

Social Responsibility of Public Libraries in Tamil Nadu with Special Reference to District Central Library, Tiruchirappalli: A Study

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Abstract - Public Libraries are considered as the gateway of knowledge and information resource centers of the country. Public libraries are also known as the University for the People and it provides life long services to all the citizen of the countries. All studies on public libraries show that the public libraries are providing yamen service to the public for enhancing and updating of their knowledgeand upliftment of the socio-economic factor of the society. Now-a-days, the public libraries are not only providing the basic information needs of the public through books, magazines, and newspapers, they also involving in social activities to enhance the quality of the livelihood in the society. This paper highlights the social responsibility of public libraries in Tiruchirappalli District, Tamil Nadu by conducting various socio-economic programmes for the benefit of the society. This article has also highlighted the role of socially responsible librarianship in the public libraries in Tamil Nadu.

Keywords: Public libraries, Social responsibility, Tamil Nadu

I. INTRODUCTION

The Directorate of Public Libraries, Tamil Nadu was established in the year 1972 as per the Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Act, 1948, to open Public Libraries across the state. There are 4634 Public Libraries which include Connemara Public Library, Anna Centenary Library, 32 District Central Libraries, 1926 Branch Libraries, 14Mobile Libraries, 1915 Village Libraries, and 745 Part-time Libraries are effectively functioning in Tamil Nadu. Apart from this, Libraries are functioning in hospitals, prisons, and passport offices for the benefit of the end users.

Connemara Public Library and the Central Library of all districts have been provided financial assistance by Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation to get computerized and internet facility and all the district libraries are connected with Connemara public library with internet facility. The Tamil Nadu Public Libraries have a collection of Rs. 7.75 crore books with 72.88 lakhs members till the year 2017.

II. PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN TRICHY

There are 142 public libraries which include one Central Library, 8 full time branch libraries, 56 branch libraries, 65

village libraries, 11 part time libraries, and one mobile library are functioning in Tiruchirappalli district. The Central Library of Trichy has spent Rs.1.5 lakhs and recently opened a separate section for the deaf people with the necessary collection of braille books.

The District Central Library provides various services to the public which include lending service, reference service, browsing center with a/c facility, xerox facility, UPSC section, Children, women and aged members reading section etc.

The information seeking behavior of the society is different in nature. The society needs the information on Education, Employment, Self-employment, Health issues, social welfare, financial assistance, current trend in agriculture, Micro and macro industries, government programmes etc. The public libraries offer the services which include book lending service, community information services, user education, and literacy programmes etc.

III. SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OFTHE DISTRICT CENTRAL LIBRARY, TRICHY

Education plays a vital role in every individual in enhancing their socio economic and national development. The educational system in our country is lacking in terms of providing quality education to enrich the children with personal and interpersonal skills which include dance, music, sports etc., which feel the student the level of confidence, and inferiority complex among them.

This may be remedied by providing suitable skill development training among the school children.District Central Library Tiruchirappalli conducted coaching classes on Saturdays and Sundays for NMMS(National Means and Merit Scholarship) exam for 8th std students studying in Govt and Govt aided schools. The teachers with social interested were asked to engage with these types of training for the benefit of the rural students.



Fig. 1 Training on NMMS (National Means and Merit Scholarship)

Health is very important for the children for their studies and improving their skills. The educational institutions should enhance the knowledge and values of nutritious food like, vegetables, fruits, and pulses to the students. The problem of malnutrition is the immense cause for the hike in the mortality rate of infants. The Tamil Nadu government

had implemented the mid-day meal scheme for the past several years in the schools. Recently the District Central Library, Trichy has organized Nutrious Food Festival in Srirangam jointly with the Child Development Office, Trichy for the benefit of the childrens and public.



Fig. 2 Food Festival in Srirangam

Now-a-days, every country is implementing various measures to empowering of women. The country like India, it has already been granted various power to the women in the society in various ways. Empowering women which include the self-empowerment, personal, spiritual growth

and to provide authentic power I social, political, legal, and financial status of women in the society. NOGs are providing many self-development programme for empowering of women in the country.



Fig. 3 Legal aid to the Women

The advancement of medical technologies and public health has increased the life expectancy period and fertility rates are decreased which causes the number of elderly populations is increasing. It is expected that the elder's population will be 13 percent of the total population in the world during 2030. In India the joint family set up is still in

existence and it is the umbrella for the elders that acts as safe. The family members take care of destitute, elders and disables. The District Central Library periodically conducts senior citizen programme for sharing of knowledge and experiences and to improve their quality of life in the society.



Fig. 4 Monthly programme for the senior citizens

The Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission conducts competitive examination for the various posts periodically and more than lakhs youth from urban and rural appears for these examinations. There are large number of coaching centres are available in the urban areas and the students

from rural feel difficult to pass these examinations due to lack of training and information. The District Central Library conducts training programme on competitive exams for the unemployed youth during week days and in the holidays.



Fig. 6 Training programme for TNPSC competitive Exams

Apart from the training programme, the District Central Library conducts regular psychological counselling programme for the students, and unemployed youth to

enhance their talents and to motivate them to achieve their goal.



Fig. 7 Psychological counselling programme for the youth

IV. CONCLUSION

In our country, development is in progress in all areas where in some areas the development is still required. Social responsibility programmes will change the status of women and children in our country in education, sports, political, employment, health, and cultural and it gives confidence among the women to uplift their livelihood in the society. The social responsibility is an important issue of today's rural and urban environment and many of the public libraries are engaged with the new system and it is a

challenging context for the Librarians of the public libraries to involve in this Social responsibility activities.

The District Central Library, Trichy has given a platform to the public for their lifelong learning using the information resources of the library. Apart from that the DCL, Trichy is serving for the development of the literary among the public and offers many social activities to improve the livelihood of the public located around Trichy district.

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