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Full Length Research Article

Role of Public Library on Women Empowerment in Dehradun District

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ABSTRACT

In a couple of years the concept of women empowerment has become the point of considerable discussion & attention all over the world. Now the concept of women empowerment has become a part of research in many educational disciplines which include adult education too. Today, a number of agencies in all part of the world are trying to elevate the status of women so that they may able to perform their role to uplift socio-cultural, political & civil society. For the last two decades of women empowerment across in India, paved the way for an increasing emphasis on the promotion of organization for women development & discussion on women status and empowerment. India, is one of those countries where the number of male or more than female & where majority of women are facing a number of problem in their daily life such as gender discrimination in family, society, work place or etc. Similarly, there are some more issues related to women in India. Non-Availability of education, improper education, ignorance & etc are some of the prominent factors due to which there is development leg in case of women empowerment. As we that an educated women influences not only the family but also influences the society, culture or the nation at large. Therefore, Government of India along the government at different part of the world has developed several programs to empower women across the world. Present paper is an attempt to find the information sources used by women to empower themselves, the availability of information in public library, the activities conducted by public library for women empowerment, the tools of ICT available in the library or etc. the study revealed that library play an important role in women empowerment in India. The study also revealed a facts that public library provides a platform to provide information related to various field which help in women empowerment.

Introduction

Library is a social institution which acts as social service agency. Library is a place which offers information to its users. Library is also a place that plays a vital role to promote education & research. It develops reading habits & disseminates knowledge & information to the users. Library can be categorized as National, Academic, and Public & Special Libraries. The National Knowledge Commission of India, constitute in 2005, described library as a gateway of knowledge. Moreover, library is not a building having books and journals only it is a place where the user can have sources of information and ideas; it is a place of learning & inquiring for the generation of thoughts & creation of new knowledge.

The concept of Public Library

The concept of public library is as old as the concept of library. The term 'public library' can be defines as a library which is accessible to the public and, in most of the cases, funded by the public & operated by the civil servant. Public library, as its name suggest, by the people, for the people & of the people. The

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concept of public library exists from civilization of mankind & acts as the important custodian of human culture, knowledge, & social customs. The concept of public library is also defines by UNESCO who says that "public library works as the local gateway which provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision making in cultural development and social group". The UNESCO manifesto, also state that public library is a social institution established under the clear mandate of law maintained by public fund & which offers all its services free of cost & accessible for all irrespective of their age, sex, religion, language & structural of education. Public library is a welfare center which provides useful services to the society by fostering education, promoting education, providing scope for the healthy recreation & disseminates information to all sections of the society. Public libraries works as community education centers that provides socio-cultural recreation & disseminates information to all the section of the society through Information & Communication Technology. Government of India constituted an advisory committee on libraries under the leadership of K. P.

Sinha, who defined 'Public Library' as a Library financed, mostly, by public funds; intended as a auxiliary educational institutions to provides a means of endless self education & whose learning materials giving reliable information freely and without partially or prejudice on as wide a variety of subject as will satisfy the interest of the readers. *Public library works to fulfill following objectives:*

- (i) To provide information to the general public
- (ii) To satisfy their informative, education and recreational needs
- (iii) To The explore the growth of knowledge and the direct relation of information to development in all walks of human life

The Concept of Women Empowerment

The concept of women empowerment was generated from the third world countries. The concept of women empowerment can be understood in the light of empowerment first. The concept of 'Empowerment' has been identified as the right to determine & to influence the direction of changes to secure ability to control over material and nonmaterial resource. Empowerment is a multi-dimensional process of awareness and capacity building leading to greater participation, decision-making power, control and to trans-formative action which enable to realize their full identity. Women empowerment can be viewed as continues of several inter related and mutually reinforcing components. It strengthens one's innate ability to acquiring knowledge power and experience. It is multidimensional because it occurs within sociological, psychological and economic dimensions at various levels, such as individual, group and community.

