

User Awareness and Utilization of Rural Library Services

Sandip Balasaheb Bankar

Librarian

Sakeshwar College of Pharmacy, Chas, Ahilyanagar

Abstract: *The rural libraries form an important component of local learning and community living, particularly in the developing regions where accessibility of school books and other learning resources is not easy. They assist in reading, academic achievement, locating information and learning among both young and old people. Nevertheless, there are many rural libraries that are not popular and are used by a small number of people. Such issues as lack of outreach efforts, inappropriate facilities, aged or lost books, inadequate technology, and overall economic hardship prevent individuals of utilizing the libraries to their fullest extent.*

This study examined the level of knowledge of the people on the libraries, the level of utilization, the level of satisfaction and how the satisfaction is influenced by various factors. Our survey technique was a survey and 500 individuals were requested to complete survey questionnaires that were well constructed in five rural villages. Then using the simplest statistical tools, we analyzed the data to identify patterns and relationships between age, income, education, and frequency of use of library.

The findings indicated that there is a distinct difference between the awareness of the presence of the library and the actual utilization of the library. The majority of the respondents had heard about rural libraries, but not many of them visited rural libraries to avail themselves of their services. Such issues as inaccessible places, the absence of required books, and time shortages were obstacles of a large scale. The research indicates that they should be more attentive in their clarity of awareness programs, facilities, and services that align to what people desire in order that more people can enjoy rural libraries and make their community grow.

Keywords: Rural libraries, awareness, utilization, information access, community development, library services

