



## AN OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE SCHOOLS AFFILIATED WITH CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION IN DUBAI

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**Abstract:** *Academic institute and library are inseparable. Any academic institute will be measured by its Library and its resources. Moreover, library is not only a place to read but also an opportunity to learn and grow. Every school or college shows much interest in showing up their infrastructure and state of the art facilities. It is high time for these academic portals to concentrate on this Knowledge hub that is the Library. In this article the researcher explores about the School Libraries and their resources in Dubai.*

**Keywords:** *School Library, Resources, Facilities, Dubai, CBSE*

### INTRODUCTION

Library, the storehouse of Knowledge and Information is the backbone of any academic institute. Information literacy has never been more important than ever, yet resources and support for the programs and people who are best-suited to teach and facilitate information literacy has dwindled in too many schools across the globe. Even as the demand for accountability grows and mounting evidence continues to affirm that school libraries staffed by certified school librarians make a measurable difference on student achievement, library resources are too-often reduced or eliminated from budgets all together. School Libraries seeks to empower librarians, classroom teachers, school and district leaders, policy makers, parents, and communities by arming them with the most powerful research-based frameworks, recommendations, and support for school library programs.

### EDUCATION SYSTEM IN DUBAI

The Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) under the Ministry of Education (MoE) is the responsible body for the school education in Dubai. The schools are two types of Schools in Dubai known as Public Schools where in the primary and secondary education to the citizens of UAE at free of cost. The medium of instruction is Arabic and the English is taught as the second language. The other type of schools are known as Private schools with

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number of different curricula to cater the educational needs of the expatriates in the country. There are more than 186 different nationals are enrolled in the private schools.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Olatokun (2008) investigated the use and pattern of use of the Internet among secondary school students in Ibadan, a Nigerian municipality. Findings revealed that majority of the respondents use Internet for leisure rather than for educational purposes, though some respondents affirmed that reading habits and academic performances have been improved by Internet use. Sin (2012) found that school information environment, frequency of school library use, race/ethnicity, and home computer availability were the top three factors affecting public library usage for schoolwork, leisure, and Internet access. More importantly, library service levels had a positive impact on students' library usage in terms of frequency of use. The study of Omotayo (2006) revealed a high percentage use of the Internet. The access point for them is cyber cafes. The university library though linked to the Internet is yet to provide access to students. The study also revealed that their use of the Internet has not affected their use of the library. Some problems they faced in the use of Internet include slowness of the server and payment for the access time.

## **OBJECTIVE**

1. To find out the qualification level of the Librarians of the participating schools.
2. To know about the collection level of the participating school libraries.
3. To examine the IT facilities in the participating school Libraries.

## **METHODOLOGY**

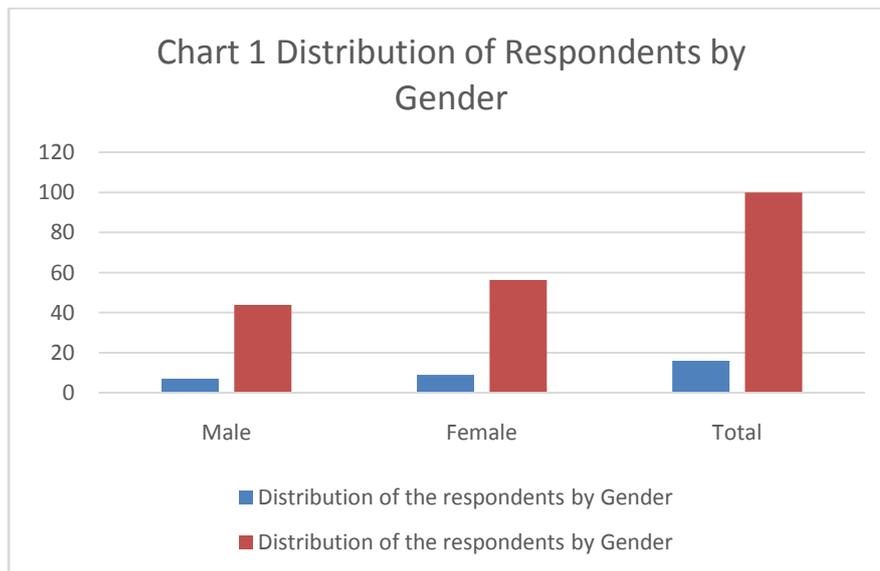
Research methodology implies the methods used by the researcher to study a particular problem and the logic behind the methods in the context of the particular research study. Random sampling was used in this research. The sample included only Librarians of CBSE affiliated schools in Dubai. There are only 16 schools in Dubai that are affiliated with the CBSE. Questionnaires were distributed to all the 16 school Librarians and all of them responded and hence the researcher attained 100% success in data collection. Data collection for the study was carried out during the academic year 2013-2014.



## ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

**Table 1** Distribution of the respondents by Gender

Distribution of the respondents by Gender		
Gender	Male	Percentage (n=16)
Male	7	43.75
Female	9	56.25
Total	16	100



The above Table 1 and chart 1 shows that the CBSE schools in Dubai has more number of Female Librarians than Male Librarians. There are 9 Female and 7 Male Librarians.

**Table 2** Distribution of respondents by qualification:

Distribution of respondents by qualification		
Degree	Number	Percentage (n=16)
BLIS	0	0
MLIS	16	100
Others	0	0
Total	16	100

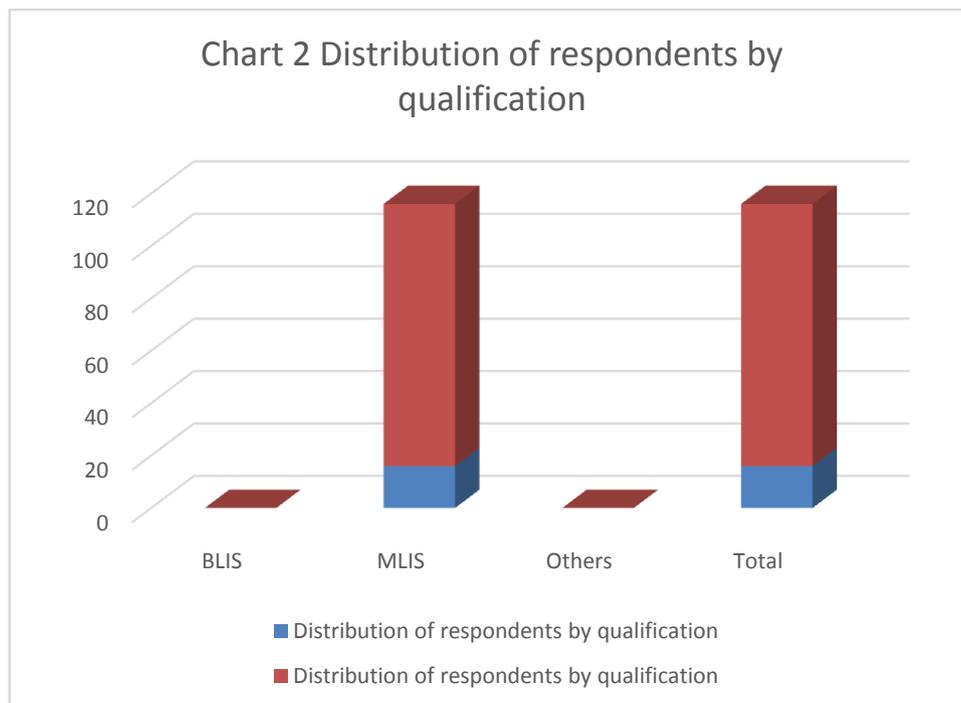


Table 2 and Chart 2 describes that 100% of the respondents have higher degree in Library & Information Science and we come to a conclusion that the school management does not compromise with the quality and standard of the staff during the selection process. It is advantage for the Library to have a qualified staff.