Manusmirti propounds the conditions of women according to which female, in her childhood, protected by her father, by husband in adulthood while by son in her old age. The concept of 'Empowerment' can be defined as a process to develop self control and confidence to fight to fears, feelings of inadequacy. Empowering women are able to increase their self reliance, to assist their independence right to make choice and also to control resources.

Empowerment of women is a method of strengthening women and establishing equal opportunities and quality between different gender and social classes.

Public Library & Women Empowerment

The role of library on women empowerment was not vigorous earlier but as the science & technology developed, as the social & educational development took place in the society it also increased the positive effects of library on women empowerment. Since women empowerment can't be done without women education therefore an educational system along with a good library become essential not only to educate women but also civilized them. Public library works as an informational educational system which provides a lifelong learning & that gives exciting opportunity to empower the women.

Public library in Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand, since its inception, has done many efforts to uplift education standard due to which Uttarakhand has become one of the prominent place for educational institutions. According to

report, government of Uttarakhand has established Kashipur as an educational hub to promote education in Uttarakhand state. Apart from educational Institutions, Uttarakhand is also rich in term of public libraries. All the districts of Uttarakhand are having public libraries to promote education & personal development. In Dehradun, there are approx 30 public libraries ranging from small to big in terms of number of books or journals or infrastructure.

Literature Review

Jain and Saraf (2013) made a case study about the empowering the poor with right to information and library services. This paper discussed the Indian government policies and role of non-governmental organisations for poverty eradication through information and communication technology applications. The study found that libraries and other social media are empowering the users with information.

Visma (2010) conducted a study on role of health magazines in the health care decision making of the house hold women in Kozhikode District. The main objectives of the study were to study the use of various health magazines by the housewives; to what extent health magazines support women in healthcare decision making and to assess the factors affecting the information seeking from health magazines. Questionnaire method was used for data collection. The study revealed that majority of respondents read Mathrubhumi Arogyamasika for getting health care information. The study also revealed a fact that reading health magazines was very helpful to lead better healthy life. Majority of respondents were self motivated to seek information from health magazines.

Dineshan Koovakkai and Priya (2010) made an attempt to study the role of women's magazine as a source of information for house hold decision making among employed women in Kerala. The major objectives of the study were to assess the level of dependence of employed women on women magazines for house hold decision making. The study is conducted on a sample of 137 employed women working in different government, semi government and private sector established in Kerala. A structured questionnaire was used for collecting the data and percentage methods been used for analyzing the responses. The analysis revealed that the dependence women magazines among the majority of the women are to a great extent in the case of children's education to comparatively large percentage.

George (2009) conducted a study on impact of information services of social organizations on empowerment of women in Northern Districts of Kerala. The main objectives of the study were to know the role of public libraries and NGOs in imparting information for the empowerment of women and to know the information needs of the women group understudy. The study found that public libraries and NGOs play an important role in the empowerment of women which has brought women especially rural women to the forefront. Most of the women need information related to agriculture, law, developmental activities of women, social values, health activities, information to improve leadership quality etc.

Sasi (2009) studied the role of rural public libraries in women empowerment. The main objectives of the study were to evaluate

the programmes played by the Public Library in Educational, Cultural and Socio-Political development of women empowerment. The investigator selected women users from District Library, Malappuram. The data were collected through questionnaire. The major findings were that various services of the public libraries that support women empowerment, the most preferred are job oriented programs and IT facilities are useful in women empowerment programs.

Rajwant Kaur (2008) studied job satisfaction level of female library professionals in college and University libraries of Punjab. Questionnaire and personal interview was adopted for data collection from 225 participants. Frequency percentage and Mann Whitney Non-parametric U-test was applied for data analysis. The study revealed job security, co-operation among the staff members, fringe benefits, variation of job, supporting facilities, supervisor's attitude and security of female staff were some of the important job satisfying factors.

