Women Engineering Students Perception on Library Fine- A study

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Abstract

This study tries to explore the women engineering student’s attitude towards overdue books and overdue fine. The study also attempted to find out the reasons for keeping library books beyond the due date and examined the extent to which the women students agree or disagree the effectiveness of fines. The research method for the study was survey method using questionnaire to collect the data. Study revealed that majority of the respondents agrees that charging overdue fine is a disciplinary measure intended against the defaulters. Findings also show that increase the overdue fine rate doesn’t helpful to return the books on time. The study also finds an interesting fact that the respondents not to stop borrowing books from the library for the risk of paying fine.

Keywords: Overdue fine; Engineering Library; User study

1. Introduction

Libraries in engineering institutions play a crucial role in fulfilling the information needs of their users. Technical education plays a vital role in the social and economic development of our nation. Engineers need latest information in their subjects to support their learning, teaching, and other research requirements. (Lewis & Mallaiya). Readers' service, which includes lending materials, is a major service that attracts many people to the library. Users of academic libraries are free to borrow materials for home use. The level, extent, and number depend on the library's policies (Udoumoh & Okaro). For maximum use of library material libraries are issuing books to the readers for stipulated time period. The problem of overdue material is common in all types of academic libraries. There are so many disciplinary actions can be taken against the borrowers who did not return the borrowed books within the prescribed due date. Imposing overdue fine is one of the disciplinary measures for encouraging return of books on time and regulating the books for circulation among all members of the Library. Users who default in returning borrowed item to the library by due date are asked to pay Rs.1 per day as overdue fine in the three engineering college libraries in Nellore district. The present study here was being carried to get the opinions and attitude of overdue fine among the women engineering students in the engineering college libraries.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of the research was to investigate the women engineering student’s perception on library overdue fine. It examined the extent to which the women students agree or disagree the effectiveness of fines. The study seeks to discover the various reasons for not returning the borrowed library books within
due date. The study also focused to get the views of the students on measures which helpful to return their books on time, and imposing additional fine for the borrowers who intentionally not returning the books for longer period.

II. Literature Survey

Adomi (2003) studied University Library user’s attitude towards overdue fine at University of Benin, Delta State University of Nigeria. The findings of the study shows that respondents attitude towards over dues fine is positive. Ajay and Okunola (2005) study reported that respondents perceived the increase of overdue fine as a welcome measure, long overdue which would make library books more readily accessible. Murugathas (2009) presents the results of a survey at University of Jaffna Medical Library. The survey conducted with an objective of identifying reasons for keeping the borrowed library books overdue. The study found that major reason for keeping books overdue is students being unable to finish reading. The respondents of the study suggested that increasing the number of copies of demanded books, extend the opening hours of the library and extending the loan period were helpful measures. Bhatt (2011) explores the student’s perceptions of charging fines for overdue books in the Islamia College of science and technology Library, Kashmir. The study found that majority of the students prefer to keeping books beyond due date and paying fine late. Majority of the respondents also feel that library fines encourage user to return the borrowed items on time. Charles Arthur (2012) investigated user’s attitude to the imposition of library fines at the Catholic University College, Ghana. The study adopted questionnaires, observation and interviews for data collection. The findings revealed that respondents cited forgetting to return the item by the due date as the main factor in the incidence of overdue fines payment. The study also finds out that majority of the respondents opted to continuous imposition of overdue fine. Hazarika & Gohain (2013) explains the attitude of the borrowers in college libraries in Lakimpur district of Assam towards overdue fine. The study revealed that college library users are in favour of overdue policy. Gohain, Saikia & Sarma (2013) presents the results of a case study conducted at Tezpur University, Nepal, Assam. The findings revealed that borrowers borrowed library books mainly for examination preparation and for supplementary reading and pay overdue fine mainly because of forgetfulness and not finished with the books. 91 percent of the respondents viewed that overdue fine compelled user to return the borrowed library books on time.

III. Objectives of the Study

The specific objectives of the study are:

To know the frequency of books borrowing among the women students

To examine the students whether they agree or disagree the effectiveness of overdue fines

To discover the impact of various reasons among the students for not returning the borrowed library books within due date.

To find out measures against overdue books.

To get the opinion on imposing additional fine for the defaulters who intentionally kept the highly demanded library books for longer period.
IV. Methodology

The scope of the study is limited to women engineering students in three engineering Colleges i.e., Audisankara College of Engineering, Narayana College of Engineering, and Gokula Krishna College of Engineering, in Nellore district. The study was about to seek the women engineering graduate students perception on overdue fine. The investigator adopted the convenience sampling method for collecting the data from the students. The investigator distributed the questionnaires and the respondents are made to answer the closed ended questions on overdue fines. The investigator received valid responses from 84 students, which are only used for analysis of the study.

