PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN MADHYA PRADESH WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO INDORE DIVISION

Sangita Rathore*

**Librarian
Vidyasagar College,
Indore,
Madhya Pradesh,
India.

QR Code

ABSTRACT: - *Public libraries, being the basic necessity for the people at large and to provide duty of the state government, management of public libraries network through the library legislation in the state of Madhya Pradesh is the need of the hour. Though the Government Ahilya Central Library at Indore division is doing a good job under the Department of Education, it lacks a uniform system in the states. A roadmap suggests a step arrangement to provide the public library facilities as a network in the state of Madhya Pradesh, especially in view of the e-Governance Plan of the government at the centre and states levels.*

India is the place of one of the ancient civilization in the world. Religion was the main spring of all activities India. It was of all absorbing interest and embraced not only prayer and worship but everything i.e. Philosophy, morality, Law and Government. Religion saturates educational ideals too. Education in ancient India was mainly the education of the Vedas which consisted in the perfect acquirement of the texts through oral repetition from the teacher. All the religious books were in the Gurkul or Ashram and the message of Granthas, like Upanishad, Veda, Purana etc. were transmitted to the disciple by verbal description. The Amarkosha and the works of Aryabhatta, Panini, Katyayana, Kautilya, Patanjali and the Medical treatises of Charaka and Sasruta belong to the massive literature of the Vedic period.

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan said that "in the old days teachers of India were themselves librarians and they were held in the highest esteem". According to Nutan Mohan Dutta "they were mobile libraries" and according to Richardson "they were memory libraries". But the Libraries as such were not agencies for the dissemination of knowledge for one and all without any restriction. In other words they were not public libraries. These libraries known as Sarasota Bandanna were attached to temples, monasteries, educational institutions, palaces and the house of wealthy and influential.

INTRODUCTION:

A public library is a library which is freely accessible by public and is generally funded from public sources, normally tax money and is operated by the professional staff. A Public library is generally called Peoples' university that provides people with knowledge, information, values and culture. What distinguishes it from other types of libraries like University library, college library or a special library is the type of service, it provides to the people as a whole, irrespective of cost and creed, rich or poor, literate or semi-literate, a professional or a business man. It serves all members of its community without any distinction whatsoever.

The concept of library is not new. It has been in existence right from the beginning of the civilization or right from the time when man learnt the art of recording and communicating ideas. We find evidence of some kind of libraries in the Indus valley civilization, stocking a large number of cylindrical seals and the tablets with inscription. During the Buddhist period, there are evidences of great libraries at Nalanda, Taxila, Pataliputra, and Vikrramsila & Tamralipte. The tradition of establishing libraries continued during Mughal and British period.

In the post independent India, our Constitution provides the following provisions relating to Library Movements and "Education" under Part 3 ("Fundamental Rights") and Part 4 ("Directive Principles of State Policy") :

Part 3:   **Fundamental Rights**
Article 21A: **Right to education.**

The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine.

Part 4:**Directive Principles of State Policy**
Article 41:**Right to work, to education and to public assistance in certain cases.**

The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and ….

Article 45:   **Provision for early childhood care and education to children below the age of six years.**

The State shall endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.

Article 46:   **Promotion of educational and economic interests** of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections.

The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people,

Public Libraries exist in most places of the world including all the states in India. In the federal political set up of India. LIBRARY is a state subject and it is for each state individually to take initiatives for providing public library services to its people by passing a library legislation in their state. Out of 29 states and 7 union territories in India, only 19 states have gone in for library legislation so far. However, in the year 1972, to mark the 200th birth of the great social reformer Raja Rammohun Roy, the Central government established the Raja Rammohun Roy Foundation that subsequently formulated a National Policy on Library and information systems. But many state governments are yet to be motivated into placing Important on the promotion of the library of the library culture.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES IN MADHYA PRADESH

There were many libraries in the State before independence. The state of affairs of the Public libraries in Madhya Pradesh can be discussed in two parts, as follows:

(1) Public libraries before independence; and

(2) Public libraries after independence.

A major part of the Madhya Pradesh was under princely rule before independence of India. The State comprised of several small provinces, during pre-independence period. No appreciable library development had taken place in those princely states except for the setting up of a few libraries by the public in the capital towns and few big towns of the state. There are big collections of books in the royal palaces of Maharajas. The Majaharaja of Indore, Gwalior, Rewa, Dewas, Dhar, Panna, Nagod and Datiya had big collection of books. The personal collection of Maulvi Liyaqat Hussain in Bhopal and Sukhasampat Rai Bhandari in Bhanpura were also very valuable. Dr.Hari Singh Gaur of Sagar had very good collection of books. He donated a lot of books from his own collection to the Sagar University. The use of these collections was very limited, because the books were very limited in number and costly. The books were made available to the members of royal families and their friends. The public in general had no approach to these rich collections. The use of these libraries was personal.

Indore Public Library, Indore was established in 1854; Madhav Library, Lashkar in 1899; and Hamidiya State Library of Bhopal in 1909 (now known as Maulana Azad Central library). These are the oldest libraries. Library of Hindi Sahitya Samiti which was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi had good collection of Hindi literature. Besides, there were many small subscription libraries managed by private body and financed by public subscriptions.

