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Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal). 2740.

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DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN THE DISTRICT OF PURULIA: A STUDY

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Abstract

The scope of the present review is to cogitate the Public Library scenario in the district of Purulia, W.B. It also would reflect their location according to their year of set up and year of sponsorship. The allocation is shown Sub-div, block, Municipal area and Panchayat area wise. The study also focuses the Public Library movement in Purulia district with a conclusion about the necessity of setting up of a public library and recruiting librarians for a well informed society.

Keywords: Public Library, Development of Public Library, Purulia District.

1. Introduction

In the present era public libraries are the basic units which can provide for the collection of information much needed by the local community where they are set up. This will serve as a gateway of knowledge and information and will enhance opportunity for lifelong learning for the community, which will further help in independent decision making of individuals in the society. Libraries can be pioneers and torchbearer to enlighten the society. They can be effective channel for acquiring, organizing and making information available to the masses. Regardless of infrastructure, public library inevitably is an integral part of the society. Presently there are 30 State Central Libraries, 40 Regional Libraries, 362 District Libraries, 4656 Town / Sub-Divisional Libraries and 50884 Primary unit / Rural Libraries in India (Nandi, 2010).

Public library: an overview

A public library is established by the law of the state and is financed by the fund of the government for its resources, books and running expenses. It is open for the general public to acquire knowledge and information. Among its welfare functions, it is expected that the government establishes such libraries at all level. Librarian's Glossary defines public library as A library provided wholly or partly from public funds and the use of which is not restricted to any class of persons in the community but is freely available to all (Wikipedia). According to Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, the father of Library movement In India, define as "the public library is one which is open to any member of the public and annually free of any charge paid as so much service" (Ranganathan, 1950). "The public library, the local gateway to

knowledge, provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development of the individual and social groups’’ (IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto, 1994).

The characteristics of the public library as follows

- There are five fundamental characteristics shared by public libraries:
- Generally local bodies help to run the public libraries by giving taxes through any level of Govt. can contribute.
- Every community member can get the opportunity of using the collection as they are open to all.
- There is no case of force or compulsion to use the facilities, they are completely voluntary.
- They provide free service for the elementary level.

2. Objective of the Study

- To show the public library scenario of West Bengal.
- To make a comparison among the distribution of public libraries in West Bengal.
- To show the statistic of public library in Purulia district in the respect of state statistics.
- To show the decade wise development of public library in Purulia district
- To study the Sub-division, Block, Municipal and Gram Panchayet wise distribution of public library in such area.
- To make the recommendations for the development of public library in Purulia.

3. Review of Literature

A lot of studies have been conducted in West Bengal for the development of public libraries. “A massive investment in public libraries is needed to make them true information resource centers for the layman” (Wani, 2008). “Public libraries in West Bengal are financed mostly from the State aid that is State Government plays the crucial role for human resource development of rural communities. The services provided by public libraries in West Bengal can be treated as the near-public good, not as the public good” (Sultana, 2014). “Public libraries in developing countries and highlighted the characteristics of public libraries and their services” (Despande, 2000).

4. Problems

For Purulia district there are lacks in set up public library. Therefore a massive efforts as well as investments are required to set up and make them correct information resource centers for the under privileged of the Purulia district.

4. Methodology

For this study the following methodologies are used for collection of data. These are (i) secondary data from website of Dept. of Mass Education Extension and Library services, Govt. of West Bengal. (ii) Telephonic conversation with the staff of respective libraries. (iii) Interview of some staff of libraries. (iv) Few statistical tools

like sampling, percentage etc. are used. Collected data are presented using different tables and showing the results using various figures.

5. Scope

Present study reflects the public library scenario in the district of Purulia and deals with the Librarians of different public library.

6. Limitations

This study was limited from the area covered. Due to lacks of time, this study was limited within the area of Purulia district. In comparison to the total area in a sub-division in a district, the numbers of public library are quite less.

7. Data analysis and Discussions

7.1 Public Library Scenario in West Bengal

There were only 50 public libraries in West Bengal up to 19th century. A tentative list of public libraries for that period has been given in Table-1.

