Awareness, Attitude and Information Use Behavior of School Teachers in CBSE Schools of Dakshina Kannada: A Study

By

Ramesh Naik. G.S

Librarian

Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute

Bangalore

Abstract:

School library plays a critical and crucial role in "supporting the new age education", and that this is even more so in the new millennium when the nation propels itself towards a "truly information society". In this context, it has been found necessary to study the role of library in catering to the academic needs of teachers and their use pattern, collaboration with librarian, level of satisfaction towards library resources, services and facilities and anxiety towards using information resources. The findings are intended to help identify factors that hinder teachers from using their school libraries and library resources effectively, and from actively collaborating with school librarians. Consequently, corrective necessary measures should emerge, capable of improving the overall educational environment in these central schools. Hence the study is undertaken to study the library use patterns of school teachers in CBSE Schools of Dakshina Kannada.

Key words: School Library, Education, Information Resources.

Introduction

`**The School Library is the soul, the core and the pivot around which academic life in the school revolves'**

Schools have the continuous task of educating the nation for the future have to keep up with both the immediate and impending changes that permeate society. Education has now shifted from being teacher-centric to student-centric – in other words from directed instruction to active learning and knowledge discovery and construction. Thus, due to the new demands that the current information age places on individuals, schools no longer have the prime objective of

helping students to read.   Instead, they are expected to inculcate skills that go beyond that basic ability to read.

Need for the Study

With the changing concept in a new era of education after independence of the country in 1947, the school library as a repository of all kinds of learning materials that includes both print and electronic resources.   The need of the hour is therefore, the important part of school libraries have to play a significant role in national service and recognition of joint efforts of teachers and librarians to make the school as a model library and future of the society.

Statement of the Problem

Awareness, Attitude and Information use behaviour of School Teachers in CBSE Schools of Dakshina Kannada: A Study.

Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of the study is to determine the use of School libraries by Teachers in CBSE schools of Dakshina Kannada.   More specifically the objects of study are.

- To identify the reading skills and time spent on academic and research activities
- To understand the frequency and purpose of visiting to the school library.
- To explore the Information sources and services used by the teachers for their academic and teaching pursuit.

Methodology

Research data would be collected using a questionnaire method.   Around 15 CBSE schools in Dakshina Kannada would be covered and suitable statistical tests will be applied to test the hypothesis of the study at 0. 05 level of significance.

SOUTH INDIAN JOURNAL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE, ISSN 2395-3195, (JAN-MARCH-2015) VOL.01, ISSUE 02.

2015

Scope and Limitations of the Study

The study is confined to teachers working in Central CBSE schools of Dakshina Kannada. The limitation has been the research instrument i. e. questionnaire and covered only teachers of the region and not the students.

General Information about Dakshina Kannada district are

Total Geographical Area in Hectares	477149
Total Male Population	9,38,434
Total Female Population	9,59,296
Total Population	18,97,730
SC Population	1,31,160
ST Population	62,396
Sex Ratio	1022
Literacy Rate	83. 4%

Analysis of Data and Interpretations

Table 4.1 shows the sex of the respondents of the study.

Table 4.1: Sex of the Respondents

Sex		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	178	50. 9	50. 9
	Female	172	49. 1	100. 0
	Total	350	100. 0	

It is found from the table that, the percentage of male and female teachers covered in the study is more or less of same proportion, i. e. male teachers (50. 9%) and female teachers (49.1%).

SOUTH INDIAN JOURNAL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE, ISSN 2395-3195, (JAN-MARCH-2015) VOL.01, ISSUE 02.

2015

Table 4.2: Age Wise Distribution of Respondents

Age of the Respondents		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than 25 years	14	4. 0	4. 0
	26-30 Years	60	17. 1	21. 1
	31-35 Years	64	18. 3	39. 4
	36-40 Years	84	24. 0	63. 4
	40 and above	128	36. 6	100. 0
	Total	350	100. 0	

From the above table, it is observed that, respondents above 40 years of age accounts to 36. 6% and they are followed by respondents in the age group of 36-40 years (24%), 31-35 years (18. 3%), 26-30 years (17.1%) and Less than 25 years (4%).

