

A LITERATURE REVIEW ON THE VALUE OF RURAL LIBRARIES

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Abstract

Examining how rural libraries contribute to the growth of a community is the goal of this research. In this essay, we examine the literature on rural libraries' functions as centres for community development and the services they provide. The evaluation focuses on the value of rural libraries, their services, and their function as a hub of community knowledge. The study's analysis shows that rural libraries are struggling with a number of issues that could help them better serve their local communities, including independent library buildings, political interference in the construction of new libraries and the hiring of staff, non-professional staff, financial issues, and a lack of interest on the part of rural residents in using the libraries' services. The report concludes by recommending that all relevant rural library authorities step forward to support the growth of rural libraries.

Keywords: Rural Library, Review of Literature, Community Development, Library Services.

Introduction

Since the creation of public libraries, the library has been focusing on the whole community rather than the residents. Now, in light of the community's socioeconomic, educational, and cultural elevation, it is necessary to regard the public library as an organization that prioritizes the growth of diverse groups within the community by supplying pertinent information. Libraries do not develop spontaneously. They carry out social roles. Social influences decide how they should be used. The functions of the library should adapt to the evolving social landscape. Due to their intimate ties to the community, public libraries are obligated to provide all forms of information that the community may need.

A rural library is necessary to enhance the quality of life and participation capacity of the rural population in the knowledge-based society. The rural library is essential for the dissemination of information to the rural population. There is a demand for rural libraries with all the necessary amenities for the benefit of rural residents and to promote rural activities. By offering the necessary information for the rural community, rural libraries assist the rural community in keeping its knowledge current. Therefore, there is a demand for rural libraries that can benefit the rural population. As a result, this article provides a short overview of some literature that has helped the growth of the community by offering some insightful ideas.

Review of Literature

The fundamental step in every research process or study is the literature review. It serves as a starting point for research ideas that are then developed into concepts and, ultimately, hypotheses. Additionally, it gives the researcher a bird's eye perspective of

the prior study in that field. Review of the literature points to fresh approaches for solving a particular issue. As a result, some of the crucial papers have been examined.

Kumbar, Lamani and Talawar (2014) The current state of the district central library in Dharwad is examined, and an effort is made to refocus the function of the public library as a Community Information Center, to support community development by meeting information needs. Greater connections and additions are made between the public library and its community as a result of this novel concept of the library as a centre for community knowledge. According to a study, the District Central Library of Dharwad has failed to deliver community information services to district residents and its resources are insufficient to meet the demands and requirements of the various community groups.

Krishnamurthy (2012) and others' research demonstrates the significance of rural libraries in the development of rural populations in the context of a changing society, as well as the function of rural libraries as a community information hub in spreading the essential information for their day-to-day problems. The government's unique programmes for improving the standard of living in rural Karnataka State regions are also highlighted in the document. It is emphasized that rural libraries should serve as community information centres and should take an active part in educating the rural population by offering pertinent, need-based information for the proper usage of the government's different schemes and programmes.

Scott (2011) found in his article Five aspects of public libraries as community development organizations: (1) how they serve as a platform for information access and learning, (2) how they support social inclusion and equity, (3) how they foster community engagement, (4) how they serve as a link between resources and community participation, and (5) how they foster economic vitality within the community. This article's objective is to provide concrete instances of library community growth. Therefore, the emphasis in this article is on the precise tactics that libraries used to design and run library programmes that successfully and successfully created a library community.

Pettigrew(1999)this article discusses a significant study that is currently underway, for which data are being gathered from users, librarians, and service providers in three states using a variety of methods. It also reviews recent trends in the networked community information literature, including public library involvement. Explaining how to utilize theory specification to implement Dervin's sense-making framework online is given special consideration. The findings will also support other academics' attempts to fill in glaring gaps in the body of knowledge on the nature of networked community information. Such studies must look at how networked community information benefits people, public libraries, service providers, and the whole community. The results might clarify or generate new questions concerning information behavior in terms of associated technology, various contexts, including the workplace, or certain information kinds or demographics.

Nyana (2009) This essay examines some of the challenges that African libraries face when supplying information and services to rural communities, including, but not limited to, inappropriate collections and services, a lack of surveys and analyses of the information needs of rural communities, high levels of illiteracy, disregard for oral

tradition in service delivery, a lack of funding and collaboration between related agencies, and inappropriate training of African librarians. In order to address the following topics, this study recommends a library system that is sustainable and in keeping with the oral tradition. Are library services and collections based on Western culture and information needs relevant to rural communities in Africa? Are they relevant to rural populations where information and knowledge are transmitted orally? How can African librarians be better trained to meet the information needs of rural communities?

