

AN EVALUATIVE STUDY ON READING HABIT OF THE USERS OF ADDITIONAL DISTRICT LIBRARY IN SILIGURI SUB-DIVISION, DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL

Dipankar Debnath*

* Academic Counsellor, Netaji Subhas Open University (A.C. College), Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, India.

QR Code



Abstract: - *This study examines the extent of reading habit of the users of Additional District Library in Siliguri sub-division, West Bengal. A semi close-ended questionnaire is used to gather data. 30 registered library users were selected for evaluate the reading habit of this particular library. The findings revealed that 6.67% respondents use the library daily which is not a good sign,40% of the respondents sampled read for education and just 6.67 % respondents are read for recreation this percentage should to increase, most of the respondents visited the library to read only the textbooks other then the reference material, journals- electronic or print. It is recommended for library authority to suggest users to consult with journals and other primary resources in the library. And the library should organize a “library week” after 3months to showcase the various resources available in the library.*

Key Words: Book Reading Habit, Cultural Habit, Information Use, Public Library.

I. Introduction

The public library is the nerve centre of the society. It is an indispensable instrument for intellectual development. A well stocked public library is a storehouse of information, or a record of human experience to which users may turn to for data or information.

Additional District Library (Siliguri) can define as a library whose patrons are the general public in a commodity. It is a library which is accessible by the public and is generally funded from public sources and may be operated by civil services. It

attaches great significance to gathering data on a regular basis to inform its service developments. The intelligence generated is used internally in the Library to shape how it moves forward strategically. In the current higher education climate where financial constraints, technology, student population and research are changing quickly it is essential the Library continues this practice.

II. Profile of Additional District Library in Siliguri

The Additional District Library is a main important library of Siliguri Subdivision, which was established 21 April, 1990, but it was start at the beginning of 1991.

- In this library there are many collections of book, journal, atlas, newspaper.
- This library has some regulation, these are:-
- Opening Hours:- 1 pm
- Closing Hours:- 8 pm
- This library close every Sunday along with the second and fourth Saturday of each month.
- The users have permission to issue 1 book every day. The circulation is closed before 30 minutes of closing the library.
- In every year the RRLS have sponsored books to the library.
- The total book collection of this library is 38,774.
- In this library the books are arranged by the author and subject basis, there is quite often use of Classification scheme.
- The library previously using catalogue card for helping the users to search and locate the book. But now this library is not provides this facility for the users.

III. Objectives of the Study

This study was carried out to determine the extent of reading habit of the users of Additional District

Library in Siliguri sub-division, West Bengal. Specifically, the study was to:

1. Discover different types of users and their reading habits;
2. Examine sources of information most consulted;
3. Examine the type's document most consulted;
4. Determine frequency of use of the library by users;
5. Discover reasons for the use of the library by users and also the other resources;

IV. Research Methodology

The survey method was adopted for the study. A close-ended (-semi) questionnaire was used to gather data from users respectively. In all, 36 copies of questionnaires were distributed. 30 (83%) out of the 36 distributed to students were completed and returned. Data was analyzed using simple frequency counts and percentages (all percentages are created out of 30 respondents).

V. Findings and Analysis

Table 1 shows that the male respondents constitute a larger part of the survey population, 18 (60%) as against 12 (40%) of their female counterparts; and also shows the different age levels respondents and their marital status.

Table 1: Demographic background of respondents “Gender, Age & Marital Status”

Gender	Male				Female			
	Married		Single		Married		Single	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Below 15	0	00	2	6.67	0	00	0	00
15-25	0	00	4	13.33	0	00	4	13.33
25-35	4	13.33	0	00	0	00	2	6.67
35-60	6	20	0	00	6	20	0	00
Above 60	2	6.67	0	00	0	00	0	00
Total	12	40%	6	20%	6	20%	6	20%

