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Local history collection on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in the Public Libraries in Nabadwip

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Abstract: This study investigates the local history collection on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in public libraries of Nabadwip. It focuses on the local history collection on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu needed by the patron of the library, tourist, historians, writers. It also tries to find out what type of documents or resources needed by the information seeker, their frequency to visit the library to achieve their information queries and their satisfaction level towards library collection services and facilities provided by the library. A descriptive method used, and the data collected through a questionnaire from library users. Findings are made on the basis of data collected on Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu in the public libraries in Nabadwip available in different sources like Book, Journal, CD, DVD, Manuscripts, CD-ROM.

Keywords : Local history collection, Public library - Nabadwip, Local history – Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Chaityanya Mahaprabhu.

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1. Introduction

Local history collections are a very crucial document for getting information about local places, eminent persons in particular areas and within certain periods. The focus of the collection is on materials about the history of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Nabadwip, and, to a lesser extent, materials about the surrounding geographical areas of Mayapur, Nabadwip Nadia the state of West Bengal (Wikipedia, 2015). Genealogical records and family histories pertaining strictly to founders and pioneer families of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu may be collected. Local history can be defined as 'The study of the past of some significant local unit, developing as a community, in its context and compared with such other units' (Rogers, 1977). The Local History collection may include books, documents, maps, memorabilia, genealogical records of founding families, slides, microfilm, newspapers, news clippings, identified photographs (framed and unframed). The Local History Collection contains Oral History interviews, in audio and print formats conducted by the Nabadwip Public Library (Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library, 2017). Three-dimensional objects and electronic and digital formats will be considered if they fit within the mission of our endeavor. The Local History Collection may not contain

government records, such as City Council meeting minutes or Board of Education meeting minutes, or day-to-day business records. The importance of local history is emphasized in the new Social Knowledge and History Curriculum in Nabadwip.

2. Information about Nabadwip public libraries

This study reveals about the local history collection on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in - Nabadwip Sadharan Granthagar, Nabadwip Adarsha Pathagar, Nabadwip Puratattva Parishad Library. Nabadwip Sadharan Granthagar was established in the year 1907, 17th February (West Bengal Public Library Network, 2017). This library has a central auditorium and cultural activities. This institution processes 15000 (Fifteen thousand) books. Many great men used to visit this library such as Shyamaprasad Mukhopadhaya, Subhas Chandra Bose, Ashutosh Mukherjee, Meghnad Saha, P. C. Sarkar and Banaful. Nabadwip Adarsha Pathagar was established in the year 1952, 30th March (West Bengal Public Library Network, 2017). Nabadwip Adarsha pathagar has a glorious history. Its Silver Jubilee Foundation day celebration 'Souvenir', 'Uttar Tirish' volume and its yearly publication 'Rasmi' reflects more details about the library. Nabadwip Puratattva Parishad Library was established in the year 1993, 21st June on Rath Yatra.

3. Objective of the study

The objectives of the study are as follows :

i. To access the existing documents are available on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in Nabadwip Public Library.

ii. To know the lacuna of different documents like Magazines, Journals, CDs, DVDs, Films, etc concerning Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

iii. To identify the significant contribution of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in Nabadwip and also in Mayapur.

iv. To identify the role of the library from acquisition to dissemination of information on Srichaitanya Mahaprabhu.

v. To identify the specific user who uses the special collection on Mahaprabhu.

vi. To identify the interest of the local people and foreigners on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

vii. To identify the information seekers overall satisfaction regarding collection of resources on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

4. Methodology

A questionnaire - prepared to collect data from the users of respective public libraries in Nabadwip, Nadia, West.Bengal. There are 1200 users where from 180 (15% of total population) users has been selected by a simple random method. The questionnaire was distributed among the users in selected libraries. 150 (83.33% of sample) users replied.

5 Scope and limitation

The present work is an attempt to study the local history collection on Chaitanyadev of public libraries of Nabadwip. The study considers those public libraries which are situated in Nabadwip. The study focuses on local history collection on Sri Chaitanya Dev and does not consider the other collections availability in the public libraries in Nabadwip.

6. Review of related literature

Bhar (2015) explains that local history collections can help the student, researchers, historians, local administrator, social workers, and writers by giving them the past history of that locality and these collections can be used in community information service. A large number of documents like maps, panji, punthi, and paintings are to be considered as the information sources for local history writings.