NAME OF THE DISTRICT	NAME OF THE LIBRARY	YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT	TOTAL LIBRARIES	PERCENTAGE
Bankura		NIL	0	0 %
Birbhum		NIL	0	0 %
Burdwan	Ambika Sadharan Pathagar Ranigunj Public Library	1872 1876	02	3.9 %
Coochbehar		NIL	0	0 %
Dakshin Dinajpur		NIL	0	0 %
Darjeeling		NIL	0	0 %
Hooghly	Hooghly Public Library Konnagar Public Library Uttarpara Public Library (Now Uttarpara Joykrishna Library) Shrirampur Public Library Chandannagar Pustakagar Bansberia Public Library Sripur Kalyan Samiti Library Jamgram Nandi Sadharan Pathagar Mondalai Public Library	1854 1858 1859 1871 1873 1891 1894 1984 1894	09	17.6 %
Howrah	Shibpur Public Library Rashpur Peoples Library Bantra Public Library Bally Public Library Andul Mohiary Public Library Mugkalyan Pally Bharati Granthagar Sporting Club Library Belur Public Library Friends Union Library	1874 1883 1884 1885 1886 1888 1889 1895 1898	09	17.6 %
Jalpaiguri		NIL	0	0 %
Kolkata	United Reading Room Sashipada Institute	1872 1876	18	35.6 %

	Indian Asssocation Library	1876		
	Mudialy Public Library	1876		
	Sadharan Brahmo Samaj Library	1879		
	Taltala Public Library	1883		
	Bagbazar Reading Library	1883		
	Subarban Reading Club	1888		
	Chaitanya Library	1889		
	Kalighat Library and Free Reading Room	1889		
	Bharati Parishad Library	1890		
	University Institute Library	1891		
	Suhrid Library	1891		
	Mahabodhi Society Library	1892		
	Bangiya Sahitya Parisad Library	1893		
	Y.M.C.A Library	1895		
	Bania Pukur Library and Reading Club	1897		
	Saraswati Institute	1898		
Maldah		NIL	0	0 %
Murshidabad	Ramkrishna Mission Library	1897	1	1.9 %
Nadia	Krishnanagar Public Library	1856		1.9 %
North 24 Pargana	Ariadaha Association Library	1870	04	7.8 %
	The Barasat Association Library	1871		
	Baranagar Peoples Library	1876		
	Agarpara Pathagar	1891		
Paschim Medinipur	Rajnarayan Basu Smriti Pathagar	1851	02	3.9 %
	Pragati Pathagar	1883		
Purba Medinipur		NIL	0	0 %
Purulia		NIL	0	0 %
South 24 Pargana	Bandhab Library at Joynagar	1869	05	9.8 %
	Boral Priyanath Library	1871		
	Rajpur Public Library	1877		
	Dakshineswar Ramkrishna Library and Reading Club	1879		
	Kamala Library	1898		
Uttar Dinajpur		NIL	0	0 %
Total			51	100 %

Table 1: District wise Public Libraries in West Bengal up to 19th century.

