

Awareness On Environmental Protection Through Public Libraries: (A case study of Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh.)

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Abstract:

In this paper I am trying to Analyzed the awareness and use of public library services. This study main objective is to examine their awareness and satisfaction with regard to information sources and service available in District Central Library to find out the purpose of the users of district central library. Visakhapatnam Public library society, Visakha Public Library, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Public Library, Visakhapatnam, it highlights how public libraries can act as society hubs for disseminating environmental information, presenting awareness programmes and encouraging sustainable development. To achieve the objective of the study, a survey method was conducted using convenient sampling method. 500 hundred questionnaires have been distributed to the mentioned three public libraries users (women, men and retired persons).

Keywords; Awareness, Central Library, Information, Sustainable,

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I. INTRODUCTION

Public Libraries have great role to play in the development of the modern society. It is an important institution of informal and continuing education for the people apart from being place of only recreation. Public Library is a center for information of sociological acts and activities. It is a place where people have opportunities to strengthen social and mental value for the social as well as their own development. Understanding the importance of public libraries UNESCO has been also promoting public libraries through its several programs. The public libraries have very important role in the society. The main objectives of public libraries are to see that help because of the illiterate people could not lose their rights. Not only illiterate, social or cultural indifference also should be the reason for unfairness in the society and to promote awareness among the people libraries will help more they are very useful in creating awareness among people. The Public Libraries in Visakhapatnam District, is one of the most prominent role in the society, it has emerged as key educational and cultural hub, particularly popular among students preparing for all comparatives examinations such as UPSC, APPSC, Railway, Banking etc. It continues to serve as valuable public information fostering reading habits, lifelong learning, and community awareness. Awareness can empower people to demand justice. The 21st century is witnessing a knowledge revolution resulting from rapid growth in information. The public libraries played an important role in social movements tending to effect the social order directly or indirectly and creating a new socio economic and political order (1). Public Libraries have also served as centers of socialization and political awaking.

All citizens must be legally aware to prevent damage to protect the environment, a fundamental right and duty under the Indian Constitution (Art. 51-A(g)). Public legal awareness is vital because violation of environmental rights affects the entire society and threatens natural resources and all life forms. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, addresses issues such as water, air, and noise pollution, and the conservation of forests. Public libraries can play a key role in spreading such awareness, ensuring citizens act responsibly for the benefit of present and future generations.

The awareness can help in the achievement of the aspirations of the people awareness is the essential means for the development of human knowledge and society (2). In a democratic country the administration of the country depends upon laws especially environment protection laws of the country. Therefore, if the citizens of the country are aware about the Environmental protection laws of the country it will help in the social, economic, and eco-system development of the society. As a special form of social awareness is the consciousness Environmental awareness law, the totality of views ideas, concepts, beliefs, attitudes emotions,

feelings, human, association of persons or of the whole society on the right and his role, It owns a significant role in environmental areas of social life.

Environment plays a pivotal role in human life as well as in the development of society. Environment protection is part of our cultural values and traditions. In Atharvaveda, it has been said that "Man's paradise is on earth; this living world is the beloved place of all; It has the blessings of nature's bounties; live in a lovely spirit". Earth is our paradise and it is our duty to protect our paradise. The constitution of India embodies the framework of protection and preservation of nature without which life cannot be enjoyed. The knowledge of constitutional provisions regarding environment protection is need of the day to bring greater public participation, environmental awareness, environmental education and sensitize the people to preserve ecology and environment.

II. Need of the Study:

The primary goals of public libraries are to ensure that individuals do not lose their rights due to a lack of funds. Unfairness in society should not be caused solely by financial inadequacy but also by social or cultural indifference. Legal awareness is critical for the existence of a healthy democracy that is based on environmental protection and ecosystems. Visakhapatnam District Public Libraries is a center for the information of sociological acts and events. Library movement was introduced as part of freedom struggle. After independence many changes have been brought in the public library information. However, people do not have legal awareness and general awareness on environmental protection as law as is a difficult subject to understand. Legal language is very difficult to follow at this juncture present study as conduct to create awareness among the people on the Environmental protection acts in a simplified manner, Symposia, workshop, seminars shall be conducted to make the people understand legal activities that have been taken by the judiciary. Especially, laws pertaining to women, students, Farmers, senior citizens, environment science and human rights have been propagated among the people. Increasing need for community based environmental protection awareness and the study can help in replicating successful models in other public libraries across India. The present study is designed to focus on the present situation of public libraries run by the State of Andhra Pradesh in Visakhapatnam.

