

A Study of the Adolescents' Interested Subjects of the Books of the Libraries in Iran

Vida Rahiminezhad^{1*}, Zohre Mohammadi Yeganeh²

¹: PhD in English Literature and an assistant Professor of Research Institute for Education, Board Member of Iranian Association for Sociology of Education, Iran

²: MA in English Literature and faculty member of Azad University South Tehran Branch, Iran

*Corresponding author's Email: vrahiminejad@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT: The aim of this paper is to find out the interests of the adolescents, in regard to their needs, in various subjects of the books, the amount of their satisfaction towards the books which are available and those books they wish those Centers contain. This survey study is in a descriptive method. The population is the adolescents of Tehran, Iran, and the sample size is 400 adolescents randomly selected and classified. The findings indicate that the first and second interested priorities of adolescents (boys and girls) are literature with 59.2%, science with 21.3% and the third priority of boys is history, with the frequency of 7.2%, and for girls is Religion with the frequency of 9.1%.

Key words: Adolescent, Leisure Time, Interest, Satisfaction

ORIGINAL ARTICLE
Received 09 Nov. 2014
Accepted 03 Dec. 2014

INTRODUCTION

Educational and Intellectual Training Centers for Children and Adolescents (Kanoon) are established to occupy the adolescents' leisure time. Most of these centers are located in parks.

In the fall of 1965, the bases of the foundation of a library for children as well as its books were provided by a number of educationalists and artists who were invited by a lady who was a graduated librarian. The Articles of Kanoon Leisure Centers were written in five chapters, and contain fifteen law items. The needs for suitable materials for reading were necessary after the establishment of Kanoon. Following such needs Kanoon Publication Section took the first step to make great attempts to write and publish books which were the best ones in all aspects (Rahimi, 2008). The point should be paid heed to, in these Centers, is the priority of publication of Iranian authors over foreign books; so that, 67.8% of the books published were written by Iranian writers since 1978.

If Kanoon Publication Section, movie centers, and libraries play three basic roles of Kanoon, libraries' roles will be the most important one. Up to now, there are 560 constant Kanoon Centers throughout the country. Among them 56 ones are working in Tehran. From these Centers in Tehran, there are 34 active Centers with numbers and 5 active ones without numbers including: Cultural and Art Afarinesh Center; Aftab Picture-gallery, Soufar Center, Biology Center and Astronomy Centre.

Most of these numbered Centers give services to children and adolescents in a two shift system (One shift system Centers give services to visitors from 8-14; whereas, two shift system Centers from 8-18. One group of the instructors of the latter centers work just in the morning, from 8-12 and the second group work

in the afternoon from 12-18. Each Center, either one or two shift system, has one manager, (Soulati, 2010). These Centers are scattered in Tehran at random (for example: there are no Centers in the third and seventh municipal districts). Whereas in some other districts there are a few centers (there are four Centers in fifth municipal district).

Statement of the problem

One important problem of people of today is to spend the leisure time in a proper way. Since the future of a society depends on its children, adolescents and young people; the way how these three groups pass their leisure time is a matter of importance. In order to fill adolescents' leisure time, Kanoon Centers have an attempt to establish libraries for the growth of adolescents' personalities. That's why recognizing adolescents' needs and interests are of great importance. Planners are able to do necessary deeds to enrich adolescents' leisure time and guarantee the future of the country; therefore, the present research is to study adolescents' interests in various subjects of books and informative needs.

Operational definitions

Libraries of Kanoon Centers: The libraries which are active in Kanoon Centers in Tehran.

Adolescents: All adolescents from 12 to 16 years old who are members of Kanoon Centers.

Leisure Time: Leisure time refers to a collection of activities that a person does completely willingly either for resting and entertaining or to develop awareness or nonprofit acquisition or voluntary social cooperation; after getting rid of social, family and professional necessities.

Interest, Studying Interest and Informative Needs: Interest refers to a type of instinct needs that

can be an important motivation for human attempt and movement (Rafii pour, 1991).