Sumi (2012) the research was done on community information demands and the function of the informational infrastructure existent in the highly educated Himalayan area of Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh, India. The goal of the research was to identify the information requirements of the community and the extent to which local libraries are able to serve those needs. In addition, the article discusses how the public views community libraries and the services they provide. A questionnaire encompassing 34 community libraries in various parts of the district of Hamirpur made up the research. Out of the 600 surveys that were issued, 404 total surveys were returned, representing a response rate of 67.33%. The majority of community libraries' patrons (62.87%) are students in schools and colleges, according to the survey's key results. Books and periodicals were also found to be the most often used information sources. Users of community libraries are dissatisfied with the services and materials offered, and they want the provision of more ICT-based services in community libraries with longer hours for library consultation.

Adewusi (2013) in this research, four villages in Nigeria's Ondo State's Akoko North West Local Government were examined for their effects on local development. The study used a survey research methodology that mostly relied on questionnaires. A total of 200 respondents received questionnaire copies. Respondents included among others teachers, merchants, farmers, fishmongers, public employees, and students. At the conclusion of the research, it was found that the communities lacked many opportunities for using the centres since there were few community information services available there. Further research revealed that communities long for the establishment of fully equipped community information centres in an effort to improve their social, economic, technical, educational, and political circumstances.

Islam (2005) The main information systems and services provided by rural development libraries in Bangladesh's Dhaka, Comilla, and Bogra districts are examined in this research. Additionally, it discusses how these rural development libraries are faring in light of the revolution and advancements in information and communication technology. In order to address the expanding information demands of Bangladeshis living in rural areas, more information is provided on the technologies and methods employed in the various functional units of these libraries. presents the different issues that these libraries have run across while offering their services and makes suggestions for how they may improve.

Gadagin (2009) through interviewing 156 organisations, the and other research learns about the community information services provided by the government and non-government groups in the bellary area. The results clearly show the current state of community information activities, and libraries have not yet become a crucial

component of CICs. The majorities of agencies lack any kind of library and are run by amateurs. The region's community information activities need to be strengthened as a result of the ICT initiatives, which have just begun.

Kaula(2006) According to the report, Iyyanki Venkata Rammanayya's efforts, followed by Dr. S. R. Ranganathan's work engaging rural India, led to a movement for the expansion of public library operations and the projection of the magnificence of Indian culture. Also included are the start of the National Adult Education Program, the continuation of the programme for the creation of village libraries via different organisations in a number of states, and the national policy and support of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation. And further emphasises the need to establish rural libraries as information resource centres and the enforcement of library laws in certain jurisdictions.

Kumar Sunil (2006) the history of the rural library movement in India is traced, and the significant turning points are discussed. Additionally, it discusses the current state of the public library movement, efforts to develop rural libraries in the context of library legislation, the function of national and state-level library associations, and the significant contributions made by Dr. S. R. Ranganathan and other committed individuals to help public libraries reach their full potential in Indian states.

Ali Anvar (1996) did a research on community information services, and in that study, the author demonstrates a different community information services (CIS) centre that public libraries introduced. If there is a real need, South East Asian library services that do not reach the majority of rural residents should expand into the CIS. The author explores several CIS concepts and demonstrates how the CIS is able to address information demand.

Bhattacharjee(2006) He highlights many efforts that have been undertaken by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) under the aegis of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT), Government of India, in his essay "Community Information Centre project in India: linking the far flung." Where the Community Information Centre (CIC) Project is intended to give citizen services and Internet access. Each administrative block will include a community centre with access to the Internet through V-SAT, according to the project.

Seneviratne, Gunawardene and Siddhisena (2006) the study's goal is to investigate the community information needs of rural Sri Lankan communities and how they use information. It was found that the information supply position at service points has stagnated, and the dynamism of the information has declined within the delivery mechanisms restricted to system structure. In order to close the information gap that exists in Sri Lanka's rural regions, the research recommends creating Community Information Centers at the village level utilising the One Stop Shop (OSS) concept and existing infrastructure. The research also made an effort to examine the information sources that regular rural residents use. For each channel found in relation to the requirement category assessed, the Channel Dependency Rate (CDR) was determined. It was observed that certain channels' channel dependence rates were conspicuous and robust for one requirement category but weak for another. The Channel Dependency Rate demonstrates how poorly designed the information supply in these locations is.

