

Usage of library Sources and Services by the Farmers for their Information Needs in Belagavi District: A Study

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ABSTRACT

Libraries play the function as, providing information and activities about healthiness and farming technique, production etc., to help the public to overcome their financial situation and also give a environment through which governments and other organization workers can be well-versed about concerns, harms and reactions of area members to their programmes and these give sustain to extension programmes and help extension workers to organize their work in the community, build up a community's participation.

Keywords: *Library, Information, Information Needs, Farmers, Behaviour*

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1. Introduction

Information enables man to perform his day-to-day duties. There is no life in the modern society without information. A close analysis of the variety of experience gained by an individual also reveals the relationship of these units of thought with association of ideas. The individual subjective knowledge of each person is transformed into objective knowledge, which is publicly observable by all and comes very new to the concept of information. Many scientists have correlated information and energy viz. information is a commodity no less tangible than energy; if anything, it is more pervasive in human affairs.

The crucial role that information plays can be gauged from the vast areas of human activities in which it finds applications that include: growth of knowledge and wisdom, decision making and management. Human progress has become possible because of the existence and awareness of knowledge created by the past generations, cultures and societies. The base of knowledge is information. Information, which is the result of a meaningful response to a stimulus, when correlated, synthesized and stratified during the course of time, becomes knowledge. Knowledge applied and tested over a long period of time by a continuous stream of minds resulting in its acceptance, as truth becomes wisdom. Thus, wisdom is a part of human heritage.

2. Review of Literature

Singh, J. (2017); in his study on “Determining Factors of Information Needs: A study of post of Post- Graduate Colleges of Jalandhar” deals with the importance of information and the determining factors of Information needs, saying that, information is an imperative resource for public progress. It is an essential raw material required for making exact decisions by government and individual. It is one of the necessary resources which is required for their growth and success. It is an active, enormous and extensive resource that affects all areas of knowledge. Further, this study has revealed that designation of the faculty, Gender, qualification;

Teaching and research experience are the determining factors of information needs. It has also revealed that majority of the respondents used to visit the library twice in a week, using the library for 6 hours per week.

Vijayalaxmi, A.S. (2017) conducted a user study on “Information Literacy and Research: A Study of School Children” is a one of the schools in Mumbai”. Based on a study of 180 school children studying class ix and x at Apeejay School, Khargar is about their attitudes towards information Literacy and research. After the research process, it is found that about three-fourth of students participated in this study were successful in using library resources to locate information related to research projects with the help of Librarian and their teachers.

3. Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study are,

1. To find out the usage of libraries by the farmers.
2. To find out the nature and types information required by the farmers.
3. To find the sources and services used in Library by the farmers.
4. To determine the information sources and services available to farmers in Library.

4. Methodology

The survey method had used to conduct the study and questionnaire is used as a data collection tool for fulfilling the objectives of the study. The collected data pertaining to objectives envisaged earlier were classified and tabulated for the purpose of analysis. Suitable statistical methods like average and percentages and non-statistical methods of data analysis were used to draw meaningful interferences and to arrive at generalizations. The data collected through questionnaire, observation and informal interviews were thoroughly organized and tabulated using simple statistical method for tables and percentage. The table and graphs were generated by using MS-Excel 2010.

5. Scope of Study

The present study is confined to the information needs and information seeking behavior of around 500 farmers of 10 Raita Samparka Kendra of Belagavi district, with special emphasis on their information needs and seeking patterns. The scope in the present study is further limited to the farmers of rural Belagavi district and does not cover the farmers’ information needs of other districts in the Karnataka.

