Public Library System and Services in India
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Abstract

The Public libraries have recognized their role to satisfy information needs of all types of people in the society. The government at the state level and National level has taken initiatives to make public libraries as important source of information's for people formal walks of life. The National mission on libraries setup by ministry of culture has provided recommendations for development of libraries and information centers to make public libraries equipped with information. This article describes the development of the public library system in india, several exercises in its evaluation during the mid-1990[s,] and the current direction of its planning. After outlining the system, it concentrates on the public library system in india.Quantitative and qualitative Survey data portray the demographics of library clientele, their information needs, their rating of library materials, facilities and personnel, and the relationship between their evaluations and the preliminary stages of automation. Analysis focuses on issues of age, gender and the rural-urban divide in determining the future planning of the system. This paper provides a descriptive account of the development, growth and the present scenario of the public library system and services in India. Moreover, the changes, happened during the period of time are also taken in to the consideration in this paper.

Introduction: Public libraries are essential since they improve literacy, stimulate imagination and expand personal horizons. They also inform and empower citizens, enable access to a common cultural heritage and support education at all levels. Also a positive relationship is observed between public library and literacy level which in turn contributes to increase in economic productivity. Extensive studies were undertaken to study the role of public libraries in information society value offered and use of the resources. The Public library is regarded in the people's institution. It is local gateway to knowledge that provides basic condition for life learning and facilitates cultural development of the individual and social groups. The public library provides services to all irrespective of age, sex, cast, religion, education and social studies; generally all users get the material relevant to their needs and requirements in the public library. A Public library is a nonprofits library maintained for public use. Library movement is a saga of organized growth and development of libraries giving the details of establishment; maintenance and functioning make a library a growing organization. No country in the world can progress without providing free public library services to the citizens. It is imperative on the part of the

democratic country like India to establish the service institutions like public libraries in order to strengthen the democratization of information and to promote the social, cultural, historical and scientific and technical knowledge in the public at large. The growth and development of public library system in India may be studies by categorizing it broadly into three groups.

-Ancient libraries

-Medieval libraries

-Curzon transformed the Calcutta public library into imperial library in 1906.The another two important landmarks in the pre independent history of public libraries in india are:-

-Baroda state public libraries Network of late shri sayajirao gaikwad-III of baroda.He invited Mr M.A.Borden,an American libraries in 1910 to introduce a scientifically organized free and open access public library system. He established stated wide free public library network in the state.

-Organistation of library conferences:-Series of conferences were organized in continuation of the Indian National congress sessions.A few of them are mentioned below:-

(i) The first conference of library workers and persons interested in library movement was held at beswada, Andhra in 1914.

(ii) The first all India library conference of libraries was held in 1918 at Lahore.

(iii) The first all India public library conference was held at madras in 1934.

(iv)The first all India library conference was held at Calcutta in 1933.

Growth of Public Library In india: India has been the cradle of one of the earliest civilizations. Intellectual enquiry and philosophical thinking were the factors that shaped the Indian civilization. The ancient Indian civilization literature like Rig-Veda, Upanishads etc. Is all based on philosophical thinking and still today they are considered as philosophical treaties. It is believed that around 3500 B.C and that the instrument of writing through in crude from was invented. This was used as a tool for dealing with the practical day to day affairs. In 400 A.D there existed one of the reputed universities namely the Nalanda university. Besides Nalanda, Valabi, Taxila, Vikramsila Mithila and nadia also existed. The important thing to be noted in the history of development of India libraries is the excavation made at Amaravati Nagarjunakonda.In this period the five story structure was used for the excavation made at Amaravati Nagarjunakonda.In this period the five story structure was used for the storage for the books. The library was at the top of floor. In medieval period, some of the Moghul emperors were famous for their great love for books. They have enriched private library but this library is not for public. They appoint staff for the preservation of library books. When the printing press is invented it gives a raga of library growth. Printing in India is started in 1556.The first library in modern India was established in 1784 attached to the Asiatic society of Bengal. After the death of Tippu sultan the many of manuscripts were transfer to the Asiatic society library. Asiatic society library of Bombay was established in 1830.The Calcutta public library was established in 1830.The Calcutta public was established in 1835 by the English community in Calcutta. The Connemara public library which was established in madras in 1896 also provides a vital role in development of India library development. The establishment of Delhi public library

