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A study of Public Libraries in India: Post-Independence Period

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Abstract

In a democratic country like India, free access to information without any form of discrimination is very essential to establish an equitable society. India, with a low literacy rate it is crucial to use public libraries as a tool to improve the quality of both formal and informal education and thereby improve the overall literacy. This paper is an attempt to trace the history of growth and development of public libraries in India through an account of all the conditions and circumstances - social, economic, and political that existed during post-independent. The paper examines the role of the government as well as non-governmental organizations to further develop the public libraries system in India. Various initiatives such as framing policies, plans, appointing committees, and setting up the separate autonomous body for public libraries are some of the steps takes up by the government in post-independent India. Further, public libraries in each state are examined to understand the impact of library legislation and also find ways to address the existing inadequacies and potential challenges in establishing new libraries.

Keyword: Public Libraries, Indian libraries, library legislation, social institution, post-independence libraries, library history, library development, Library Associations.

1. Introduction

India has a very long history of operating public libraries in different forms at different times by different people. In ancient India, libraries were established by scholars and emperors. Later during the Mughal period, there was further growth in the library system as they were patrons of art and literature. During the British rule, India witnessed the growth of subscription libraries, which were not public libraries in the real sense. In the nineteenth century, a defining moment was held by the opening of the public library at Calcutta in 1835(Sharma, 1985). The first three decades of the 20th century are considered the Indian library system's historical period because the library education and legislation act was drafted. After independence, there was a remarkable growth in libraries in India, but given the large size of the country, the library system was not enough to serve the huge population of the country (Ngurtinkhuma, 2011). In India, public libraries are considered as a social institution; even in this 21st century, there is no alternative for public libraries. Every citizen has rights to access information authentically, exhaustively, pin pointedly and the information flow should be balanced because "there is an information flood in some places, there is an information drought in many others" (Banerjee, 1996; 361). India has had public libraries for nearly two hundred years, although its development is not uniform and systematic (Banerjee, 1996 and Kamble, 2016). The public library is a center for lifelong learning and envisaging the knowledge of people. So there is a need for modernization (technology and infrastructure) of libraries along with the increase in the number of library professionals to provide effective services (Agrawal, 1985) and to reduce the digital divide for sound communication (Ghosh, 2003).

There is a challenge before the government, standardization of public libraries and to ensure maximum output at a minimum standard. When the base is strong, then the building will be strong automatically. So the government should invest money in public libraries instead of competing for world economic status (Bajpai, 2015; 12). Also, there is a need to pay special attention to making libraries easily accessible for women to attain a cent percent literacy rate (Banerjee, 1996). Library legislation act is essential "to create and maintain library services on sound footings" (Adhikari, 1992; 256), but in India, the library legislation act is not as successful as that of a foreign country because it is a mere photocopy of the legislation implemented in the USA and Britain. People in western counties donate money for setting up public libraries, but

this tradition is missing; there is no enthusiastic financial support from private individuals (Seminar, 2014).

Source of Data

For this study, the data was collected by Interviews, Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation site, National library annual reports, governments' official records, official websites, literary writings, oral histories, textbooks, and Newspapers personal diaries, articles.

2. Contribution of Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations towards Public Libraries existence

2.1 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

UNESCO is an international non-governmental and non-profit organization, with a special focus on developing public libraries worldwide. The UNESCO's public library manifesto was published in 1949. Later the manifesto is modified in Paris on 29th November 1994, and it mainly states that public libraries are the gateway to knowledge, "it is a living force for education, culture and information, and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace and spiritual welfare through the minds of men and women." It also lays guidelines for funding, networking, legislation, integration, operation, and management, etc.

2.2 Library Associations

The library Associations are played a crucial role in the growth of public libraries in India. Library Association's main objectives are to strengthen the public library system by promoting library legislation focusing on Library and Information Science (LIS) education, coordination at various levels (local, national and international) organizations, research and training, accreditation of institutes, the publication of periodicals, etc. In 1914, the first state-level association, Andhra Desa Library Association was established. And in the same year, "the first library workers conference was conducted by Sri Iyyanki Venkataramayya Panthulu (known as the father of library movement in the state) in Andhra Pradesh. Later, The All India Public Library Association was established in 1919, which was the first national-level association. The first All India Library Conference of Librarians was held in 1918 in Lahore (undivided India). In 1933, the first All India Library conference was held in Calcutta. Later in 1934, the first All India Public Conference was held in Madras" (Wani, 2008; 2). Various associations related to public library development are listed out as follows:

2.2.1 The National-Level Library Association

1. "Indian Library Association, 1933
2. Government of Indian Library Association, 1933
3. All India Rural Library Service Association, 1933
4. All India Manuscript Library Association, 1951
5. Library Field Worker Association, 1952" (Bhatt, 1995)
6. Central Government Library Association, 2004