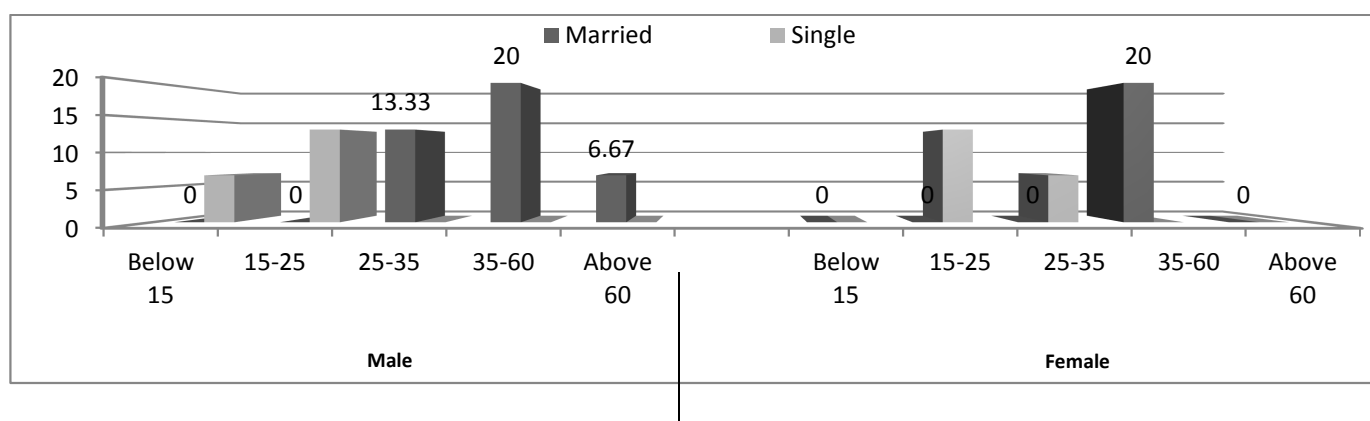


Table 2 shows that the employed respondents constitute a larger part of the survey population, 12 (40%) as against of 8 (26.67%) un-employed and 10 (33.33%) student respondents; and the chart will be created depend upon their gender and age groups.

Table 2: Demographic background of respondents “Student, Un-employed & Employed”

Status	Male						Female					
	Student		Un-employed		Employed		Student		Un-employed		Employed	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	%	N	%	%	N	%
Below 15	2	6.67	0	00	0	00	0	00	0	00	0	00
15-25	4	13.33	2	6.67	0	00	4	13.33	0	00	0	00
25-35	0	00	2	6.67	2	6.67	0	00	0	00	2	6.67
35-60	0	00	0	00	0	00	0	00	2	6.67	4	13.33
Above 60	0	00	2	6.67	4	13.33	0	00	0	00	0	00
Total	6	20%	6	20%	6	20%	4	13.33%	2	6.67%	6	20%

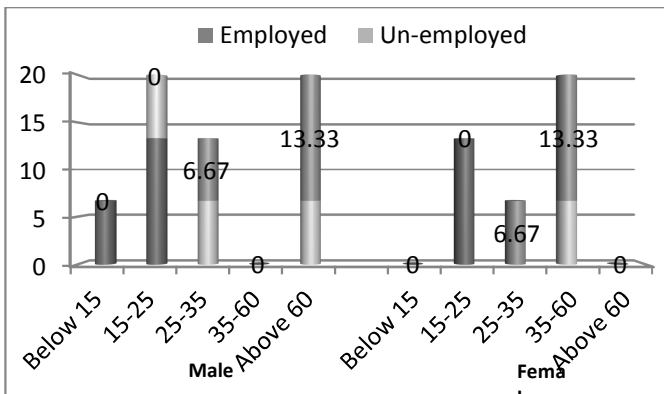


Table 3 shows that 2 (6.67%) respondents use the library daily. 6 (20%) of respondents visit the library 2-3 times a week. 12 (40%) respondents visit the library once in a week. 8 (26.67%) respondents visit the library 2-3 times a month or occasionally.

