

# A Study of Children Libraries in the Contemporary Era

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**Abstract:** Information service is very important in contemporary times as the present century is the century of information and technology. Today the entire world is functioning on information and our libraries are at the forefront in providing this service. In addition to information centers such as Information Service Centers, Reference Service Centers etc., there are government organizations that are really doing a great job in providing information services. Collectively this information is helpful for one or the other and is very useful in the area of research in future.

**Key Words:** Children library, children study, contemporary era, library.

## 1. Identification and selection of research problem :

For the selection of research problem, the researcher had first got the overview of the problem of concerned subject. The researcher collected data on the subject by making a note of the points corresponding to the problem. Based on collected data, it was found that very less research studies were carried out on children's libraries. So, the present topic was selected for the analytical study of issues related to management of children's libraries, development of book collection, use of technology in libraries, services provided to the readers etc.

## 2. Research objectives :

- 2.1 To get information about the current status of the children's library.
- 2.2 To know about the type of services provided in the children's library.
- 2.3 To know about the types of collection available in the children's library.
- 2.4 To find out whether technology is used in the children's library.
- 2.5 To study the library related activities and programmes organized for children in the children's library.
- 2.6 To know about the purposes for which children visit the children's library.

## 3. Delimitation and demarcation of the population :

"Only children libraries located in South Gujarat" were selected as population for the present study. Keeping in view the time constraint and area, children's libraries were selected for population. Total five children libraries were included in the sample selected for the present study.

## 4. Selection and construction of hypothesis :

- 4.1 There will be a difference in the book collection development of children library.
- 4.2 There will be a difference in the types of services provided in the children library.
- 4.3 There will be a difference in the consumer - oriented programmes organized in children library.
- 4.4 There will be a difference in the consumers' objectives of visiting children library.

## 5. Research tools :

Questionnaire was used as research tools for the present study.

## 6. Data collection and analysis :

The data obtained by the means of questionnaire were analyzed statement wise wherein the prevailing status of children library was discussed in the context of all the statement of questionnaire.

In the context of determined objectives, the researcher collected data from all the five children librarians of South Gujarat; analyzed the collected data statistically; interpreted them; obtained findings and derived fruitful conclusions.

**7. Hypothesis testing :**

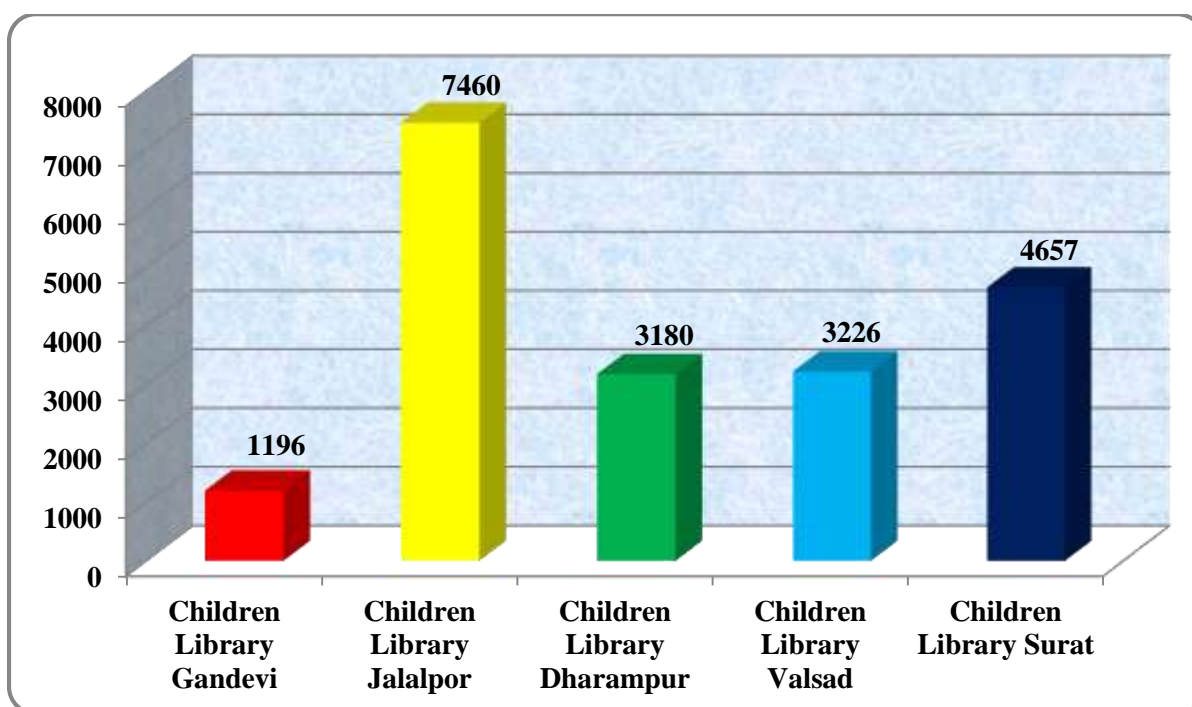
The research findings, the concerned educational implications and suggestions obtained with respect to research hypothesis of the present study were as under :