III. Research Methodology:

Both empirical method and doctrinal method have been followed to conduct the study. The present study is viewed to disseminate the legal knowledge to the lay men in particular Environmental Protection Act. Hence Symposia, seminars had conducted at the campus of public libraries. A case study of Visakhapatnam had been taken up to know the awareness of the people on the acts of Environment available in public libraries. However, some of the problems are to be faced in taking such activates. Sample survey had been conducted to correlate the variable presented in this study. As far as possible the confusion among the readers of the study had been avoid. This study explores the role of public libraries in supporting environmental awareness programmes, with a special focus on the public libraries, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, i.e, Visakhapatnam Public library society, Visakha Public Library, and Dr. B.r. Ambedkar Public Library, Visakhapatnam, it highlights how public libraries can act as society hubs for disseminating environmental information, presenting awareness programmes and encouraging sustainable development. To achieve the objective of the study, a survey method was conducted using convenient sampling method. 500 hundred questionnaires have been distributed to the mentioned three public libraries users (women, men and retired persons). Out the 500 hundred questionnaires, 450 hundred seventy usable response sheets were received. The collection on the material and information interviews with public library user's community, the survey conducted through questionnaire, and observation surveys method including the Library Books, program leaflets, reports, environmental protection resources in the library collection. purposive sampling of library users. Case study have been analyzed sample survey and Random sample it has pursued to complete the study. Questionnaire also supplied to the public to know their views on the utility of public libraries on the field of environmental protection awareness programmes.

IV. Limitation of the study

This study is limited to the Public libraries in Visakhapatnam District, Andhra Pradesh. The findings may not be applicable to other public libraries in Andhra Pradesh state, or India due to various in facilities, management and community engagement levels, as well as lack of sufficient funding and lack of sufficient time. The study was conducted over a limited time frame; thus it may not fully capture the long term impact to seasonal various in environment awareness initiatives. Only a subset of public library user's groups of library was interviewed. A longer and more diversified sample could have provided more comprehensive findings.

V. Objective of the Study

- ❖ To raise public knowledge in libraries about various environmental protection legislation for the benefit of society through focused programs.
- ❖ Investigate the function of public libraries in raising environmental awareness.
- ❖ To identify the various environmental programs and resources available at public libraries.
- ❖ To propose solutions for increasing the role of libraries in environmental education.

Hypothesis

The current research study is based on the hypothesis that the Visakhapatnam Public Libraries has no substantial impact on the environmental consciousness of its users. It is assumed that there is no significant difference in environmental knowledge or behavior between people who use the library's environmental resources and programs and those who don't. According to this hypothesis, any observed changes in environmental knowledge or attitudes among library users can be attributed to external causes such as formal education, media impact, or personal interest, rather than library initiatives. This hypothesis will be tested by examining user engagement, involvement in library programs, and feedback gleaned from surveys and interviews.

VI. Review of Literature

The review of relevant literature starts with a compilation of bibliography on the subject of study. The review of literature is a critical look at the existing research that has relevance and significance to the work that is being carried out.

This study analyzed the awareness and use of public library services. This study main objective is to examine their awareness and satisfaction with regard to information sources and service available in District Central Library Sivagangai to find out the purpose of the users of district central library. Muthurasu, C. (2024)³ the author discussed also to know the use and awareness of electronic resources among the users and to make suggestions for betterment of information sources and services in public library. The present study is a survey method and covers 58 users were randomly selected. Data were collected using questionnaires. Further, the study used descriptive statistical tool simple percentage to analyze the data.