Jilu (2007) made an attempt to study the role of library in women empowerment. The main objectives of this paper were to ascertain the role of library for the empowerment of women. Data were collected through a combination of questionnaire and unstructured interview from women PG students and the library staff. The percentage analysis was used for data analysis. It was found that library plays a vital role for the empowerment of women in Calicut University campus and most of the students use various publications in library such as newspaper, books, and journals for enriching their knowledge. The study also found that academic burden prevents them in utilizing the available resources for their empowerment. The study suggests that orientation program should be conducted to enable them to make full and efficient use of library facilities and a greater interaction between user and library staff is needed for the better utilization of library resources for women empowerment.

Singh, Singh and Megh (2007) studied the reading habits of the teachers in women colleges. The present study is limited in five women colleges in Amritsar city, Punjab. Questionnaire was used for data collection in this study. The entire studies revealed that majority of the teachers are aware about the catalogue facilities available in the library and are satisfied. Most of the teachers are motivated for seeking helps for reading habits from their college and Universities.

Dineshan Koovakkai and Jalaja (2006) explored the gender difference and levels of requirement of information resources and services of the career seekers in Kerala. The present study consists of a sample of 1180 career seekers from university, college and public library. Five university libraries, twelve college libraries and six public libraries were selected for taking sample selection. Questionnaires were distributed among all these career seekers to get their responses. The study observed that there is no significant difference between male and female career seekers in the levels of requirements for documents for career selections and the level of requirement for materials providing information about training and education opportunities.

Josephine (2005) conducted a survey to assess the enhancing women's productivity in the Library and Information Science

Sector in Nigeria. The descriptive survey method was used for data collection. The purpose of this paper is to explore the reasons why the productivity of women library and information should be enhanced and to describe the problems. It found that the productivity of women in library and information science sector has remained high and needs enhancement to encourage. It found that men in Nigeria has generally been regarded as low because of traditional prejudice against women lack of data on the productivity of women in the informal sector and the productivity of women in the library and information sector has remained high and needs enhancement to encourage them to aim higher in the profession.

Mallikarjun (2004) studied about library and women empowerment. The important objectives of this study were to know different types of libraries managed by different authorities, serving for different purposes and to find out how these libraries are useful for empowerment of women. In the present stage literacy rate of women is increasing and also rate of entering to jobs is increasing. A library has to serve as an information centre and refer for specialised sources of information. The development of science and technology has made the women much fast, accurate, dynamic and economic on all women activities. Some of the advantages of library to empower women are the improvement of women culture, recreation, promoting desire for books, help in decision making process and controlling of bad habits. In modern days there are large numbers of women working in the library field who carry out their works efficiently and there by developing women empowerment.

Ushadevi (2004) conducted a case study among women librarianship of Kerala University library. The major objectives of the study were to find out the male and female ratio of the library staff working in Kerala university library and to ascertain the influence of the professional organisations and their participation in professional activities. Questionnaire and interview method were used for data collection. In order to have a firsthand knowledge of experiences and visions of women librarians in the institution personal interview are also made. Simple percentage analysis was adopted for analysis of data. The study showed that majority of the staff of university libraries are female and large majority of the women librarians are members of professional organisations.

Bareera (2001) conducted a study among women employees about the magazine Vanitha as sources of information for house hold decision making. The objectives of the study were to identify the type of information available from the Vanitha and to understand the level of dependence of Vanitha among employees women. Data were collected through a questionnaire from women employees in the Calicut University Campus. The percentage analysis adopted to get crystal clear findings from the study. It found that Women seeks information from various magazines, among these various magazines Vanitha is one of the important information source among them because it provides current and precise information and it cater to the information needs of users of different area of the study. It also found that the employee's dependency of Vanitha is moderate level for house hold decision making.

