USE OF COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION RESOURCES IN CITY CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY OF BELAGAVI

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ABSTRACT

Purpose :

The purpose of this study were to examine the use of competative examination, resources (CER) in City Central Library of Belagavi.

Methodology :

The present study employed a survey method with a quantitative approach. The method is used to showcase the use of resources by the competitive resource users. The study is conducted to know the awareness, use,availability, facilities and satisfaction level of

competitive resources (CER) in the City Central Library, Belagavi. A structured questionnaire was prepared and distributed to the users who are preparing for competitive examinations.

Findings :

The findings of study are, 61.38% of the respondents are male and 38.61% are female. The respondents are between the age group of 22 to 24. Most of the respondents (58.39%) are having undergraduates and the majority 58.41% of the respondents belong to rural area. 61.39% of the respondents have taken membership with City Central Library and a large 34.65% of respondents spend time with an average of 7 to 8 hours the preparation for competitive examinations. 66.33% of respondents prefer offline sources and 33.67% prefer online/digital resources to read or to prepare for competitive examinations. 45.54% of the respondents are given their opinion the city central public library is providing good services to prepare competitive examination resources in the library.

Originality/Value :

The study is original in nature as the data were collected directly from users of city central library, Belagavi.

KEYWORDS : *Competitive Examination Resources (CER), CER Users, City Central Library , Belagavi.*

1. Introduction

Public libraries cater to the information needs for all types of users in the society. They keep on updating reading materials in print and non-print.

Technology blending into Public library Systems has become necessary for easy accessibility. In other word users-centric approach is the need of the hour to meet the information needs of everyone in society and hence it is been called as "People's University". The importance of Public Library as defined by Ranganathan's it is "an institution maintained by the community primarily for the social purpose of providing an easy opportunity for self-education". The resources are continually updated with time and space of users' needs in terms of documents, space, and technology for quick access to all sorts and formats of reading resources. Recent surge for competitive examinations and demand for such resources in public libraries have escalated. Every year, millions of students take these tests and succeed. Competitive Exams in India are held mainly in public organizations, intended for the recruitment of suitable candidates for the right job. With demand of Competitive Exam Resources (CER) by the youth who are searching for jobs in various sectors. Today public libraries have become "*A hub for Competitive Exam Resources*." In this context, competitive examination resources like books and magazines or related to competitive examinations are made available in public libraries. In this region of Belagavi district, the City central library has become "Competitive Exam Resources Hub" or "CER HUB" in Belagavi.

2. City Central Library Profile :

The city central library of the Belagavi district, located in the heart of the city it was established in the year 1989 under the jurisdiction of the Belagavi city corporation. This library has 92,000 books, more than 120 magazines and journals, a children's section, an internet browsing center, a reprography and a printout facility. This library has 25,600 members. In addition to this more than 10000 exclusive books on competitive



examinations and more than 300 to 400 daily students are using to appear for Civil Services, and other State and Central competitive examinations.

3. Literature Review:

Review of literature relevant studies in the area of information sources and services for competitive exams were reviewed for the study. A paper by Dilli, K.T. (2010) in a study on the services provided to the students preparing for competitive examinations and said that the age group of 20-22 has faired well over the age group of 23-25 in the Civil Service Examinations conducted by UPSC. Undergraduate students are more interested in competitive exams and post-graduate students are showing less interest. Private college students spend more time in preparation for competitive exams rather than government colleges. Koovakkai, D., & Jalaja, V. (2006) conducted a study on the information needs of career seekers at various stages of their career search. The information users' behaviour is not the same it is varied in different stages. The authors examined their qualifications and whether the information needs are influenced by the qualification. Verma, N. (2000) conducted a study by taking 230 persons before getting a job. They conclude that most public libraries are famous for their competitive exam resources.Julien, H.E. (1999) collected responses from Canadian youths to know the uses of competitive resources and to understand the problems. The open-ended questionnaire and interview methods were used to collect the data from 399 youths. The study concludes that parents, siblings, other family members, family friends, peers, guidance counsellors, teachers, school and public library resources, mass media and government career centres were helpful in career decision-making. information scattering is a very serious problem which was faced by Canadian youths. Availability of sources, lack of knowledge about the

sources and lack of confidence also delayed adolescent career decision-making.

4. Objectives:

The objectives of the study are

1. To explore user awareness about competitive examination resources available in the library.
2. To explore the availability of competitive examination resources.
3. To understand the level of usage of the competitive examination resources.
4. To know the facilities provided by the city's central public library.
5. To identify the user's satisfaction through competitive examination in the public library

5. Methodology:

5.1 Research Design:

The present study employed a descriptive survey method with a quantitative approach. The method is used to collect data to explore the use of competitive resources available in the City Central Library Belagavi.

The users of the who appear for competitive exams of State and Central Governments are selected as samples for the present study. The researcher used a random sampling method for selecting the samples. 101 users responded which accounts for 99% of responses.