Theoretical Framework

It is necessary to do research on the field of studying interest of adolescents in Kanoon Centers; in so much as, studying in an interested field shows one's studying interest. When one is interested in a subject, it means that he/she needs it. For example, when a person who is instinctively in love of painting visits the library, he/she is going to use painting and art department. Therefore, instinctive tastes and interests create some stable and permanent informative needs in people (Omidkhoda and Sepehr, 2009).

Informative needs refer to information which is necessary for one to accomplish his tasks properly, solving the problems satisfactorily and following one's especial interests (Line, 1974). In his study, Crawford believes that informative needs depend on: occupational activities, the range of interests, enjoying some facilities, factors to motivate informative needs, necessity of determination, the necessity of searching for new ideas, the necessity of the validity of the correct thoughts and the necessity of some priorities in finding out the materials. It is necessary to recognize the informative needs and interests of Kanoon Libraries' members, as well as to be aware of these adolescent members' selections of the books to fill their leisure time. Because, if the resources of these libraries are selected with more care, they are much more related to their interests and needs; therefore, their needs to these resources will be increased. This leads to a healthy leisure time for the adolescents and prevents them from social harm.

Objectives

Studying the quality of the adolescents' interests in the subjects of the books in their leisure time is the main object of this article.

Questions

- To which subjects of the books the male adolescents are more interested in their leisure time?
- To which subjects of the books the female adolescents are more interested in their leisure time?
- How much are these adolescents satisfied of the subjects of the books in Kanoon Libraries in their leisure time?
- Which subjects of the books are desired by the members to use them in their leisure time but cannot be found in these Centers?

Background

Since the most important responsibility of Kanoon Centers is to improve studying books by

adolescents, it is the time to introduce a study under the title of "A Study on the Interested Subjects of the Adolescent Members of the Public Libraries of Tehran in Their Leisure Time" by Omidkhoda (2009). The goal of this research is to recognize and identify studying interests and needs of the adolescent members of the public Libraries in their leisure time in Tehran. Among 53251 adolescent members, 600 ones were selected according to clustered sampling in connection to the number and size of each municipal district. The data of this study shows that throughout the city of Tehran especially in the south and downtown, libraries play a very important role to fill the leisure time of these adolescent members. Novels with the frequency of 44.2% are interested by these members more than any other subjects. The next subject belongs to athletic subjects with the frequency of 20.1%, then art subjects with the frequency of 15.1% and comedy with 13.6% of frequency. The researcher's recommendations are:

- To select and provide resources in regard to needs and interests of the members as well as the variation of contents of the books.
- To select and provide basic and fundamental books in a centralized way and also to provide the books according to the adolescents' needs and interests of each different district and area.
- To provide some need analysis of the public libraries periodically in all over the country for planning to cope with real needs of the members very carefully. Since the adolescents' needs are going to be improved greatly with rapid progression of new technological information, this study is done to recognize the subjects which are interested by the adolescents concerning studying books and its priorities. Besides the above goal, the researcher gave some recommendations to enrich the library Centers with domestic resources, in regard to the district and the area of the library. The above study has studied the interested subjects of the youths; whereas, the present research is to study adolescents' interesting subjects in regard to their sexes.

In 1996, Tashii, who studied member's needs in the majority of public libraries of Western cities in Mazandaran province, came to conclusion that books of religion and social sciences as well as books of history and geography are borrowed much more than others. He also cited that in the most libraries, there is a balance between the number of existent books of philosophy, practical sciences and literature with the number of books which are borrowed by the members.

In 1997, Mirhosseini in a study analyzed the neo-literates' studying interests and needs. She concluded that the neo-literates interests in different subjects

including: social, commercial, cooperative, sanitary, historical, religious, cultural, agricultural, technical, scientific and natural resources are not the same; therefore, there should be paid more attention to the variety of elementary reading contents in each subjects.

In 1998, Mohsseni, in a survey about analyzing the degree of satisfaction of members of public libraries which belong to the General Office of Islamic Guidance, the reasons of members' attendance in libraries are recognized as: 74.4% attended in libraries to use school textbooks both main and their aids, 59.3% of members use the study hall; 57.5% attend to study scientific books; 20% study stories and 13% study religious books. According to the same study, It is reported that library goers of Tehran public libraries complained about lack of different types of books; for instance , 57.2% about lack of scientific books, 27.7% literary books, 26.7% art books, 10.7% religious books, 10.4% historical books and 5.5% geographical books.

