

Influence of Libraries on Learning Activities of Students in Secondary Schools in Paddipalai Division, Batticaloa West

G.F. Yasanthini

Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies, Eastern University, Sri Lanka

It has revealed that the school libraries played an important role in student learning activities especially in difficult area. This study was conducted to analyse the impact of school libraries on learning activities of students in the Paddipalai Educational Division, Batticaloa West. A structured questionnaire was distributed among the respondents for data collection. The response rate was 97.5%. According to the study, 52.6% were female and the highest percentage (33%) of them was in the age group of 13 – 14 years compared to other age group. The students visit the school libraries frequently (50.8 %) is slightly higher than the occasionally visit (42.5 %). Study individually is the main reason for using the library which is 86%, followed by respondents visited the library for preparing term examination and completing continuous assessments. Textbooks, past and model papers for general examination are the most frequently used library materials. To enhance independent learning, develop skill for reading and taking notes, create a new idea for a particular topic in various subjects, and access relevant materials for understanding the subject are the major role of the school library in Paddipalai educational division. During the period of reading months school libraries organized different types of competition for students to enhance their library visit and usage. The majority of the respondents felt lack in availability of updated text books and past papers, availability of computer and internet facilities, inadequate photocopy services, lack of library hours in school time table, and less library organization and shelving arrangements are the challenges faced by them for using library in their learning activities. The finding of the study revealed that, the school library plays positive roles on student learning activities in the Paddipalai educational division. By upgrading the library resources and services in school the government authority needs to allocate more funds for improving the library collection and acquiring new technology and to appoint a teacher librarian in each school library for handling library functions.

Key words: Learning Activities; Library Resources; Library Services; School Libraries; Teacher Librarian