

**READING HABITS AND USE OF PUBLIC LIBRARY RESOURCES BY
URBAN WOMEN IN KARNATAKA: A STUDY**



**THESIS SUBMITTED TO
THE KARNATAK UNIVERSITY, DHARWAD FOR THE AWARD OF
THE DEGREE OF**

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

IN

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

By

SOUBHAGYA S. ARALI

M. L. I. Sc

Research Guide

Dr. C. KRISHNAMURTHY

Professor and Chairman

**Department of Library and Information Science
Karnatak University, Dharwad – 580 003**

2018

CHAPTER – 6

FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

6.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with summary of findings based on the analysis and interpretation of the data. The chapter also includes the suggestions and conclusion for the study. The suggestions have been made keeping in view of the respondents' opinion for the improvement of public libraries in terms of resources and services to promote the reading habits of urban women in Karnataka State. In addition, it covers the scope for future research in the same area. The results of the analysis are summarized and findings are given according to various heads in the chapter. Subsequently the following findings have been evolved.

6.2 MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

6.2.1 Background Information about the respondents

1. Among the 1013 respondents, 336(33.16%) respondents belong to the age group of 31 to 35, followed by 269(26.55%) of the respondents fall in the age group between 36 to 40, 238(23.49%) of them belong to the age group of 25 to 30, 92(9.08%) respondents belong to the age group of 45 and above, only 78 (7.69 %) respondents are between 41 to 45(table -5.2.1).
2. Majority of the respondents i.e. 582 (57.45%) are married, followed by 365 (36.03%) are unmarried and 66 (6.51%) belong to other categories like widows, divorcees etc (table-5.2.2).
3. Majority of the respondents i.e. 426 (42.05%) are Under Graduates, 222 (21.91%) of them are Post Graduates, 178 (17.57%) of them have completed PUC, 110 (7.52%) of the urban women have completed other courses such as diploma and the remaining i.e. 77(7.52%) have completed S.S.L.C (table-5.2.3).
4. Majority of women i.e. 501 (49.45%) are House-wives, followed by 196 (19.34%) are working in Government Institutes, 174 (17.17%) are Self employed or run their own Business and 142 (14.01%) are working in Private Institutes (table-5.2.4).

6.2.2 Reading Habits of Urban women

5. The study revealed that among 1013 respondents 914 (90.22%) of them have reading habit. Majority of the women i.e. 596 (58.83%) have personal book collection in their home (table-5.3.5-6).
6. The study found that 552 (54.49 %) respondents prefer to read in Kannada language, 318 (31.39%) of them read in English, 77 (7.60%) of the respondents read in Hindi language (table-5.3.7).
7. It is observed from the data that majority of the respondents i.e. 648 (63.96%) prefer to read at home. 425 (41.95%) respondents read at any time of the day. It shows that the urban women read in their leisure time (table-5.3.8-9).
8. The survey reveals that 261 (25.76%) respondents read at least one hour, 230 (22.70%) of them are not sure about how much time they spent for reading, 219 (21.61%) respondents spend less than an hour, 169 (16.68%) respondents read for three hours and above and 134 (13.22%) of them read for two hours in a day (table-5.3.10).
9. From the study it is found that majority of the respondents i.e. 296 (29.2%) strongly agreed that reading as their hobby. 299 (29.5%) respondents agreed that they read for learning. About 298(29.4%) of them strongly agreed that they read to update their personal knowledge and 287(28.3%) respondents strongly agreed that they read to spend leisure time (Table – 5.3.12).

