
Effective Use of Library Resources and Services by the Inmates at Central Prison Library of Mysore: A Case Study

Amaravathi V

Research Scholar,
Dept. of Library and Information Science,
Bangalore University, JB Campus, Bangalore.
Email: amaravathimlisc@gmail.com[08549890326](tel:08549890326)

K. G. Jayaram Nayak

Dept. of Library and Information Science, Bangalore
University, JB Campus, Bangalore
Email: kgjrnaik.1964@gmail.com

Abstract

The main purpose of this research paper is to study the prison library sources and services to meet the information needs of the central prison library of Mysore prisoners. The present study focused on the category of occupation-wise response, educational qualification of prisoners, Gender response, marital status of prisoners, age-wise response, provision for library facilities, frequency of visit to the prison library, level of satisfaction of library opening time, time spent in the prison library, purpose of visit to library, level of satisfaction of library collections, level of satisfaction of library services, level of satisfaction of Physical facilities of library.

Keywords

Library resources; Library services; Prison library; Inmates; Mysore.

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1. Introduction

The library is often the only neutral, friendly, and “cultural” place in the “normal Zone” for prisoners. Libraries bring mental stimulation from the outside through literature, culture, current events, and knowledge, which provide opportunities and gateways for a richer life. As centres of information and culture, agents of social change, and institutions of learning, prison libraries can help inmates adjust to the realities of their lives within a correctional institution and provide skills and information that help incarcerated persons prepare for reintegration into the community as law-abiding citizens. Mysore Jail is one of the famous jails in India. Mysore jail was launched in 1862 on Ashoka road which is widely spread with 21 acres of land and lots of reconstruction of reformation work being done yearly.

Mysore is situated at the foothills of the Chamundi Hills. At an altitude of 770 m (2,530 ft) above mean sea level, the city of Mysore is geographically located at 12° 18' 26" north latitude and 76° 38' 59" east longitude. It is about 145 km (90.1 mi) southwest of the state's capital, Bangalore, and spreads across an area of 152.05 km² (59 sq mi). Jailers or prisoners have the opportunity to study in the jail itself. Mysore jail administrators have been in touch with many universities and provide great opportunities for the prisoners to learn and improve their careers while studying there. Thus, many young prisoners have taken advantage of this learning opportunity in jail, and they studied hard to hold a degree or diploma certificate while staying at jail. Also, the Government of Mysore has provided a library facility in the Mysore Central jail, intending to help prisoners study better. So that, after they are released from jail, these people will get wide job opportunities in many standard companies in India and abroad as well, through which they can start their new careers and lead a new life happily.

Presently 937 prisoners are staying in the central prison of Mysore. The prison provides library facilities to prisoners for rehabilitation. There are 16,506 collections in the library like story books, books, reference books, newspapers, and magazines.

2. Objectives of the study

- To know the demographic Characteristics of prison library users of Mysore

- To examine the frequency and purpose of visits to the prison library
- To identify the prison library collections, services, and physical facilities of central prison Mysore.

3. Scope of the study

The present study is only limited to the central prison library Mysore. 150 questionnaires were distributed to prisoners out of which 149 were questionnaires received back.

4. Methodology and sampling

Survey method adopted for the study. There are 937 prisoners were stayed in prison. Out of which 150 prisoners were randomly selected and distributed the questionnaires there are 149 filled questionnaires were collected back.

5. Data analysis and Interpretation

The collected data has been analyzed and interpreted under the following headings.

Table 1: Questionnaires distributed and responses received from prisoners

Total questionnaires distributed	No. of filled questionnaires received	%
150	149	99.33

The above table shows that 150 questionnaires were distributed, of which 149(99.33%) filled questionnaires were returned.