OBJECTIVE OF STUDY:

1. To assess the change management requirements in legal framework on adoption of a Public Libraries Legislation in M.P.

   To assess the need for promoting and supporting public library movement in the State by providing adequate SWOT analysis in establishment, development and management of public libraries in the State and suggesting measures for improvement.

2. To Assess the actual state of Public Libraries in Madhya Pradesh with respect to administrative setup, method of book selection and acquisition, technical process, reference and circulation services, physical facilities and personnel management.

3. To assess the quality and service efficiency of the public libraries in context with the availability of electronic sources with the help of internet

HYPOTHESIS:

1. Successful management of change and resistance is not an easy task in any organization. Public libraries face the pressures and challenges of change. 'Resistance to change' the major issue that needs to be addressed timely for the successful implementation of change processes. Change should be recognized, initiated and adapted positively by the library professionals to sustain in the information world.

2. Resistance encountered by the librarians or library managers and its causes can be lessened by taking effective measures such as negation, training, incentives, motivation, participation or involvement. Change is essential in terms of growth and survival hence it needs proper attention by all library professionals for further development of new library products and services in the electronic era.

3. A Public Libraries Legislation is also a need of the hour in Madhya Pradesh, for which a Bill is already in the table of the House in M.P.

SCOPE OF STUDY:

The present library and information scenario is changing rapidly with the industrial development, emerging global investment opportunities, liberalization policies of the Central as well as State governments and continuously due to the increasing use of technology and dependency of users on it. These changes are forcing libraries to recognize these changes and implement them successfully for retaining their place in the information world. Even though

changes is essential, change process are often encountered by resistance from the staff due to various factors. Hence this study is proposed to be carried out in selected libraries of the State, especially in the libraries of Indore Division with the following objectives:

- Study of the change management requirements in legal framework, especially on adoption of a Public Libraries Legislation in M.P.

- Assessing the need for promoting and supporting public library movement in the State by providing adequate SWOT analysis in establishment, development and management of public libraries in the State and suggesting measures for improvement.

- Assessing the actual state of Public Libraries in Madhya Pradesh with respect to administrative setup, method of book selection and acquisition, technical process, reference and circulation services, physical facilities and personnel management.

  Assessing the quality and service efficiency of the public libraries in context with the availability of electronic sources with the help of internet

- Besides the above, trend of readers, Popular interests, Local emphasis (based on economic and cultural factors) are proposed to be the subject of the research.

METHODOLOGY:

In the present research project, an effort has been made to focus on the current problems and factors which affect the service pattern of public libraries. The idea was to understand the present scenario of Government Support in establishing, maintaining and upgrading the public libraries in line with ICT trends of the readers and their changed habits and liking with the help of data gathering processes which would enable to describe it more adequately and help understand the phenomena.

A Survey is proposed to be conducted in public libraries in and around Indore Division and a questionnaire is also proposed to be prepared.

The current status of the public library system in India is hard to ascertain and describe, because a consolidated picture is not available. There are twenty-nine states and seven union territories in India. All have their own public library systems, structure, and pattern of financial assistance. Nineteen States have enacted library legislation and the rest are providing public library service without legislation.

Among the states enumerated, the provision of the respective Acts are more or less fully operative.

ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION OF DATA

- Organization charts are proposed to be prepared in assessing the change management requirements in legal framework

- SWOT analysis is proposed in establishment, development and management of public libraries in the State.

- Administrative setup, method of book selection and acquisition, technical process, reference and circulation services, physical facilities and personnel management, quality and service efficiency etc. shall be analyzed through process flow diagrams, tabulation and charts.

FINDING OF STUDY

The researcher focuses the following outcomes:

1. Result of the analysis of legal framework and the proposed legislation on Public Libraries in Madhya Pradesh.

2. Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Treats in establishment, development and management of public libraries in the State focusing the need for promoting and supporting public library movement.

3. Suggesting measures for improvement in the public libraries system existing in the State of M.P.

4. Administrative setup, method of book selection and acquisition, technical process, reference and circulation services, physical facilities and personnel management.

5. Quality and service efficiency of the public libraries in context with the availability of electronic sources with the help of internet

CONCLUSION

Public libraries have always been the door to learning for a great majority of the populations that they serve. They are knowledge centres and contribute to lifelong learning. For India, there are bumps in the road that leads to the goal of having an institution to serve the masses, which is even more imperative in the present information society, in a nation where 40 percent of the population is living below the poverty line. A massive investment in public libraries is needed to make them true information resource centres for the layman.

REFERENCES:

1. The Constitution of India. (1949). Delhi: Manager of Publications.

2. Madhya Pradesh Public Libraries Draft Bill. (2013). Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Government.

3. Journal of Indian Library Association

4. ILA Bulletin

5. P.N. Kaula, Library Movement in India. First Delhi library

6. Conference and Proceedings of the conference, Delhi, Delhi Library Association