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## THE ROLE OF CITY CENTRAL LIBRARIES IN PROMOTION OF INFORMAL EDUCATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CCL, HUBLI-DHARWAD

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### ABSTRACT

**T**his is a study on the role of Public Libraries in the promotion of informal education with special reference to City Central Library, Hubli-Dharwad, Karnataka. The present study shows that majority of users were men between the age group of 18 – 25 years and they included



employees, students, Pensioners and housewives who visit the library daily. Most of the users were visiting the library for improve the general knowledge and also for preparing the competitive exams. Most of the users were depended on the newspapers as well as magazines.

**KEYWORDS :** City Central Library, Informal Education, Continue of Education.

### INTRODUCTION

Libraries are widely regarded as gateways to knowledge. Especially, public libraries play very vital role of center for knowledge and culture across the globe, to satisfy information needs of all types of people in the society. India has a rich history of public library movement, since pro-independence. Karnataka is the 3rd state in Independent India to enact Public Library Act, Karnataka Public Library Act 1965, with the preamble (objective) that reads, “An Act to provide for the establishment and maintenance of public libraries and the organisation of a comprehensive rural and urban library service in the State of Karnataka”. Karnataka State has a network of the public libraries including State Central

Library at the State level, District Central Library at the district level and City Central Libraries at all the places having a population of more than one lakh together with libraries at the taluk, municipality and gram panchayat levels. As per Karnataka Public Libraries Act, Government of Karnataka issued a notification to form the City Library Authority for the twin cities of Hubli-Dharwad on 5-11-1966. The City Library Authority established the City Central Library, Hubli - Dharwad in the city of Dharwad on 1-1-1967.

### **CITY CENTRAL LIBRARY HUBLI-DHARWAD**

The City Central Library, Hubli - Dharwad is located in the central place the Dharwad city, in its own building situated behind the District Commissioner office. The building plan was initiated in 1971 and the foundation stone was laid in the same year. But it took long 20 years to complete the construction and got inaugurated in 1991. It was initially started in the premises of Karnataka Vidyavrdhak Sangh, Dharwad before moving to this new own building.

There are 22 branches and 17 service stations under the jurisdiction of City Central Library, Hubli - Dharwad, it is also providing mobile Library services in 48 the remote areas points of Hubli – Dharwad city.

<https://www.ukessays.com/essays/media/role-of-public-libraries-in-cultural-diversity-media-essay.php>

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The Study aims to know the role of City Central Libraries in promotion of informal education with special reference to City Central Library, Hubli – Dharwad with the following objectives:

1. To know the usefulness of City Central libraries in continuing education.
2. To know the effectiveness of City Central library in the promotion of Informal Education.
3. To assess the usefulness of city central library and its resources and services in the promotion of informal education.
4. To suggest the ways and means for improving the existing services or facilities for the effective promotion of Informal Education.
5. Use and adequacy of reading materials for their continuing education through the informal mode of education.
6. To study the users opinions towards the available information resources and services in the library for continuing the education through the informal mode of education.

### **SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS**

The present study scope is limited to City Central Library of Hubli-Dharwad. The Study includes all the users of the CCL irrespective of gender, occupation, age etc.

### **METHODOLOGY**

In order to collect the needed feedbacks from users for the present study, it is decided to employ the most popular survey method. A questionnaire is used for collect the required data. In total 200 questionnaires were distributed to library users and 152 filled questionnaires were received back. The overall response rate for the survey was 76%, which is considered to be satisfactory for this type of surveys.

## Data Analysis and Interpretation:

### 1. Gender wise Distribution of Respondents

Gender	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Male	108	71.05%
Female	44	28.95%
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 1 gives the Gender wise distribution of respondents. Out of the total 152 respondents surveyed, 108 (71.05%) are male and about 44 (28.95%) respondents are female. It can be inferred from the table that male respondents dominate over female respondents as visitors to CCL, Hubli-Dharwad is dominated by male.

