Research Papers

INDIAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO NATIONAL LIBRARY: A Perspective analysis

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Abstract :

   Public library is largely regarded as the People's University. 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.

KEYWORDS :

   Imperial Library, Library Legislation, Nalanda University, Library History.

INTRODUCTION:

   It has tremendous developments in India from the early period to till date at various stages. Most of the Indian states now have free public library services to develop the people of India at different levels. India is celebrating the 67 year of Independence in 2014 and taking stock of developments in various fields. It is also an important landmark in the history of public library services in India. Maharaja Sayaji Rao Gaekward has introduced free compulsory elementary education backed by libraries in 1883 in the district of Baroda and henceforth for the first time in India free public library services were introduced as a system in 1907 and extended to the entire state. It can, therefore, be traced out that 2007 is the centenary year of free public library services in India.

   The Republic of India, or Bharat, is a sovereign country in South Asia. It is the seventh largest country by geographical area, the second most populous country, and the largest democratic country in the world. Bounded by the Indian Ocean on the south, the Arabian Sea on the west, and the Bay of Bengal on the east. India has a coastline of over 7500 kilometers. Surrounded by neighboring countries namely, Pakistan to the west; China, Nepal, and Bhutan to the north-east; and Bangladesh and Myanmar to the east. India is no exception. Libraries were established in ancient India mainly by the patronage extended by emperors, major capitalists, and scholars. Indian emperors and kings were supported scholars and scholarship. There is evidence of well-developed libraries even in the sixth century A.D. The famous Nalanda University in Bihar had its own magnificent library with a massive collection of manuscripts covering the universe of knowledge. Admission to library was restricted to scholars. Other ancient universities, such as Taxila and Vikramashila, also had valuable libraries. Muslim influence in India during the 13th century A.D. marked the dawn of another era of learning and scholarship.

   The Mughal period gave a further stimulus to the growth of libraries. Mughal rulers attached considerable importance to libraries and appointed scholars as librarians. The Mughal emperors were patrons of art and literature. In the period of Emperor Babur, Humayun, and Akbar many new libraries were established   and existing ones further developed. Mughal libraries featured magnificent buildings, rare manuscripts, and scholar librarians.

   The names of Maharaja Sawai Man Singh of Jaipur and Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Punjab will be remembered with appreciation in the history of library services in India. The Maharaja of Tanjuar started the famous Saraswati Mahal Library in 17th century A.D. It remains a unique institution in its nature of collection and services (Sathikumar 1993, p. 18) In 1808, the Government of Bombay proposed to register libraries, which were to be given copies of books published from the "funds for the encouragement of literature" (Dutta, 1970, p. 100). According to the "Sinha Committee", this was the beginning of the first phase of public library development in India. During the first half of the 19th century, the three presidency towns of Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras had public libraries (Jagdish, 1979, p. 19). These libraries were mostly financed by Europeans residing in these towns. Of these, the establishment of the public library at Calcutta in 1835 was the most significant. This was the

library which later developed into the National Library of India. Almost simultaneous, subscription libraries were started in many Indian cities. These were, of course, not public libraries in the true sense of the term, and did not provide free books for all. Founded in imitation of their western counterparts, the use of these libraries was confined to small, affluent portion of society.

The first three decades of the 20th century can be looked on as the golden age of the Indian library system. On January 31, 1902, the Imperial Library Act was passed and Lord Curzon transformed the Calcutta Public Library into the Imperial Library in 1906. Developments in Baroda were also notable. Espranza (1999, p. 12)) sums them up: The development of public libraries in Baroda was unique. Baroda developed a network of public libraries to serve the entire Princely State. Maharaja Sayaji Rao Gaekwad III of Baroda who traveled all over the world was deeply impressed by the role played by public libraries in the promotion of education in the United States and thought of extending such benefits to his own subjects. In 1910 he invited an American expert, William Alson Borden to organize the public library system for his state. The public library movement that flourished in Baroda was a glorious one. But that was not a general trend of that period because in no other part of India, a parallel development occurred. Yet another development during the period was the organisation of a host of conferences such as:

The first conference of library workers and persons interested in the library movement was held at Beswada, Andhra in 1914.
The first All India Library Conference of Librarians was held in 1918 at Lahore.
The first All India Library Conference was held at Calcutta in 1933.
The first All India Public Library Conference was held at Madras in 1934.