M. Devi Archana and Dr. K. Surendra Babu⁴, stated that the main purpose of this study was to examine the awareness and usage of library resources by the user in regional Library of Tirupati. To achieve the objective of the study, a survey method was conducted using convenient sampling method. Two hundred questionnaires have been distributed to the public library users. Out the two hundred questionnaires, one hundred seventy usable response sheets were received this study reveals that majority of the respondents visit library for updating subject knowledge (32.94%) to update their employment information etc.

VII. Analysis of the Data

Data analysis and interpretation is considered as the heart of research report. Analysis means critical examination of assembled and grouped data for studying the characteristics of objects under study and for determining the pattern of relationship among the variables relating to it. The users' replies on responses and satisfaction level on awareness regarding environmental pollution and results of the study are presented. Analysis shows that respondents do experience inadequacy of awareness on environmental protection to the people in the Public Libraries in Visakhapatnam District, Andhra Pradesh. The results of the survey have also provided information about the benefits of the environment protection through awareness camps at public libraries as below.

Frequency of visits the Library:

The Major Objective a Public Library have always been the door to learning for a great majority of the populations that they serve with this aim, library acquires, process stores and dissemination the information and the information sources.

Table No.1 Frequency of visit the public library

S. No.	Opinion on (Respondents 450)	No. of Responses More than one	Total %
1	Daily	170	(37.77)
2	Several Times in a week	120	(26.66)
3	Once a week	40	(8.88)
4	Twice in a week	40	(8.88)
5	Rarely	50	(11.11)
6	Monthly	30	(6.66)
Total :		450	(100.00)

Analysis of data in the above table, shows that significant of users exist, among users of public libraries in term of their visit to the library. Visiting the library daily is found to be common among highest percent (37.77) of public library users. Nearly (26.66 %) of public library users are found to be visiting the library several times. About 11.11 percent of them stated that they visit the library rarely. Nearly 8.88 percentage stated that visit once a week and twice in a week for using the library. Monthly visit is found to be common among 6.66 percent of the public library users.

Purpose of visit the public Library:

When the information regarding the purpose of library visit by the public library users is sought through the questionnaire the responses given by them are tabulated in table-

Table: 2 Purpose of visit the public Library

S. No.	Opinion on (Respondents 450)	No. of Responses More than one	Total %
1	To Borrow books	55	(12.22)
2	To consult reference source	40	(8.88)
3	To sit and Read	70	(15.55)
4	To read Magazines/ Periodicals	40	(8.88)
5	To read News Papers	120	(26.66)
6	To Improve general Knowledge	15	(3.33)
7	To prepare Competitive exams	10	(2.22)
8	To read legal Information	20	(6.66)
9	To read general Information	20	(6.66)
10	Entertainment protection	50	(11.11)
Total :		450	(100.00)

Analysis of date in the above table shows that significance of various existing among users of public libraries in the term of purpose of visit the library to read news papers is found to be common among highest percent 26.66 of public library users. Only 15.55 percentage of public library users are found to be purpose of visiting the library to borrow the books about 11.11 percent of their stated that they purpose of visit the library foe entertainment 8.88 percent visit library for current reference and read magazines/ Journals and 6.66 percentage library to read general information 6.66 visit library to read legal information. Only 3.33 percentages and 2.22 percentages visit the library to improve the general knowledge and to prepare competitive exams. It is observed that the public library users to purpose visit the library to read news papers.