### 2. Age-wise Distribution of Respondents

Age of the Respondents	Number of Respondents	Percentage
18-25	92	60.53%
26-30	40	26.32%
31-35	8	5.26%
Above 35	12	7.89%
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 1: Age-wise Distribution of Respondents**

Table 2 shows that majority of the users i.e. 92(60.53%) belong to the age group 18-25 years. The respondents between the age group of 26-30 years are 40 (26.32%) i.e. the second largest followed by number of respondents 12(7.89%) of age group above 35 years and the least number of respondents i.e. 8(5.26%) belong to the age group 31-35 years.

### 3. Educational Qualification wise Distribution

Education	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Primary	2	1.30%
Matriculation	10	6.58%
12 <sup>th</sup> Class (PUC)	40	26.32%
Graduate	68	44.74%
Post Graduate	32	21.06%
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 3 shows that out of 152 respondents, majority of the respondents are Graduates i.e. 68(44.74%) followed by 12th Class 103(21.5%), Post Graduates 32(21.06%), Matriculation 10(6.58%), and the least number of respondents i.e. 2(1.30%) are Primary school.

#### 4. Occupation wise Distribution

Occupation	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Students	94	61.85%
Govt. Employees	4	2.63%
Private Employees	24	15.78%
Businessmen	6	3.95%
Housewives	14	9.22%
Pensioner	10	6.57%
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 4 shows that out of 152 respondents, majority of the respondents are students i.e. 94(61.85%) followed by Private employees 24(15.78%), Housewives 14(9.22%), Pensioners 10(6.57%), Businessmen 6 (3.95%), and least number of respondents i.e. 4(2.63%) are Government Employees.

#### 5. Frequency of Visiting the Library

Frequency of visits	Male	Female	No of Respondents	Percentage
Daily	44	16	60	39.48%
Weekly	31	15	46	30.26%
Monthly	12	8	20	13.15%
Occasionally	21	5	26	17.11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>100%</b>

The data presented in Table 5 shows that the more number of users visits the library Daily i.e. 60 (39.48%) followed by 46 (30.26%) of users visits Once in a week, 20 (13.15%) users visit Once in a month and 26 (17.11%) users visit the library occasionally. Thus, the data reveals that more users are frequently making a visit to City Central Library to keep themselves updated.

Besides this, the above table also shows that majority of the males 44 (40.74%) prefers to visit daily, but Female respondents almost equally prefer to visit the library daily or once in week respectively with 16 (36.36%) and 15(34.09%).

#### 6. Time Spent in the City Central Library

Duration	No of Respondents	Male	Female	Percentage
An hour	68	56	12	44.74%
Two hours	40	33	7	26.31%
Three hours	18	4	14	11.84%
More than three hours	26	15	11	17.11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100%</b>

The indication from table 5 shows that majority of users are visiting the library every day. Table 6 shows that majority of the respondents i.e. 318(66.25%) spend an hour per visit in the library, 40(26.31%) of them spend two hours per visit, 18(11.84%) spend around three hours per visit and around 26(17.11%) users spends more than three hours per visit. The data presented in the above table

clearly indicates that CCL and its resources play very important role in the life of individuals, who are interested in continuing their education.

Table 5 also shows that the more number of Male visitors prefer to spend an hour per visit i.e. 56 (51.85%), but more female visitors prefer to spend Three hours per visit i.e. 14 (31.82%).

## 7. Purpose to Spend Time in CCL

Purpose	No of Respondents	Percentage
Reading	140	42.94
Preparing Notes / Assignments	72	22.09
Interactions / Discussions	14	4.29
Total	326	100

Out of 326 responses from 152 respondents, Reading is the most preferred purpose of spending time in the library with 140 (42.94%) followed by 72 (22.09%) preferred for preparing notes and assignments, very less respondents preferred they visit library for Interaction and Discussion with 14 (4.29%). The distribution clearly indicates the highest number of the users always visit the library for Reading Magazines, Newspapers and Books only.