The survey also showed the challenges regular people have in getting the information they need. When these issues were examined, it was discovered that they were caused by structural (socio-economic and cultural) geographical, personal, and socio-economic variables.

Hart (2010) The report analyses a case study of six dual-use schools libraries in rural South Africa and focuses on their community-building functions. The library and information services are its starting point. The research used a variety of data collection techniques, including interviews, observation, and document analysis. The study's main finding raises the issue of why adults in the nearby villages use the libraries so little. All six libraries make the claim to provide access, however it is unclear what they really give for access. According to the survey, they need to concentrate more on their community information services. The libraries may be able to realise their tremendous potential with better leadership, staff development, and targeted programming.

Arayesh, Sharifi, & Porsaid (2013) According to specialists from Ilam City Jihad Keshavarzi, the primary objective of the research is to determine the effect of information and communication technology on rural social and cultural development. Its quantitative nature, survey-style usage of questionnaires, impracticality in terms of manipulating the variables, and causal relationship research methodology all characterise this paper's practical research approach. The primary method of gathering data for this study is a questionnaire, the fluency of which has been examined by the development and education expert panel from Azad Islamic University and the specialists from the telecommunications department of Ilam City.

Behera & Parida (2014) analyze how each community covers the basics of library awareness, status, and resources in rural locations. The number of libraries and the reasons why communities don't use them. the reason patrons come into the library, use statistics, and the titles they prefer from the collection. The sources of user benefit and the library's influence on socioeconomic growth as a source of worldwide social, cultural, political, and financial information The focus of this research is on the language used to read papers, reading preferences for time and location, and excuses for not reading. The purpose of this research is to ascertain knowledge about society that will be useful to various groups in day-to-day living.

Mostert & Vermeulen (1998) The goal of the study was to define the traits and potential flaws of public libraries, particularly in South Africa, to examine community library trends and establish community library norms, to survey community libraries in the Borough of Pinetown, and to assess the reliability of these libraries in comparison to the established norms. The study notes that South African public libraries have mostly fallen short in meeting the information demands of emerging populations. As a consequence, during the 1980s, the development of alternative library services—most notably resource centres and community libraries have gained pace. The idea of community libraries, which is currently being adopted by a growing number of public libraries, is investigated, and the Pinetown Public Library's community library system is assessed in comparison to standards taken from the literature on the growth of public libraries in Africa and South Africa.

Omar,S.Z.(2012) and other research indicate possible influences, advantages, and

issues with using the rural library's services. This article's discussion is supported by a study of the literature and helpful resources. Based on the investigations, a variety of possible advantages that the rural area may provide have been discovered, with information provision being the primary advantage. To guarantee that the rural population can benefit from the advantages provided, any issues that may arise while utilising the rural library services must be resolved. In addition, a variety of ideas and associated aspects have been further addressed.

Islam & Ahmed (2012) The purpose of this study is to describe the library services accessible to rural residents and provide an overview of focus group discussions (FGD) held in Bangladesh's northern regions. There are two portions to this essay. In the first part, Bangladesh's rural libraries' services are described. The findings of independent focus group talks held in 10 rural villages in northern Bangladesh are covered in the second part. Results of focus groups on rural populations' general information requirements, reading, listening, and watching habits, and knowledge of rural library operations are highlighted. According to the research, rural libraries play a crucial role in the educational advancement of the local populace and primarily satisfy the informational wants of the local population.

Uhegbu(2001)explains the obstacles of providing rural Nigerian communities with information services. Put a focus on the nature and traits of a community, as well as the needs and services for community information. Information about the community was broken down into four parts. They are the sender, the recipient, the medium or channel of communication, and the information itself. The main barriers to community information services were the poor perception and ingrained skepticism of rural residents toward information, the poor condition of rural roads, and competition amongst community members. Among other things, it suggests that traditional institutions and town development organizations be used efficiently to spread knowledge to the populace.

Conclusion

Any government's first goal has always been rural development. Rural public libraries are one of the institutions that will be constructed to assist the process of the rural community's social, cultural, educational, and economic development. This essay's goal is to analyses the function of rural public libraries in promoting rural development and empowerment via development initiatives and initiatives that improve rural public libraries. Public libraries have long been considered essential to the growth of communities, especially in underserved and rural areas. As it offers information that is crucial for the development of the community, it has been recognized as a crucial component in the lives of community members.

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