CHAPTER V

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

Public libraries are an integral part of the society. Therefore, they have a social obligation to solve social, economic and political problems. A public library provides necessary infrastructure for successful implementation of the educational programmes of its parent organization. The society is undergoing rapid changes. The changes in the society have naturally affected the changing needs. Public library must become an active agent responsive to the needs of the users. Without a qualitative library, advanced education almost is not possible.

As the fifth law of library science says the ‘a library is a growing organism’. So, the problem also grows up as new steps are taken for the betterment of the library. Any public library can neither be built up in a day nor can be purchased but it has to be developed gradually and wisely. A good library is made up by the joint efforts of the library staff and authorities. It is not merely a good building and good collection of books with staff that makes a library. It involves standards of material support and human support namely the public library and concerned authorities, organization and administration, finance, library personnel, and service.
5.1 FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The following are the major findings of the study:

It is found that among the strength of books collections available in public libraries in Tamil Nadu, the Tamil book collections constitute major portion which are 65 per cent and the remaining 35 per cent are other languages such as English, Hindi and Malayalam.

It is observed that all the public libraries have an increasing trend with regard to year-wise additions of book collection during the study period except Cuddalore District Central Library which has 2215 books in the year 2001 and it decreased to 1299 in the year 2010.

It is concluded that the coefficient of variation is higher in Theni public library which leads to less consistency or stability and it is vice versa in Salem public library with regard to the year-wise addition of books among the public libraries in Tamil Nadu.

It is found that the trend coefficients of year-wise additions of books among the public libraries are not statistically significant at 5 per cent level because the t-values for all the public libraries are less than 1.96. The compound growth rate was higher in Thanjavur public library which constitutes 19.571 per cent and lower in Dharmapuri public library which constitute 0.339 per cent.
Regarding the newspapers subscribed by the public libraries in Tamil Nadu, out of 30 public libraries, the patronage of English newspaper is comparatively higher in urban districts than rural districts like Ramanathapuram, since 30 public libraries of rural population do not read English newspapers.

It is understood that the highest number of periodicals subscribed by the Chennai District Central Library and the lowest by Karur District Central Library which constitute 177 and 65 respectively. It is also found that the majority of the subscription of periodicals is monthly among the selected public libraries in Tamil Nadu.

It is depicted that all the selected public libraries have an increasing trend with regard to the number of books lending except in Chennai, Erode, Krishnagiri, Madurai, Theni, Tirunelveli, Vellore and Villupuram District Central Libraries in Tamil Nadu.

It may be concluded that the coefficient of variation is higher in Thanjavur public library which leads to less consistent or stability and it is less in Villupuram which leads to more consistent or stability with regard to number of books lending.

It is revealed that the trend coefficients of number of book lending are statistically significant at 5 per cent and positive in the District Central Libraries namely, Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Dindigul, Kanyakumari, Karur, Namakkal,
It is observed that all the selected public libraries have an increasing trend with regard to the number of reference books used except in Chennai, Erode, Kancheepuram, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Thanjavur, Tirivannamalai and Virudhunagar District Central Libraries in Tamil Nadu because these districts are having a decreasing trend.

It is noted that the coefficient of variation is higher in Theni public library which leads to less consistent or stability and it is *vice versa* in Kanyakumari public library with regard to number of reference books used.

The trend coefficients of number of reference books used during the study period among all the selected public Libraries are statistically significant at 5 per cent except Chennai, Kancheepuram, Madurai, Salem, Thanjavur, Thiruvannamalai, Thiruvarur and Virudhunagar.

It is observed that out of 30 public libraries, Karur and Kancheepuram public libraries are having 12 and 10 computers respectively. It is followed by Ramanathapuram, Trichy, Madurai, Nagapattinam, Pudukkottai, Thiruvarur, Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli District Central Libraries.
It is found that out of 30 public libraries, 24 (80 per cent) each of them have automated by circulation control and OPAC service respectively and only one library (3 per cent) has automated by administration.

It is portrayed that all the public libraries have met with the problems like shortage of staff, lack of adequate physical facilities and inadequate training and improper salary structure of staff. It is followed by lack of planning, administrative delay, inadequate funds and lack of co-operation between the staff and officers which constitute 87 per cent, 83 per cent, 73 per cent and 73 per cent respectively.

It could be observed that out of 360 sample respondents, 60.55 per cent are male whereas the remaining 39.45 per cent are females.

It is concluded that the majority of the public library users fall under the age group of below 30 years.

It is found that the majority of the respondents are Hindus, which constitute 75.80 per cent. It was followed by Christians and Muslims, which constitute 16.70 per cent and 7.50 per cent respectively.

It is concluded that the majority of the library users are come under the category of Backward Class in Tamil Nadu.
It is found that the majority of the public library users in Tamil Nadu are having collegiate education followed by the professionals.

