

Attitudes Towards the Use of Library Resources and Academic Performance of UG Students in Relation to Their Gender and Locality

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ABSTRACT:

The present study has been conducted with the objectives to find out the link between Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources and the Academic Performance with respect to students' Gender and Locality. For this purpose, a sample of 110 U.G. students (n=110) from different strata were selected by the purposive sampling method. The investigator has adopted the survey research method for this study. A self-made attitude scale consisting of 20 items standardized by the investigator has been used in present study. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were employed as statistical treatment for analyzing and interpreting the data. A positive and high correlation between Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources and the Academic Performance was found. The study revealed that gender and locality were not the factors in Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources and Academic Performance of UG students.

Keywords: Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources, Academic Performance, Gender, Locality, UG students.

1.0: INTRODUCTION:

“Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life.” ---- Sidney Sheldon. A library is a collection of information sources and similar resources that can be consulted or borrowed by a particular community. In present situation, digital as well as physical access to the materials are provided where there are physical buildings or spaces, or virtual spaces, or both. Library Resources not only include the texts or some references, it includes books, references, periodicals, manuscripts, newspapers, documents, films, maps, prints, reports, microforms, cassettes, videotapes, CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray discs, audiobooks, e-books, databases and materials in other visual or audio or audio-visual formats. The libraries in educational institutions as gateways to knowledge and learning, play the fundamental role in providing students the resources and services creating the opportunities for learning, support them the academic experiences and activities. It was assumed that, there was a link between the use of library resources and the academic performance. There are many personal and institutional factors responsible for students' attitudes in using the library resources. Some studies have been found and various results have been revealed. Williamson (2010) contended that many students suffer low grade in colleges because of their attitude towards their studies. Also, failure to use the colleges library and its resources to expand their study has a negative effect on their academic performance. Coming to this era of technological development the forms of resources has been distinctively transformed from printed books and journals to various electronic forms. Today's library has a challenge to broaden its resources and develop its collection in print resources as well as electronic format. Student of these generation are more inclined to digital forms of information they like to get information in a fastest way. Therefore, the study has been entitled as-

“Attitudes Towards the Use of Library Resources and Academic Performance of UG Students in Relation to their Gender and Locality”

1.1: OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The objectives of the present study are:

- a) To study the Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources of UG Students
- b) To study the relation between Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources and Academic Performance of UG Students
- c) To study the Gender as a factor in Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources of UG Students
- d) To study the Locality as a factor in Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources of UG Students
- e) To adopt the Scale of Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources
- f) To recommend the further studies
- g) To suggest the use of library resources on the basis of research findings

1.2: SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The significance of this study is to have an insight about attitude of student towards library resources and it's effect on their academic performance. This research work will assist student to develop good attitude toward the use of library resources and use library resources to better their academic performance. It will assist the government to identify the area of needs in provision of library service in schools based on the student's response. It will add to the body of knowledge on students' attitudes, use of library and students' academic performance and also provides an idea for the other researchers who want to conduct research to see other areas to study.

2.0: HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY:

1. H_01 : There exists no significant relationship between Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources and Academic Performance of UG Students
2. H_02 : There exists no significant difference between Male and Female UG Students in their Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources
3. H_03 : There exists no significant difference between Rural and Urban UG Students in their Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources
4. H_04 : There exists no significant difference between Male and Female UG Students in their Academic Performance.
5. H_05 : There exists no significant difference between Rural and urban UG Students in their Academic Performance.

3.0: METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

3.1: Design of the Study

The methodology of the study comprises research method, population, sample, tool, procedure of data collection and statistical analysis which are as follows-

3.2: Method Employed: So far as the research methodology is concerned, the study comes under the scope of “Descriptive Frame Work”. This is a status study of descriptive in nature made on the basis of data gathered through field investigation. Hence, the method employed for the study may be rightly said to be “Descriptive Survey” under “Causal Comparative” one.

3.3: Population and Sample of the Study

Population: The Under Graduate students of the colleges in West Bengal is considered as the population for the study.

Sample Design followed: Purposive sampling method has been followed to draw the sample from the target population. 110 (N=110) students from three colleges situated in Nadia and North 24 Paraganas Districts in West Bengal has been selected as respondents for the study.

3.4: Variables studied: Three variables studied in proposed study were:

- (a) One independent variable: Attitudes of UG Students towards the Use of Library Resources.
- (b) One dependent variable: Academic Performance
- (b) Two Attribute Variables: Gender (Male and Females) and Localities (Rural and Urban).