2.2.2 The State Level Library Associations

1. "Maharashtra Library Association, 1921
2. Bengal Library Association, 1925
3. Baroda State Library Association, 1926
4. Madras Library Association, 1928
5. Mysore State Library Association, 1929 (1962 the name changed into Karnataka Library Association)
6. Punjab Library Association, 1929
7. Samastha Kerala Pustakalaya Samiti, 1931
8. Bombay State Library Association, 1935
9. Bihar Library Association, 1936
10. Malabar Library Association, 1937
11. Assam Library Association, 1938
12. Utkal Library Association, 1944
13. Travancore Library Association, 1944
14. Kerala Library Association, 1945 (1972 again restarted)
15. Hyderabad Library Association, 1951
16. Uttar Pradesh Library Association, 1956
17. Gujarat Library Association, 1953
18. Madhya Bharat Library Association, 1957 (Now it is known as Madhya Pradesh Library Association)
19. Gomantak Library Association, 1961
20. Rajasthan Library Association, 1962
21. Tripura Library Association, 1967

22. Haryana Library Association, 1967

23. Manipur Library Association, 1987

24. Mizoram Library Association, 1987

25. Meghalaya Library Association, 1994

26. Nagaland Library Association, 1996" (Bhatt, 1995) and (Padhan, 2018)

27. Jharkhand Information and Library Association, 2007

28. Telangana Library Association, 2014

29. Odisha Library Academy, 2015

30. Himachal Pradesh Library Association, 2019

31. Union Territories' Library Associations

32. Delhi Library Association, 1953

33. Jammu and Kashmir Library Association, 1966

34. Andaman and Nicobar Library Association, 1977

3. Contribution of Central and various States' Governments towards the Establishment of Public Libraries

3.1 The Delivery of Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act, 1954

The Delivery of Books and Newspapers Act mandate that a copy of all books and newspapers within 30 days which are published within the territory of India should be sent to the following libraries: National Library - Calcutta, Asiatic Library Society of Mumbai, Connemara Public Library of Chennai and Delhi Public Library of New Delhi. This legislation was enacted based on the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867.

3.2 Five Year Plan

3.1.1 First Five Year Plan (1951 -1956)

In the first five-year plan, the central government plan was to set up one National Central Library and One State Central Library in each state. The Delhi public library established in 1951, and the National Documentation Centre established in 1952 were established with the help of UNESCO.

3.1.2 Second Five Year Plan (1956-1961)

In the second five year plan, the central government allotted rupees 140 lakh for public library development. The 'Advisory Committee for libraries' was appointed by the Government of India in 1957 and K.P. Sinha was made as chairman of the committee.

3.1.3 Third Five Year Plan (1961-1966)

The Planning Commission appointed the working group on libraries in 1964, and it later submitted a report along with the draft of the model public library Act in 1965.

3.1.4 Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-1974)

Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) was a breakthrough in the development of the public library movement in India. It was established in Calcutta in May 1972 by the Ministry of Culture. The organization's primary activity is providing financial/technical assistance to regional/national level public libraries through matching (collection development) and non-matching (library infrastructure development) schemes. RRRLF plays a crucial role in forming a national library policy-setting up a national library system, and establishing new libraries in rural areas. It also acts as an advisory and consultant agency.

3.1.5 Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-2017)

Under the 12th five-year plan National Knowledge Commission (NKC) was started on 13th June 2005 by the government of India. The chairman of this commission was Dr. Sam Pitroda. In 2009, the commission submitted the report under the title of 'Libraries: Gateways to Knowledge'. The main objective of the NKC was "to revamp the LIS education, create National Knowledge Network, modernizing library services, introducing ICT in LIS field and Public-Private Partnership" (National, 2009). The activities of NKC were discontinued in 2014.

The Ministry of Culture set up this project based on the National Mission on Libraries (NML) report on 4th May 2012. It was officially launched by the former President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, in 2014.

3.2 Commission and Committee established for Public Library and Library Science Education in India

Commission/ Committee	Year	Chairman	Recommendations
Review Committee on Library	1961	S.R. Ranganathan	Co-operation between departments of LIS with University Library.
Mehrotra Committee	1983	R.C. Mehrotra	Revision of professional pay scale and qualification for librarian.
National Policy on Library Information System (NAPLIS)	1985	D.P. Chattopadhyaya.	The policy dealing the different library system and services, man powers, modernization of different library system etc.,
Committee on National Network System	1988	Yesh Pal	By this committee recommendation Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) was established in 1991.
Kaula Committee on Curriculum Development	1990	P.N. Kaula	It proposed National Policy on library system.

in LIS Education			
Rastogi Committee	1997	R.P. Rastogi	Revision of Pay scale and advancement of the academic staff.
Curriculum Development in LIS Education	1997 - 2001	C.R. Karisiddappa	To strengthen library and library professionals in the country and also suggested that respective Universities can decide two year integrated master's degree in Library Science and one year individual degree for BLISc. and MLISc.

