Utilization of Library Collection and Services of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) Lepakshi, Sri Sathya Sai District, A.P.: A study

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Abstract

This study delves into utilizing library collection and services at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) School in Lepakshi, Anantapur, shedding light on the critical role that school libraries play in fostering academic and personal development. The study finds that the library remains a bustling hub of activity during library periods, with students eagerly reading periodicals, borrowing library materials, and accessing reference books. However, the study also uncovers the difficulties that students experience in using library resources, such as a lack of information search capabilities and scattered sources of information. As we move towards a more digital age, the role of school libraries in facilitating learning and discovery remains as vital as ever. It must continue to receive robust support and investment for the benefit of future generations.

Keywords
School library; Library services; ICT facilities; Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya

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Introduction

A library is a repository of information and a vital source of knowledge. In school education, the library promotes academic and general knowledge to individuals, helping them develop their personal and social lives. Libraries collect, organize, store, and disseminate information to their user community. The primary purpose of any school library is to facilitate the needs of its patrons, enabling them to succeed in their academics and personal lives. School libraries provide reference services for specific as well as general information queries. Libraries are the heart of institutions and play a crucial role in designing the curriculum for teaching and learning. With the development and implementation of information and communication technology (ICT) in the education sector, information is available in various formats, including print, electronic, and non-book materials. Considering the changes in the school education system, it is crucial to understand the utilization of school library collections, services, and facilities.

Objectives:

Specifically, this research aims to:

1. To determine the frequency of library visits,
2. To understand the purposes for which library users visit the library,
3. To identify the methods used by library users to search the library's collection,
4. To detect any challenges faced by library users while accessing library resources
5. To evaluate the overall satisfaction of library users with the collection, services, and facilities provided by the library;

About the School: An Overview

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) Lepakshi is a co-educational residential school located in the Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh, India. Established in 1987, the school is affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and offers 6th to 12th grade classes. The campus covers 25 acres and features a well-lit library spanning 880 square feet. The library contains 8,700 books, 16 periodicals, and non-book materials, including multimedia resources. In addition to the library, JNV Lepakshi has well-equipped science and computer labs, and a sports complex that offers facilities for various indoor and outdoor games.

Review of Literature

The literature review provides a careful examination and summary of previous research studies. Hawkins (2000) pointed out that the future library will face significant difficulty in assisting scholars to identify relevant information from different formats. Therefore, librarians must understand how students use the various resource formats to help develop and evaluate a curriculum that will educate students on how to use the library effectively. Monika (2017) evaluated students' information requirements and search patterns in a digital setting, using the information services offered by the Chitkara International School Library in Chandigarh. The secondary data analysis revealed that most students found the information they needed on their school-issued iPads. The findings suggest that while students rely on electronic devices for information access, adults must offer guidance on accessing and using reliable information sources. Harisanty (2019) conducted a descriptive quantitative study on Senior High School Students Use of Library Resources and Services. The study utilized multistage random sampling and questionnaires to collect data from 200 students. The findings showed that high school students primarily seek information related to entertainment and post-high school education. Magazines were the most frequently used information source; students relied on their peers for information exchange. The study suggests that school libraries should provide resources that align with students' needs and that librarians and teachers should actively encourage students to use the library. Overall, the study provides valuable insights for school libraries and educators on best supporting high school students' information-seeking behavior. Madumere et al. (2019) studied school library resources, usage, and security in public secondary schools in Nsukka Urban, Enugu State. The study used descriptive survey research methods and included 256 participants from five out of ten public secondary schools. The findings indicate that essential resources like textbooks, dictionaries, and computers are available in the school libraries. The study recommends employing trained librarians, providing adequate computers and internet connectivity, installing electronic security systems, and involving non-governmental organizations in funding the school libraries.

Ncube (2020) conducted a study to investigate the utilization of school library services by A-level students at Matopo High School and identified measures that could be taken to increase their utilization. The study used a case study and qualitative approach, with random and systematic sampling techniques for student respondents and automatic sampling for library staff. Suggestions to enhance library use include improving services, buying more relevant materials, boosting internet speed, buying current books, supplying local language materials, and promoting resources. Singh and Sinha (2022) investigated to understand the information-seeking behaviour of government and private school students in Delhi. The study found that most respondents preferred print resources to electronic formats. E-resources were used for recreation purposes. Most respondents preferred using their mobile phones to access the information. The information-seeking behaviour of private and government school students varied significantly. Kavitha and Chandrashekara (2022) surveyed to understand how secondary school students in Mysore North Block use their school library and the internet for schoolwork. The findings informed the development of library orientation programs for students and faculty to familiarize them with the library's resources and services in modern information society.

