

Public Libraries Contribution to Social Awareness And Political Developments: With Special Reference To Vellore District

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ABSTRACT

This article highlights the Public libraries contribution to social awareness and political development in vellore district. The paper analyse the utilization of public libraries in five regions of vellore district. Research Design- A systematic questionnaire have prepared and data were collected directly from the concerned libraries. Objective of the study is roles of their library for social awareness and political issues, developments and its helpfulness to aware of general knowledge, health and hygiene related issues, and the roles of the library for life-long learning, national integrity and continuing a non formal education. Findings from the study is more than 75 per cent respondents in all the libraries under study opined that their library is capable of providing state government news and the libraries under study invariably opined the contributions of their libraries for knowing the below said Political factors : Financial position of Central & State government along with Budgetary Information, Availability of information on Union development activities, Central and State Government Information on Finance allocation and Ministers duties and powers. Awareness of particular politician, recent political developments of Central and State Government. Suggestions - Enhancement of manpower with qualified library professionals are immediate need as well as provision of separate sections for the informal education aspirants in all the public libraries in India. Automatization and networking of these libraries are difficult aspects, however, there is a need to revise a systematic plan for these purposes.

Keywords: Social awareness, political development and public library.

1. INTRODUCTION

Contribution of public libraries is backbone for the social awareness and political development in the universe. A library develops personality and character of individuals. It provides information and ideas which are essential for responsible citizenship. It aims at creating opportunities to develop social habits and help the individuals to adjust himself to the complex society and is the ideal institution for the educational advancement of the people. They plays vital role in urban and rural people development in India. Public libraries serve as a mediator for current and updated information dissemination in different language for their clients. The roles of the public libraries are highly appreciated since they are serving to all walks of life where as the other types of libraries are serving to heterogeneous groups for instance, a university library is work for the academics and researchers of it parent university. The public library as a social institution, it is an instrumental for social developments and as well as supplemental to the informed educational system of the society.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Maya Verma, and Santhoshi Patel, (2010) discussed in their study have observed that public library can act as channel of socio- economic changes as it provides lifelong means of self education. It also function of as an alternative to formal education keeping user well informed and supplying a food exercise. Their study examines the finding of a survey of users of public library in Raipur city. It identified the demographic characteristics of users of the public library and library location is one of the factors of public library user. Elice, (1979) studied the finances and resources of public libraries in England and Wales at the outbreak of World War I. It was shown that in 1914 38% of the people of England and 54% of those in Wales had no

academic library facilities at all. The rate levied for public libraries was inadequate, so that it was not possible to make a reasonable level of provision in most areas where the Public Libraries Act was operative. Attempts to identify the users of libraries and the uses to which resources were put in 1914, the last year of an era of relative stability which had existed for half a century or more.

3. OBJECTIVES:

- To study the roles of their library for social awareness and political issues and developments and its helpfulness to aware of general knowledge, health and hygiene related issues, and the roles of the library for life-long learning, national integrity and continuing a non formal education.
- To study the Socio Economic profiles such as the educational, marital, community, occupational, income status of the respondents along with finding of their membership in the Self Help Group which play major role for the Community Development.

To study the frequency of the visit and reasons for Non Use of the Library. Dependency of Library Resources for Socio – Economic Development and the use their use of library on the particular day of their visit.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Under the Vellore District five regions namely Alangayam, Ambur, Kaveripakkam, Ranipet and Vellore Corporation area were selected for the data collection. A systematic Questionnaire have prepared and data were collected from each regional public library. Hundred questionnaire were distributed to all the libraries and data were collected, total 500 Responses (questionnaires) were received for analysis of the study.

5. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

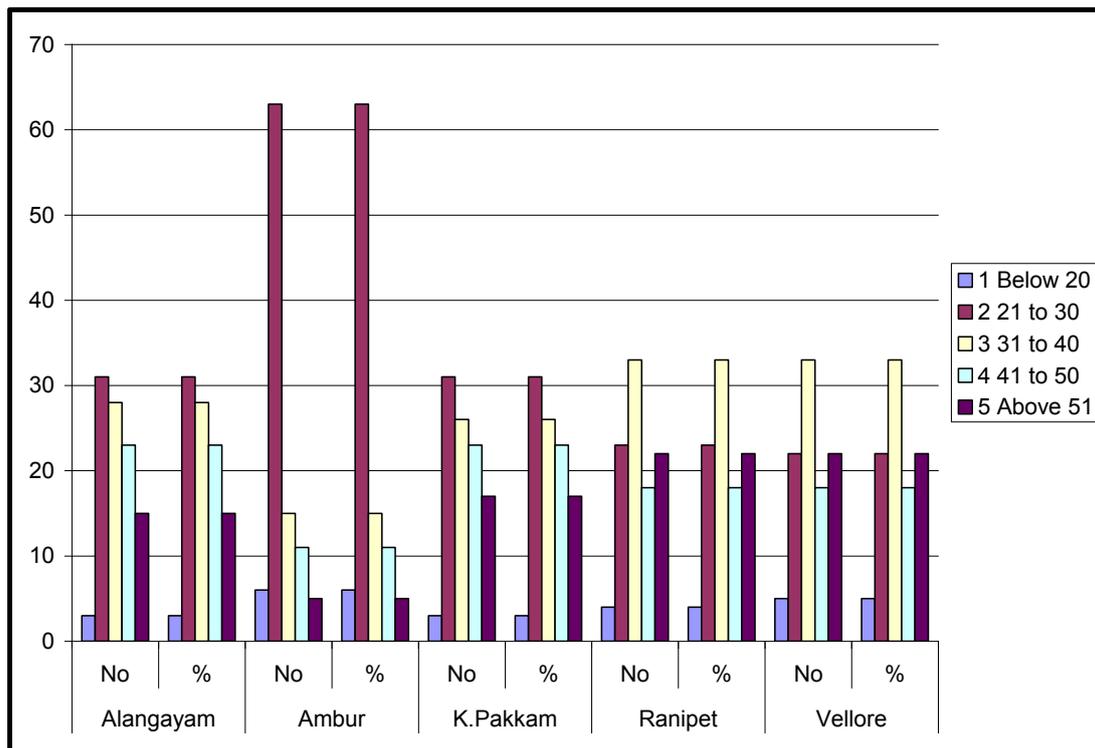
5.1 Age wise distributions of the respondents

The age wise distributions of the respondents of the five libraries under study have been presented in the Table.1 and Figure.1. It is seen from the table and figure that, young aspirants belonging to 21 – 30 age group are more participated in the Ambur public library comparing with that of other libraries under study. It is to note that more than 30 percent of this age group of respondents are participated in the study from Alangayam and Kaverippakkam public libraries but 23 percent and 22 percent of this age group participated in Ranipet and Vellore public libraries respectively.

Table.1 Age wise distribution of the respondents

Sl. No	Age	Alangayam		Ambur		K.Pakkam		Ranipet		Vellore	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Below 20	3	3	6	6	3	3	4	4	5	5
2	21 to 30	31	31	63	63	31	31	23	23	22	22
3	31 to 40	28	28	15	15	26	26	33	33	33	33
4	41 to 50	23	23	11	11	23	23	18	18	18	18
5	Above 51	15	15	5	5	17	17	22	22	22	22

Figure.1: Figure Age wise distribution of the respondents



However, the respondents belonging to the age group of 31 to 40 years participated more than 25 percent in all the libraries under study. And <20 years and >50 of age group participated minimum in all the libraries under study. The results shows that between the age of 21 to 40 years are more participated, thus, this study is analysing the socio-economic roles of these libraries from the point of views of the young aspirants who are visiting these libraries for various purposes ranging from recreational, reading to career growth.

5.2 Income profiles of the respondents

The income profiles of the respondents are presented in the **Table.2**. It is seen from the table that most of the respondents of the study belongs to middle income group. Thus more than 60 per cent respondents in all the libraries under study are in the income group of Rs.>5000 to Rs. 30000 per month and less than 10 per cent in all the libraries under study belonging to the income group of Rs.>30000.

Table.2: Income profiles of the respondents

Sl. No	Income Month per	Alangayam		Ambur		K.pakkam		Ranipet		Vellore	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Bellow 5000	17	17	15	15	17	17	5	5	7	7
2	5001-10000	33	33	27	27	38	38	20	20	26	26
3	10001-20000	21	21	20	20	14	14	17	17	18	18
4	20001-30000	6	6	2	2	3	3	8	8	10	10
5	above 30001	8	8	2	2	0	0	7	7	8	8

5.3 Community Status of the respondents

In India, the community is also a social component which also a major factor for the information seeing behaviours of the respondents. As such, the study is also made an attempt to pictures the community background of the respondents.

