



# Classification of Public Library systems in Erode District, Tamilnadu, India and Its Users Profile: A Descriptive Analysis

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**Abstract:** This study is focusing the Erode District Public Libraries and users profile in descriptive formats. There are 220 public libraries in various levels like, Full Time libraries including District Central Library & Digital Library, Branch Library, Village libraries, Part-Time Libraries and Mobile library. These classifications are based on the libraries working hours. These libraries are scattered into ten taluks in this district. Users of these libraries are classified into age, gender, educational qualifications, and occupations. Users' frequency of library visits is analyzed and explained in this paper. Case study and survey methods are used. Questionnaire tool is used for data collection. One-way Anova tool is used for data analysis. Majority of the respondents' occupations are students followed by jobseekers. 29.12 percent of the respondents' age lies between 21-30 years. According to their educational qualification, 43.09 percent of them have graduation / diploma, 92 percent of the respondents are visited at least weekly once.

**Key Words:** Public Library Classifications, Users Classification, users' visits.

## Introduction

The phrase 'Library' is derived from the Latin word 'Liber' which means 'book' or 'document'. A Public Library is a social organization supported by the government and domestic cess collected from the public. Public libraries are essential for the common man. According to Nwokocha (2004). Public library is defined as it is being established to serve the generality of the residents of the community or town where it is located". They improve their all types of literacy, stimulate thoughts, expanded their personal perceptiveness and support education at all levels. A positive relationship is developed between public libraries and literacy levels. The Public library is considered as the people's institution. It is local gateway to knowledge that provides basic condition for life learning and facilitates cultural development of the individual and social groups. The public library provides services to all irrespective of race, age, gender, religion, caste, education and social status. Generally all users get the relevant information to their needs and requirements in the public library without any barriers. In the ancient period of Indian History, we also find evidence of library development in the Mughal Emperors like Babur, Humayan, Akbar who had established libraries.

In 17<sup>th</sup> century AD, the Maharaja Serfoji II of Tanjur started a famous 'Thanjai Saraswathi Mahal' library for proceedings of the Maharaja Courtier and a treasure house of rare books and manuscripts. The Public Libraries were opened for common people after the arrival of the British East India Company. The modern concept of the Public Library in India has its origins in the British Colonial period. During that period public libraries' developments were progressed in the cities like Bombay, Madras and Calcutta. The development of Public Libraries in the country gained impetus in the post-independence period. Central Government enforced acts and introduced various schemes for the development of Public Libraries all over the country.

## Review

Sathivel murugan (2018) carried a descriptive research study about the “Users Profile: Tiruppur District Central libraries”. The aim of this study is to identify the categories of library users and their visits to the district central library, Trippur. “District Central Library (DCL) is located at Trippur which is the capital of the district. Private company employees, self employees, daily-wage workers, job-seekers, students and unemployed people are the users of the library. Users’ membership, occupation, educational qualification, and their frequency of library visits are discussed in this paper. It gives a complete picture of the demographical details of the library users. Survey method was adopted and questionnaire tool was used for primary data collection”.

Balasubramanian (2020) conducted a research on Tenkasi public library users. This study about the level of satisfaction with the resources and services and the problems faced by them. He implied survey method and structured questionnaires were designed to collect the primary data. Convenience sampling technique was applied for collecting samples. The respondents’ who visited the public library daily and were satisfied with the regular circulation service. However, they were dissatisfied with the internet-based services and lack of library user relationship with librarians. This study results also highlight the need for government policies to devise a benchmark for quality service delivery in public libraries in India.

In the digital environment a research survey was taken from the users of the Trippur District Central Library by Sathivel Murugan (2021). It covers the available digital collection, infrastructure facilities and their usage. Case study is applied to collect the primary data from the librarians and survey method questionnaire tool is used to collect data from the library users. Researcher completely explains the users’ demographical details and their perceptions.

