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Resources Availability Impacts on Reading Habit and Literacy Attitude of College Students in Tirunelveli District Central Library

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Abstract

The focus of the present study is to analyse the reading habit and literacy attitude of the college students who use the Tirunelveli district central library. The present study tries to analyse how the reading habits has an impact upon the literacy attitude of the college students who use the library. In order to analyse the impact of the library, the resources, facilities, infrastructures and staff service of the library has been taken as a factor and how they impact the reading habit and library usage of the respondents has been analysed and how does it positively impact the literacy attitude of the respondents is the focus of the study. The college students who use the Tirunelveli district central library form the respondents of the present research and 407 respondents have been selected for the present study. The data has been analysed using confirmatory factor analysis and the findings and suggestions are provided.

Keywords : Resources, Reading Habits , Literacy Attitude and College students.

1. Introduction

Library is a place which is considered the hub of knowledge. Knowledge is stored in different ways and means in which library is one. The pre-technological era saw documents written or printed in paper as one of the best available method. However, the advent of

technology paves the way for the use of multimedia across the board to store and preserve knowledge across formats in the libraries throughout the world. Ever since the civilization, man has learned to store and preserve knowledge so as to pass the baton to the succeeding generations. As against the ancient libraries, the modern day library is a structured one with sophisticated infrastructure and high end technologies. Libraries are essential to ensure that the social, economic, intellectual and cultural aspects run smoothly.

Libraries are essential in any society as they help impart knowledge and information. The modern day is a competitive world in which people across the age throng to gain knowledge. Propagation of information to readers is the motto of all libraries. In a nutshell, library acts as a knowledge bridge between readers and the knowledge destination. The fundamental activity of any library is to educate its readers with the help of books and other information sources. The modern day library acts as more than a library in helping impart knowledge across the board. When it comes to learning in the form of research and development, cultural activities, spiritual and ideological realms, recreation and entertainment, libraries' role cannot be dispensed with. The advantages of a modern day library helps its readers tremendously to cater to their needs.

A public library, which is otherwise known as circulating library, could be accessed and funded by public and is operated by the civil servants. Taxing bodies for public libraries may be at any level from local to national central government level. The public library is a miniature of the function of any government.

Among the fundamental activity in a library, reading is an intellectual activity in order to gain information and knowledge. Reading involves an individual's attitude and behaviour. Reading involves interpreting meaning from the text or books or any other sources. The study undertaken here makes sincere attempts to find out the importance of district central libraries and its impact on users' reading habits and literacy attitude.

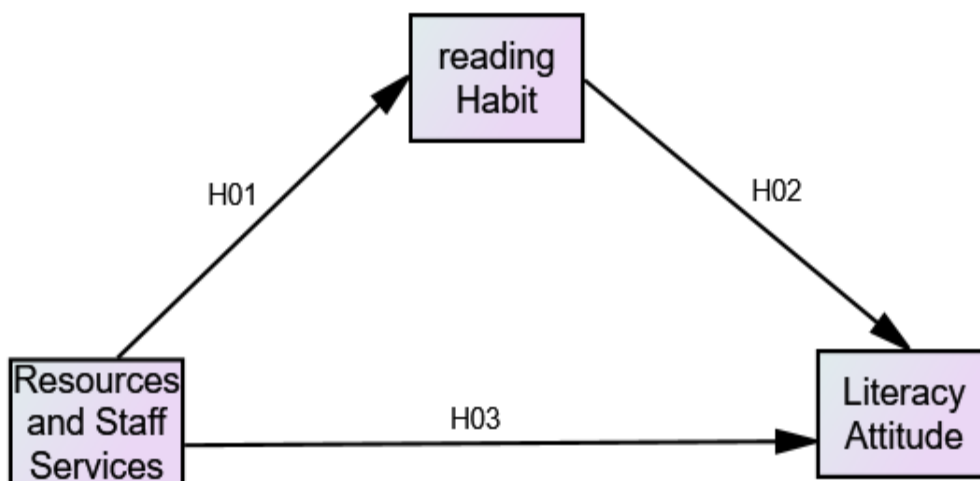


Fig.1 Conceptual framework of the study

2. About the Tirunelveli District central library

Tirunelveli District central library catalogue is the hub of knowledge in which there are 132953 bibliographic items in MARC 21 compliant. The sources comprises books in Tamil & other languages, available for reference and lending and non-book items like Cds, EBooks etc. The catalogue is available for online access to registered members and non-registered members. Working hours of the library: 10 am to 6 pm from Monday to Saturday. Sunday is a holiday. GPS location is 8.71831, 77.738209.