Table :2 Category of occupation-wise responses received

Sl. No	Occupation	No. of Respondents	%
1	Agriculture	55	36.92
3	Student	50	33.55
2	Business	20	13.43
4	Housewife	10	06.71
5	Driver	10	06.71
6	Employee	03	02.01
7	Carpenter	01	0.67
	Total	149	100

The table data depicts that the occupation-wise responses received there are 55(36.92%) prisoners

whose occupation is Agriculture. Followed by 50(33.55%) are students, 20(13.43%) are Business, 10(06.71%) are House Wife, 10(06.71%) are Drivers, 3(02.01%) are Employees, and 1(0.67%) are Carpenters.

Table 3: Qualification-wise responses received

Qualification	No of respondents	%
Primary school	22	14.76
Middle school	14	09.40
High school	55	36.91
PUC	37	24.84
UG	17	11.40
PG	04	02.69
Total	149	100

Table.3 shows that Qualification wise responses received there are 22(14.76%) are Primary school, 14(09.40%) are Middle school, 55(36.91%) are High school, 37(24.84%) are PUC, 17(11.40%) are UG, and 4(2.69%) are PG.

Table 4: Gender-wise respondents

Gender	No .of respondents	%
Male	121	81.20
Female	28	18.80
Total	149	100

Table 4 shows that Gender-wise respondents of the prisoners, 121(81.20%) are Male and 28(18.80%) are Female.

Table 5: Marital status of prisoners

Marital status	No. of respondents	%
Married	120	80.54
Unmarried	29	19.46
Total	149	100

As per the Marital status of prisoners, 120(80.54%) are Married and 29(19.46%) are Unmarried.

Table 6: Prisoners Age wise Responses

Age	No. of Respondents	%
20	06	04.02
21-30	48	32.21
31-40	46	30.88
41-50	25	16.78
51-60	11	07.39

60 and above	13	08.72
Total	149	100

Table 6 shows that Age wise responses of prisoners there are 6(04.02%) are from the age group of 20, followed by 48(32.21%) are 21-30 age group, 46(30.88%) are 31-40 age group, 25(16.78%) are 41-50 age group, 11(7.39%) are 51-60 age group, and 13(08.72%) are 60 and above age group.

Table 7: provisions for library facilities

Prisoners	No. of Respondents	%
Yes	149	100
No	Nil	Nil
Total	149	100

Table 7 shows that provision for library facilities there are 149 (100%) Prisoners who responded to providing library facilities in prison.

Frequency of visits to the prison library

Figure 1 shows the frequency of visits to the prison library there are 128(85.90%) visit the library Daily, followed by 9(06.05%) visit Once a week, 07(04.70%) visit the library Twice a week, 3(02.01%) visit Three times in a week, 1(0.67%) are visit once in a month and 01(0.67%) are visit Occasionally.

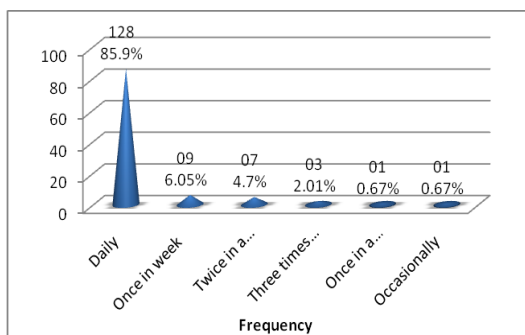


Fig.1.Frequency of visits to the prison library.

Table 8: Satisfaction with library opening times

Satisfaction	Respondents	%
Yes	148	99.33
No	01	00.67
Total	149	100

Table 8 shows that satisfaction of library opening times there are 148(99.33%) responded with

satisfaction of library opening times, followed by 1(00.67%) are not satisfied.

Table 9: Time Spent in Prison Library

Time	No. of Respondents	%
Less than 1 hour	70	46.98
1-2 hours	25	16.78
2-3 hours	50	33.55
Never	04	02.68
Total	149	100

The study reveals that the Time Spent in prison library there are 70(46.98%) spent Less than 1 hour in the library followed by 25(16.78%) spent 1-2 hours, 50(33.55%) spent 2-3 hours, and 4(02.68%) are never spent time in the library.

