Research Paper Library Science

An Evaluation Study of Library Services of Children's Library of Govt. Divisional Public Library Kota

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ABSTRACT

The Paper reveals the overall scenario of Children Library of Govt. Divisional Public Library Kota like their Services, Collection, and Membership etc. and finally Drawbacks are suggested by recommendation to improve the Kids Library Services proven the need of extending the services as per IFLA and UNESCO guidelines

Keywords : IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions), UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), ICT (Information and Communication technology), CD (Compact Disk), DVD (Digital Versatile Disc), Network

Introduction

"The Child and the Library" The very words have a charm that recalls the opening dreams of life. Or perhaps, "the child and the book" are words that carry more memories Library services for children have never been as important for children and their families all over the world, as they are today. Access to the knowledge and the multicultural riches of the world, as well as lifelong learning and literacy skills have become the priority of our society. A quality children's library equips children with lifelong learning and literacy skills, enabling them to participate and contribute to the community. It should constantly respond to the increasing changes in the society and meet the information, cultural and entertainment needs of all children. Every child should be familiar and comfortable with the local library and possess the skills to find their way around libraries in general.

What is a children's library?

A children's library is a place where there are books, children and committed and enthusiastic staff to assist the children to develop their reading skills. Libraries depend on financial and staffing resources and come in a variety of styles.

Children's libraries are special collections of books intended for juvenile readers and usually kept in separate rooms of general public libraries. Some children's libraries have entire floors or wings dedicated to them in bigger libraries while smaller ones may have a separate room or area for children. They are an educational agency seeking to acquaint the young with the world's literature and to cultivate a love for reading. Their work supplements that of the public schools. Services commonly provided by public libraries may include storytelling sessions for infants, toddlers, preschool children, or after-school programs, all with an intention of developing early literacy skills and a love of books. One of the most popular programs offered in public libraries are summer reading programs for children, families, and adults.

Difference between Adult libraries and children's libraries

When adults come to a library, they usually know how to read and they are seeking Information on a specific topic, or a certain kind of fiction book to read. Adults will usually seek out staff and ask for assistance. If adults cannot read and if they are interested, they can be directed to adult literacy classes in their community. Young children may not be able to read so they need to be attracted to the library and, whenever possible, assisted with their reading skills. Children need to feel comfortable in a library setting and should be gently encouraged to participate in the activities offered. The staff should play an interactive role with the children. It is a very demanding job, but also a very rewarding one.

Currant Children library Scene in India with special reference to Rajasthan

Kid's Public libraries have always been the door to teach for a great majority of the Kids populations that they serve. They are knowledge centers and contribute to lifelong learning to the kids. For India, there are bumps in the road that leads to the goal of having an institution to serve the masses, which is even more imperative in the present information society, in a nation where 40 percent of the population is living below the poverty line. A massive investment in Kids public libraries is needed to make them true information resource centers for the Kids, Adults and Young's.

Information gap on Children's Libraries in India

Over the years, the need for accurate and comprehensive information on children's libraries, the quality and quantity of books, the languages used, the qualification of librarians and library staff, need for capacity building, and functioning of public libraries has been felt. There is scant published work available on status and functioning of children's libraries in India. Therefore, to plan a relevant policy for children's libraries it is essential that some data – both qualitative and quantitative be collected and analyzed.

Currant Status of Children library of Govt. Divisional Library Kota

Govt Divisional Public Library Kota is being started in year 1956 under the Education Department of Rajasthan. Initially it has been run as Mobile Van Library but after passing time, the Mobile Library Services become failed and finally closed. But many Other Important Library Services Started for Special Attention towards Kids Readers are in year 1985, Separate Children Section or Kids services started by library but due to lack of space, Services are being served for many years from the Information Centre, Nayapura Kota by our Mr. Nathu lal

Verma, Book Lifter and Mrs.Shashi Jain , Kids Section -In charge.Presently our kids services are delivered from the Our Own New Campus situated at Infront of income Tax Residential Colony, CAD Colony Campus, Dadabari Kota Rajasthan

Aims and Objectives of Study

The major aims and objectives of the present study include:

- To assess the actual state of Children Section of Govt. Divisional Public Library Kota and their performance
- To ascertain the variety of the sources and study material available in Kids libraries to cater the various study requirement.
- To assess the quality and services efficiency of the Kids library in context with the availability of electronic resources with the help of Internet.
- To assess and determine that how effectively and efficiently Kids libraries are serving the need of its users.
- To identify the limitation and failure of services and to recommend ways to improve such services.
- Finally to know the extent of IT application in providing effective Kids library services.

