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## Status Of School Libraries in Srirangam Taluk, Tiruchirappalli District: A Review

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### Abstract

This paper is to explore the status of school libraries in Srirangam taluk, Tiruchirappalli district and to highlight the need and functions of the school library system.

Methodology: A structured questionnaire was designed and personally distributed to twenty numbers of various types of schools in Srirangam taluk, Tiruchirappalli, and the collected data was analysed and presented.

Findings: From the results, it has been concluded in Tamil Nadu that the school libraries are in poor state.

Suggestions: The Tamil Nadu Government has to take the necessary steps for the development of school libraries, especially in Government High and Higher Secondary Schools and the states should appoint well qualified, trained librarian in the schools to promote Information and Communication Technology (ICT) applications in all libraries.

**Keywords:** School libraries; Information and Communication Technology (ICT); trained and qualified librarian; Library resources.

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### Introduction

*“Education is an important aspect of life today as it enables an individual to keep up with a competitive world, however its also important that one obtains knowledge that is elaborate and extensive” – Herman J Steinherr*

Libraries have always been considered as an essential part of the school education system. A school library is a library within a school where students and staff have access to a variety of resources. The goal of school library is to ensure that all members of the school community have equitable access to books, information and information technology. A school library serves as the center and coordinating agency for all materials used in the school. These libraries play a significant role in shaping the social, cultural and academic progress of any country.

While highlighting the role of the school library as the heart of school, Dr. Ranganathan stated that the school libraries should act as laboratories for students and the librarians should function as guides to help the students in learning and using the books for improvement of knowledge and scholarship. A well-equipped and well managed library is the foundation of modern educational structure.

For the past several decades, the usage of library is a useful usual practice. It also enhances the school students to gain more knowledge and deeper insight to the subject taught. A library at school not only supports the students to develop academically but also intellectually. It also equips them with life-long learning skills and develops the imagination enabling them to live as responsible citizens. The Mudaliar Commission in its report recommended for provision of school library for every secondary school in the country. It stated that as the proper use of a well equipped school library is absolutely essential for the efficient working of every educational institution and for encouraging literacy and cultural interests in students, every secondary school should have a library, class libraries, and subject libraries should also be utilized for this purpose.

## Review of Literature:

It covers the details of various studies conducted related to present research. It is very essential for a clear understanding of the overall area of study, to know the conclusions and suggestions formulated by various scholars related to this study and how the title is related to other topics, etc. This helps to lead the study through a new innovative area, and reach a conclusion which so far is not discovered. Many scholars had conducted

several studies on different aspects of school library at national and international level, but, no study has so far been conducted in this area in Tiruchirappalli district.

Selvakumar (2015) studied “the current status of High school and Higher Secondary School Libraries in Karur District in Tamil Nadu”. The study covered infrastructure facilities, budget, services, staff structure and users of the library. The study showed that majority of the government schools do not have a separate library building and do not have lending services, which reflects the overall weakness of the school library. The conditions of the private school were also almost the same. The study suggested strengthening the school libraries for the benefit of students and staff and creating a knowledge society.

Ramakrishnegowda, Kumar and Prithviraj (2015) conducted the study titled “Selected Secondary School Libraries in Bangalore Urban District: A Status” report, with the objective to know the status of libraries and know their resources and services. The study covered the government, aided and private schools. They studied the infrastructure facilities, resources, staff structure and budget of the library. The study revealed that secondary school libraries lack infrastructure facilities and library professionals.

Kumbar and Pattanshetti (2013) had undertaken a study on “Information Literacy in Indian Schools: Trends and Developments”. They assessed the various training programmes conducted to impart digital competencies; Design a module for training programme exclusively for imparting digital competencies for school librarians and listed 21 essential digital competencies required for Indian school librarians. They suggested that with proper training, the school librarians can become the main link between digital resources and users. The study suggested a clear syllabus for the training programme for school librarians in ICT area.

## Objectives:

- ☐ To know whether the schools have library in their campus.
- ☐ To know whether professionally qualified librarians employed in the school libraries.
- ☐ To evaluate the collections of the resources in the school library.
- ☐ To find out the effective participation of school teaching and learning program.
- ☐ To find out the services offered by the school libraries

## Methodology:

This article mainly covers on the primary data to be collected from the School Head Masters / Head Mistresses, Matric School Principals in Srirangam Taluk, Tiruchirappalli district. A structured questionnaire is to be prepared and a total of twenty five questionnaires were distributed and only twenty were received after being filled up by the respondents and the data are to be analyzed by statistical methods.

## Data analysis:

Data analysis is considered to be an important step in this article. After the collection of data with the help of relevant tools and techniques, the next logical step is to analyse and interpret data with a view to arrive at empirical solution to this problem. The data analysis for the present article was done quantitatively with the help of both descriptive and inferential statistics.

