



# AWARENESS AND USE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES RESOURCES BY THE PG STUDENTS IN KARNATAKA

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## Abstract:

The public library is a social institution that is founded on the democratic principle. It is the people's institution, established on the concept of democracy that is for the people, by the people, and of the people, and it is always striving to meet the community's informational, educational, and recreational needs through collections and services. The main purpose of the public library is to maximise the use of its resources and services by its users. So this study is focused on and discussed in relation to the use and awareness of public library information resources and services by the users of the district central library in Koppal. The study is based on primary data. Data was collected using structured questionnaires that were administered among 150 post-graduation students in the Koppal district. Of the 150, 25 were rejected due to incomplete information; hence, 125 are considered for the analyses. The total response rate is 83 percent.

**Key words:** *District Central Library in Koppal, Use and Awareness of Public Library.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The UNESCO Public Library Manifesto (1994) "The public library is a living force for education, culture, and information and an essential agent for the fostering of peace and understanding among people and between nations." It is an organisation that provides access to knowledge, information, and works of imagination through a range of resources and services and is equally available to all members of the community, regardless of race, nationality, age, gender, religion, language, disability, economic or employment status, or educational attainment (IFLA/UNESCO, 2001). "Public library," according to the Librarians' Glossary, is "a library provided wholly or partly from public funds, the use of which is not restricted to any class of persons in the community but is freely available to all." Due to the daily explosion of information and information sources in a variety of forms, including print, electronic, digital, and web-based resources, students, particularly from higher educational institutions, are encountering problems and challenges in effectively using information resources. So the awareness of these resources among the users becomes a prerequisite; hence, a study in this context is

undertaken to assess the extent of awareness about information resources, particularly private universities, in the capital city of Karnataka. User preferences are one of the most important factors in the library, and they have a variety of complexities that change over time. Hence, it is the responsibility of library professionals to update their knowledge about the users' needs and about their changing preferences in order to understand user perceptions and knowledge about the information they seek and their seeking habits.

The district was established on April 1, 1998. Until 1999, this district, which was separated from the former district of Raichur, had its public library system overseen by the Raichur district central library. The administrative unit of the district central library of Koppal was established on November 7, 1999, in accordance with the Karnataka public library act of 1965. After this, it became an independent administrative unit of the district central library of Koppal district, India. The district central library in Koppal was established in the year 1998 under the Karnataka Public Library Act 1965. At present, there are 150 libraries and nearly two lakh twenty-six thousand collections of books, 28 magazines, and 60 daily newspapers to cater to the information needs of the general public.

#### **LIBRARIES IN KOPAL ASSEMBLY/LOK SABHA CONSTITUENCIES**

<b>SL.NO</b>	<b>NAME OF THE VIDANA SABHA CONSTITUENCY</b>	<b>TOTAL NO.OF LIBRARIES</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>KOPPAL</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>GANGAVATHI</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>KANAKAGIRI</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>KUSHTAGI</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>YALABURGA</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>150</b>

## **2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

A number of studies have been carried out on the use of public library resources and services. In this paper, the author reviews some recent articles on public libraries. Mahesh (2018) investigates the distance students' use of public libraries for their academic purposes and the public library as an alternate for instructional or university libraries. The data collection was carried out by personally distributing the questionnaire to the randomly selected students, and the sample consists of students from both undergraduate and graduate programmes. It is found in the study that there were 1309 (90.60%) distance learners who used public libraries during contact classes. Raghavaiah (2017) focuses on the library services, resources, and problems existing in the district central libraries of the Rayalseema region of Andhra Pradesh. The study reveals that lack of staff, ICT facilities, and a sufficient budget are the main problems faced by these libraries in the Rayalaseema region. Rao (2017), in his study, stated that a large number of people, research guides, and schools have been using the Chittoor

District Central Library. There seems to be greater scope for further improvements in terms of equipment, technology, and other facilities like the internet. Omolola (2015) investigates the "Availability and Utilization of Information Resources for Prison Inmates in the North Central States of Nigeria." Thanuskodi (2012) stated in his study that public libraries are essential since they improve literacy, stimulate imagination, and expand personal horizons.