Scope and Limitations

The present study is proposed to bring within its confines to the Kids Readers, Kids Care Takers and Kids Librarians and Library Administrators of Children Section of Govt. Divisional Public Library of Kota Rajasthan and their use habit, information requirement, information and communication behavior, their approach to information, the extent of their awareness of information system and services in comparative analysis.

Audience

The audience for the Research is practicing librarians, library administrators and decision-makers, students and instructors in library and information science training programs.

Analysis of Collected Data

S.No.	Library Specifications	Quantity	Others
1	Total Kids Members	242	
2	Total Kids Books	12000	
3	Total Kids Magazines	14	
4	Total Kids Reference Sources	306	
5	Total Staff for Kids	02	
6	Total Kids Library Space	224 Sq.Ft	
7	Total Kids Games and Toys	95	
8	Total e-books	55	
9	Total e-Kids periodicals	2	

Table: 1 Shows the Currant Scenario of Govt. Divisional Library Kota

Item no.1 of Table 1(Total Kids Members)

Total children (0-12) in Kota city are 118,139 as per figure from Census India report on 2011. There were 62,958 boys while 55,181 are girls. The child forms 11.80 % of total population of Kota City. Table 1 reveals that there is only 242 Kids Members in the library while the population of Kids of Kota city is 118139. Means its shows very much up sating No. of Readers (Approx 0.2% only).it also shows carelessness of Promoting Library services amongst Kids Readers.

Item No.2 of Table.No.1 (Total Kids Books)

reveals that total collections of books as per strength of Reader are in excellent position. Approx 50 books are available per Reader so is a nice sign of Collection Building Policy of Kids library.

Item No.3 of Table.No.1 (Total Kids Magazines)

reveals that according to the strength of Readers, the No. of Magazines is in Good No. like 14.

Item No.4 of Table.No.1 (Total Kids Reference Sources)

depicted that Reference sources available for kids are good in number according to available reader strength but not up to date.

Item No.5 of Table.No.1 (Total Staff for Kids)

shows that only two employees are deputed for kid's library section which represent the Neglected Section of library means low emphasis is given to kids section while it required more no. of employee.

Item No.6 of Table.No.1 (Total Kids Library Space)

shows that library has only 224 Sq.ft Carpet Area which is totally insufficient to provide the library service.

Item No.7 of Table.No.1 (Total Kids Games and Toys)

that library has total 95 toys including games which is right numbers according to currant strength but almost toys and games are traditional but in currant time kids have fun in logical and electronic games

Item No.8 of Table.No.1 (Total e-books)

shows that library has 55 books which is very less in a numbers in comparison to traditional books where ratio of books and reader is 50:1 while in e –books and readers (1e-books:5 Readers)

Item No.9 of Table.No.1 (Total e-Kids periodicals):

shows that the collections of e-kids Periodicals are not up to the mark or below average need of readers.

S.No.	Age wise Categories of Members	Quantity	Others
1	1-4	6	
2	5-8	72	
3	9-13	164	

Table: 2 shows the Age wise Categories of Kids Members of Govt. Divisional Library Kota

Table 2: depicted that kids belonging to the age between 0-4 are only 6 while the strength of kids age of 5-8 are 72 followed by age of 9-13 are 164.it means the as the graph of age being increasing strength of kids are successively increased .

S.No.	Category wise Members	Quantity	Others
1	Sc Kids	42	
2	ST Kids	56	
3	General Kids	125	
4	Minority Kids	19	
5	She Baby Kids	37	
6	Handicapped Kids	03	

Table: 3 Shows the Category wise Child Members of Govt. Divisional Library Kota

Table 3: reveals that Strength of SC or ST candidates are very good according to whole membership 242 but Number of handicapped candidates are very few like 3 is very shameful numbers while Ratio of Male and Female kids Reader is also vary differentiating.



Figure: 1 Shows the Computerized Playing Game Stations of Govt. Divisional Library Kota

Figure 1: reveals the Facilities related to Computerized Game Station provided to the Kids at Govt Divisional Public Library Kota. Is an fun station where Kids can take the interest of Fun or Joy of Commuter Gaming and e-stories Educational CDs and VCDs.



Figure: 2 Shows the Children Reading Book at Govt. Divisional Library Kota

Figure 2: exposing the Children's Reading Area facility where at a time 10 students can Read the Books, magazines and other entertaining literature.



