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The Growing need for Private Libraries and its Impact on Preparation for Competitive Exams

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Abstract

In today's world, competitive exams are gaining much importance. There is fierce competition among students appearing for any competitive exam. Students are attracted towards different such exams for career growth. Libraries play a significant role in academic career of students who prepare for various competitive exams. Students are preferring private libraries for study. The purpose of the study is to understand how the private libraries are helpful for students. Primary data is collected from members of a private library in which they are asked about their satisfaction regarding the library and service provided by it. This study helps to understand how private libraries manage the place and their way of dealing with students.

Keywords: Library, competitive exam.

Introduction:

Libraries provide a service which allows anyone to borrow a book, access the internet or do research. It means libraries offer a means by which we can gain access to knowledge. A library is basically an organized set of resources including human services as well as the entire spectrum of media like text, video and hypermedia. Libraries have physical components such as space, equipment, and storage media. Intellectual components of a library includes collection policies that determine what materials will be included and organizational schemes that determine how the collection is accessed. It also has one more component which is people who manage the physical and intellectual components and interact with users and assist to solve information problems. Competition among students in different fields is increasing and competitive exams are gaining importance. To face this competition, students should have all the resources available for study. Students need to study harder while preparing for such exams. Libraries are very much suitable for study where students can have peaceful atmosphere and all the books needed for study. Private libraries play an important role in shaping career of a student. The purpose of the study is to understand satisfaction of students regarding services provided by private libraries. In a world without libraries, it would be difficult to advance research and human knowledge or preserve the world's cumulative knowledge and heritage for future generations.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To study the facilities provided by a private library.
2. To understand the satisfaction of students regarding facilities provided by a private library.

Hypothesis of the Study:

- H_0 – The proportion of students who are not satisfied with the facilities provided by a private library is 50%.
 H_1 – The proportion of students who are satisfied with the facilities provided by a private library is more than 50%.

Research Methodology of the Study:

This study is based on primary data collected by the researcher. To understand the satisfaction of students, researcher conducted a survey. A questionnaire was prepared to collect relevant information as primary data for the study. Questionnaires were distributed among members of a private library. Convenience sampling method is used for the study. Questionnaire was formed to understand attitude of students towards libraries. The questionnaire is processed with the help of statistical tools like tabulations, grouping, percentages, averages, testing of hypothesis etc. Questionnaire is used mainly to analyze the opinion of the students.

Research Area:

Researchers selected students from Narayan Academy & Research Center Jamner in Jalgaon District. Sample size of the study is 50 members of the library. Researcher collected data through Primary and Secondary sources. Researcher distributed questionnaires among the respondents.



Literature Review:

The meaning of the word library goes far beyond the realm of just a compilation of books. It is a treasure house of information and knowledge that employs trained librarians to preserve, systematize and administer, so that they can contribute effectively to the continuing education. Webb (2007) highlighted that the effective academic library are gateways to academic knowledge through their own collection and by facilitating access to material. The libraries offer immeasurable scope for education and study, and are classified into the three types which include Special library, Public library and Academic library. A special library has information on a particular group of subjects, and caters wholly to the resource requirements of a particular organization, company or a department of the government. The Public or Professional libraries are also sometimes called as a People’s University. They play the role of a nodal point in assimilating informal or formal information of local learning content and co-relating it to knowledge and information from global resources. Academic libraries cater specially to the educational needs of a school, college or university where it is located, for the convenience of the students and teachers.

Data Analysis:

Primary data was collected from private library users and is analyzed as follows:

Table No. 1

Response of Students

Questions asked	Student’s Response		Total	% of students satisfied with the facilities
	Yes	No		
Are you satisfied with the atmosphere in the library?	49	1	50	98%
Are the books needed for competitive exam preparation available in the library?	43	7	50	86%
Are you satisfied with the collection in library regarding general knowledge?	48	2	50	96%
Are you satisfied with the collection in library regarding current affairs?	45	5	50	90%
Does the reading material help in preparing for an interview?	43	7	50	86%
Are you comfortable with the seating arrangement in the library?	44	6	50	88%
Are you allowed to fill online forms in the library?	42	8	50	84%
Do you get help from the staff while filling online form?	41	9	50	82%

From the above data, it is clear that students are satisfied with the services provided by the library.

Hypothesis Testing:

Thus, null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative hypothesis which states that students are satisfied with the facilities provided by a private library is accepted.

Limitations of the Study:

This study is limited to only private libraries and doesnot include college libraries. This study focuses on only satisfaction of students regarding facilities at libraries.

Findings:

From the primary data obtained, it is found that 98% students are satisfied with the atmosphere in the library. 86% students replied that books needed for competitive exam preparation are available in the library. 96% students are satisfied with the collection in library regarding general knowledge. 90% students are satisfied with the collection in library regarding current affairs. 86% students responded that reading material available in the library helps in preparing for an interview. 88% students are comfortable with the seating arrangement in the library. 84% students



replied that they are allowed to fill online forms in the library. 82% students responded that they get help from the staff while filling online form.

Conclusion:

This study revealed that students are satisfied with the private libraries which provide different facilities to the students. Private libraries are equipped with all the study material, good atmosphere and online form filling facility.

The purpose of the study was to understand how the private libraries are helpful for students and it is found that they are efficient enough to attract students. This study helped to understand that private libraries manage the place effectively and are helpful. Thus, it can be concluded that private libraries provide facilities to their students which aid in preparing for different competitive exams.

Scope of the Study:

In future, the research can be conducted by taking a large sample to facilitate a robust examination of the facilities provided by private libraries. The future study can also be conducted to identify the relative importance of each aspect. Future research can be focused on comparison between private and other libraries.

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