With the existence of democratic governments in several provinces beginning in 1937, another phase of the library movement began. Between 1937 and 1942, a number of village libraries and travelling libraries sprang up in Assam, Bihar, Punjab, and Travancore. It was estimated that there were about 13,000 village libraries in India in 1942 (Verma & Agarwal, 1994, p. 6). Another remarkable development was the appointment of the 'Library Development Committee' by the Government of Bombay, with A.A.A. Fyzee as its chairman. The Committee ambitiously recommended a comprehensive library system to be implemented in three successive stages. Because of financial constraints, the government could only implement part of the recommendations.

Public Libraries Post-Independence Period (1947 onwards)

Public libraries in India made a tremendous growth after the independence of India in 1947. The central and the state governments took a number of steps forward for the development of the nation from the point of education and considered library as essential part of it. The programs executed by provincial and central governments since 1910 for the social and adult education of the populace paved the way for the enactment of library laws and rules for grants-in-aid in the country. Hence public library became part of the education budget. (Jambhekar;1995;1). To enhance the level of literacy of 16% in 1941, the government undertook some programmed such as extension services, continuing education, social education, non-formal education and adult education. The government further initiated steps for the development of community and organized some projects in this regard. Libraries were considered to be an essential part of the Community Development Project that was launched during the first plan period. (Naidu;1990). In order to accelerate the pace of socioeconomic development, the government considered public libraries to be an integral part of development projects. (Jambhekar;1995). The Connemara Public Library in Madras became the State Central Library in 1950 under the provision of Madras Public Libraries Act 1948, and became one of the three depository libraries in 1955. Delhi Public Library was established in 1951 as the first UNESCO Public Library Pilot Project under the joint auspices of UNESCO and Government of India to adopt "Modern Techniques to Indian Conditions" and to 30 serve as a model public library for Asia. (Kumbar). In 1954, the Delivery of Book Act was passed to include newspaper. The act obligated every publisher in India to deposit one copy each of its publications to the National Library in Calcutta, the Asiatic Society Library in Bombay, Connemara Public Library in Madras, and Delhi Public Library in New Delhi.

The Advisory Committee for Libraries as constituted in 1957 by the Government of India, with K P Sinha as the Chairman. The Committee submitted its report in 1959 with a drafted Model Library Bill. The Planning Commission constituted a Working Group on Public Libraries in 1964 and the Commission submitted its report in 1965 with a Model Public Libraries Act. The model bill was sent to all the states/UTs, which do not have Public Libraries Act.

In 1972, the Government of India, Planning Commission constituted Working Group on Development of Public Libraries to make recommendations for library development. Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, an autonomous body under the Department of Culture, Ministry of Education, was established in 1972. The main objective of the Foundation was to assist state library services in developmental works. In 1979, a library section was established in the Department of Culture under the Ministry of Education, which section was under the charge of an Under Secretary. The objective was to promote the development of public libraries in India. (Jambhekar;1995). A Working Group on Modernization of Library Services and Informatics was appointed by the Planning Commission in 1983 and submitted its report in 1984 with the formulation of National Policy on Library Services and Informatics. Delhi Public Library became a copyright library in 1982.

National Literacy Mission was adopted in 1986, which emphasized education for women and also establishment of rural libraries. Library networks and systems were strengthened at the national level institutions in the development of literature in neo literates. Fourteen states namely, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Manipur, Kerala, Haryana, Mizoram, Goa, Orissa, Gujarat, Uttaranchal and Rajasthan have enacted Public Libraries Bills during 1948 to 2006.

The Government of India, Department of Culture, appointed a Committee on National Policy on Library and

Information System in 1985. The National Policy on Education, 1986 states that a nationwide movement for improvement of existing libraries and the establishment of new ones will be taken up, provision will be made in all educational institutions for library facilities, and the status of librarianship improved. (Jhambekar;1995). The National Book Policy, 1986 also had an impact on libraries as:

1) Provision of reading material for children by all the agencies involved;
2) That 10 percent of the annual education budget of the governments be used to purchase books   for libraries.

