Immigrants and Public Library Usage in Canada: A Case Study of Bangladeshi Immigrants

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BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Based on the initial findings of my doctoral study on the transitional information practices, employment, and settlement of Bangladeshi immigrants in Canada, this poster illustrates the use and non-use of public libraries among Bangladeshi immigrants in Southern Ontario, Canada. I believe that public libraries in Canada can do more to meet the transitional information needs of immigrants and help them become life-long learners and informed citizens. I also believe that it is high time for public libraries in Canada to fearlessly design need-based services for diverse immigrant populations and to build sustainable partnerships with ethnic community organizations to better serve and work with them.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY (As of January 30th, 2018)

Immigration Status

Demographic Background

Use/non-use of Public Libraries in Canada

Neediness Vs. Reality

Program Types and Attendance

Ontario Library Statistics Summary Comparisons

Methodology of the Study

Recommendation

Public libraries should build strong multi-lingual collections with the help of ethnic community organizations (for example, Bangladeshi Canadian-Canadian Bangladeshi (BCCB), India Canada Association, Ottawa) in order to meet the reading needs of various community groups.

Public libraries should focus on introducing tailor-made employment information services instead of organizing generic workshops/trainings to help newcomers with diverse educational and employment backgrounds connect with potential employers that commensurate newcomers’ educational backgrounds and skills.

Public libraries in Canada should offer culturally and linguistically appropriate services to vulnerable immigrant groups (e.g., women immigrants with limited English language proficiency/ICT skills, sponsored parents) in order to help them settle into Canadian society smoothly.

For more information about this study, please scan the QR code or visit http://immigrantresearch.ca/