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents – School wise

| Type of Schools     | No. of Respondents (n=20) (%) |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Government Schools  | 2 (10%)                       |
| Aided Schools       | 5 (25%)                       |
| Corporation Schools | 6 (30%)                       |

|                              |         |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Adi Dravidar Welfare Schools | 2 (10%) |
| Matriculation Schools        | 5 (25%) |

The above table shows that majorities (30% percent) of the respondents were Corporation Schools remaining other than schools. This finding indicates that the other schools are not responds as much as the corporation schools.

Table 2: Schools with / without Library in Campus

| Type of Schools              | No. of Respondents (n=20) (%) |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Government Schools           | With Library (100%)           |
| Aided Schools                | With Library (100%)           |
| Corporation Schools          | With Library (100%)           |
| Adi Dravidar Welfare Schools | With Library (100%)           |
| Matriculation Schools        | With Library (100%)           |

From Table 2 it is revealed that, 100% have provided library facilities to their users.

Table 3: Respondents' Schools have a Library in charge

| No. of Respondents (n=20) (%) | Statements |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| 11(55%)                       | Yes        |
| 09 (45%)                      | No         |

The Table 3 indicates that the 45% of the schools has not appointed Librarians. So, this finding indicates without the librarian's role, the academic programme has not been completed fully.

Table 4: Respondents' level of satisfaction about resources

| Library resources             | Respondents' Level of satisfaction (n=20) (%) |         |          |            |                  |
|-------------------------------|---|---------|----------|------------|------------------|
|                               | Excellent                                     | Good    | Adequate | Inadequate | Need improvement |
| Text books                    | 7 (35%)                                       | 9 (45%) | 4 (20%)  | Nil        | Nil              |
| Novels                        |   |         |          |            |                  |
| Dictionaries & Encyclopaedias |   |         |          |            |                  |
| Atlas & Maps                  |   |         |          |            |                  |
| News Papers & Magazines       |   |         |          |            |                  |

Table 4 reveals that the views of respondents regarding 'Library resources' 45% of the respondents considered as 'Good' followed by an 'Excellent' (35%) and 20% of the respondents' opinions were 'Adequate'. This indicates that the 'Library resources' should be increased in the school libraries on the basis of the users.

Table 5: Respondents' Schools facilitated about Library Automation

| No. of Respondents (n=20) (%) | Statements |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| 2 (10%)                       | Yes        |
| 18 (90%)                      | No         |

The Table 5 shows that majorities (90%) of the respondents were agreed that their libraries have not automated and remaining (10%) were agreed they have automation facilities. So, this table indicates that the major constraint was 'Lack of Automation'.

Table 6: Respondents' Schools faced by challenges while using libraries

| Statements                        | Frequency (n=20) (%) |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Lack of current affairs materials | 4 (20%)              |
| Lack of reading materials         | 2 (10%)              |
| Restricted reading hours          | 2 (10%)              |
| Lack of infrastructure            | 6 (30%)              |
| Lack of fund / Lack of Staff      | 6 (30%)              |

Table 6 reveals that the 'challenges faced by libraries' indicates that the majority (30%) of the respondents agreed followed by 'Lack of infrastructure' and 'Lack of fund / Lack of Staff', 'Lack of current affairs materials' (20%), 'Lack of reading materials' (10%) & 'Restricted reading hours' (10%). So, this table indicates that the major constraint were 'Lack of infrastructure' and 'Lack of fund / Lack of Staff'.

### Findings

- ☐ The majorities (30%) of the respondents were corporation schools.
- ☐ Nearly half of the schools (45%) have not appointed librarians.
- ☐ Regarding 'Library resources' 20% of the respondent's opinions were 'Adequate'.
- ☐ Vast majority (90%) of the respondents were agreed that their libraries have not automated. So, it indicates that 'Lack of Automation' is the main constraint.
- ☐ The majority (30%) of respondents were agreed followed by 'Lack of infrastructure' and 'Lack of fund / Lack of Staff', it shows that these are the major constraints of their schools.

### Suggestions and Conclusion

The following suggestions are forwarded for the development of school libraries in Srirangam taluk, Tiruchirappalli district.

- ☐ The state government should appoint well qualified and trained librarian in the schools and it is essential and necessary for the libraries to be comfortable in discharging their services to the society.
- ☐ The school libraries should be well equipped and Libraries in schools should be treated as an essential requirement of the education system and to promote Information and Communication Technology (ICT) applications in all libraries.
- ☐ The school library authorities should carry out the 'Automation of Library' and should be providing bulk of funds to improve the conditions of School Libraries.

### Conclusion

From this it is observed, that school education system can only develop the curriculum based teaching methods in their schools. The Tamil Nadu government has to seriously consider the development of school libraries to implement the innovative methodologies to the students in the school education system. The school libraries should be equipped with recent development and should have convenient environment to the pupils, faculties and staffs that increase the optimum utilization of school libraries.

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