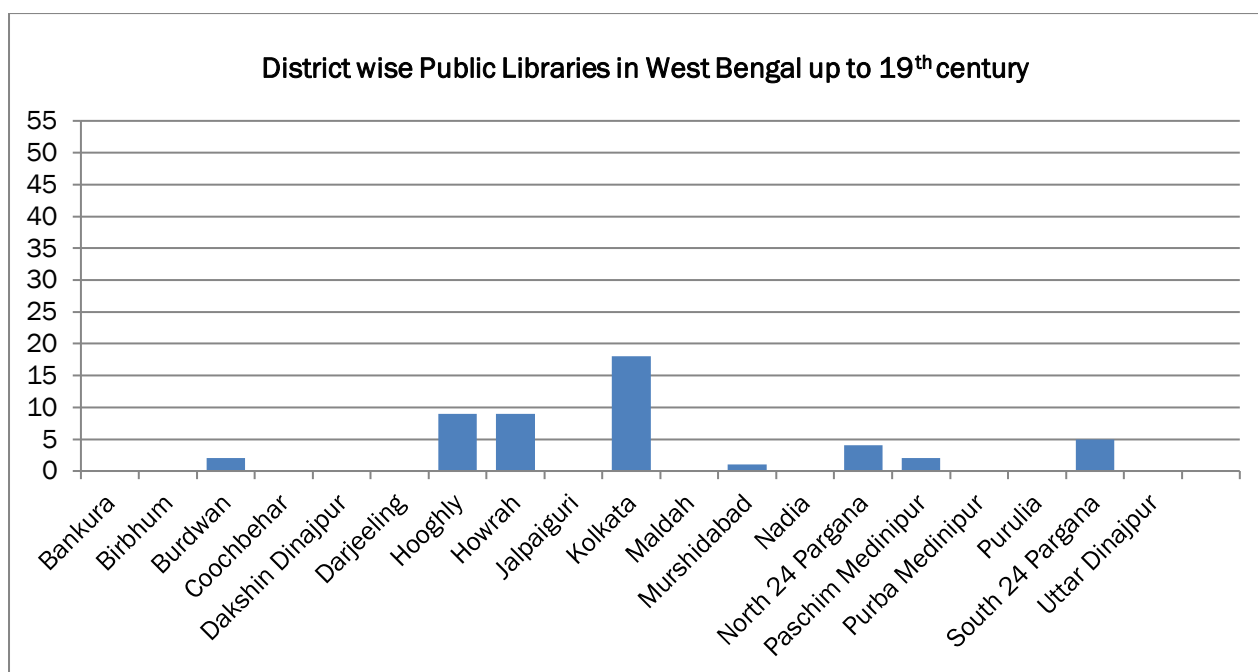


Figure 1: District wise public libraries in west Bengal up to 19th century

Figure-1 shown that the majority of the public libraries that have existed in Kolkata (i.e. 35.6 %) and are nearest as well as adjacent to Kolkata district, i.e., Hooghly (18 %), Howrah (18%), South 24 Parganas (7.8 %). But in the district of Purulia have no library existed up to 19th century.

But up to 1920 the number of Public Libraries was only 54 in west Bengal. By 1921 to 1940 the no of libraries jumped to 309 by the rigorous effort of Honorable Kumar Manindradev Roy. After that India got independence in 1947. Govt. of India allotted lump sum money to establish Public Library in every state in 1st and 2nd five year plan. Every state established a state central Library by this allotment and also West Bengal got the opportunity to manage an infrastructure to set up Public Libraries in the state and hence state central library was established in Kolkata. The state central library in the apex, town and Sub-Divisional Libraries at the next tier and rural area (started in 1953) and primary unit Libraries at the lowest tier.

7.2 District wise Public Libraries and Literacy rate at present

NAME OF THE DISTRICT	TOTAL NO OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES	PERCENTAGE	% of Literacy		AVERAGE
			M	F	
Bankura	130	5.3 %	80	60.44	70.95
Birbhum	124	5.0 %	77.42	64.07	70.90
Burdwan	212	8.6 %	82.42	69.63	76.21
Coach Behar	110	4.4 %	80.71	68.49	74.78
Dakshin Dinajpur	57	2.3 %	78.37	67.01	72.82
Darjeeling	130	5.3 %	85.61	73.33	79.56

Hooghly	159	6.4 %	87.03	76.36	81.80
Howrah	136	5.5 %	87.95	79.43	83.31
Jalpaiguri	110	4.4 %	79.95	66.23	73.35
Kolkata	98	4.0 %	88.34	84.06	86.31
Malda	104	4.2 %	66.24	56.96	61.73
Mursidabad	159	6.4 %	69.95	63.09	66.59
Nadia	110	4.4 %	78.75	70.98	74.97
North 24 Parganas	224	9.0 %	87.61	80.34	84.06
Paschim Medinipur	158	6.4 %	85.26	70.50	78.00
Purba Medinipur	122	5.0 %	92.32	81.37	87.02
Purulia	117	4.74 %	77.868	50.52	64.48
South 24 Parganas	156	6.3 %	83.35	71.40	77.51
Uttar Dinajpur	56	2.3 %	65.52	52.17	59.07
Total	2473	100 %			1423.42