These goals are to be achieved by using formal, non-formal, and open channels of learning. Jhambekar;1995). A well-developed network of public libraries would be able to play its role effectively in promoting literacy (Das, 2013) .Rural libraries should become the focal point for post literacy and continuing educational programs. Publishers, voluntary organizations, and school library programs undertaken as part of the "Operation Blackboard Scheme" of the National Education Policy on Education, 1986 were given assistance. The following five libraries were regarded as national importance and may be stated in a very brief manner:

1) National Library, Kolkata : was established in 1836 in the name of Calcutta Public Library. It was not a Government institution running on a proprietary basis. The then Governor General, Lord Metcalf transferred 4,675 volumes from the library of the College of Fort William to the Calcutta Public Library. This and donations of books from individuals formed the nucleus of the library. Prince Dwarkanath Tagore was the first proprietor of the Calcutta Public Library. Both the Indian and foreign books, especially from Britain, were purchased for the library. The Calcutta Public Library had a unique position as the first public library in this part of the country. Such a well-organized and efficiently run library was rare even in Europe during the first half of the 19th century. Because of the efforts of the Calcutta Public Library, the National Library has developed rare books and journals in its collection.

(http;//www.nlindia.org/history.html)

The use of the library was restricted to the superior officers of the Government. Lord Curzon, the then Governor General of India, was the person who conceived the idea of opening a library for the use of the public. He noticed both the libraries, Imperial Library and Calcutta Public Library, were under-utilized for the want of facilities or restrictions. So, he decided to amalgamate the rich collection of both of these libraries. He was successful in effecting the amalgamation of Calcutta Public Library with the then Imperial Library under certain terms.
The library, called Imperial Library, was formally opened to the public on 30th January 1903 at Metcalf Hall, Kolkata. The aims and objectives of the Imperial Library, well defined in a Notification in the 'Gazette of India' as ' It is intended that it should be a library of reference, a working place for students and a repository of material for the future historians of India, in which, so far as possible, every work written about India, at any time, can be seen and read.
John Macfarlane, the Asst. Librarian of the British Museum, London, was appointed as the first Librarian of the Imperial Library. The policy of acquisition broadly adhered to by the Imperial Library was enunciated by Lord Curzon in his speech at the opening ceremony of the library, "The general idea of the whole Library is that it should contain all the books that have been written about India in popular tongues, with such additions as are required to make it a good all-round library of standard works of reference."
After the independence the Government of India changed the name of the Imperial Library as the National Library, with an enactment of the Imperial Library (change of name) Act 1948 and the collection was shifted from the Esplanade to the present Belvedere Estate. On 1st February 1953 the National Library was opened to the public, inaugurated by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Sri B.S. Kesavan was appointed as the first librarian of the National Library.
The reviewing Committee in its report of 1969 suggested that the following should be the basic features of the National Library; Acquisition and conservation of all significant printed materials produced in the country to the exclusion of ephemera:

=> Acquisition and conservation of manuscripts having national importance;
=> Planned the acquisition of foreign materials required by the country;
=> Provision of reprographic services ;
=> Collection of printed materials concerning the country wherever published and also acquisition of photographic record of such materials that are not available within the country;
=> Rendering of bibliographical and documentation service of retrospective materials, both general and specialized;
=> Acting as a referral centre purveying full and accurate knowledge of all sources of bibliographical activities; and
=> Acting as the centre for international book exchange and international loan. (National Library 2003).

2) Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna was open for the public in October 1891 with 4000 Oriental manuscripts. Maulvi Khuda Bakhsh donated his entire collection to the nation by a deed of trust. Acknowledging the immense historical and intellectual value of its rich and valued collection, the Govt. of India declared the Library as Institution of National Importance by an act of Parliament in 1969. The Library is now fully funded by the Ministry of Culture (Govt. of India). This autonomous institution is being governed by a Board with the Governor of Bihar as its ex-officio Chairman and Director is carrying the responsibility of day to- day management of Library affairs. (http://kblibrary.bih.nic.in/default.htm)

3) Rampur Raza Library, Rampur was founded by Nawab Faizullah Khan in 1774 AD. It was brought under the management

of a Trust till the Government of India took over the library on 1 July 1975 under the Act of Parliament, which declared it as an institution of National importance. It contains very rare and valuable collection of manuscripts, historical documents, specimens of Islamic calligraphy, miniature paintings, astronomical instruments and rare illustrated works in Arabic and Persian languages besides 80,000 printed books. Nawab Faizullah Khan who ruled the state of Rampur, from 1774 to 1794, established the library with his personal modest collection kept in the Tosha Khana of his Palace. Now the Library occupies the position of an autonomous institution of national importance under Department of Culture, Government of India and is fully funded by Central Government. The Library has now attained an International status of higher studies. (http://razalibrary.gov.in/index.asp)

4) Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji's Sarasvati Mahal Library, Thanjavur is one among a few medieval libraries existing in the world. It contains very rare and valuable collections of manuscripts, books, maps and paintings on all aspects of Art, Culture and Literature. The Encyclopedia Britannica in its survey of the Libraries of the world mentions this as "the most remarkable Library in India". The Library houses a rich and rare collection of manuscripts on art, culture and literature. Conceived and christened as the Royal Palace Library by the Nayak Kings of Thanjavur (1535-1675 AD). And the Maratha rulers (1676-1855) nourished it for intellectual enrichment. In 1918 this Library was made as a public Library. A body constituted by the Government and financed by the Central and State Governments now administers the library. The Society was constituted and got registration on 9-7-1986 under the Tamil Nadu Registered Societies Act of 1975. The Society consists of ex-officio members of Central and State Governments, nominated Scholars, Member from the Royal family and the Director of the Library. The Hon'ble Education Minister of the Government of Tamil Nadu is the ex-officio Chairman of this society. (http://www.sarasvatimahallibrary.tn.nic.in/library/library.html).

5) Harekrushna Mahtab State Library, Bhubaneswar was conceived during 1st Five Year Plan under the advice of Government of India and was completed in 1959, enshrined within a beautiful land of 3 acres in a prime location of Capital City of Bhubaneswar. In 1967, it was named as Gandhi Bhawan commemorating birth centenary of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation. In 1987 it was renovated and entire space of the four storied building was utilized for the functioning of two Libraries i.e. State Library for the entire State of Orissa and another Public Library for Bhubaneswar City. In 1987, Government decided to rename the State Library and the Public Library as Harekrushna Mahtab State Library (in memory of Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab, the builder of modern Orissa) and the Bhubaneswar Public Library respectively. The former is a Reference Library and lending of books is not permitted whereas the latter is a Lending Library for the public of Bhubaneswar City. These two Libraries have managed to function over the limited space. Total readers seats available are about 350 against the present demands of 600-700 readers per day. (http://hkmsl.gov.in/glance.htm).

LIBRARY LEGISLATION IN INDIA

        Since the beginning, the public libraries served as the local information centers making the source of knowledge readily available to the public. The local community from the local fund or individual munificence could not achieve the services of a public library. Public leaders, scholars and learned societies have realized that the only way to establish and develop a public library system is through legislation. The UNESCO Public Library Manifesto, 1972 stated that, "The public library should be established under the clear mandate of law", which is substantiated by the IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto 1994 as;

        "The public library shall in principle be free of charge. The public library is the responsibility of local and national authorities. It must be supported by specific legislation and financed by national and local government. It has to be an essential component of any long-term strategy for culture, information provision, literacy and education".

        In India, Libraries are recorded under the Article 246 of Indian Constitution, Seventh Schedule List II of State List No.12 and the Indian Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956, Section 27 reads, "Libraries, museums and other similar institutions controlled or financed by the State; ancient and historical monuments and records other than those to be of national importance". Provision of public library service is the responsibility of the State Government as the subject matter of libraries is relatable to entry 12 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India (Trehan;1986;7).

        Several attempts are being made by individuals and library associations to provide public libraries under law. Apart 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 Iyer, 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.

        Dr. S R Ranganathan regarded as the pioneer of library legislation in India. "The concept of legislation for libraries is a contribution of S R Ranganathan to Indian public libraries". (Sharma; 1976;123). He made library legislation obligatory for the implementation of the second law of library science, "Every reader his/her book". According to Ranganathan the second law can be properly carried out only by legislation. (Ranganathan;1957;160). Ranganathan drafted the different library bills for the Indian Union and constituent states, such as:

=> Model Library Act for constituent states of India (1930);
=> Bengal(1931);
=> Bombay (1946);
 => Central Province and Berar (1946);
=> Old Madras state (1946) which later became Act in 1948;
=> United Province (1947);
=> Cochin (1947);

=> Travancore (1947);
=> Union Government (1948);
=> Madhya Pradesh (1950);
=> Union and Constituent States (1950);
=> Constituent States (1957);
=> Union (1957);
=> West Bengal (1958);
=> Kerala (1959);
=> Uttar Pradesh (1960);
=> Mysore (1961) which became Act in 1965;
=> Assam (1964);
=> Gujarat (1964); and
=> Model Library Bill (1972).

