



PUBLIC LIBRARY SCENARIO IN THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO NAGPUR DIVISION GOVT. LIBRARY

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ABSTRACT

Public libraries play a very important role in dissemination of information from their vast resources to the desired users with in their convenience. It is very important to know about the libraries which help users to access them in their own way as and when required. This paper reflects a detailed view of public libraries scenario in the state of Maharashtra with the special focus on Government Divisional Library of Nagpur Division. The study gives a view on the working condition on the basis of the feedback from the library professionals working in this library.

KEYWORDS: public library, maharashtra, public library system, nagpur divisional library, users of the library.

INTRODUCTION :

Libraries always help human civilizations to preserve their



knowledge for posterity. This happens after the discovery of some facts. Recorded information is preserved for future use. Libraries present their collection in an organized way to make users comfortable to use it again and again. Libraries provide easy access of knowledge to all. A public library is often called "the people's university" because it is available to all sections of society – regardless of age, gender or skill levels. Thus, through democratization of access to knowledge, libraries contribute in promoting inclusive and sustained development of the people. Government public libraries are segregated

with in two boundaries i.e. purely government libraries (Divisional and District) libraries and Government aided public libraries as such managed by some society but funded by government. Nagpur Division is one of the major divisions of the six divisions and the divisional library is situated in the heart of the city.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

According to National Knowledge Commission "Libraries have a recognized social function in making knowledge publicly available to all". They serve as local centers of information and learning and are local gateways to national and

global knowledge" A Public Library is a library that is accessible by the public and is generally funded from public sources (such as tax money) and operated by civil servants. They are generally supported by taxes (usually local through any level of govt. can and contribute); they are governed by a board to serve the public interest; they are open to all and every community member can access the collection; They are entirely voluntary such that no one is ever forced to use the services provided and public Library's basic services are with out charge

(www.wikipedia.com). According to Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, a public library is an institution maintained for and by the community primarily for the social purpose of providing easy opportunity for self education throughout of every person and community. The

UNESCO Public Library Manifesto defines the public Library as “the local gateway to knowledge, provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision making and cultural development of the individual and social groups”. It also emphasizes that the public library services should be formulated with certain objectives that relate to information, literacy, education and culture in mind such as promoting awareness of cultural heritage, appreciation of the arts, scientific achievements and innovations. According to IFLA/ UNESCO Public Library Manifesto 1994. The services of the public library are provided on the basis of equality of access for all regardless of age, sex, race, religion, nationality, language or social status. Any Public library is available for use to all who are capable of using it. This feature makes it different from other libraries. A public library can also be distinguished from other libraries because it provides liberal and comprehensive service performing a wide range of functions providing for information, education, recreation, entertainment and inspiration. (Kumar, 2007)

Public Library System in the State of Maharashtra

Erstwhile Bombay state came in to being as Maharashtra state on 1st may, 1960. The state occupies the second largest state in India in respect of Population and area. The percentage of literacy is 77. Historically Maharashtra falls in three regions, Western Maharashtra, Vidarbha and Marathwada and as on today consists of 6 revenue divisions, 35 revenue districts, 353 talukas and 43,722 villages. The Library development in Maharashtra is based on the recommendations of Fyjee committee, appointed by then Govt. of Bombay Province for the development of libraries in the state. The committee was constituted in 1939 and submitted its report in 1940. The recommendations of the committee could not be implemented up to 1947 because of Second World War. After Independence, the then Bombay govt. decided for development of Public libraries to implement the recommendations of The Fyjee committee. This committee recommended that 1. The government should encourage local initiative by recognizing private libraries and give them financial aid on the conditions that the libraries allow free use of the books and reading material to the non-paying members in the locality within the premises of the library. 2. The government should establish one state central library at Mumbai and one regional library at Pune. As per the recommendations of the committee the government entrusted the functions of a State Central Library to the Asiatic Society of Bombay in 1947. In 1950, the trust deed was executed between the then Bombay provincial government and Asiatic Society of Bombay for this purpose. During this period a regional Library was also established at Pune. 3. One District Library and one taluka library at each district and taluka places should be recognized. The formula of financial grants to these libraries was determined on the category of public library and the limit which was based on admissible expenditure incurred by concerned libraries in the previous year. The work of inspection and supervision of these libraries was being done by Curator of Libraries, who was working under the control of then directorate of Education. This situation continued up to 1967. The working and development of these public libraries recognized under the Fyjee Committee Report could not give sufficient service and attention on account of inadequate funds for their progress. This situation was considered by the library association and library activists so they pressed government for the introduction of library legislation in the state. (Patil, 2013)

