THE ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN INDIA

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Abstract: Generally a library may be a place where individuals access information and ideas. Access to information is extremely crucial; it accelerates the level of individual advancement as well as corporate educational development. Information is treated as an economic resource or as a catalyst to development and for creating good decision. Information society may be a society in which the quality of life as well as prospects for social change and economic development depends upon access to information to meet their needs and requirements. Public libraries are a crucial entity in local communities, particularly in rural and disadvantaged communities. they’re more than shelves of books. Public libraries offer an ever changing range of cultural resources for the community, and that they have become a type of social and cultural institution. this text discusses the broadly accepted conceptualization of information for development of social and cultural activities in people of rural areas by providing the information at all the levels necessary for that. In turn, it links between community development, empowerment and rural library usage in India.

Keywords: Basic research, Library and Information Science Research, Information Access; Information Society; Information Public Libraries; Internet Access; Knowledge Society; Collection Development; Rural Library; Rural Community; Literacy; Information Seeking; Community Development and Empowerment; Socio-cultural Development.

INTRODUCTION

The belief that university posts should require ability in both teaching and research grew gradually throughout the nineteenth century. Again, Germany led the way. the various German states competed to obtain the most eminent staff for their universities. Such eminence was assessed most readily in terms of what they had published. Professors acquired research students. To help develop their research programmes. These students needed some certificate of their research ability, then grew up the process of awarding the Ph.D. library : Its Role in Modern Society : "The school and the library are the two legs upon
which the body politic stands, one exists to start out education and other continues it” states an American educationist W.J. Murison^ Traditionally the general public library has been an open access institution carrying out its historic mission as a multi-purpose agency providing educational, recreational, cultural and informational services both to individuals and to groups. It's still fulfilling this function. But within the last decade, social, economic, political and technological pressures and developments raised the questions about the nature and the role of the public library in society.

Libraries are often considered an important part of having an educated and literate population. Information is a crucial resource which is essential for the progress of any individual and that of a nation, so access to right or relevantly updated information to its users is required at the proper time for any literate society. Any information society requires information at every step. Public libraries help to empower people in the enrichment, orientation and development of the citizens towards inculcating national pride and right sense of national culture.

The public library can act as an important force for local community development and empowerment and can play a significant role in social and cultural development of a community. During this context, the general public library can be viewed as a social and cultural institution that offers an ever changing range of cultural resources for the community. This role for public libraries often remains unrecognized and therefore the major challenge is how to capitalize on the public libraries potential contribution to development and empowerment of community. Public libraries receive public funds which are scarce and, therefore, have to prove how the money of the taxpayers is used to benefit both the individual citizens and the communities in which they operate. The present political and economic situation entails a strong pressure to document the value of public libraries. Moreover, public libraries face fundamental changes internationally caused by fundamental changes of society, especially the knowledge technology (IT) development and digitizing, the expansion of multiculturalism and fragmenting of local communities and, not least, the continual economic pressure on the public sector. The wide selection of the public library impact demonstrates a fundamental characteristic of public libraries, namely their complexity. In contrast to other public institutions like schools or hospitals that produce educational and health care services respectively, public libraries, although they're mainly small institutions, provide a wide range of services directed towards very different spheres of life – towards children and adults, local businesses, services to disabled or elderly people, and the whole educational sector from kindergartens to universities.

They also provide a range of services for leisure time activities, personal cultivation and development of personal and civic skills. In addition, public libraries have impact and value by being a physical place, a cultural and social meeting place, a public room, and a place for studying and contemplation. Such a complex institution needs to be studied from several perspectives, and in determining the value of public libraries both their cultural, educational, informational, social, political, and economic dimensions are of great importance.

**Objectives of Public Library**

The basic objective of a public library is to provide information to the general public to satisfy their informative, education and recreational needs. The explosive growth of knowledge and the direct relation of information to
development in all walks of human life have elevated public libraries as important centres which can undertake the vast and varied functions for development.

- Personality Development.
- Human Adjustment.
- Spread of education.
- Self development.
- Economic development.
- Science and Technology.
- Culture and leisure

**Literature Review**

The literature review is the key component of any research study and process. The research ideas are drawn and further developed into concepts from this source and eventually developed into theories. The literature review provides a bird’s eye view of the past researches done thus far in that area to a researcher. A number of the important literatures useful in this study have been mentioned chronologically in descending order. Behera and Parida in their study discussed the knowledge need of different rural communities and the impact of rural libraries in achieving their socio-economic development and found that the rural libraries are useful in satisfying the information needs of different communities in their day to day life (Behera & Parida, 2014).