Carvalho (2015) found local history col-lections can offer a unique component to the library's repertoire of reference services. Establishing a local history collection has both short- and long-term implications concerning library policies, space allocation, staff time, staff training, and budgets. Because of this, -. the small public library should clearly and realistically establish a collection policy which will not place an undue burden on its re- sources. Assessing community needs is a critical part of this pro- cess. Small public libraries should not attempt to duplicate or com- pete with other institutions for local material. Rather, the library should seek to fill the void in public service in cases where there is no extant collection available to the public.

Akintunde & Adelusi (1997) discusses the findings of a questionnaire survey of Nigerian academic and research libraries regarding their local history collections. Offers suggestions for improving collection development and bibliographic control which include effective and sustained library cooperation for acquisitions and cataloguing, twinning between libraries, recruitment of librarians with local history background, and an emphasis on local history librarianship in Nigerian library schools. Original abstract-amended. .

Koppel (1995) finds paper delivered at Umbrella 3, Manchester, Jun 95. Briefly discusses the impact of political and economic changes on libraries in Hungary. Discusses the problems of and challenges raised by collection development in the field of local history for libraries in country regions.

Kelly (1995) Offers a short examination of existing literature on local documents collections in the US, and discusses a recent project to expand the collection development strategy of an urban academic library. A pilot project was initiated at the main library of the University of Illinois at Chicago to develop a collection reflecting the growing influence of urban areas in society, the impetus being provided by a large political science class preparing comparative studies of suburban areas and Chicago. Publications were obtained by writing to over 150 municipalities. Original abstract-amended.

Carvalho (1988) attempted on a modest scale, local history collections can offer a unique component to the library's repertoire of reference services. Establishing a local history collection has both short- and long-term implications concerning library policies, space allocation, staff time, staff training, and budgets. Because of this, the small public library should clearly and realistically establish a collection policy which will not place an undue burden on its resources. Assessing community needs is a critical part of this process. Small public libraries should not attempt to duplicate or compete with other institutions for local material. Rather, the library should seek to fill the void in public service in cases where there is no extant collection available to the public.

Thirsk (1978) traces the history of local history collections in UK public libraries, indicating the problems posed for librarians by local government reorganisation and boundary changes. The 32 London Borough local history librarians are at present compiling surveys outlining the scope of their collections. Describes sources of information for, and the nature of local history collections, which

now incorporate photographs and maps and, where possible, provide material for genealogical studies. There is a plea by some librarians for the amalgamation of local history collections, museums and archives into new 'Local history resource centres' and some of these new centres are described. Reviews the current situation regarding local history collections, and the qualifications needed or desirable for library staff in these areas. Suggests the composition of the ideal local history library.

Josel (1978) discussed personal impressions of a local history collection survey carried out in early 1977 by the Local History Committee of the American Library Association Reference and Adult Services Division History Section. The main purpose of the survey was to assist the committee in the development of guidelines for local history librarians and their collections.

7. Data analysis

Collected data are analyzed and interpreted bellow :

Distribution according to different public library :

Public Library	Number (%)
Nabadwip Sadharan Granthagar	44 (29.33)
Nabadwip Adarsha Pathagar	46 (30.66)
Nabadwip Puratattva Parishad Library	60 (40)
Total	150

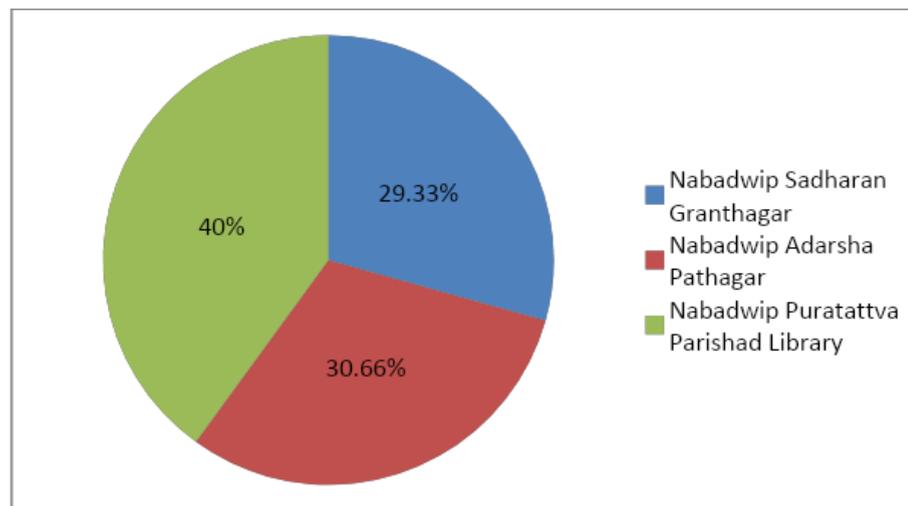Table 1 : Respondents from different libraries