3. Review of related literature

Kulkarni, Dhanamjaya and Balaji (2017), In their research found the impact of literature festivals among the respondents. 46.1 percent respondents agreed that visit to literature festivals either enhance the reading habits or create an influence among them. 33 percent respondents had strongly agreed this fact.

Lakshmi and Kavitha (2016), In their research pointed alike, secured and trustworthy access to information is possible through libraries. Libraries are the vital sources to get these sort of reliable information. The work dealt with the profile of public libraries, hurdles that interrupts the frequent visit to public libraries, services provided by public libraries and the users'

satisfaction towards it. Vehicle stand is the major problem for major respondents. 50 percent respondents are frustrated with vehicle stand facility. Frequency of newspaper and magazine reading relies on the age and marital status of respondents. Level of satisfaction of the users on library services even depends on the gender of respondents and time they spent in the library. Computerization and networking of resources might help in enhancing the status of public library to international standards.

Gilbert (2015) in his research scrutinized the satisfaction level of users with the public library services in Mubi Adamawa State and considered the services provided and existing resources. 100 sample respondents were taken for the study. With a fine structured questionnaire, random sampling method was used for scrutinizing the satisfaction level and other needs of respondents regarding library services. The research found the necessity of information retrieval tools in library hence most of the materials in the library are outdated. Though the materials are relevant to the required information it lacks in competing the apt information required. The survey recommends for state government grants of upto 10-15 % from annual education grants in order to maintain classified and organized materials in the library shelves. It is revealed through this study that 46.7 % respondents felt satisfied with library collections, 38.67% respondents are satisfied with the organization of library materials and 33.3 % respondents reveal their satisfaction in the attitude of library staff.

Ikolo (2015) conducted a case study entitled "User satisfaction with library services: a case study of Delta State University Library that highly speaks about the satisfaction of users on library services. The researcher found that users of library are dissatisfied with several library services namely, database services, electronic services, reference services and photo copying services. Users are not satisfied even with the book lending services and inter-library loan services too. Library services like bindery services, weekend library services, indexing services and abstracting services and CD-ROM services didn't appease the respondents. In addition to these services internet services and newspapers, magazines and journals facilities are not up to the expectation of the respondents. Respondents' satisfaction is very worse in case of availability of text books at shelves and book borrowing process. Two services that satisfy the respondents are working hours of the library and thesis/dissertation services.

Joy and Idowu (2014) in their study focused on the usage and satisfaction of users on public library services in South West Nigeria. 400 respondents were taken across four states in South- West Nigeria for the analysis and a descriptive survey research model was used for

the analysis. The study revealed the enhancement found in the usage of these public libraries. In case of user satisfaction on the services of Nigeria public libraries, lacking in vital facilities namely outdated information, ICT/Internet services were the major causes for users' dissatisfaction. Further the study recommended the fund hike which would pave way to better library facilities.

Kutay (2014) revealed the literature reading habits of the students. The research keenly observed the reading habit of students relying on their gender and religions. It is found through the research that literature reading habit of students varies depending their gender and religion. Amidst of the 10 provided categories most chosen genre is adventurous fiction. 73.8 percent respondents had chosen adventurous fictions. Female respondents mostly prefer romance fictions (70 %) and give second preference to horror (52 %) . male respondents prefer war-spy stories (56%) and then crime-detective (45%).

Massis (2011), his research highly concentrates on the information literacy instruction providing behaviour of the library and its role in enhancing it among the students in a challenging teaching and learning environment. A format of literature review and commentary on this topic is taken in this approach. Librarians and faculty must collaborate in an effective way to maintain the need for cohesive enhancement and implementation of information literacy instruction in the library. Their collaborative effort would raise the level of students victory and research perception.

