

Exploring the Impact of Mobile Library Services in Karnataka: A User Perspective

H. S. Arunkumar* and Khaiser Jahan Begum

Department of Studies in Library and Information Science, University of Mysore, Karnataka, India

E-mail: khaiser.nikam6@gmail.com

*Corresponding Author: arunkumar.hs20@gmail.com

(Received 29 September 2024; Revised 12 October 2024, Accepted 30 October 2024; Available online 7 November 2024)

Abstract - The study critically evaluates the utilization and impact of public library services, with an emphasis on mobile libraries, within Karnataka State. A meticulously designed questionnaire was distributed, collecting data from 840 users, achieving an impressive response rate of 88.88%. The objectives of the study are to assess the frequency and motivations behind library visits, analyze user awareness of available services, and gauge attitudes towards the effectiveness of mobile libraries. The findings revealed a significant prevalence of urban users, with students emerging as the most frequent patrons. Statistical analysis indicates no substantial variations in library usage across different demographic groups. The results highlight the crucial role of public libraries in facilitating knowledge and dissemination. The study suggests a need for enhanced awareness and engagement strategies, particularly in the use of mobile library services.

Keywords: Public Library Services, Mobile Libraries, User Awareness, Library Usage, Engagement Strategies

I. INTRODUCTION

The public library, as a democratic institution operated by the people for the people, should be established and maintained under the clear authority of law, supported wholly or mainly from public funds, and open for free use on equal terms to all members of the community regardless of occupation, creed, class, or race (Ekbote, 1987). The public library is a product of democracy and the backbone of national harmony. It is an institution for the public, by the public, and of the public. It disseminates knowledge, promotes learning, and advances education and research. The public library is a powerful means to eradicate social evils and to channel national energies toward progress and development. It serves as a multipurpose agency that acts as an effective medium for mass education and fosters peace and understanding. The aim of a public library is to contribute to the quality of life, promote the concept of a democratic society, and enhance the overall happiness and awareness of individuals regarding themselves, others, and the environment. It is truly a 'university of the people' (Tomer, 1991).

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Pandewaran, Chellappandi, and Bhattacharya (2021) examined public library service awareness and utilization,

with a focus on the Dindigul District Central Library (DCL). The primary goals of this study were to assess users' awareness and satisfaction with the information sources and services offered by DCL, Dindigul; determine the reasons for users' visits to the district central library; ascertain users' awareness and use of electronic information resources; and provide recommendations for improving public library information sources and services. The study employed a survey approach and included 57 randomly selected users. Data were collected using questionnaires. The researcher utilized Microsoft Word and Excel to create and format the tables for the study. The findings revealed that male respondents outnumbered female respondents, with the majority of respondents aged between 21 and 30. Most respondents indicated that they preferred to read *Dinathanthi*, used the library primarily to read newspapers, accessed various sports materials, and found materials and information in the library's collection of newspapers, journals, and magazines. Additionally, respondents reported finding information by asking library staff for assistance, consistently being satisfied with the quality of information in electronic resources, and generally being satisfied with the library's services.

Patil *et al.*, (2018) discussed the usage patterns and information needs of young users at the City Central Library (CCL) in Dharwad, Karnataka. A questionnaire was used as the data collection tool, and the survey method was adopted for the study. A total of 200 questionnaires were distributed to users aged 18–35, and 180 (90%) responses were deemed suitable for analysis. The results indicate that CCL, Dharwad plays a significant role in the lives of young users, who visit the library frequently.

The majority of respondents spent more than three hours per visit, with 57.22% using the library for preparing for competitive examinations, reading newspapers and magazines, browsing books, and some visiting just to spend leisure time. Furthermore, the highest number of respondents sought information related to employment (81.11%), updates on education (66.57%), and government policies and programs. The study concluded with suggestions for the overall development and enhancement of CCL, Dharwad's resources, services, and infrastructure to better meet the needs of its users.

Jegan and Jayaprakash (2018) explored the awareness, information needs, and information-seeking attitudes among users of public libraries in the Salem district of Tamil Nadu.

Erappa (2014) stated that the democratic principle is the foundation of the public library as a social institution. It is an institution of the people, founded on the democratic ideal of being for, by, and of the people. Through its collections and services, it constantly aims to satisfy the informational, educational, and recreational requirements of the community. The primary goal is to maximize the utilization of the public library's resources and services by its patrons.