6.2.3 Utilization of various Reading Materials by Urban women

10. The data revealed that 298(29.4%) of the respondents preferred to read novels and 243(23.9%) of them preferred to read short stories to full extent. Majority of the respondents not at all preferred to read religious books 295(29.1%), poetry 286(28.2%), biographies 272 (26.8%), adventure stories 286 (28.2%), comics 293(28.9%), dramas 280(27.6%), Travel guides 276(27.2%) and any other books 286 (28.2%), (table-5.4.13).
11. The study disclosed that majority of urban women i.e. 475 (46.89%) borrow books from the library, 276 (27.24%) of the respondents borrow the books from their friends, and 264 (26.06%) of them get the books by purchase (table-5.4.16).
12. The data depicted that 979 (96.64%) of the respondents read newspapers. 310 (31.66%) of them preferred to read Vijay Vani newspaper in Kannada language, 87 (8.88%) of the respondents preferred to read The Hindu in

English, 23(2.34%) of them read Amar Ujala in Hindi, and 54 (5.51%) of the respondents preferred to read other newspapers (table-5.4.17-22).

13. The study identified that majority of the respondents i.e. 280 (27.6%) prefer to read political news, 299(30.5%) of them prefer to read women's issues, 296(30.2%) of them prefer health related information to the full extent. 237(24.2%) of the respondents read advertisements, 250(25.5%) of the respondents read entertainment section which includes Film, Music, Radio and T.V programs, 238(24.3%) of them prefer information related to Sports, Maths or Crossword Puzzles to some extent in the newspaper (table-5.4.23).
14. The study found that majority of the respondents i.e. 995 (98.22%) read the magazines. About 345 (34.67%) of the respondents get magazines by purchasing, 277 (27.83 %) of them borrow from their friends, 184 (18.49%) of the respondents procure from the library and 193 (19.39%) of them procure from other approaches (table-5.4.24-25).
15. Majority of the respondents 147(14.77%) prefer to read Grihshobha magazine in Kannada language, 126 (12.66%) of them preferred to read other magazines, 117(11.75%) of them prefer to read Femina in English, 33 (3.31) respondents prefer to read Meri Saheli in Hindi (table-5.4.26).
16. It is observed from the study that majority of the respondents i.e. 295(29.6%) prefer to read Health and Nutrition related information to full extent. About 259(26.0%) respondents prefer information related to Interior Decoration to some extent. 253(25.4%) of them read Social issues to the full extent. 298(29.9%) of the respondents read cooking related information to full extent. (table-5.4.27).
17. Majority of the respondents i.e. 299 (29.5%) strongly agreed that 'Reading enhances their quality of life', 252 (24.8) of them agreed that 'Reading improves their versatility and boosts decision making power', 163 (16.0%) of them felt uncertain with the statement 'Reading helps to develop their emotional intelligence', 299 (29.5%) of the respondents strongly agreed that 'Reading helps to choose their career' (table-5.4.29).

6.2.4 Impact of Information Communication Technology on Reading Habits of Urban women

18. The data revealed that majority of the respondents i.e. 765(75.5%) use the Internet and 334(43.66%) of the respondents access the Internet at home. About 315(41.17%) respondents prefer Smartphone to access the Internet and 325(42.48%) of them are not sure about the average time spent on the Internet (table-5.5.30-33).
19. The study found that majority of the respondents make use of the Internet for searching information 284 (37.1%), to read newspaper or magazines 247 (32.2%), for chatting or communication 229 (29.9%), to listen or download the music 241(31.5%), to read e-books or e-journals 205 (26.7%) and use to social network 290(37.9%) to the full extent (table- 5.5.34).
20. Majority of the respondents i.e. 247 (32.2%) strongly agreed that they can save time in searching information, 178 (23.2%) of them agreed that they can get all information at their place, and 212 (27.7%) of them strongly disagreed that they can get resources through online libraries (table-5.5.35).
21. About 305(39.86%) respondents prefer to read in print mode, 220(28.75%) of the respondents prefer to read in both the modes, 126(16.47%) of them are not sure about the preferred modes of the reading and 118 (15.42%) of the respondents preferred to read in electronic mode (table-5.5.37).