- (1) **Hypothesis No. 1 “There will be a difference in the book collection development of children library.”**

**Table No. 7.1  
 Book Collection of Children Library**

Name of Library	Children Library Gandevi	Children Library Jalalpor	Children Library Dharampur	Children Library Valsad	Children Library Surat
Number of Books	1196	7460	3180	3226	4657

**Graph No. 7.1  
 Book Collection of Children Library**



The data given in Table No. 7.1 & Graph No. 7.1 shows that the total collection of books of Children Library, Gandevi is 1196, the total collection of books of Children Library, Jalalpor is 7460, the total collection of books of Children Library, Dharampur is 3180, the total collection of books of Children Library, Valsad is 3226 and the total collection of books of Children Library, Surat is 4657.

- **Interpretation :** With reference to hypothesis no. 1, the above given data shows that among all the 05 children libraries, Children Library, Jalalpor - Navsari district has the highest collection of books i.e. 7480 whereas Children Library, Gandevi - Navsari district has the lowest collection of books i.e. 1196.
- **Implication :** It can be said from the above given finding that there is a difference in the book collection of all the children libraries of South Gujarat. Even the book collection of the above - mentioned libraries cannot be said adequate to children’s expectations and the prevailing scenario.
- **Suggestions :** Children libraries should have such a book collection as can satisfy the need of children and supply variety of book collection with shifting time. Continuous efforts should be made in terms of financial support and selection of book to increase the collection of books gradually.

- (2) **Hypothesis No. 2 “There will be a difference in the types of services provided in the children library.”**

**Table No. 7.2**  
**Services provided in Children Library**

Services provided in Library	Children Library Gandevi	Children Library Jalalpor	Children Library Dharampur	Children Library Valsad	Children Library Surat	Total Percentage
Reference Service	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	5 (100%)
Translation Service	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	2 (40%)
Bulletin Board Services	No	Yes	No	No	No	1 (20%)
New Arrival Notice Service	No	No	No	Yes	No	1 (20%)
Photocopy Service	No	No	No	No	No	0 (00%)
Print out Service	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	3 (60%)
Scanning Service	No	No	No	No	Yes	1 (20%)
CD / DVD Writing Service	No	Yes	No	No	No	1 (20%)
<b>Total</b>	2 (25%)	4 (50%)	1 (12.50%)	4 (50%)	3 (37.50%)	<b>14 (35%)</b>

The data given in Table No. 7.2 shows that Reference Service is provided in 100 % children libraries. Print out Service and Other Services are provided in 60 % children libraries. Translation Service, Magazine Cataloguing Service and Social Media Service are provided in 40 % children libraries. Bulletin Board Service, New Arrival Notice Service, Scanning Service and CD / DVD Writing Service are provided in respectively 20 % children libraries whereas Photocopy Service is not provided in any children library.

- **Interpretation :** With reference to hypothesis no. 2, the above given data shows that the above mentioned services are found to be provided in on an average only 35 % of children libraries.
- **Implication :** It can be said from the above given findings that there is a significant difference in the services provided in the children libraries. The hypothesis is accepted here.
- **Suggestions :** All the children libraries are expected to be equipped with the specified services and it should be ensured by the concerned administration or organization that all the above services are provided by all the libraries.

**(3) Hypothesis No. 3 “There will be a difference in the consumer - oriented programmes organized in children library.”**

**Table No. 7.3**  
**Reading Awareness related Programme**

Reading Awareness Programme	Children Library Gandevi	Children Library Jalalpor	Children Library Dharampur	Children Library Valsad	Children Library Surat	Total Percentage
Book Exhibition	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4 (80%)
The Book I Like	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	2 (40%)
Reading Day	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	3 (60%)
Reading Campaign	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	3 (60%)
Elocution Competition	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	3 (60%)
Discussion Forum	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	2 (40%)
Tartu Pustak	No	No	No	No	No	0 (00%)
Symposium / Seminar	No	No	No	No	Yes	1 (20%)
Lecture Series / Discourse	No	No	No	Yes	No	1 (20%)
Essay Competition	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	3 (60%)
Other	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	4 (80%)
<b>Total</b>	2 (18.18%)	4 (63.64%)	1 (54.54%)	4 (36.36%)	3 (63.64%)	<b>26 (47.27%)</b>