The main focus of this study is the usage and understanding of public library information resources and services by patrons of Koppal's District Central Library. Structured questionnaires were distributed to 150 postgraduate students in the Koppal district for data collection. Of these, 125 questionnaires were considered for analysis, as 25 were excluded due to insufficient information. The response rate was 83%.

Parameshwar and Goutami (2016) discussed self-finance management in the public libraries of Karnataka. The public library system in Karnataka has been increasing its income by obtaining financial support from the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), library cess, national-level agencies, and the state government. In Karnataka, the library cess is 6%, but many city or municipal corporations do not allocate a fixed cess to libraries. Consequently, public libraries are under pressure to generate their own income and find ways to source funds. Income generation may be achieved through self-financing techniques such as (a) membership fees, (b) photocopy charges, (c) extension services to external users, and (d) community information services, spiral binding, and lamination. Such measures help libraries meet their financial needs, and it is essential for libraries to practice self-control and reduce expenses.

Abubakar (2013) examined the strategic role and responsibilities of public libraries in poverty alleviation programs in Nigeria. The Federal Government of Nigeria has implemented numerous poverty alleviation programs aimed at combating poverty, introduced by successive governments. However, despite these efforts, the soaring rate of poverty in the country remains an alarming issue for the government. In this regard, public libraries and their personnel have a leading role in disseminating information about poverty reduction schemes and programs to the public and encouraging them to utilize the available benefits. Public libraries, particularly in economically poor countries in Africa, need to actively play their roles in making poverty reduction program information accessible to the communities that would benefit from them.

Parvathamma and Reddy (2009) discussed the use and utilization of information resources and services by public library users in the Bidar district. The majority of respondents were male, including students, youth, and

private-sector employees aged 11–30 years. Results revealed that most respondents spent less than one hour in the library, with inconvenient library hours cited as the main reason for not visiting more frequently.

Books, newspapers, magazines, friends, teachers, television, and radio were identified as the most important information dissemination channels for meeting their information needs, with fiction being the most preferred type of document. The reading room (reference) service and lending (circulation) service were the most frequently used services by respondents. The study highlighted that the majority of respondents believed public libraries should improve their collections, provide internet access, and enhance community-based services to increase literacy levels among users. Libraries should adopt a proactive approach in motivating users to utilize these resources and services to enhance their competency levels.

Chukwusa, J. (2022) discussed the strategic enhancement of public library functionality in Delta State, Nigeria: The role of stakeholders. Descriptive research was used for the study. The study revealed that challenges hampering the functionality of public libraries include inadequate funding, insufficient qualified librarians, poor infrastructure, poor remuneration, and inadequate public relations (PR) efforts by libraries. The ways to enhance public libraries in Delta State and make them more functional include the government's provision of adequate funds, the proper formulation of public library policies, employment of professional librarians to manage the various sections of the library, frequent organization of resource exhibitions in public libraries, and active stakeholder involvement in public library management.

Kinya, H. D. S. (2011) discussed the uniqueness of each public library in the community, noting that libraries differ based on community needs and services required by their users. These differences should be reflected in the distribution of manpower. Posting staff with the same job description and qualifications to the same positions leads to the duplication of services and resources. Without diversifying and prioritizing services, duplication can prevent libraries from providing fundamental professional library information services, such as subject analysis, statistical information, and user guidance.

Pandeeswaran, C., *et al.*, (2021) examined the awareness and use of public library services, with special reference to the District Central Library, Dindigul. The main objective of this study was to assess users' awareness and satisfaction with the information sources and services available at DCL, Dindigul, determine the purposes for visiting the library, evaluate the use and awareness of electronic information resources, and offer suggestions for the improvement of information sources and services in public libraries. The study used a survey method and covered 57 randomly selected users.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the present study are:

1. To assess the use and awareness of library services and facilities provided by public libraries in Karnataka.
2. To determine the frequency and purpose of library visits by users of public libraries in Karnataka.
3. To examine the awareness and use of mobile library resources and services by users of public libraries in Karnataka.
4. To explore users' attitudes toward the effectiveness and efficiency of mobile libraries.