The **Table.3** presents the community status of the respondents. It is seen from the table a considerable number of downtrodden respondents are participated in all the libraries under study. And more than 70 per cent of the respondents of the study are participated both from the

backward and most backward communities. A few respondents from forward community are participated in

Alangayam, Kaveripakkam and Ranipet public libraries.

Table.3: Community Status of the respondents

Sl. No	Community	Alangayam		Ambur		K.Pakkam		Ranipet		Vellore	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Scheduled Caste	23	23	25	25	16	16	15	15	29	29
2	Scheduled Tribe	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	6	10	10
3	Most Backward Community	25	25	19	19	57	57	30	30	27	27
4	Backward Community	47	47	54	54	23	23	42	42	34	34
5	Forward Community	4	4	0	0	2	2	7	7	0	0

5.4 Dependency of Library Resources for Socio – Economic Development

According to analysis of data all the information resources available in the five libraries. The usability of the materials for their socio – economic development, 64 percent of the respondents of the Alangayam public library opined, that the books are highly dependable sources for their socio developments. The articles published in the journals and magazines are highly dependable source for this development. The newspapers are more reliable sources for socio developments as opined by 88 per cent. The same results are also found in the Ambur public library respondents i.e. 63 per cent, 44 per cent and 76 per cent opined that the books, articles in journals respectively they depend on social developments. Further, 54 per cent, 41 per cent and 66 per cent of respondents are depending respectively the same resources for their economic developments. And other library resources such as government documents, patents and so on not much dependable for these developments.

As per as Kaverippakkam public library respondents are concern 16 per cent and 15 per cent of the respondents are depending highly for their socio-economic developments And also 48 per cent respondents and 54 per cent of the respondents are opined that they depends for both socio-economic developments for articles in journals, However 54 per cent and 53 per cent of the respondents opined that they depend on newspapers for their socio-economic developments. From Ranipet as seen in all the libraries in previous tables opined that these types of resources such as books, articles in journals and newspapers are more dependable resources for their socio-economic developments. These opinions are also found among the Vellore district central library respondents. In to, the results indicate that the library resources such as books and

newspapers play a pivotal role for the socio-economic developments of these readers. The same results are also seen among the respondents of the Vellore district central library. Thus as for as socio-economic developments are concern, a majority of the respondents in all these libraries are depending upon more or less same types of library resources.

5.5 The Library for Getting Knowledge on Political Developments

It is seen from the **Table. 4** and **Figure.2** which more than 75 per cent respondents in all the libraries under study opined that their library is capable of providing state government news. However, this is opined by 44 per cent of the Kaveripakkam public library respondents. The factor, the library provides world political news is opined by more than 90 per cent of the respondents in Ambur, Ranipet and Vellore public libraries. And it is opined by 87 per cent and 68 per cent by both Alangayam and Kaveripakkam public libraries. Political parties news are not much available in these libraries. As opined by 31 per cent, 54 per cent and 43 per cent of the Kaveripakkam, Ranipet and Vellore public libraries respectively;

- Financial position of Central & State Government along with budgetary information
- Availability of information on union development activities
- Central and State Government information on finance allocation (agriculture, industrial service departments)
- Ministers duties and powers