The data given in Table No. 7.3 shows that in Children Library - Gandevi, only 18.18 % reading awareness programmes are organized including The Book I Like and other. Children Library - Jalalpor organizes 63.64 % reading

awareness programmes like Book Exhibition, Reading Day, Reading Campaign, Elocution Competition, Discussion Forum, Essay Competition as well as other programmes. Children Library - Dharampur hosts 54.54 % reading awareness programmes including Book Exhibition, The Book I like, Reading Day, Elocution Competition, Essay Competition as well as other programmes. Children Library - Valsad organizes 36.36 % reading awareness programme comprising Book Exhibition, Reading Campaign, Discussion Forum as well as Lecture Series. Children's Library - Surat organizes 63.64 % reading awareness programmes like Book Exhibition, Reading Day, Reading Campaign, Elocution Competition, Symposium / Seminar, Essay Competition as well as other programmes.

In addition, the information provided in table no. 7.3 shows that Book Exhibitions and other events are organized in 80 % of the children libraries; Reading Days, Reading Campaign, Elocution Competitions and Essay Competitions are organized in 60 % of children libraries; 40 % of children libraries organize programmes like The Book I Like and Discussion Forum; Symposium / Seminar and Lecture Series are organized in 20 % of the children libraries where as 'Tartu Pustak (Floating Book) programme is not organized in any of the children libraries.

- **Interpretation :** With reference to hypothesis no. 3, the above given data shows that the above mentioned reading awareness programmes are found to be organized in on an average only 47.27 % of children libraries.
- **Implication :** It can be said from the above given findings that there is a significant difference in the reading awareness programmes organized in various children libraries. The hypothesis is accepted here.
- **Suggestions :** Those libraries which do not conduct orientation programme for the new comers children should start orientation programme for them. With the purpose of connecting and increasing maximum number of library users, the concerned institution should periodically organize various reading awareness programmes or activities such as 'Vanche Gujarat', 'Rashtriya Granth Saptah', 'Librarian's Day' etc. To cope up with changing scenario, all libraries are required to conduct reading awareness programmes to create awareness among the readers.
- **Hypothesis No. 4** "There will be a difference in the consumers' objectives of visiting children library."

**Table No. 7.4**  
**Consumers' Chief Objectives of visiting Children Library**

Objectives of visiting Library	Children Library Gandevi	Children Library Jalalpor	Children Library Dharampur	Children Library Valsad	Children Library Surat	Total Percentage
Reading Books	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	5 (100%)
Reading Magazines	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	5 (100 %)
Reading Newspaper	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	5 (100 %)
Internet Access	Yes	No	No	No	No	1 (20 %)
E-reading	Yes	No	No	No	No	1 (20 %)
Exchanging Books	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	5 (100 %)
Other Objectives	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	3 (60 %)
<b>Total</b>	6 85.71 %	5 71.43 %	4 57.14 %	5 71.43 %	5 71.43 %	<b>25</b> <b>71.43 %</b>

The data given in Table No. 7.4 shows that in all the children libraries, the consumers visit the library to read books, read magazines, read newspapers as well as exchange books. In addition to reading books, reading magazines, reading newspapers as well as exchanging books, consumers visit the library at Children Library, Gandevi to access the internet as well as for E-reading. Consumers in Children Library, Jalalpor, Children Library, Valsad as well as Children Library, Surat also visit the library for other objectives.

- **Interpretation :** With reference to hypothesis no. 4, the above given data shows that the proportion of consumers visiting the children library is 71.43 % and all the consumers' chief objectives of visiting children library are reading books, magazines, newspaper and for exchanging books whereas very few consumers visit library to access internet or for E-reading.
- **Implication :** The above interpretation proves that all the children libraries in South Gujarat differ in terms of the objectives of consumer visits. So, it can be said that there is a significant difference in the consumers' objectives of visiting children libraries. The hypothesis is accepted here.
- **Suggestions :** All libraries should know the chief objectives of the consumers for visiting the library and try their level best to satisfy the maximum needs of the consumers in the context of those objectives. As the present

era is the era of information technology, all the libraries should have internet access and e-reading facilities to make their consumers benefitted with latest reading material.

## 8. Conclusion :

If we want today's generation to turn to libraries, it will be necessary to show them the path to libraries from an early age. Children have emotions, understanding and intelligence in their mind and heart and we just need to cultivate them. One of the keys to cultivate them is to change their perception towards library and show them innumerable positive aspects of visiting library.

Among all type of libraries, 'Children Library' has its own significance as it exposes children to the world. Their connections with books will make their mental, intellectual, emotional and aesthetic development. So, let's lead the would be generation towards library by applying a statement that "There is no alternative of LIBRARY".

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