Methodology

Present research is an investigation to understand the concept of public library & its role to empower women of Uttarakhand. Present research is confined to the Dehradun, the capital of Uttarakhand. Since there was a constraints of time & other resources & it was not possible to approach all the libraries

situated in Dehradun district therefore a small representatives were selected from the large population. A number of books available, infrastructure & number of visitors in day & etc were the criteria of filtrations & thus 10 libraries were filtered from 30 libraries & than finally 4 libraries out of these 30, on the basis of random sampling, were selected for data collections. Sampling designed used in present research is given below:

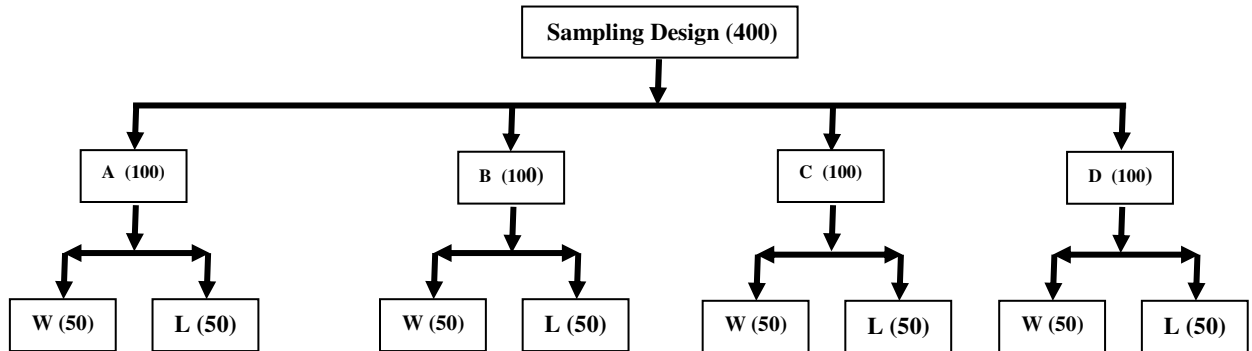


Fig 1: Sampling Design

Where;

- A: Doon Library & Research Center
- B: Saraswati Modern Library
- C: Mahatma Khushi Ram Public Library
- D: Sri Guru Nanak Public Library
- W: Women
- L: Librarian

Objective of the Study

- (i) To find out the experience of library users
- (ii) To study the frequency to use public library
- (iii) To find out time spent by women in public library
- (iv) To find out the purpose to visit library
- (v) To find out the frequency to use of general books in public library
- (vi) To find out the preference of periodic in different subjects
- (vii) To find out the preference of women about women magazines
- (viii) To find out the Influence of Women Magazines on Women Empowerment

Results

Table 1: Experience in using library by women

Period	DLRC	SML	MKRPL	SGNPL	Total
Below one years	32 (64%)	25 (50%)	30 (60%)	20 (40%)	107 (53.5)
1-5 year	10 (20%)	10 (20%)	10 (20%)	12 (24%)	42(21%)
More than 5 years	08(16%)	15(30%)	10(20%)	18(36%)	51(25.5)
Total	50	50	50	50	200 (100%)

Table 1 indicate experience of women according to this table majority of women library (53.5%) users belong to the category of less than one years of experience followed by the women library users (21%) who had 1-5 year of library experience & the women library users (25.5%) who had more than five years of

library experience. The table also indicates Doon Library & Research Center had maximum women user who had less than library experience while Sri Guru Nanak Public Library had maximum number of women library users.

Table 2: Frequency of Use of Library

Period	DLRC	SML	MKRPL	SGNPL	Total
Regularly	38(76%)	44(88%)	42(84)	40 (80%)	164 (82%)
Once in a Week	5 (10%)	3 (6%)	4(8%)	5 (10%)	17 (8.5%)
Once in a Month	4 (8%)	2 (4%)	3(6%)	2 (4%)	11 (5.5%)
Occasionally	3 (6%)	1 (2%)	1(2%)	3 (6%)	8 (4%)
Total	50 (100)	50 ()	50 ()	50 ()	200

Table 2 indicates that a large number of women library user (82%), from all four library situated in Dehradun city were regular to visit public library followed by the women (8.5%) library user who used to visit library once in a week, once in a month (5.5%) & occasionally (4%).