Enactment and Implementation of Maharashtra Public Library Act, 1967:-

1947-1967 was the discussion period for implementation of Library act in the State. Because of the emerging library movement in the state the government approved and took up the recommendations and demands of Fyjee committee as a strong base for the establishment and implementation of public library act in the state of Maharashtra. It decided to introduce Maharashtra state Public Library bill in the legislature. The bill was passed in 1967 at the Nagpur session of the Maharashtra legislative assembly. The act was finally implemented in 1967 and came in to force on 1st may 1968. The act became a landmark in the history of public libraries in Maharashtra and provides for uniform Public Library System in the state and uniform scale of grant in aid. Some of the features of this act are as follows:

1. Establishment of a separate Dept. of Libraries for planning, maintenance, organization and development of Public Libraries in the state.

2. Establishment of the state central library for the whole state and Divisional library in each division financed and managed by the govt.
3. Establishment of the state council to advise Govt. on all matters related to the Library development.
4. Establishment of district library committee for each district for advising govt. on all matters concerned with the public Libraries in the district.
5. Govt. is responsible for providing an amount of not less than Rs. 25 lakhs every year for the development of public libraries. The administrative expenditure is in addition to the above amount.
6. There is no provision for Library cess in the Act.

The basic principle of Maharashtra Public Libraries Act 1967 is that, the voluntary organizations should come forward to establish new Public Libraries for the purpose of grant-in-aid in the State. Since, the implementation of the Act, the development of public libraries in the State has taken a momentum.

Directorate of Public Libraries, Maharashtra State:-

Directorate of Public Libraries comes under administrative control of Higher and Technical Education Department, Govt. of Maharashtra. As per provisions in the Maharashtra Public libraries Act 1967 Directorate came in to existence on 2nd may 1968. one state central library, 6 divisional libraries, 35 district Libraries, one reference library and 6 offices of Assistant Director of Libraries and Head Quarter of Directorate thus a total of 49 offices are established under this Directorate. The state Central Library which was temporarily run as Asiatic Society Library since 1947 was separated from Asiatic society on 1st July, 1994 and being run fully by the Directorate of Libraries. A tabular representation of this information is given below:

Head Quarter of Directorate (not library)	1
State Central Library	1
Divisional Libraries	6
Reference Library	1
District Libraries	35
Divisional Asstt. Directorate Office (not libraries)	5
Total offices	49
Libraries	43

The Director of Libraries is the Head of the Department and he has been entrusted with certain functions under superintendence, direction and control of the state government. He is responsible for planning, maintenance, organization and development of public libraries and library system in the state. He is assisted by the Divisional/Assistant Directors. Six Divisional Assistant Directors are responsible for supervision, inspection and technical guidance for the recognized public libraries. They have been allotted with the staff i.e. Inspectors and Sr. Clerks. The Director is assisted by one Deputy Director and one Assistant Director at Head office. Deputy Director looks after establishment so also, the work of book selection committee and preparation of bibliographies. He is expected to give technical guidance to the divisional libraries.

The state central library, established at Mumbai and the Divisional Libraries established at Pune and Nagpur are under the control of class I officers. They have been given the additional responsibilities of receiving, processing and preserving the books received under the press and registration of books act, 1867. They are also at the apex of the inter library loan system in the state and division respectively.