**Table 3 Student Versus Book Ratio**

S. No	NAME OF THE SCHOOL	Total Number of Students	Total Number of Books in Library	Students Vs Book ratio
1	Buds Public School	766	2145	2.80
2	Crescent English School	1312	5452	4.15
3	Delhi Private School Junior	3500	20320	5.80
4	Delhi Private School Senior	3500	20320	5.80
5	The Elite English School	1200	5582	4.65
6	Emirates English Speaking School	1914	5652	2.95
7	GEMS Our Own English High School	10021	21200	2.11
8	Gems Our Own Indian School	3681	6545	1.7
9	Gulf Indian High School	2334	3350	1.4
10	JSS Private School	1532	7522	4.9
11	New Indian Model School	6649	15000	2.25
12	Our Own High School	4688	7200	1.5
13	The Central School	3304	5652	1.7
14	The Indian High School	5866	11254	1.9
15	The Millenium School	3000	9585	3.2
16	Gulf Model School	1900	3200	1.7



The above Table 3 clearly explains the ration between Students and Books in the Library. Delhi Private Schools tops the list with 5.8 books per student, followed by JSS Private Schools with 4.9 books per student. The Elite English Schools bags the third place in the ratio by 4.65 books per student and Crescent English Schools comes next with 4.15 books per student. Gulf Indian School has 1.4 books per student and stands last in the list. The list explains that some of the school libraries should improve their collection and meet the requirements of the students.

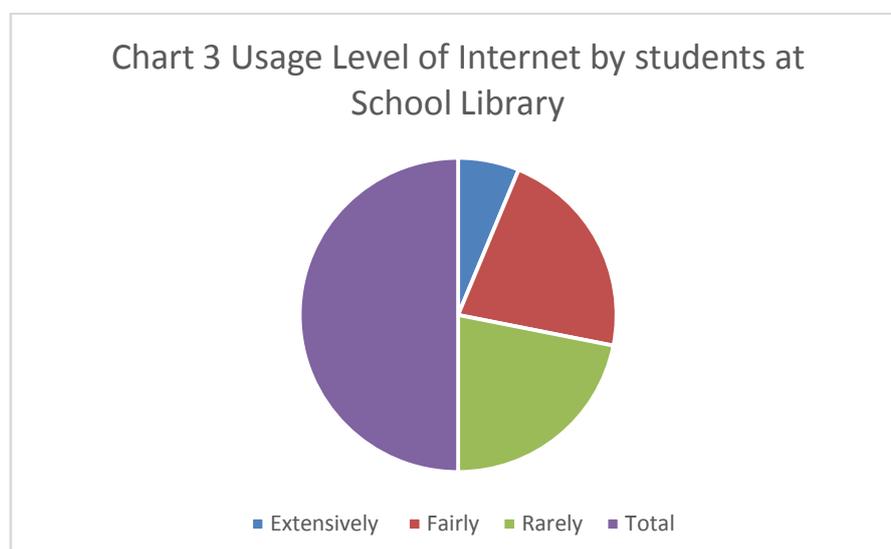
**Table 4 Availability Internet facility in the Library:**

Availability of Internet facility in School Library		
Description	Total	Percentage (n=16)
Yes	16	100
No	0	0
Total	16	100

The above table shows us that all the schools (100%) have internet facility in their Library. Dubai being an IT hub, it is found that the school libraries are well connected with the internet facilities.

**Table 5 Usage Level of Internet by students at School Library:**

Usage Level of Internet by students at School Library		
Description	Total	Percentage (n=16)
Extensively	2	12.5
Fairly	7	43.75
Rarely	7	43.75
Total	16	100





The above Table 5 and Chart 3 explains that only 12.5% of the respondents stated that the students use internet extensively in the School Library. An equal percentage of respondents stated (43.75%) the students use the internet fairly and rarely. The usage should be encouraged by the Librarians.

## **SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION**

Through the above study the following suggestions are derived:

1. The School management should take initiation in building the Library collection to maximize the use of the library.
2. The school management should also initiate steps to orient the Library staff to encourage the students community to use the internet and other resources in the library.
3. The School Library should organize activities at various level at regular intervals thus encourage the students community to use the Library facilities.
4. The Teachers should also give assignments and projects focusing the students to use the library resources.

The early habits of using library resources will help the students community in future in their higher studies and research. It is the duty of the school librarians along with the teaching community to inculcate this habit into the students. It is obvious that those who read will have better comprehension than those who don't. So let us build a better community by raising more readers. "Today a Reader, tomorrow a Leader"

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