Table 2: District wise Public Libraries and Literacy rate at present

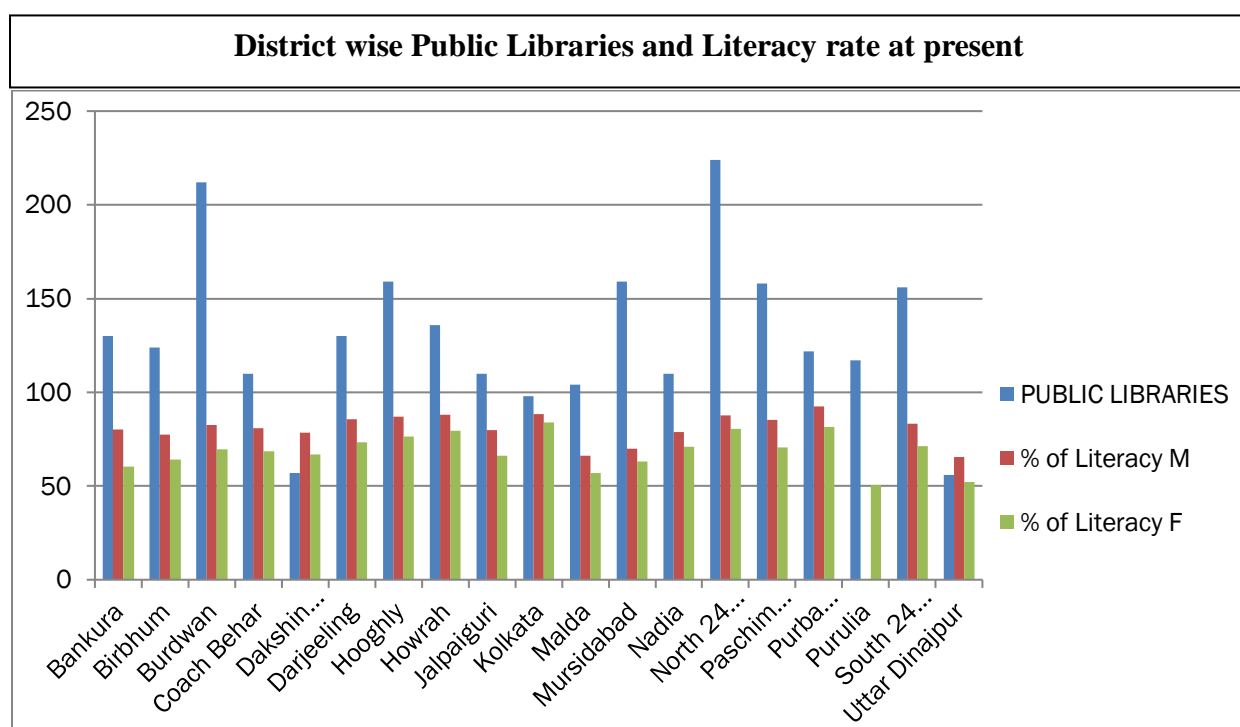


Figure 2: District wise Public Libraries and Literacy rate at present

Figure-2 shows that the highest rate of increase of public library in the district of North 24 Parganas (i.e. 9 %) whereas Purulia district (i.e. 4.74 %).

Presently there are 12 Govt. Libraries, 19 Govt. sponsored District Libraries, 156 town and Sub-Divisional Libraries, 73 up-graded libraries, 2213 rural /Area/Primary unit Libraries in West Bengal. Besides this there are also 280 C.L.I.C (Community Library and Information

Centre) in absence of Rural Library and 1913 non Govt. and non sponsored Library in West Bengal.

7.3 Public Library Scenario in Purulia District

TEN YEARS INTERVAL	NO OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES ESTABLISHED	PERCENTAGE
1923 – 1932	1	0.86 %
1933 – 1942	1	0.86 %
1943 – 1952	18	15.38 %
1953 – 1962	33	28.20 %
1963 – 1972	19	16.24 %
1973 – 1982	41	35.04 %
1983 – 1992	4	3.42 %

Table-3: Public Library Scenario in Purulia District

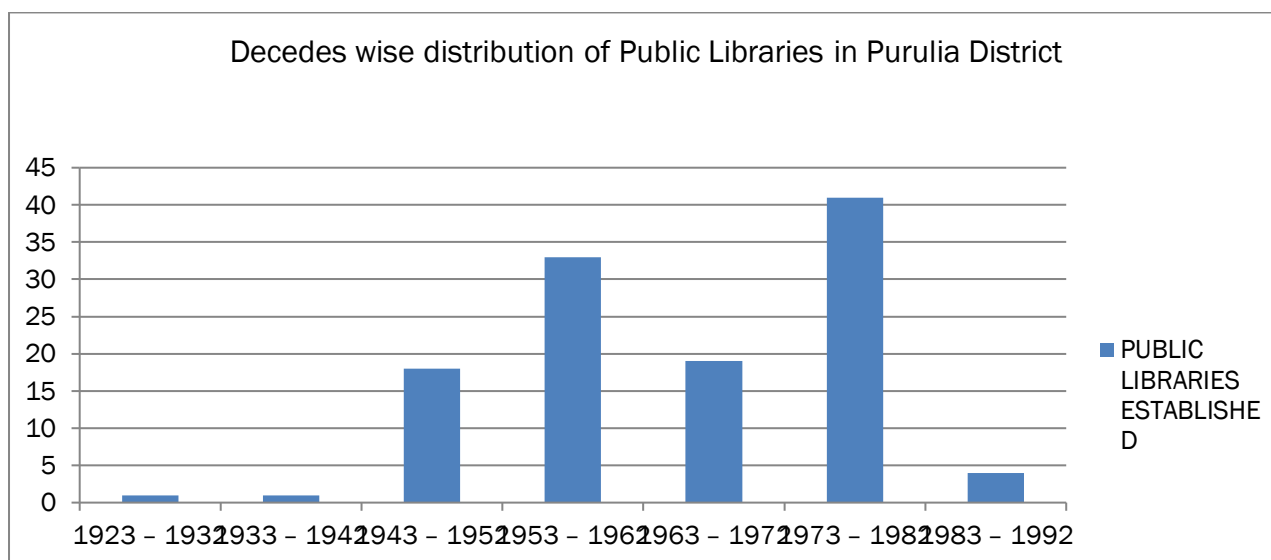


Figure- 3: Decades wise distribution of Public Libraries in Purulia District

Table 3 depicts that most of the libraries (i.e. 41) were established in the period 1973—1982 (35.04 %) whereas 33 libraries established in the period of 1953—1962 (28.20 %)