DISTRICT WISE DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES:-

The Six major divisions are namely, Amravati, Aurangabad, Nagpur, Nashik, Pune and Mumbai are having their libraries and under these divisions 35 Government District Public Libraries have been established in the different locations of these divisions. One state central Library is working in Mumbai and one special library is in Ratnagiri. There are 12500 (approximate) Govt. aided public libraries are also working in the different districts

of the state. The tabular representation of this information is given below:-

A	Government Libraries	Nos.
1	State Central Library- Mumbai	1
2	Government Divisional Libraries	6
a.	Ratnagiri	1
b.	Amrawati	1
c.	Aurangabad	1
d.	Nashik	1
e.	Nagpur	1
f.	Pune	1
3	Government District Libraries	35
1.	Ahmadnagar	1
2.	Amrawati	1
3.	Aurangabad	1
4.	Usmanabad	1
5.	Kolhapur	1
6.	Gadchiroli	1
7.	Gondia	1
8.	Jalgaon	1
9.	Jalna	1
10.	Navi Mumbai	1
11.	Dhule	1
12.	Nandurbar	1
13.	Nashik	1
14.	Nanded	1
15.	Parbhadi	1
16.	Pune	1
17.	Mumbai	1
18.	Mumbai City	1
19.	Beed	1
20.	Raigarh	1
21.	Ratnagiri	1
22.	Latur	1
23.	Washim	1
24.	Satara	1
25.	Sangali	1
26.	Sindhudurg	1

27.	Solapur	1
28.	Hingoli	1
29.	Akola	1
30.	Chandrapur	1
31.	Nagpur	1
32.	Buldhana	1
33.	Bhandara	1
34.	Yavatmal	1
35.	Wardha	1
4	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Reference and Research Library, Dapoli, Dist. Ratnagiri	1
	Total	13
B	Aided Public Libraries	
1	District Libraries 'A' grade	
2	Taluka Libraries- A , B , and C	
3	Other Libraries- A , B , and C	
4	Class D Libraries	
5	Grampanchayat Libraries	
	Total	12500 (approx.)
C	Research Institutions	35

Nagpur Division

It is one of the major divisions out of 6 divisions. The divisional office maintains record of its own library as well as the district libraries of Nagpur. This division is headed by Assistant Director of Libraries in the premises of its office where Nagpur Divisional Library is situated. Earlier before the formation of State of Maharashtra, the Library was running under the then Madhya Pradesh Government. This Library is surrounded by many state and central government offices.

Background and Establishment of the Library

In Maharashtra, Library enforcement has a responsibility of growth, planning and development of public library. A Public library enforcement has a state level central library in Mumbai and have a divisional library in Aurangabad, Amaravati, Nagpur, Nashik, Pune and Ratnagiri. Every Divisional Library performed their duty of development of reader's and reading materials. But in all of Divisional Library, the Nagpur Divisional Library had a unique place because this library has first established by state government and since this library has in the service of readers much before establishment of state of Maharashtra. Above all these works, this Library have one more important work, i.e. to control all Government Library in Vidarbha and implementation of Planning 4(C) until 1960.

The Vidarbha region was part of Madhya Pradesh. In 1955, this state has implemented a very unique development project. Reader development plan have been included in the article 4(C) of this project. For this purpose, one Central Library proposes to be established in Nagpur of Vidarbha region and 8 government libraries in all district headquarters. In 1968, the central library is converted in government regional library and in 1970 it has converted in Government Divisional Library. The implementation of this project was lie on the education department of Madhya Pradesh Govt. After establishment the state of Maharashtra, there are some changes in government proceedings and responsibility of implementation of this project to given newly appointed library superintendent. In 1968, this responsibility was formally given to Director of Library. After the establishment, the

library was actively in service in Dhantoli (Nagpur) till 1968. Hence, there was need of bigger space; the library was shifted to the Bungalow of Ad. Bobde near Akashwani Chowk and since June 1995, it was in active service in Ram Nagar area. But since, the library developed rapidly, the need of bigger space also realized and three storied building was built near the Zila parishad, Civil Lines in the name of "Granth Sahwas". The Library is in service since 1/1/1999 in this new building.