3.5: Statistical Techniques Used

After scoring the data, the investigator has used the following statistical techniques for analysis and interpretation of the data:

- i. Descriptive Statistics: Mean, Median, Mode, SD, skewness and kurtosis
- ii. Inferential Statistics: 't' test

3.6: Tools Used

In the present study, the researcher has reviewed a good number of tools both developed in India and Abroad that could be used for measuring Attitudes of UG Students towards the Use of Library Resources. Originally developed by present researcher found suitable for measuring the Attitudes of UG Students towards the Use of Library Resources for the present study.

3.7: DESCRIPTION OF SCALES

- a) **Description of Scales for Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources:** The Scales for Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources has been developed and standardized by the researcher himself. This test consists of 20 questionnaires which measure the Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources of UG students.

Table-1: Showing Dimension cum Item Chart of the Scales for Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources

Sl. No.	Dimensions	No. Items
D ₁	Use of E-resources and Internet	8
D ₂	Use of References and Texts	8
D ₃	Use of Reading Room	4
Total Items		20

- b) **Determination of Reliability and Validity of the Scale:**

Determination of Reliability and Validity of Scales for Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources: For justifying the use of Scales for Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources for the present study, the researcher has determined the reliability and validity of the scale. For the process of developing the Scales for Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources, it was also become necessary to determine the reliability of the Scale. For this purpose, the researcher had selected a sample (n=50) to administer test for determining the reliability of the inventory.

Determination of Reliability of the Scales for Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources

Measure of Internal Consistency:

Here inter- items consistency was determined by Cronbach Alpha method as previously done in case of the Scales for Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources

Table-2: Showing the Reliability Co-efficient of Scales for Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources

Method	N	Inventory	Reliability Co-efficient
Test-Retest	50	Scales for Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources	0.831

Determination of validity of the Scales for Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources:

In the Present study, the content areas of the Inventory were analyzed in terms of behavioral objectives. The Inventory, containing items, selected against each Dimension of the Scales for Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources was examined by a group of expert and teachers serving in rural and urban areas.

Content validity: The Inventory was tried on a small sample. Ambiguity and misunderstanding which appeared in connection with certain items were removed. Then the Inventory was given its final form. Thus, the content validity of the Inventory was ensured.

4.0: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA**DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS:**

Table-3: Showing the Descriptive Statistics of the Scores of Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources and Academic Performance of UG students.

Variables → Strata → Statistics ↓	Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources					Academic Performance					
	All	Male	Female	Rural	Urban	All	Male	Female	Rural	Urban	
N	110	43	67	63	46	110	43	67	63	46	
M	52.8	52.744	52.89	53.063	52.521	69.063	67.534	70.044	67.698	69.605	
Mdn	54	54	53	54	53	72	70	72	70	71	
Md	56	56	56	56	54	70	75	80	75	70	
SD	3.918	4.365	3.676	4.023	3.88	12.004	12.095	11.932	12.57	10.929	
Sk	-1.393	-1.289	-1.482	-1.327	-1.564	-0.807	-0.808	-0.841	-0.812	-0.551	
Ku	2.281	1.053	3.673	1.393	3.975	-0.225	-0.13	-0.211	-0.301	-0.603	
Sample Variation	15.354	19.052	13.519	16.189	15.055	144.096	146.302	142.376	158.02	119.443	
Percentiles	P₂₅	51	50	51	52	50	62	61	62	60	62
	P₅₀	54	54	53	54	53	72	70	72	70	71
	P₇₅	56	56	56	56	55	79	76	80	78	80

4.1: CORRELATIONAL STATISTICS:

Analysis of the relation between Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources and Academic Performance pertaining to the H₀₁.

Table-4: Showing the Co-relation Coefficient between the Scores of Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources and Academic Performance of UG students.

Strata	Variables	N	r-Values	Level of significance	Result
All UG Students	Academic Achievement	110	0.837	Significant at 0.01 level	The H ₀₁ was rejected and both variables are positively correlated.
	Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources	110			

4.2: INFERENTIAL STATISTICS :

Analysis of the Gender as a Factor in Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources pertaining to the H₀₂:

Table-5: Showing the 't' value of UG Male and Female students in their Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources

Variable	Strata	Count (N)	Mean	SD	SEM	SE _D	t- value	df
Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources	Males	43	52.744	4.365	0.66566	0.848	0.172**	88
	Females	67	52.89	3.676	0.53620			

**The result is insignificant at $p < .01$

The t-value is 0.848. The result is not significant at $p < .01$. By conventional criteria, this difference is considered to be not statistically significant. The result revealed that, there was not statistically significant difference between UG male and female students in their Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources. Therefore, the null hypothesis was accepted and it proved that there existed no difference between UG male and female students in their attitudes towards the use of library resources. Gender has been found not as predictors of the UG students in attitudes towards the use of library resources.

