

EXTENSION SOCIAL ACTIVITIES BY PUBLIC LIBRARIES BEFORE PANDEMIC

Prof. S. R. Inamdar
Librarian,
Kamla Nehru Mahavidyalaya,
Nagpur

***Abstract:** Public Libraries in India works like social activity. Review taken about the facilities given by, activities taken by, benefits for people, changes in pandemic, what is extension activity, actual activity, conclusion, changed situations after pandemic, before pandemic.*

Introduction:

There are three types of libraries.

- Academic Library
- Special Library
- Public Library

Academic Libraries are Libraries of Educational Institutes such as School Library, College Library and University Library. All the Libraries contain educational material of their respective curriculums. Special Libraries are the Libraries which contains special types of collection. Special libraries are there in order to meet unsatisfied needs of information in an organization (1). Special Libraries are found in Government Departments, Hospitals, Religious institutions, Businesses and industries, Research organizations, Legal establishments, Factories, Museums, Defense establishments.

Public Library:

Public library is one of the most important democratic institutions evolved by the modern society. Public library is considered not only to be a library which is used by the public in leisure for passing time in recreational reading including study of poetry, drama, fiction, newspapers and popular magazines, but also as an intellectual power house, which strives to fulfill and meet the educational, cultural and informational needs of the users it serves through various kinds of materials. It caters to the varying needs of the people regardless of race, colour, creed, age, sex, status, educational attainments or language. A public library is a 'People's University' with a primary purpose to provide information resources and services to all sections of the society. Public Library is:

- Library for all.

- It is free library.
- It is maintained by Public Funds
- It is mandatory institution.

Public Libraries serve all the type of users in society such as Senior citizens, adults, children, divyang. Public Libraries contain reading material for recreation as well as knowledge. Following type of documents are available in public Libraries to cater the needs of readers.

- Reference Books
- Periodicals/Magazines
- Newspapers
- Maps
- Reports

There are many types of books in public libraries such as historical books, mythological books, competitive examination books, novels, General knowledge books, story books, Comics.

Functions of public libraries are enlisted here. Public Libraries work as center to support economic development. Public Libraries are center for communication skill development, for strengthening democratic spirit, for economic development etc. Public library is also a cultural center, recreation center for society .As education is lifelong ongoing process, and Public library is center for lifelong learning. It is self-education center.

In spite of all these services, libraries are expected to organize various extension services. Extension services are useful to attract the readers to library. There are Activities for Creating Social Awareness also. For example Public Awareness Program, Environmental Program, Health Program, Cultural Program, celebration of National Festivals, Competitive Exam Guidance Cell, Literary Program. Libraries arrange rangoli competitions, elocutions, reading circles, Story Telling Hours, Meetings, Special Talks, Book Display , Adult Education Programs, Mobile Library Services ,organizing fairs, Aanand Melas, Exhibition, Seminars, Conferences, Cultural Shows, etc.

By organizing such programs in the form of social activities, it disseminates information about library, social messages, knowledge, increases public contacts.Executing extension services, social activities problems also arises there. Financial problems are always there as lack of funds, funding agencies. Following survey through questionnaire shows opinion of people for conducting extension activities.

S.No.	Questions	Enthusiastic	Agree	Disagree	Neutral
1	Extension activities should be organized frequently.	70%	18%	10%	2%
2	Users respond for such program is overwhelming.	72%	15%	12%	1%

3	Extension activities provide recreation as well as knowledge to users.	60%	20%	10%	10%
4	Extension activities attract readers to Library	70%	13%	12%	5%
5	Extension activities encourage & inculcate reading habits.	68%	22%	10%	10%
6	Approach of staff in arranging extension activities.	40%	15%	25%	20%

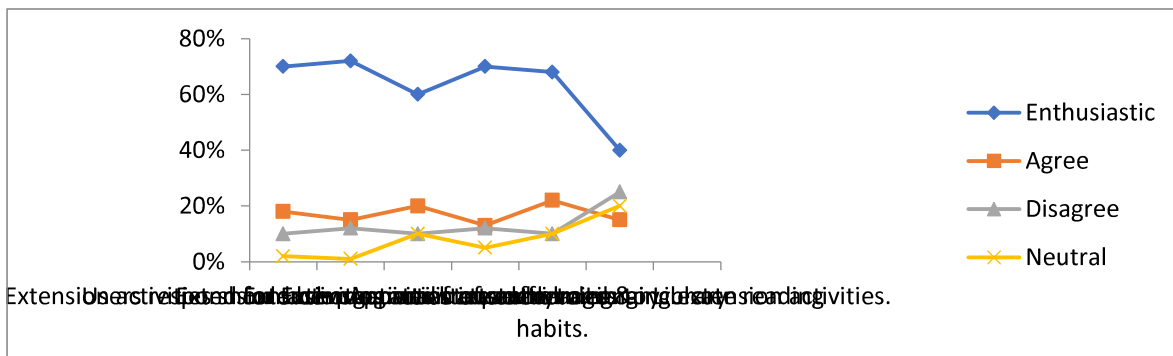


Diagram: General opinion of users on Extension activities.

Conclusion:

- Public Libraries are mirror of society
- Library extension services are successful to create positive impact on society.
- To attract more people, Libraries should have to change from traditional system to an attractive, cooperative high-tech environment.
- People are enthusiastic to attend extension activities organized by Public Libraries.

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