OBJECTIVES OF THE LIBRARY

1. Inspire and promote the reading habit in urban and rural areas and develop knowledge.
2. To provide all type of information about social, political, educational and other areas to people.
3. To protect cultural value and historical things.
4. To inspire all round development of people
5. Fulfillment of reader information, knowledge, entertainment.

Important Features of the Library

1. To take decision about Library's administrative front and service and fulfill the responsibility of commercial management and also administrator in the Vidarbha.
2. While controlling work, give sanction all type of the bills forward from district Library.
3. According to Press and Registration Act 1867, make a bibliography of Marathi books on monthly basis forward by printers.
4. Provide free service to researchers, students and readers.
5. First implementation of project 4(C) in Maharashtra State.

Function of Library

1. This Library is a regional office, which manage all district Library administrative management and controlling the work.
2. To provide readable books to readers free of cost.
3. To provide Library service to all the members as per rule 4(C)
4. To protect all those literature which are available according to Press and Registration Act of 1867.
5. To protect literature value through reading culture.
6. To Reconsolidations of Office Expenditure in overall 25 District Offices.

Staff of the Library

- Librarian Grade- I
- Librarian Grade- II
- Assistant Librarian
- Library Assistants
- Library Clerks
- Group D employees

MEMBERSHIP OF THE LIBRARY

Generally the Library gives membership to the Government Employees of the State and Central Government after their verification. This membership is also available for the students of government colleges on the production of recommendation letter from their Principals. There is a provision of security amount deposition for the new members for availing Library facilities. Institutional membership is also provided to the institutions who want to avail the facility under some rules and regulations.

Services offered to the Members

1. Reading Room facility
2. Lending of books

3. Photocopy Service
4. Reference Service
5. Reservation of books

Type of collection

- Books
- Magazines
- CD's
- Maps
- Charts
- Audio- Visual Materials

Users' Registration

- Government Employee
- Students
- General Public

Sections of Library

- Circulation Section
- Reading Room
- Reference Section
- Administrative Section

Items of Expenditure in the Government Divisional Library of Nagpur

1. Amount spent on Salary of the Staff
2. Amount spent on Labour charges for various work
3. Amount spent on Telephone/ Water Bill
4. Amount spent on Lodging
5. Amount paid as Rent
6. Amount spent on Regular Routine charge
7. Amount spent on reading materials
8. Amount spent on petrol
9. Amount spent on computer
10. Amount spent as overtime charges

Books related information

Books are purchased in the Library on various topics and areas. Some books are also received in gratis. Major collection of the books in flourished by the books received under Press and Registration Act. Books are used by the borrowers in the form of lending for the library as well as by reading room consultation of reference books. A good number of books are issued on daily basis for the benefit of the users.

Users of the Library

There are many registered users of the Library who borrow books from the Library regularly. Registration of borrowers during previous financial year was also high. No existing user has withdrawn his membership from the library. Many types of cultural and reading programs have been organized by the library from time to time for the benefit of the users.

Cultural Program organized by the Library

1. Book Exhibition

2. Lecture
3. Recitation/ Book reading
4. Discussion

Future Plans of the Library

1. To comprise all libraries and provide online services to all the members
2. To register maximum members according to rule 4 (C)
3. To spread and promote the knowledge in masses about reading, library has a planning to organize Granth Jatra, reader's competitions.

CONCLUSION

The success of any library depends on the satisfaction of its users. Many users are contacted to know about their satisfaction level. All the responded users were satisfied by the services offered by the library. The circulation of reading materials, collection type and the cleanliness attracted many users everyday to come and spend their time in the library and enhance their knowledge. This library has become the prime center for learning and enhancing the level of leaning for the people of neighborhood area.

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