IV. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Karnataka has a wide public library system, with over 15 different types of libraries established across the state. Currently, there are 7,730 public libraries and information centers operating in various parts of the state. Given the large number of public libraries and information centers, it

is difficult to cover and assess all of them, for reasons that are self-explanatory. This study is confined to those public libraries that provide access to information resources, services, and facilities through 'Mobile Library' services in Karnataka. Currently, 12 state and district central public libraries offer 'Mobile Library' services to improve reading habits among actual and potential users in the surrounding localities. Only the users of these mobile libraries are considered in this study to assess and analyze their attitudes toward the use of 'Mobile Library' resources and services. The scope of the study is limited to the mobile library services of public libraries in Karnataka. Table I presents the seven 'Mobile Libraries' and their users in different localities in Karnataka.

Additionally, the public libraries listed above have made remarkable contributions to empowering the public library system in Karnataka as well as in the country. Most of the developmental activities in Karnataka have been driven by these public libraries.

TABLE I LIST OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES SELECTED FOR STUDY

Sl. No.	Name of the Public Libraries
1	Bangalore Central Public Library Mobile Library Service
2	Mysore Central Public Library Mobile Library Service
3	Mangalore Central Public Library Mobile Library Service
4	Dharwad Central Public Library Mobile Library Service
5	Belgaum Central Public Library Mobile Library Service
6	Dhavanagere Central Public Library Mobile Library Service
7	Chikkamagaluru Central Public Library Mobile Library Service

V. METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a survey method, using a questionnaire as a tool for data collection. A well-structured questionnaire was designed and distributed among the users. A total of 945 questionnaires were distributed to public library users under study, of which 840 completed questionnaires were received, yielding a response rate of 88.88%. In addition to the questionnaire method, an interview schedule and observation method were also employed to supplement the data collection. A systematic random sampling technique was used.

VI. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA

The data collected by different methods were analyzed and interpreted and the same is presented in the following tables.

TABLE II GENDER WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

General Information	Respondents (N-840)	Total
Gender	Male	565 (67.26)
	Female	275 (32.74)
	Total	840 (100.00)

Table II illustrates a breakdown of respondents by gender across different user categories. Among the respondents, 565 were males (67.26%) and 275 were females (32.74%).

Within each category, the proportion of male and female respondents varies slightly, with males constituting a higher percentage in most groups.

TABLE III DISTRIBUTION OF QUESTIONNAIRE ACCORDING TO GEOGRAPHY

General Information		Types of Respondents			Total (n=840)
		Students	Working Professionals	Citizens / Publics	
Geography	Rural	20 (7.14)	01 (.36)	04 (1.43)	25 (2.98)
	Urban	214 (76.43)	212 (75.71)	232 (82.86)	658 (78.33)
	Semi Urban	46 (16.43)	67 (23.93)	44 (15.71)	157 (18.69)
	Total	280	280	280	840(100.00)

Table III presents data regarding the distribution of respondents across different geographic regions. The largest portion of respondents totals 658 individuals. Among them, students constitute 76.43% (214 individuals), working professionals 75.71% (212 individuals), and citizens/public

constitute 82.86% (232 individuals) from urban areas. A total of 157 respondents are from semi-urban areas. Within these categories, students represent 16.43% (46 individuals), working professionals 23.93% (67 individuals), and citizens/public 15.71% (44 individuals).

TABLE IV DISTRIBUTION OF QUESTIONNAIRE ACCORDING TO AGE GROUP

General Information		Type of Users			Total (N-840)
		Students	Working Professionals	Citizens / Publics	
Age Group	<25years	258 (92.14)	00 (.00)	02 (.71)	260 (30.95)
	26-35 years	21 (7.50)	02 (.71)	00 (.00)	23 (2.74)
	36-45 years	00 (.00)	54 (19.29)	25 (8.93)	79 (9.40)
	46-55 years	01 (.36)	138 (49.29)	97 (34.64)	236 (28.10)
	55> years	00 (.00)	86 (30.71)	156 (55.71)	242 (28.81)
	Total	280	280	280	840 (100.00)

The analysis revealed that among the 840 total respondents, the highest proportion (92.14%) of student respondents were generally within the age group of 25 years. This was

followed by 49.29% of working professionals within the age group of 46–55 years and 55.71% of citizens/public within the age group of 55 years.