7.4 Sub-Division wise distribution of Public Libraries in Purulia District

SL NO	NAME OF THE SUB-DIVISIONS	NO OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES EXIST	PERCENTAGE	NO OF BLOCKS
1	Purulia sadar	29	24.79 %	05
2	Manbazar	33	28.21 %	05
3	Jhalda	21	17.95	04
4	Raghunathpur	34	29.05 %	06

Total	117	100	20
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Table 4: Sub-Division wise distribution of Public Libraries in Purulia District

Sources: District Panchayat Office Purulia

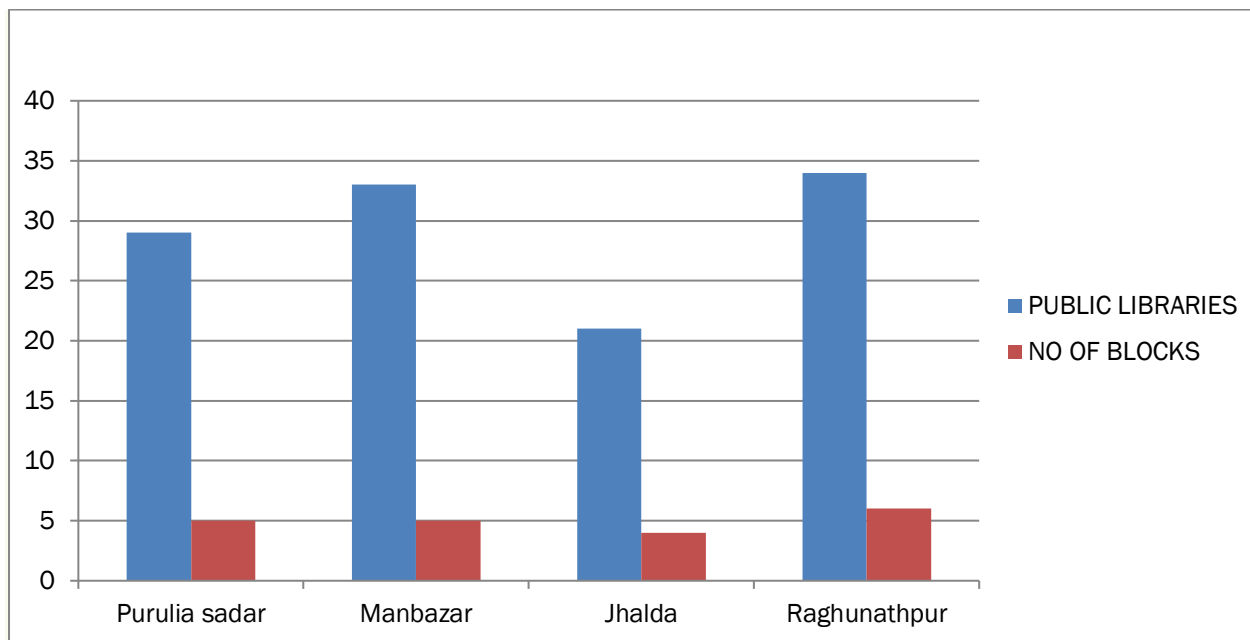


Figure-4: Sub-division wise distribution of Public libraries in Purulia District

Table 4 shows that most of the Public Libraries were established in Raghunathpur Sub-Division i.e. 29.05 % and the least numbers were in Jhalda Sub-Division (i.e. 21 %)

7.5 Block wise distribution of Public Libraries in Purulia District

SL NO	NAME OF THE BLOCKS	NO OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES EXIST	PERCENTAGE	NO OF PANCHAYATS
1	Arsha	5	4.27 %	8
2	Balarampur	5	4.27 %	7
3	Hura	7	5.99 %	10
4	Purulia I	6	5.12 %	8
5	Purulia II	6	5.12 %	9
6	Barabazar	7	5.99 %	10
7	Bundwan	5	4.27 %	8
8	Manbazar I	8	6.84 %	10
9	Manbazar II	5	4.27 %	7
10	Puncha	8	6.84 %	10
11	Bagmundi	5	4.27 %	8
12	Jhalda I	7	5.99 %	10
13	Jhalda II	5	4.27 %	9
14	Joypur	4	3.41 %	7
15	Kashipur	7	5.99 %	13
16	Neturia	5	4.27 %	7

17	Para	7	5.99 %	10
18	Raghunathpur I	7	5.99 %	7
19	Raghunathpur II	4	3.41 %	6
20	Santuri	4	3.41 %	6
Total		117	100 %	170

Table- 5: Block wise distribution of Public Libraries in Purulia District.