6. Data Analysis

Primary Information:

Table No. 1 Gender wise Distribution of Respondents

Sl. No.	Gender	Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Male	378	76
2	Female	122	24
	Total	500	100

Source: Field Survey

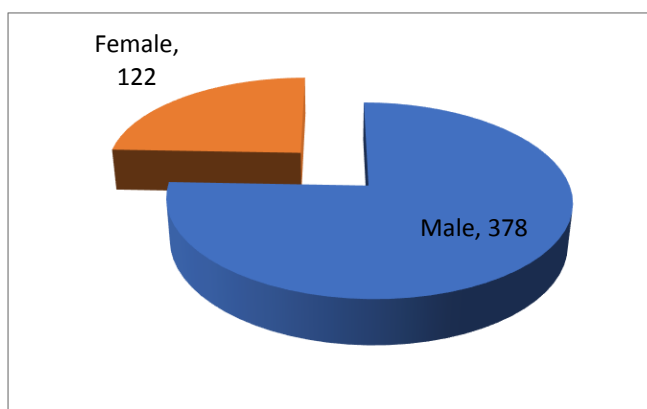


Figure 1 Shows the gender wise distribution of Respondents.

Table No1 and Figure No.1 Shows that, out of the total 500 respondents selected for the study 378 i.e. of 76% are the male Farmers and remaining 122 i.e. of 24% are Female farmers. The selected difference in number of respondents implies that even today, the agriculture is the male job in this study area.

Table 2 Educational Statuses of Respondents

Sl. No	Education Level	Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Illiterate	24	4.8
2	Primary (1-4)	45	9
3	Middle School (5-7)	36	7.2
4	High School	185	37
5	PUC	118	23.6
6	Degree	86	17.2
7	Post Graduate	6	1.2
	Total	500	100

Source: Field Survey

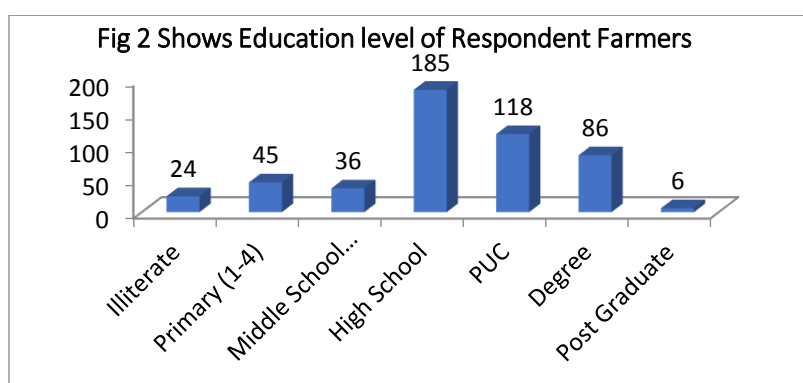


Fig. 2 Shows Education level of Respondent Farmers

Table No.2 and Figure No.2 gives information about education level of respondents. Out of 500 respondents 185 (37%) are educated up to High school Level, 118 (23.6%) of respondents are educated up to PUC level, 86 (17.2%) respondents are studied up to Degree, 45 (9%) are studied only Primary school, 36 (7.2%) respondents are educated up to Middle School, and only 6 (1.2%) farmer respondents are studied Post Graduation.

Table 3 Languages Known by Respondents:

Languages	Respondents	Percentage %
Kannada	419	84
Marathi	81	16
Total	500	100

Source: Field Survey.

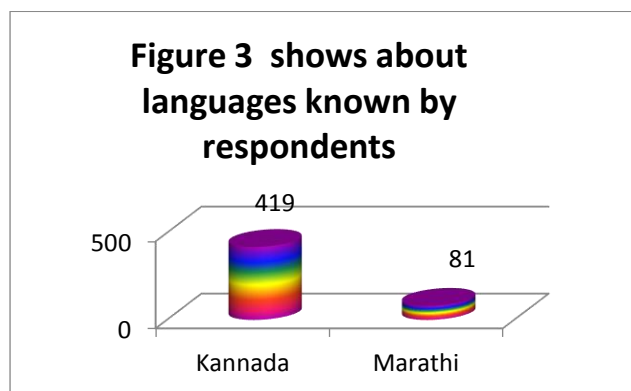


Figure 3 shows about languages known by respondents

The above table and figure no.3 reveals that 84% of farmers were knows Kannada, and 16% of farmers were knows Marathi Language.