Lieberman studied the role of changing interest and need of library goers in Washington D.C. of the United State of America in February 1975. In this research librarians have been trained to interview with the members. After studying members' interests, needs and changing interest, librarians have an attempt to create some changes according to informative needs and requests of the society. In 2005, Mirafior studied library services and informative needs of Phillipinians in Bay, an area in Son Francesco. By looking at statistic data of this area, some cultural outlooks of people and their suggestions were studied for giving services in a better way.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

This is a survey research with the use of descriptive method and it has practical aim.

Statistical population, sampling size and method of sampling

Population: Two groups of Adolescents who have some connections with Kanoon—existent members (new members and extended ones); and those previous members who have not extended their membership.

Sample size and sampling method: Statistical population of this project is 400 adolescents of Tehran. Participants are selected randomly through classifying, clustering method. The first group consists of 200 sample members of population who have extended their membership and the next group is another 200 members who have not extended their membership. Half of participants are girls. This sample size is selected based on kokran formula.

$$n = \frac{z^2 s^2}{d^2} = \frac{(1.96)^2 (1)^2}{(.1)^2} = 196$$

Sampling selection and its size

There are 35 active Centers in Tehran, 17 centers are selected. First of all the district locations of each center are determined. Centers are classified according to their geographical locations and one center is selected randomly in those districts with more than one.

At the beginning of the study 12 Centers were selected; but since samples were not enough, the number of Kanoon exceeded to 17.

Table 1. Centers which are selected randomly according to municipal district and geographical location.

Number	Geographical location	Municipal District	The number of centers in each district	Selected center No.
1	North	1, 2	2 (16,37)	1
2	Center	6, 10, 11, 13	8 (11,10; 2, 3, 20; 17, 18, 23)	4
3	West	5-9-18	6 (38, 39, 40, 41; 15; 34)	2
4	East	4, 8, 13, 14, 15	12 (26, 28, 30; 9, 21; 42; 22, 27, 14; 29, 32, 6, 9)	4
5	south	19, 20, 16, 17	7 (35, 34,8, 5, 24, 12, 25, 33)	2

Analyzing information

Descriptive statistics (percent, mean,...) are used to analyze data. This part consists of three sections. The first one refers to statistic and descriptive information and sampling population concerning members who extended and those who did not extend their membership in all kanoon Centers. The distribution of the sampling population by age, the distribution of the sampling population by sex, the distribution of the sampling population by both age and sex have been done in each center. The second section includes describing surveyed data.

Before analyzing the subject, it is necessary to have a review over the objectives and theories of the study again. The major goal of this study is to find out ways of attracting adolescents in order to be member of these centers.

The Distribution of the sampling population in each center of Kanoon

Table 3 indicates the distribution of adolescent members in each center of Kanoon. In the present study in regard to Kanoon's definition of adolescents, the study is about 12-16 year old members are taken into consideration. Most members are 14 years old;

whereas, a small number of members are 12 or 16 years old.

Distribution of sampling population with reference to age and sex

According to the above table the number of the participants at the age of 12 is 29 for both boys and girls; whereas, the number of boys and girls at the age of 13 differs: 52 boys and 32 girls.

Table 2. The distribution of sampling population in Kanoon Centers in Tehran.

Number of Kanoon Center	frequency	Percent
2	24	5.9%
3	16	3.9%
6	18	4.4%
8	28	6.8%
9	19	4.6%
11	4	1
12	19	4.6%
14	22	5.4%
16	10	2.4
20	30	7.3
22	31	7.6
28	30	7.3
29	41	10
33	55	13.4
34	8	2
35	14	3.4
39	11	2.7
Total	380	92.7
Not mentioned	30	7.3
Total	410	100

Table 3. Distribution of the sampling population separated by age in Kanoon Centers