4. Statement of the Problem

Libraries are supposed to be the pillars of a society that help in maintaining the civility and humanity of the people of the society. That is the reason why the governments around the world are willing to spend a lot of money in establishing and maintaining a public library so that the people can benefit out of it. Similarly, in India, the government are supposed to be spending a lot of money in maintaining the libraries around the country. But are these libraries satisfying its purpose in the society? Does the infrastructure of these public libraries satisfy the needs of the respondents? Does it increase the reading habit of the respondents? Is there a positive impact on the literacy attitude of the respondents. These are some pertinent questions that needs to be answered and this is the focus of the present article. The Tirunelveli district central library has been chosen as the context for the present study

and the college students who use the library facility are the respondents of the present research.

5. Objectives of the study

1. To find out the influence level of availability of resources in central public library on users' literacy attitude.
2. To analyse the mediation effects of students' reading habit between the availability of resources in central public library on users' literacy attitude.

6. Hypotheses of the study

H_{a1} – Resources availability has positive influences on reading habit and literacy attitude of users.

H_{a2} – Reading habit has positive influences on literacy attitude of users.

7. Scope of the study

The focus of the present study is to analyse the reading habit and literacy attitude of the college students who use the Tirunelveli district central library. The present study tries to analyse how the reading habits have an impact upon the literacy attitude of the college students who use the library. In order to analyse the impact of the library, the resources, facilities, infrastructures and staff service of the library have been taken as a factor and how they impact the reading habit and library usage of the respondents has been analysed and how it positively impacts the literacy attitude of the respondents is the focus of the study. This analysis can provide valuable findings and suggestions in order to increase the reading habit and thereby the literacy attitude of the college students.

8. Pilot Study

To find the validity of questions, the instrument is pre-tested with 50 respondents. The main objective of pre-testing is to find out the respondents' opinions, the language used and to rule out ambiguities and doubts. During this exercise several suggestions were received from the

relevant respondents. In the light of those suggestions, several questions have been revised and some new questions were added in the final draft of questionnaire.

9. Research methodology

In the present study, Cochran's sample size determination formula with the minimum required sample size is 384, for the accuracy of the study, the researcher has aimed at 450 sample respondents of college students. Amongst the 450 respondents that the researcher has taken for study, only 413 respondents returned the filled questionnaire. From that 413, only 407 complete responses were selected for the present research. However, respondents have been selected by Convenience sampling technique from Non probability sampling method. The research is cross sectional nature in Descriptive research. The collected data were analysed using AMOS 20.

10. Limitations

- Only the users of the Tirunelveli district central library are selected for the present research.
- Moreover, only college students who use the library are selected.
- The time frame of the present study is between January, 2019 to May, 2019 and therefore the present study tends to be limited in its applicability.

11. Constructs and Items used in the study

C1 - Resources and staff services

RS1 The availability of Text and reference books is satisfactory

RS1 The reading room is spacious and comfortable

RS1 The layout, rack arrangement and arrangement of books in the library is satisfactory

RS1 All the library staffs are well qualified to provide the services needed in the library

RS1 I am happy with the Internet and e-resources that are provided in the library

C2 - Reading Habits

RH1 I use the library regularly for reading newspapers

RH2 The availability of variety of books and magazines in the library has increased my reading habits

- RH3 My reading habit has increased after I started using the library
- RH4 I feel that the time that I spent in the library is the most productive time of my life

C3 - Literacy Attitude

- LA1 I prepare for all my examinations, seminars and assignments sitting in the library
- LA2 I am up-to-date with current knowledge about the world
- LA3 My overall skills have developed as a result of using the library

12. Confirmatory factor Analysis

Confirmatory factor Analysis (CFA) was done with 3 constructs and 12 Items.