Lamani, Talawar and Kumbar examines this status of District Central library, Dharwad and therefore the role of this public library as Community Information Centre in contributing towards community development by fulfilling the information requirements of community. They found that the District Central Library, Dharwad failed in providing community information service to their surrounding community members because the resources during this centre is not adequate to fulfill the needs and requirements of the different community groups (Lamani, Talawar and Kumbar, 2014). Adewusi in his study discussed the impact of community information centres on community development in four communities in Nigeria employing survey research method using mainly questionnaire among teachers, traders, farmers, fish sellers, civil servants, students et al. as respondents. The results of study are that the availability of community information services were rare in the communities and the communities yearn for provision of well stocked community information centres with a view to empowering, changing and transforming their life socially, economically, technologically, educationally and politically for the betterment.

The study of Sumi on community information needs and role of informational infrastructure to satisfy the informational needs of highly literate users of Hamirpur district, Himachal Pradesh. It reports that majority of
users of community libraries are school and college students; the books and periodicals were the foremost accepted means of accessing the information; the maximum Community library users are not satisfied with the services and resources available and they want availability of more Information and Communication Technology (ICT) based services in community libraries with extended hours for library consultation (Sumi, 2012).

Sunil Kumar study on rural library movements in India discusses the main landmarks, which have made the history of rural library movement, this scenario of public library movement, efforts for development of rural libraries in context of library legislation, role of national and state level library associations and valuable contributions of Dr. S R Ranganathan and other devoted professionals to offer impetus to public library moment at gross root level in Indian states (Kumar, 2006).

**Public Libraries**

According to public library is defined as it is being established to serve the generality of the residents of the community or town where it is located. Compared to other libraries it has about the most heterogeneous clientele as there is no restriction as to who can use it. According to a library is as an institution that manages the intellectual products that individuals can gain access. There are the problems of inadequate funding, training and retraining of staff, high rate of citizen’s illiteracy, outdated and irrelevant collections of the public libraries and lack of recognition on the part of government to know the importance of libraries to economic, social, educational and national development of the country. The public library is positioned to provide and promote access to information which will result in to development of the society. Public libraries play a vital role in the lives of individuals and their communities. For generations, the local library has acted as a vehicle for access to knowledge, ideas and information and as a democratic service open and available to anyone. The public library is a trusted and recognised feature of the local area, but it is also a remarkable national asset and network.

The mission of the public library is represented below:

- Creating, developing, and strengthening reading habits in early age children and newly Literature people.

- Supporting formal and informal education. • Providing opportunities for self developments.

- Creating awareness of cultural heritage. • Supporting oral traditions.

- Ensuring access to all sorts of community information.

- Facilitating the development of information and computer literacy skills.

- Supporting and participating in literacy programs for all age groups.

The structural set up of a public library system in the India is represented below:

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State Central Library
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Divisional Central Library
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Divisional Library
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District Central Library
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Branch of District Central Library
  ↓
Block Central Library
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Village Library
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**State Central Library:** Maintained by State Government, Collaborative publishing, e-governances, and compilation of bibliographies in regional language for learning.

**Divisional Central Library:** Maintained by State Government, Co-ordinate Divisional Libraries.

District Central Library: Maintained by Local Library Authorities, Contact development, co-ordinate Branch Libraries.

Branch Library: Town Library- Inter library loan, web based service such as e-learning, community information organizing programs for all age groups of people.

Block Central Library: Maintained by Local Library Authorities, Co-ordinate Village Libraries.

Village Library: Maintained by Local Library Authorities, also known as Rural Knowledge Centre, Community Information Centre, Panchayat level information centre, programme which help to maintain harmonious relation among rural community, fulfill information requirements of village people.

Community Information Center

In an modern era, the key function of the general public library is to provide up-to-date facts and information to all the sections of the community. Information needs of varied citizens may vary from person to person, but library should serve its best to provide and fulfills the information desire of the users. library, besides its reference and knowledge services, can also organize community information service considering the local situation. In organizing community information service, social, cultural, economic, educational level, racial, employment opportunities, religious differences, etc. could also be considered since it may differ from one community to the other within the locality. library is for the community and is the community agency to provide local information needs in various forms. It should provide those information by documents or oral, printed or electronic devices.

Conclusion

Public libraries have moral right to supply access to information to all which can be used for self empowerment, economic, educational and nation development. It's also supposed that the public libraries should help in accessing information regarding required materials, and knowledge literacy programmes needed by its community users. library opens doors for equitable access of information and knowledge to its citizens and it also have the potential to play a significant role in supporting and contributing in achieving socioeconomic development. It's also expected to provide people oriented information resources and services that will enable access to information and broaden the mind of the citizens. Public libraries should strive to accumulate information resources both in print and electronic format on social, economic, political and academic development that are current and relevant in making the communities to be literate. the agricultural libraries and rural community resource centres should have well developed infrastructure for the smooth flow of information and should be encouraged to take part in the integrated rural library programmes.
Trained library personnel should be appointed for managing and running the activities of rural libraries and rural community resource centres. The agricultural libraries by developmental activities and programs strengthen rural public libraries in supporting rural development and empowerment. Library acts as vital thing in the development of communities, particularly during a rural and disadvantaged community. It's been established as an essential element in the life of community members, because it provides information that is essential for the community progress.

References