Sources: District Panchayat Office Purulia

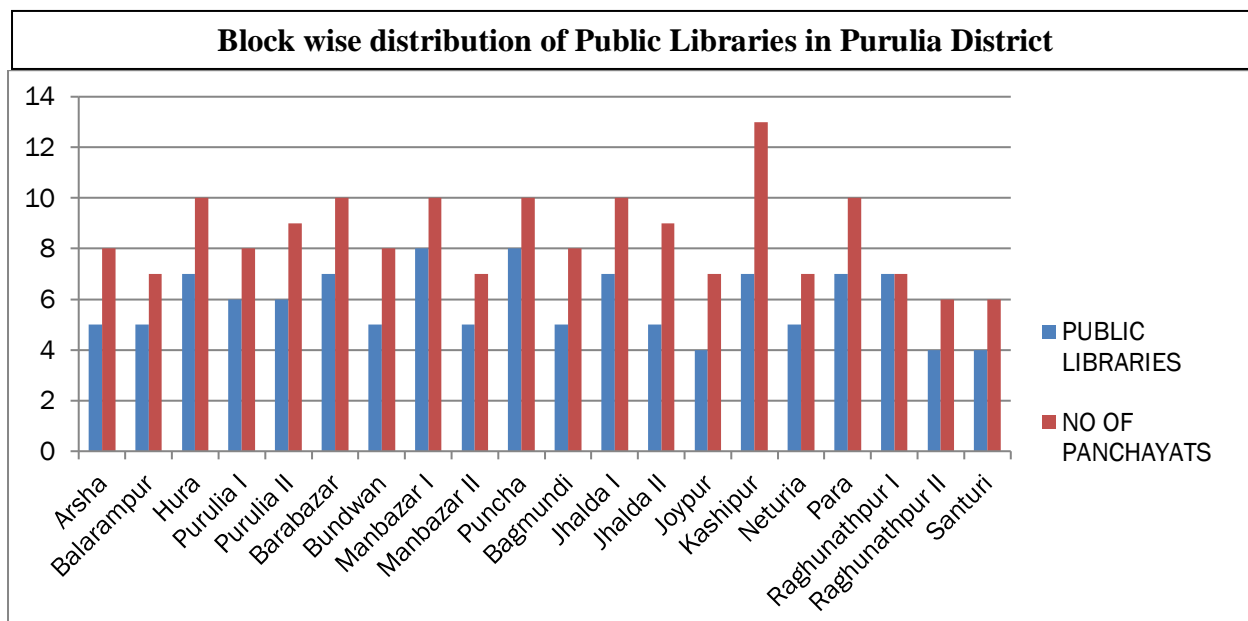


Figure-5: Block wise distribution of Public Libraries in Purulia District

Table 5A shows that most of the Public Libraries were established in Puncha and Manbazar I Blocks i.e. 6.84 %.

7.6 Municipality wise distribution of Public Libraries in Purulia District

SL NO	NAME OF THE MUNICIPALITY	NO OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES EXIST	PERCENTAGE	NO OF WARDS
1	Purulia	62	53 %	23
2	Jhalda	21	17.95 %	12
3	Raghunathpur	34	29.05 %	13
Total		117	100	48