Table 10:Purpose of visit to the library (More than one response received)

Purpose	No of Respondents	%
To study storybooks	84	56.37
To watch News	67	44.96
For education purpose	45	30.20
To study religious books	24	16.10
For time pass	18	12.08
For meditation	08	05.36
For recreation	04	02.68

Table 10 shows that purpose of visit to the library there are 84(56.37%) prisoners visit the library to study storybooks followed by 67(44.96%) visit to watch the news, 45(30.20%) visit for educational purposes, 24(16.10%) visit to study religious books, 18(12.08%) visit For time pass, 08 (05.36%) visit For meditation and 04(02.68%) visitfor recreation.

Table 11: Opinion on Satisfaction of Library Collections

library collections	Satisfaction	Not satisfaction
Textbooks	50(33.55%)	99(60.40%)
Reference books	45(30.20%)	104(69.79%)
Journals	04(02.68%)	145(97.31%)
Story/Fiction/Novels	111(74.49%)	38(25.50%)
Newspapers and magazines	128(85.90%)	21(14.09%)

Table 11 shows that Opinion on the satisfaction of library collections there are 50(33.55%) are satisfied with Textbooks 99(60.40%) are not satisfied, followed 45(30.20%) are satisfied with Reference books and 104(69.79%) are not satisfied, 04(02.68%) are satisfied with Journals and 145(97.31%) are not satisfied, 111(74.49%) are satisfied with Story/fiction/Novels and 38(25.50%) are not satisfied and 128(85.90%) are satisfied with Newspapers and magazines and 21(14.09%) are not satisfied.

Opinion on Satisfaction of Library Services (UG/PG)Prisoners

Figure 2 presents the opinions on the satisfaction of library Services (UG/PG) prisoners there are 19(90.47%) were satisfied with Circulation services and 2(09.52%) were not satisfied, followed 16(76.19%) satisfied with Reference services and 5(23.80%) are not satisfied, 14(66.66%) are satisfied with ILL Services and 7(33.33%) are not satisfied, 13(61.90%) are satisfied with Bibliographic services and 8(38.09%) are not satisfied 11(52.38%) are satisfied with Indexing and abstracting services and 10(47.61%) are not satisfied 17(80.95%) are satisfied with Current awareness services and 4(19.04%) are not satisfied and 9(42.85%) are satisfied with Selective Dissemination of information services and 12(57.14%) are not satisfied.

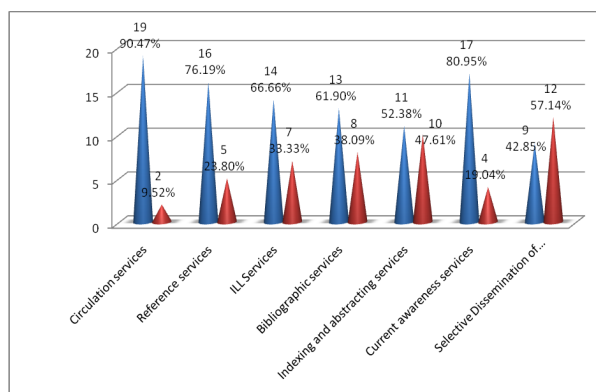


Fig.2. Opinion on satisfaction of library Services. Opinion on satisfaction of physical facilities

Figure 3 presents the Opinion on the satisfaction of physical facilities there are 136(91.27%) are satisfied with Lighting/ventilation and 13(08.72%) are not satisfied, followed by 122(81.87%) are satisfied with Furniture/Equipment and 27(18.12%) are not satisfied, 135(90.60%) are satisfied with Seat arrangement in library and 14(09.39%) are not satisfied, 97(65.10%) are satisfied with Drinking water and 52(34.89%) are not satisfied, 115(77.18%) are satisfied with Cleanliness and 34(22.81%) are not satisfied and 41(27.51%) are satisfied with Toilet and 108(72.48%) are not satisfied.