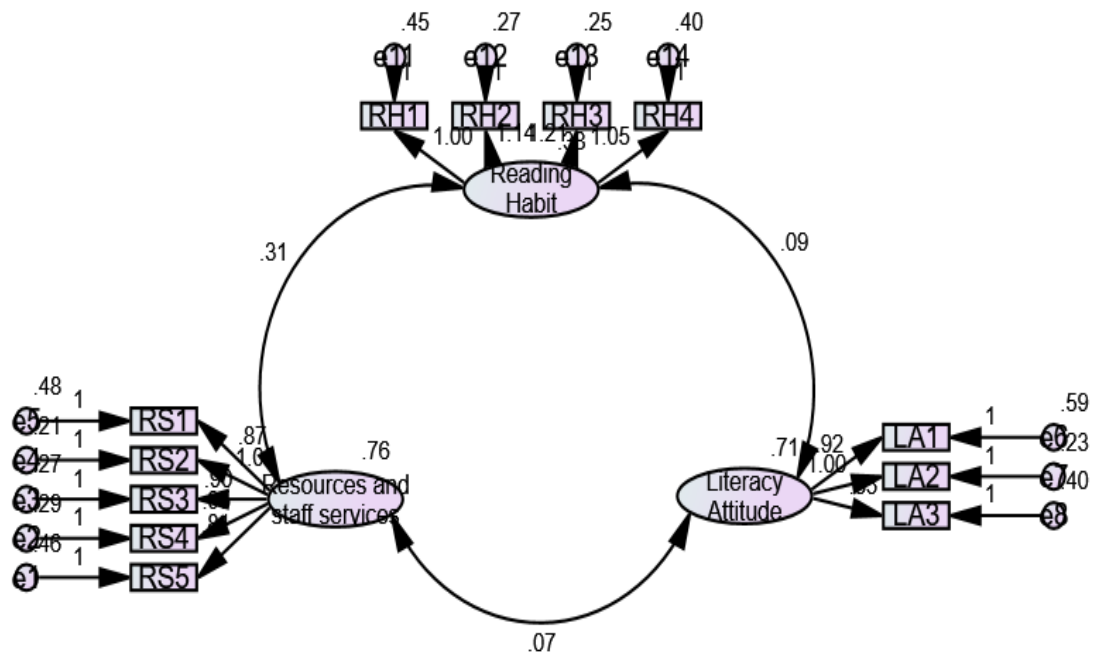


Fig. 2 Confirmatory Factor Analysis

Table No. 1

Average Variance Extracted and Construct Reliability

Items	Constructs	Factor loading	Item Reliability	AVE	CR
RS5	Resources and staff services	0.72	0.518	0.649	0.902
RS4	Resources and staff services	0.839	0.704		
RS3	Resources and staff services	0.834	0.696		

RS2	Resources and staff services	0.883	0.780		
RS1	Resources and staff services	0.741	0.549		
LA1	Literacy attitude	0.709	0.503	0.776	0.821
LA2	Literacy attitude	0.869	0.755		
LA3	Literacy attitude	0.75	0.563		
RH1	Reading habit	0.676	0.457	0.577	0.844
RH2	Reading habit	0.803	0.645		
RH3	Reading habit	0.832	0.692		
RH4	Reading habit	0.716	0.513		

i. Convergent validity:

All the eight constructs used here analysed with confirmatory factor analysis and their convergent validity value should be greater than 0.5 in order to be a valid tool. Here, all the value of the eight constructs are above 0.5 which indicates that the tool is valid.

ii. Composite reliability:

Similarly, the composite reliability for the constructs used here needs to be greater than 0.7 in order to be a reliable tool. So, in order to prove the interconnectedness of the constructs and the other related items, the reliability value need to be greater than 0.7 and here the values of intra-items are above 0.7, indicating that the current constructs are reliable.

Table No. 2

Discriminate Validity

Construct	Resources and Staff services	Literacy Attitude	Reading Habit
Resources and Staff services	0.649		
Literacy Attitude	0.009	0.776	
Reading Habit	0.332	0.032	0.577

iii. Discriminate Validity:

The above table talks about the Inter construct correlation between the constructs. The correlation value need to be less than the AVE value in order to proved that there is discriminate validity between the construct. Since the inter construct correlation value is

lower than the AVE value, it is clear that each construct is unique and there is no overlapping of constructs.

In order to prove that the tool used in the present study is valid, the Average Variance Extracted (AVE) and Construct Reliability (CR) score need to more than 0.6 and 0.8 respectively and it indicates that the instrument is valid and reliable.