6.2.5 Awareness and utilization of Public Library Resources and Services by Urban women

22. The survey found that majority of the respondents i.e. 710(70.08%) use the public library. 245(34.50%) of them use the library once in a month, and 280(39.43%) of the respondents spend half an hour in the library (table-5.6.39-41).
23. It can be observed from the analysis that 245(34.50%) of the respondents make use of the public library to borrow books, 156(21.97%) of the respondents use to spend leisure time, 117(16.47%) of them use to seek information, 87(12.25%) of the respondents use for reference purpose. The

very less number of the respondents use the library for reading newspapers or magazines 68(9.57%) and to refer rare materials 42(5.91%) (Table – 5.6.42)

24. Majority of the respondents i.e. 278(39.1%) always prefer to use the books in public library. About 200(28.1%) respondents read magazines often. 190(26.7%) of them always read the newspapers. 251(35.3%) respondents never use the reference materials and 155(21.8%) of them rarely use other resources in the public library (table- 5.6.43).
25. The data revealed that 482(67.88%) respondents are not aware of the information services being provided by the public library and only 228(32.11%) of them are aware of the information services of the public library (Table – 5.6.45).
26. Majority of the respondents i.e. 76(33.3%) use the Book lending services to full extent, 62(27.1%) of the respondents use Reference service to some extent. About 65(28.5%) respondents use Newspaper Clipping Service to little extent. 78(34.2%) of the respondents not at all use Current Awareness Service, 52(22.8%) of them use Reprography service to full extent, 12(5.2%) of the respondents felt uncertain about the use of other information services being provided by public library (table – 5.6.46).
27. The analysis found that majority of the respondents i.e. 297(29.3%) have expectation of SMS Alert Service, 261(25.7%) of the respondents have expectation of Women's Info-link service, 287(28.3%) of them expect Internet Service to full extent. About 260(25.6%) respondents expect Information Services for Self Help Groups to some extent from the public library (table- 5.48).
28. From the survey it is found that majority of the respondents i.e. 334 (32.97%) participated in Book Exhibitions, 127 (12.53%) of them participated in Cultural Activities. About 448(44.22%) respondents not at all participated in any extension services conducted by the public library (Table – 5.6.49).

6.2.6 Problems in making use of Public Library Resources and Services by the Urban women

29. Majority of the respondents i.e. 295 (29.1%) strongly agreed that public library is a pleasant place to visit and read. 280(27.6%) of the respondents agreed that library resources meet their information needs and 287(28.3%) of them strongly disagreed that library makes them involve in community activities (table - 5.7.50).
30. The data revealed that 195(19.24%) respondents felt that lack of time is the major problem to visit the library. 152 (15.00%) of them said that library is located far away from their staying place, 138 (13.62%) of the respondents opined that library has inadequate reading materials are other problems in making use of the library (table - 5.7.51).

6.3 SUGGESTIONS

On the basis of analysis of the study and the opinion given by the respondents, some of the important suggestions have been made, which will help in making effective use of public libraries to enhance reading habits of urban women. The implied suggestions are mentioned below:

1. Majority of the respondents have graduated or completed their post graduation and occupied a good position in the government or private institutions or run their own business. Their interest of reading is changing with the increased level of education and employability. Hence, public library authorities in the urban areas should take initiation to upgrade library infrastructure facilities, reading materials and information services according to the changing needs of the women users.
2. The study showed that majority of the respondents prefers to access the Internet through Smartphone. They have expectation of Internet based Service to full extent from the public library. Hence, to cope up the current trend of online reading culture, public library authorities should make availability of non-book materials and extend the Internet facility to all public libraries in the state.