Table 3: Time Spent in Library per Visit

Period	DLRC	SML	MKRPL	SGNPL	Total
Below 1 Hours	8	4	6	7	25 (12.5%)
1-2 Hours	22	23	30	26	101(50.5%)
2-5 Hours	12	11	8	15	46 (23%)
More than 5 Hours	8	12	6	2	28 (14%)
Total	50 (100)	50 (100)	50 (100)	50 (100)	200

Table 3 indicates the time spent by the women library user during the library visits. According to this table, majority of women library users (50.5%) spent 1-2 hours in library during per visit in library followed by those women library users who spent 2-5 hours per (23%), more than 5 hours (14%) per visit & less than 1 hour (12.5) per visit.

Table 4: Purpose of Library Visit

Period	DLRC	SML	MKRPL	SGNPL	Total
Issue & Return	17	15	16	19	67 (33.5%)
Participate Library Activities	8	5	7	4	24(12%)
Reading Library Articles	25	30	27	27	109 (54.5%)
Total	50 (100)	50 (100)	50 (100)	50 (100)	200

According to Table 4, most of the women library users (54.5%) visited public library to access library article such as newspapers, journals, magazines or etc followed by those women library user (33.5%) who visited public library for issue & return books or other reading materials they subscribed from public library. Only a few women library users (12%) were found who visited public library to participate library activities such as organizing library seminar/workshop or etc.

Table 5: Frequency of Use of General Books in DLRC

Subjects	Often	Occasionally	Never
Socio-Economic	7 (14%)	21 (42%)	22 (44%)
Political	5 (10%)	26 (52%)	19 (38%)
Education	3 (6%)	30 (60%)	17 (34%)
Health	1 (2%)	20 (40%)	29 (58%)
Agriculture	4 (8%)	10 (20%)	36 (72%)
Fashion Designing	1 (2%)	5 (10%)	44 (88%)
Cookery	1 (2%)	2 (4%)	47 (94%)
Literature	18 (36%)	27 (54%)	5 (10%)
Contemporary Subjects	10 (20%)	30 (60%)	10 (20%)

Table 6: Frequency of Use of General Books in SML

Subjects	Often	Occasionally	Never
Socio-Economic	5 (10%)	23 (46%)	22 (44%)
Political	3 (6%)	27 (54%)	20 (40%)
Education	1 (20%)	30 (60)	19 (38%)
Health	0 (0%)	18 (36%)	32 (64%)
Agriculture	2(4%)	12 (24%)	36 (72%)
Fashion Designing	0 (0%)	5 (10%)	45 (90%)
Cookery	0 (0%)	3 (6%)	47 (94%)
Literature	17 (34%)	28 (56%)	5 (10%)
Contemporary Subjects	14 (28%)	26 (52%)	10 (20%)

Table 7: Frequency of Use of General Books in MKRPL

Subjects	Often	Occasionally	Never
Socio-Economic	2 (4%)	26 (52%)	22 (44%)
Political	1 (2%)	29 (58%)	20 (40%)
Education	0 (%)	31 (62%)	19 (38%)
Health	0 (%)	22 (44%)	28 (56%)
Agriculture	0 (%)	8 (16%)	42 (84%)
Fashion Designing	2 (4%)	3 (6%)	45 (90%)

Cookery	2 (4%)	3 (6%)	45 (90%)
Literature	19 (38%)	26 (52%)	5 (10%)
Contemporary Subjects	16 (32%)	24 (48%)	10 (20%)

Table 8: Frequency of Use of General Books in SGNPL

Subjects	Often	Occasionally	Never
Socio-Economic	6 (12%)	20 (40%)	24 (48%)
Political	2 (4%)	29 (58%)	19 (38%)
Education	3 (6%)	27 (54%)	20 (40%)
Health	3 (6%)	20 (40%)	27 (54%)
Agriculture	2 (4%)	6 (12%)	43 (86%)
Fashion Designing	3 (6%)	4 (8%)	43 (86%)
Cookery	6 (12%)	7 (14%)	37 (74%)
Literature	17 (34%)	27 (54%)	6 (12%)
Contemporary Subjects	16 (32%)	24 (48%)	10 (20%)

Table 5, 6, 7 & 8 presents the data of the four libraries who had been accessed by the women library users. The tables given above indicate the books & journals of different subjects as mentioned in the table given above.