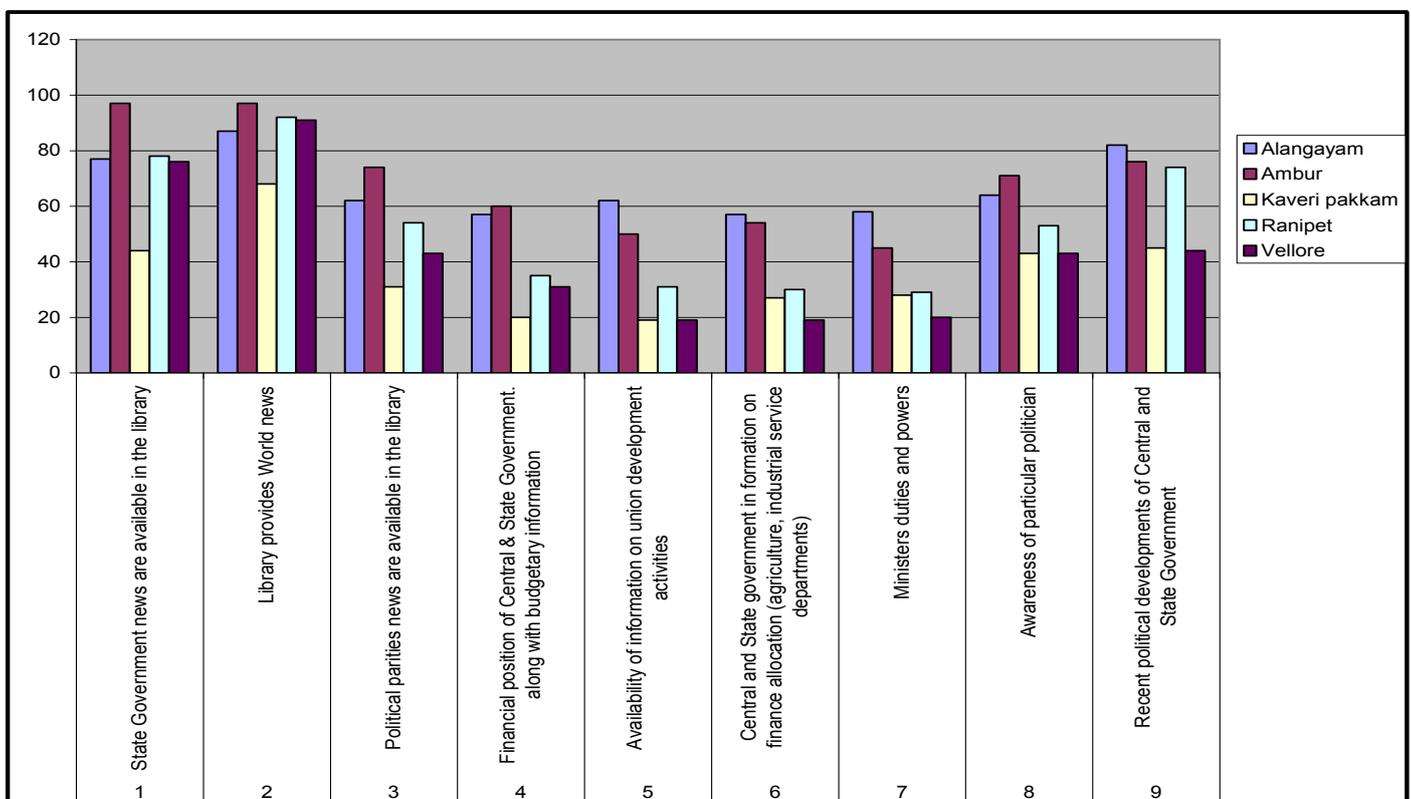
Awareness of particular politician and Recent political developments of Central and State Government

Table.4

Contributions provision (availabilities) of the library for getting knowledge on political developments

Sl. No	Reasons	Alangayam		Ambur		Kaveri pakkam		Ranipet		Vellore	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1	State Government news are available in the library	77	77	97	97	44	44	78	78	76	76
2	Library provides World news	87	87	97	97	68	68	92	92	91	91
3	Political parties news are available in the library	62	62	74	74	31	31	54	54	43	43
4	Financial position of Central & State Government. along with budgetary information	57	57	60	60	20	20	35	35	31	31
5	Availability of information on union development activities	62	62	50	50	19	19	31	31	19	19
6	Central and State government in formation on finance allocation (agriculture, industrial service departments)	57	57	54	54	27	27	30	30	19	19
7	Ministers duties and powers	58	58	45	45	28	28	29	29	20	20
8	Awareness of particular politician	64	64	71	71	43	43	53	53	43	43
9	Recent political developments of Central and State Government	82	82	76	76	45	45	74	74	44	44

Figure .2: Contributions provision (availabilities) of the library for getting knowledge on political developments



The respondents of all the libraries under study invariably opined the contributions of their libraries for knowing the above said political factors. It is highly agreed by the respondents of the libraries and few are not much agreed and opined contributions of these factors by their respective library.

5.6 Helpfulness of the Library to Aware General Knowledge

The Table.5, 6, 7 and 8 present the role of the public libraries in provision of local information for the local community development. It is seen for the Table.8 that more than 85 per cent of the respondents in all the libraries under study are disseminating the local information for the community developments. However, the fact “Area library supports lifelong learning in the present educational system” is opined positively by 84 per cent and 71 per cent, 87 per cent of the Ambur, Ranipet and Vellore public libraries respectively. The remaining libraries 56 percent of respondents opined the same.