Table 3: Frequency of library use

Library use	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
Everyday	2	6.67	0	00
Alternative day	6	20	2	6.67
Once a week	6	20	6	20
Occasionally	4	13.33	4	13.33
Total	18	60%	12	40%

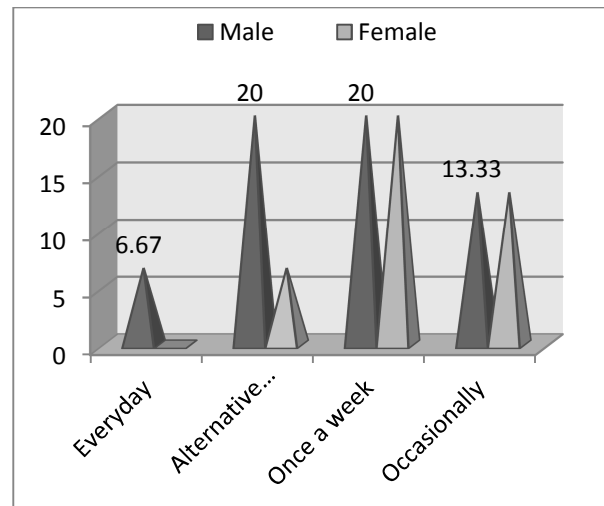


Table 4 shows the different source of information which is most consulted by the respondents. It is clear that library collections are the most consulted to the 12 (40%) respondents and 6 (20%) respondents are consulted with internet as a source of information, while the 6 (20%) respondents consults with teacher and 6 (20%) respondents consulted with others source of information.

Table 4: “Source of information” most consulted

Source of information	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
Library collection	6	20	6	20
Internet	4	13.33	2	6.67
Teachers	6	20	0	00
Others	2	6.67	4	13.33
Total	18	60%	12	40%

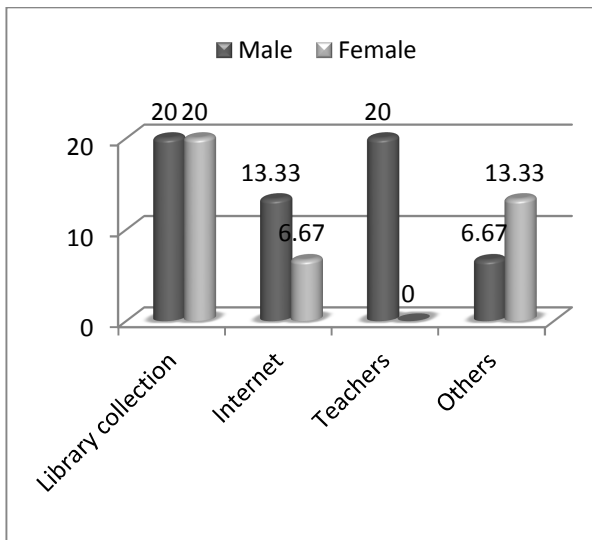


Table 5 shows the different types of documents are most consulted by the respondents. A large number that is 20 (66.67%) respondents are use print document and the 10(33.33%) respondents much consult with digital documents.

Table 5: “Types of documents” most consulted

Types of Document	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
Print Docs	12	40	8	26.67
Digital Docs	6	20	4	13.33
Total	18	60%	12	40%

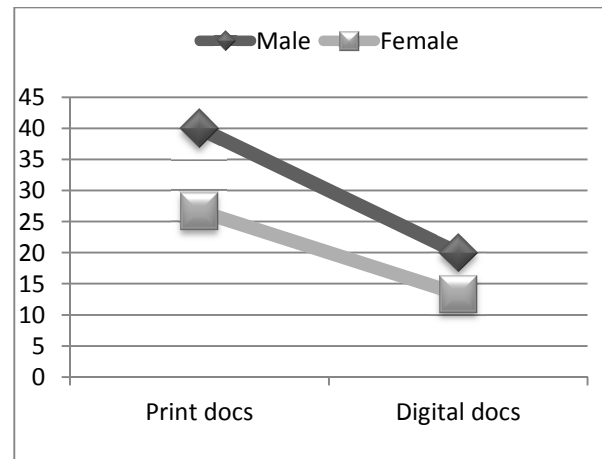


Table 6 shows the frequency of last reading a book by the respondents; here we found that a large number of users which is 18 (53.33%) read books within the last week and 6 which mean 26.67% respondents are read within the last month; 4 (13.33%) respondents are do not remember and also 2 (6.67%) respondent goes with no response.

