

Where can we establish new Public Library? : A Scientific Analysis.

By

Dr.C.Sukumaran

Assistant Librarian,

Kerala University Library.

Tiruvanathpur

sukumaranngl@gmail.com

and

Mr.E.Abdul Majeed

Assistant Librarian,

Kerala University Library.

Tiruvanathpur

Abstract:

Location is an important factor for the success of any profit or non-profit institution. Library is not an exempted one. At present the Govt. norms are where there is a free land available or where village people donate free land there a new library may be established without consideration about number of population. This library may not achieve the desired aim of the public Library but govt. should establish a new public library or convert the village library into a branch library, where the population and literacy rate are high. Donated land should be an inhabited area and then only the donation will achieve the desired aim.

Key words::Public Library, Location, Centographic analysis

Introduction

Libraries have a common objective to conserve and organize the resources of recorded thoughts and facts to make them available for present and future users. Therefore, libraries collect, preserve, organize, retrieve, disseminate and communicate information, ideas and creative product of human imagination. Public libraries are service institutions for the Public. They are meant to provide free service or charge a nominal fee for its services without any discrimination of caste, creed, age, sex, language, nationality and status etc. Public libraries are established for the social development of our nation. A Public Library is a social organization,

supported by the public funds, which provides self-education, free information on social, economic, cultural and recreational needs to all members of rural and urban elites of the society. It is, therefore described as 'People's University'. It is a democratic institution of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Branch library forms the fourth stage in the library movement. Every Panchayat with a population of 5000 and above shall have a branch library. Working under the District central library, the branch libraries get books from the former institution and help the reading public. Village libraries are piled with the vowed objective of taking the libraries in to the remote areas of the state government's order.

The aim of the Public Libraries Department is to enroll all educated persons as members of the library and to encourage them for utilizing the services of this Department. Tamil Nadu is the first state that enacted Public Libraries Act in the independent India. It came into force with effect from 1 April 1950. The objectives of the Act are contained in its Preamble as, 'An act to provide for the establishment of public libraries in the province of (Madras) Tamil Nadu and the organization of comprehensive rural and urban Library Service therein'. Many Public Libraries are small and can offer only basic materials; however, large public library i.e. District Central Library often provide materials for specialized reference and research, coordinate programs for continuing education, and sponsor cultural and recreational events. Every Local Library Authority one in each revenue district shall levy in the area a library cess in the form of surcharge on the property tax or house tax levied in such area under at the rate of ten paise for every rupee in the property tax or house tax so levied. (It was 3 paise since 1950 and 5 paise since 1972 and 10 paise since 1992).

Balasubramanian¹ conducted a study regarding extension activities of the District Central Library, Tirunelveli. He found that the number of books referred by the users keep on increasing but books issued during the study period was less than that of previous years. The number of members has not increased considerably. He suggests that congenial sitting facility and attractive physical layout attracts more users to the library. Velmurugan² conducted a survey to examine the use of library sources and services of Virudhunagar district central library. He advocated that majority of the respondents are satisfied with reference collection. Only a minimum of them

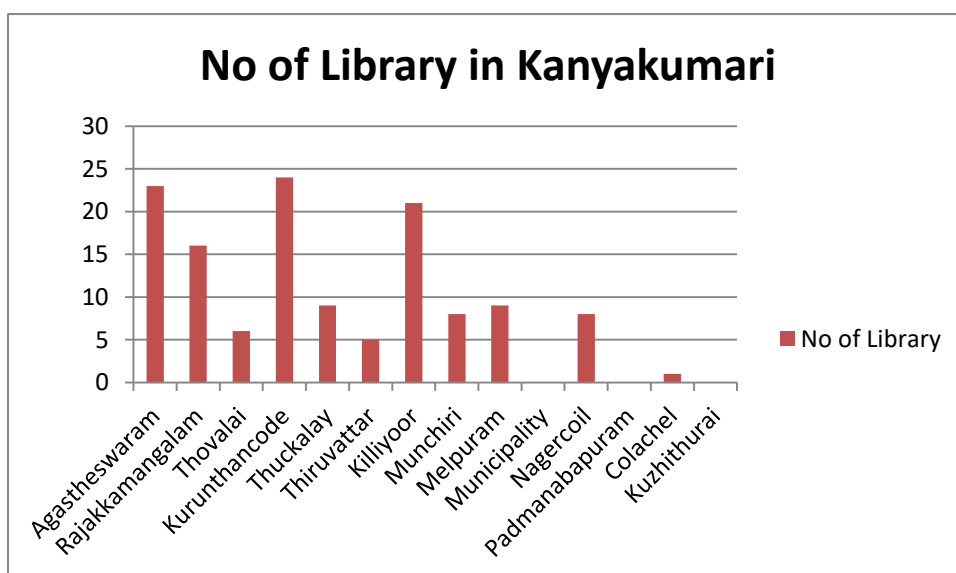
didn't get required information from the catalogue. Most of the users demanded the reprographic service in the library. Almost all of them are satisfied only with the newspapers available in the library. Padma P.et.al³ conducted information seeking behavior of randomly selected 50 users at Usilampatty Public Library, Usilampatty, Tamilnadu in 2013. In this study 32% respondents opined that the quality of overall library services was good, 2% respondent felt it was satisfactory and 07 respondents rated the quality of overall library services as poor. Majority of respondents used the branch library at Usilampatti for preparing themselves for various competitive exams; 30 % respondents used the library once a week; Majority of users visit the library to read newspapers and reference books;; 32 respondents (64%) are highly satisfied with the information they access from magazines and journals and 24 respondents (48%) rated the quality of overall library services as very good.