## 8. Preferred Reading Materials

Reading Material	No of Respondents	Percentage
Newspapers	122	36.53
Magazines	120	35.93
Books	72	21.56
Others	20	5.99
	334	100

Table No. 8 indicates that Newspaper is most preferred reading material in CCL. Out of 334 responses maximum number of respondents i.e. 122 (36.52%) preferred News Papers over other reading materials, followed by Magazines which is preferred reading material for 120 (78.94%) visitors, 72 (47.36%) preferred Books and others i.e. 20 (13.16%) of them are using the other sources like reference sources, competitive exam materials etc.

## 9. Purpose for the use of the Library Resources

Purposes	Number of Respondents	Percentage
To prepare the notes for examination (UG/PG)	52	34.21%
To improve the general knowledge	120	78.95%
To prepare the competitive exams	108	71.05%

Table No.9 depicts purpose for using Library Resources by the respondents. Table clearly indicates that most of the users i.e. 120 (78.95%) are using the library to improve general knowledge followed by 108 (71.05%) used to prepare for the competitive exams only 52 (34.21%) are using the library to prepare the notes for examination 52 (34.21%) are using the library to prepare the notes for examination (UG/PG). The table clearly shows that most of the public visits library to keep themselves updated and get general knowledge.

#### 10. Continuing the Education through Informal Mode of Education

	No of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	112	73.68%
No	40	26.32%
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table No.10 indicates the interest of the users towards continuing education through Informal mode of Education. The majority of the respondents 112 (73.68%) are very much interested in continuing their education through the informal mode of education and 40 (26.32%) of the users are not interested in continuing the education through the informal mode of education.

#### 11. Satisfaction with collection

	No of Respondents	Percentage
Satisfied	138	90.79%
Not Satisfied	14	9.21%
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>100%</b>

City Central Library of Hubli-Dharwad is one of the oldest public libraries in Karnataka containing a rich collection over 8,44,525 books (as on 31st march 2016) and a huge collection of Reference sources. Therefore, the majority of the users with 138 (90.79%) users are fully satisfied with the existing collection of the library and 14 (9.21%) of the users are not satisfied with the existing collection of the central library.

#### 12. Helpfulness of Library Staff

	No of Respondents	Percentage
Satisfied	124	81.58%
Not Satisfied	28	18.42%
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>100%</b>

Any library to be considered as the most efficient depending upon helpfulness of its staff. The library staffs are the one who connect readers to his/her book and every book its reader. Thus, services rendered by the library staff that makes the reputation of the library. Table No. 12 observes the opinion of the users about the services rendered by the staff in the library. The Majority of the respondents i.e.

124 (81.58%) feel that the services offered by the staff are excellently satisfied and 28 (18.42%) of the users consider the services rendered by staff in the library are quite satisfactory.

### 13. User's dependency on CCL.

	No of Respondents	Percentage
Entirely	52	34.21%
Moderately	64	42.11%
Scarcely	28	18.42%
Not at all	8	5.26%
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table No. 13 furnishes users dependency on City Central Library for seeking information. The majority of users 64 (42.11%) depends moderately on CCL to satisfy their information needs. While 52 (34.21%) of the users entirely depend on the CCL, 28 (18.42%) of the users are scarcely depending upon CCL for their information requirements and 8 (5.26%) of users feel they are not depending upon CCL for their information needs.

### 14. User's dependency on other Libraries

	No of Respondents	Percentage (n 152)
Yes	78	51.32%
No	74	48.68%
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table No 14 reveals the User's dependency on other libraries to meet their information needs. 78(51.32%) of the users make use of other libraries for gathering the information in his/her information needs and 74 (48.68%) of the users does not make use of any other libraries and they completely depend on the City Central Library. Maximum number of respondents are students, hence they might be also visiting the institutional libraries on a regular basis.