3. The data about the use of public library resources revealed that majority of the respondents use the library once in a month for the purpose of searching and borrowing the books and spend half an hour in the library. Hence, the working staff of the public library should take more interest in making the arrangement of reading materials in a systematic manner and maintain the catalogue (OPAC) which helps the women to locate their required book without any loss of time.
4. The study found that majority of the respondents felt library has unhygienic environment for use. The library location, building and furniture influence the usage of public library. Hence, the public library authorities should restructure the physical environment of the libraries and provide separate reading room facility for women users where they can feel comfortable to sit and use the reading materials of the library.
5. From the data it was observed that majority of the respondents are not aware of the information services being provided by the public library. They are making use of only Book lending service to full extent and majority of the respondents are in need of user education. Hence, public library authorities should take initiation to introduce new information services and conduct user education programs on regular basis to enhance the usage of library resources and services among the women users.
6. The data about the barriers in making use of the library revealed that library location is far away from the respondents' place and they do not have time to visit the library because of their busy lifestyle. Hence, public library authorities should promote mobile library service which will be helpful to women residing in the long distanced areas.
7. The data about respondents' expectation of special services for women from the public library revealed that majority of the respondents have expectation of SMS Alert service, Women's Info-link service, Counselling and Career guidance service, and Information services for Self Help Groups to the full extent. Hence, public library authorities should take initiations to collaborate with other government, private educational institutions and women organizations to provide women oriented services in the state.

8. The study revealed that majority of the respondents not at all participates in any extension activities conducted by the public library. Extension activities help to enjoy the benefits of adequate library services by the users and non user community. It brings books and readers together. Hence, public library authorities should conduct other extension activities along with the book exhibitions such as reading circles, cultural activities, computer literacy programs, special talks on women related issues and make women users involve in the community services effectively.

6.4 CONCLUSION

Reading is a common activity for individuals, whose reading preferences consist of newspapers, magazines, books, and any other materials. Reading shapes good personality, ideas, right thinking and change of attitude among them. The importance of reading has resulted in the research work conducted to understand the nature of the reading habits of individuals. The reading process or the act of reading has been examined through many research studies in support of children and adults. Moreover, studies conducted on reading habits documented that reading process as active, entailing a series of skills that readers use before, during and after reading the text. The studies in the field indicate that the main reason of reading is to get information and keep update with the current events by the side of reading for the pursuit of their own enjoyment. The exponential growth of information and entertainment being created by the digital resources change the ways of people perceive and use of reading materials.

Women education in the contemporary urban society creates many opportunities to acquire new skills and competencies. Reading is the only means to recognize their inherent knowledge, skills and competencies that advocate the status of women in their career and family. Reading habit involves their participation in the growth of literate society. For instance, the public libraries considered as social living laboratories. Their resources and services replicate its community information delivery capabilities in the society. They provide an adequate reading area and related facilities to accelerate reading habits among its users.

Findings of the study revealed that women residing in the urban areas in Karnataka State have positive attitude towards the reading. They enjoy reading and get benefit from it. Majority of the respondents strongly agreed that they read to update their personal knowledge. They need to improve their reading habits in order to lead a successful life in both professionally as well as personally. For effective promotion of reading habits, skills and culture, reading must be made pleasurable and voluntary. The emergence of new technologies makes information searches easier, faster and more efficient than ever. The study found that majority of the respondents spends more time on the Internet for searching information. In addition, the information needs of urban women with respect to information resources, literacy skills, technology support, and cultural awareness demands the diversified information programs and services by the public libraries. At present, rendering effective services through learning programs, diversified collections, and local partnerships as well global collaborations is becoming one of critical responsibilities for public libraries. Therefore, public library as an educational, cultural, and social institution should reshape their priorities to address the policies and services in enhancing the reading habits of women for a better urban life in future.

6.5 AREAS OF FURTHER RESEARCH

Research is a continuous and never ending process. Reading habits of the library users is an active area of interest for librarians and information professionals in the context of knowing utilization of resources and services of the library. The present study is restricted to urban women in Karnataka State. The survey of literature also indicated that so far very few studies have been conducted in the state. Keeping in view of this, the researcher proposes the following areas for future research.

- A comparative study of reading habits of working women and housewives in Karnataka State
- Use of information resources and services of public libraries by women entrepreneurs of Karnataka state
- Role of public libraries on women empowerment: A study with special reference to Karnataka state