TABLE V DISTRIBUTION OF QUESTIONNAIRE ACCORDING TO QUALIFICATIONS GROUP

General Information		Respondents (N-840)			Total (N-840)
		Students	Working Professionals	Citizens / Publics	
Basic Qualification	Illustrate	00 (0.00)	00 (.00)	00 (.00)	09 (1.07)
	SSLC	01 (.36)	00 (.00)	01 (.36)	02 (.24)
	PUC	17 (6.07)	07 (2.50)	34 (12.14)	58 (6.90)
	Diploma	31 (11.07)	10 (3.57)	17 (6.07)	58 (6.90)
	UG	124 (44.29)	79 (28.21)	128 (45.71)	331 (39.40)
	PG	69 (24.64)	132 (47.14)	67 (23.93)	268 (31.90)
	M.Phil	03 (1.07)	26 (9.29)	23 (8.21)	52 (6.19)
	Ph.D	26 (9.29)	26 (9.29)	10 (3.57)	62 (7.38)

Table V provides insights into the educational qualifications of users segmented by different categories such as students, working professionals, and citizens/public. The study results show that the highest proportion, 331 (39.40%) of respondents from all three categories - students with 124 (44.29%), working professionals with 79 (28.21%), and citizens/public with 128 (45.71%) - hold undergraduate (UG) degrees in various disciplines. Furthermore, the study noted that 268 (31.90%) of respondents from all three categories have obtained postgraduate (PG) degrees in various subjects. Notably, 26 students and working professionals have obtained doctoral (Ph.D.) degrees, along with 10 citizens/public holding Ph.D. degrees.

Table VI presents the distribution of individuals across different occupational categories based on their demographic groups: students, working professionals, and citizens/public. It was found that 286 (34.05%) of respondents are studying at various educational levels, ranging from SSLC to Ph.D., while the second highest group, 213 (25.36%) of respondents, includes working professionals and citizens employed as wage earners in different sectors.

Additionally, 157 (18.69%) of working professionals and citizens are engaged in their own businesses.

TABLE VI DISTRIBUTION OF QUESTIONNAIRE ACCORDING TO PROFESSION

General Information		Type of Respondents			Total (N=840)
		Students	Working Professionals	Citizens / Publics	
Types of Professional	Studying	279 (99.64)	02 (.71)	05 (1.79)	286 (34.05)
	Employee	01 (.36)	64 (22.86)	22 (7.86)	87 (10.36)
	Agriculturist	00 (.00)	02 (.71)	08 (2.86)	10 (1.19)
	Wages	00 (.00)	112 (40.00)	101 (36.07)	213 (25.36)
	Own Business	00 (.00)	70 (25.00)	87 (31.07)	157 (18.69)
	Un-employed	00 (.00)	30 (10.71)	57 (20.36)	87 (10.36)

A. Awareness and Use of Public Libraries

Public libraries are indispensable resources that contribute to the educational, cultural, and social well-being of communities. Increasing awareness and encouraging the use of libraries requires ongoing efforts in outreach, community

engagement, and adaptation to changing needs. The following sections assess the awareness and use of public libraries by the mobile library users in Karnataka. Primary data collected from responses were analyzed and are presented in the following table.

TABLE VII VISITING TO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Visit to Public Library		Responses (no=840)		Total (%)
		Yes	No	
User Category	Students	280 (33.33)	00 (0.00)	280 (33.33)
	Working Professionals	280 (33.33)	00 (0.00)	280 (33.33)
	Citizens / Publics	280 (33.33)	00 (0.00)	280 (33.33)
Total		840	000	840 (99.99%)
Level of Hypothesis Significance = <0.05 P-value = 0.000 df = 02 Likelihood Ratio = 0.000 Linear by Linear Association (LLA) = 0.000 Result of the Testing of Hypothesis Significance = 'There is No Significance'				

The study analysis determined user attitudes toward the awareness and use of different types of public libraries, including Taluka libraries, District libraries, and Grama Panchayat libraries. Notably, 100% of respondents from all three categories were aware of the availability of resources, services offered, and facilities provided by these public libraries to their user communities.