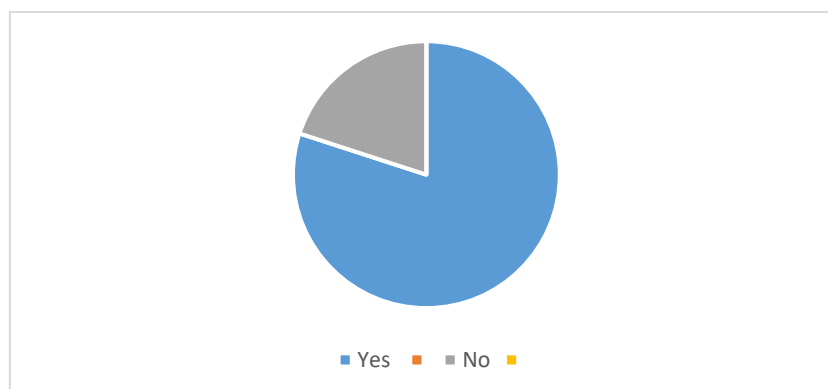
Awareness Programmes

There is a trend in almost every Sate to encourage the peoples in organizing awareness programs on environment protection and other development programmes (i.e., meetings, symposia, seminars) for common people, the public library should be well equipped with the most recent information to support the participants with information and it is best way to raise awareness among the society. Result is presented in the table.

Table: 3 Need of Awareness programmes on Environment

S No.	Opinion on (Respondents 450)	No. of response	Total %
1	Yes	360	(80.00)
2	No	90	(20.00)
Total:		450	(100.00)

Table: 3Need of Awareness Programmes on Environment



The table No.3 graph indicates that majority of the members of the public library 80.00 percent have useful of the legal awareness programmes. Only 20.00 percent of members have not known the useful of legal awareness programmes in the public library.

If yes, type of legal awareness programmes you need?

Public libraries offered various programmes to its users in social, cultural, legal field etc. Hence, the investigator tried to find out among there programmed. Which programmes is most helpful for public and collected legal information is analyzed in the table.

Table: 3.1 Type of Legal awareness programmes

S No.	Opinion on (Respondents 450)	No. of response More than one	Total %
1	Individual legal awareness Programmes	30	(6.66)
2	Group legal awareness programmes	90	(20.00)
3	Community legal awareness programmes	40	(8.88)
4	The Social legal awareness programmes	290	(64.44)
Total:		450	(100.00)

It is seen that the social legal awareness programmes organized b the library is most effective in public 64.44 percent followed by group legal awareness programmes 20.00 % rest of 8.88 percent and 6.66 % users stated that community legal awareness programmes and group legal awareness programmes are useful to public. A good number of the public library users are supporting the social legal awareness programmes is useful to aware on legal.

Do you know the benefits of legal awareness?

Legal awareness programmes will make the people to know about their fundamental rights, empower them and ascertain their legal rights and benefits and privileges guaranteed by the Indian constitution to live in dignity as citizens of the country.

Table No:4 Do you know the benefits of legal awareness Environment protection?

S. No.	Opinion on Number of Responses (450)	No. of Responses	Total %
1	Yes	368	81.77
2	No	82	18.23
	Total	450	100.00

It is evident from the above table that 81.77 % of the people don't know the importance of legal awareness and only less than 18.23 % of people have known the benefits of legal awareness respectively.

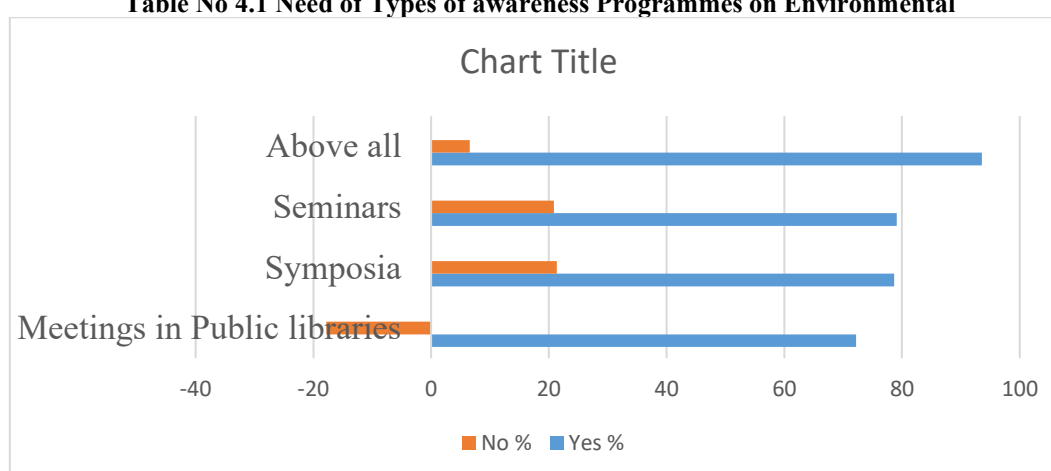
If yes, the types of Programmes you need?