Table 6: Municipality wise distribution of Public Libraries in Purulia District

Sources: District Panchayat Office Purulia

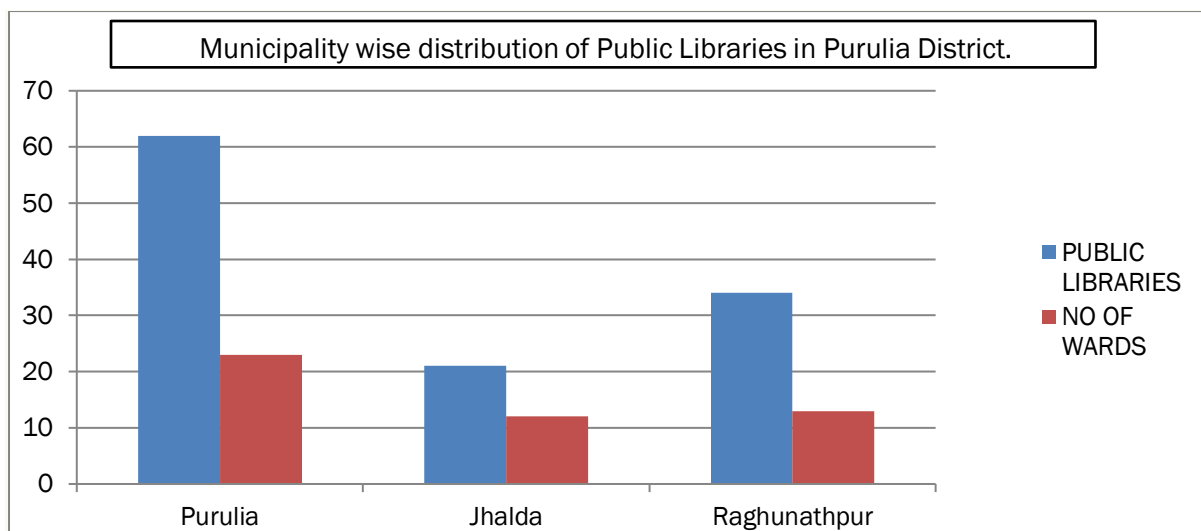


Figure-6: Municipality wise distribution of Public Libraries in Purulia District

Figure-6 shows that most of the Public Libraries were established in Purulia Municipality, i.e. 53 % and the least numbers were in Jhalda Municipality (i.e. 17.95 %)

7.7 Gram Panchyat wise distribution of Public Libraries in Purulia District

SL NO	NAME OF GRAM PANCHYAT	NO OF PUBLIC LIBRARY EXIST	PERCENTAGE
1	Joypur	1	0.85 %
2	Manbazar I	1	0.85 %
3	Manbazar	1	0.85 %
4	Babugram	1	0.85 %
5	Arsha	1	0.85 %
6	Chatuhansa	1	0.85 %
7	Puara	1	0.85 %
8	Mankiari	1	0.85 %
9	Sirkabad	1	0.85 %
10	Kashipur	1	0.85 %
11	Gourangadiah	1	0.85 %
12	Barrah	1	0.85 %
13	Beko	1	0.85 %
14	Monihara	1	0.85 %
15	Sonatholi	1	0.85 %
16	Hadalda-Uparrah	1	0.85 %
17	Ghagra	1	0.85 %
18	Baragram	1	0.85 %
19	Mukundapur	1	0.85 %
20	Sidhijamra	1	0.85 %
21	Ichag	1	0.85 %
22	Jargo	1	0.85 %
23	Kalma	1	0.85 %
24	Jhalda Darda	1	0.85 %
25	Tulin	1	0.85 %

26	Mathari khamar	1	0.85 %
27	Chitmu	1	0.85 %
28	Nowahatu	2	1.71 %
29	Bamandeha Belyadih	1	0.85 %
30	Digha	1	0.85 %
31	Bhamuria	2	1.71 %
32	Raibandh	1	0.85 %
33	Sarbari	1	0.85 %
34	Anara	1	0.85 %
35	Udaypur Jaynagar	1	0.85 %
36	Jabarra Jhapra	1	0.85 %
37	Dubr	1	0.85 %
38	Deoli	1	0.85 %
39	Nadiha Surulia	1	0.85 %
40	Para	1	0.85 %
41	Kenda	1	0.85 %
42	Chirudih	1	0.85 %
43	Jambad	1	0.85 %
44	Napara	1	0.85 %
45	Puncha	2	1.71 %
46	Bagda	1	0.85 %
47	Lakra	1	0.85 %
48	Durku	1	0.85 %
49	Dimdiha	1	0.85 %
50	Bhandar Puara	1	0.85 %
51	Manara	1	0.85 %
52	Lagda	1	0.85 %
53	Charra-Dumdumi	1	0.85 %
54	Pirra	1	0.85 %
55	Belma	1	0.85 %
56	Bhangra	1	0.85 %
57	Reghabpur	1	0.85 %
58	Hutmura	1	0.85 %
59	Tumrasole	1	0.85 %
60	Barabazar	1	0.85 %
61	Bansh Beria	1	0.85 %
62	Berada	1	0.85 %
63	Latpoda	1	0.85 %
64	Sindri	1	0.85 %
65	Sukurhutu	1	0.85 %
66	Ghatbera Keroa	1	0.85 %
67	Tentlo	1	0.85 %
68	Barauma	1	0.85 %
69	Balarampur	1	0.85 %
70	Bela	1	0.85 %
71	Tunturi Suisa	1	0.85 %
72	Bagmundi	1	0.85 %
73	Burda Kalimati	1	0.85 %