Table VIII presents the frequency of public library usage among three groups: students, working professionals, and citizens/publics. The analysis found that the highest percentage of working professionals (30.71%) and students (25.36%) preferred to use public libraries on a monthly basis, followed by students (23.93%) and citizens (22.14%) who preferred weekly usage. On average, 20.95% of respondents, including 26.07% of working professionals and 22.86% of citizens, reported using public libraries

occasionally. Only a small percentage (12.6%) of respondents indicated daily use of public libraries.

Table IX presents the user perception of the purpose of using public library resources and services. The analysis found that the highest number of respondents (645 or 76.79%) from the three categories mentioned using public libraries to refer to books, followed by 561 respondents (66.79%) who referred to newspapers and magazines, and 543 respondents (64.64%) and 488 respondents (58.10%) who used them for accessing reference materials to write research papers.

The study analysis also indicates that 678 respondents (80.71%) expressed that they did not visit the library just to spend leisure time or as a pastime. This suggests that most public library users visit the library with a specific purpose.

TABLE VIII FREQUENTLY USE OF PUBLIC LIBRARY

Use of Library		Respondents (N-840)			Total
		Students	Working Professionals	Citizens / Publics	
Range of Frequencies	Daily	50 (17.86)	14 (5.00)	42 (15.00)	106 (12.62)
	Several times a week	35 (12.50)	12 (4.29)	36 (12.86)	83 (9.88)
	Weekly	67 (23.93)	55 (19.64)	62 (22.14)	184 (21.90)
	Monthly	71 (25.36)	86 (30.71)	52 (18.57)	209 (24.88)
	Occasionally	39 (13.93)	73 (26.07)	64 (22.86)	176 (20.95)
	As & when I required	18 (6.43)	40 (14.29)	24 (8.57)	82 (9.76)
Level of Hypothesis Significance = <0.05 χ^2 value = P-value = 0.000 df = 10 Likelihood Ratio = 0.000 Linear by Linear Association (LLA) = 0.068 Result of the Testing of Hypothesis Significance = 'There is No Significance'					

TABLE IX PURPOSE OF PUBLIC LIBRARY USE

Types of Public Libraries	Resp.	Respondents			Total (840)	P-Value
		Students	Working Professionals	Citizens/Publics		
To Refer Books	Yes	219(78.21)	213(76.07)	213(76.07)	645(76.79)	0.786
	No	61(21.79)	67(23.93)	67(23.93)	195(23.21)	
To refer journals	Yes	111(39.64)	97(34.64)	87(31.07)	295(35.12)	0.102
	No	169(60.36)	183(65.36)	193(68.93)	545(64.88)	
To borrow/return library reading materials	Yes	118(42.14)	112(40.00)	117(41.79)	347(41.31)	0.859
	No	162(57.86)	168(60.00)	163(58.21)	493(58.69)	
To refer newspapers and magazines	Yes	178(63.57)	205(73.21)	178(63.57)	561(66.79)	0.020
	No	102(36.43)	75(26.79)	102(36.43)	279(33.21)	
To refer reference materials	Yes	146(52.14)	208(74.29)	189(67.50)	543(64.64)	0.000
	No	134(47.86)	72(25.71)	91(32.50)	297(35.36)	
To refer the source to write research papers	Yes	154(55.00)	188(67.14)	146(52.14)	488(58.10)	0.001
	No	126(45.00)	92(32.86)	134(47.86)	352(41.90)	
To take notes and prepare assignments/ project reports	Yes	163(58.21)	131(46.79)	82(29.29)	376(44.76)	0.000
	No	117(41.79)	146(53.21)	198(70.71)	464(55.24)	
To take notes for teaching & research	Yes	118(42.14)	100(35.71)	84(30.00)	302(35.95)	0.011
	No	162(57.86)	180(64.29)	196(70.00)	538(64.05)	
To prepare competitive exams	Yes	125(44.64)	39(13.93)	52(18.57)	216(25.71)	0.000
	No	155(55.36)	241(86.07)	228(81.43)	624(74.29)	
To refer government publications	Yes	73(26.07)	193(68.93)	152(54.29)	418(49.76)	0.000
	No	207(73.93)	87(31.07)	128(45.71)	422(50.24)	
To just spend leisure time or visit to time pass	Yes	73(26.07%)	45(16.07%)	44(15.71%)	162(19.29)	0.002
	No	207(73.93)	235(83.93)	236(84.29)	678(80.71)	