Table 9: Preference of Periodic in different subjects

Period	DLRC	SML	MKRPL	SGNPL	Total
Current Affairs	18	4	16	17	55 (27.5%)
Health	14	21	18	16	69 (34.5%)
Women Magazines	14	15	10	15	54 (27%)
General	4	10	6	2	22 (11%)
Total	50 (100)	50 (100)	50 (100)	50 (100)	200

Table 9 presents a data according to which 34.5% women library users accessed periodic related to health followed by 27.5% women library users preferred to have books or journals related to current affairs, 27% women library users who preferred women magazines while only 11% women library users were found who believed to have general periodic.

Table 10: Frequency to use women magazines in DLRC

Women Magazines	Often	Occasionally	Never
Veenita	15	17	18
Garhlaxmi	16	18	16
Femina	28	15	7
Women's Era	29	16	5
GarhShobha	14	16	20

Table 11: Frequency to use women magazines in SML

Women Magazines	Often	Occasionally	Never
Veenita	16	17	17
Garhlaxmi	18	12	20
Femina	32	10	8
Women's Era	35	10	5
GarhShobha	14	16	20

Table 12: Frequency to use women magazines in MKRPL

Women Magazines	Often	Occasionally	Never
Veenita	16	17	17
Garhlaxmi	18	12	20
Femina	27	13	10
Women's Era	37	10	3
GarhShobha	14	16	20

Table 13: Frequency to use women magazines in SGNPL

Women Magazines	Often	Occasionally	Never
Veenita	16	17	17
Garhlaxmi	18	12	20
Femina	31	14	5

Women's Era	32	13	5
GarhShobha	14	16	20

Table 10, 11, 12, & 13 present the books preference shown by the women library users in the city. There was a unanimity found among all the four library women library users. According to these four tables Women's era & Famina were most preferred

women magazines among the women library users in the city followed by Garhlaxmi, Veenita & Garhshobha.

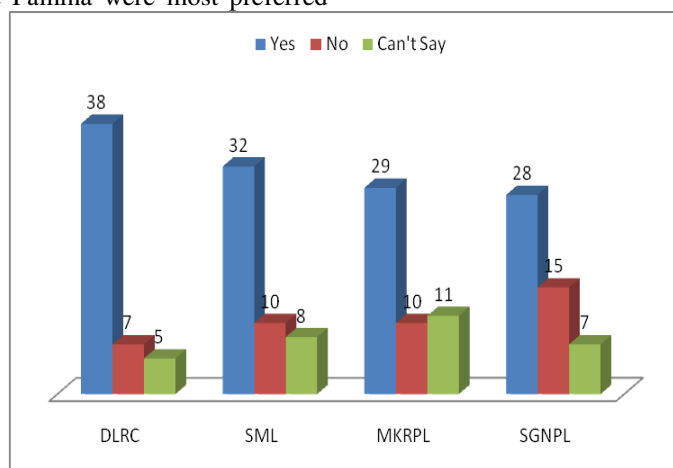


Fig 2: Influence of Women Magazines on Women Empowerment

Present Figures 2 indicates the response of the respondent i.e women library user towards the women magazines. This figure clearly tells that women of Dehradun city believe to have some positive changes in their personality. However there were few women library users also found who believe no effects of women magazines followed by a very few who were little bit confused & couldn't response on this questions.

Finding & Conclusion

- (i) Majority of women were found who had one or less than a year of library experience which need to increase.
- (ii) Majority of women were found to visit public library on daily basis. During the study irregular women user also found therefore it becomes necessary to create interest among the user so that their % may be increased or numbers of daily visitors may increase.
- (iii) A large numbers of respondents used to spend more than 1 hour in public library. Library department should need to take some actions so that visiting hours of the library users may be increased.
- (iv) Most of the library used to visit just to read newspaper or journals or etc therefore it becomes essential to create the interest of the library users so that they can use other library material for their development.
- (v) Famina & Women's Era were found as the most preferred book among women users.

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