Methodology

This study used the same questionnaire-based survey method as earlier studies conducted for data collection. The study is purely based on primary data collected from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) School, Lepakshi, Anantapur (Dist.) Andhra Pradesh, in December 2022. A well-designed questionnaire has been distributed to the students of classes VIII to X. A total of 120 questionnaires were distributed, and 112 were filled out.

Table 1: Frequency of distribution of respondents by Class, Gender, Age and domicile.

Demographical Information	Frequency	Respondents	
		In Number	In Percentage
Class	VIII	39	34.82%
	IX	36	32.14%
	X	37	33.04%
	Total	**112**	**(100%)**
Gender	Male	65	58.04%
	Female	47	41.96%
	Total	**112**	**(100%)**
Age	11-12	10	8.93%

	13 - 14	40	35.71%
	15-16	56	50.00%
	Above 16	06	5.36%
	Total	**112**	**(100.%)**
Domicile	Rural	86	76.79%
	Urban	26	23.21%
TOTAL		**112**	**(100%)**

Table 1 shows that 112 respondents participated in the survey. Among them, 39 (34.82%) were from class VIII, 36 (32.14%) were from class IX, and 37 (33.04%) were from class X. Regarding gender, the majority of the respondents were male, comprising 65 (58.04%), while the female respondents were 47 (41.96%). In terms of age, the highest number of respondents, comprising 56 (50.00%), were aged 15-16 years, followed by 40 (35.71%) in the 13-14 age group, and 10 (8.93%) in the 11-12 age group. Only six (5.36%) respondents were above the age of 16. The majority of the respondents, comprising 86 (76.79%), were from rural areas, while 26 (23.21%) were from urban areas.

Table 2: Frequency of Library Visit

S.No	Statement	Frequency	Percent
1	Daily	5	4.46%
2	During the Library period	71	63.39%
3	During the free time	36	32.14%
TOTAL		**112**	**(100.%)**

The frequency of visitors to the library by the respondents is shown in Table 2, which shows that the majority of the respondents 71 (63.39%), visit the library during the library period, followed by during free time 36 (32.14%) and only 5 (4.46%) visit the library daily.

Table 3: Purpose of Library Visit

S. No	Purpose of library visit	Frequency (N=112)	Percent
1	Reading the Periodicals	97	86.61%
2	Reading library books / Storybooks	91	81.25%
3	To access reference books	75	66.96%
4	To borrow the books and other materials	81	72.32%
5	To find material that is relevant to an interesting topic	67	59.82%
6	To use old question papers	60	53.57%
7	Attending library events or activities	51	45.54%
8	To use computers for audio video /multimedia facility	16	14.29%
9	To use the Internet facility	9	8.04%

(Multiple answers were permitted)

To a question on the purpose of the visiting the library, the respondents allowed multiple responses. The table 3 illustrates that the library visit of most respondents was primarily motivated by reading periodicals, with 97 (86.61%) indicating this purpose, followed by 91 (81.25%) respondents who visited to read library books or storybooks. Additionally, 81 (72.32%) respondents visited to borrow books and other materials, while 75 (66.96%) respondents visited the library to access reference books. Moreover, 67 (59.82%) respondents visited the library to find relevant material on an interesting topic, and 60 (53.57%) visited to use old question papers. Furthermore, 51 (45.54%) respondents visited the library to attend library events or activities, while 16 (14.29%) used computers for audio-video or multimedia facilities during their visit. Lastly, only 9 (8.04%) respondents used the internet facility.

Table 4: Books search method

S. No	Method of searching the library collection	Frequency	Percent
1	Searching the catalogue (OPAC)	4	3.57%
2	Searching the shelves	52	46.43%
3	Contacting the library staff	56	50.00%
TOTAL		112	100.0%

The table 4 presents the method of searching the library collection, with 52 (46.43%) respondents indicating that they searched the shelves, while 56 (50.00%) respondents contacted the library staff. Only 4 (3.57%) respondents reported using the catalogue (OPAC) to search for materials.

Table 5: Problems while accessing the library resources

S. No	Problems while accessing the library resources	Frequency	Percent

1	Yes	85	75.89%
2	No	27	24.11%
TOTAL		**112**	**100%**

It is observed from the above Table 5 that most of the respondents, 85 (75.89%) face problems while accessing library resources, and only 27 (24.11%) did not face any difficulties in accessing library resources.

Table 6: Problems while accessing the library resources.