Table 6: Frequency of last reading a book

Last reading a book	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
Last week	10	33.33	6	20
Last month	2	6.67	6	20
Don't remember	4	13.33	0	00
No response	2	6.67	0	00
Total	18	60%	12	40%

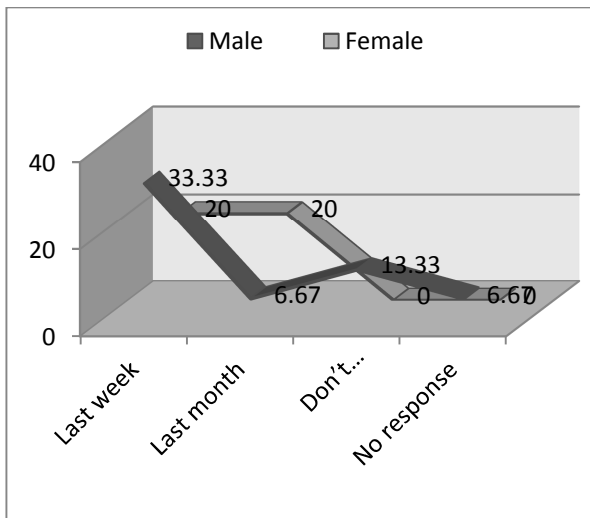


Table 7 shows how the respondents obtain books. 12 respondents, which mean 40% respondents is obtain through purchase. 10 (33.33%) respondents are taken from the public library and 2 (6.67%) respondent obtain from others places while 6 (20%) respondents obtain form academic libraries.

Table 7: Process to obtain books

Process to obtain books	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
Purchase	6	20	6	20
From Public Library	6	20	4	13.33
From Academic Library	4	13.33	2	6.67
Others	2	6.67	0	00
Total	18	60%	12	40%

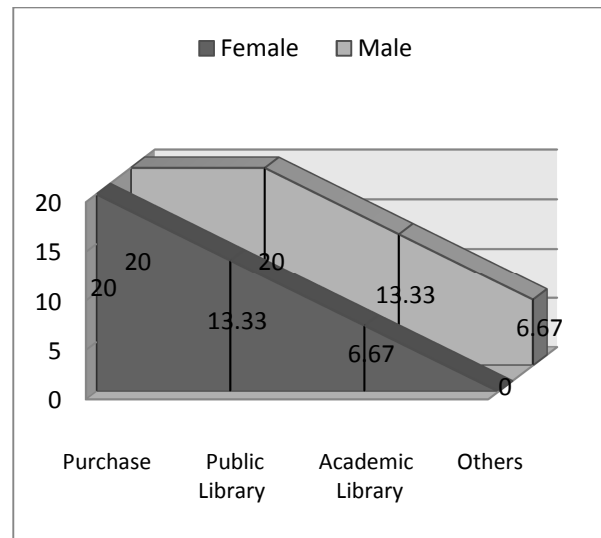


Table 8 shows the subjects are most consulted to them; with multiple responses, which means a single respondent would give their more than one opinion or one respondent can select more than one subject. It is clear that religious related subjects is selected by the 10 respondents and also management to 8 respondents; biography related topics is selected by 10 respondents, sports related subject is selected by 12 respondents; literature is selected by 10 respondents; agriculture is selected by 2 respondent and also the others subject is selected by 6 respondents.

Table 8: Subjects most consulted

Subjects most consulted	Male	Female
Religious	4	6
Management	4	4
Biography	6	4
Education	8	8
Sports	10	2
Literature	6	4
Agriculture	0	2
Others	4	2