Figure: 3 Shows the Children Book Collection at Govt. Divisional Library Kota

Figure 3: expose the collection Area of Kids where all Books and Periodicals are arranged in a systematic manner. Latest kids magazines are displayed at Display racks.



Figure: 4 Shows the Children Toys Collection at Govt. Divisional Library Kota

Figure 4: expose the Toys and Games available for Kids in library .Kids take fun of all indoor and outdoor games in library especially in Leisure time or after School in evening.



Figure: 5 Shows the Children Stack Area at Govt. Divisional Library Kota

Figure 5 Exposing the Stack area of kids where all books are arranged according to the Dewey decimal classification Scheme and it's also highlighted this thing that all the Stacks are sized to the Kids Heights which is very

Recommendation:

Item No.1 of Table.No.1 (Total Kids Members)

- Urgent Need to increase the Kids membership.
- Need to popularize the library service amongst kids of Kota City.
- Membership formalities should be minimize and should be given free of cost.

Item No.2 of Table.No.1 (Total Kids Members)

- Currant Standards for Books Collection Building Policy Should be maintained in future.
- Collection of Books should be developed in multiple of increasing Reader strength

Item No.3 of Table.No.1 (Total Kids Magazines)

- Currant Standards for Magazines Acquiring Policy Should be maintained in future.
- It is required that No. of Magazines should be acquired in library as per increasing strength of Readers.

Item No.4 of Table.No.1 (Total Kids Reference Sources)

- Urgent need to purchase the Contemporary Reference Sources. So department of Language and Library and RRRLF should allocate the special grant to the Kids Library.
- E-Reference Sources Should be purchased for quick response of Ready Reference queries of kids.

Item No.5 of Table.No.1 (Total Staff for Kids)

- Strength of Kids library staff should be increased according to reader strength.
- a well learned librarian should be separately appointed for kids library and specially if possible then should appoint lady librarian

Item No.6 of Table.No.1 (Total Kids Library Space)

- Specified Area for kid's library has only 224 Sq.ft Carpet Area which is totally insufficient to provide the library service so it's required urgently a large carpet area.
- Carpet Area of Kids libraries should be according to IFLA Recommendation.

Item No.7 of Table.No.1 (Total Kids Games and Toys)

- Collection of toys and games are in Satisfactory Condition so consistency should be maintained in future.
- Logical and Education Games Should be purchased to the Kids Readers for Brain storming.

Item No.8 of Table.No.1 (Total e-books)

- Urgent need to purchase the e-books for kid's library because kids always habitual to inspire by audio visual Material.
- Library should purchase the Kindle Reader or e reader for kids.

Item No.9 of Table.No.1 (Total e-Kids periodicals)
- Number of e –Periodicals for kids should be increased according to the Reader strength.
- Freely available Kids periodicals can also used for Kids Reader.

Table-2(Age wise Categories of Kids Members of Govt. Divisional Library Kota)
- Strength of kid's reader belonging to the age of 0-4 should be increased. Because it is an appropriate age for inculcating reading hobbits.
- little bit emphasis should also require to strengthen readers of age belonging between 5-8

Table-3(Category wise Child Members of Govt. Divisional Library Kota)
- No. of Handicapped Kids Readers should be promoted to entertain the library.
- Separate section for physically challenged readers should be created in library
- For this creation we have to send the proposals to the RRRLF for Grants of 7.5 lakh by the Recommendation of Director, Department of Language and Library Govt of Rajasthan, Jaipur.
- To promote the library services amongst the she Kids we have to strengthen She Kids Library Membership.
- Interesting literature related to she Kids should be purchased and availed to baby readers to attract the Library and their services.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In a nutshell we can conclude that the Children Section or Kids Library Section of Govt. Divisional Public library is good in some of sense like the important work of Kids libraries are cultivation of the reading habit from childhood will be a stepping stone to build up a good character to make our generation good citizens of country and it is true and done by the existing libraries but Many of the fields has urgent need to attention so we have to follow the Rules and Regulation of IFLA Guidelines. By providing a wide range of materials and activities, public libraries provide an opportunity for children to experience the enjoyment of reading and the excitement of discovering knowledge and works of the imagination. Children and their parents should be taught how to make the best use of a library and how to develop skills in the use of printed and electronic media. Public libraries have a special responsibility to support the process of learning to read, and to promote books and other media for children. The library must provide special events for children, such as storytelling and activities related to the library's services and resources. Children should be encouraged to use the library from an early age, as this will make them more likely to remain users in future years. In multilingual countries, books and audio-visual materials for children should be available in their mother tongue." The United Nation's *Convention on the Rights of the Child* stresses the right of every child to the development of his or her full potential, the right to free and open access to information, materials and programs, under equal conditions for all, irrespective of:

- Age
- Race
- Sex
- Religious, national and cultural background
- Language
- Social status or
- Personal skills and abilities.