Fig : Diagram of respondent different library wise

Table 1 reveals that 29.33 percent of respondents- are the user - of Nabadwip Sadharan Granthagar. While 30.66 percent of them are from Nabadwip Adarsha Pathagar and 40 percent belong to Nabadwip Puratattva Parishad library. The number of respondents in the Nabadwip Puratattva Parishad Library is higher than the other two public libraries of Nabadwip.

Age-wise distribution :

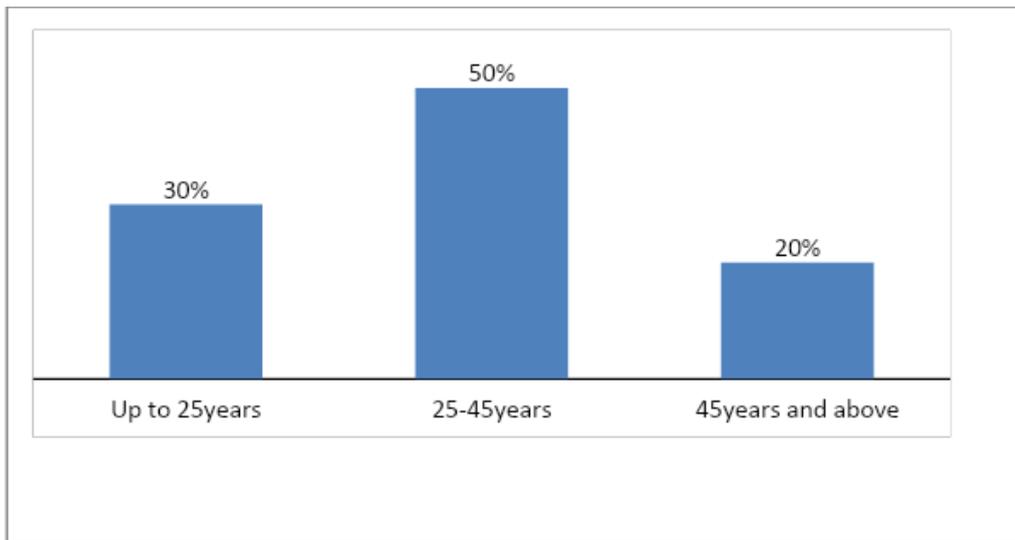| Age group	Number (%)
Up to 25 years	45 (30)
25-45 years	75 (50)
45 years and above	30 (20)
Total	150

Table 2 : Respondent according to age

Fig 2 : Diagram of respondent according to age

Table 2 provides the information regarding age of the respondent. It is clearly understandable that the majority of the respondents (50 percent) - come under the age group of 25 - 45 years. Whereas 30 percent of the respondents are from the age group up to 25 and only 20 percent want information on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu who belongs to the age group of 25 and above.

Gender-wise distribution :

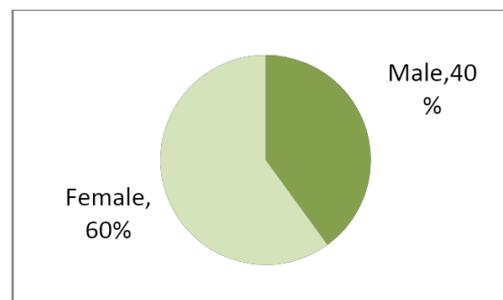| Gender	Number (%)
Male	60 (40)
Female	90 (60)
Total	150

Table 3 : Respondent according to sex

Fig 3 : Diagram of respondent according to sex

It can be observed from Table 3 that 60 percent of the respondents are female and 40 percent of them are male.