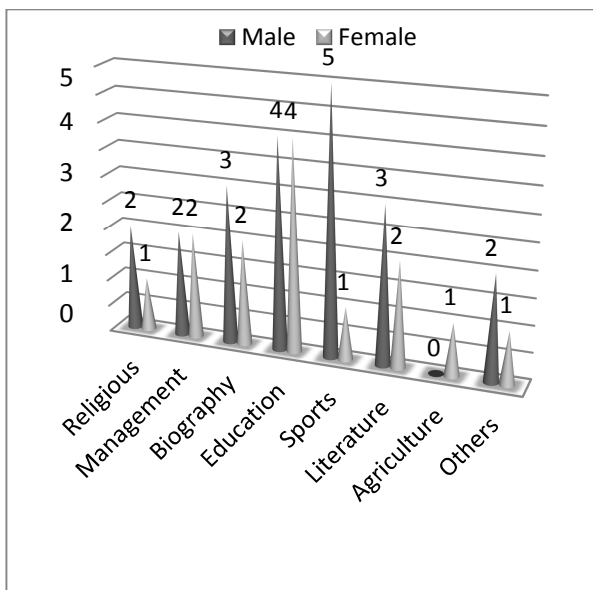


Table 9 shows that a large number of respondents read newspaper as regular basis that is 14 (46.67%). 2 (6.67%) respondents read the newspaper 2-3 times in a week or an alternative day. 6(20%) respondents are read as once in a week. 8 (26.67%) respondents are read occasionally or 2-3 times a month.

Table 9: Frequency of newspaper reading

Read newspaper	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
Everyday	8	26.67	6	20
Alternative day	2	6.67	0	00
Once a week	4	13.33	2	6.67
Occasionally	4	13.33	4	13.33
Total	18	60%	12	40%

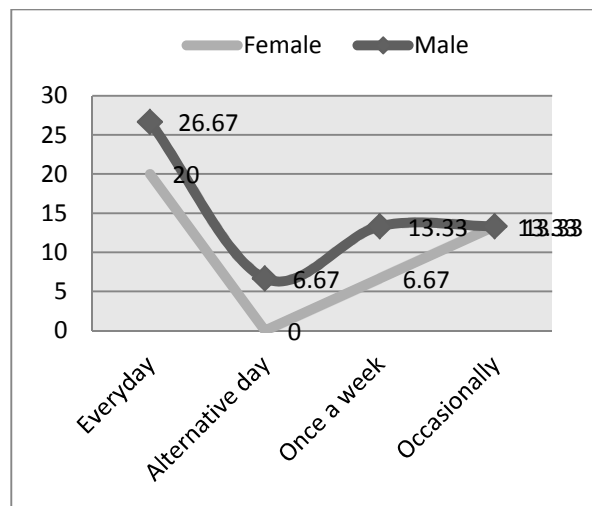


Table 10 shows how the respondents obtain newspaper. 12 respondents, which mean 40% respondents is obtain through purchase. 10 (33.33%) respondents are taken from the public library and 2 (6.67%) respondent obtains from academic libraries, while 6 (20%) respondents obtain form their workplaces.

Table 10: Process to obtain the newspapers

Process to obtain newspapers	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
Purchase	6	20	6	20
From Public Library	6	20	4	13.33
From Academic Library	0	00	2	6.67
At workplace	6	20	0	00
Total	18	60%	12	40%

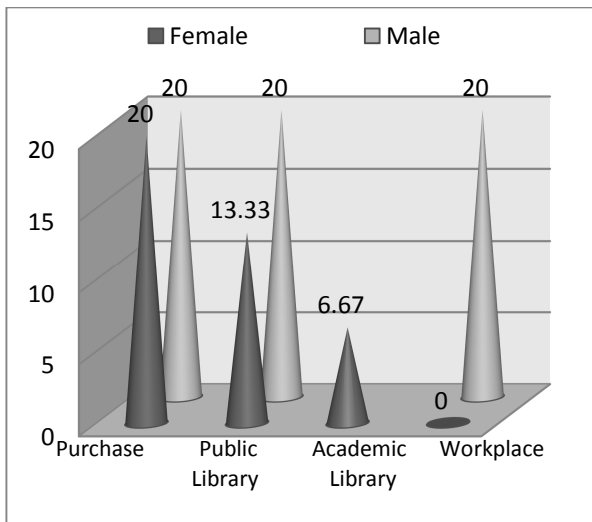


Table 11 shows how the respondents obtain the magazine/journals. 6 respondents, which mean 20% respondents is obtain through purchase. 10 (33.33%) respondents are taken from the public library; 14 (46.67%) respondent are not read the magazine/journals, and nobody can obtain form academic libraries and their workplaces.