1951 is also an important step in the history of public library movement. In order to support the library development Raja Ram Mohan Roy library foundation was constituted in 1972.The establishment of INDONET (India's information network), CALIPNET(Calcutta public libraries network) etc. Are the important miles stone in the development of library movement in India. The national library of India is established in 1948 at Alipur Calcutta through the concept of service and basic functions are the same for all the libraries there are different types of libraries depending on different customers. There are generally students, teacher researcher's businessmen, doctors, housewives and so on this basis the libraries can be divided in to following categories:

Public libraries

Academics libraries

Special Libraries

National Libraries

Public libraries cater to needs of all sectors irrespective of age sex occupations social or economic status. Public library serves the public The academic library is defined as the library of schools colleges and universities. They are grouped together because they serve mainly to student and teachers. Their functions and services are mainly for students and teachers. The national library of India is Imperial library of Calcutta which was established in 1948.There are so many acts were also passed for the development of library in India.

Madras Public library act 1948

Copy right act 1957

Delivery of books & news paper act 1954

After seeing the above sentence we can say that the concept of library in India is very old. India is giving five laws of library science which are very useful in the library. The five laws are given by Dr.S.R.Ranaganathan who was the father of Indian library science.

Definition of public library: According to L.R.Macolvin "Public libraries are those which provider free services to the people of a particular region, from the adequate collection of usable books of their interests. These services are given without any discrimination of religion, political and other."

Post –independent Period: After independence the growth of libraries in general and public libraries in particular has been remarkable. But it is observed that the developments of public libraries compared to the growth of other types of libraries are not so remarkable.

National Library: After independence in 1948, the name of the imperial library was changed to the National Library. The origin of National Library, Calcutta can be traced to the Calcutta Public Library, which came into existence around 1836. The Calcutta Public library and an imperial library formed in 1881 were amalgamated in 1903 to become the imperial library of colonial India and finally named the same as a National library by the central government of India in 1948.

Delhi Public Library: The establishment of the Delhi Public Library, involvement of the Union Government in Public Library movement, and enactment of public library laws are

some of the main issues, which contributed towards the improvement, and expansion of public libraries after independence.

Laws of public library: Individuals and library associations to provide public libraries under law are making several attempts. A part from Dr. S.R.Ranganathan,a number of individuals spent their time and energy to put on the statute book public library laws. Notable among them are kumar Munindra Deb Rai mahasai of Bengal, K.V.Krishna Swamy Lyer, T.R.Venkataraman Sastry, Basheer Ahmed Sayeed of Madras, M.V. Donde of Bombay, K. M. Ujalambkar of Hyderabad and P.N.Kaula of Delhi. It is only after India's independence that Dr. Ranganathan's dream of public library Act enactment was fulfilled. Through the good offices of the then Minister for Education, Avinaslingam Chettiar,a modified Bill was introduced in the state legislature, which was passed as the Madras Public Libraries Act in 1948.The current status of the public library system in India is hard to ascertain and describe, because a consolidated picture is not available. There are twenty-nine states and seven union territories in india.All have their own public library systems, structure, and pattern of financial assistance. Nineteen of the states have enacted library legislation and the rest are providing public library service without legislation. The states that have enacted library legislation are:-