3.3 LIBRARY SCIENCE EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Library science education is the backbone of public library existence. In India, the introduction of public library system was followed by library education. Library and Information Science (LIS) education plays a fundamental role in upgrading libraries and library professional. In India the first LIS education began in 1911, when Baroda ruler Sayajirao Gaekwad III invited the American LIS educationist A. Borden, to start the first LIS School in India. Further in 1912, Punjab University invited LIS professional Don Dickinson to start a three month LIS course in the university. S.R. Ranganathan is known as the father of library science in India, along with K. V. Krishnaswamy Aiyar who founded the Madras Library Association in 1928 which introduced a certificate course in library science in 1929. Later in 1931, University of Madras started the first PG Diploma in Library Science. In 1946 a full-fledged Department of Library Science was started in University of Delhi. In post-independence period LIS education was well developed in the country. In 1947, Aligarh Muslim University started Bachelor of Library Science course. The University of Delhi introduced Master in Library Science program in 1949, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D.) in 1951 and later Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) in 1972.

3.4 STATES WITH LIBRARY LEGISLATION IN INDIA

The legislation also ensures other advantages such as proper governance and management, better financial support, adequate geographical distribution, free access and strict enforcement measures in case of violation. There is scope for public scrutiny and improvement as per the changes in the society. On realizing the importance of legislation, S.R. Ranganathan had made attempts before independence by publishing the draft of the Library Act in 1930 at the first All India Educational Conference in Varanasi. This paved the way for post-independence public library legislation in the states. In this regard, it is vital to have state legislation policies for the betterment of public library networks. The Constitution of India empowers the state legislature to enact laws under Article 246 of the Indian constitution on the subjects (entry no. 12 relates to

libraries) mentioned in the state list of scheduled seven. Today, there are 28 States and 8 Union Territories in India, out of which 18 (Eighteen) States have enacted laws for the administration of libraries.

3.4.1 List of the states enacted Public Library Act

S. No.	Public Library Act enacted States	Year	Library Cess	Latest updated Total Libraries In the state*
1.	**Tamil Nadu (Madras)**	**1948**	**10% on property tax**	**4622**
2.	**Andhra Pradesh**	**1960**	**8% on Lands and Building Tax**	**978**
3.	**Karnataka (Mysore)**	**1965**	**6% on lands, buildings, vehicles & profession Tax**	**6798**
4.	Maharashtra	1967	No	12191
5.	West Bengal	1979	No	5251
6.	Manipur	1988	No	157
7.	**Kerala**	**1989**	**5% on property Tax <1% of state's education expenditure**	**8415**
8.	**Haryana**	**1989**	**Local Bodies to levy cess**	**27**
9.	Mizoram	1993	No	506
10.	**Goa**	**1993**	**Surcharge on IFML @ 0.50 ps. /lit.**	**136**
11.	Odisha	2001	No	27
12.	Gujarat	2001	No	3464
13.	Uttarakhand	2005	No	47
14.	Uttar Pradesh	2006	No	573
15.	Rajasthan	2006	No	323
16.	Chhattisgarh	2007	No	28
17.	Bihar	2008	No	192
18.	Arunanchal Pradesh	2009	No	118

Source: http://rrrlf.nic.in/StaticPages_PubLibSystem/PubLibScenario.aspx

4.1 STATE WISE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN INDIA

ANDHRA PRADESH (capital is Amaravati)

Andhra Pradesh has a remarkable history of library education and librarianship dating back to the 1870s. The establishment of Swadeshi Grandhalayam at Vishakapatnam in 1886, Krishnadevaraya Andhra Basha Nilayam in 1901 at Hyderabad, and Andhra Desa Grandhalaya Sangam in 1914 helped the library movement in the State during the pre-independence period (Saranya Kumar, 2014; 1). After independence, Andhra Pradesh was the first State to have a separate department (Andhra Pradesh Granthalaya Parishad) for library development and the first State to appoint a minister-level rank for managing the library. The Zilla Grandhalaya Samsitha (District Central Library) appointed a director to manage all the districts' libraries. In 1978 – 1979, the State had 3741 including 2292 aided libraries i.e., NGO running the libraries in many rural and urban areas (Rao, 1981), but presently there are no libraries run by NGOs. Telangana state was a part of the erstwhile of Andhra Pradesh until 2014. On the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in 2014, the State Central Library (Asifa Library) and some other public libraries are now a part of the Telangana state.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH (capital is Itanagar)

The Union Territory (UT) of Arunachal Pradesh (before it was a part of the North-East Frontier Agency till 1971) became a State in 1987. The first library with the museum (It was called Gopinath Bordoloi Cultural Centre) was established in 1956-5 in Lohit district, and the district cultural center manages it. Lohit was the first district to have an independent department- 'Directorate of Public Libraries' in 1987-88, it helps manage the library within the district. After the formation of the new State, the new Secretariat library became the State Central Library and was located at the State's capital- Itanagar (Adhikari, 1992). The State has 25 districts, out of which 21 have district libraries (Raja Rammohun Roy Foundation, 2018). The government enacted the 'Arunachal Pradesh Public Library Act in 2009'. The State's first roadside library, 'Self-help Library' was established in September 2020 by Social activist Ngurang Meena.