Library Information

Data Analysis on the basis of Library Information:

To avail book borrowing facility every person has to enroll as a library member. To get library information from responded farmers, questions were asked whether they had enrolled as library member, frequency of visiting library and about reasons for visiting the library. Response from the responded farmers is given in below tables.

Table 4 Membership availed in Library to avail borrowing facility

Sl. No.	Response	Total	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	321	64
2	No	179	36
	Total	500	100

Source: Field Survey

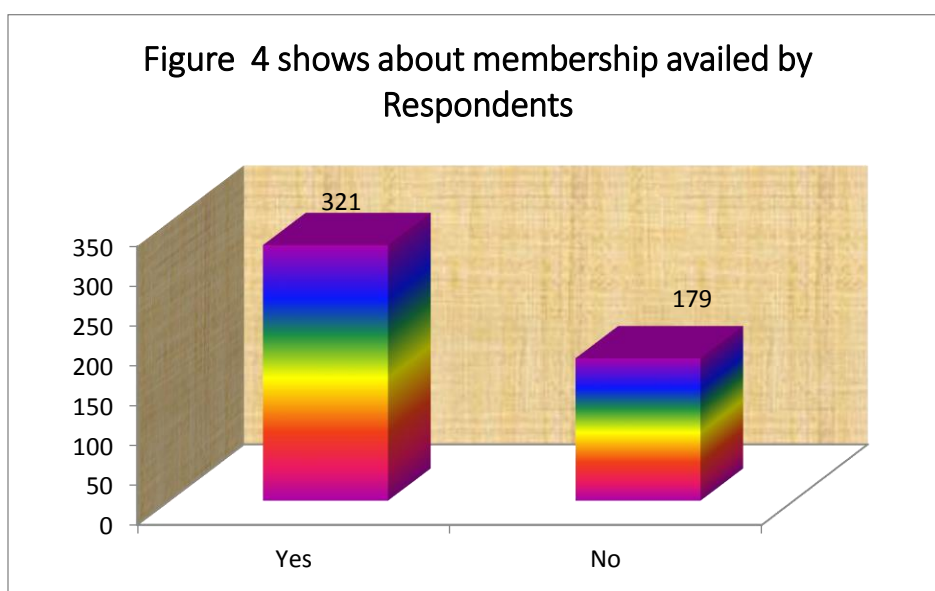


Figure 4 shows about membership availed by Respondents.

Table 4 and figure 4 reflects that 64% of respondents are farmers enrolled as a member of Library; where as 36% of farmers are not enrolled as a Library member.

Table 5. Reasons for visit the Library

Sl. No.	Reasons	Respondents	Percentage
1	To get latest agriculture information	114	22.8
2	To get help in farming	123	24.6
3	To read news papers	324	64.8
4	To read magazines	185	37
5	To read books	274	54.8
6	To borrow books	286	57.2

Source: Field Survey.