TABLE X AWARENESS OF MOBILE LIBRARIES

Aware Mobile Library		Respondents (N-840)		
		Yes	No	Total
Types of Professionals	Students	280 (100.00)	00 (00.00%)	280 (33.33)
	Working Professionals	280 (100.00)	00 (00.00%)	280 (33.33)
	Citizens/Publics	280 (100.00)	00 (00.00%)	280 (33.33)
	Total	838 (100.00)	00 (00.00%)	840 (100.00)
Level of Hypothesis Significance = <0.05 χ^2 value = P-value = 0.606 df = 02 Likelihood Ratio = 0.444 Linear by Linear Association (LLA) = 0.386 Result of the Testing of Hypothesis Significance = 'There is No Significance'				

Table X examines overall user awareness of mobile library resources, services, facilities, and extension activities. The data from Table 10 indicate that all respondents in each category (students, working professionals, and citizens/publics) are aware of the mobile library, as

evidenced by the 100% awareness rate. The statistical analysis, with a P-value of 0.606 and a non-significant result, supports the conclusion that there is no significant difference in mobile library awareness across the different types of professionals.

TABLE XI FREQUENTLY USE OF PUBLIC LIBRARY

Use of Library		Respondents (N-840)			Total
		Students	Working Professionals	Citizens / Publics	
Range of Frequencies	Daily	50 (17.86)	14 (5.00)	42 (15.00)	106 (12.62)
	Several times a week	35 (12.50)	12 (4.29)	36 (12.86)	83 (9.88)
	Weekly	67 (23.93)	55 (19.64)	62 (22.14)	184 (21.90)
	Monthly	71 (25.36)	86 (30.71)	52 (18.57)	209 (24.88)
	Occasionally	39 (13.93)	73 (26.07)	64 (22.86)	176 (20.95)
	As & when I required	18 (6.43)	40 (14.29)	24 (8.57)	82 (9.76)
Level of Hypothesis Significance = <0.05 χ^2 value = P-value = 0.000 df = 10 Likelihood Ratio = 0.000 Linear by Linear Association (LLA) = 0.068 Result of the Testing of Hypothesis Significance = 'There is No Significance'					

Table XI presents the frequency of public library usage among three groups: students, working professionals, and citizens/publics. The analysis found that the highest percentage of working professionals (30.71%) and students (25.36%) prefer to use public libraries on a monthly basis, followed by students (23.93%) and citizens (22.14%) who prefer to use them on a weekly basis. On average, 20.95% of respondents, including 26.07% of working professionals and 22.86% of citizens, preferred to use the library occasionally. Only a few respondents (12.6%) reported using public libraries on a daily basis.

VII. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. Among the 840 respondents, 565 (67.26%) were men, falling into various patronage categories.
2. The analysis indicates that most mobile or public library users come from urban areas, as most mobile libraries operate in these regions. Therefore, the study suggests that the Department of Public Libraries and administrative professionals should consider and plan for extending mobile library services to remote areas. Some foreign countries have taken remarkable initiatives in this regard.

3. The study shows that individuals from various age groups are using the information resources, services, and extension facilities provided by the mobile library.
4. Similar to the previous finding, the study shows that individuals from different age groups are utilizing the information resources, services, and extension facilities provided by the mobile library.
5. The study reveals that 286 (34.05%) of respondents are studying at various educational levels.
6. It was found that all respondents visit the public library.
7. The analysis indicates that, on average, 65.00% of respondents from all three groups use the public libraries on a weekly, monthly, or occasional basis. Therefore, public library leaders should create an engaging reading atmosphere by conducting various extension activities to attract users.
8. The study reveals that most public library users visit the library with specific needs and requirements, rather than for general purposes. Thus, the public library department should improve the quality of its collections and foster a good reading and learning environment through extension activities and programs.
9. The study shows that all participants were aware of the mobile library system operating across the state of Karnataka.
10. The study indicates that, on average, 65.00% of respondents from all three groups use the public libraries on a weekly, monthly, or occasional basis. Consequently, public library leaders should create an engaging reading atmosphere by conducting various extension activities to attract users.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The findings of this study reinforce the vital importance of public libraries in Karnataka as essential repositories of information and educational resources. While user engagement with traditional library services is robust, there remains a critical gap in the awareness and utilization of mobile library offerings. Despite the demographic uniformity in library usage patterns, targeted initiatives are necessary to elevate the visibility of mobile services, especially in underserved rural areas. Future strategies should prioritize outreach, accessibility, and the promotion of the diverse resources offered by mobile libraries, thereby enriching the educational landscape and cultivating a culture of lifelong learning among all community members.