13. Data analysis

Table No. 3
Resources and Staff Services of Library

Statements	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The availability of Text and reference books is satisfactory	407	2.30	1.028
The reading room is spacious and comfortable	407	3.16	.989
The layout, rack arrangement and arrangement of books in the library is satisfactory	407	4.20	.945
All the library staffs are well qualified to provide the services needed in the library	407	4.25	.994
I am happy with the Internet and e-resources that are provided in the library	407	3.73	.980

The above mean table provides the opinions of the respondents towards the resources and staff services of the library. Among other factors, "All the library staffs are well qualified to provide the services needed in the library" has achieved the highest mean value of 4.25. The availability of text and reference books has achieved the lowest mean value of 2.30.

Table No. 4
Reading Habits of Library Users

Statements	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
I use the library regularly for reading newspapers	407	3.51	.913
The availability of variety of books and magazines in the library has increased my reading habits	407	4.27	.878
My reading habit has increased after I started using the library	407	4.21	.900
I feel that the time that I spent in the library is the most productive time of my life	407	4.11	.907

The above mean table provides the opinions of the respondents towards the reading habits of the library users. Among other factors, "The availability of variety of books and magazines in the library has increased my reading habits" has achieved the highest mean value of 4.27. the factor of "I use the library regularly for reading newspapers" has achieved the lowest mean value of 3.51.

Table No. 5
Literacy Attitude

Statements	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
I prepare for all my examinations, seminars and assignments sitting in the library	407	3.11	1.09289
I am up-to-date with current knowledge about the world	407	3.41	.97007
My overall skills have developed as a result of using the library	407	3.92	.9552

The above mean table provides the opinions of the respondents towards the literacy attitude of the library users. Among other factors, "My overall skills have developed as a result of using the library" has achieved the highest mean value of 3.92. the factor of "I prepare for all my examinations, seminars and assignments sitting in the library" has achieved the lowest mean value of 3.11.

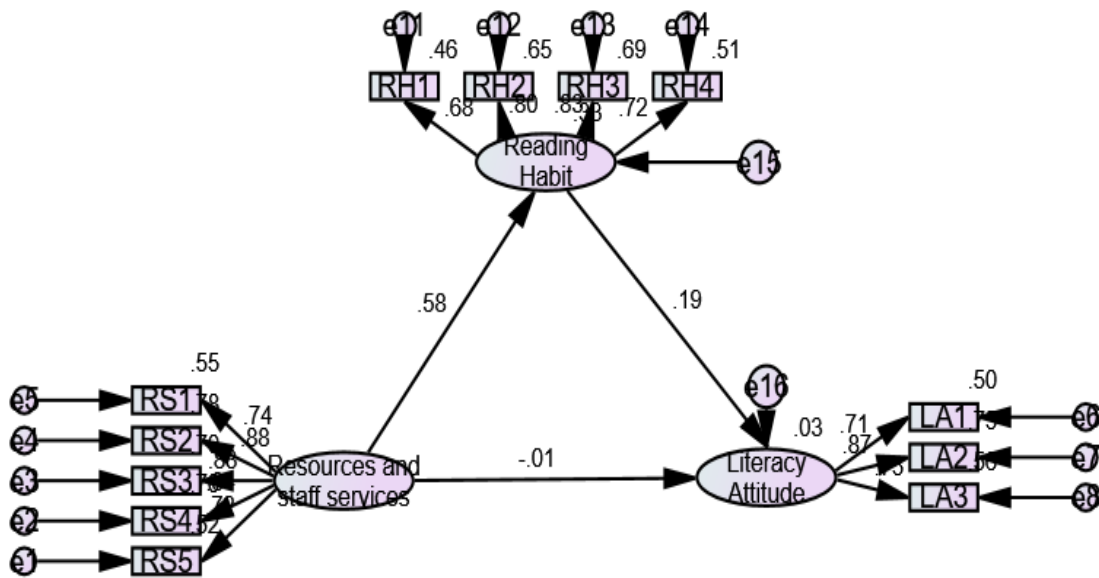


Fig. 3 Path Analysis between Resources and Staff services and Literacy Attitude

Table No. 6

Model Fit Summary

CMIN

Model	NPAR	CMIN	DF	P	CMIN/DF
Default model	27	157.408	51	.000	3.086
Saturated model	78	.000	0		
Independence model	12	2598.668	66	.000	39.374

RMR, GFI

Model	RMR	GFI	AGFI	PGFI
Default model	.051	.940	.909	.615
Saturated model	.000	1.000		
Independence model	.336	.368	.253	.311