## About Erode District

Erode district is the 16<sup>th</sup> district of State Tamilnadu. “It lies on the extreme north of Tamil Nadu. It is bounded mostly by Karnataka State and also River Palar covers pretty long distance. To the East lies Namakkal and Karur Districts. Dindigal District is its immediate neighbor to the South and on the West; it has Coimbatore and Nilgiri Districts, as its boundaries. Erode District consists of 10 taluks and four municipalities. Taluks are Erode, Modakkurichi, Kodumudi, Perundurai, Bhavani, Anthiyur, Gobichettipalayam, Sathyamangalam, Thalavadi and Nambiyur. Municipalities in the district are, Sathyamangalam, Bhavani, Gobichettipalayam, and Punjai Puliampatti. The other four Municipalities in the district viz. Periasemur, Kasipalayam, Surampatti and Veerappanchatram have been merged with Erode Corporation. There are 42 Town Panchayats, 230 Village Panchayats and 375 Revenue Villages. There are 14 Community Development Blocks in the district. Bhavani, Cauvery and Noyyal are the main rivers of the district. With more than 228,750 hectares of land under dense forest, Erode is one of the few fortunate districts in the State which can boast of extensive forest area.

27.7% of the total district area is under forests. Paddy accounts for 86,939 hectares. Next to Paddy is Cholan which is raised in more than 11240 hectares. Pulses are not much in cultivation in the district. Only 31498 hectares are used for raising pulses. Among condiments and spices, turmeric and chillies are significant. Cultivation of turmeric extends over 14533 hectares”.

Among the non-food crops, oil seeds constitute the major item. 55.23 percent of the total area under non food crops is accounted for by oil seeds. A total of 95018 hectares is under oil-seeds cultivation and of these ground-nuts account for 55696 hectares while gingely accounts for 24084 hectares. Ground-nut is the most popular oil-seed raised here. Among other non-food crops raised here, the most important items are cotton, sugarcane and tobacco. Sugarcane is raised in 30903 hectares. Cotton is grown in few hectares while tobacco is raised in 4923 hectares in the district. In respect of all commercial crops also improved varieties have been adopted by the farmers and this has helped them to maintain high yields. Main cultivation is turmeric and also paddy, sugarcane, banana, groundnuts, cereals and vegetables.

## Methodology

Researcher is using case study method for collection data from the district central library office about the library classification and using the survey method & questionnaire tool for the collection of primary data from the users. Questionnaire is standardized by the library science subject experts and practicing librarians. Researcher using stratified random sampling method for the collection of primary data from the users of the public libraries in this district.

Totally 1250 questionnaires are distributed. Out of 1250, 1216 (97.28) fully filled questionnaires are used for data analysis. Questionnaire is also distributed to trans-gender, but they have not answered all the questions. Simple percentage and one-way Anova statistical tools are used for data analysis. It is limited in Erode district, Tamilnadu, India only. For salary purpose taluks of Kodumudi is merged with Modakkurichi, Nambiyur is merged with Gobichettipalayam, and Thalavadi is merged with Sathyamangalam pay centres. Therefore there are seven public library pay centres in Erode district.

### Public Libraries in Erode District

Based on the timings, the public libraries are classified into full-time libraries, branch libraries, village libraries, part-time libraries and mobile library. In Erode district there are 220 libraries including mobile library. The full-time libraries are functioning from 8A.M to 8 P.M without any break. There are two full-time librarians are working in two shifts (8A.M-2P.M & 2.P.M -8.P.M). Branch libraries are functioning 8hrs and the timings are 9.00A.M to 12.30 P.M & 3.00 PM to 6.00 PM. Village libraries are also functioning 8 hours and the timings are 9 A.M to 12 noon & 4 P.M– 6.30P.M. Part-time libraries are functioning in rural areas and the timing is 9 A.M to 11 A.M only. The following Table.1 describes the classification of libraries in each Taluks in Erode District

Table 1 Classification Public Libraries in Erode District

| Name of the Taluk | Full Time Library (8AM-8PM) | Branch Library (only 8 hrs) | Village Library (only 8 hrs) | Part-Time Library (only 2 hrs) | Mobile Library | Total |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|-------|
| Erode             | 5                           | 11                          | 15                           | 11                             | 1              | 43    |
| Gobichettipalayam | 4                           | 12                          | 20                           | 4                              | --             | 40    |
| Bhavani           | 3                           | 10                          | 7                            | 6                              | --             | 26    |
| Perundurai        | 2                           | 8                           | 12                           | 3                              | --             | 25    |
| Sathyamangalam    | 2                           | 9                           | 11                           | 2                              | --             | 24    |
| Anthiyur          | 2                           | 9                           | 13                           | 0                              | --             | 24    |
| Modakkurichi      | 2                           | 1                           | 9                            | 1                              | --             | 13    |
| Kodumudi          | 1                           | 2                           | 9                            | 1                              | --             | 13    |
| Nambiyur          | 1                           | 5                           | 4                            | 1                              | --             | 11    |
| Thalavadi         | 0                           | 1                           | 0                            | 0                              | --             | 1     |
| Total             | 22                          | 68                          | 100                          | 29                             | 1              | 220   |

In Erode District there are 220 public libraries in all categories. Among the total libraries (220), 22 are full time libraries, 68 are branch libraries, 100 are village libraries, 29 are part-time libraries and one mobile library. All types of libraries are available in Erode taluk only. Among all taluks Erode (43), Gobichettipalayam (40), Bhavani (26), Perundurai (25), Sathyamangalam (24) and Anthiyur (24) are in top five positions.