Number of Kanoon Center	Boys	Girls	Total
2	10	14	24
3	14	2	16
6	8	10	18
8	14	14	28
9	10	9	19
11	4	0	4
12	10	9	19
14	9	13	22
16	5	5	10
20	14	16	30
22	19	12	31
28	17	13	30
29	19	22	41
33	17	38	55
34	4	4	8
35	0	14	14
39	4	7	11
Total	178	202	380

Table 4. Distribution of sampling population by age

Age	Frequency	Percent	Total center
12	58	14.1	14.1
13	84	20.5	34.6
14	105	25.6	60.2
15	93	22.7	82.9
16	70	17.1	100
Total	410	100	

Table 5. Distribution of sampling population with reference to age and sex

		age					total	
		12	13	14	15	16		
Sex	Boy	Number	29	52	47	43	34	205
		Percent	14.1%	25.4%	22.9%	21%	16.6%	100%
	Girl	Number	29	32	58	50	36	205
		Percent	14.1%	15.6%	28.3%	24.4%	17.6%	100%
Total		Number	58	84	105	93	70	410
		Percent	14.1%	20.5%	25.6%	22.7%	17.1%	100%

Description of the data related to subjects of books of kanoon centers' libraries

At the beginning of its establishment, Kanoon,, was just a library but in the course of time performed some other activities. The most important task of Kanoon is related to its libraries which are lending books. Kanoon's Libraries consist of books which are written for children and adolescents. The books are classified and arranged according to the Dewey decimal system containing: general, philosophy, religion, social sciences, language, sciences, techniques, arts, literature, History, and geography. The only difference this system has with Dewey is the printing of the word "DA" (represents "dastani" that

means novel) at the end of novel books (An interview with Maryam Shams Elahi, 2011).

In regard to the previous table the sampling population was asked some questions dealing with present books in these libraries, these questions are:

1. Which are your interesting subjects?
2. Up to now, which books have satisfied you?
3. What are the books which are necessary but absent in these libraries?
- 4.

Three blanks spaces were considered for each of the above questions to be filled in by the adolescents. They answered the above questions by remembering the title of the books or sometimes just

by the themes of the books. The titles they could remember, for example, were: *The Old Auntie, The Seven Brothers, Harry Patter and The Stars*. Since in this study there is no accessibility to the subjects; books are classified according to their titles, a librarian changed the titles into the subjects. Since the variety of the adolescents' selections of interested books are so great. Most of these subjects are placed in the subdivisions of the Dewey decimal system; therefore, the subject, first, combined together and then is placed in scientific, literary, historical, geographical, religious, philosophical, art, social, and general subjects as given below:

Scientific: sports; astronomy; computer; birds; biology; nourishment and digestion; solar system; specific sciences; natural sciences; space; sanitation; maturation; electricity; research; medicine; practical sciences; psychology; politics; inventions; language; acknowledgement; soccer; martial arts and sciences.

Literature: fiction; novel; poetry; fantastic, humorous and horror literature; emotional and magical epics; love, detective and war stories; exciting foreign stories and science fiction

Historical: historical subjects; holy defense (the war between Iran and Iraq during 1980-1988)

Religious: religious; Quran;

Philosophical: philosophical subjects

Art: workmanship; theater; animation; music; art and workmanship; art; painting; play; film making; drama; philosophy of art

Social: social subjects

General: textbook aids; cultural; encyclopedia; entertainment; educational; source books; cooking; dream interpretation; school books; test books and dictionaries. The following tables are designed according to the above explanation of subject classifications.

Table 6. adolescents' interested subjects of the books

Subjects	The first subject I was interested in		The second subject I was interested in		The third subject I was interested in		Total selection	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Scientific	57	16.7	75	28.5	35	19.6	167	21.3
Literature	230	67.3	135	51.3	99	55.3	464	59.2
Historical	20	5.8	27	10.3	9	5	56	7.1
Religious	17	5	13	4.9	18	10.1	48	6.1
Philosophical	1	0.3					1	0.1
Art	9	2.6	10	3.8	11	6.1	30	3.8
Social	2	0.6	1	0.4	5	2.8	8	1
General	6	1.8	2	0.8	2	1.1	10	1.3
total	342	100	263	100	179	100	784	100

The above table illustrates the data very clearly; accordingly, 59.2% of adolescents are interested in literature, 21.3% in science, and the other subjects with lower percents belong to history, religion, art, general, social and philosophy.

