

Assessment of the Learning Motivations and Role of Family on the Public Library Nonusers

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The study intends to assess the role of family on the nonusers of public library. Socio-economic variables of the nonusers of public library are also equally important, to some extent. The paper has tried to explore the relation with parental aspirations and parental involvement in shaping learning motivation among the nonusers.

Method: Information from various sources, print and non-print, insisted to concentrate on the particular issue on public library nonusers and frame a certain questionnaire to gather data from the nonusers, about themselves, their parents and family, employing survey and observation mode. The study covers 114 respondents, all of whom are adult, covering rural and urban areas, both male and female also. Primary data have been tabulated into tables and analyzed accordingly.

Findings: The study finds that parental socio-economic status largely shape the life-long learning motivation. Dissociation with public library by the family members is also pivotal among the nonusers of public library. Lack of exposure to more learning materials and intuitions during childhood and adolescence are also prominent among the nonusers. Parental dissociation from active socio-economic institutions is also found in the study.

Conclusion: Public library nonusers are from both urban and rural areas and the family influences on them are identical. Socio-economic disadvantages are common among majority of the nonusers. Parental aspirations for learning motivations for their children/ youngsters were not strong on the nonusers. Lack of courage in participation in active socio-economic activities, in the part of parents, is also a driving force among the nonusers. The study aspires for further exploration in this area to have more concrete idea in this assessment study.

KEYWORDS: Public Library; Nonuser; Library and Family; Family Role and Library; Library usage and Family.

INTRODUCTION

The role of family in shaping the learning process, both formal and informal, of an individual has received substantial attention since long. In general, parental expectations and socio-economic status of a family play a

critical role in learning success. Multiple researches to determine those factors behind nonuse and user study which mainly predict the factors of demographic variables and, to a lesser extent, on sociological and psychological aspects (Powell, Taylor & McMillen, 1984). Public library being a community-centric service institution aiming people's engagement in formal and informal learning exposure for socio-cultural and intellectual development has often engaged assessing community's library use behavior. But the problem of nonuse of public library by a major section of the community has remained a digging scope to the library professionals, educationists and others. Multiple user surveys have been carried out ever to study their different traits and despite all those studies the public library are still a place for minor section of the community and 'only superficially open to all' (Muddiman et al., 2001). It is of concern to socio-cultural and democratic values of the community if the fruits of public library do not reach to majority of the community. Assessment of nonuse and the nonusers is need of the hour to cope up with the alienation from the majority of community by the public library.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

During the early years nurturing and supportive families are important for children's healthy development and positive feelings towards learning (Lopez; Caspe and McWilliams, 2016). They further states that early adulthood, guidance and encouragement from family members help shape young people's attitudes towards school, relationships, and life. Again in this ICT-led late modern period the role of family in social acceleration is equally valid. Rosa (2003) observes that in the basic structure of our societal realm of production and reproduction family and work help to stabilize social life. Naturally the creation and development of social capital and motivation for social acceleration largely depend on learning. People must have to be involved in learning. Smith and Spurling (2001) map the factors that lead and greatly influence life-long learners across three spheres of workplace, family and community. Characteristics like educational level, age, gender, income level etc are very much common in nonuse or use study in public library context. Intrinsic somatic barriers (Houston, 2011), household characteristics (Sin & Kim, 2008), personal priorities and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) (Houston & Westbrook, 2013), extent of leisure (Hayes & Morris, 2005) are some of the factors have been studied in search of the reasons of nonuse of public libraries. When families offer children and youth opportunities to explore and cultivate their interests - both in and out of school, children develop feeling of competence and a desire to learn. Lopez; Caspe and McWilliams (2016) publish their Harvard Family Research Project report with these words, "Children and youth learn in countless ways, anywhere, anytime. And one of the most powerful levers of children's learning—from the early childhood years through adolescence—is families". The area of study deserves much exploration further assuming its importance to penetrate into the issue of nonuse by a vast section of the community. Use of other nonpublic libraries and individual characteristics (D'Elia, 1980), perception of the people towards library utility (Buckland, 1988), role and relation of late-modern or post-modern society with public library nonuse (Rasmussen and Jochumsen, 2007) are also the issues discussed in relation to the issue on nonuse of public library.

Goal of Study/ Problem statement: Since early modernity public libraries try to serve the community's one and all with its universal service spirit which is the driving force based on democratic principle. During this late modern period it is prominent that all members of the community do not visit or access public library. A major section of people remains alienated from these people's own institutes. So the study intends to learn about the nonusers' socio-demographic nature; to ascertain their family chores; to assess the perception of their family towards public library and to identify whether family factors are responsible in nonuse of public library.

