Information Resources Utilization by the Competitive Exam Aspirants in Some of the District Central Libraries of Tamilnadu

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Abstract - *In all the district of Tamilnadu the central libraries of have separate section as 'Civil Services and Competitive Exam Section'. This section provides specialized resources for the competitive exam aspirants. Present study is undertaken to study how the information resources was utilized by the competitive exam aspirants in the Competitive exam section of the central library. Related reviews were discussed in this study. The main objective was to analyse the utilization of competitive exam resources by the respondents in the public library for competitive exam preparation. The major findings of the study was majority (75.18%) of the respondents are reading Tamilnadu board Text book for competitive exam preparation, and most (48.91%) of the respondents read magazines on career news. It was suggested that the public library can take suitable action for better utilization of the competitive exam books and magazines. The competitive exam aspirants should utilize the resources and services of the competitive exam section at an optimum level for succeeding in their competitive exam preparation.*

Key words: Competitive exam aspirants, Public library, Competitive exam section, Civil Services.

Introduction

Public libraries are the prime player in delivering job sources and services and require enormous resources to provide the information needs for job seekers. Libraries have to find the user needs and then should find the ways of providing the job sources and its services. Public libraries educate people without considering the age, status, caste, etc. Department of Public libraries of Tamilnadu have taken many efforts to provide efficient resources and services to competitive exam aspirants through the central library. For this purpose the central libraries have separate section as 'Civil Services and Competitive Exam Section' in the central library of every district. This section provides resources for the competitive exam aspirants. This study is undertaken to study how the information resources was utilized by the competitive exam aspirants in the Competitive exam section of the central library.

Review of literature

Ramesh, Ananda A & Kumar, Kishore S (2016)[8] in their study found that 22% are visiting the public library for competitive exam preparation. Baladhandayutham, A & Murugapandi,

V. (2015)[2] suggests that majority of the users visits the central library to prepare for competitive exams and concludes that library provides resources related to competitive examination to the users and lots of the users of the public library gets job opportunities through this central library. Padma, P., et al. (2014)[7] in her study reports that most of the users purpose of visiting the public library to prepare for various types of competitive exams. Lata, Suman & Sharma, Sanjeev (2013)[6] suggests that the library collection must have the latest competitive exam books, NCERT basic books, and there should be an increase in quantity on competitive exam magazines. Saravanan, K & Jadhav, Mahendra N (2013)[9] in their study on Connemara Public Library found that 20% of the respondents visiting the library for competitive exam preparation and among them 30% respondents competitive exam preparation is for Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission Exam. Gomathi, P (2012)[4] from her study identified that, 21.03% are using the public library for competitive examination preparation. Koovakkai, Dineshan & Jalaja V (2006)[5] in their analysis identifies that there is a significant difference in level of requirement of resources to prepare for competitive examinations among female and the male career seekers, whereas there is no significant difference in level of requirement of electronic resources among them. Anderson (1992)[1] describes that librarians are the most aware of resources pertaining to career seekers than any other professionals. He also insists that for providing effective career information libraries have to update the resource collection. Durrance, Joan C. (1991)[3] points out that the role of the libraries is not simply providing the resources needed by the users rather they also should know how the users utilize the library career resources and services.

Objectives

- To identify the socio-economic status of the respondents.
- To examine the respondents involvement in the central library
- To analyse the respondents utilization of competitive exam resources in the central library.

Methodology

In this study, the scope lies in 5 district central library of Tamilnadu. The samples of the study are the competitive exam aspirants who are utilizing the competitive exam section of the public library. The study was conducted in the month of January 2020. A structured questionnaire was used to collect data from the samples. Judgement sampling method was used in this study and the primary data was collected from the respondents. The selection of samples is given hereunder. The data collected was analyzed using simple percentage analysis.

Table-1: Sample selection

Name of the Central Library	No. of samples
District Central Library of Vellore	28
District Central Library of Thiruvannamalai	26
District Central Library of Chengalpet	30
District Central Library of Thiruvallur	28
District Central Library of Villupuram	25
Total	137

Data analysis and Interpretation

The primary data collected from the respondents are analyzed and interpreted as below.

Socio-economic background of the respondents

The socio-economic background of the respondents was studied in terms of their gender, age category, marital status, educational qualification, residence, employment status, and family income.

Table-2: Gender

Gender of the respondent	Frequency	Percent
Male respondent	103	75.18
Female respondent	34	24.82
Total	137	100

The Table-2 shows that, 75.18% respondents are male whereas, only 24.82% respondents are female.