REFERENCES

- [1] Abubakar, B. M. (2013). Poverty alleviation through strategic public library services in Nigeria in the 21st century: A model. *IFLA Journal*, 39(1), 4-14. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0340035213475610>
- [2] Binsaleh, S., & Binsaleh, M. (2013). Mobile learning: What guidelines should we produce in the context of mobile learning implementation in the conflict area of the four southernmost provinces of Thailand. *Asian Social Science*, 9(13), 270-281. <https://doi.org/10.5539/ass.v9n13p270>
- [3] Cambridge Dictionary. (2021). Mobile library. In *Cambridge Dictionary*. Retrieved April 22, 2021, from <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/mobile-library>
- [4] Collins English Dictionary. (2021). Mobile library. In *Collins English Dictionary*. Retrieved April 22, 2021, from <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/mobile-library>
- [5] Erappa, A. (2014). Awareness and use of public library resources by PG students in Karnataka. *Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research (JETIR)*, 10(1), 394-398.
- [6] Jegan, P., & Jayaprakash, M. (2018). Awareness of information needs and information seeking behaviour of public library users in Salem District: A study. *International Journal of Next Generation Library and Technologies*, 4(2), 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.22159/ijnglt.2018.02.10>
- [7] Kumar, S. M., Devabalagan, G. A., & Stephen, M. (2021). Access to and use of public library system and services in Tamil Nadu. *Turkish Online Journal of Qualitative Inquiry*, 12(7), 3467-3480. <https://doi.org/10.17569/tojqi.10391>
- [8] Merriam-Webster. (2021). Mobile library. In *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*. Retrieved April 22, 2021, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/mobile%20library>
- [9] Omar, S. Z., Shaffril, H. A. M., D'Silva, J. L., Bolong, J., & Hamzah, A. (2015). Mapping the patterns and problems in using rural library services among rural youth in Malaysia. *Information Development*, 31(5), 393-404. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0266666914557153>
- [10] Pandeewaran, C., Chellappandi, P., & Bhattacharya, S. S. (2021). A study on awareness and use of public library services: With special reference to district central library, Dindigul. *International Journal of Research in Library Science*, 7(1), 45-56. <https://doi.org/10.26761/IJRLS.7.1.2021.1363>
- [11] Parameshwar, P., & Goutami, V. (2016). Role of self-financing in public libraries of Karnataka State. *International Journal of Next Generation Library and Technologies*, 2(1), 1-6.
- [12] Parvathamma, K., & Reddy, D. (2009). Use of information resources and services in public libraries: A case of Bidar district, Karnataka State, India. *Annals of Library and Information Studies*, 56(3), 249-254.
- [13] Patil, R. R., Kumbar, B. D., & Kamble, S. D. (2019). Use pattern and information needs of young users of public libraries in Karnataka with special reference to City Central Library (CCL), Dharwad. *Library Philosophy and Practice*, 1-12.
- [14] Chukwusa, J. (2022). Strategic enhancement of public library functionality: The role of stakeholders. *Asian Journal of Information Science and Technology*, 12(1), 39-44. <https://doi.org/10.51983/ajist-2022.12.1.3092>
- [15] Kinya, H. D. S. (2011). A glance on manpower in public library system in Kenya. *Asian Journal of Information Science and Technology*, 1(1), 47-50. <https://doi.org/10.51983/ajist-2011.1.1.10>
- [16] Pandeewaran, C., & et al., (2021). A study on awareness and use of public library services: With special reference to district central library, Dindigul. *International Journal of Research in Library Science (IJRLS)*, 7(1), 45-56. <https://doi.org/10.26761/IJRLS.7.1.2021.1363>