Table 11: Process to obtain the magazine/journals

Process to obtain magazine/journals	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
Purchase	4	13.33	2	6.67
From Public Library	6	20	4	13.33
From Academic Library	0	00	0	00
At workplace	0	00	0	00
Do not use	8	26.67	6	20
Total	18	60%	12	40%

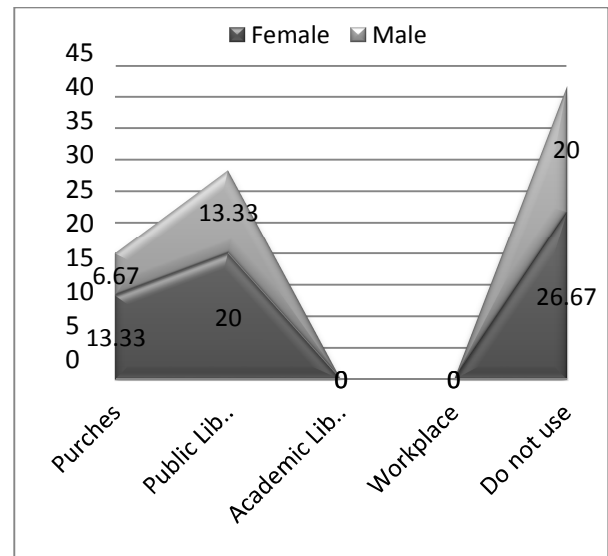
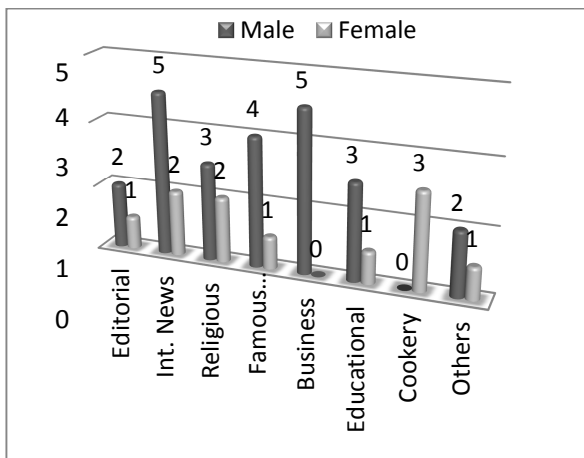


Table 12 shows the reasons for reading magazine/journals by respondents; with multiple responses, which means a single respondent would give their more than one opinion or one respondent can select more than one subject. It is clear that editorial related topics are selected by the 6 respondents; international news is selected by 14 respondents; religious related topic is selected by 10 respondents, famous persons related topics is selected by 10 respondents; business is selected by 10 respondents; education related topics are selected by 8 respondent and also the others topics are selected by 6 respondents.

Table 12: Reasons for using the magazine/journals

Reasons for using magazine/ journals	Male	Female
Editorial	4	2
International News	10	4
Religious	6	4
Famous persons	8	2
Business	10	0
Educational	6	2
Cookery	0	6
Others	4	2



weekly spend hours	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
Less than 2 hours	4	13.33	2	6.67
2-5 hours	8	26.67	4	13.33
5-10 hours	6	20	6	20
Above 10 hours	0	00	0	00
Total	18	60%	12	40%

