

Survey on Availability and Usage of School Libraries in Jaffna: Special Focus to Junior Secondary Students of Valigamam Zone

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The school library system is identified and established as a core supporting system for the development of teaching and learning activities of schools in Sri Lanka. IFLA Manifesto also stipulates that “the school library must be organized and maintained according to professional standards”. Jaffna district is the largest in Northern Province by population (622,589). The last two decades of long lasting warfare had caused severe impede in the education, teaching and learning environment. Some studies have been conducted in Sri Lanka on information literacy and school library system. Objective of this study is to identify availability and usage of school libraries in Jaffna with special focus to junior secondary students of Valigamam Zone. Two hundred and fifty two junior secondary school students were randomly selected from nine secondary schools in Valigamam zone. Data was collected using a self-structured questionnaire that covers all the variables under study. They include questions on demographic data, types of information sources available to students, use of information etc. The participants responded to the set of items in the questionnaire by expressing their level of agreement or disagreement based on a 5-point Likert Scale. Research method of this study was quantitative analysis with SPSS software. Findings of this study reveal that School Libraries have been functioning effectively as integral part of the total education programme of the schools. Most of the schools (81%) have separate library building and system. More than 92.1% of students visit to libraries at least once in a week. 78.6 students satisfied with the available books in their libraries. 75% students use library period in libraries and 64.7 % students use library to acquire new information. Only 21.4% of students have satisfied with internet facilities. While 63.9% of students visit library for searching new information only 33.3% students visit to read story books. This study suggests that the Ministry of Education of Sri Lankan should take appropriate measures to enhance the library facilities in schools.(370 words)

Keywords: Information literacy, Library Services, Secondary education, Sri Lanka