ASSAM (capital is Dispur)

The State has a public library history since the British period. George Williamson donated 10 thousand pounds in 1985 to set up the education and Library in Assam state. The State Central Library (SCL) came into existence in 1956 by the merger of Shillong Central Library (established in 1954) and the Assam Government Public Library (established in 1903). In 1974, the State bifurcated into Assam and Meghalaya, SCL was shifted from Shillong to Gauhati (Prasad, 2016). The state central library was upgraded into the Directorate of Library Services in

1984. The State does not have the State Central Library. To develop public libraries in urban and rural areas, the government introduced schemes in 1954 and 1985. The State has not yet enacted public library legislation in the State. Currently, the State has 240 public libraries (Raja Rammohun Roy Foundation, 2018) and 9 Divyaang corners, and 23 children corners.

BIHAR (capital is Patna)

The Bihar State's first library movement was Nalanda University library Dharamganj which existed in the 5th century. The Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library was established in 1891 by Khan Bahadur Khuda Bakhsh, and it is the first library in the country which digitized its handwritten collections. The Govt. of India has also declared this library as a 'Centre of National Importance' in 1969. The State Central Library is known as the Sinha Library, with a collection of over 100000 books. The Sinha library is formerly known as Shrimati Radhika Sinha Institute. It was established in 1924 under the patronage of Sachichidananda Sinha. The State's population is approximately ten crores (census, 2011), but very few libraries are available. The State has not yet enforced the public library act, which was enacted in 2008. Directorate of Library and Information Centre manages the State's public libraries.

CHHATTISGARH (capital is Raipur)

The State was a part of Madhya Pradesh before 2000. The State has 27 districts with a 2.56 crore population (census, 2011). The State Central Library (located in Raipur) was established in 1948 by the princess Jyotidevi in memory of her husband Mahant Sarvershwaradas. She contributed 50 thousand rupees to build this library which also known as Mahant Sarveshwar Das Library. The state library legislation was made in 2008, it is yet to be implemented.

Currently, the State does not have many rural libraries. The public libraries are managed by the State's Directorate of Public Instructions.

GOA (capital is Panaji)

The first library movement started way back during the Portuguese rule in Goa. Krishnadas Sharma State Central Library was the first library to be established in the State in 1832; the Portuguese ruler established it. The State enacted the public library act in 1993 with library Cess. The libraries currently operate under the wing of Directorate of Art & Culture, Government of Goa. Though the State's geographical area is very small, it has a good proportion of public libraries.

GUJARAT (capital is Gandhinagar)

The Sayajirao Gaekwad III spearheaded the Gujarati (Baroda) library movement. At the beginning of his Reign began, there was only one library in the Baroda State (Gujarat), and at the time of his death, approximately 1500 libraries have established. Andrews Library opened in Surat in 1850, followed by the Central Library of Baroda in 1906. According to Article 20 of the Govt. of India's 'Press & Book Registration Act 1867' , the document which is published within the State should send two copies to Gujarat Vidyapith Library (established in 1921 at Ahmedabad), one copy to State Central Library (established in 1982 at Gandhinagar), one copy to Central Library (Vadodara) and one copy to Commissioner of Information (Gandhinagar). Directorate of Libraries is managing a public library in the State.

HARYANA (capital is Chandigarh)

Historically, Haryana state was a part of erstwhile Punjab until 1966. The first library was established in the State in 1949 at Kalka; the library was sponsored by a businessman Lala Kapur Chand Jain, later it was undertaken by the government. The British government established the current State Central Library as an educational institution in 1920 at Ambala cantonment. In 1989, the government enacted the Public Library Act, but it has not been implemented yet. The State has 27 libraries, and there are no rural libraries (Raja Rammohun Roy Foundation, 2018). Public libraries are managed by the State's Directorate of Higher Education.

HIMACHAL PRADESH (capital is Shimla)

The State's first library was started in Shimla in the 1860s. Later the Mahima Library was established in 1930 A.D. at Nahan by the Maharaja of the Sirmaur State in memory of his daughter. (Malhan, 1978) After independence, the district library was opened for the public at Dharamsala in 1952. Moti Lal Nehru State Central library was founded by the first Prime Minister of India Motilal Nehru at Solan in 1959. District libraries are established at Una and Hamirpur district in 1974. The Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar State Library was established in 2019 at Kennedy Chowk, Shimla. Currently, the State has approximately 27 libraries. The Directorate of Higher Education manages the public libraries in the State.

JHARKHAND (capital is Ranchi)

Jharkhand is a new state carved out of Bihar in 2000, and most of its present libraries were part of erstwhile Bihar. Jharkhand consists of 24 districts with a 3.4 crore population (census, 2011). The State has no significant public library movement due to the absence of library legislation. The 'Jharkhand Information and Library Association' is forcing the state government to enact

the library legislation. The public libraries are managed by the State's Department of Human Resource Development.

KARNATAKA (capital is Bangalore)

The present Karnataka state is a combination of various parts of Hyderabad, Mysore, and Madras provinces. After independence, the library movement got a substantial push from the library Cess provision of the Library Act, 1965. The Shri Seshadri Iyer State Central Library situated in Bangalore, was set up in 1915. The Library attracts history enthusiasts to behold old historical documents that date as far back as 830 A.D. The libraries are managed by the State's Department of Public Libraries. The State has the best library system in India. Due to the pandemic situation in 2020, the government planned to convert the public library into a digital library, especially for the students, to access the resources remotely by registering in the digital library site.