V. Data Analysis

The data collected from the questionnaires was analysed using percentage

1. Frequency of borrowing books from the library

Respondents were asked to indicate how frequently they borrow books from the library. 63% or 53 of them said often, 29% or 24 of very often and 8% or 7 rarely. This shows many of the respondents are regular users of the library books.

2. Payment of overdue fine

Imposition of overdue fine for the overdue books is common practice in many college libraries. The respondents are asked whether they ever pay the overdue fine. That majority 51% or 43 of the respondents paid overdue fine, 48.80% or 41 responded that they never pay the fine.

3. Frequency of paying Library fine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rarely</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>60.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Often</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>37.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very often</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above table-1 shows the frequency of paying library fine by the respondents. It is cleared that majority of the respondents 60.46% paid fine rarely, and 37.20% opined often, only 2.32% paid overdue fine very often.

4. Opinion on adequacy of overdue fine rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Too high</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okay</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>73.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The above table explains that respondent’s opinion on adequacy of overdue fine rate. It clearly indicates that majority of the respondents 73.80% opined that the overdue fine rate of Rs.1 per day for the overdue books is Okay. 15.47% of the respondents opined that it’s too high.

5. Benefits for charging overdue fine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.no</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>It’s a disciplinary measure intended against library defaulters</td>
<td>67 (79.76%)</td>
<td>17 (20.24%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Encouragement for returning the books on time</td>
<td>67(79.76%)</td>
<td>17 (20.24%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Regulating the books for circulation among all users</td>
<td>78 (92.85%)</td>
<td>6 (7.15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Enhancing timely access to library material</td>
<td>70 (83.33%)</td>
<td>14 (16.67%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above table explains the respondent’s opinion on the benefits of charging overdue fine for overdue library books. It is revealed that 79.76% of the respondents agree that charging overdue fine is a disciplinary measure intended against library defaulters, and they also agree that it encourages for returning the books on time. 92.85% of the respondents opined that overdue fines regulate the circulation of books among all users. 83.33% of the respondents agrees charging of library fine can enhance the timely access to library material.

6. Opinion on keeping the books beyond the due date

In this study the investigator try to elicit whether respondents preferred to keep the highly demand books beyond the due date and they can pay the fine later. The results show that 76% or 64 of the respondents reply that YES, only 24 % 20 of the respondents replied NO. This indicates that the women engineering graduates are doesn’t care of the library fine for the overdue books, if they need any important book to keep with them for longer period.

7. Reasons for not returning the borrowed library books on time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Forgetfulness</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>39.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Return and renewal procedure discouraging</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>30.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The demand of the book is high</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>39.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>I have not completed the book</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>83.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fine is low so, I would keep it for longer days</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>57.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The above table depicts the various reasons for the women engineering graduates keeping library books beyond the due date. The results explain that 83.33% of the respondents opined that due to not completion of the book was the major reason for not returning the library books on time, follows that 57.14% of the respondents feel the fine is low so they try to keep the books longer days was the another reason. 39.28% of the respondents opined that forgetfulness, and the demand of the book is high were the other reasons.

8. Opinion on the helpful measures to return books on time

Table-5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.no</th>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Helpful</th>
<th>Not helpful</th>
<th>No response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Allowing renewals</td>
<td>79 (94.04%)</td>
<td>3 (3.57%)</td>
<td>2 (2.30%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Increase the fine rate of Rs.2 per day</td>
<td>6 (7.14%)</td>
<td>74 (88.09%)</td>
<td>4 (4.76%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Increase the copies of highly demanded books</td>
<td>76 (90.47%)</td>
<td>5 (5.95%)</td>
<td>3 (3.57%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sending remainder notices through SMS or e-mails</td>
<td>64 (76.19%)</td>
<td>16 (19.07%)</td>
<td>4 (4.76%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Putting the defaulter name on the notice board</td>
<td>17 (20.23%)</td>
<td>63 (75%)</td>
<td>4 (4.76%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Reporting to HODs</td>
<td>23 (27.38%)</td>
<td>56 (66.66%)</td>
<td>5 (5.95%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Refusing further loan</td>
<td>30 (35.71%)</td>
<td>50 (59.52%)</td>
<td>4 (4.76%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is observed from the above data that majority of the respondents 94.04% opined that allowing renewals can help them the return of books on time, followed by 90.47% opined that increase the copies of highly demanded books can help the books return on time. It was also observed from the above data 76.19% opined that sending remainder notices through SMS or e-mails helps to return the books on time. In this study large number 88.09% of the respondents are opined that increase of fine rate Rs 2 per day for the overdue books was not helpful to return the books on time. The table also shows that majority 75% of the respondents are not in favour of putting the defaulter name in the notice board, also they did not favour of reporting the HODs these types of measures doesn’t helpful among students to return the books on time. 59.52% of the respondents opined that refusing further loan is also not helpful for them to return the books on time.

