

Comparative study of Library use by high school students of SSC, CBSE, ICSE and IGCSE boards of Mumbai, India

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the library use by high school students of different boards such as SSC, CBSE, ICSE and IGCSE of south Mumbai. The survey research method and questionnaire as a data collection tool was applied for the present study. It was observed that almost all the school students in South Mumbai were using their school library at least once in a week. ICSE, IGCSE students use the library essentially for preparing project work and assignments. Except SSC, Computer catalogues were available in ICSE, CBSE, IGCSE school libraries. In ICSE and IGCSE schools library orientation is given in a more interactive way with the help of Charts, PPT presentations, Videos, etc.

Key words: Library Use, High school students, SS, CBSE, ICSE, IGCSE

INTRODUCTION

School library is a learning laboratory, providing a variety of instructional media, essential for optimum support of the educational programme. It offers an opportunity to the students to work with ideas intelligently. In addition to educational material, school libraries provide literature for character building and recreation. The aim is to enable a school to achieve educational excellence (Hasan, 1997).

School library provides qualitative collection in print and online, to support both curricular

and co-curricular needs. It provides such an environment where students either individually or in groups may work on developing the powers of mind, cultivating right interests, attitudes and moral and intellectual values (Walia and Gopi, 2008).

This can only be done by the active involvement of school library, teachers and children. Thus the purpose of library is to make children a critical reader and help them construct knowledge. They can ultimately use this knowledge in their daily life.

Majority of high schools in Mumbai belong to the following five boards.

SSC: State Secondary Certificate

CBSE: Central Board of Secondary Education

ICSE: Indian Certificate of Secondary Education

IGCSE: International General Certificate of Secondary Education

IB: International Baccalaureate

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OBJECTIVES & METHODS

The main purpose of the research was to do a comparative study of library use by high school students of different boards such as SSC, CBSE, ICSE and IGCSE. There were four broad objectives, which are as follows:

1. To find out library sources and services provided in the high school libraries of different boards such as SSC, CBSE, ICSE and IGCSE particularly South Mumbai.
2. To study the pattern of library use by high school students of different boards.
3. To identify the different purposes for which the library is used by the students.
4. To examine the various problems faced by students in library use.

POPULATION

The main objective of the present study was to do a comparative study of library use by high school students of different boards such as SSC, CBSE, ICSE and IGCSE. The sample chosen was English medium high school students of aforesaid boards and respective school librarians of south Mumbai.

STEPS IN IDENTIFICATION OF POPULATION

The total number of schools in Mumbai were found out from Mumbai Municipal Corporation Office and number of schools in South Mumbai was traced by the Maharashtra government website i.e. http://envis.maharashtra.gov.in/envis_data/pdf/sch3.pdf.

Following sites were also useful

<http://mumbaieducation.net/Schools/CBSE/>

<http://www.mumbaishools.net>

<http://mumbaieducation.net/Schools/ICSE/>

Two schools of each type were chosen for the study by using Random Sampling method. And from single school, 30 students (std 8th -15 and std 9th -15) were chosen as sample by random sampling technique. Thus from each board 60 students, making 240 students of 4 different boards were chosen as a sample.

As the sample size was large, the best chosen method for the study was the survey method using questionnaires as a data collection tool. Wherever researcher felt necessity for detailed information on certain issue, unstructured interviews were conducted with librarians.

CHALLENGES

Getting appointments of school principals were troublesome.

1. Principals were not ready to spend their students' time in other things rather than study.
2. Some CBSE Schools refused to conduct survey in their schools giving the cause that they need to take permission from their central authority well in advance.
3. Most of the schools were situated in Navy Nagar (Restricted area). Getting entry in the area for a new person was a tedious and time consuming process for security purpose.
4. In some cases directors were out of India, so principals were not giving permission without consulting them.
5. Teachers were not ready to spend their periods for the data collection as they wanted to wind up with remaining syllabus.

DATA COLLECTION

The questionnaire was distributed among 240 students. There were 30 students from each school i.e. 60 from each board filled up the questionnaire. Thus total 240 duly filled questionnaires were received making total response rate of 100%.

FINDINGS

Co - Curricular Activities Conducted in Schools

All SSC students i.e. 60 (100%) favored for 'Competitions' and 'Project work' followed by 52 (100%) 'Science Exhibition'. 'Assignment' got the least number i.e. 32 (53.33%) as co-curricular activities conducted.

While from ICSE, 58 (96.66%) students marked for 'Competitions' and 'Science Exhibitions' each and 57 (95%) opted for 'Assignments'. The least response was for

'Project work' i.e. 55 (91.66%). Equal number of students of CBSE i.e. 59 (98.33%) pointed 'Project' and 'Assignments'. It was followed by the 'Competitions' which scored 58 (96.66%). 'Science Exhibitions' had also scored well i.e. 57 (95%). In IGCSE schools the highest response i.e. 57 (95%) was for 'Project work'. This was followed by the 'Science Exhibitions' i.e. 54 (90%) and for 'Assignments' 53 (83.33%). Exactly half of the students i.e. 30 (50%) responded for 'Competitions'.