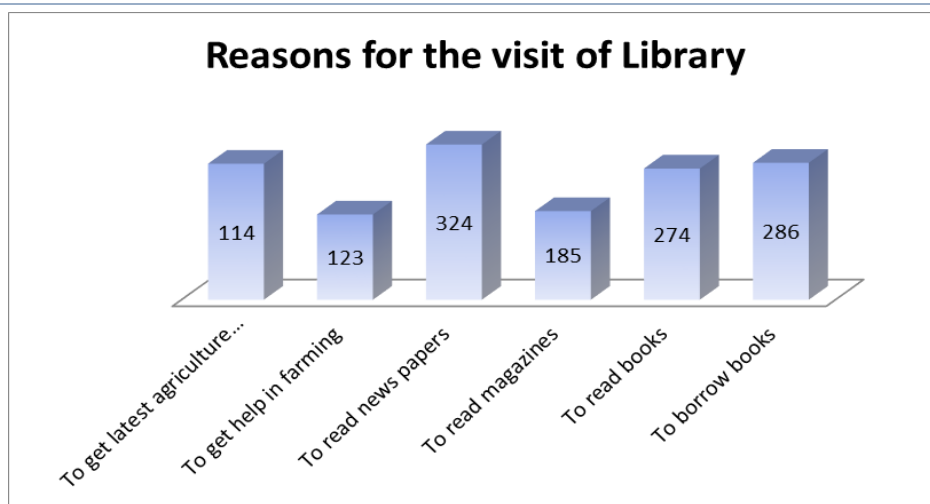


Figure 5. Shows reasons for visit the Library

Table no.5 and figure no.5 highlights about majority of farmers 324(64.8%) are visit the Library for the purpose of read the newspapers, second position secured is 286 (57.2%) farmers visit the library to borrow books, as per the response from farmers least preference is i.e.114 (22.8%)farmers visit the library to get latest agriculture information, 274(54.8%) of farmers visit the library for the purpose of read the books, 185 (37%) farmers visit the library to read magazines and 123 (24.6 %) farmers are visit the library to get help in farming.

Table 6 Frequency of visit to the Library.

Sl. No.	Frequency	Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Daily	93	18.6
2	Weekly	175	35
3	Fortnightly	81	16.2
4	Occasionally	38	7.6
5	Never	113	22.6
	Total	500	100

Source: Field Study

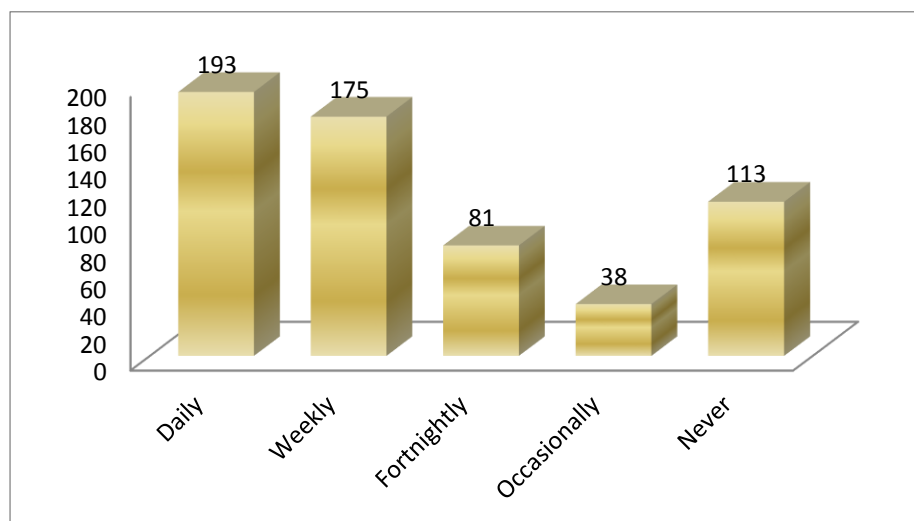


Figure 6 Shows about Frequency of visit to Library by Respondents.

Table No. 6 and Figure No. 6. explains that out of 500 respondents farmers 175 (35%) farmers visit the library weekly, 113 (22.6%) farmers never visit the library, 93 (18.6%) farmers visit the library daily, 81 (10.2%) farmers visit the library fortnightly and 38 (7.6%) farmers visit the library occasionally.

7. Conclusion

Information has become an ingredient of man's life cycle to such an extent that there can be no life in the modern society without information. Information is the input of knowledge and is always received through the senses. Information is the product of the human brain in action. It may be abstract or concrete. When an individual begins to think a variety of images and sensations flash across his mind. This makes some information to accumulate in his mind and his memory retains some pieces of knowledge.

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