

SURVIVAL OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES: A SERIOUS ISSUE

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Abstract:-

Now a day's library is an important part to keep out people from bad habits and it increases growth development ratio of country day-by-day. Researcher overview on: The public libraries and offices running under the library directorate, vertical system generally followed by the public library system in India. State government has increases funding contribution six times for government recognize public libraries to stand.

Researcher also point out threats of public libraries such as insufficient funding from government, due to lack of computers and internet and e-library facility, members decreases day- by-day and some other threats on there in front of public libraries.

Researcher also focused on some of the challenges which are facing by public libraries. Such as collecting fund from people in the form of donation, increasing the members, members stay connected with library etc. are some challenges in front of public libraries. And request to the government about public library government should consider public libraries as one type of education system. Also people should cooperate to library for membership and donation.

1. Introduction: -

Now a days in era library is an important part to save people from bad habits and that's impact growth development ratio of country day-by-day increase. In present days we can call backbone of the education factor to the libraries. Public libraries are important intellectual or educational reading factor, the impact of which is on whole population. A library can be considered a store house of knowledge. A library plays a very important role in promoting the progress of knowledge. Many people who love reading but they cant buy book due to high prices of books for that persons they can borrow books at a time two or more than two. In library collection

includes books, newspapers, periodicals, manuscripts, films, maps, prints, documents, microform, CDs, cassetts, video tapes, DVDs, Blue-ray, Discs, e-books, audio books, databases and other formats.

A library is an organized collection of sources of information and similar resources, made accessible to a defined community for reference or borrowing. It provides physical or digital access to material and may be a physical building or room, or a virtual space or both. In dictionaries the word “library” has been defined as “a building or room containing a collection of books.” A library renders a great service to the society.

A library is established and maintained by a public body, an institution, a corporation, or a private individual. The main objective behind establishing public libraries is to provide library services to those who cannot afford to purchase an extensive collection of books and other reading materials, for the sake of entertainment, knowledge, research or any other purpose. In addition to providing materials, Public Libraries also provide the services of finding and organizing information and at interpreting common areas to facilitate group study and collaboration.

A library may make use of the Internet in a number of ways. The International Federation of Library Association and Institutions (IFLA) is the leading international association of library organizations.

Public Library is founded by the people, and is established by law and maintained at public expenses out of local rates and sometimes by state taxes. It has been rightly described by Carlyle as ‘People’s University’. It provides essential information for the progress of individuals in every walk of life. Dr. S. R. Ranganathan defined it as “A library owned and maintained by the public of its books and kindered materials for the area”. Public library is freely open to all, irrespective of age, profession, race, sex, colour or creed and provides free access to any literature required.

2. Objectives:-

- 1) To study scenario of public libraries.
- 2) To analyze Threats and Challenges before Public Libraries.
- 3) To point out significance of Public Libraries in present days.
- 4) To find ways and means for survival and development of public libraries.

3. Research Methodology:-

Researcher gone through for data with observations of public library, interview of some peoples which connected with public library and secondary data has been collected from Books, Journals, and Informative Book of District Library Administrative Office, Kolhapur.

4. Scope and Limitations of the Study:-

a) Scope:- The study is limited only survival of Public libraries: A serious issue. Scenario of public libraries, Threats, Challenges, significance and ways and means for survival and development of public libraries these are the points taken in this study. Only theoretical part is cover in this study.

b) Limitations:- The study not cover libraries of schools, colleges, universities and other than public libraries library. This study not based on primary data.

5. Scenario of Public Libraries :-

Indian Library Movement history is fully related to public library movement was remarkable for the official backing and patronage Scattered libraries here and there.

The State Education Department had set up 80 rural libraries in 1955 – it eas in this period and particularly during 1937 to 1942, that it developed into a vigorous movement Assam, Bihar, Bombay, Orissa, Punjab, Cochin and some other provinces and states set up village libraries, and, in some case, even travelling libraries, It is estimated that in 1942 there were 13000 village libraries in India.

The flow of libraries literature which, starting in the beginning of the 20th century, increased in volume and substance during this period. The name of Dr. Ranganathan, at the time Librarian of the Madras University, shone in its unique luster. Many Library Association grew both in presteing and influence.

The first to take the lead is the Madras Public Libraries Act of 1948 and it was the first of its kind in India.

A] Following are the public libraries and offices running under the library directorate.