Thus, the major proportion of respondents belongs to age group between 40 and above years.

Table 4.3 shows that 52% of the school teachers possess Post graduation while 48% possess degree only. Thus, there is a little variation between teachers having degree and Post graduation qualification.

Table 4.3 : Qualification of Respondents

Qualification		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Degree	168	48. 0	48. 0
	Post Graduation	182	52. 0	100. 0
	Total	350	100. 0	

SOUTH INDIAN JOURNAL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE, ISSN 2395-3195, (JAN-MARCH-2015) VOL.01, ISSUE 02.

2015

Table 4.4: Teaching Experience of Respondents

	Teaching Experience	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1-5	78	22. 3	22. 3
	6-10	80	22. 9	45. 1
	11-15	100	28. 6	73. 7
	16 and above	92	26. 3	100. 0
	Total	350	100. 0	

The results indicate from the table that, 28. 5% of the school teachers possess teaching experience of 11-15 years and followed by teacher with 16 and above years, 6-10 years (22. 9%) and 1-5 years (22.3%) of teaching experience.

Table 4.5: Pursuing Higher Studies by Teachers

Higher Studies		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	126	36. 0	36. 0
	No	224	64. 0	100. 0
	Total	350	100. 0	

It is found from the table that, 36% of the school teachers carrying out their higher studies for their academic development, while 64% of them are not pursuing higher studies.

SOUTH INDIAN JOURNAL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE,
ISSN 2395-3195, (JAN-MARCH-2015) VOL.01, ISSUE 02.

2015

Table 4.6: Library is Essential for School

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	350	100. 0	100. 0
	No	-	-	-
Total		350	100. 0	

The opinion was sought about the need and essentiality of library in the school and all the respondents of the study positively noted that Library is very essential for school forming integral part of school system.

TABLE 4.7: Library Use Skills of Respondents

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
	Excellent	78	22. 3	22. 3
	Very Good	146	41. 7	64. 0
Valid	Good	100	28. 6	92. 6
	Fair	26	7. 4	100. 0
	Total	350	100. 0	

More than 40% of the respondents have rated their library use skills as very good (41. 7%), while 28. 6% and 22.3% of teachers state their library use skills as good and excellent respectively. Just about 7.4% are below par indicating fair in their library use skills.

Table 4.8: Computer Use Skills of Respondents

Computer Skills		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Excellent	62	17. 7	17. 7
	Very Good	110	31. 4	49. 1

SOUTH INDIAN JOURNAL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE,
ISSN 2395-3195, (JAN-MARCH-2015) VOL.01, ISSUE 02.

2015

Good	92	26. 3	75. 4
Fair	54	15. 4	90. 9
Poor	32	9. 1	100. 0
Total	350	100. 0	

It is found from the table that, 31. 4% of the respondents have rated their Computer skills as very good, while 26. 3% and 17.7% of teachers state their Computer skills as good and excellent respectively and 15. 4% indicate just fair enough. About 9.1% are below par indicating poor in their Computer skills.

Table 4.9: Time Spent on Academic Activities

Academic Activities	1 - 2 hours	3 – 4 hours	5- 6 hours	7 - 8 hours	9 & above
Teaching	34 (9.7)	80 (22.9)	168 (48.0)	44 (12.6)	24 (6.8)
Research /higher studies	132 (37.7)	36 (10.3)	6 (1.7)	4 (1.1)	4 (1.1)
Reading Information in library	292 (83.4)	46 (13.1)	6 (1.7)	4 (1.1)	46 (13.1)
Preparing for Classes	244 (69.7)	70 (20.0)	22 (6.2)	14 (4)	-

As seen from the Table, it can be noted that majority of the respondents (48%) spend 5-6 hours every day for teaching and 22. 9% spend 3-4 hours. Majority of the teachers (76.5%) spend 1-2 hours in providing Student advice /guidance.