### 3.OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To understanding the status of the district central library in the koppal
- To evaluate the awareness of the PG students regarding public library
- To examined the satisfactory level of the PG students about library resources

### 4.METHODOLOGY

Primary and secondary data are used in the analysis. Primary data was collected using a structured questionnaire administered to the PG students studying in the Koppal district. A total of 150 questionnaires were distributed to users, with 125 completed, yielding an 83 percent response rate. The rest of the 24 questions were rejected due to incomplete information. The collected data will be tabulated and interpreted to arrive at valid inferences and conclusions.

### 5.DATA ANALYSIS

**Table-1**  
**Awareness and Use of Library Resources by PG Students**

SL. No.	Types of information sources	Most useful	Moderately	Not useful
1	Text book (PG study materials)	38 (30%)	56 (45%)	31 (25%)
2	Journals	48 (38%)	50 (40%)	27 (22%)
3	Monographs	25 (20%)	50 (40%)	50 (40%)
4	Encyclopedias	27 (22%)	48 (38%)	50 (40%)
5	Dictionaries	27 (22%)	48 (38%)	50 (40%)
6	Hand books	23 (18%)	37 (30%)	65 (52%)
7	Manuals	38 (30%)	56 (45%)	31 (25%)
8	Novels	27 (22%)	50 (40%)	48 (38%)

The table indicates the awareness and usefulness of various sources of information in the library. Text books are "moderately useful" for 45 percent of the 125 respondents, followed by journals at 40 percent, manuals at 45 percent, and novels at 45 percent.

Monographs are not useful to 40% of respondents, encyclopaedias are not useful to 40%, dictionaries are not useful to 40%, and handbooks are not useful to 52%. Overall, PG students have a moderate level of awareness and use of the public library.

**Table-2**  
**LEVEL OF SATISFACTION OF LIBRARY USERS (PG STUDENTS)**

SL.No	Library collection	Highly Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied
1	Working hours	38 (30%)	56 (45%)	31 (25%)
2	Behaviour of the librarian	27 (22%)	50 (40%)	48 (38%)
3	Collection of resources	25 (20%)	50 (40%)	50 (40%)
4	Hygienity	27 (22%)	48 (38%)	50 (40%)
5	E-resources	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	120 (100%)
6	PG study materials	23 (18%)	37 (30%)	65 (52%)

The opinions of the respondents about the satisfaction level of library sources are shown in the above table. Out of 126 respondents, approximately 45 percent are satisfied with the library's working hours, 50 percent are satisfied with the librarian's behavior, and 50 and 52 percent are dissatisfied with the availability of e-resources and PG study materials in the district library. Over all, the PG students have a moderate level of satisfaction regarding the DCL sources.

## 6.CONCLUSION

Public libraries exist in many countries across the world and are often considered an essential part of having an educated and literate population. Public libraries are distinct from research libraries, school libraries, and special libraries. The mandate of a public library is to serve the general public's information needs (rather than the needs of a particular school, institution, or research population); it also provides free services such as preschool story times to encourage early literacy, quiet study and work areas for students and professionals, and book clubs to encourage adult appreciation of literature. According to the current study, the respondents have a moderate level of awareness and use of the public library in the Koppal districts, and in their opinion, study-related materials (reference books for the PG studies) are not sufficiently available in the public library. The main finding is that respondents are dissatisfied with e-resources, implying that the library should acquire

electronic collections. The users are not aware of photocopy and newspaper clipping services, so the library is taking an initiative to promote the use of photocopy and newspaper clipping services. The majority of users are interested in reading textbooks and periodicals, so the library needs to add more textbooks and periodicals to satisfy the information needs of the users.

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