KERALA (capital is Thiruvananthapuram)

Public Library Movement in Kerala is older than any other state in India and is unique. Travancore, Cochin, and Malabar formed the constituent areas of the present Kerala State in the erstwhile. The State (Travancore, Cochin, and Malabar) has Sangham (it mean association) for public library development. The respective States' Sangham merged in 1958 to form Kerala Grandhasala Sangham (Kerala Library Association). The library movement between 1939-1975 also helped the State achieve high literacy, for which the UNESCO awarded the Kerla Granthasala Sangham the Nadezhda K. Krupskaya. In 1994, Kerala Granthasala Sangham became an independent body of the State Library Council due to the enactment of library legislation in the State in 1989. The State has the highest number of public libraries (8415 libraries) run by public library fund (Raja Rammohun Roy Foundation, 2018).

MADHYA PRADESH (capital is Bhopal)

The historical movement of public libraries is evident with "two Heritage libraries, first one is Maulana Azad Central Library established in 1908 A.D., as a museum by Sultan Jahan Begun at Bhopal; in 1955 the government declared it as State Central Library and in 2012 the government declared this library as a protected monument under the Archaeological Sites and Monument Act, 1965. The library has 1.50 lakh books and rich manuscripts in Urdu, Hindi, etc. The second unique heritage library is Iqbal Library established at Bhopal in 1939, the library has 2500-year-old collection in Persian, Urdu, Hindi and English. The library is run by volunteers" (Patowari, 2019).

MAHARASHTRA (capital is Mumbai)

The public library movement in Maharastra owes its origin to the Fyzee Committee appointed by the Govt. of Bombay Province in 1939. The committee submitted the report in 1940. In pursuance of the recommendation, the Asiatic Society of Bombay (established in 1800 AD) was entrusted with the Central Library's functions. The Department of Libraries was set up in 1968 under the Public Libraries Act to supervise and manage the State libraries. The Asiatic Society of Mumbai has its roots in the Literary Society of Bombay, founded by Sir James Mackintosh which was established in Mumbai on 26 November 1804. This is the State having the highest number of public libraries (12191), out of which NGOs run 99% of the libraries.

MANIPUR (capital is Imphal)

The district library of Imphal became a State Central Library in 1958. In 1972, the children section became a part of this state central library. This library gets matching scheme assistance from RRRLF, i.e., the total Book collection is 85049 out of that 40262 books are offered by RRRLF. Currently, 12 district libraries are available. Library Legislation was enacted in 1988, but it has not been properly implemented. The State libraries come under the control of the Department of Art and Culture as there is no specific body for its management. NGOs play a vital role in the State by opening Club Libraries in various parts of the State.

MEGHALAYA (capital is Shillong)

Meghalaya State came into independent existence in 1972. The dispute between Meghalaya and Assam in 1972, the State Central Library (established in 1956 at Shillong) came under the administration of Meghalaya. The library has a 1.85 lakh collection. The State has 11 districts; out of those seven districts have district libraries and no rural libraries (Raja Rammohun Roy Foundation, 2018). The libraries are functioning under the State's Department of Art and Culture. The library movement in the State is extremely poor compared to all other North-Eastern states. The State has only eight public libraries with no rural library in State. Meghalaya Library Association evolved in 1994, forcing the government to enact the State's library legislation.

MIZORAM (capital is Aizawl)

Mizoram was a part of Assam before 1972. It was awarded statehood in the year 1987. The public library in the state capital started in 1963 as a sub-divisional library, which later became the State Central Library. The construction of new libraries was assisted by State's Art and

Culture Department. Besides, the contribution of NGOs -Young Mizo Association and Mizoram Library Association- was highly commendable. These associations also helped in providing human resources to libraries in rural areas. One more milestone in the year 1980 was the enactment of the library act, though it has not come to force yet. The State has five districts and 500 rural libraries. The District libraries were established in Aizwal in 1969 (previously it was a sub-divisional library), Lunglei in 1975, Shaiha in 1975, Kolasib in 1980 (previously it was a sub-divisional library), and Champhai in 1983 (previously it was sub-divisional library).

NAGALAND (capital is Kohima)

Though the State of Nagaland is small, it has a good number of libraries compared to other populated states despite the absence of any library legislation in the State. The State was a part of the British ruled North-East Frontier Agency. The State was established by the State Central Library at state capital Kohima is 1987, followed by the establishment of 11 district libraries. The state department of Art and Culture maintains all the libraries in the State with the District Cultural Officer's help.