It is shown that boys with 25.9% and girls with 18% are interested in studying scientific subjects; on the other hand, 62.7% of girls and 54.3% of boys are interested in literary subjects. Besides, boys selected 328 subjects; whereas, girls selected 456 subjects to select. Table 7 has been illustrated according to the satisfied subjects of the books studied by the

adolescent members of Kanoon Centers. Among 594 subjects 62.3% of adolescents claim their satisfaction towards literary subject which is located in the first position and scientific subjects with 20.5% are placed in the second position.

The Subjects of Books Which Are Absent in Kanoon Centers' Libraries

Table no.8 shows that the first subject group of the books, that Kanoon libraries should have had, belongs to literary subjects with 50.7% and the second level belongs to the scientific ones with the frequency of 25.8%.

Table 7. The adolescents' satisfied subjects of the books

Subjects	The first subject I satisfied to study		The second subject I satisfied to study		The third subject I satisfied to study		Total selection	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Scientific	58	19	46	23.6	18	19.1	122	20.5
Literature	198	64.7	109	55.9	63	67	370	62.3
Historical	23	7.5	18	9.2	2	2.1	43	7.2
Religious	10	3.3	13	6.7	6	6.4	29	4.9
Philosophical					1	1.1	1	0.2
Art	13	4.2	7	3.6	2	2.1	22	3.7
Social	1	0.3					1	0.2
General	2	0.7	2	1	2	2.1	6	1
total	305	100	195	100	94	100	594	100

Table 8. The subjects of books absent in Kanoon Centers' libraries

Subjects	The absence of the first group of the subjects in these libraries		The absence of the second group of the subjects in these libraries		The absence of the third group of the subjects in these libraries		Total selection	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Scientific	57	23.5	41	29.9	15	25.9	113	25.8
Literature	141	58	54	39.4	27	46.6	222	50.7
Historical	13	5.3	11	8	1	1.7	25	5.7
Geography			2	1.5	2	3.4	4	0.9
Religious	8	3.3	1	0.7	1	1.7	10	2.3
Philosophical	3	1.2	3	2.2			6	1.4
Art	7	2.9	7	5.1	6	10.3	20	4.6
Social	1	0.4	3	2.2	3	5.2	7	1.6
General	13	5.3	15	10.9	3	5.2	31	7.1
total	243	100	137	100	58	100	438	100

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Literature, in general, with the frequency of 59.2% is the most interested subject selected by the adolescent members of Kanoon Libraries. Considering the sex, girls are interested in literature with the frequency of 62.7% and boys 54.3%. This conclusion, somehow, is associated with the outcomes of the study by Omidkhoda (2009) which is done about acknowledging and determining needs and studying interests of public library members. In their study, Omidkhoda, found out that novel with distribution of 44.2% of frequency, was a subject much more desired and wanted by readers. The second level, according to them, belonged to athletic subjects with the frequency of 20.1%; whereas, the second level of Kanoon adolescents' desire belonged to the scientific subjects, with the frequency of 21.3%. According to this observation, the second subject of adolescents' interest is not associated with the study of Omidkhoda. Indeed, these findings about scientific and literary subjects are not similar to findings that Tashii (1996) reported about the public libraries of Western Cities of Mazandaran, where most of the books which borrowed from the public libraries were sequentially: religion, social sciences, history and geography. On the other hand, the first interested subject of adolescent members of Kanoon libraries of Tehran, is literary subjects and the second one is scientific. In regard to the third level of interest, in both Tashii's study and the present study the result is history.