RMSEA

Model	RMSEA	LO 90	HI 90	PCLOSE
Default model	.072	.059	.085	.003

Model	RMSEA	LO 90	HI 90	PCLOSE
Independence model	.307	.297	.318	.000

Table No. 7

Regression Weights

	Paths	Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P	Label
Reading Habit	<--- Resources and Staff services	.407	.042	9.640	***	Supported
Literacy attitude	<--- Resources and Staff services	-.012	.070	-.165	.869	Rejected
Literacy Attitude	<--- Reading Habit	.256	.103	2.482	.013	Supported

The above path analysis table talks about the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variables. In the first variable of the relationship between resources and staff services and reading habit, the p value is less than 0.05 and therefore the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus it is clear that there is a positive relationship between resources and staff services and reading habit. Similarly, the last variable of the relationship between reading habit and literacy attitude, the p value is less than 0.05 and therefore the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus it is clear that there is a positive relationship between reading habit and literacy attitude. But in the case of the relationship between resources and staff services and literacy attitude, the p value is greater than 0.05 and therefore the null hypothesis is not rejected. Thus it is clear that the factor of resources and staff services doesn't give rise to literacy attitude of the respondents.

Table No. 8

Standardized Total Effects

	Resources and Staff services	Reading Habit	Literacy Attitude
Reading habit	.576	.000	.000
Literacy attitude	.096	.187	.000

Standardized Direct Effects

	Resources and staff services	Reading Habit	Literacy Attitude
Reading habit	.576	.000	.000

	Resources and staff services	Reading Habit	Literacy Attitude
Literacy Attitude	-.012	.187	.000

Standardized Indirect Effects

	Resources and Staff services	Reading Habit	Literacy Attitude
Reading habit	.000	.000	.000
Literacy attitude	.108	.000	.000

The above tables talk about the total, direct and indirect effect between the independent and dependent variables. When the total effect is taken into consideration, whenever there is a 1 point increase in resources and staff services, there is a 0.096 point increase in literacy attitude. When the direct effect is taken into consideration, whenever there is a 1 point increase in resources and staff services, there is a -0.012 decrease in the literacy attitude of the respondents. But, when the total effect is taken into consideration, whenever there is a 1 point increase in resources and staff services, there is a 0.108 point increase in literacy attitude. Therefore, it is clear that compared to the direct effect, the indirect effect is highest and thus the mediator plays a major role in increasing the literacy attitude of the respondents.

14. Suggestion

1. The Tirunelveli district library is located in a prime locality which is surrounded by many colleges and schools. Therefore, there is a high necessity of a lot of textbooks and reference books that are a part of the syllabus in these schools and colleges. This can help many less privileged students to use these textbooks and reference books for their study. Therefore, the library needs to take a list of the textbooks and reference books that is prescribed in the syllabus and make it available in the library so that the students may benefit out of it.
2. The timing of the district library is between 10.00 A.M. and 6.00 P.M. This time is almost similar to the timings of the schools and colleges that surround the library. Therefore, the library needs to increase the timing either in the morning or in the evening so that students can make optimum use of the library services.

3. In order to motivate the reading habit and the literacy attitude of the respondents, the library can identify the regular users of the library and honour them in a grand function in front of the public.
4. Maintaining the library clean and tidy with enough ventilation and proper seating arrangements can also increase the usage of the library. This also can increase the literacy attitude of the respondents.
5. In order to provide a good library to the users, there is a need for a lot of funding. Therefore the government need to allot more funding to the library in order to improve the facilities of the library.

15. Conclusion

For a peaceful society, the people that constitute the society need to be responsible towards their fellow being as well as the place they live in. In order to achieve such a society it is mandatory for the people to be educated. That is the reason why there are a lot of colleges and schools being opened in order to cater to the educational needs of the people. But formal education is different and informal or personal level education is a different thing. Libraries are the sources of such informal education that is necessary for every human being. Such libraries are needed in every society, particularly in a rural area like Tirunelveli where there are many young learners who are yet to approach the larger society. There is a high necessity of a good library in every place and at the same time motivation among the people, particularly the college students to use the library services. Using the library can create a positive attitude among the library users and make them responsible citizens. Responsible citizens create responsible society that can be a role model for the whole world.

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