Table-3: Age category

Age category	Frequency	Percent
16 to 20	3	2.19
21 to 25	58	42.34
26 to 30	60	43.80
31 to 35	13	9.49
36 and above	3	2.19
Total	137	100

It is observed from the Table-3 that 43.80% belongs to 26 to 30 age category, 42.34% belongs to 21 to 25 age category, 9.49% belongs to 31 to 35 age category and 2.19% belongs to both 16 to 20 category and 36 and above category. So, it is clear that most (43.80%) respondents are in 26 to 30 age category.

Table-4: Respondents Marital status

Marital Status	Frequency	Percent
Married respondents	17	12.41
Unmarried respondents	120	87.59
Total	137	100

The Table-4 reveals that 87.59% are unmarried whereas, 12.41% are married respondents.

Table-5: Educational qualification

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percent
HSC	4	2.92
UG Degree	80	58.39
PG Degree	45	32.85
Diploma	8	5.84
Total	137	100

The Table-5 illustrates that 58.39% are Under Graduate, 32.85% are Post Graduate, 5.84% are possessing Diploma and 2.92% are H.Sc. qualified. Therefore, it was clear that most of the respondents (58.39%) are Under Graduate.

Table-6: Residence

Residence	Frequency	Percent
Urban	45	32.85
Rural	92	67.15
Total	137	100

It is observed from the Table-6 that 67.15% belongs to Rural area and 32.85% belongs to Urban area. Hence, it is found that most (67.15%) of the respondents belongs to Rural area.

Table-7: Employment status

Employability Status	Frequency	Percent
Self employed	2	1.46
Agriculture	7	5.11
Private employment	12	8.76
Student	12	8.76
Unemployed	104	75.91
Total	137	100

The analysis of Table-7 shows that 75.91% are Unemployed, 8.76% are employed in Private sectors, 8.76% are Students, 5.11% are Agriculturist, and 1.46% were self employed. Therefore, it was found that majority (75.91%) are Unemployed.

Table-8: Monthly family income

Monthly Family Income	Frequency	Percent
Below 10000	66	48.18
10001 to 20000	41	29.93
20001 to 30000	18	13.14
30001 to 40000	1	0.73
40001 to 50000	3	2.19
50001 and Above	8	5.84
Total	137	100

The Table-8 shows that 48.18% are below 10000 income group, 29.93% are in 10001 to 20000 income group, 13.14% are in 20001 to 30000 income group, 5.84% are above 50001 group, 2.19% are in 40001 to 50000 income group, 0.73% are in 30001 to 40000 group. Therefore, it is evident that most of the respondents (48.18%) are in below 10000 income group.

Utilization of Public library by the respondents

The data on preparation for type of competitive exams, status of member of the public library, advisor to use the public library, period of using the public library, frequency of visiting the public library, utilization of competitive exam books, competitive exam magazines was collected from the respondents and analyzed as below.

Table-9: Preparation for competitive exams

Competitive Exams	Frequency	Percent
NEET/JEE	2	1.46
CBSE-NET/SET	14	10.22
Teacher Eligibility Test (TET)/CTET	19	13.87
ESE/IES	6	4.38
Civil Service Exam	12	8.76
Staff Selection Commission (SSC)	30	21.90
Banking	32	23.36
Railway	27	19.71
Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)	1	0.73
Teachers Recruitment Board (TRB)	13	9.49
Tamilnadu Public Service Commission(TNPSC)	127	92.70

It is revealed from the Table-9 that, 92.70% are in TNPSC, 23.36% are engaged in Banking exam preparation, 21.90% are engaged in preparation for SSC, 19.71% are involved in preparation for Railway exams, 13.87% are engaged in TET preparation, 10.22% are involved in National/State Eligibility Test preparation, 9.49% are preparing for Teachers Recruitment Board, 8.76% are preparing for Civil Service Exam, 4.38% are preparing for Engineering Services Exam, 1.46% are preparing for National Eligibility cum Entrance Test/Joint Entrance Exam, and 0.73% are in preparation for LIC exams. So, it is found that majority (92.70%) are in TNPSC exam preparation.

Table-10: Member of Public Library

Member of Public Library	Frequency	Percent
Yes	66	48.18
No	71	51.82
Total	137	100

The result of the Table-10 shows that, 51.82% are non member of the Public library, and whereas 48.18% are the member of the Public library. Therefore, it is clear that most (51.82%) respondents are not the member of the Public library.

Table-11: Advisor to use the Public library

Advisor to use Public Library	Frequency	Percent
Friends	72	52.55
Teachers	13	9.49
Self awareness	62	45.26
Family members	8	5.84
Competitive exam achievers	32	23.36
Library Professional	5	3.65

The Table-11 reveals that 52.55% of the respondents advisor to use the public library were friends, 45.26% respondents are self aware of using public library, 23.36% of respondents advisor were competitive exam achievers, 9.49% of respondents advisor were teachers, 5.84% of respondents advisor are family members, and 3.65% respondents advisor are library professionals. Therefore, it is clear that most (52.55%) respondents' advisor to use the public library were friends.