Kanniyakumari District is named after the goddess 'KANYAKUMARI'. The District lies at the southernmost tip of the Indian peninsula, where Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal confluence. Kanniyakumari district is the smallest district in Tamil Nadu. Even though it is the smallest in terms of area (1672/Sq.Km), the density of population is the highest 1119/Sq.Km in Tamil Nadu next to Chennai. In literacy it stands first. Kanyakumari district had the population of 1870374 in 2011. It constituted 2.59 percentage of total Tamilnadu population. Average literacy rate of Kanyakumari district in 2011 were 94.75%. The gender wise, male and female literacy were 93.65% and 89.90% respectively.

Library facilities in Kanyakumari District

	Name of the Blocks/ Municipalities: Year: 2013-2014	Branch	Village	Part time	Total	Area (sq.km)	Average (sq.km)	Population	Average (pop.)	Literate	Average (lite.)
1	Agastheswaram	2	18	3	23	133.12	5.79	163842	7124	136897	5952
2	Rajakkamangalam	0	16		16	120.16	7.51	163484	10218	136508	8532
3	Thovalai	1	4	1	6	369.07	61.51	120926	20154	98890	16482
4	Kurunthancode	4	20		24	106.85	4.45	197591	8233	163288	6804
5	Thuckalay	0	9		9	130.33	14.48	187865	20874	157221	17469
6	Thiruvattar	1	4		5	344.8	68.96	176681	35336	144969	28994

7	Killiyoor	1	20		21	82.7	3.94	171727	8177	140658	6698
8	Munchiri	3	4	1	8	72.01	9.00	199967	24996	160165	20021
9	Melpuram	2	7		9	271.89	30.21	197566	21952	160846	17872
	Municipality										
10	Nagercoil	1	7		8	24.27	3.03	224849	28106	194361	24295
11	Padmanabapuram	0	0		0	6.47		21342		17911	
12	Colachel	1	0		1	5.18	5.18	23227	23227	18702	18702
13	Kuzhithurai	0			0	5.15		21307		18322	
	TOTAL	16+1	109	5	131	1672	12.76	1870374	14278	1548738	11822
	Source: Census 2011										



In kanyakumari district one public library serves the average area of 12.76 Sq-km and per population has less than one book i.e.0.64 but educated person is concerned, 0.95% is the reader of public library. Among the total population 20% are readers of public library, in literate 24% of them are readers in public library. Among total village libraries, 39 are housed in own building and the remaining in donated building.

Importance of Location

Location is an important factor for the success of any profitable or non-profitable institution. Library is not an exemption. At present majority of the Public Libraries in kanyakumari are located in far away from the residential place or at the corner of the village. Library located in Govt. land i.e. puramboku land which is located at the end of the village

habituated area. Only a nominal number of public Libraries are located in the middle of the villages. If there is a plan to establish new branch library, where should it be established. At present the Govt. norms are where there free land is available or where village people donate free land, a new library is established without consideration of number of population. This library will not achieve the desired aim of the public Library.

Centrographic analysis.

Centrographic analysis is a statistical technique that has been used for more than a century and has experienced a rapid renewal over the last five years in large part due to its integration to geographic information system. Finding out the villages having no public library and their considering the population as a criterion is classified in to highly populated, minimum and low populated villages. Then the govt. should establish new public library or convert the village library into branch library, where the population and literacy rate are high.

Libraries should offer convenient reading hours and special programs for children, and should have well-maintained buildings along with books and information that are organized for easy self-service with ICT application. This can be achieved only when Govt. enact the order to provide accommodate to the public library in Govt. school building where there is a nominal number of pupil are studying. Every public library is to be adopted by bank or business house or industrial house for sustained development. The public library is increasingly being looked upon as a Community Information Centre. . Donation to a temple is useful only to the people of a particular religion. Donation to community hall etc. may be useful only to a particular community. Donation to library ensures benefit to all age-groups, people of all religions and all communities. Hence donation to the Public Library Movement is the real, superior and purposeful and most useful one” Donated land should be in an inhabited area then only the donation achieves the desired aim.

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