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READING HABITS OF THE USERS IN GOVERNMENT PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN RAJASTHAN: A CASE STUDY OF GOVERNMENT DIVISIONAL, SELECTED DISTRICT AND PS PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF KOTA REGION, RAJASTHAN

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ABSTRACT

The study seeks to assess the reading habits among users of Government Public Libraries in Kota region of Rajasthan. The study was conducted in Kota region of Rajasthan. A structured questionnaire was used for the data collection. The data collected were analyzed and interpreted using simple frequency and percentage. Tables were used to present the results of findings. From the total of 60 copies of questionnaire distributed, 50 copies, representing 83% were filled and returned. The findings showed that majority of the respondents agreed that Public Libraries are their source of information, also about 62% of the users visit Public Libraries regularly while 50% of the respondents increase their knowledge by going to Public Libraries. The study confirmed that reading habit has influence on academic performance and there is a relationship between reading habit and academic performance. The study recommended among others that general public should be encourage to use Public Libraries for research and also, the current state of government Public Libraries should looked at to improve the services being provide to the general public as they are seen as institution of knowledge.

Keywords:
Information Seeking Behaviour (ISB), Government (Govt.), Govt. Divisional Public Library (GDPL), Govt. District Public Library (GDsPL), PS Libraries (Panchayat Samiti Libraries), VI (Visually Impaired), RU (Registered Users), NRS (Non- Registered Users)

1. INTRODUCTION

Reading habits among users of public libraries in Kota region of Rajasthan can be said to be a well-planned and deliberate pattern of study which has attained a form of consistency on the part of people especially students toward understanding academic subjects and passing at examinations because Kota is well known as the coaching hub for students seeking for admission in higher institution of learning all over India. Many forms of knowledge can be gained by reading habits, but the reading can improve people thinking and enhance their skills or expertise in any field of endeavor. According to Palani (2012), reading habit is an essential and vital aspect for creating a literate society in this world [6]. Reading habits determine the academic achievements of students to a great extent. Both reading and academic achievements are interrelated and dependent on each other. Users of public libraries often come from different environments and localities with different levels of academic achievement. Therefore, they differ in the pattern of reading habits. While some have good reading habits, others tend to exhibit poor reading habits. Academic achievement means how much knowledge an individual has acquired from the school Bashir & Mattoo (2012) [2]. In fact, most of the times continuous reading can calm the mind and reduce the burden and also knowledge gained can be disseminated to others by reading to them.

2. GOVT. DIVISIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY KOTA: BRIEF OVERVIEW

- Established in 1956
- Started serving to the library services to the Readers of Kota Region from the Dan Mal ji ki Haweli (Baphana Haweli), The Owner of The Building was Nagar Seth Kota
- Later, in 1968 the library was shifted in Chhatra Vilas Garden (Also Known as CV Garden) from Rampur (Dan mal Haweli)

- By Order the DM again in 1984 Library was shifted into the 2nd floor of UIT Building because of establishing Doordarshan Office.
- Again library was re shifted in 2001 on the Ground Floor of UIT Building because of they have need of wing.
- In 2013, with the Financial Assistance of Raja Ram Mohun Roy Library Foundation Kolkata (RRRLF), library shifted in New Building, which is situated in CAD Colony Campus, In front of Income Tax Residential Colony, Dadabari Kota (Raj.)
- Now New library Building serving to the Citizen of Kota Region
- But it's a long journey of shifting from one place to another place is really a cause of damage of Books.

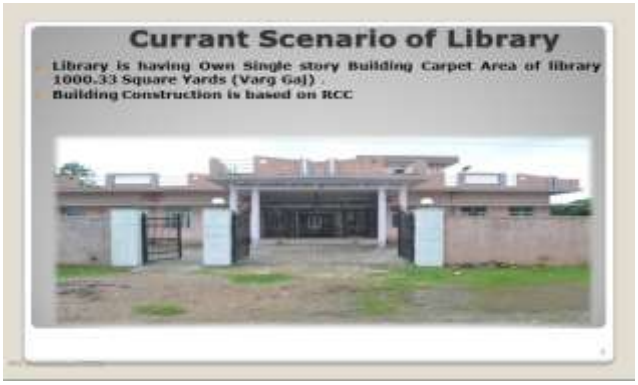


Photo 1: Front view of Govt. Divisional Public Library, Kota

3. GOVT. DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY BUNDI: BRIEF OVERVIEW

GOVT. DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY BUNDI is Princely a library situated in Biggest Govt. School Campus with Huge Building and right now curetted by Mr. Joginder Singh. It is established in 1956 and having Collection of 47067 Books.