Table-12: Period of using Public library

Period of using Public Library	Frequency	Percent
Less than 1 year	91	66.42
1 to 2 years	31	22.63
2 to 3 years	10	7.30
More than 3 years	5	3.65
Total	137	100

The Table-12 illustrates that 66.42% are utilizing the public library less than one year, 22.63% are utilizing the public library for the period of 1 to 2 years, 7.30% are utilizing the public library for the period of 2 to 3 years, and 3.65% of respondents are using the public library for above 3 years. Thus, it is evident that most (66.42%) of respondents are using the public library below one year.

Table-13: Frequency of visiting Public library

Frequency	Frequency	Percent
Daily	106	77.37
Once in 2 days	16	11.68
Twice a week	7	5.11
Weekly	5	3.65
Occasionally	3	2.19
Total	137	100

From the Table-13 it is observed that 77.37% of the respondents daily visits the public library, 11.68% of respondents visits the library two days once, 5.11% of respondents visits weekly 2 days, 3.65% of respondents visits weekly one day, 2.19% of respondents have occasional visit to public library. So, it is found that majority (77.37%) of the respondents daily visits the public library.

Table-14: Utilization of Competitive exam books

Competitive exam Books	Frequency	Percent
Current affairs	73	53.28
Logical reasoning	54	39.42
English language	9	6.57
General studies	25	18.25
Subject specific book	15	10.95
Quantitative aptitude	54	39.42
NCERT Text book	8	5.84
General science	49	35.77
Group discussion	18	13.14
Tamilnadu board Text book	103	75.18
General knowledge	75	54.74
Interview techniques	4	2.92
Information & Communication Technology	8	5.84

The analysis from the Table-14 shows that, 75.18% are interested in reading Text book of Tamilnadu board, 54.74% are reading books on general knowledge, 53.28% are utilizing Current affairs books, 39.42% are reading quantitative aptitude and logical reasoning books, 35.77% of respondents are reading books on General science, 18.25% of respondents are

reading books on General studies, 13.14% are interested in group discussion books, 10.95% are reading subject specific books, 6.57% are reading English language books, 5.84% are interested in reading NCERT text books and Information and Communication Technology books, and 2.92% of respondents are reading books on interview techniques. Thus, it is evident that most (75.18%) of the respondents competitive exam preparation lies in reading Tamilnadu board Text book.

Table-15: Utilization of Competitive exam magazines

Competitive exam Magazines	Frequency	Percent
General Competitive Exam	57	41.61
Engineering Exam	9	6.57
Career News	67	48.91
Civil Services Exam	26	18.98
Banking Exam	11	8.03

The result of the Table-15 shows that 48.91% of the respondents read magazines on career news, 41.61% are reading magazines on general competitive exams, 18.98% reading civil services exam magazines, 8.03% are reading banking exams magazines, and 6.57% are reading engineering exams magazines. Hence, it is found that most (48.91%) of the respondents were reading magazines on career news.

Findings of the study

It was observed from the analysis that the findings are,

- Majority (75.18%) of the respondents are male.
- Most (43.80%) respondents are in 26 to 30 age category.
- Majority of the respondents (87.59%) are unmarried.
- 58.39% of the respondents are Under Graduate.
- Most (67.15%) of the respondents belongs to Rural area.
- Majority (75.91%) are Unemployed.
- 48.18% of the competitive exam aspirants are below 10000 income group.
- Majority (92.70%) are interested in preparing for TNPSC exams.
- Most (51.82%) of the respondents are not the member of the Public library.
- 52.55% of respondents advisor to use the public library were friends.
- Most (66.42%) of respondents are using the public library for below one year.
- Majority (77.37%) of the respondents visits the central library daily for competitive exam preparation.
- Majority (75.18%) of the respondents are reading Tamilnadu board Text book for competitive exam preparation.
- 48.91% of the respondents read magazines on career news.

Suggestion and Conclusion

Based on the findings, it is suggested that, since most of the competitive exam aspirants are using the competitive exam section, the public library can take necessary steps to make them member of the public library. The public library can take suitable action for better utilization of the competitive exam books and magazines since some of the competitive exam resources are less utilized by the competitive exam aspirants. Since most of the respondents were

belong to lower income group their primary source for competitive exam preparation is public library. In Tamil Nadu almost educated unemployed will engage themselves in preparing for some sort of competitive examination for acquiring a job in state or central government. To support those competitive exam aspirants public libraries are providing necessary information sources and services through 'Civil Services and Competitive Exam Section'. Many successful competitive exam achievers usually say that they crack the competitive exams by utilizing the central public libraries. Therefore, the competitive exam aspirants should utilize the resources and services of the competitive exam section at an optimum level for succeeding in their competitive exams.

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