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## AWARENESS AND USAGE OF COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION RESOURCES AMONG STUDENTS AND JOB SEEKERS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES: A SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TOWN BRANCH LIBRARY, TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT

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**ABSTRACT:** In the recent years, public libraries are dissemination of resources to the students, Job seekers and the public. This paper discusses the awareness and usage of resources among students and job seekers in public libraries. This paper finds out that 61.1 percent of the respondents are using the competitive examination resources, 40 percent of the respondents have attended the number of coaching programmes, seminars and model tests related to competitive examinations, 45.6 percent of the respondents have sufficient level of competitive examination resources available in the library, 47.8 percent of the respondents are benefitted with the availability of internet with printout facility in the library while applying for the competitive examinations.

**Keywords:** Public Libraries, Competitive Examinations, Awareness and Usage

### Introduction

The public library, it is often called as the people's university for its universal character. The public library is for the people, of the people, by the people. It is for all, without any distinction of caste, creed, class, colour or sex. Public libraries play a vibrant role for the welfare of the public. Now a days, Government of India, Government of Tamil Nadu, Public Sector Banks, Research Institutions have conducted various examinations for selecting new dynamic young workers. In this context, public libraries are allotted more funds to purchase the competitive examination resources like books and magazines. So sufficient level of competitive examination materials are available at the district central libraries, and major branch libraries in Tamil Nadu. These libraries are also motivating the students and job seekers without any fear to appear for the competitive examinations. All these libraries have separate section for competitive examination resources, and magazines to competitive examinations for the subscribers. This paper identifies the level of usage of competitive examination resources in the public libraries.

### Institute Profile

The Town Public library of Tirunelveli District, located in Tirunelveli City was established in the year 1954, under the jurisdiction of Tirunelveli Corporation. This library has 61625 books, more than 120 magazines, and Competitive Examination Resources section having 6200 books. The library has Reference Section, Children's Section, Internet facility, Reprography with print out facilities. This library has 46 patron members and 12100 ordinary members. In addition to the institution profile, the Public libraries rendering valuable service like helping the students appearing for Civil Service Examination, Awareness Programmes announced by the Government of India and also by the Government of Tamilnadu. All these programmes are conducted in the primary, middle, higher secondary school and college level. Our Central Library of Tirunelveli, just adjourned to St Xavier's College is a good resource and also a good helper for the job seekers of the present era. Our Library may live to a hundred.

### Objectives of the study

The objectives of the present study are

- ❖ To find out the awareness of competitive examination resources available in the library.
- ❖ To find out the level of usage of the competitive examination resources.
- ❖ To find out the level of availability of competitive examination resources.
- ❖ To find out the level of satisfaction about conducting the coaching programmes, seminars, and model tests related to competitive examinations in the libraries.
- ❖ To find out the availability of internet with printer facilities in the libraries.

### Statement of the Problem

This study has taken the problem stated as "Awareness and Usage of Competitive Examination Resources among students and job seekers in Public Libraries: A Special Reference to Town Branch Library, Tirunelveli District".

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### Delimitations of the Study

Collection of the data from the users of the Town Branch Library, Tirunelveli, Tirunelveli district.

### Sample of the Study

The researcher had distributed 118 sets of questionnaire to the public library users like students and job seekers from Town branch library, Tirunelveli. Among the filled up questionnaire, the researcher had selected 90 questionnaires and present before the analyst to interpret.

### Analysis of the Data

The selected 90 questionnaire were analysed through percent analysis.

**Table 1 - Awareness on Competitive Examination Resources**

Valid	Frequency	Percent
Satisfactory	9	10.0
Good	31	34.4
Very Good	50	55.6
Total	90	100.0

Source: Primary Data

Table 1 shows that 55.6 percent of the respondents are favouring the awareness on competitive examination resources in the library. It is a welcome aspect and also uplift the satisfactory result of 10%.

**Table 2 – Usage of Competitive Examination Resources**

Valid	Frequency	Percent
Satisfactory	14	15.6
Good	21	23.3
Very Good	55	61.1
Total	90	100.0

Source: Primary Data

Table 2 shows that 61.1 percent of the respondents using the competitive examination resources regularly in the library are very good, followed by 23.3 % are good and 15.6% are satisfactory.

**Table 3 – Coaching Programmes, Seminars and Model Test conducted in the Library**

Valid	Frequency	Percent
Satisfactory	27	30.0
Good	27	30.0
Very Good	36	40.0
Total	90	100.0

Source: Primary Data

Table 3 shows that 40 percent of the respondents have the opinion that number of coaching programmes, seminars and model tests are conducted related to competitive examinations in the library are very good, followed by 30 % are good and 30% are satisfactory.

**Table 4 – Satisfaction about the availability of Competitive Examination Resources**

Valid	Frequency	Percent
Satisfactory	11	12.2
Good	38	42.2
Very Good	41	45.6
Total	90	100.0

Source: Primary Data

Table 4 shows that, 45.6 percent of the respondents convey that sufficient level of competitive examination resources available in the library are very good, followed by 42.2 % are good and 12.2 % are satisfactory.

**Table 5 - Internet with Printout Facility for Applying Competitive Examinations**

Valid	Frequency	Percent
Satisfactory	24	26.7
Good	23	25.6
Very Good	43	47.8
Total	90	100.0

Table 5 shows that, 47.8 percent of the respondents say that the availability of internet with printout facility in the library for applying the competitive examinations are very good, followed by 25.6 % are good and 26.7 % are satisfactory.

#### Major Findings of the study

- ❖ 55.6 percent of the respondents are aware of the competitive examination resources in the library.
- ❖ 61.1 percent of the respondents are using the competitive examination resources regularly in the library.
- ❖ 40 percent of the respondents are know about number of coaching programmes, seminars and model tests are to be conducted related to competitive examinations in the library.
- ❖ 45.6 percent of the respondents are of opinion that, sufficient levels of competitive examination resources available in the library are very good.
- ❖ 47.8 percent of the respondents have the opinion that, availability of internet with printout facility in the library to apply the competitive examinations are well and good.

#### Conclusion

This study proves that, most of the students and job seekers are using the public libraries frequently to meet out the competitive examinations. They also suggest that a lot of competitive examination resources are available in the library. This library has a separate internet centre with photocopying and printout facility to apply for the online competitive examinations and also collected the up to date informations from the internet. We thank our Public library from the depth of our heart for its valuable service to the public. May our town library live to be hundred and lead so many youths and job seekers from darkness to light

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