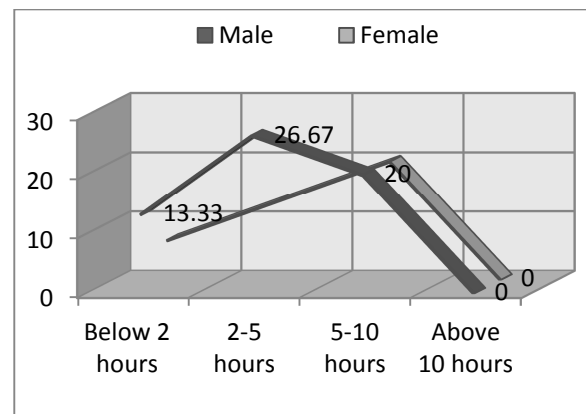


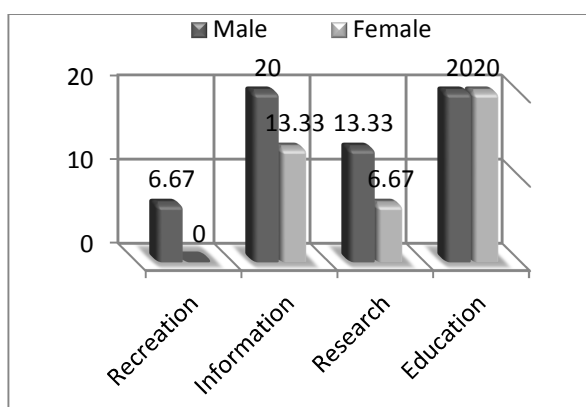
Table 13 shows that the frequency of weekly spending hours for reading by the respondents. 6 (20%) respondents read less than 2 hours within a week. 12 (40%) of respondents are read 2-5 hours per week. 12 (40%) respondents are read 5-10 hours per week.

Table 13: Frequency of weekly spend hours for reading

Table 3 represents reasons for reading of the respondents. Various reasons were adduced by respondents for reading. 12 (40%) respondents read for education while just 2 (6.67%) of them read for recreation and 10 (23.33%) generally read for information. 6 (20%) respondents are read for research.

Table 14: Reasons for reading

Reasons for reading	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
Recreation	2	6.67	0	00
Information	6	20	4	13.33
Research	4	13.33	2	6.67
Education	6	20	6	20
Total	18	60%	12	40%



VI. Interpretation

Through the journey of my survey I meet various student persons and interact with them, communicate with them. Various views were come. They all need the development of that library. By taking their own views their suggestion; I am coming to this conclusion-

The Additional District Library is a main important library of Siliguri Subdivision, which was established 21 April, 1990, but it was start at the beginning of 1991 with the librarianship of Mr. Nityaranjan Guha. But due to the passage of time and lack of manpower & IT involvement, now it's just become an old-house with few family members.

More staff of the library is highly required and their co-operation. This library has only three staff for providing service to user and they are no properly skilled and as well as they are not aware about the details information of this library and collection of this library. Require more eligible staff that helps the users, and handling the problem of the library. Proper display of information resources is highly required and need a staff that the staff may help those users who travelling in various problems using this library. Need more books, journals, in various editions. For the user's requirement of some facilities like reprography, this library has reprography machine, but that is useless. This library has a Reference Section but it fallen down as a desk only, any skilled person is not available there. Now it is. If the reference section runs properly then it will be help to users to access their query at a minimum time. The arrangement of books and journal should be properly that helps user to access their information and enrich their reading habit. The library has so many rare books, which is the one of our asset of our state as well as for our culture. The users don't know that in this library some rare books are available, because it is not properly shown. We see that even staff also not aware about the rare book material. As a citizen of Siliguri and also as a user of this Additional District Library; and also by taking the view of various users in this library, I am also agreeing with them that the condition of this library must be change and it should be develop

which helps our near generation or students to come and use this library for access their information need and simultaneously making a batter reading habit.

References

1. Anderson, Karen. "Education and Training for Records Professionals." *Records Management Journal* 17.2 (2007): 94-106.
2. Apeji, E. Adeche. "Developing Reading Habits and Skills in Schools". *Library Herald* 47.1 (2009): 15-22.
3. Brier, David J and Lebbin, Vickery Kaye. "Teaching Information Literacy Using the Short Story. *Reference Services Review* 32.4 (2004): 383-87.
4. Corradini, Elena. "Teenagers Analyze Their Public Library." *New Library World* 107.11/12 (2006): 481-98.
5. Gallik, J. D. "Do They Read for Pleasure? Recreational Reading Habits of College Students." *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy* 42.6 (1999): 480.
6. Gault, Michel. *The Future of the Books: Part II – The Changing Role of Reading*. Paris: UNESCO, 1982. 9-10.
7. Metsala, J. L. and McCann, A. D. "Children's Motivations for Reading." *Reading Teacher* 50.4(1996): p360.
8. Segun, Mabel. "Children's as Tools for Promoting Reading of Books." *Journal of Book Research and Development* 1.1&2 (1995): 40-47.
9. Shahriza, nor. "Reading Habits and Attitude in the Digital Age: Analysis of Gender and Academic Program Differences in Malaysia." *The Electronic Library* 25.3 (2007): 285-98.
10. Train, Briony. "Research on Family Reading: An International Perspective." *Library Review* 56.4 (2007): 292-98