Tool for data collection: A structured questionnaire was prepared and distributed to the only users who are preparing for competitive examinations.



6. Respondent's Profile:

The profile or background of the respondents was studied in terms of their gender, library membership, and locality of residence, age group, educational qualification.

Profile	Frequency	Percentage (%)
	Gender	
Male	62	61.38
Female	39	38.61
	Library Membership	
Yes	62	61.39
No	39	38.61
	Residing	
Rural	59	58.41
Urban	42	41.59
	Age group	
Below 18 years	4	3.96
19-21	12	11.89
22-24	39	38.61
25-27	35	34.65
28-30	5	4.95
31 and above	6	5.94
	Qualification	
SSLC	8	7.92
PUC	13	12.87
Under Graduate	56	55.45
Post Graduate	21	20.79
Any Other	3	2.97

Table No.1: General profile of the respondents

Table No.1 shows that out of 101 respondents,the majority is male 61.38% and 38.61% female and of the total 61.38%of the total respondents are

registered membersof City Central PublicLibrary Belagavi. The majority58.41% ofrespondents are rural residents whereas 41.59% are urban residents and 38.61% of users are in the age group of 21 to 24, followed by 25-37 age group 34.65%, and 11.89% between the age group of 19-21. The highest i.e., 55.45% of respondents are UG qualified.

Purpose of Using the Public Library	Frequency	Percentage (%)
To read newspapers and magazines	15	14.86
To Borrow and Return Books	13	12.87
To read competitive exams	54	53.46
To Find Information about Employment/Job	6	5.94
To Use Internet	9	8.91
To read other Books (Novels, Fiction, etc.,)	4	3.96
Total	101	100

Table No. 2: Purpose of Using the Public Library in Belagavi

The respondents were asked to signify the purpose of using City Central Library. 53.46% ofrespondents visit the library to read competitive exams and 14.86% of aspirants use it to read newspapers and magazines, 12.87% to borrow and return books. And only a fewpercent of aspirants use the public library for the purpose to accessthe internet,finding information about employment/jobs and reading other general books such as novels, and fiction.

Frequency	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Daily	55	54.46
Once in 2 days	19	18.81
Twice a week	12	11.88
Weekly	9	8.91
Occasionally	6	5.94
Total	**101**	**100**

Table No. 3 : Frequency of Library visit

Table No.3 shows the frequency of library visits and the data indicates the respondents frequently visit the city's central library. majority 54.46% of respondentsvisit daily followed by 18.81% of respondents who visit once in 2 days, 11.88% of respondents who visittwice a week, 8.91% of respondents who visit weekly and fewer percentage of aspirants visit occasionally.

Frequency of use	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
Very frequently	36	35.64
frequently	32	31.68
Sometime	20	19.81
Rarely	9	8.91
Never	4	3.96
Total	**101**	**100**

Table No. 4 : Frequency of using the competitive exams resource

Table No. 4 shows the frequency of use of competitive exams resources, out of 101 respondents, highest is 36.64% of respondents indicated very frequently,and frequently 31.68%. It shows that nearly 75% of respondents visit the library to consult competitive exam resources.

Time utilized in hours	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
1-2 hours	13	12.87
3-4 hours	25	24.75
5-6 hours	28	27.73
7-8 hours	35	34.65
Total	101	100

Table No. 5: Utilization of Time for preparation of Competitive Examination

Table No. 5 that out of 101 respondent's34.65%of respondents, utilize time for preparation of competitive exams for 7-8 hours, followed by 27.73 and 24.75% for 5-6 and 3-4 hours. Only a few i.e.,12.87 % of respondents spend 1-2 hours.

Resources form	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Online resources	34	33.67
Offline resources	67	66.33
Total	101	100

Table No. 6: The formof resources prefersto read competitive exams.

Table No. 6 reveals that 66.33% of respondents prefer offline sources and 33.67% prefer online/digital resourcesto read or to prepare for competitive examinations. It shows that most of the competitive aspirants reported that offline resources are more convenient for them to read and understand the concept.

competitive exams preparing	Frequency	Percentage (%)
NEET/JEE	3	2.97
NET/SLET	16	15.84
Teacher Eligibility Test (TET)	44	43.56
UPSC/KPSC civil service Exams (IAS /KAS/IPS.)	60	59.41
State police (PSI & Police constable)	85	84.16
Department of rural and panchayat raj	46	45.54
Staff Selection Commission (SSC)	27	26.73
Banking	46	45.54
Railway	15	14.85
Teachers Recruitment Board (TRB)	25	24.75
Defence (Army, Air force)	30	29.70
Forest department	27	26.73
FDA/SDC exams	69	68.32
Other (engineering, health, women and social welfare, fisheries, etc. sericulture	49	48.51

Table No.7 : Type of exam preparing for the Competitive Examination



It is understood from the table that among the total surveyed, 84.16% of respondentspreparing for state police (PSI & constable exams), 68.32% of respondentsfor the FDA/SDC exam, 59.41% of respondentsfor UPSC/ KPSC civil service Exams (IAS /KAS/IPS.), 48.51% of respondentsfor Other such as engineering, health, women and social welfare, fisheries, sericulture etc., 45.54% each for Banking and Department of rural and panchayatsraj, 43.56%for Teacher Eligibility Test (TET), 29.70% for Defense (Army, Air force), 26.73%for Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and Forest department, 24.75% for Teachers Recruitment Board (TRB), a few per cent of respondent preparing for the railway exams, NET and SLET, and NEET and JEE exams. From the analysis, it is found that most of the respondentsprepare for the competitive exam not only for single board exams but also for other examsthat are having eligibilityfor any other department exams.