Distribution according to satisfaction level :

Name of the library	Very much satisfied (%)	Moderately satisfied (%)	Not at all satisfied (%)
Nabadwip Sadharan Granthagar	30	15	8
Nabadwip Adarsha Pathagar	23	12	5
Nabadwip Puratattva Parishad Library	35	18	4
Total	88 (58.66-)	45 (30-)	17 (11.33)

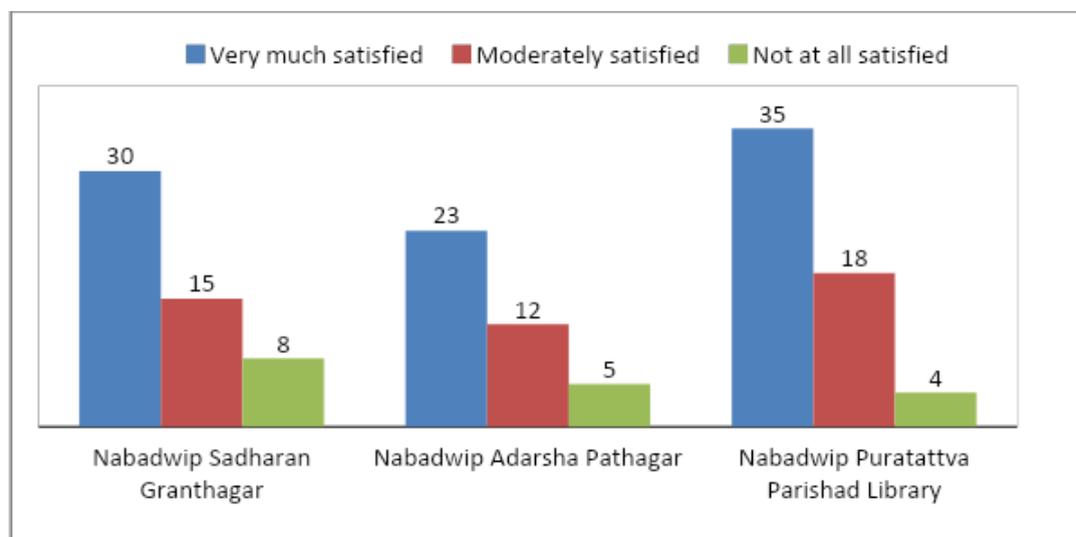Table 4 : Respondent according to satisfaction on collection

Fig 4 : Diagram of respondent satisfaction on collection

It is identified from Table 4 that among all the respondents 58.66 percent are very much satisfied about different collections on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, 30 percent are moderately satisfied whereas 11.33 percent are not satisfied.

7.5 Distribution according to Collection on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in the Public libraries in Nabadwip

The total collection on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in the public libraries in Nabadwip is presents in Table V (The collections of Srichaitanya Mahaprabhu in the following libraries in (approximate figure)

Name of the library	Books	Journals	CD/DVD	Pictures	Manuscripts
1. Nabadwip Sadharan Granthagar	115	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
2. Nabadwip Adarsha Pathagar	185	12	2	25	Nil
3. Nabadwip Puratattva Parishad Library	1200	6	5	50	Nil
Total	1500	22	7	75	Nil

Table 5: Distribution according to Collection

It can be observed from Table5 that the best collections of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu are in Nabadwip Puratattva Parishad Library. There are no Manuscripts in the public libraries in Nabadwip. There are no pictures or photo collections on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in Nabadwip Sadharan Granthagar, Nabadwip.