## FINDINGS

- 71.05% of the respondents are male and 28.95% of them are female. (Table 1)
- The majority of the users i.e. 92 (60.53%) belong to the age group 18-25 years whereas least number of users i.e. 8(5.26%) belong to the age group 31-35 years. (Table 2)
- The highest number of respondents i.e. 68(44.74%) have Graduation whereas least number of users i.e. 2(11.7%) have a Primary school educational qualification. (Table 3)
- The highest number of users i.e. 94(61.85%) are students whereas least number of users i.e. 4(2.63%) are Government employees.(Table 4)
- The majority of the users i.e. 60(39.48%) visit the library daily whereas 46(30.26%) users visit weekly, 13.15% and 17.11% users visit the library monthly and occasionally respectively. Besides this, majority of the males 44 (40.74%) prefers to visit daily, but Female respondents almost equally prefer to visit the library daily or once in week respectively with 16 (36.36%) and 15(34.09%). (Table 5)
- The majority of the users i.e. 68(44.74%) spend around one hour per visit in the library whereas least number of users i.e. 18(11.84%) spend around Three hours per visit. Besides this, more number of Male

visitors prefer to spend an hour per visit i.e. 56 (51.85%), but more female visitors prefer to spend Three hours per visit i.e. 14 (31.82%). (Table 6)

- The highest number of user's i.e.140 (42.94%) always visit the library for Reading Magazines, Newspapers and Books only. (Table 7)
- The majority of the users i.e. 122 (36.53%) visits to read "News Paper" and 120 (35.93%) to read "Magazines". (Table 8)
- The majority of the users i.e. 120(78.95%) have replied that they use library resources to improve their General Knowledge. (Table 9)
- Most of the users have the opinion that they will continue the education through informal mode of education i.e. 112 (73.68%). (Table 10)
- The highest number of the users i.e. 138(90.79%) are satisfied with collection available in CCL, Hubli-Dharwad. (Table 11)
- The majority of users i.e. 124 (81.58%) are very satisfied with services rendered by the staff and their helpfulness. (Table 12)
- The majority of users 64 (42.11%) depends moderately on CCL to satisfy their information needs and 8 (5.26%) of users feel they are not depending upon CCL. (Table 13)
- It has been found that majority of users i.e. 78 (51.32%) users also visits other libraries and only 74 (48.68%) users only visits CCL. (Table 14)

## SUGGESTIONS

The majority of CCL users are between 18-25 years, hence library should also introduce internet facility and digital content for its users.

The majority of its user's graduates, CCL should have Information Desk to help its users to inform Competitive exams, Job opportunity and Government schemes etc. for their betterment.

A maximum number of its users are students, hence CCL should add more number of Reference and Textbooks for their use. Library should also need to introduce some of the advanced library services like Current awareness service (CAS), Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) and other modern services to the users.

The majority of users visits the library daily and spends at least one hour per visit, CCL should provide proper reading atmosphere at the library and some of the users are facing disturbance from the co-users, therefore, proper rules and instructions should be made and implemented in the library.

The majority of the users opined that they are making use of the Newspapers and Magazines for continuing their education through the informal mode of education, therefore, authorities of the city central library should subscribe more number of newspapers as well as magazines for the benefit of the users.

Maximum numbers of the users of the city central library opinioned that they are frequently making use of the library resources to improve their general knowledge and to prepare for the competitive exams. Hence it is suggested to the authorities of city central library to procure more number of relevant resources related to general knowledge and competitive exams.

## CONCLUSION

The present study reveals that City Central Library, Hubli-Dharwad is used by people of all ages as a source of information, education and study as well as pleasure reading. Students, businessmen, housewives, pensioners and people from different walks of life have been using the CCL. The collection and services of CCL are much appreciated by its users. However, adequate incentives and

encouragements should be provided to library users. There is greater scope for further improvements in terms of collection, equipment's, technology application and other infrastructures. A few outreach activities like workshops, user education, orientations, Book talks, Author talks and Guest lecturers will help library users to keep themselves updated and helps users to utilize the CCL collection and services very effectively. Library should also adopt modernization of library activities like Library Automation, Digitization and online access to its resources.

The city central library is needed to encourage the users to maximum utilization of the library resources and services for their continuing of education through the informal mode of education. CCL is also suggested to conduct more and more user's studies and surveys to understand users' needs and requirements. Such studies will help CCL to formulate collection development policy and new services.

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