ODISHA (capital is Bhubaneshwar)

The public library movement in the State started during post-independent India. Harekrushna Mahtab public library is the State Central Library; it is located in the state capital- Bhubaneswar –and was established in 1959. The State Central Library was renamed in 1987 to honor Harekrushna Mahtab, the first chief minister of Orissa. The library has a 1.44 lakh collection of books. Dasharathi Pattnaik (known as Dasia Aja) is called the father of the library movement in the Odisha state. He established Banchhanidhi Pathagar public library at Udaypur Village (Nayagarh district) in 1959. The library has rich collections like 3000 Palm-leaf manuscripts, 50000 thousand books, 65000 journals, and magazines. As of 2007, The State's Public Libraries are managed by the State's Directorate of Culture. Currently, the State has 27 (Raja Rammohn Roy Foundation, 2018) libraries only.

PUNJAB (capital is Chandigarh)

In the pre-independence period, the first library was established in Ludhiana in 1878, and the second library was established in 1884 in Lahore (currently, it is part of Pakistan). After independence, a lot of initiatives were taken to enact the Public library Act in the State by Mr. Trehan in 1948 and 1964, but it failed. The current situation of the public library in the State is abysmal, with a total of 15 public libraries available in the State, and it is managed by the

Directorate of Public Instruction. The Tirlok Singh State Central Library is situated in Chandigarh. Chandigarh is the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana and is also a Union Territory.

RAJASTHAN (capital is Jaipur)

The State has many important public libraries like Maharaja Public Library established in 1652 at Jaipur and Saraswati Bhawan Library or Gulab Bagh Public Library (also known as Victoria Hall Museum) at Udaipur (1870) sponsored by Maharana Feteh Singh and later opened for public in 1890. Dr. Radha Krishnan State Central Library was established at Jaipur in 1956; Kumzru Library was established by Mohan Singh Mehta in 1973. Bhadaria library is located in Jaisalmer District, established in 1998. It is one of the world's unique libraries, and it was constructed by Harbansh Singh Nirmal and also known as Bhdariya Maharaj (saint). The library's special feature is that it was built 16 feet under the ground with 562 shelves with a seating capacity of 4000 people housing 9 lakh books (Chowdhury, 2020). The Rajasthan state enacted the public library act in 2006, but before enactment, the 'Department of Languages and Library' was established in 2001 for managing the libraries in the State.

SIKKIM (capital is Gangtok)

The State of Sikkim formed India' Union in 1975. It is a small state located in the Himalaya region with a 6.1 lakh population (census, 2011). The State Central Library was established in 1969 and is currently located in Mannan Bhawan, Gangtok. The library has collections of approximately 54000 books. The library installed 'System for Library Information and Management' software for managing the library. The libraries are governed by the Culture Affairs and Heritage Department of the Sikkim government, and it receives assistance from RRRLF for collection and infrastructure development. The Hope Foundation is establishing the community library in the State. Currently, the State has 16 libraries, out of which six libraries established by the foundation.

TAMIL NADU (capital is Chennai)

The State's library movement can be noticed from Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji's Saraswathi Mahal Library at Tanjore (established between 1798-1832 A.D.); the library was opened for public in 1918. Connemara Public Library (State Central Library) was established in 1890 at Egmore in Chennai. It was named in memory of Governor Lord Connemara. The public libraries are managed by the Directorate of Public Libraries, Department of Education. Daniel Poor Memorial Library (established in 1915) at Madurai and District central Library at Coimbatore

(established in 1952) are other prominent libraries. The Maraimalai Adigal Library was established at Chennai in 1958; it is maintained by South India Saiva Siddhanta Works Publishing. Roja Mudhaya Research Library was established in 1994 at Taramani in Chennai, and the library has four lakhs private collections of Roja Mudhaya. Anna Centenary Library (ACL) is one of the important libraries in the State, which was inaugurated in 2010 on the occasion of the 102nd birth anniversary of former Chief Minister C.N. Annadurai. The library has around 5.5 lakhs of book collections. The Directorate of Public Libraries manages the libraries in the State.

TELANGANA (capital is Hyderabad)

The State of Telangana was a part of Hyderabad province before Independence. Based on the Reorganization of the State in 1956, Hyderabad state became a part of Andhra Pradesh state. However, in 2014 Telangana state separated from Andhra Pradesh after a dispute broke out in the State. The historical movement of the library started with the librarianship program to train library professionals in 1950. After five years, the State enacted the Hyderabad Public Library Act, 1955 (Rao, 1981). The State Central Library (popularly known as Asafia State Library) is part of Telangana, and the library was established in Hyderabad in 1891. Currently, the Directorate of Public Libraries of the Department of School Education manages the public libraries in the State.

TRIPURA (capital is Agartala)

Tripura state was ruled by numerous dynasties, and it has a rich cultural heritage. Some of the rulers were avid readers. The Ujjayanta Palace Library was established by King Bir Chandra Manikya (1862-1896) at Agartala; it is the State's first library movement. In 1896, King Radhakishore Manikya renamed the palace library into Birchandra Library to honor his father, king Bir Chandra Manikya. In 1924, the Birchandra Library opened for the public. Tripura became part of the Indian Union in 1949. Later Birchandra Library became a State Central Library. Later, in 1902, a public library existed in Gomati District. NGOs are playing an important role in establishing public libraries in the State. State's Higher Education manages the public libraries.