Methods: The study is based on primary data. The nonusers as sample were selected from the adults only. For the purpose of gathering data, survey and observation mode were adopted. A set of twenty questions were set in a

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questionnaire in this regard. With a freely random selection approach a total of 114 respondents all of whom are nonusers were the total sample whom from data has been gathered and presented here. Data tabulation has been accomplished with the tool of tables.

DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS:

Table 1: Socio-Demographic data of the Nonusers

Variables		Responses	
		Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	65	57%
	Female	49	43%
	Total	114	100%
Age Group	18-30	29	25.43%
	31-45	33	28.94%
	46-60	31	27.1%
	Above 60	21	18.41%
	Total	114	100%
Academic qualification	Graduate or above	25	21.92%
	Secondary	43	37.71%
	Primary	32	28%
	Primary Drop out	14	12.27%
	Total	114	100%
Occupation	Job-seeker	13	11.4%
	Civil servant	7	6.13%
	Housewife	21	18.41%
	Farmer	24	21%
	Self-employed	33	28.94%
	Jobless	16	14%
	Total	114	100%
Income (Annual)	No Fixed income	41	35.96%
	Less than 3 lakh	47	41.22%
	3-6 Lakh	21	18.41%
	6 lac or Above	5	4.38%
	Total	114	100%

Data gathered from the respondents are all adult people. Majority of the respondents are here male people (57%). Age as a demographic factor of nonusers shows that young and middle aged people dominate among them. To mention academic qualification as an issue data shows that 40% or more respondents are either with primary level of education or illiterates (primary drop-outs). Graduate people are also fuel the list of nonusers. Occupational variables bring the issue of joblessness, job seekers, farmers, housewives, self-employed people are the majority of nonusers' community. Economic instability or weaker occupational support to life accelerates nonuse of public

library. In terms of income majority of the respondents are far from enjoying luxury in today's term of economical scenario. Table 1 data shows that unstable profession and occupation and weaker income are driving forces of nonuse.

Table 2: Parents' Income and Involvement

Variables		Response	
		Frequency	Percentage
Income of parents / annual household income	No such estimation	39	34.20%
	Below 3 lakh	47	41.23%
	3 lakh- 6 lakh	17	14.91%
	6 lakh and above	11	9.64%
	Total	114	100%
Parents' active Involvement	Political institutions	18	15.78%
	Religious institutions	34	29.82%
	Social institutions	26	22.80%
	Not such	36	31.57%
	Total	114	100%

Among family variables parents' income and integrity with certain socio-political institutions largely shape the family's goal and objectives. In terms of total household's annual income of 34% families is not certain. Major part (41%) is under 3 lakh of annual income that drives them to struggle with daily expenses. In terms of motivation of the parents, 32% has no such social commitment, again 30 % involved with religious institutions. Table 2 data shows, lack of active motivations for social change influences their children/ youngsters in their motivation for learning.

Table 3: Family Approach toward Learning & Library

Variables		Responses	
		Frequency	Percentage
Parents' attitude towards public library	Much necessary	21	18.41%
	Necessary	75	65.78%
	Not necessary	18	15.78%
	Total	114	100%
Any of Family member visits Public library	Yes	9	7.89%
	No	89	78%
	Don't Know	16	14%
	Total	114	100%

The above data in Table 3 shows that 18 % parents think public library is not necessary. Although most (66%) of the parents favours public library which is a sign of public libraries' value and service image. At the same time, it drives to study further why then they or their wards become nonusers. 18 % parents cherish the necessity of public libraries very strongly. Nonusers' family members mostly (78%) do not visit or use public libraries. Family members' involvement or exposure to some object or organization of learning influences others as data shows here.

Table 4: Parental Aspirations toward learning

Variables		Responses	
		Frequency	Percentage
Exposure to More learning objects by Parents	Never	37	32.45%
	Often	21	18.41%
	Seldom	56	49.11%
	Total	114	100%
Parents took to educational places (except formal edu.)	Never	38	33.32%
	Often	19	16.66%
	Seldom	57	49.99%
	Total	114	100%

Family members’ aspirations, specifically parents’ aspiration to shape learning motivation is of great importance that shape thirst for learning in later life. Among the respondents most of the nonusers’ parents do not expose them to learning materials in their childhood or adolescent days. Again majority of parents do not take to their children/ youngsters to educational places like museum, science shows, archives etc.

CONCLUSION

The study findings indicate that a major section of nonusers of public library are socio-economically disadvantaged and belong to equally disadvantaged family. Less involvement or dissociation from active socio-cultural institutions by the parents largely fuel the nonuse of public library. Another factor is alienation from the public library by family members or parents. Parental aspiration to shape learning motivation or social acceleration of their children/ youngsters by familiarizing them with more learning objects and learning places also are the factors that drive for learning apathy or deficiency in later life.

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