7.6. Distribution according respondent's suggestion :

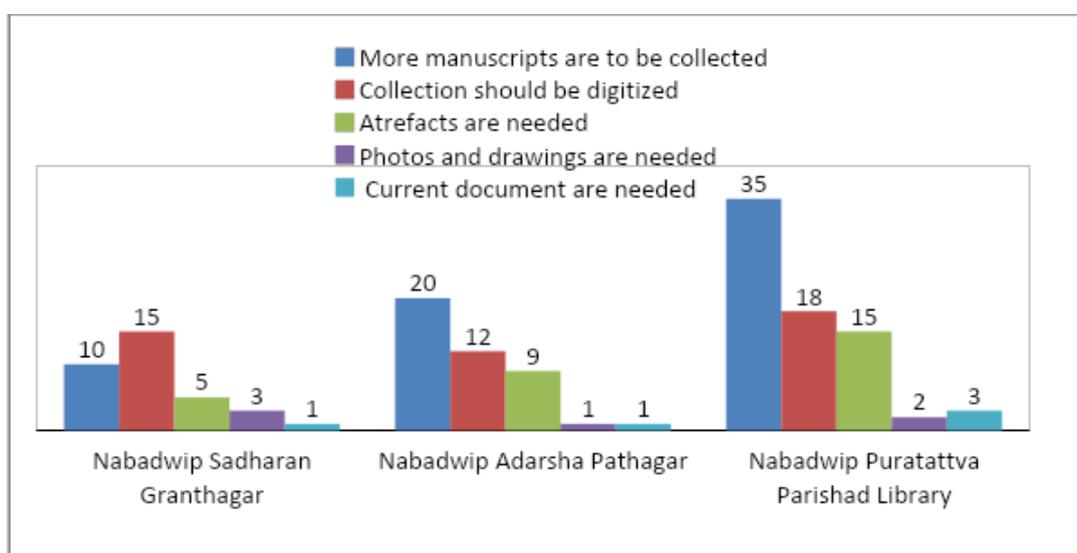| Users of	More manuscripts are to be collected (%)	Collection should be digitized (%)	Artifacts are needed (%)	Photos and drawings are needed (%)	Current document are needed (%)
Nabadwip Sadharan Granthagar	10	15	5	3	1
Nabadwip Adarsha Pathagar	20	12	9	1	1
Nabadwip Puratattva Parishad Library	35	18	15	2	3
Total	65 (43.33)	45 (30)	29 (19.33)	6 (4)	5 (3.33)

Table 5 : Suggestion of respondent

Fig 4 : Diagram regarding suggestion of respondent

It is observed from the Table 5 that among all the respondent 43.33 percent users of are suggested to increase the collections rare books and manuscripts on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, 30 percent --provide their suggestion in favour of digitization of collection - where as 19.33 percent - provide their opinion in favour of artifacts of Lord Chaitanya, 4 percent - in favour

of photos and drawings on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and only 3.33 percent - are suggested that there must be current document on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

8. Findings and Discussion

Local history collection is a very important document. They provide useful, innovative and new ideas/information to researchers for carrying out their innovative activities. Research and development organizations consider local history as a basic source of information.

Society at large has realized the significance of local history collection on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and their role in social, economic areas. Today it is very much helpful to educate the public in the field of Vaishnavism. Local history collection on Chaitanyadev in the public libraries in Nabadwip is of growing importance for tourist interest. Chaitanya's followers are spreading all over the World. It was seen that Nabadwip Puratattva Parishad Library was able to provide the entire needed document on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Nabadwip Sadharan Granthagar and Nabadwip Adarsha Pathagar are not satisfied with the user's needs on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu as a local history of Nabadwip. So, expanded the fields of research on Chaitanya-Charcha. General users of that library are very much interested in Chaitanya-Charcha for their leisure, and they recommend some documents on Chaitanyadev to enrich the local collections. It is known that love of Chaitanya is attracted to the people of this era.

9. Conclusion

Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is a very important topic for historians, writers, researchers and foreign visitors. They prefer to enrich their knowledge base on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu by using different sources of information. They consult library resources. This study reveals that 50 percent of total respondents want information on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu who comes under the age group of 25 to 45.-They also need more manuscripts, artifacts and updated documents on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. - Nowadays in the age of Information Communication Technology they want digitized information. As a public library it is very

important to identify, collect, repackage, organize and disseminate information on Mahaprabhu according to the needs of the information seeker. It is also very important to digitize all the rare documents and make a web based archive on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu which can be accessible 24 – 7 – 365 from any corner of the world. It is also recommended to capture, organize and preserve the tacit knowledge which carries important information about Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. All the libraries should be networked so that any information seeker can easily retrieve his needed information from any of the libraries and identify its actual location. It can be helpful for both the information seeker and information provider.

Government should take proper initiative to build an archive consisting of information in various forms on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu which can effectively deliver information on Mahaprabhu and satisfy the information needs of the user.

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