4. GOVT. PUNCHAYAT SAMITI PUBLIC LIBRARY KAITHOON: BRIEF OVERVIEW

Govt. Panchayat Samiti Public Library Kaithoon is in Kota District and established in Year 2001 and now it is running in Own Building made in Year 2006 By the Co-operation of Raja Ram Mohun Roy Library Foundation Kolkata. The reputed library is running under the guidance of Smt. Anita Mathur and it is situated in School Building so both School Students and Rural People are benefitting from the library.

5. DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE AND LIBRARY, GOVT. OF RAJASTHAN: OVERVIEW

In Rajasthan, there is a separate department or directorate namely: Department of Language and Library, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur to govern the Public libraries of Rajasthan, established in year 2001 and it's headed by Director Public Library. It's an Administrative Post where always been appointed Senior RAS and there is a Tow Deputy Director – Deputy Director (Translation) and Deputy Director (Administration) besides these post one is OSD (Officers on Special Duty), Account Officer, Assistant Academic Officer. The Responsibility of this department is to take care of Government Public Libraries. Right Now there is a total 278 Public Libraries in Rajasthan whereas 50 are fully under the control of Department and rests are run under school premises partially by School Librarian. The Status of Public Libraries in Rajasthan is like-

Table: 1 Govt. Public Libraries in Rajasthan

S.No.	Types of Libraries available in Rajasthan	No. of Libraries
1.	State Central Library	01
2.	Divisional Libraries	07
3.	District Libraries	33
4.	PS Libraries (In School)	276
5.	PS Libraries (Fully Governed By Department of Language and Library)	06
Total		323

http://bhashapustakalaya.rajasthan.gov.in/

Recently Three PS Fully Funded Public libraries are merged in Concern District libraries so total at present number of libraries are 275

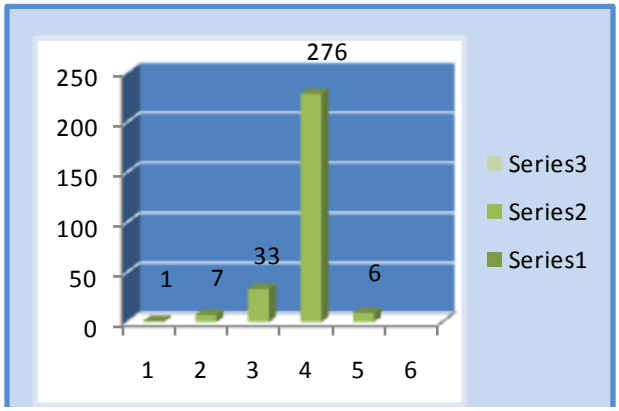


Chart: 1 Govt. Public Libraries in Rajasthan

6. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Government public Library, being a source of information for people within a community, will require a lot of information about its users in order to provide the community with the services that will satisfied their needs. The positioning of the library conveys a sense of intellectual common ground, a setting in which knowledge from a range of disciplines comes together in a single place. Public library embodies core academic and community values reflected in the domains of knowledge that the general public and students pursue. As a physical structure and hub of interaction, public library affirms the value of sustained inquiry in various field and at the same time it affirms the need to understand the reading habit of its users to improve the quality of services provided in order to meet the aims and objectives of establishing the library. For these to be achieved public library need to know the reading habit of its users and how they seek information, this lead to the research "READING HABITS OF THE USERS IN GOVERNMENT PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN RAJASTHAN: A CASE STUDY OF GOVERNMENT DIVISIONAL, SELECTED DISTRICT AND PS PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF KOTA REGION, RAJASTHAN"

7. OBJECTIVES

The following are the objective set for this paper:

- To find out the use and frequency of resources in public libraries;
- To find out the types of resources being read by public libraries users;
- To identify the effects of subjects background on reading habit public libraries users;
- To find out the barriers which keep the general public away from reading and using of information resources?

8. SCOPE OF STUDY

The scope of the study covers the Users of Government Divisional Public Library, Kota, Government District Public Library, Bundi, Government PS Public Library, and Kaithoon Kota. This comprises the Kids, Young, Senior Citizen, Women and differently abled users in the public Libraries and the staff. Staff like messengers, cleaners will not be included in the study

9. METHODOLOGY

The research method adopted for the study is survey design, Aina and Ajiferuke (2002), argued that, survey design could be conveniently used in large and small population without sacrificing efficiency in addition to time and money saving and currency [1]. The main instrument for data collection for this research is a structured questionnaire that was distributed among various users of public libraries. The study is limited to public libraries in Kota region of Rajasthan. Data analysis and interpretation is based on a sample population of 60 users of public libraries in Kota region of Rajasthan which were randomly picked.

Table 2: Population sample distribution

S.No	Name of Library	Registered Users	Non Registered	Freely Abled Users	Total	%
1.	Government Divisional Public Library Kota Rajasthan India	15	9	3	27	45
2.	Government District Public Library Bundi, Rajasthan India	11	7	Nil	18	30
3.	Government PS Public Library Kaithoon, District – Kota, Rajasthan India	10	5	Nil	15	25
	Total	36	21	3	60	100

10. DATA ANALYSIS

A total number of 60 questionnaires were distributed to various users of public libraries in Kota region of Rajasthan but 50 were fully filled and returned which means 83% responded. The analysis is based on simple frequency count and percentages.