Growing up is a local community activity, not a global activity for children, but one affected by global issues?

Target groups welcomed by the children's library, either individually or in groups, include:

- Babies and toddlers
- Pre-school children
- School children up to 13
- Special needs groups
- Parents and other family members
- Caregivers
- Other adults working with children, books and media.
- To facilitate the right of every child to
  - Information
  - Functional, visual, digital and media

Literacy
- Cultural development
- Reader development
- Lifelong learning
- Creative programs in leisure time

- To provide children with open access to all re sources and media
- To provide various activities for children, parents and caregivers
- To facilitate families' entry into the community
- To empower children and to advocate for their freedom and safety
- To encourage children to become confident and competent people
- To strive for a peaceful world.

Funding

Children are a worthwhile "investment". Children's libraries need a budget to maintain and improve the quality of materials and services offered to the public. Standard budgets can be supplemented with outside sources of funding, such as:

- Government grants (for special programs and new initiatives)
- Cultural organizations (for music, dance, drama, arts, historical and ethnic presentations)
- Publishers (for visits by authors or illustrators and for other give-away)
- Sponsorship (local businesses and volunteer organizations to support specific events)
- Non-governmental agencies
- matching funds.

Materials

Children's libraries should include a variety of developmentally appropriate materials in all formats, including printed materials (books, periodicals, comics, and brochures), media (CDs, DVDs, and cassettes), and toys, learning games, computers, software and connectivity.

Selection criteria

Building collections and services, librarians should choose materials which are:

- High quality
- Age appropriate
- Current and accurate
- A reflection of a variety of values and opinions
- A reflection of local community culture
- An introduction to the global community.

Space

Children of all ages should find the library an open, inviting, attractive, challenging and non-threatening place to visit. Ideally, a children's service needs its own library area, which must be easily recognizable (e.g. special furnishings, decorations and colors) and distinct from other parts of the library. Libraries offer a public space where children can meet each other or can meet others in cyber-space.

Services

Children's services should be taken as important and treated equally with those for adults.

Children's libraries should meet the information, cultural and entertainment needs of the community's children by:

- Lending a variety of materials
- Offering information and reference services
- Helping children select materials
- Involving children in the selection of materials and development of library services
- Offering training in library skills and information literacy
- Doing motivating activities (reading promotion)
- Offering creative programming and storytelling
- Educating parents and caregivers
- Providing reference and training for caregivers, preschool teachers, school teachers and librarians
- Co-operating with and supporting community organizations and institutions.

Networking
A network with other organizations and institutions in the local community is important and beneficial.

Investigating the information and cultural needs of the community and trying to match those needs with library resources insures that local institutions do not compete but co-operate to the benefit of children.

Schools are important partners. The school library provides support for the educational process and the children's library deals with self-education and leisure reading.

Healthcare centers, day-care centers, kindergartens and other care giving places are institutions which are necessary and welcome partners, especially in reading promotion activities for children, parents and professionals.

Publicity
A positive, public profile for children's libraries is most important as competition for a child's time and attention grows. Reading and literacy are necessary skills in order to communicate and their value must be constantly reinforced. Human resources Effective and professionally run children's libraries require trained and committed children's librarians.

Desired skills include:

Enthusiasm

Strong communication, interpersonal, team working and problem-solving skills

The ability to network and co-operate

The ability to initiate, be flexible and be open to change

The ability to analyze user needs, plan, manage and evaluate services and programs

An eagerness to learn new skills and develop professionally.

Children's librarians also need a knowledge and understanding of:

Child psychology and development

The theories of reading development and the promotion

Artistic and cultural opportunities

Literature for children in books and related media.

Management and evaluation
It is important that those who manage children's services participate in the planning process for the library as a whole, to insure an awareness and support for children's services in the overall goals and long term plans of the library. Reliable performance information is a necessary tool for evaluation and improvement

Collect statistics related to resources, staff, services, circulation, activities, etc., to provide data for planning, showing accountability and making informed management decisions

Measure staff performance based on standardized competencies.

REFERENCES

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