Though 'Science Exhibition' was conducted in all the boards, response of ICSE students was highest i.e. 58 (96.66%) among all the boards,

Table 1: Co-curricular Activities Conducted in Schools

Boards	Response from Students								Average %
	SSC (60 students)		ICSE (60 students)		CBSE (60 students)		IGCSE (60 students)		
Activities	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Competitions	60	100	58	96.66	58	96.66	30	50	85.83
Science Exhibitions	52	86.66	58	96.66	57	95	54	90	92.08
Project Work	60	100	55	91.66	59	98.33	57	95	96.24
Assignments	32	53.33	57	95	59	98.33	53	83.33	82.49

on the other hand it was lowest for SSC students i.e. 52 (86.66%). The data is presented in Table 1.

VISITING SCHOOL LIBRARY

The study showed that from each of ICSE, CBSE & IGCSE board schools 60 (100%) students used to visit the school library where as from SSC board schools 56 (93.33%) students used to visit the library.

FREQUENCY & PURPOSE OF SCHOOL LIBRARY VISIT

All CBSE students were visiting library once in a week followed by 76.66% students of IGCSE. On an average 76.24% students of all boards were visiting the school library once in a week, while 14.58% were daily visitors.

Majority of SSC students i.e. 40 (66.67%) were visiting the library for 'Issuing books'. Whereas students of ICSE i.e. 41 (68.33%) were visiting the library for preparing 'Project work' and 'Assignments'. The students of CBSE 60 (100%) were visiting the library for 'Study', while 56

Table 2: Purpose to Visit the Library

Boards	Response from students								Average %
	SSC (60 students)		ICSE (60 students)		CBSE (60 students)		IGCSE (60 students)		
Purpose	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
To study	-	-	22	36.67	60	100.00	-	-	34.16
To get the book issued	40	66.67	30	50.00	27	45.00	40	66.67	57.08
To do Light Reading	22	36.67	22	36.67	47	78.33	28	46.67	49.58
To prepare for Competitions	6	10	18	30.00	44	73.33	16	26.67	35
To prepare for Projects /Assignments	4	6.67	41	68.33	56	93.33	32	53.33	55.41
To refer previous years Question papers	-	-	10	16.67	21	35.00	-	-	12.91

(93.33%) students were visiting library for 'Project work' & 'Assignments'. IGCSE students i.e. 40 (66.67%) used to visit the library for 'Issuing books'. The data is presented in Table 2.

PROVIDED BY SCHOOL LIBRARY

All the board schools were providing 'Circulation service' as a core service. In IGCSE, 60 (100%) students responded for 'In house reading' and 58 (96.67) students responded for 'Library Orientation'. Whereas 55 (91.67%) responses were for both, 'Display & Exhibition' as well as 'Reference Service'.

Table 3: Services Provided by School Library

Boards	Responses from Students								Average %
	SSC (60 students)		ICSE (60 students)		CBSE (60 students)		IGCSE (60 students)		
Services	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Library orientation	15	25	30	50.00	57	95.00	58	96.67	66.67
Card catalogue	30	50	33	55.00	55	91.67	25	30	56.67
Computer catalogue	-	-	-	-	5	8.33	30	50	14.58
In house reading	28	46.67	43	71.67	55	91.67	60	100	77.50
Reference service	32	53.33	39	65.00	53	88.33	55	91.67	74.58
Circulation service	60	100	60	100	60	100	60	100	100
Book bank facilities	-	-	-	-	11	18.33	-	-	4.58
Display and exhibition	12	20	23	38.33	23	38.33	55	91.67	47.08
Photocopying facilities	-	-	23	38.33	-	-	30	50	22.08
Internet browsing	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	50	12.50

In CBSE 57 (95%) students responded for 'Library Orientation' where as 55 (91.67%) responded for 'Card catalogue' which was the service scored highest among all the boards. The data is presented in Table 3.

SERVICES PREFERRED BY STUDENTS OTHER THAN EXISTING SERVICES

It was found that most of the SSC students 40 (66.67%) preferred 'Internet', more than half 33 (55%) students of ICSE wanted 'Current affair books'. Most i.e. 51 (85%) students of the CBSE preferred 'Career guidance books'

Table 4: Service Preferred by Students

Boards	Response from Students								Average %
	SSC (60 students)		ICSE (60 students)		CBSE (60 students)		IGCSE (60 students)		
Service Preferred	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
T. V.	36	60	9	15.00	40	66.67	18	20	40.43
Current affairs books	22	36.67	33	55.00	51	85.00	4	6.66	45.83
Career guidance books	16	26.67	30	50.00	48	80.00	50	83.33	60
Educational computer games	16	26.67	14	23.33	49	81.67	16	26.67	39.59
Computer	14	23.33	16	26.67	46	76.67	8	13.33	35
Internet	40	66.67	28	46.67	50	83.33	30	50	61.67

followed by 'Internet' 50 (83.33%), while many IGSC students 50 (83.33%) wanted 'Career guidance books'. The data is as indicated in Table 4.