Almost there is a trend in every legal fraternity to encourage the people in organizing legal awareness programmes on environment pollution and protection i.e. meetings, symposia, seminars for common people. Result is presented in the table.

Table No4.1 If yes, need of following Types of awareness Programmes on Environmental at Public Libraries? More than one .

S No.	Opinion on, Number of Responses (450)	YES %	NO %	Total %
1	Meetings in Public libraries	325 (72.22)	125 (17.78)	450 (100.00)
2	Symposia	354 (78.66)	96 (21.34)	450 (100.00)
3	Seminars	356 (79.11)	94 (20.89)	450 (100.00)
4	Above all	421 (93.55)	29 (6.55)	450 (100.00)

Table No 4.1 Need of Types of awareness Programmes on Environmental



It may be observed from the above table that among various legal programmes need on environment protection and 'above all' stood first with 93.55 % of the participants. It reveals that 79.11 % of users not know about seminars. Only 78.66 % of users need on symposia, less than 72.22 per cent of users are need about the meeting at public libraries, people have need awareness on legal awareness programmes respectively.

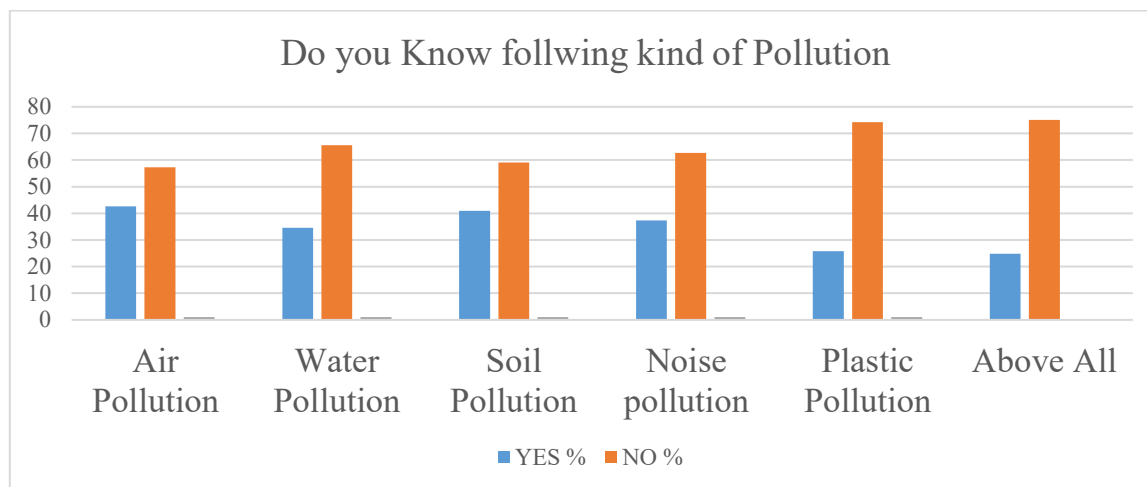
Do you know the kinds of pollution and its impact on human life?

Because of the modern technology man has attained everything that he wants, without support of the modern knowledge from time to time without which it is so much difficult for the survival of the human race along with other species in this planet. Along with benefits the modern technology has given many kinds side effects in the form of water pollution, air pollution, noise pollution and soil pollution. The plastic waste became the biggest global menace.

Table No: 5Do you know the kinds of pollution and its impact on human life on the earth?