Resources	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Current affairs magazines	87	86.14
Logical reasoning	39	38.61
English language	10	9.90
General Knowledge books	98	97.03
Subject-specific book	30	29.70
Quantitative aptitude	45	44.55
NCERT Textbook	30	29.70
GRE/NET/SLET	16	15.84
General Science	45	44.55
Teaching aptitudes	27	26.73
Magazines	82	81.19
Departmental Reports	28	27.72
Previous exams question papers	10	9.90
Reference books	40	39.60
Audio and visual materials	35	34.65
Newspapers	101	100.00
Dictionaries	30	29.70
Other resources	10	9.90

Table No. 8 : Type of Information Resources Read

The analysis from Table 8 shows that 100% of respondentsare interested in reading the Newspaper of the district library,97.03% of respondentsare reading books on General Knowledge books, 86.14% of respondentsare utilizing Current affairs magazines, 81.19%of respondents are reading Magazines,44.55% of respondents are reading books on Quantitative aptitude and General Sciencebooks,39.60%of respondentsReference books 38.61% of respondents arereading books on Logical reasoning,34.65% of respondentsare interested in Audio and visual materials,29.70% of respondentsare reading Subject-specific book, NCERT Textbook and Dictionaries, 27.72% of respondents Departmental Reports, 26.73% of respondents Departmental Reports,9.90% of respondents English language, Previous exams question papers and Other resources,Thus, it is evident that most (100%) of the respondent's competitive exam preparation lies in reading Newspapersof the district library.

Improving public library	Frequency	Percentage (%)
More No of Resources to be added	36	35.65
Online mode of resources(Digital) to be added	41	40.59
Access on Mobile to resources	15	14.85
If other, please specify	9	8.91
Total	**101**	**100**

Table No. 9 : Suggestions for improving public library competitive collection

Table No. 9 shows the frequency of use for improving public library competitive collection resources. Out of 101 respondents, the highest 40.59% of respondents indicated online mode of resources (Digital) to be added, 35.65% of respondents More No of Resources to be added, and 14.85% of respondents Access Mobile to resources.



Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Very good	46	45.54
Good	34	33.67
Satisfactory	10	9.90
Poor	6	5.94
No comments	5	4.95
Total	**101**	**100**

Table No. 10: Rate the overall library services and resources

Table No. 10 shows that 45.54% of the respondents are given their opinion the city central public library is providing good services to prepare competitive examination resources in the library. It is a welcome aspect of Very good and good also uplifts the satisfactory result of % 79.21

7. Major Findings of the study

It was observed from the analysis that the findings are,

1. 61.38% of the respondents are male and 38.61% of respondents are between the age group of 22 to 24.
2. Most 58.39% of the respondents are havingundergraduate academic qualification and the majority58.41% of the respondents belongs to rural areas.
3. 61.39%of the respondents have taken membership with City Central Library and a large 34.65% of respondents spend time with an average of 7 to 8 hours the preparation for competitive examinations.
4. A large percentage (54.46%) of respondents indicated that the City Central Library of Belagavi is the preferred place for the preparation of competitive exams.

5. The majority,more than 60% of respondents interested to appear in competitive exams conducted bythe Department of state police (PSI & Police constable), UPSC/KPSC civil service Exams (IAS /KAS/IPS.), and FDA/SDC exams.

6. 66.33% of resources prefer to read competitive offline sources and more than 80% of competitive exam aspirants prefer to read information sources likeNewspapers, Magazines, General Knowledge books, and Current affairs magazines are the main

7. 45.54% of the respondents are given their opinion the city central public library is providing good services to prepare competitive examination resources in the library.

8. Suggestion and Conclusion

Public libraries cater the information needs for all types of users in the society. They keep on updating resources in print and non-print reading materials. The library role is to make users accessible to resources. Libraries are vehicle for self-education and informal learning which provides recorded knowledge for competitive examinations. Karnataka Government Public Library Department and Belagavi City Central Library should take appropriate measures to make better use of the contest books and journals. Most of the respondents are from rural areas, so they depend on city's central library to prepare for the competitive exams. Public libraries have taken appropriate steps for several years to make and collecting competitive examination books and journals. To support these cause, City central libraries should enhance competitive resources and services and develop a good collection and facilities which are need of the hour.



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