ABSTRACT

We are living in 21st century. I.C.T. (Information Communication Technology) “Revolution” has brought many improvements in the Public Library system and their services also. Public Library is people’s university. Children Services in Public Libraries is for specialized category of users. It requires a lot of attention in children’s services.

Book reading habit among children is decreased now-a-days for various reasons. Internet, cartoon network and TV Channels has captured the imagination of the children.

Books and periodicals etc., are available in plenty in Public Libraries, children’s usage is not encouraging in Tamil Nadu. Hence Government of Tamil Nadu should arrange for separate section in all its public libraries.

Today, we have to work to imbibe and cultivate the book reading habits among children. By extension activities, children should be brought into the Library system as regular users.

Regular story-telling hours in Public Libraries for children will benefit them profitability. Public Libraries should insist to conduct story Hours and to insist to follow compulsorily. It inculcates and induces the thinking process among children. Story-telling and hearing is a culture to be cultivated by all children.
Today’s children are tomorrow’s leaders of the nation. Hence, children should be introduced various modern methods to improve their book reading habits.

This survey under this Research was conducted in Chennai and Kancheepuram Districts libraries. Children and library staff have participated in a befitting manner, enthusiastically.

Data were collected by Questionnaire method. The data are analysed and several useful findings are deduced and described in the thesis.

The findings suggest that there are several ways and means to improve their children’s services in Public Libraries of Chennai and Kancheepuram Districts. People’s Library Cess supported Public Library system in Tamil Nadu is rendering wonderful services to children also. Public Library is for the people, by the people and of the people and to children also.

**Summary of Findings**

The inferences and suggestions have been consolidated and narrated in the Findings Chapter.

Findings include social demographic profile of the Respondents (children and library staff) who are using and working in Chennai and Kancheepuram districts libraries.
Majority users are boys and members of the library. Text books are their favourites. Lack of transport facilities hinders their regular visits to the public library. Comfortable chairs and carrels are their demand.

Children are interested in using cartoon network, TV channels and internet for current information.

They voiced for garden facilities for reading and separate audio-video rooms. They prefer using library after school timings. Their main demand is that each and every public library should have a separate section for children. They need free services. They prefer open access system in all public libraries.

Age-wise arrangement of books is their opinion. Library Teachers are necessary for guiding them in using the library. Story-telling and reading aloud are their first preferences in the services for them. Mobile library system is the order of the day, they added.

For children library services, Library Teachers are important to impact usefulness of children’s libraries and their usage. They should be professionally qualified, patience to handle children and many personal traits are required to improve children services.

Children read all kinds of books. To-day they require also Electronic Multimedia Resources for children.
User’s opinion has been collected on membership, satisfaction of the services, library resources, collection, support of library staff and satisfaction level on the services. These points were also projected in the chapter findings.

Various suggestions are indicated in the thesis and a few of them are given as below.

Most of the libraries established are not having children’s sections. Only few libraries have separate section for children in Chennai and Kancheepuram districts. Hence, each and every public library must have separate children’s section. This is important in view of the fact that the cultivation of the reading habit from childhood will be a stepping stone to build a good character to make our generation good as citizens of the country.

Children’s Day has to be celebrated on 14th November every year in all public libraries of Tamil Nadu.

Children’s book writers have to be encouraged to contribute literature through seminars, conference and workshops.