In his study, Mohsseni came to conclusion that among the members who visit the public libraries of General Office of Islamic Culture and Guidance, 57.5% of members prefer scientific subjects, 20% prefer literary and 13% would rather religious subjects. But in the present study, 20.5% of Kanoon adolescent members of the libraries are satisfied with scientific subjects, 62.3% members are satisfied with literary subjects and 4.9% members with religious subjects. Mohsseni (1998) also reported that 57.2% of members

complained about the lack of scientific, 27.7% literary and 26.7% art, 10.7% religious, 10.7% historical and 5.5% geographical books. But in the present study, 25.8% of adolescents of Kanoon libraries complain about lack of scientific books, 50.7% lack of literary books, 4.6% lack of art books, 2.3% religious books, 5.7% lack of historical books and .9% lack of geographical books.

Mirhosseini (1997) reached an almost similar conclusion with the present study those adolescents' interests in different subjects including: social, commercial, cooperative, health, historical, religious, cultural, agricultural, professional, technical, and scientific and natural resources were not the same; therefore, in this regard, his conclusion was the same as the present study.

It is a matter of importance to pay heed to the way the adolescents spend their leisure time; because, it prevents them being contaminated by some social damages. That's why this study is not only to evaluate adolescents' interests in subjects of books in these libraries; but also surveys their satisfaction of the existent books in Kanoon libraries which are present. On the other hand, the more we recognize the books that those libraries lack and those members' needs, the more the members are led to use Kanoon libraries. This study after collecting and analyzing all information concluded that the priority of the subjects interested by adolescents both boys and girls, in their leisure time, are the books with the following order: literature and science, as first and second level, but the third level was history for boys and religion for girls. In the section referring to the desired books of Kanoon libraries, these boys and girls, first selected literature and then science and at the end for the absence of those subjects of the books in Kanoon libraries, literature and science were pointed to.

Recommendations

In order to attract adolescents to these centers it is suggested to increase of literary and scientific books, to conduct need analysis of the needed

subjects of the books both continuously and periodically, to conduct need analysis in order to achieve adolescents' variety of needs, to decentralize the provision of books in Kanoon libraries; according to adolescents' needs and interests in each Kanoon Center, to furnish Kanoon Centers with a kind of software program to identify available books in regard to children and adolescents of different age.

REFERENCES

- Lieberman, Irving (1975). *The Information Needs of Urban Residents; A Strategy for Public Library Change*, Retrieved from web portal. www.eric.ed.gov/eric
- Line, Maurice B (1974). *Draft Definitions: Information and Library Needs Wants, Demand and Uses*. *Aslib Proceedings*, 26.
- Mazrooi, Hossein (1997). *A Study on the Amount of Fulfillment of the Goals of Kanoons belong to the Education and Training systems, in Instructors and Students Points of View*. An M.A. Thesis in Isfahan University.
- Mirafior, Angine (2005). *Library Services Information Needs of the Filipino Community in the San Francisco Bay Area*, Retrieved from web portal. www.eric.ed.gov/eric
- Mirhosseini, Zohre (1997). *An Analysis on the Adolescents' Studying Needs and Interests*. A PhD. Thesis of Islamic Azad university, Tehran Science and Research Center.
- Mohsseni, Hamid (1998). *A Study on the Satisfaction of Library Goers of the Public Libraries of the Islamic Guidance Ministry in Tehran (A research project)*. The Ministry of Islamic Guidance and Culture: Tehran.
- Omidkhoda, Fereshteh, and Seperhr, Maryam (2009). *A Study on the Interested Subjects of the Adolescent Members of the Public Libraries of Tehran in Their Leisure Time*. Payameh Ketabkhaneh Press. Page: 61.
- Rafii pour, Faramarz (1991). *Rural Areas and Their Needs*. Sahami press: Tehran.
- Rahimi, Frough (2008). *History, Structure and Principles of Kanoon Centers*. Informative and Informing press.
- Sharifi, Saeed (1998). *Kanoon Center from 1344-57*. An Interview. *Bahar Magazine*: number 19. 29-37.
- Taherahmadi, Mahmood (2003). "From a Meeting on Children's Books to Kanoon Centers (1341-1357)". *Spring and Fall. The Document's Treasure*. 13th. Circulation. Number 3 &4. 83-9.
- Tashii, Arssalan (1996). *A Study on the Conditions and the Needs of the Public Libraries Sources in Western Cities of Mazandaran County*. An MA. Thesis. Tehran university: Tehran.