9. Opinion on Stop borrowing books from the Library for the risk of paying overdue fine

One question was asked by the investigator whether the respondents stop borrowing books from their respective college library for the risk of paying overdue fine for overdue books. It is clear from the data that 84.52% or 71 of the respondents opined that they did not stop borrowing books from the college library for the risk of paying overdue fine. Only 15.47% or 13 of the respondents opined that they may stop to borrow books from the library.

10. Opinion on imposing Additional fine

The study tried to get the opinion of the women engineering students on imposing of additional fine for the borrowers who intentionally not return the college library books for longer period of time. Majority
of the respondents 55.95% or 47 opined YES on imposing additional fine to the defaulters who intentionally not return the books for longer period. Notable percentage 44.07% or 37 opined that they did not favor for additional fine for the defaulters.

VI. Summary of Findings

The findings of the present study are

Majority of the respondents in this study are regular borrowers of the college library. As the finding indicates that 63% opined that they often and 23 % very often borrow books from their respective college library.

Majority of the respondents 51% paid the overdue fine.

73.80% of the respondents feel that the fine rates for the overdue books are Okay.

92.85% of the respondents opined that overdue fines regulate the circulation of books among all users.

83.33% of the respondents agrees charging of library fine can enhance the timely access to library material.

76% of the respondents prefer to keep the demand books beyond the due date and pay the fine later.

83.33% of the respondents opined that due to not completion of the book was the major reason for not returning the library books on time.

94.04% opined that allowing renewals can help them the return of books on time, followed by 90.47% opined that increase the copies of highly demanded books can help the books return on time.

75% of the respondents are not favour of putting the defaulter name in the notice board, also they did not favour of reporting the HODs these types of measures doesn’t helpful among students to return the books on time.

88.09% of the respondents are opined that increase of fine rate Rs 2 per day for the overdue books was not helpful.

84.52% or 71 of the respondents opined that they did not stop borrowing books from the college library for the risk of paying overdue fine.

Majority of the respondents 55.95% or 47 favoured on imposing additional fine to the defaulters who intentionally not return the books for longer period.

VII. Recommendations

On the basis of the findings of the study the following recommendations are put forward for effective return of library materials from the borrowers of the three engineering college libraries in Nellore district.

User education

The library staff should educate the fresher’s about the borrowers privileges, due dates, overdue fine rate
and the existing rules, policies of the library. This makes the users to know properly about the need of returning the books to the library on time.

**Provision of Renewal of books**

High percentage (94.05%) of the respondents in this study opined that it is helpful to return books on time if the library allow for the renewal of the borrowed book. Assignments, weekly tests, seminars, and study projects are important activities for the engineering students. Due to these most of the students failed to return the borrowed books to the Library. From this study it’s clearly came to know that “I have not complete the book” was the major reason (83.33%) for the most of the respondents not return the borrowed books on time to the library. Provision of online renewal of book and the online reservation of books can help at greater extent to minimize overdue books.

**Increase the copies of highly demanded books**

In this study the responses of the students clearly indicates that a high percentage (90.47%) opined that the library should increase the copies of demanded books. Library must give importance in collection development according to the need and demand of the users. The authority should authorized library to purchase multiple copies of highly demand books in order to minimize overdue fine.

**Sending remainder notices through SMS or e-mails**

Now a day’s carrying mobile phone and internet usage among the engineering students is a common phenomena. So, that the library focus in this aspect and should send the remainder notice through SMS or e-mail. This should remind borrowers to return items to the Library by the due date. Forgetting to return borrowed items on time was given as one of the reasons why over dues are incurred.

**Cheaper photocopies**

This could also assist in reducing the incidence of overdue fines. This is because where selected pages in core materials could be easily photocopied at cheaper cost to a user instead of holding on to them and paying high overdue fines, many of the users as rational beings would opt for photo copies (Arthur 2012).

**VIII. Conclusion**

The objective of imposing overdue fine in any academic library was not to generate revenue, but to encourage the users to return the books on time. From this study it was found that the high percentage of the respondents doesn’t stop borrowing books from the library for the risk of paying overdue fine. Women engineering graduates doesn’t care of the library fine; they prefer important books to keep with them for longer period and pay fine later. Respondents are not favour of putting the defaulter name in the notice board, also they did not favour of reporting the HODs these types of measures doesn’t helpful for the students to return the books on time. So that the college libraries are needed to consider and implement the suitable ways and means of making the students aware of borrowing privileges, renewal procedures, and overdue fine rates for minimizing the risk of paying overdue fine and return of books on time.
References