1. Tamil Nadu (Madras) Public Libraries Act, 1948
2. Andhra Pradesh (Hyderabad) Public Libraries Act, 1960
3. Karnataka (Mysore) Public Libraries Act, 1965
4. Maharashtra Public Libraries Act, 1967
5. West Bengal Public Libraries Act - 1979
6. Manipur Public Libraries Act, 1988
7. Kerala Public Libraries Act, 1989
8. Haryana Public Libraries Act, 1989
9. Mizoram Public Libraries Act, 1993
10. Goa Public Libraries Act, 1993
11. Orissa Public Libraries Act, 2001
12. Gujarat Public Libraries Act, 2001
13. Uttarakhand (Uttaranchal) Public Libraries Act, 2005
14. Uttar Pradesh Public Libraries Act, 2005
15. Rajasthan Public Libraries Act, 2006
16. Bihar Public Libraries Act, 2007
17. Chattisgarh Public Libraries Act, 2007
18. Pondichery Public Libraries Act, 2007
19. Arunachal Pradesh Public Libraries Act, 2009

Recommended committee for libraries: The Government of India appointed a committee in 1957 to report on the status of public library development in the country. It is also called the sinha committee, after its chair, the late Dr. A. P. Sinha, who was at that time Director of Public Instruction in Bihar. The Sinha Committee's charge included:

Determining present reading needs, how they are met, and what part existing library system play in meeting the needs;

- Determining reading tastes, what agencies provide suitable literature, and how reading taste can be improved;
- Recommending future library structure in India;
- Recommending areas of cooperation between libraries and education system;
- considering the training of librarians and the conditions of their service;
- Recommending the administrative and financial measures necessary to support public libraries in India(Ministry of Education,India,1961,P.126).

The committee submitted its report to Dr.K.L.Shrimali,who was Minister for Education, on the 12th of November,1958.The Committee described the situation as dismal and called libraries in most cases, "a stagnant pool of books, "because new books were not added regularly. The committee at the same time observed that wherever large not trusted and were required to deposit large sums of money as a kind of insurance, which lower income people could not afford. According to the report, as of March 1954 there were 32,000 libraries in india,with a little more than 7,100,000 books and a total circulation of about 37,700,000.The report observed that genuine public library service was rarity, and that public library service throughout the country was unsatisfactory. The committee recommended creating state library networks based on uniform library legislation.

Most important recommendation of the report was:

1. Library service should be made free to every citizen of India.
2. The hierarchy of public library service in the country should begin with National Library, and proceed to state central library, District Library, Block Library, and panchayat Library.
3. An independent Director of social Education and Libraries should be set up in every state, with a fulltime senior class-1 officer of the rank of Deputy Director of Education to plan, organize, and administer library services.
4. An All India Library Advisory Council should be constituted as a central agency to review and assess the work done at the state level.
5. Library Associations should actively assist the development of libraries in the country.
6. University libraries should co-operate with public library systems by allowing selected public reader to use their collection.

Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation: Another positive and welcoming step taken by the central government of India is the establishment of the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation at Calcutta on 22may 1972 as a part of the bicentenary celebrations of the birth of Raja Ram Mohan Roy a social reformer of the early 19 th century. It was founded with basic objectives of spreading library movement in the country in general and the rural libraries in particular. Its main programme is to provide financial assistance to public libraries a matching grant basis. At present it is assisting the state central Libraries,

District Central Libraries. Under which many states and Union Territories have been developed the rural public library services in the country. The foundation has another programme of assistance to libraries towards organization of workshops, conferences and exhibition of books. The foundation had taken a major initiative for formulation of a National Policy on Library and Information system by the Government of India.Recently.It had taken up, on a matching grant basis, schemes of assistance to public libraries below district level for increasing accommodations and also to state central libraries and also to state central libraries and district central libraries libraries to acquire TV cum VCR sets for educational purposes. It also gives the assistance to children's libraries or children's section of general public libraries. During the last three decades, the foundation has covered 28 state central libraries, 500 district central library's many number of taluka libraries, Nehru Yuvak Kendras, Town and rural libraries including the mobile libraries in rural areas. The establishment of the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation has given an impetus to the development of public libraries in India. The foundation seeks to assist to state government for rural libraries. Thus in comparison with the conditions on the eve of independence, even after the celebration of Golden Jubilee of India's independence the present conditions are more conducive to public library development. But it requires proper organization, co-operation, adequate staff and finance under government patronage.