74	Sindri	1	0.85 %
75	Serangdih	1	0.85 %
76	Kuilapal	1	0.85 %
77	Kuchia	1	0.85 %
78	Gurur	1	0.85 %
79	Chirudih	1	0.85 %
80	Bandwan	1	0.85 %
81	Kamta Jangidiri	1	0.85 %
82	Gopalnagar	1	0.85 %
83	Chandra Pairachli	1	0.85 %
84	Jitujuri	1	0.85 %
85	Bambi Majhira	1	0.85 %
86	Bisri	1	0.85 %
87	Valubasa	1	0.85 %
88	Ankro Barkodam	1	0.85 %
89	Dighi	1	0.85 %
90	Borogoria Jamtria	1	0.85 %
91	Jagda	1	0.85 %
92	Arrah	1	0.85 %
93	Khajura	1	0.85 %
94	Chorepahari	1	0.85 %
95	Nutandih	1	0.85 %
96	Bero	1	0.85 %
97	Cheliama	1	0.85 %
98	Nildih	1	0.85 %
99	Nutundi	1	0.85 %
100	Mongalda Moutor	1	0.85 %
101	Belitora	1	0.85 %
102	Murudih	1	0.85 %
103	Ramchandrapur Kotaldi	1	0.85 %
104	Santuri	1	0.85 %
105	Chatumadar	1	0.85 %
106	Jaborra	1	0.85 %
107	Daldali	1	0.85 %
108	Rakhera	1	0.85 %
109	Lakshanpur	1	0.85 %
110	Ladhurka	1	0.85 %
111	Hurra	1	0.85 %
Total		117	100 %

Table 7: Gram Panchyat wise distribution of Public Libraries in Purulia District

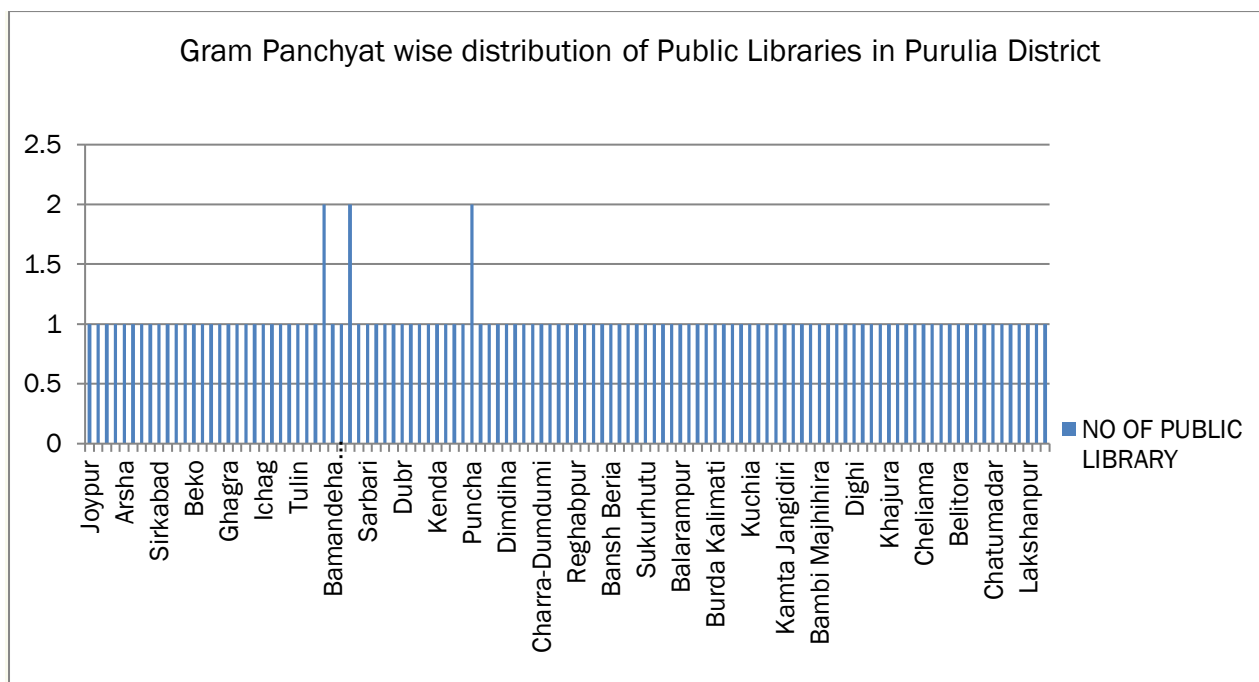


Figure-7: Gram Panchyat wise distribution of Public Libraries in Purulia District

From figure-7 it is seen that only Nowahatu , Bhamuria , Puncha Gram Panchayat has 3 Public Library whereas 56 Gram Panchayat does not have any public library. 122 gram panchayat have 1 (one) public library each.

8. Recommendations

The study regarding the public library in Purulia District is showing that the number of the library is not sufficient for the district. So a massive efforts as well as investment are needed to set up more libraries and recruiting librarians. Besides setting up new library, infrastructure and resources have to be developed.

9. Conclusion

Public Library is of people for the people. It has always been the door learning for a massive population that it serves. It is a knowledge centre and contributes a lifelong learning. For Purulia district there are lacks in set up Public Library. Therefore a massive efforts as well as investments are needed to set up and make them true information resource centre for the under privileged of the Purulia district. In comparison to the total area in a sub-division in a district, the number of Public Libraries is quite less.

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