There have been different efforts to work out library legislation models in India. In the pre-independent and post-independent of India, there have been five models of public library bills suggested by experts and national level professional associations and organizations.

1) Model Public Libraries Act of Dr. S R Ranganathan : The first Model Public Libraries   Acts was prepared by Dr. S R Ranganathan in 1930 and revised in 1957 and 1972.

2) Model Public Libraries Bill of Ministry of Education : The Government of India, Ministry of Education appointed an Advisory Committee for Libraries in 1957, under the Chairmanship of Shri K P Sinha, former Director of Public Instruction, Bihar.

3) Model Public Libraries Bill of the Planning Commission : The Planning Commission, Government of India, constituted a 'Working Group on Libraries' in 1964 to plan and advice on the development of Libraries during the Fourth Five Year Plan.

4) Model Public Libraries Bill of Indian Library Association : The Indian Library Association (ILA) formed in 1933, has keen interest in library legislation. The ILA discussed library legislation at its various seminars organized in 1964, 1978, 1981and 1989, 1990 and 1995.

5) Model Union Library Act : The Government of India appointed a committee to explore the possibilities to establish a National Central Library at New Delhi in 1948. This was revised in 1959 and again in 1972.

STATES WITH LIBRARY LEGISLATION

There are twenty-nine states and seven union territories in India. But, during the last six decades, 19 (nineteen) Public Library Bills were enacted in different states of India, such as:

1) Tamil Nadu : The Tamil Nadu (Madras) Public Libraries Act 1948;
2) Andhra Pradesh : The Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act 1960 (previously known as The   Hyderabad Public Libraries Act 1955, but renamed as a result of State Reorganization);
3) Karnataka : The Karnataka (Mysore) Public Libraries Act 1965;
4) Maharashtra : The Maharastra Public Libraries Act 1967 (The Kolhapur Public Libraries Act was passed in 1945. Consequent upon the state reorganization, the state of Kolhapur was   merged with Maharashtra state. Then Maharashtra Public Libraries Act came into being in 1967);
5) West Bengal : The West Bengal Public Libraries Act 1979;
6) Manipur : The Manipur Public Libraries Act 1988;
7) Kerala : The Kerala Public Libraries Act 1989;
8) Haryana : The Haryana Public Libraries Act 1989;
9) Mizoram : The Mizoram Public Libraries Act 1993;
10) Goa : The Goa Public Libraries Act 1993;
11) Orissa : Orissa Public Libraries Act, 2001;
12) Gujarat : Gujarat Public Libraries Act, 2001;
13)Uttaranchal : Uttaranchal Public Libraries Act, 2005.
14) Rajasthan : Rajasthan Public Libraries Act, 2006

CONTRIBUTION OF RAJA RAMMOHUN ROY LIBRARY FOUNDATION

1972 was a significant year in the history of library movement in India. The country was celebrating the silver jubilee of its independence from the British Administration in 1972. Coincidentally it was an International Book Year with the slogan of 'Books For All' emphasizing promotion of reading habits among the masses. Not only that, it was the auspicious occasion of the bicentennial birth anniversary of an Indian social reformer, who stressed the need of modern education for the development of the nation. In this august year, Raja Rammohun Roy Library (RRRLF) came into being in May 1972.

Its objectives are library development in general and rural library development in particular. It provides financial assistance to public libraries in the form of matching grants. It assists State Central Libraries and District Central Libraries, which has helped many states and Union Territories develop rural public library services. Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation is an autonomous organization, established and sponsored by the Department of Culture, Government of India. It is registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961. Its headquarters is located at Kolkata.

National Policy on Library and Information System (NAPLIS)

The need for the formulation of National Policy on Library and Information Systems (NAPLIS) was brought to the notice of the Government of India by Indian library profession since 1950s by Dr. S.R.Ranganathan and in the recommendations of the Library Advisory Committee Report, 1958. Afterwards, professional organizations, like RRRLF, NISSAT and National Library urged upon the Government the necessity of enunciating such policy. The matter was discussed in the annual conference of IASLIC in 1979 at Roorkee and ILA in 1984 at Jaipur. Consequently, Indian Library Association submitted a draft policy statement to the Government in 1985. The Planning Commission Working Group in its report Modernization of Library Services and Informatics for the 7th Five-Year Plan (1985-1990) emphasized the need of such policy. The Raja Rammohun Roy Foundation, after nine years of its inception, took up the task in 1981 and after careful deliberations submitted a Draft National policy on Library and Information Systems to the government in July 1984. On the basis of the draft policy submitted by the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation and Indian Library Association, the Government of India, Ministry of Human resources Development, Department of Culture, set up a Committee in October 1985 under the Chairmanship of Professor D.P.Chattopadhyaya for the formulation of a National Policy on Library and Information Systems and the final report was submitted in May 1986 which includes:

=· The Public Library system;
=·The Academic Library System;
=· Special Libraries and Information Systems;
=· The National Library System and the Bibliographical Services;
=· Manpower Development and Professional Status; and
=· Modernization of Library and Information Systems.

Though the government has not adopted the recommendations as the official policy, but it serves as suggestive model for the development of libraries as a whole. The recommendations under the Public Library System are as follows:

Proposals for maintenance and development of public libraries should preferably come from State Legislative Enactment. The Central Government may revise the Model Public Library Bill. Funds for library development should come from each state, either from general revenue or from local taxation. Central Government agencies may provide funds under Plan Expenditure.
Efforts should emphasize rural public libraries. A village or a cluster of villages with an adequate population should have a community library/rural community centre, which will also serve as an information centre. Resources from various agencies engaged in the public health, adult education, State and central government, etc., should be used to build up and maintain this centre.
The central government increase its assistance to state governments in the development of public libraries. The RRRLF, as the national agency for coordinating and assisting the development of public libraries, should be suitably strengthened in order to do this.
Standards and guidelines for library service should be created.
There should be a system of national libraries consisting of National Library, Calcutta (Now Kolkatta) as the National Library of India, National Depository libraries in Delhi, Bombay (Now Mumbai), Madras (now Chennai), National Subject Libraries, and others. These national libraries should form part of one integrated system.
A National Commission on Libraries and Information System or National Commission on
Informatics and Documentation may be constituted by an Act of Parliament to serve under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Commission will have representation from appropriate central and state agencies and could provide guidance and coordinate library development programmes in all sectors. This body will have the primary responsibility for the implementation of NAPLIS programmers'.
National Depository libraries; Connemara Public library, Chennai; Central Library (Asiatic Society), Bombay; and Delhi Public Library, Delhi should concentrate on development of collections and preservation of Indian culture produced in the languages of their regions, supplementing and complementing the efforts of the Indian National Library.
The Indian National Bibliography should have a comprehensive coverage of the national output Of documents and should be updated regularly. This responsibility should be vested in the National Library.
Government should create a national awareness of the need to preserve the nation's cultural heritage. National libraries should be responsible, with preservation facilities created there. Links between libraries, archives, and museums should be established for the purpose of national preservation.
The Ministry of Rural Development has a plan for one community centre in every Panchayat Centre. The Department of Culture and the Ministry of Rural Development have agreed to Provide library services at each of these Rural Community Centers.
An important link should be established between community centre library and primary schools. If the schools do not have libraries of their own, the community centre library should provide children with adequate services.

A community centre library should have an important role in adult education programmers.
A district library should provide facilities and recreation for the disabled and low-income people, e.g., literature in Braille.
Libraries should be built in areas of tribal concentration and in minority communities to help in developing and sustaining their distinctive cultures.
Libraries should be equipped with relevant resources, such as publications covering Open University and vocational educational courses, for their role in support of distance education.
All public libraries within a state should form a part of a network extending from village Library through community centre library, district library, and state network, and should be linked to the national information grid (Sahib, 2003).

PRESENT STATUS

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. Fourteen of the states have enacted library legislation and the rest are providing public library service without legislation. In the rest of the states, although an Act has been passed, full operation is still pending. In the Acts of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, provision for levying library cess has been made among other sources of finance, whereas there is no provision for collecting library cess in other states (Sharma, 1996).

CONCLUSION

India now has become one of the most developing countries in the world. It spreads in various fields of knowledge and disseminates its resources to the world. It has also established public libraries and community information centers to give and help local community to acquire information from various agencies. Public library services have been expanded to serve the local people, but after 60 years of independence India, public libraries could not be administered and managed with the clear mandate of law in many states of India. As such, the development of the nation through library services is neglected in some states, and its services are beyond the reach of the rural poor .A massive investment in public libraries is needed to make them true information resource centers for the layman.

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