S. No.	Opinion on, Number of Responses (450)	YES %	NO %	Total %
1	Air Pollution	192 (42.66)	258 (57.34)	450 (100.00)
2	Water Pollution	155 (34.55)	295 (65.55)	450 (100.00)
3	Soil Pollution	184 (40.89)	266 (59.11)	450 (100.00)
4	Noise pollution	168 (37.34)	282 (62.66)	450 (100.00)
5	Plastic Pollution	116 (25.77)	334 (74.23)	450 (100.00)

6	Above All	112 (24.88)	338 (75.12)	450 (100.00)
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As per the information given in the above table and graph that highest per cent 42.66 of people have awareness regarding Air pollution. 74.23 per cent of public have no awareness Regarding plastic pollution and 65.55 per cent of people and 59.11 have no awareness on water pollution and soil pollution. 37.34 per cent of people have awareness with regard to noise pollution. In case of above all concepts of pollutions, only 24.88 per cent of people have awareness respectively.

VII. Major Research Findings of Data Collection

The extent of use of public library services depends on various factors. One of the factors that influence the extent of use of a library is the frequency of visits made by the users to the public libraries. It is observed that majority of the public library users are daily visitors to the public library. However, it is also noticed that there are also few visitors to the using library monthly among the users.

The user community in public libraries quoted different reasons for visiting the public library. Highest percent of them visited the library to read newspapers followed by those who visited the library for to borrow the books. However, low percent of the users have mentioned to improve the general knowledge. It is observed majority of the users visiting in public libraries for to read newspapers.

Environmental awareness programmes in public libraries, Visakhapatnam District

The analysis of the table revealed that the majority of public library members were helpful to awareness programmers. Only a small percentage of the user population is unaware of the law or the need for environmental protection. Almost all public library customers agreed that environmental awareness programs and general programs are always necessary for people's social development.

The growing number of issues and problems that plague societies today have given rise to the many causes that demand support from the people of the country. Be it is the environment, poverty, literacy or public health, each cause is clamoring for public attention and in an effort to get such attention, government and organizations have come together to devote a particular day to a particular cause so that awareness may be raised regarding those issues.

An awareness campaign will be carried out in public libraries. It is a communal area for the public. It provides knowledge for all. Many environmental protection awareness campaigns have been held in numerous locations, including state cities and villages, yet the most critical areas continue to be neglected. This awareness campaign has not reached rural places, particularly in the hills of the states, where illiterate and ignorant people live. Many agencies in society contribute to public legal education, but the government bears the primary obligation through its courts, law enforcement agencies, and legal infrastructure.

The media and the voluntary social welfare agencies and NGOs play an equally important role in the dissemination of information on Environmental protection, the responsibilities among the public as well as society. Majority of people need different programmes for the protection of environment i.e., seminars, symposia, meetings etc. Most of the respondents said they need following legal awareness, firstly social legal awareness programmes, group legal awareness programmes and community legal awareness programmes and useful to public as well as women community. A good number of women communities are supporting the social legal awareness programmes is useful to aware on legal system and law.

VIII. Conclusion and Suggestions

Every citizen should have knowledge or legal awareness about the environment in which we (people and other animals) exist and which is our only natural resource of survival. Every public person has a legal duty to understand the nature of the environment and the legal safeguards in place to protect Environment and ecosystem. Protecting the environment means protecting life. The current generation has a moral and legal obligation to leave the environment in good condition for future generations. The Indian legislature has passed environmental laws to safeguard the environment, including the Water Pollution Act, the Air Pollution Act, the Conservation of Forest Act, and the Wildlife Act, etc. If anyone is causing or has caused harm to the health of the environment, any public-spirited citizen can bring the issue to the attention of the judiciary in the form of public interest litigation (PIL) under Article 226 of the High Court, and in the case of a violation of fundamental rights, the public interest litigation will be held under Article 32 of the Indian Constitution. In *A.B.S.K. Sangh (Rly) v. Union of India (5)*, the Supreme Court ruled that public interest litigation might be pursued on behalf of an unregistered association. The Indian judiciary and the National Green Tribunal (NGT) have played important roles in environmental preservation. Legal camps in rural locations, seminars, documentaries, street plays, brochures, and social or electronic media all help residents understand their rights and obligations, respond effectively, and contribute to environmental protection in order to live a peaceful and secure existence.

In Andhra Pradesh, public libraries should actively conduct awareness programs for ecosystem protection. In particular, Visakhapatnam district public libraries must organize initiatives on environmental protection to safeguard the interests of future generations.

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