

**SOCIAL VALUE OF A. R. S. INAMDAR PUBLIC
LIBRARY, PUNE: A CASE STUDY**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
OF THE UGC MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The public libraries being a social institution make an impact on the communities they serve and the value of public libraries is assessed by their performance, how well they meet the needs of their communities. The benefits that users experience by using library services can be assessed in terms of knowledge gained, higher information literacy, higher academic and professional success, social inclusion and increase in individual well-being. The case study is conducted in a century old A.R.S. Inamdar Public Library, Pune to measure its social value for the community. A.R.S. Inamdar Public Library, Pune was established in 1915 with the sound objectives for educational development of Muslim Community particularly following the Aligarh Movement. Presently it is recognized in the Category of “A” Grade at district level and receiving grant-in-aid by the Government of Maharashtra under the provisions of the Maharashtra Public Libraries Act, 1967.

The data was collected using two different questionnaires from a sample of 160 users and 110 non-users. On the basis of data analysis, the results were found related to the assessment of the public library resources and services, analysis of the community being served by the library and the social value of the public library as acknowledged the community.

The below mentioned results depict only the value of public library and its services for community being served. The social value can be judges on the basis of benefits received by the users individually or collectively:

- 1. The library is valuable for most of the users as it helped them to keep up to date, to improve their information seeking skills and in their professional development.*
- 2. The library is quite safe and calm place for studying and reading and most of the users are getting benefit of the same.*
- 3. Among other benefits, the library is helping the user community to save money in different ways, providing them an enjoyable place where they like to spend some of their time.*
- 4. Library is important for some the users as they get material for their leisure and recreation.*
- 5. Few users taking benefits of library online services like OPAC, website etc. The library also providing help to users to save their timing and to get information for job seeking.*
- 6. For most of the users this library is unique and they will not get same elsewhere in the city. Some of the users have alternate to this library but others will get the same services with more time and efforts or will not get everything.*
- 7. For different users there are different sources of information alternate of this library services like Internet, another library, purchased books, colleagues or*

friends and the media. It shows that this library and its services have important place for the community.

The outcomes as a result of library services have been acknowledged by the user community:

- 1. Majority of the people acknowledged that the library is playing an important role in increased quality of life of the community, improved personal development of individuals.*
- 2. Providing information related to career and scholarship, equal access to its resources and enhancing literacy, lifelong learning and computer literacy.*
- 3. It is playing an important role in community building and access to culture through its services and activities.*
- 4. Providing health and general information, providing space for meeting, recreation and have link with the decreasing social isolation.*

To know the value of the library in the society, it is quite significant to show the findings received from non-users group also. They also acknowledged the social value of this library:

- 1. The library is playing important role in increased quality of life of the community served by the library as accepted by majority of non-users. The library also supports lifelong learning and it is a centre of formal and informal education.*
- 2. Majority of the non-users feels that public library promotes culture through its activities and services and playing an important role in community building. The library is also promoting and encouraging language and computer literacy, providing general information for community welfare, providing meeting place for healthy interaction and playing a significant role to build inclusive society.*

One the basis of this study it is concluded that the history of the Deccan Muslim Institute, the parent institute of A.R.S. Inamdar Public Library is wondrous. It was steered by the great personalities of their time, their vision and mission shaped not only this institution but other organizations also. A.R.S. Inamdar Public Library, a hundred years old social institution, has the potential to deliver its services to the community and contribute to quality life of the community, lifelong learning, community building, social inclusion and so on. The value of these outcomes may vary library to library but it is acknowledged that A.R.S. Inamdar Public Library supports confidence building of the community and social networking in different ways. If we generalize the results, they are also applicable to other public libraries but to know the actual status of outcomes from their services for the society qualitative studies are required.