Table .5 : Helpfulness for the library to aware general knowledge

Sl. No.	Particulars	Alangayam					Ambur					Kaveripakkam					Ranipet					Vellore				
		SA	A	N	D	SD	SA	A	N	D	SD	SA	A	N	D	SD	SA	A	N	D	SD	SA	A	N	D	SD
1	Awareness on scientific technology	0	20	2	0	0	24	53	4	2	3	16	32	3	2	2	32	23	8	0	1	11	38	4	4	0
2	Awareness on computers	36	34	2	0	0	18	44	6	1	3	6	28	12	2	5	26	27	8	1	5	9	42	9	3	1
3	Awareness on historical news	43	17	0	0	0	24	53	7	2	0	7	32	1	0	2	24	28	6	2	1	16	46	5	2	0
4	Awareness on the natural resources	40	24	1	0	0	14	49	11	2	1	13	25	9	1	4	24	26	4	3	1	11	40	11	1	0
5	Awareness on climate change	40	39	2	1	0	14	35	11	9	1	22	18	6	3	4	27	18	12	1	1	10	25	5	2	0
6	Awareness of power saving	39	24	4	1	0	15	32	12	8	2	23	26	2	1	4	17	20	9	3	4	11	19	3	3	0
7	Awareness of law and legal procedures	39	17	4	1	0	21	49	8	4	2	17	31	3	1	2	23	16	5	6	1	9	15	4	3	0
8	Awareness of economic conditions	40	34	3	2	0	29	44	10	0	1	18	32	3	2	2	25	18	8	2	2	11	26	5	2	0
9	Awareness of world news	40	47	3	1	0	38	46	8	2	0	20	35	2	1	1	32	41	8	1	0	13	43	2	1	0
10	Awareness about sports and	39	25	2	0	0	25	46	9	5	2	19	29	5	1	1	29	28	7	2	0	7	28	2	2	0
11	Guinness news Awareness related to film sector	40	50	1	0	0	16	58	7	2	3	16	32	6	1	0	34	31	4	2	2	7	20	1	1	1
12	Awareness basic Awareness basic health related issues	41	53	1	0	0	29	42	10	4	0	21	34	2	0	0	35	39	2	1	2	12	37	0	1	0

Table .6: Cluster – I Awareness of world news and economic conditions

Variable codes	Particulars	SA	A	N	D	SD
8	Awareness of economic conditions	123	154	29	8	5
10	Awareness of world news	143	212	23	6	1
11	Awareness about sports and Guinness news	119	156	25	10	3
	Total	385	522	77	24	9

Table .7: Cluster –II Library helps to get knowledge about history, natural resources, climate change and basic health issues

Variable codes	Particulars	SA	A	N	D	SD
1	Awareness on scientific technology	83	166	21	8	6
2	Awareness on computers	95	175	37	20	14
3	Awareness on historical news	114	176	19	6	3
4	Awareness on the natural resources	102	164	36	7	6
5	Awareness on climate change	113	135	36	16	6
6	Awareness of power saving	105	121	30	16	10
7	Awareness of law and legal procedures	109	128	24	15	5
9	Awareness of world news	143	212	23	6	1
10	Awareness basic health related issues	138	205	15	6	2
	Total	1002	1482	241	100	53

Table. 8 : Library serving on Local Information Needs

Sl. No	Particulars	Alangayam			Ambur			K.Pakkam			Ranipet			Vellore		
		Yes	No	No Idea	Yes	No	No Idea	Yes	No	No Idea	Yes	No	No Idea	Yes	No	No Idea
1.	Area library cater to the information needs for the benefit of local community	95	3	1	90	3	5	85	5	10	88	3	7	87	7	5
2.	Area library supports lifelong learning in the present educational system	56	4	39	84	6	8	56	15	29	71	4	25	87	5	7
3.	Library contributed valuable resources for the promotion of social life	92	3	4	89	3	6	85	6	9	82	4	12	86	7	6
4.	Area library contributed for the promotion and preservation of cultural heritage through its services	47	7	45	61	10	27	54	10	35	37	9	52	69	13	17
5.	Library is a centre of formal and non- formal Education	65	4	30	51	18	29	51	9	37	46	8	40	78	5	16
6.	Area library is the local centre of information to its users	98	1	1	76	10	12	79	14	6	86	6	9	70	10	10
7.	Area library provides opportunity for personal creative developments	59	3	37	71	10	17	53	6	38	53	6	39	58	10	30
8.	Library plays an important role for the national integration	97	1	2	70	9	19	75	7	15	73	10	15	75	9	15
9.	Area library is the meeting place of the locality for recreation and leisure interest	49	39	11	63	18	17	47	37	13	45	39	16	63	21	15
10.	Satisfied with the library services provided at your locality	95	3	2	81	13	3	81	9	9	76	16	6	76	12	11

6. FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS:

6.1 Information availabilities in the Library for social awareness

A majority of the respondents of Alangayam public library gave first and second ranks for the fact that the library is helpful for getting awareness on current issues. Followed by this factor, the respondents gave first, second and third ranks for the following factors :

- Awareness on social problems.
- Awareness on rural development issues.
- Awareness on health issues.

The remaining factors such as untouchabilities, family controls and religious aspects are not much opined by these respondents.

Many of the Ambur public library respondents that they accepted and ranked the factors as follows:

- Library is helpful to get awareness on current issues
- It also helps to aware the health related issues
- It propagating the rural developments

The other issues such as untouchabilities, women developments are not opined by these respondents .The above said results are also found in the remaining libraries under study.

6.2 Contributions and Provision (availabilities) of the Library for getting knowledge on Political Developments

- It is found that more than 75 per cent respondents in all the libraries under study opined that their library is capable of providing state government news.
- The another factor, the library provides world political news are opined by more than 90 per cent of the respondents in Ambur, Ranipet and Vellore libraries. And it is opined by 87 per cent and 68 per cent by both Alankayam and Kaveripakkam public libraries.
- Political parties news are not much available in these libraries. As opined by 31 per cent, 54 percent and 43 per cent of the Kaveripakkam, Ranipet and Vellore Public libraries respectively.

The respondents of all the libraries under study invariably opined the contributions of their libraries for knowing the below said Political factors :

- Financial position of central & state government along with budgetary Information
- Availability of information on Union development activities
- Central and state government Information on Finance allocation (agriculture, industrial service departments)
- Ministers duties and powers
- Awareness of particular politician
- Recent political developments of Central and State Government

6.3 Helpfulness for the library to aware general knowledge and on local information

It is found that for the first cluster the respondents are strongly agreeing the following facts as libraries are helpful to get the information on :

- Awareness of economic conditions
- Awareness of world news
- Awareness about sports and Guinness news

Thus, this cluster is named as “Awareness of world news and economic conditions”

It is found out that the respondents of all the libraries under study are agreeing the following 9 variables as the libraries are helpful in getting the general knowledge.

- Awareness on scientific technology
- Awareness on computers
- Awareness on historical news
- Awareness on the natural resources
- Awareness on climate change
- Awareness of power saving
- Awareness of law and legal procedures
- Awareness of world news
- Awareness basic health related issues

Thus, this cluster is named as “Library helps to get knowledge about history, natural resources, climate change and basic health issues”

7. Suggestions for the improvement of Indian public libraries

- Collection improvement so as to meet the information needs of these public library readers of the remote place along with basic facilities such as toilets, comfortable reading chairs and tables
- Provision and enhancement of Internet in all the libraries are immediate need and automating the libraries are prime concern.
- These Indian libraries needs much improvement in terms of their collections especially improvements in terms of digital resources towards competitive examinations since many aspirants are intend to get government jobs
- Mostly the readers are visiting these libraries to seek information on women development, health and family welfare, agricultural issues and information on employment, self employment, information on entrepreneur loans. So, the collection developments on these libraries are need to focus on these areas
- Enhancement of manpower with qualified library professionals are immediate need as well as provision of separate sections for the informal education aspirants in all the public libraries in India.
- automatization and networking of these libraries are difficult aspects, however, there is a need to revise a systematic plan for these purposes.

8. CONCLUSION:

Information is raw material for development for both urban and rural dwellers. Prosperity, progress, and development of any nation depend upon the nation's ability to acquire, produce, access, and use pertinent information. General knowledge is one of the key factor for political development. Public libraries act as a boosting centre for General awareness and socio economic development. According to this study reveals that general awareness and political development increased Rural libraries, branch libraries and head quarters public libraries. This study also proves the immense helpfulness of the public libraries for various reasons such as agriculture, entrepreneurship, employment opportunities, health and hygiene as well as support for informal education. The Union Government and State Government have concentrate and allocate funds sufficient level in order to improve the infrastructure. The librarians initiatives and create awareness among the readers is need of the hour.

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