10.1 Information supplied by Librarians

Information and its effective, proper dissemination and utilization are an integral and very powerful force to reckon with. Public libraries are therefore the main arena through which the overall information resources in various areas of knowledge are made freely available to all members of the community irrespective of age, sex, religion, cultural background, educational standard as well as political and social inclination. Both public libraries have a sizable collection of books, magazines, journals and newspaper and they are also connected to internet.

Table 3: Information Sources

Sources of information	Regd users	%	Non regd user	%	Freely Abled users	%
Public libraries	16	55	10	56	2	67
Outside	4	14	2	11	1	33
Internet use	9	31	6	33	0	0
Total	29	100	18	100	3	100

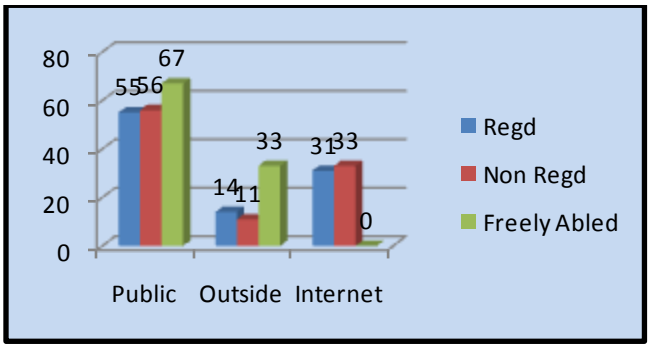


Chart 2: Information Sources

The normal way to study the importance of various sources of information is to look at the citation pattern of a particular field which indirectly assists in setting up public libraries collections and acquisition. From table 3 above, the study shows that 55% of the registered users, 56% none registered users and 67% of freely abled users of the public libraries use the libraries for getting information while14% of registered users, 11% of none registered users. Further more, 31% of registered users and 33% of none registered users use the internet to get information.

10.2 Regular visits to Public Libraries

Table 4: Visit to Public Libraries

Library visit	Regd users	%	Non regd users	%	Freely abled users	%
Regularly	18	62	8	44	1	33
Once in a week	3	10	4	23	2	67
When required	8	28	6	33	0	0
Total	29	100	18	100	3	100

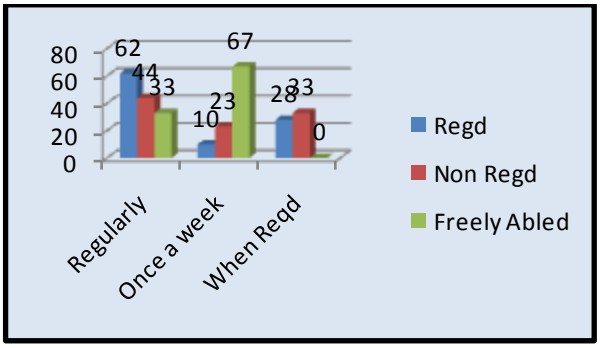


Chart 3: Visit to Public Libraries

Table 4 above shows that 62% of the registered users, 44% of none registered users and 33% of freely abled users regularly visit public libraries but 10% of registered users, 23% of none registered users and 67% of freely abled users visit public libraries once in a while. Further more, 28% of registered users and 33% of non registered users visit public libraries when required.

10.3 Objective of Reading

Table 5: Objectives of reading in Public Libraries

Reading objective	Regd users	%	Non-regd user	%	Freely abled users	%

Increase knowledge	9	31	9	60	3	100
Academic	13	45	4	22	0	0
Recreation	7	24	5	28	0	0
Total	29	100	18	100	3	100

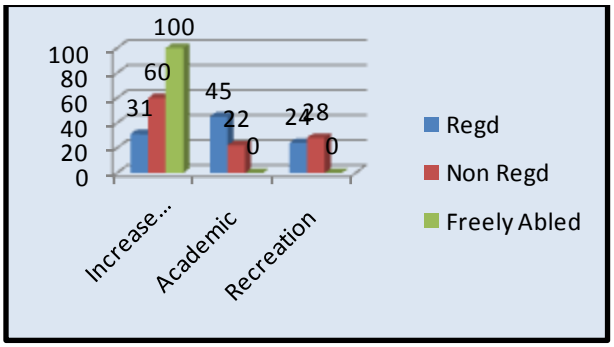


Chart 4: Objectives of reading in Public Libraries

In table 5 above, 31% of registered users, 60% of none registered users and 100% of freely abled users go to public libraries with the main objective of increasing their knowledge while 45% of registered users and 22% of none registered users have the objective of academic purpose. Also 24% of registered users and 28% of none registered users go for recreation purpose.

