Chapter 3

Research Methodology
CHAPTER – 3
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

The Chapter I & II gives information regarding the significance of the problem under study and for reviewing the literature related to the study. This chapter deals with the methodology followed in this study. Generally research refers to a search for information on a particular topic.

Research methodology is a plan of action for a research work and briefs on how data is collected, analyzed and presented. This will give the relevant information on the topics being searched for. This brings out the details pertaining to the technical issues in the study, which will facilitate the reader to assess the quality of the information received.

The theoretical studies and also the studies based on testing different strategies and ideas relating to the public library services have been dealt with in the previous chapters. In this chapter objectives, hypothesis and methodology used in the study are presented.

3.1 Research design

Research design is purely and simply the framework or plan for a study that guides the collection and analysis of the data. The research design indicates the methods of research that includes gathering information and sampling. Primary data were collected by conducting direct structured interview using questionnaire. All the respondents were asked the same questions in the same fashion and they were informed the purpose of study. Sampling plan decided about the sampling unit, sample size and sampling frames. The survey was conducted from the public library staff and users. For the study the samples were drawn using random sample method.
3.2 Research Instrument

The data for this study were collected from primary sources through a questionnaire. Initially, secondary sources of data were collected from books, journals, and websites for identifying the population and sample. The unit of analysis in this research study is public library services for children in Tamilnadu with special reference to Chennai and Kancheepuram District.

3.3 Need for the study

In this digital era, reading habit of children is declining. In order to promote reading habit among children, parents have to take the children to the children’s section. According to the slogan “Catch them Young”; “Today Children; tomorrow leaders”, if we show them the right path to go to children’s section of public library, they will grow in knowledge. Children will develop their skills through reading right books.

Library says “If you visit me today, the world will visit you tomorrow”

Book says “If you bow and read me today, you can walk straight tomorrow”

Library is a temple of knowledge. Library is the heart and nerve centre of any institution.

Library is a mirror of knowing the change of society.

Hence, there is a need to develop children’s services in Public libraries.

3.4 Objectives of the study

The following objectives are framed for the present study.

- To study how many children visit public libraries.
- To find whether story-telling to children is interesting.
- To find out whether separate section for children is needed in public libraries.
• To find how many children are members of public library.
• To assess whether sufficient seating facilities are available for children.
• To know the working hours of children section.
• To find whether a library teacher is available in children section.
• Whether open access system is available in children section of the public library.
• To find reading habits of children.
• To know whether parents accompany with children.
• To assess availability of electronics multimedia resources for children.
• To examine public library staff opinion about services, availability of materials, extension of activities and subject knowledge.

3.5 Hypotheses

• Many children visit public libraries.
• Story-telling is interesting for children.
• Respondents do not differ in their opinion about public library in having separate section for children.
• Many children are members of public library.
• Respondents do not differ in their opinion about seating facilities available for children in public library.
• Respondents do not differ in their opinion about working hours of children section.
• Respondents do not differ in their opinion about library teacher available in the children section.
• Respondents do not differ in their opinion about open access system available in children section of the Public Library.
• Respondents do not differ in their opinion about Reading habit of children.
• Respondents do not differ in their opinion about parents accompany with children.
• Respondents do not differ in their opinion about availability of Electronic Multi Media Resources for children.
• Staff do not differ in their opinion about services, availability of materials, extensions activities and subject knowledge.

3.6 Methodology
A questionnaire (Appendix) was designed for the purpose of collecting the required data from the chosen samples. The questionnaire comprehensively includes all the aspects regarding necessary information.

3.7 Sample of the Study
In this study 472 Children users and 132 staff were selected randomly as samples of study.

3.7.1 Sampling Plan
The sampling plan is the one in which they have specified the different ways in which the research work should be done. An integral component of a research design is the sampling plan, specifically, as it addresses three questions – whom to survey (the sampling unit), how many to survey (the sample size) and how to select them (the sampling procedure).

3.8 Statement of the Problem
The public library services for children in Tamilnadu with special reference to Chennai and Kancheepuram district: A study
3.9 Method of Collecting Data

a) Primary Data

For this research work most of the information was obtained through primary data with the help of questionnaire.

b) Secondary Data

Past data of the Government records used previously were gathered from the available records and from Government authorities.

3.10 Application of Statistical Tools

The following statistical tools are being applied to test the hypotheses. In order to test the objectives and the formulated hypotheses, the researcher used some standard tools such as Percentage Analysis, Chi-square test and Anova test.

3.10.1 Description of statistical tools

a) Tests of Significance

A very important aspect of the sampling theory is the study of tests of significance, which enable us to decide on the basis of the sample results if:

1. The deviation between the observed sample satisfaction and the hypothetical parameter value is significant.
2. The deviation between two sample statistics is significant.

b) Null Hypothesis (H0)

For applying the test of significance, we first set up of a hypothesis a definite statement about the population parameter. Such a hypothesis is usually a hypothesis of no difference and it is denoted by ‘Ho’.
c) Alternative Hypothesis (Hₐ)

Any hypothesis, which is complementary to the null hypothesis, is called an alternative hypothesis usually denoted by ‘Ha’.

d) Chi-square Test

In the Chi-square test, we are given a set of observed frequencies obtained under some experiment and we test if the experimental result supports a particular hypothesis or theory.

The steps involved chi-square tests are as follows:
1. Observed frequencies ‘O’ are tabulated.
2. Expected frequencies ‘E’ are calculated.
3. The difference between observed and expected frequencies are obtained and square of these difference are tabulated \((O-E)^2\).
4. The values of \((O-E)^2\) obtained in step 3 are divided by the respective expected frequency and the total \(\frac{(O-E)^2}{E}\) is obtained.
5. The calculated of \(X^2\) is compared with the table value of \(X^2\) for given degree at a certain level of significance (generally 5% or 1% level selected).

By degrees of freedom we mean the number of classes to which the value can be assigned arbitrarily if at the 5% or 1% level of significance the calculated value of \(X^2\), the difference between theory and observation is considered to be significant. On the other hand, the calculated value of \(X^2\) is not considered as significant i.e., it is regarded as due to fluctuations of sampling and hence ignored.
3.11 Analysis of the data

The data collected through questionnaires have been tabulated. By using the above mentioned statistical tools, the data have been analysed. Interpretations have been drawn based on the analysis. The findings and observations are the result and outcome of the interpretations made during the course of analysis.

3.12 Scope of the study

The study describes the role of RRRLF in the promotion of the Public Library activities for children. Based on the study, the researcher would examine the Library services for children at the Public Libraries in Chennai and Kancheepuram Districts, Tamilnadu.


3.13 Limitations of the study

The responses from the children could be casual in nature. This may be due to their tender age and aptitude.

1. The correctness of information provided by the children respondents in the personal data would be taken as such.
2. Some of the information provided by the respondents might not be accurate.
3. Getting timely responses from the respondents was a difficult task.
4. The reason for this may be attributed to their busy schedules.
5. The study is restricted only to Chennai and Kancheepuram Districts, Tamil Nadu.

3.14 Chapterisation

Chapter 1: Introduction.

Chapter 2: Review of Related Literature.

Chapter 3: Research Methodology.

Chapter 4: Data Analysis and Interpretations.

Chapter 5: Findings and Suggestions.

3.15 Conclusion

This chapter explains about the research design and tools for the data collection. The limitation of the study is furnished. As such, an understanding of methodology will facilitate our understanding of basic research questions. The next chapter deals with the interpretation of the collected data using the various statistical tools mentioned above. After describing the methodology adopted for carrying out the study, the following chapter provides insights into the findings of the data collected.