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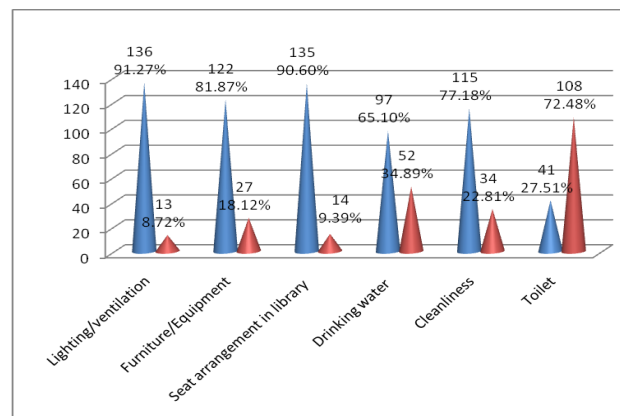


Fig.3. Opinion on satisfaction of physical facilities.

1. Major Findings of the Study:

- There are 55(36.92%) prisoners whose occupation is in Agriculture. Followed by 50(33.55%) are students, 20(13.43%) are Business, 10(06.71%) are House Wife.
- There are 22(14.76%) are Primary school, 14(09.40%) are Middle school, 55(36.91%) are High school, 37(24.84%) are PUC, 17(11.40%) are UG, and 4(2.69%) are PG.
- There are 121(81.20%) are Male and 28(18.80%) are Female.
- There are 120(80.54%) are Married and 29(19.46%) are Unmarried.
- There are 6(04.02%) are from age group of 20, followed by 48(32.21%) are 21-30 age group, 46(30.88%) are 31-40 age group.
- There are 149 (100%) Prisoners who responded for providing library facilities in prison.
- There are 128(85.90%) are visit the library Daily, followed by 9(06.05%) are visit Once in a week, 07(04.70%) are visit the library Twice in a week, 3(02.01%) visit Three times in a week, 1(0.67%) are visit once in a month and 01(0.67%) are visit Occasionally.
- There are 148(99.33%) are respond satisfaction of library opening time followed by 1(00.67%) are not satisfied.
- There are 70(46.98%) are spent Less than 1 hour in library followed by 25(16.78%) are spent 1-2 hours, 50(33.55%) are spent 2-3 hours, and 4(02.68%) are never spent time in library.

- There are 84(56.37%) prisoners visit the library To study story books followed by 67(44.96%) visit to watch news, 45(30.20%) visit for education purpose, 24(16.10%) visit to study religions books.
- There are 50(33.55%) are satisfied with Text books and 99(60.40%) are not satisfied, followed by 45(30.20%) are satisfied with Reference books and 104(69.79%) are not satisfied.
- There are 19(90.47%) satisfied with Circulation services and 2(09.52%) are not satisfied, followed by 16(76.19%) satisfied with Reference services and 5(23.80%) are not satisfied.
- There are, 136(91.27%) are satisfied with Lighting/ventilation and 13(08.72%) are not satisfied followed by 122(81.87%) are satisfied with Furniture/Equipment and 27(18.12%) are not satisfied, 135(90.60%) are satisfied with Seat arrangement in library and 14(09.39%) are not satisfied.

2. Suggestions

- A few prisoners suggested that they need more collections for the library
- Some prisoners suggested that they need a big building for the library
- Some prisoners suggested toilet and cleanliness seat arrangements in the library.

6. Conclusion

Libraries are provided in many prisons. Reading materials are provided in almost all federal and state correctional facilities in the Karnataka state. Local jails also provide library services through partnerships with local public libraries and community organizations. These resources may be limited and mostly provided through government sources. Prison libraries serve prisoners and the public by helping educate prisoners, reduce recidivism, and improve family bonds through reading. Research shows a correlation between education and reduced recidivism, and libraries play an important role in supporting education. Prison libraries allow inmates to meet with others with common interests. Though funding is limited, some prison librarians are diligent in providing programming. Such programs include book clubs and community service projects.

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