10.4 Sources of General Reading

Table 6: Sources of general reading in Public Libraries

General reading sources	Regd Users	%	Non regd user	%	Freely abled users	%
Newspapers	16	55	10	56	2	67
Magazines	4	14	2	11	1	33
Fiction	9	31	6	33	0	0
Total	29	100	18	100	3	100

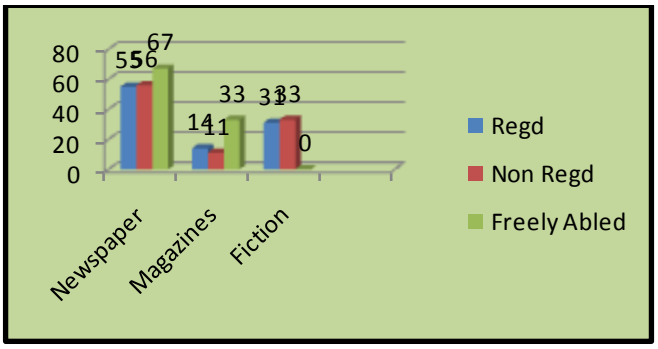


Chart 5: Sources of general reading in Public Libraries

Table 6 above shows that 55% of registered users, 56% of none registered users and 67% of freely abled users are of the view that newspaper is their major source of reading, while 14% of registered users, 11% of non registered users and 33% of freely abled users agreed that magazine is their main source of reading. More so, 31% of registered users and 33% of none registered users go with fiction as their source of reading.

10.5 Opinions about Public Libraries Resources

Table 7: Opinion about Public Libraries resources

Opinion	Regd users	%	Non regd users	%	Freely abled users	%
Satisfied	19	65	11	61	2	67
Average	8	28	6	33	1	33
Not satisfied	2	7	2	11	0	0
Total	29	100	18	100	3	100

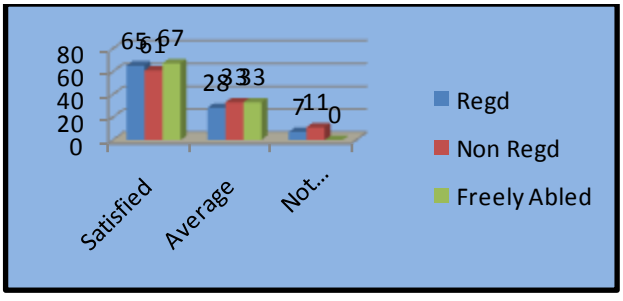


Chart 6: Opinion about Public Libraries resources

In table 7 above, 65% of registered users, 61% of none registered users and 67% of freely abled users are very much satisfy with information resources of public libraries while 28% of registered users, 33% of none

registered users and 33% of freely abled users are of the view that the resources are within average. Furthermore, 7% of registered users and 11% of none registered users are not satisfy with the information resources.

11. CONCLUSION

Reading habit undoubtedly enhances the learning capabilities of both users of public libraries in Kota region of Rajasthan. The study shows that majority of users go to public libraries for their source of information and also visit public libraries on a regular basis. Furthermore, majority increase their knowledge by going to public libraries while newspaper and magazine are their major reading sources. Finally, the study shows that majority of the users are fully satisfy with the information resources available in public libraries of Kota region in Rajasthan.

12. RECOMMENDATION AND SOLUTION

The study recommended among others that general public should be encouraged to use the public libraries for reading and research by an improvement on information collections. Furthermore, the current state of government public libraries should be looked to improve the services they provide to the general public as they are seen as institution of knowledge, especially the adolescent users.

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Dr. D.K. Shrivastava is presently working as a Divisional Librarian and In-charge of Govt. Divisional Public Library Kota since July 2010. Beside these Service he has been served to the Banasthali Women University and Secondary Education also. He has unique distinction of having acquired Masters Degrees in Library and

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I am Suleiman Sambo, a PhD Research scholar at Career Point University, Kota Rajasthan under the Guidance of Dr. Deepak K. Shrivastava. I was born and raised in Samaru, Zaria. I am an indigene of Sabon Gari Local Government Area of Kaduna State Nigeria. I attended my primary and secondary school in Samaru and Sabon Gari respectively. I then procceed to Kaduna State Polytechnic Zaria were I obtained National and Higher National Diploma in Business Administration. I went to Ahmadu Bello University Zaria where I obtained Post Graduate Diploma in Information Management and Master in information Management. I joined the service of Ahmadu Bello University in 2012 as Assistant Librarian and rose to the position of Librarian II. I serve in Human Resources Development Division of Kashim Ibrahim Library before I was posted to Quality Assurance Unit to date. I have attended Local and international conferences all in the field of Library and information Science.