Table No. 5.1

Library and offices under library directorate

Sr. no.	Particulars	Offices Date up to 31.03.2016
A]	Government Offices	
1)	Library Directorate (head office)	1
2)	Assistant Library Directorate Offices	6
3)	State Middle Library	1
4)	Government Divisional Library	6
5)	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Memorial Reference Library, Dapoli, Dist. -Ratnagiri	1
6)	District Library Administrative Offices	35
7)	Digital Subcentre –Andheri, Nanded and Ghansavangi	3
	Total	53
B]	Funded Governmental Public Library	
1)	District A Group Libraries	34
2)	Taluka Libraries – ‘A’ Group, ‘B’ Group and ‘c’ Group(30)	272
3)	Other Libraries – ‘A’ Group(162), ‘B’ Group(1955) and ‘C’ Group(4053)	6170
4)	‘D’ Group Libraries	5514
5)	Grampanchayat Libraries (Taluka ‘B’ -4, Taluka ‘C’ -3, Other ‘C’ -3, Other ‘A’ -5, Other ‘B’ -48, Other ‘C’ -69 and ‘D’ Group -25)	154
	Total	12144
C]	Research Institutes Libraries	37
D]	Library Unit [(A) State Unit -1, (B) Division Unit -6, (C) District Unit-33]	40
	Total A+B+C+D	12274

Source: Informative Book of District Library.