UTTARAKHAND (capital is Dehradun)

The state Uttarakhand was a part of erstwhile Uttar Pradesh state. The library movement in the State can be noticed from the 20th century onwards. The State has one century-old library -

Mahatma Khushi Ram Public Library and Reading Room Society, established in 1921 by Mahatma Khushi Ram. The Songtsen Library was established on 6th March 2003 by XIV Dalai Lama at Dehradun. The library was named in memory of the 33rd king of Tibet, Songtsen Gampo (617 to 650 AD). The library has a collection related to Buddhism. Uttarakhand successfully enacted the public library Act in 2005, but it is yet to be implemented. 'Doon Library and Research Centre' was established at Dehradun in 2006. The State consists of 13 districts with a 100.86 lakh population, but the State has only 47 libraries, out of which 22 are run by NGOs and volunteers (Raja Rammohun Roy Foundation, 2018). The Directorate of School Education manages the State's libraries.

UTTAR PRADESH (capital is Lucknow)

Uttar Pradesh is the largest State in India, with 75 districts and a population of 20.42 Crore (census, 2011). Nawab Faizullah Khan established Rampur Raza Library in 1774 at Rampur, one of the State's prominent libraries. Currently, the central government has taken it under its control under the Parliamentary Act, 1975. The State Central Library is located at Prayagraj (previously known as Allahabad), and it was established in 1863. The Lucknow district library was established in 1960. Though the State has enacted the public library act in 2006, it has not been implemented. The State does not have a separate department for libraries as per the public library act and is currently managed by the Department of Secondary Education.

WEST BENGAL (capital is Kolkata)

The West Bengal library movement started during the British period. The State has more than 80 century-old libraries. Sir William Jones founded the Asiatic Society of Bengal (currently known as Asiatic Society) in 1784 at Kolkata (formally known as Calcutta), Calcutta Book Society in 1817 Kolkata, William Cerry Granthagar in 1818 at Hoogly, and etc., are playing a significant role in preserving culture in the State. The National Library of India is formed in 1948 in Kolkata, but it originally existed by the merger of Calcutta public library (established in 1836) and Imperial Library (established in 1891). The State Central Public Library of the State was established in 1956 in Kolkata. Public libraries like Government Libraries and Government Sponsored District Libraries are connected with State Central Library through the intranet. The West Bengal public libraries are managed by the Department of Mass Education Extension & Library Services under the Directorate of Library Services. Currently, the State has 5251

libraries, out of which 2771 libraries are run by NGOs (Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, 2018).

4.2 .PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN UNION TERRITORIES

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS (capital is Port Blair)

The Union Territory (UT) was formed in 1956, and it has three districts: South Andaman, North and Middle Andaman and Nicobar. The UT consists of 3.79 lakh people (census, 2011). The public library movement began with the establishment of the Hindu library at Port Blair in 1959, which was later converted into a State Central Library in 1974. Currently, there are 18 libraries available (Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, 2018).UT's Directorate of Education manages the libraries.

DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN & DIU (capital is Daman)

After Independence, two separate Union Territories were formed: Dadra & Nagar Havel; and Daman and Diu. In January 2020, the two UT were merged into a single UT with Daman as the capital. There was no significant library movement, and has only 12 libraries at present. "Dadra and Nagar Haveli region have a State Central Library at Silvassa and 9 village libraries i.e. Naroli, Dadra, Khanvel, Mandoni, Dudhani, Kilvani, Randha, Dapada Amboli" (Bureau, 2012). Daman & Diu have only two district libraries (Raja Rammohum Roy Library Foundation, 2018). All the libraries are supervision by the Department of Education (Union Territory Administration).

DELHI (capital is Delhi)

The Delhi Public Library was established in 1951 as a pilot project by the Indian government in collaboration with UNESCO; it is located in Chandni Chowk, under the management of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML) was founded in 1964 at Teen Murti House Complex in Delhi, in the loving memory of Jawaharlal Nehru.

JAMMU & KASHMIR (capital in summer and winter respectively - Srinagar, Jammu)

Maharaja Ranbir Singh set up the first public library in 1879 at Jammu, known as the Sri Ranbir Singh (SRS) Library. After that, the SPS Library was set up at Srinagar in 1898, this library also known as SPS State Central Library. The Department of Libraries, Research & Museum was created in J&K in 1961, which got combined with Achieves Department and Education

Department in 1982 and later became independent in 1986; it plays a crucial role in public library existence and maintenance of the State.

LADAKH (capital is Leh)

The Union Territory (UT) Ladakh was an erstwhile part of Jammu and Kashmir (J and K) in 2019. Due to the bifurcation of the State into two Union Territories, the library belongs to state Jammu and Kashmir now some of the libraries part of Ladakh UT. The BR Ambedkar Public Library was inaugurated in 2018 at Leh by Hong Yeon Kyung, President, Hanuran Movement Inc, Korea.

