits to Visiting the Library, accessed at <https://www.astor.edu.sg/post/benefits-to-visiting-the-library>, published sep.15, 2022, accessed on 29.05.2023.
4. Jawale J.N. (2020). The Role of Libraries in Promoting Reading Culture, *Knowledge Librarian. An International Peer Reviewed Bilingual e-Journal of Library and Information Science*, <http://www.klibjlis.com/7.5.2.pdf>, Volume: 07, Issue: 05, Sept. – Oct. 2020 Pg. No. 10-13 Page | 10, eISSN No. 2394-2479.
5. Levine-Clark, M., & Carter, T. M. (2013). *ALA Glossary of Library and Information Science*, Fourth Edition. American Library Association.
6. Lisbdnetwork(2014). Library, accessed at <https://www.lisedunetwork.com/library-definition-and-meaning/>, on 26.05.2023.
7. Mubashrah Jamil, Riaz-ul-Haq Tariq & Shaziah Jamil. (2016). Library Resources: Utilization by Teacher and Students, *Bulletin of Education and Research* August 2013, Vol. 35, No. 2 (Special Issue) pp. 19-35.
8. Prytherch, R. (2016). *Harrod's Librarians' Glossary and Reference Book* (0 ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315586243>
9. Rubina Bhatti. (2013). Pervasiveness and Purposes of Libreness and Purposes of Library Usage by Usage by LIS Students at y LIS Students at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, *Library Philosophy and Practice* (e-journal). 940. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/940>.
10. Samuel Ejembi Oji & Idris Habibu. 2(011). The Role of Schools and Public Libraries in promoting reading habits among children and adolescents in Nigeria, *Information and knowledge management* ISSN 2224-5758, Vol.1,No.42011.



Dr. Aariefah Basheer
Librarian, Islamiah Women's Arts and Science College, Vaniyambadi,
Tirupattur District, Tamil Nadu.