Only 37.7% of the teachers spend 1-2 hours time for administration and research activities. Major of the respondents (83.4%) spend 1-2 hours time for reading information

SOUTH INDIAN JOURNAL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE, ISSN 2395-3195, (JAN-MARCH-2015) VOL.01, ISSUE 02.

2015

resources in the library, while 69.7% and 20% of the teachers spend 1-2 hours and 3-4 hours time forPreparing course materials for Classes.

Table 4.10: Frequency of Visit to The Library

Frequency Of Visit		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Almost daily	164	46. 9	46.9
	Once week	140	40.0	86.9
	once month	22	6. 3	93. 1
	Several times	22	6.3	99. 4
	Never	2	0.6	100.0
	Total	350	100. 0	

From the table it is noted that nearly half of the respondents visit to the library every day (46.9%) and 40% of them visit once a week. However very few teachers visit once a month or so (6.3%).

Thus, almost all the respondent's visit the library for their school related activities.

Table 4.11: Purpose of Visiting to the Library

Purpose	Frequency	Percentage
To take the students to Library	44	12. 6 %
To Refer books	322	92 %
To prepare for class notes	92	26. 3 %
To refer AV / Video / CD Materials	62	17. 7 %

It is observed from the study that majority of the respondents visit library to refer books (92%), followed with a purpose to prepare for class notes (26.3%), To refer AV / Video / CD Materials (17.7 %) and To take the students to Library (12.6 %)

Table 4.11 shows that, among the various information sources used by the respondents, Books (76.6% and 16%) followed by Newspapers (44.6% and 30. 9%), Dictionaries (41.7% and 28%) and Journals (25.7% and 46.3%) are very frequently and moderately used information

resources.   On the contrary, Encyclopedias, Internet and AV / Video / CD ROMs are less used information sources compared to other sources.

Summary of Findings

The major findings of the study are

- The percentage of male and female teachers covered in the study is more or less of same proportion, i. e. male teachers (50. 9%) and female teachers (49. 1%).

- Respondents above 40 years of age accounts to 36. 6% and they are followed by respondents in the age group of 36-40 years (24%).

- 52% of the school teachers possess Post graduation while 48% possess degree only.

- 28. 5% of the school teachers possess teaching experience of 11-15 years and followed by teacher with 16 and above years.

- 36% of the school teachers carrying out their higher studies for their academic development.

- More than 40% of the respondents have rated their library use skills as very good (41. 7%).

- 31. 4% of the respondents have rated their Computer skills as very good, while 26. 3% and 17. 7% of teachers state their Computer skills as good and excellent respectively.

- Majority of the respondents (48%) spend 5-6 hours every day for teaching and 22. 9% spend 3-4 hours.

- Nearly half of the respondents visit to the library every day (46. 9%) and 40% of them visit once a week.

- Majority of the respondents visit library to refer books (92%), followed with a purpose to prepare for class notes (26. 3%).

Conclusion

Today, this scene would look far different than a decade ago. Our libraries of today include open shelving, computer access, a virtual as well as a physical space. They are community centers, literacy playgrounds for many of our children. Libraries are vital for children's achievement and developing informational needs and as such school teachers should be oriented to know the importance of libraries and in turn will lead the younger school students to attract to the library through teachers.

Reference:

1. http://www.inflibnet.ac.in/infonet/aims.php

2. http://paniit.iitd.ac.in/indest/

3. Kishor Kumar and Lokesha Naik (2014) Use Pattern of Information Resources by citizens in public library: A case study of District central library, Tumkur, Karnataka: International Journal of Library and Information Studies, 4(4) Oct-Dec, 2014, 17-23.

*****