Most important Purpose of RRRLF

- Encouragement of the library movement in India.
- The adoption of a national library policy by the central and state Governments.
- Development of a National Library System by integrating the services of National Libraries, state
- Propagation and adoption of library legislation in the country.
- Provision of financial and technical assistance to libraries.
- Periodical publication of reports on library development.
- To act as a clearing house for ideas and information on library development in India and abroad.

The primary objective of RRRLF is the promotion of the library movement. The rest are subsidiary objective.RRRLF is the first government-sponsored body specifically created for this purpose. The foundation also has a programme of assistance to libraries for workshops, conferences, and exhibits. The foundation has taken the major initiative for the formulation of a national policy on library and information systems by the government of India.

Planning for Success in Public Library: The first thing to do when considering services to adults with special would need to create a plan. Some advance planning and preparation can go a long way in library make wise programming choices. Because resources are limited, staff of public libraries needs to identify priorities and offer those services that will meet a community need and deliver the greatest benefit. The planning process and the planning document do not need to be lengthy or involved. The extent of the planning effort depends on the staff and budget resources the library is willing and able to devote. Planning is a

continual cycle of assessment, forecasting, goal setting, implementation, and evaluation. A library that maintains a regular planning cycle can emphasize various aspects at different times or after examining community demographics and talking to others in the community, a library may decide to focus on one particular special needs group. The amount of work to be invested in every steps depends on library resources and past planning efforts. The library should be able to recognize success when it happens and make midcourse correction when necessary. Written plans help clarify ideas that in turn provide the information needed for good communication with the library staff and the community.

Suggestion of programme of public library in future

The following are the programmes to be implemented in the public library.

1. **Homework assistance programs**-to support academic success and helps meet student's lifelong educational goals and connect with vital resources.
2. **Incentive Based Reading Programs**-to reinforce the importance of literacy and encourage students to continue to read for pleasure during out-of-school time.
3. **Youth Advisory Groups**-to involve youth in decision-making and initiative-planning activities.
4. **Volunteer opportunities**-to provide valuable life and job skills to meet local community service requirement and to empower youth to seek library work as a career.
5. **Literacy-related programs-** to connect literature to real life with hands-on experiences and activities like book groups and author visits.
6. **Recreational programs and classes-**to support the recreational interests of youth and provide opportunities for lifelong learning with participatory workshops based on youths interests.

Services and Programmes

The following are the main services and programmes
1. Lending service
2. Reference Service
3. Audio Video Service
4. Reprographic Service
5. Encouraging every educated person to become a member of the library.
6. Providing basic amenities to libraries.
7. Construction of new library buildings.
8. Modernizing the libraries by introducing latest techniques.

Functions of public library
1. Collection and preservation of knowledge.
2. Useful in basic education.
3. Assistance in research work.
4. Helpful in self study.
5. Help in perfect personality Development.

6. Use of leisure period of time.

Conclusion: Public libraries have always been the door to learning for a great majority of the populations that they serve. They are knowledge centres and contribute to lifelong learning. Public library system efforts to support resource sharing have greatly contributed to the development of system. Public library system members serve library and information professionals. Public library system compatibility has greatly improved the library user's ability to access materials not available locally, but held by other public library system members. The increase in interlibrary loan traffic has caused a corresponding expansion of area and state-wide interlibrary delivery services; also heavily tomorrows information professionals will be knowledge navigators instead of information collectors. A massive investment in public libraries is needed to make them true information resource centres for the layman. In the Indian situation the new generation of librarians will have to face these challenges and risk to remain in the information business in all the sectors.Inter-changeability and capabilities to adjust from one sector to the other will be the biggest challenge for Indian librarians.

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