### Users Classification: Demographical Details

Table 2 Demographical details and frequency of Library Visits

| Demographical Details |     |       |
|-----------------------|-----|-------|
| <b>Gender</b>         |     |       |
| Male                  | 704 | 57.89 |
| Female                | 512 | 42.11 |
| <b>Pay Centres</b>    |     |       |
| Erode                 | 229 | 18.83 |

|   |     |       |
|---|-----|-------|
| Perundurai                                    | 143 | 11.76 |
| Modakkurichi                                  | 136 | 11.18 |
| Gobichettipalayam                             | 282 | 23.19 |
| Sathyamangalam                                | 134 | 11.02 |
| Bhavani                                       | 161 | 13.24 |
| Anthiyur                                      | 131 | 10.77 |
| <b>Age</b>                                    |     |       |
| Below 15 years                                | 222 | 18.26 |
| 15 to 20 years                                | 172 | 14.15 |
| 21 to 30 years                                | 354 | 29.12 |
| 31 to 40 years                                | 171 | 14.07 |
| 41 to 50 years                                | 149 | 12.25 |
| 51 and above years                            | 148 | 12.17 |
| Students                                      | 398 | 32.73 |
| <b>Occupation</b>                             |     |       |
| Student                                       | 398 | 32.72 |
| Job Seekers                                   | 263 | 21.63 |
| Others  | 127 | 10.44 |
| Government Employee                           | 111 | 9.13  |
| House Wives                                   | 119 | 9.79  |
| Private & Self Employee                       | 104 | 8.55  |
| Agriculture                                   | 94  | 7.73  |
| <b>Educational Qualifications</b>             |     |       |
| Below 10 <sup>th</sup> Standard               | 304 | 25.00 |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> Standard | 179 | 14.72 |
| Diploma & Graduate                            | 524 | 43.09 |
| Post Graduate & Others                        | 209 | 17.19 |
| <b>Types of Library</b>                       |     |       |
| Full Time Library                             | 545 | 44.82 |
| Branch Library                                | 332 | 27.31 |
| Village Library                               | 254 | 20.89 |
| Part Time Library                             | 85  | 6.99  |
| <b>Frequency of Library Visits</b>            |     |       |
| Daily   | 220 | 18.09 |
| Thrice in a week                              | 486 | 39.97 |
| Twice in a week                               | 319 | 26.23 |
| Weekly once                                   | 103 | 8.47  |
| Fortnightly                                   | 88  | 7.24  |

Based on the gender of the respondents, 57.89 percent of the respondents are male and 42.11 percent of them are female. Among the total respondents (1216), 18.83 percent, 11.76 percent, 11.18 percent, 23.19 percent, 11.02 percent, 13.24 percent, and 10.77 percent of the respondents are coming from Erode, Perundurai, Modakkurichi, Gobichettipalayam, Sathyamangalam, Bhavani and Anthiyur pay centers.

Among the total respondents (1216), 398(32.720%) of the respondents are coming under the student (school, college) category and job seekers (263(21.63)). 127(10.44) of the respondents are coming under the others

categories like daily wage labors, koolies etc. 119(9.79) 111(9.12) and 104(8.55) are house-wives, government and private/self-employees. 7.730% of the respondents are doing agriculture works.

There are four types of libraries based on library timings. Among the total respondents (1216), 545 (44.82) respondents are coming under the full time libraries, 332(27.31) are branch libraries, 254(20.89) are village libraries and 85(6.99) are part time libraries.

Based on the respondents educational qualifications of the respondents, 25 percent of the respondents have below 10<sup>th</sup> standard qualification. 14.72 percent of the respondents' qualification lies between 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> standard doing or completed. They don't have any other qualifications. 43.092 percent of the respondents have diploma/graduate qualification and the remaining 17.188 percent of them are post graduates and holding other professional qualification.