S. No	Problems while accessing the library resources	Frequency (N=85)	Percent
1	Lack of information searching skills	63	74.12%
2	Information is scattered among too many sources	42	49.41%
3	Don't know how to use the online catalogue (OPAC)	48	56.47%
4	Library collection is inadequate	36	42.35%
5	Lack of Terminals and e-resources	20	23.53%
6	Library staff is unwilling to assist	22	25.88%
7	Required information is not available in the library	16	18.82%

(Multiple answers were permitted)

In Table 6, it is evident that all respondents identified seven main reasons for facing difficulties in accessing library resources. The most commonly reported problem was a lack of information searching skills, with 63 (74.12%) respondents identifying this as the main difficulty. The next most common problem was the scattering of information across too many sources, with 42 (49.41%) respondents reporting this issue. 48 (56.47%) respondents cited not knowing how to use the online catalogue (OPAC) as a problem. 36 (42.35%) respondents reported that the inadequacy of the library collection was a difficulty they faced. 22 (25.88%) respondents reported that library staff was unwilling to assist, while 20 (23.53%) respondents reported a lack of access to terminals and e-resources. Finally, 16 (18.82%) respondents reported that the required information was unavailable in the library.

Table 7: Satisfaction level of library collection, services and facilities

S. No	Level of Satisfaction	Overall Satisfaction		
		Library Collection	Library Services	Facilities
1	Satisfied	88 (78.57%)	99 (88.39%)	94 (83.93%)
2	Moderate	9 (8.04%	4 (3.57%)	7 (6.25%)
3	Dissatisfied	15 (13.39%)	9 (8.04%)	11 (9.82%)
TOTAL		**112 (100%)**	**112 (100%)**	**112 (100%)**

Table 7 shows respondents' satisfaction level regarding the library collection, library services, and facilities. The results are based on the responses of 112 participants. Among the three categories, the library services received the highest overall satisfaction rating, with 99 (88.39%) respondents reporting satisfaction. The library collection received the second-highest satisfaction rating, with 88 (78.57%) respondents reporting satisfaction. Facilities received the lowest satisfaction rating, with 94 (83.93%) respondents reporting satisfaction. Regarding the level of satisfaction, most respondents reported being satisfied with all three categories. For library collection, 88 (78.57%) respondents reported being satisfied, 9 (8.04%) respondents reported moderate satisfaction, and 15 (13.39%) respondents reported being dissatisfied. For library services, 99 (88.39%) respondents reported being satisfied, 4 (3.57%) respondents reported moderate satisfaction, and 9 (8.04%) respondents reported being dissatisfied. For facilities, 94 (83.93%) respondents reported being satisfied, 7 (6.25%) respondents reported moderate satisfaction, and 11 (9.82%) respondents reported being dissatisfied.

Findings

- Most respondents were male 65 (58.04%) and aged 15-16 years 65 (50.00%).
- Most respondents, 86 (76.79%) were from rural areas.
- The majority of respondents 71 (63.39%) visited the library during the library period.
- Reading periodicals was the primary purpose of library visits 97 (86.61%), followed by reading library books or

storybooks 91 (81.25%) and borrowing books and other materials 81 (72.32%).

- The most common method of searching the library collection was by contacting the library staff 56 (50.00%).
- Most respondents 85 (75.89%) faced difficulties while accessing library resources, with the lack of information searching skills being the most common problem 63 (74.12%).
- Library services received the highest overall satisfaction rating 99 (88.39%), followed by facilities 94 (83.93%), and library collection 88 (78.57%).

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following are some recommendations that can improve the library services and resources:

- **Training on information-searching skills:** The library can organize training sessions to improve the information-searching skills of the students to help them locate and access the required resources.
- **Catalogue (OPAC) Training:** The library staff can conduct training sessions to help the students effectively use the online catalogue (OPAC) to locate the required resources.
- **Enhancing the Library Collection:** The library should increase the variety of books, periodicals, and reference materials available to cater to the students' different interests and learning levels.
- **Increase access to e-resources and terminals:** The library should ensure adequate numbers of terminals and e-resources available for students, especially those who face difficulties in accessing physical resources.
- **Improve Library Facilities:** The library can enhance its facilities such as seating arrangements, ventilation, and lighting to make the library a comfortable and conducive place for students to study and read.
- **Encourage Library Events:** The library should organize events and activities to encourage students to use the library, such as book clubs, debates, and quiz competitions.
- **Staff Training:** The library staff should be trained to be more approachable, welcoming, and helpful in assisting students in accessing the resources and services.

By implementing these recommendations, the library can provide better services and resources that cater to students' learning needs and enhance their academic achievements.

Conclusion

In today's digital age, the importance of school libraries cannot be overstated. This study on the utilization of library collection and services at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) School in Lepakshi, Anantapur, highlights the crucial role that school libraries play in promoting academic and personal development. However, the study also highlights students' challenges in accessing library resources, which can hinder their learning and development. To bridge this gap, the study suggests that library staff should provide hands-on training and conduct library orientation programs to familiarize students with library resources and facilities. By doing so, the use of library resources and facilities among students can be improved, promoting a culture of lifelong learning and leading to academic and personal success. As we move forward, we must continue to support and invest in school libraries for the benefit of future generations.

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