In short, 'Internet' and 'Career guidance books' were preferred over the others by students.

Table 5: Sources seen in School Library

Boards	Response from Students								Average %
	SSC (60 students)		ICSE (60 students)		CBSE (60 students)		IGCSE (60 students)		
Sources	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Books	60	100	60	100.00	60	100.00	60	100	100
Dictionaries	30	50	57	95.00	60	100.00	56	93.33	84.58
Encyclopedias	44	73.33	58	96.67	60	100.00	56	93.33	90.83
Newspapers/Magazines	44	73.33	58	96.67	60	100.00	56	93.33	90.83
Atlas, Maps, Globe	32	53.33	53	96.67	52	86.67	52	86.67	80.83
Audiovisual Material	4	6.66	1	1.67	7	11.67	40	66.67	21.67

SOURCES SEEN IN SCHOOL LIBRARY

All the students from each board i.e. 60 (100%) had marked for 'Books' as source seen in the library. This was followed by

'Encyclopedias' and 'Newspapers/Magazines' by equal number of students i.e. (90.83%) as most seen sources. The data is as indicated in Table 5.

Table 6: Frequently used Library Materials

Boards	Responses from Students			
	SSC (60 students)	ICSE (60 students)	CBSE (60 students)	IGCSE (60 students)
Materials	Score	Score	Score	Score
Dictionaries	26	13	192	9
Encyclopedias	140	138	68	144
Geographical Sources	14	86	72	24
Newspapers and Magazines	154	39	100	37
Story Books	188	234	178	135
Biographies	56	34	62	29
Audiovisual Material	18	56	4	57

FREQUENTLY USED LIBRARY MATERIALS BY STUDENTS

Score for each material was calculated using Likert type of scale. Storybooks had scored the highest rank for ICSE (234), SSC (188), and CBSE (178) among other options. Whereas in

ICSE 'Encyclopedias' received the maximum score i.e. 144, followed by 'Story books' i.e. 135. Scores for different library materials are mentioned in Table 6.

Table 7: Sources helpful for Information Search

Boards	Responses from Students			
	SSC (60 students)	ICSE (60 students)	CBSE (60 students)	IGCSE (60 students)
Materials	Score	Score	Score	Score
Dictionaries	26	13	192	9
Encyclopedias	140	138	68	144
Geographical Sources	14	86	72	24
Newspapers and Magazines	154	39	100	37
Story Books	188	234	178	135
Biographies	56	34	62	29
Audiovisual Material	18	56	4	57

**SOURCES WHICH ARE HELPFUL FOR
INFORMATION SEARCH IN THE
LIBRARY**

In SSC 52 (86.66%), in ICSE 90 (90.00%), in CBSE 90 (90.00%) & IGCSE 60 (100%) students had credited 'Librarians' for their helpfulness of information search. 'Computer catalogues' were also equally creditable in IGCSE for

Table 8: Collection in the Library

Boards	Response from Students								Average %
	SSC (60 Students)		ICSE (60 Students)		CBSE (60 Students)		IGCSE (60 Students)		
Collection	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Excellent	3	5	24	40.00	12	20.00	27	45	27.5
Very Good	7	11.66	16	26.67	31	51.67	23	38.33	32.08
Good	41	68.33	18	30.00	15	25.00	7	11.66	33.75
Poor	9	15	2	3.33	2	3.33	3	5	6.67

directing students to search information in the library. The data is presented in Table 7.

**OPINION ABOUT LIBRARY
COLLECTION**

More than half of the SSC students i.e. 41 (68.33) opined their school library collection as 'Good', majority of ICSE 24 (40%) students found it 'Excellent'. Nearly half of the students

Table 9: Opinion about Library Services

Boards	Response from students								Average %
	SSC (60 Students)		ICSE (60 Students)		CBSE (60 Students)		IGCSE (60 Students)		
Opinion	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Excellent	-	-	25	41.67	5	8.33	24	40	22.50
Very Good	2	3.33	9	15	27	45	29	48.33	27.92
Good	37	61.66	25	41.67	25	41.67	5	8.33	38.33
Poor	21	35	1	1.67	2	3.33	2	3.33	10.8325

31 (51.67%) from CBSE found their library collection 'Very Good' whereas, a good number of students 27 (45%) from IGCSE had mentioned their library collection as 'Excellent'.

