ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

Topic: Public Libraries in Tamil Nadu – A Study with Special Reference to the Socio-Economic Conditions of the Users

Guide: Dr. P. Balasubramanian, Deputy Librarian, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli – 627 012.

Candidate: S. Baalachandran, Reg. No.: 4448.

ABSTRACT

A public library has been regarded as an integral part of the social framework from the very beginning. It is considered as a social institution, charged with the responsibility of serving the information needs of the society without any discrimination. In a developing country like India, special emphasis is laid on literacy, adult education, formation and academic education. The public library should supplement the formal education in schools, colleges and Universities. It should provide books and other library material for self-education, recreation, information and knowledge. It should also provide audio visual materials for the neo-literates and even illiterates of functional literature, and reading circles so that they may make the best use of other life in the society, become good citizens and discharge their social responsibilities. Besides supplementing traditional knowledge, it muses also enable them to gain experience about their own vacation.

A public library can be defined as a library which is financed for most part out of public funds. It is intended as an auxiliary educational institution providing a means of self-education which is endless, which is giving reliable information freely and without partially on a wide variety of subjects. It inculcates the interest among as it possesses large number of books, journals, magazines, periodicals, reports and newspapers. Hence, this research work is concerned with the users of public libraries in Tamil Nadu and to analyse their socio-economic conditions.

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.