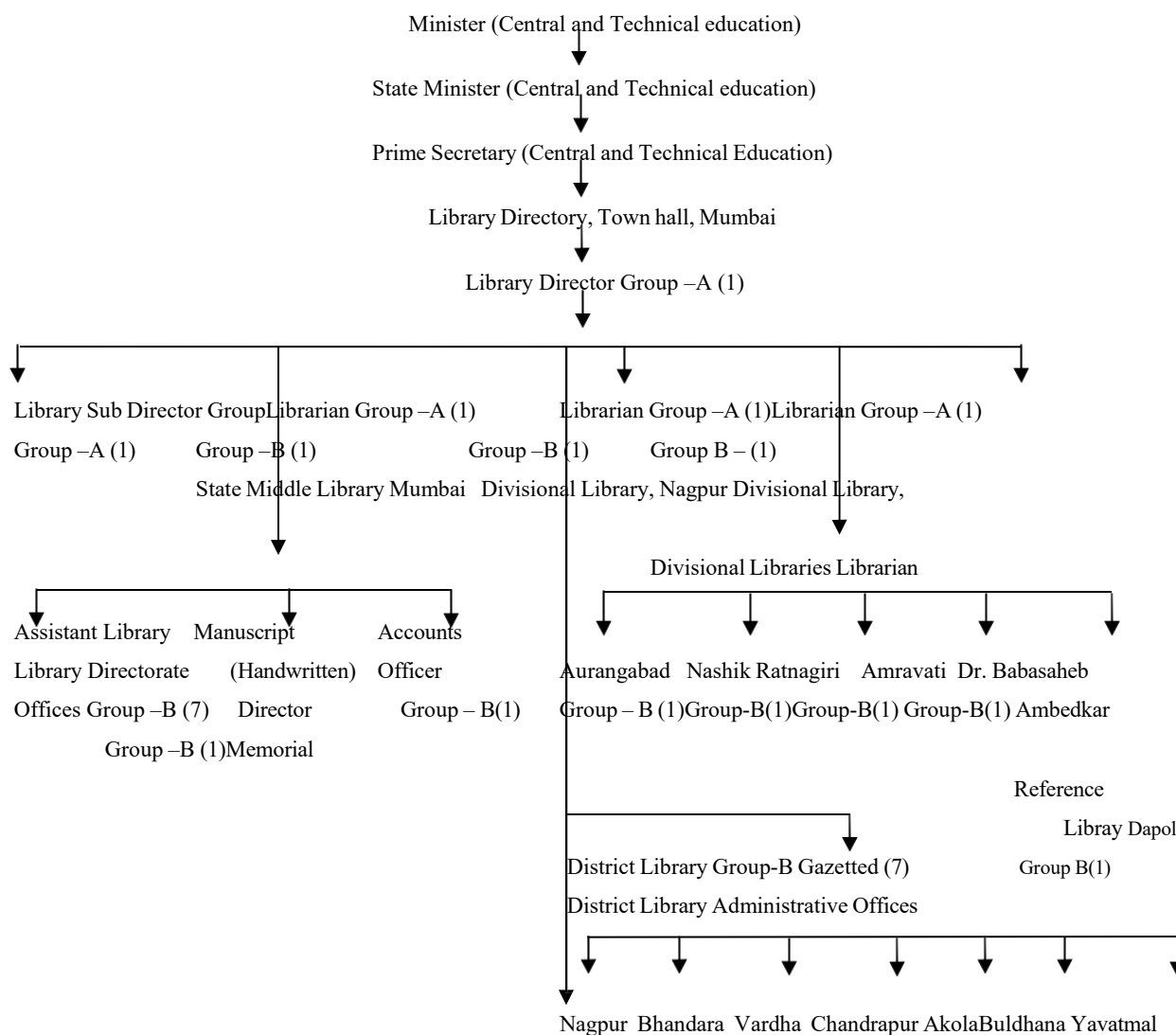
Table No. 5.2

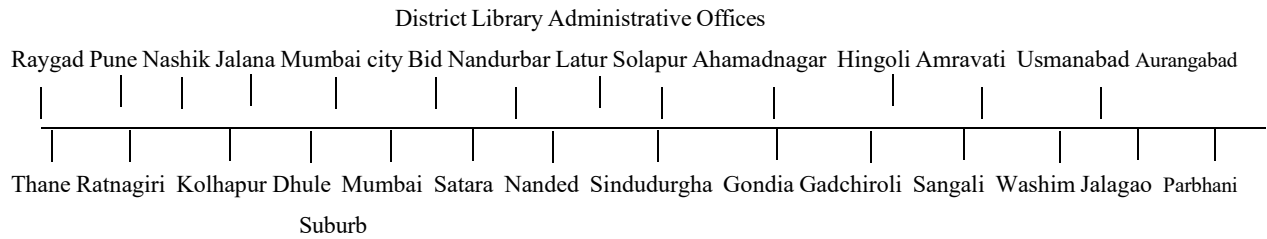
Need of public library at new place will be decided as per following population scale.

Population Scale	No. of Libraries
For 500 to 10,000 Population	1 Libraries
For 10,001 to 25,000 Population	2 Libraries
For 25,001 to 50,000 Population	3 Libraries
For 50,001 to 1,00,000 Population	4 Libraries

Source: Informative Book of District Library.

Following are the vertical system generally followed by the public library system in the Indian country.





State government has increases funding contribution six times for government recognize public libraries to stand.

Table No. 5.3

Group of Libraries	Funding of 1970	1979-80	1989-90	1995-96	1998-99	2004-05	2012-13
District -A	15,000	30,000	60,000	1,20,000	2,40,000	4,80,000	7,20,000
Taluka -A	8,000	16,000	32,000	64,000	1,28,000	2,56,000	3,84,000
Other -A	6,000	12,000	24,000	48,000	96,000	1,92,000	2,88,000
District –B	8,000	16,000	32,000	64,000	1,28,000	2,56,000	3,84,000
Taluka –B	6,000	12,000	24,000	48,000	96,000	1,92,000	2,88,000
Other –B	4,000	8,000	16,000	32,000	64,000	1,28,000	1,92,000
Taluka –C	3,000	6,000	12,000	24,000	48,000	96,000	1,44,000
Other –C	2,000	4,000	8,000	16,000	32,000	64,000	96,000
Group -D	500	1,000	2,000	5,000	10,000	20,000	30,000

Source: Informative Book of District Library.

As per library rules and regulations, to run public libraries 90% working capital(Donation) comes from central government and 10% fund collected from users through membership fee, social workers and any other way like other income sources etc. for the survival of the library. In such case, here for D-group libraries Rs. 30,000 (90%) fund generate from central government and Rs. 3,333 (10%) need to show to District Library Administrative Office. Library can increases this self collected amount more than 10%.

As per government rule and regulations for library annual expenditure of libraries is as per conditions given below.

50% amount on annual salary of librarian.

25% amount on books purchasing.

25% amount on other expenses like maintenance.

Now 50% of Rs. 30,000 is Rs. 15,000 have to spend on annual salary of librarian means 1250 Rs. Monthly salary. 25% of Rs. 30,000 is 7500 Rs. have to spend on books and remaining 25% on other expenses like other charges, maintenance etc.

Now if we think about the monthly salary of librarian which is not enough for the survival of librarian with his family. In Rs. 1,250 salary nobody can work in library permanently, because people can't survive with his family at Rs. 1250 salary. They can't stable for working permanently. Library is monthly 8am to 11am. After that they are trying to do anything different job or business or family. So here librarian is not satisfied with his job due to less payment. For this cause, now a days we can see the change of librarians pattern occurred. When librarian leaves the job then his post is vacant. So till we fill the vacant post, the library would be discontinued for some days. This impacts library continuation and survival of library. On the other hand 7,500 Rs. is not enough to provide good facilities to people in library for study. People also not providing money to the library in the form of donation. So front of library it is treat to the library for survive or not to survive.

6. Threats of Public Libraries:

- 1) Less funding from government is a cause of threat for public libraries.
- 2) Members of public library are day- by –day decreases is the cause of e-library from computers and mobile technology.
- 3) Due to unavailability of computer facility and internet facility in small libraries causes not getting advance knowledge to people. Because of this, members decreases day by day.
- 4) So many students avoid for seating in C and D group library due to unfavorable place to seat.
- 5) Generally peoples are not interested to donate fund for public library.
- 6) Due to shortage of money C and D group libraries cant purchase sufficient competitive books for students.
- 7) Less salary of public library staff it is one of threat in front of public library.

