

A STUDY OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS UTILIZATION OF LIBRARY RESOURCES AMONG PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS

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Abstract

The present study was conducted with the intention of finding out the level of the attitude towards use of library resources among prospective teachers. The sample consists of 300 prospective teachers randomly selected from 5 colleges of Education in Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu. The investigator has used the adopted tool developed by Amuthakani (2015) for measuring attitude towards utilization of library resources. The study reveals that the level of the attitude towards use of library resources among prospective teachers is average with background variables such as father's education and father's occupation.

Keywords: *Library Resources, Attitude towards Utilization of Library Resources, Prospective Teachers.*

Introduction

Education has many services. Apart from other services, it also serves as an agent of social placement. Schools identify the most qualified people who are suitable for the different positions in society. Education promotes social and political integration. Educational institutions transfer the population that is composed of diverse ethnic and religious groups into a kind of society with people sharing at least a similar identity.

College libraries are usually seen as a support service for teaching. The library is almost exclusively a reservoir of materials that reinforce lectures and provide the information on which written assignments can be based. Even though students visit library for reading, still 95 % of the collection remains relatively little used. There is a need for making libraries more student-centred which requires a redefinition of roles on the part of librarians and teachers. The significance of the library as a central part of the learning strategy cannot be ignored.

Significance of the Study

Library resources are considered the materials which offer the important services in the field of education mainly meeting the needs of teaching and learning process. They are essential to prepare the lesson plans, achieve objectives of teaching etc. All these can be served if library resources are easily accessible to the teachers. This can create good environment for the use of library resources. It is a foregone conclusion that if information is easily accessible to the teachers, it can lead to efficient teaching. The main goal of the library is thus to enable its users make use of wealth of information resources. So the investigator was interested to study the attitude towards use of library resources among prospective teachers.

Operational Definitions

- **Attitude:** It refers to a way of thinking about utilization of library resources.
- **Utilization:** The action of making practical and effective use of library resources.
- **Library Resources:** Library resources refer to materials, both print and non-print, found in college libraries which can support curricular and personal information needs.
- **Prospective Teachers:** It refers to students of colleges of education from Virudhunagar District.

Objectives of the Study

1. To find the level of attitude towards use of library resources among prospective teachers based on father's education and father's occupation.
2. To find the level of attitude towards use of library resources among prospective teachers based on father's education.
3. To find out significant association of prospective teachers with regard to the father's Education.
4. To find out significant association of prospective teachers with regard to the father's occupation.

Hypotheses of the Study

1. There is no significant association among prospective teachers with regard to father's education.
2. There is no significant association among prospective teachers with regard to father's occupation.

Methodology

The survey method was adopted in the present study. Simple random technique was taken up for this study. The sample for the present study constitutes 300 prospective teachers from Virudhunagar district. The utilization of library resources questionnaire was constructed by Amuthakani (2015). The adopted tool consists of 53 positive statements. Each of the items was rated on a four points scale. The options included are strongly agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree.

Percentage Analysis

Objective – I

To find the level of attitude towards use of library resources among prospective teachers based on father's education and father's occupation.

Table 1: Level of Utilization of Library Resources among Prospective Teachers in the Context of Father's Education

Father's Education	Low		Average		High	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Below 12th	32	18.0	119	66.9	27	15.2
Degree	13	18.8	44	63.8	12	17.4
Illiterate	8	15.1	36	67.9	9	17.0

It can be seen from the above table that, with regard to below 12th standard studied parents of the prospective teachers, 18% of students have low level, 66.9% of students have average level and 15.2% of them have high level of utilization of library resources.

It can be seen from the above table that, with regard to Degree holder parents of the prospective teachers, 18.8% of students have low level, 63.8% of students have average level and 17.4% of them have high level of utilization of library resources.

It can be seen from the above table that, with regard to illiterate parents of the prospective teachers 15.1% of students have low level, 67.9% of students have average level and 17.0% of them have high level of utilization of library resources.

Table 2: Level of Utilization of Library Resources among Prospective Teachers with regard to Father's Occupation

Father's Occupation	Low		Average		High	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Daily Wages	4	10.5	26	68.4	8	21.1
Government Employee	21	25.0	56	66.7	7	8.3
Private Employee	28	15.7	117	65.7	33	18.5

It can be seen from above table that, with regard to Daily wages parents of the prospective teachers, 10.5% of the students have low level, 68.4% of the students have average level and 21.1% of them have high level of utilization of library resources.

It can be seen from above table that, with regard to Government employed parents of the prospective teachers, 25.0% of students have low level, 66.7% of students have average level and 8.3% of them have high level of utilization of library resources.

It can be seen from the above table that, with regard to Private Employee parents of the prospective teachers, 15.7% of students have low level, 65.7% of students have average level and 18.5% of them have high level of utilization of library resources.

Hypothesis Testing

Null hypothesis-1: There is no significant association among prospective teachers with regard to father's education.

Table 3 Significant Association among Prospective Teachers pertaining to Father's Education

Father's Education	Low		Average		High		df	Calculated chi-square value	Remarks at 5% Level
	OB	EX	OB	EX	OB	EX			
Below 12 th	32	31.4	119	118.1	27	28.5	4	0.55	NS
Degree	13	12.2	44	45.8	12	11			
Illiterate	8	9.4	36	35.2	9	8.5			

(At 5% level of significance the table value ' χ^2 ' is 9.488)

It can be seen from the above table that, the calculated chi-square value 0.55 which is less than the table value (9.488) with df (4) at 5% level of significance. Hence that null hypothesis is accepted. Thus the result shows that there is no significant association among prospective teacher's father's with their educational qualification.

Null hypothesis-2: There is no significant association among prospective teachers with regard to father's occupation.

Table 4: Significant association among Prospective Teachers with respect to Father's Occupation

Father's Occupation	Low		Average		High		df	Calculated chi-square value	Remarks at 5% level
	OB	EX	OB	EX	OB	EX			
Daily wages	4	6.7	26	26.2	8	6.1	4	8.48	NS
Government Employee	21	14.8	56	55.7	7	13.4			
Private Employee	28	31.4	117	118.1	33	28.5			

(At 5% level of significance the table value ' χ^2 ' is 9.488)

It is can be seen from the above table that the calculated chi-square value 8.48 is less than the table value (9.488) with df (4) at 5% level of significance. Hence that null hypothesis is accepted. Thus the result shows that there is no significant association among prospective teachers with their father's occupation.

Findings of the Study

1. Based on the percentage analysis it is found out that the level of utilization of library resources by prospective teachers is average with regard to the background variables like father's education and father's occupation.
2. There is no significant association among prospective teachers in their utilization of library resources whose fathers are below 12th, degree and illiterate
3. There is no significant association among prospective teachers with regard to father's occupation in their utilization of library resources.

Conclusion

In recent years, library resources are the most ignored area in institutions of teacher education. It may be due to the fact that now a day all information is obtained through Internet and mobile phones. However, library resources i.e., human resources (strength of library officials, their qualifications and experiences), physical resources (library study space, chairs, tables, books and books selves, etc), printed and e-resources are important in preparing teaching activities, lecture notes, students assignment, conducting research work, accessing e-journals and web sites, subscription to online journals by teachers and students.

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