LAKSHADWEEP (capital is Kavaratti)

In 1956, Lakshadweep was declared a Union Territory Lakshadweep consists of numerous islands. Out of 10, only one is inhabited, with a population of 64, 429 (census, 2011). Ten libraries are currently available, including one State Central Library at Kavaratti (capital of the UT); each island has one Reading Room-Com-Library. The Directorate of Art and Culture manages all the libraries in UT Administration.

PUDUCHERRY (capital is Puducherry)

The Puducherry's public library movement could be date back to the French Rule of the region. Bibliotheque Publique was the first library established by the French government. Desbassyns de Richemont founded it in 1827. The library's name was changed to Romain Rolland, a French scholar and a good friend of Mahatma Gandhi, to commemorate his birth centenary. Another noticeable library is Dr. S.R. Ranganathan Government Public Library (District Library), located at Karaikal. The library received a grant from the Ministry of Culture to set up National Virtual Library. Currently, 81 public libraries are functioning in the State (Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, 2018). State's Department of Art and Culture managing the public libraries in the State.

5. CRITICAL ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

5.1 CRITICAL ANALYSIS

The obligation of Governments, Library Professionals and Users

1. **Library Legislation:** Public library is the basic necessity of every human being. There is a need for the systematic development of public libraries to promote sustainable development in the society effectively. There are currently 10 States and 8 Union Territories that have not yet enacted any public library act. Even those states (like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya

Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Odisha, Uttarakhand, and Chhattisgarh) have legislated the act are yet to be implemented. Many Indian states do not have a separate department/directorate/council for public libraries; this shows the lack of importance given to public libraries in various states in India.

2. **Library Fund:** The functioning of many libraries is in bottleneck condition due to insufficient funds. The government should ensure sufficient funds for the library timely and the amount collected for library development should be appropriately utilized. Sometimes, the amount allotted for library development without properly utilizes the fund return to the government (Balaji et al., 2018).

3. **IFLA Standard:** By the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions standard, there should be one public library out of 3000 population (Ghosh, 2003 and Kamble, 2016). In 1951 in India, total public libraries were 2843 (Wani, 2008), approximately 35 crore population with 18.33 percent literacy rate (census, 2011); in 2018, the total public library was 46746 (Raja Rammohun Roy Foundation, 2018), approximately 120 crore population with 74 percent literacy rate (census, 2011). It means we have to travel a long haul to achieve a goal.

4. The central government should bring the matter of libraries under the 'concurrent list.' it can ensure library movement in India; currently, libraries are under the state list.

5. **Rural Libraries:** Father of nation India Mahatma Gandhi stated 'the future of India lies in its villages', due to lack of resources accesses and increase in poverty level, the villagers move towards urban areas. To rectify this problem, under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan scheme, public libraries are part of the scheme's rural development activity, i.e., an institute like IITs, IISER, and NITs have to establish public libraries as a pilot project.

6. **Central Information Agency:** The National Library should be centralized information, collection management, and resource sharing agency for the country, and it should network with all state libraries. The state central library is a backbone for the respective state, and it should be hierarchically controlled all-district, divisional and rural libraries in terms of services collection development, resource management. A state like Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttarkhand has to establish state central libraries (Raja Rammohun Foundation, 2018).

7. The current young generation is mostly addicted to smartphones (Gupta, 2016; 12), and thus introducing library services on a mobile device might help enhance the reading habit (electronic reading) (Madhusudhan, 2017). In this internet era, most the users get irrelevant and unauthentic information from insecure internet sources. For those users providing access to the library online is the best way to provide authentic information. On the other hand, without user demand, sometimes the government and library professionals will not provide sound library and library services.

8. **Policy and Plan for NGO:** In India, There are 46746 public libraries and out of which19076 libraries (approx. 42%) run by NGOs (Raja Rammohun Roy Foundation, 2018). It shows the success of the National Knowledge Commission's (2005) recommendation of Private Public Partnership (PPP), but the main problem is most of the NGOs running libraries have diminished due to lack of government policies and plans. So the government should also give full support and its concern towards libraries established by NGOs.

5.2 RECOMMENDATION

1. The government should include the Indian Library and Information Service (IILS) in the Civil services like that of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).

2. The government should establish Central University/Institute for Library and Information Science education and research.

3. The government should create an international level standard of LIS education and training for the professionals.

4. The theoretical study of LIS should be matched with the practical working environment of the Library/Information Centre.

5. The government should introduce a pilot project wherein each University (currently a total of 958 universities are available in India) in the country should adopt one village to establish a model public library therein. Later, based on the feedback, the private universities can also follow the same.

6. The government should establish Central Library Network.

7. The functioning of the public library system should be free from political influences in terms of appointing the staff, introducing new policy and plan, etc.

5.3 CONCLUSION

This study examines the impact of policies and plans for the public library movement in post-independence India. Findings of this study shows that there is a huge gap in public library movements within the states, district, cities, divisions, rural and blocks. In fact, in some of the states, there is no public library movement. All these reflect the decision making, socio-economic, educational, and cultural development of society. Besides the urgent need for qualified staff, India also needs more progress in implementing public library policies.

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