It could be identified Table 4.25 that a maximum of 74.70 per cent of the total respondents belong to nuclear family system, whereas the remaining 25.30 per cent of the respondents belong to joint family system.

It could be inferred that the important family sizes among the respondents are three to five members and less than three members per family which constitute 37.80 and 29.20 per cent to the total respectively.

Regarding the family income of the public library users, it could be seen that the important family incomes among the respondents are less than Rs.1,20,000, Rs.1,20,000 to 1,80,000 and Rs.2,40,000 to 3,00,000 which constitute 28.30, 27.30 and 23.90 per cent to the total respectively.

It is concluded that the majority of the respondents opined that the self-interest is the most important factor influencing to avail public library services in Tamil Nadu.

It is revealed that out of 360 selected public library users in Tamil Nadu, 120 (33.33 per cent) are students, followed by unemployed persons, retired persons, private employees and government employees which constitute 21.11 per cent, 16.67 per cent, 15.56 per cent and 13.33 per cent respectively.
It is found that out of 360 selected public library users in Tamil Nadu, the majority of them 200 (55.56 per cent) come under the category of urban area and the remaining 160 (44.44 per cent) are under the category of rural area.

It is inferred that out of 360 respondents, 96 (26.67 per cent) are visiting the library for reading the newspapers followed by reading novels, taking books and novels, taking reference materials, reading articles and journals and reading stories which constitute 20.00 per cent, 18.33 per cent, 15.00 per cent, 13.33 per cent and 6.67 per cent respectively.

It is understood that out of 360 respondents, the majority of them 171 (47.50 per cent) are visiting the library daily and it is followed by 2 or 3 in a week, once in a month, once in week and occasionally which constitute 18.89 per cent, 15.28 per cent, 11.39 per cent and 6.94 per cent respectively.

It is found from the chi-square analysis that among the nine socio-economic variables, gender, age, marital status, religion, community, family type, education, family size and family income with level of attitude towards the services of public libraries in Tamil Nadu, only three variables such as marital status, religion and education are having significant relationship with level of attitude. In case of other variables are not having significant relationship with level of attitude towards the services of public libraries.
It is concluded from the factor analysis that the following factors are determining the attitude of the library users towards the services rendered by the public libraries in Tamil Nadu:

a. Users’ Satisfaction
b. Gaining of Computer Knowledge
c. Easy to borrow the books
d. Sufficient collection of books and materials
e. Arrangement of books

5.2 A FEW SUGGESTIONS

The following suggestions are advanced:

- In agent subscription the most important benefit is the follow up action, which is done by agents. Journals of different disciplines, multiple copies can be ordered while subscribing through agents.

- Subscription of new serial, enter details of new serial, request for specimen copy, approval process, ordering, subscription details, renewal of subscription invoice processing, invoice updates, payment requisition, payment cheque updates, serial recording, claims monitoring schedule up dates, reminder notices and receive status enquiry. There are problems in
the above routine work system. So, a separate staff is needed to maintain periodicals.

- To measure the utility of the current periodical usage slip should be pasted.

- Library staff themselves should do binding of periodicals. It reduces the library expenditure.

- Periodicals should be kept at DCLs hostels for students so that they can make use of it during their leisure time.

- Some of the DCLs introduced computerization of library, e-journals, e-mail facility at their DCLs. If this facility is provided in all the DCLs, communications will be faster and easier. There will be greater opportunity for resource sharing and networking.

- Good canteen facility, safe drinking water, and toilet facility must be provided.

- Adequate facilities for utilizing current e-books may be provided.

- Visual materials like Encyclopedia CDs and DVDs which would be useful should be provided.
5.3 CONCLUSION

The present study reveals that more and more people, research guides and scholars have been using the District Central Libraries. There seems to be greater scope for further improvements in terms of equipment, technology and facilities. The style and system of functioning of the District Central Libraries are to be enhanced both qualitatively and quantitatively still. Adequate incentives and encouragements also could be provided to library users. A few advanced level academic exercises like workshops, refresher courses, seminars and guest lectures become necessary for updating knowledge and know-how. The recent developments in the field of modernization should be made known to the public and has become essentially imperative in this dynamic branch of exploration of truth.

This researcher has been experiencing a supreme sense of joy and satisfaction as he has been giving the final touches to this modest thesis. He is optimistic that this work may prove to be an addition to the already available fund of knowledge and lead to greater success.

5.4 SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Research studies under the following heads may be made:


c. Job Satisfaction of Staff Serving Public Libraries in Tamil Nadu.

d. A SWOT Analysis of Public Libraries in Tamil Nadu, and

e. The Users’ Levels of Utilisation of Public Libraries in Tamil Nadu.