OPINION ABOUT LIBRARY SERVICES

In case of SSC, 37 (61.66%) students thought their library services were 'Good', whereas a considerable no. of students i.e. 21 (35%) expressed it as 'Poor'. In ICSE, equal number of students i.e. 25 (41.67%) rated as 'Excellent' and

Table 10: Factors Prevent Maximum use of Library

Boards	Response from Students								Av. %
	SSC (60 students)		ICSE (60 students)		CBSE (60 students)		IGCSE (60 students)		
Factors	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Insufficient Lib. Collection	20	3.33	5	8.33	21	35.00	-	-	11.67
Insufficient library services	14	23.33	3	5.00	18	30.00	-	-	14.58
TV & Internet	8	13.33	8	13.33	37	61.67	25	41.66	32.50
Lack of time for extra reading	41	68.33	44	73.33	44	73.33	40	66.66	70
Too much Home work	45	75	21	35.00	47	78.33	21	35	55

'Good'. CBSE & IGCSE school students were thinking their library services as 'Very Good' were 27 (45%) and 29 (48.33%) respectively.

In contrast, only 1 (1.67%) ICSE student and 2 (3.33%) from each CBSE and IGCSE students found their library services as 'Poor'. The data is presented in Table 9.

FACTORS PREVENTING MAXIMUM USE OF LIBRARY

Majority of SSC 45 (75%) and CBSE 47 (78.33%) students blamed for 'Too much of home work' for less use of library, whereas most of the ICSE 44 (73.33%) and IGCSE 40 (66.66%) students held responsibility of the same with the fact, 'Lack of enough time for extra reading'.

Also, 41 (68.33%) SSC & 44 (73.33%) CBSE students consider 'Lack of enough time for extra reading' was responsible for less use of library. While 21 (35%) ICSE put blame on 'Too much of home work'. The data is presented in Table 10.

CONCLUSION

The present study pointed out some significant differences in the library use by high school students of different boards as follows:

1. Almost all the school students in South Mumbai were using their school library at least once in a week. The reason behind this was that up to 8th standard many schools had weekly library periods. CBSE schools had the library period also for 9th standard.

2. ICSE & IGCSE schools, conducts many co-curricular activities for that library use becomes essential.

3. It was found that SSC students use their school library mainly for issuing books, while CBSE students use it also for the study purpose. ICSE, IGCSE students use the library essentially for preparing project work and assignments. Though project is compulsory activity among all boards, ICSE and IGCSE students give it more importance as compared to SSC and CBSE due to their specific academic pattern.

4. Besides regular library services, library orientation was provided in all schools. But in ICSE and IGCSE schools, it was given in more interactive ways with the help of Charts, PPT s, Videos, etc.

5. Except SSC, Computer catalogues were available in all ICSE, CBSE, IGCSE school libraries.

6. IGCSE school libraries were more equipped with the services like photocopying, internet browsing, scanners, CD players, and projector.

7. Though all the surveyed schools had internet access in their library, direct access for students was restricted in all the board except IGCSE. Librarians search on internet on behalf of students because they think that student's should not get direct access. Otherwise every time they will demand for instant information which will ultimately discourage them to search through library which can give more academic, scholarly and topic specific information.

8. IGCSE academic pattern differs a lot from other Indian boards. They conduct internal assessments according to students' convenience. Depending upon their score students are declared eligible for the next class. Though many co curricular activities were conducted in IGCSE not many competitions were accomplished in these schools. Inadequate competitive environment and availability of instant information through internet were the possible reasons of limited use of documentary sources even though open access was allowed in IGCSE schools.

1. Besides Internet browsing, SSC students mainly preferred their library equipped with TV. On the other hand ICSE, CBSE students wanted Current Affair Books.

2. Though surveyed school libraries in south Mumbai were well equipped with different types of materials and reference sources, SSC students were not using Geographical Sources

much like others. Only IGCSE students were using AV Material more frequently.

3. Story books were most frequently used library material in all boards. CBSE Students were substantially interested in News Papers, Magazines and Dictionaries. ICSE and IGCSE Schools promote use of AV material by students themselves or with the help of library staff.

4. IGCSE students were using their computer catalogues to find information through library. While students from other boards were taking assistance of card catalogues up to some extent but they were mainly dependent on librarians and teachers for their information search in libraries.

5. The high school students from all board were overburdened with too much homework which hardly gives them time for extra reading.

6. The study reflected that respondent students consider TV and Internet were more informative and up-to-date where things were available with a single click, whereas searching information through library was time consuming job. In their opinion, documentary sources in library were not as much up-to-date as these media.

7. In IGCSE to make reading culture more interesting they introduced new concept of 'Library Mothers'. Library mothers are mothers of students as well as members of Parent Teacher Association who voluntarily conduct innovative library activities for students.

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