- 8) No fund available for the construction of library building mostly for C and D group libraries. It is a threat in front of public libraries.
- 9) Cultural programs and books exhibitions motivate and attract people for membership but we unable to arrange cultural programs due to unavailability of fund and government also not providing separate fund for cultural programs. This is also a threat in front of public libraries.
- 10) Public libraries open for 2 to 4 hrs. daily but not for full day mostly C and D group libraries because of insufficient fund provided by government. This timing is not enough for members due to this people can't take much benefit of libraries. So increases the timing of libraries is also threat in front of public libraries.
- 11) Furniture plays an important role for preservation of books safely. Due to insufficient fund library unable maintain the quality furniture. This is also a threat for the library.

7. Challenges before public libraries : –

- 1) In rural areas library advance facility like computers, internet and study room mostly not available also due to mobile phones people's trend on mobile more than libraries. So that's why increase of members it is a challenge for libraries in mostly rural areas.
- 2) To run the public library because of lack of fund and advance technology. How to collect donation it is a one of the challenge in front of public libraries in competitive word.
- 3) Computers, new technology, internet, competitive books, ladies and children section facilities etc. facilities are not easily available in rural areas mostly. So this is the one of the challenge in front of libraries.
- 4) How to increase salary of public library staff members it is one of the challenge in front of public libraries.
- 5) Collecting fund for construction of library building it is a challenge for public library.
- 6) To raise fund for cultural programs and exhibitions. It is also challenge for public libraries. Through cultural program, people attract and motivate to take membership of public libraries.
- 7) Libraries require sufficient fund to run public libraries full day instead of 2 to 4 hrs. mostly for C and D group libraries. Increasing the fund to improve the library timing is one of the challenges in front of public libraries.

8. Significance of public libraries in present days :-

A library plays a very important role in boosting of the progress of knowledge. A library is open for all persons like rich, poor if any and also useful for rural youths too. If peoples come for reading mostly teenage and youths then they will stay from bad habits. Such as gambling and loitering or any criminal activity.

The contributions of public libraries to our knowledge, our lifelong learning, our formal education and our democracy power may be too more than list.

Libraries are doorway to knowledge of world and record saved for the future, even as information, storage devices and formats change. The information kept in libraries assist every day people start their own small business which aids grow the economy.

Only a tiny fraction of the words information is obtainable for free on the internet but all of it is obtainable through libraries. Libraries have always been “green”, because they buying a limited number of items that many people can share.

Libraries serve an important social service by helping the gap between the haves and the have notes, mainly when it comes to literacy and computer skills training. Libraries offer services and products that level the intellectual playing area. That means that they permit people or background to access high – quality information, to utilize computers, or to borrow whatever they want. The existence of libraries ensures that knowledge technologies are available to everyone and not just to those who can afford their own. This is more than social work, this aid to increase the education levels of society as a whole. Libraries are places where people of all ages can practice lifelong learning.

9. To find ways and means for survival and development of public libraries:-

- 1) To motivate the people for libraries membership through cultural programs. When member increases then membership fees automatically increases.
- 2) People approaching the library when they observed informative books as per their requirement e.g. now a day’s competitive exams books students like that type of books keep in the library, computer facility, internet must be their then members can be increased.
- 3) Grampanchayat should be taken responsibility of public library. Because of public library is a public property and that involve in development of individual of our country.
- 4) For the library, donators should be more for funding to the library.

- 5) In case of library stop to run with so many causes then at that time, all libraries with many way like policies or donations etc.
- 6) Government should give sufficient fund to run the libraries like libraries spent amount on education that's really needs because library is also one of the part of education sector who give knowledge to the society.
- 7) People should co-operative to library for membership and donation people can donate one book from one family to the library.
- 8) Cleanliness of library is very important to make study environment. Library should be neat and clean always. Washrooms should be clean.
- 9) Library need to place some slogan boards regarding education on the inside wall of library building to motivate the members.
- 10) Library need to get some side income from any other activities like courier service, hall on rent for any guest lecture, cultural programs and exhibitions etc. for increasing the library income.
- 11) Government should consider public libraries as one type of education system.

CONCLUSION:- After overall study researcher concluded that, due to insufficient funding library unable to provide needful facilities like computer, internet, sufficient, convenient and favorable place, good salary to the staff, own library building, sufficient time, furniture for preservation of books. These are the facts which are directly affected to run the library. If government helps library to free the library from threats then library can run successfully. Library need to carry out awareness program in village and tell them importance of library so it will help to increase number of members.

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