Respondents' frequency of library visits are as follows, 18.08 percent of the respondents are visiting the public libraries daily. Nearly forty percent of the respondents are visiting thrice in a week, 26.23 percent of them twice in a week, 8.47 percent of the respondents are visiting weekly once and 7.24 percent of them are visiting fortnightly.

### Analysis

Respondents' frequency of library visits and their demographic details are analysed by one-way Anova. The following null and alternative hypotheses are framed to test the collected data.

### Hypothesis:

**Null Hypothesis (H<sub>0</sub>):** There is no significant difference between the frequency of library visits and the respondents' pay centers, gender, educational qualification, age and occupation.

**Alternative Hypothesis (H<sub>1</sub>):** There is a significant difference between the frequency of library visits and the respondents' gender, educational qualification, age and occupation.

Table 3 Comparative analysis of significant values

| S. No. | Variables                  | Significant Value | Status          |
|--------|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1.     | Gender                     | 0.583             | Not Significant |
| 2.     | Age                        | 0.170             | Not Significant |
| 3.     | Occupations                | 0.659             | Not Significant |
| 4.     | Educational Qualifications | 0.000             | Significant     |

The above table 3 shows that the respondents' independent variables, gender, age, educational qualifications, and occupation. One way ANOVA, calculated p value is lower than 0.05 shows lower than 0.05 means that there is a significant difference between the frequency of library visits and respondents independent value. Here, educational qualifications have significant difference. Other variables, gender, age, and occupations calculated values are more than 0.05. It shows that there is no significant difference between the frequency of library visits.

### Findings

1. Erode District consists of 10 taluks and four municipalities.
2. There are 42 Town Panchayats, 230 Village Panchayats and 375 Revenue Villages.
3. There are 14 Community Development Blocks in the district.
4. Totally 1250 questionnaires are distributed. Out of 1250, 1216 (97.28) fully filled questionnaires are used for data analysis.
5. In Erode district there are 220 public libraries including one mobile library

6. Libraries in all taluks are mentioned in the circular bracket, Erode (43), Gobichettipalayam (40), Bhavani (26), Perundurai (25), Sathyamangalam (24) , Anthiyur (24), Mudakurachi (13), Kodumudai (13), Nambitur (11) and Thalavadi(1).
7. Based on the library timings the public libraries are classified into full-time libraries, branch libraries, village libraries, part-time libraries and mobile library.
8. The full-time libraries are functioning from 8A.M to 8 P.M without any break. Branch libraries are functioning 8hrs and the timings are 9.30A.M to 12.30 P.M & 4.30 PM to 6.30 PM. Village libraries are also functioning 8 hours and the timings are 9 A.M to 12 noon & 4 P.M– 6.30P.M. Part-time libraries are functioning in rural areas and the timing is 9 AM to 11 A.M only.
9. In this research, based on the gender of the respondents, 57.89 percent of the respondents are male and 42.11 percent of them are female. Among the total respondents (1216), 18.83 percent, 11.76 percent, 11.18 percent, 23.19 percent, 11.02 percent, 13.24 percent, and 10.77 percent of the respondents are coming from Erode, Perundurai, Modakkurichi, Gobichettipalayam, Sathyamangalam, Bhavani and Anthiyur pay centers.
10. Occupations of the respondents, 32.720 percent of the respondents are coming under the students (school, college) category, job seekers (21.63), house-wives (9.79), government (9.13) and private/self-employees (8.55), daily wage labours (10.44), koolies etc and agriculture works (7.730).
11. Based on the respondents' educational qualification, 25 percent of the respondents have below 10<sup>th</sup> standard qualification, 14.72 percent of the respondents' qualification lies between 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> standard doing or completed, 43.092 percent of the respondents have diploma/graduate qualification and the remaining 17.188 percent of them are post graduates and holding other professional qualification.
12. 18.08 percent of the respondents are visiting the public libraries daily. Nearly forty percent of the respondents are visiting thrice in a week, 26.23 percent of them twice in a week, 8.47 percent of the respondents are visiting weekly once and 7.24 percent of them are visiting fortnightly.
13. 18.08 percent of the respondents are visiting the public libraries daily. Nearly forty percent of the respondents are visiting thrice in a week, 26.23 percent of them twice in a week, 8.47 percent of the respondents are visiting weekly once and 7.24 percent of them are visiting fortnightly.
14. Frequency of library visits and educational qualifications have significant difference. And other variables, gender, age, and occupations do not have significant difference. i.e, calculated p value is more than 0.05.

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