Analysis of the Locality as a Factor in Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources pertaining to the H₀₃:

Table-6: Showing the 't' value of UG Rural and Urban students in their Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources

Variable	Strata	Count (N)	Mean	SD	SEM	SE _D	t- value	df
Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources	Rural	63	53.063	4.023	0.50685	0.769	0.705**	107
	Urban	46	52.521	3.88	0.57207			

**The result is insignificant at $p < .01$

The table -6 showed that, the computed t-value is less than the critical 't' value at 0.01 level and it was insignificant 0.01 level. There was not statistically significant difference between UG rural and urban students in their attitudes towards the use of library resources. Therefore, the null hypothesis was retained and it proved that there existed no difference between UG rural and urban students in their attitudes towards the use of library resources. Locality has been found not as a predictor of the UG students' attitudes towards the use of library resources.

Analysis of the Gender as a Factor in Academic Performance pertaining to the H₀₄:

Table-7: Showing the 't' value of UG Male and Female students regarding their Academic Performance

Variable	Strata	Count (N)	Mean	SD	SEM	SE _D	t- value	df
Academic Performance	Male	43	67.534	12.095	1.84447	2.344	1.0708**	108
	Female	67	70.044	11.932	1.45773			

**The result is insignificant at $p < .01$

The observation of the table -7 revealed that, the computed t-value is less than the critical 't' value at 0.01 level. The result was insignificant 0.01 level and null-hypothesis was accepted. It proved that there existed no difference between U.G. Male and Female students in their Academic Performance. Hence, it has been explained that Gender was not as a factor of Academic performance.

Analysis of the Locality as a Factor in Academic Performance pertaining to the H₀₅:

Table-8: Showing the 't' value of UG Rural and Urban students regarding their Academic Performance

Variable	Strata	Count (N)	Mean	SD	SEM	SE _D	t- value	df
Academic Performance	Rural	63	67.698	12.57	1.58367	2.309	0.8258**	107
	Urban	46	69.605	10.929	1.61139			

**The result is insignificant at $p < .01$

The table -8 revealed that, the computed t-value (0.8258) is less than the critical 't' value at 0.01 level. The result was insignificant 0.01 level and null-hypothesis was accepted. It proved that there existed no difference between U.G.rural and urban students in their Academic Performance. Hence, it has been established that Locality was not as a factor of Academic performance.

5.0: MAJOR FINDINGS OF STUDY

- a) Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources and Academic performance of Under Graduate students are positively and highly correlated. The attitudes of using and accessing the materials and resources available in library helps the development of students' academic performances.
- b) Gender and Locality are not the factors in Attitudes towards the Use of Library Resources of Under Graduate students.
- c) Gender and Locality are not the factors in Academic performances of Under Graduate students.

6.0: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH:

In the light of present study the following suggestions were recommended for further research: -

- a) The study needs to be made on larger cross sections of populations like various degree levels and diploma students to have a broad generalization.
- b) A part from the variables considered in the present investigation, the prediction of Levels, Academic Achievement, Motivation, Study habits may be studied as factors of UG Students towards the Use of Library Resources.
- c) The study needs to be made on a larger sample of educational organization for various strata such as: - Nursery, Primary, Middle schools, Colleges and other educational institutions, so as to get a more reliable and comparable results.
- d) The investigation of the same type may be conducted at different regions of the country to make a comparative study.

7.0: SUGGESTION AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE STUDY

The worth of any research work could be determined by its usefulness. Hence, the researcher pointed out the various aspects of implications of the present study. The findings of the present study would be utilized in various ways:-

- e) Providing Assignments to the students for using the Library Resources.
- f) Providing proper guidance about Using Library Resources basically for rural area students.
- g) Including Library work in routine.
- h) Routine visit for Library
- i) Organizing special awareness programmes about using the Library Resources. in College and Universities.
- j) Providing better library facilities in higher education institutions.
- k) Day to day observation inside and outside the Library.

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