

NEED AN IDEAL ACT FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

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Abstract: - Comparing to other world countries India has not sufficient public library strength. It is universally known the importance of public library as the social value development institution which has been defined in the public library manifesto. The importance of legislation can say as the government bound constitutionally for activity. In the India, all state has free to make the public library legislation in their state according to their agenda so that public library are not spread in India like other world countries. In the future public library may work as the ultimate knowledge resource center for the ordinary people. We discuss the necessity of uniform legislation for the development of the public library in India. The study covers the public library development history, legislation pattern in various state, what the things affected public library act, feature of some other country public library act, and in last we suggested the feature of ideal public library law for India. The study based on the literature review procedure which taken from the various state act, model public library act and some other world public library act.

Key Words – Public Library, Library Legislation, Ideal Act, History of Public Library Act,

Introduction

Public libraries need to be based on legislation to assure their continuance and their place in the government structure. The public library is the responsibility of local and national authorities. It must be supported by specific legislation and financed by national and local governments. It has to be an essential component of any long-term strategy for culture, information provision,

literacy and education.’ (IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto, 1994)¹ as public libraries are a locally based service local government is often the most appropriate place in the government structure for them. However, in some countries, public libraries are provided at regional or state level, and the national library sometimes has responsibility for providing the public library service. There are instances of two or more levels

of government co-operating in the provision of the service. The Estonian Public Libraries Act (1998)² details the responsibilities of each level of government. Without proper levels of funding over the long-term, it is impossible to develop policies for service provision and make the most effective use of available resources. Funding is required not only when a public library is established, but should also be sustained on an assured and regular basis. The legislation was capable of providing something more than opportunities for voluntary co-operation between libraries. It must provide a nation-wide service, even though the public library remains a locally rooted institution only legislation can empower the appropriate authorities to provide the service and ensure adequate financial support and efficient administration according to a national standard.

Only legislation can define the functions of the providing authority, create the conditions in which it may fulfil those duties, and ensure development. It is a fact that 70% of Indian population living in the village, 60% depend on the agriculture for their livelihood, every third weak child living in India, our human development Index lower than Sri Lanka and other developing nation³. If we need to change the overall feature of the country we need the public library. In future public library will work as the bright, spacious place to work, study, relax or enjoy community events, free access facility, longer opening hours for the user,

Wi-Fi services from the library, e-books. The trained professional staff will help the user to its common research which they are might need. They have an important role in the development and maintenance of a democratic society by giving the individual access to a broad and varied range of knowledge, ideas and opinions.

Objective-

- 1-To study the advantages and functions of library legislation
- 2-To know the factors that are needed to considered for library legislation
- 3-To elaborate the efforts made for library legislation with particular reference to India
- 4-To discuss the various library bills and acts in India

Public library-

The public library, the local gateway to knowledge, provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development of the individual and social groups.' (*IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto*, 1994).⁴ Public libraries exist in many countries across the world and are often considered an essential part of having an educated and literate population. Public libraries are distinct from research libraries, school libraries, and other special libraries in that their mandate are to serve the general public's information need rather than the needs of a particular school, institution, or research population. Public libraries also provide

free services such as preschool story times to encourage early literacy, quiet study and work areas for students and professionals, or book clubs to promote appreciation of literature in adults. Public libraries typically allow users to *borrow* books and other materials, i.e., take off the premises temporarily; they also have non-circulating reference collections and provide computer and Internet access to patrons.

Public Libraries are known as the local university which involves the providing information to common people. It provides information to different communities about education, daily life, health, culture and so on. Users can freely read and borrow anything which is available in the library system. (Hendrix, Francis)^{Five} the library is seen as a safe place for people to meet or simply browse their information through line of books. Whatever may be the changes that are taking place, Public libraries cannot set back from their established roles, i.e. Culture, education, reading, literacy, and information (Linley, Rebecca, and Usherwood, Bob)⁶ According to Ugbomah (1998)⁷, the establishment of a public library is promised people to cater for their information needs which cover a broad area of education about social, political, economic and cultural facets. Public Library holds an extensive range of information materials that can be in the form of books and non-books. They mainly deal with various disciplines, different geographical areas, different ideologies and some in the form of

different languages. There is significant point can be said about public libraries:

- The public library is known as a center of cultural practices.
- Library services support the new educational needs of common people.
- The well-developed public library supports the building reading skills in children's.
- A public library is an ideal place for adult literacy.
- The public library was always important as a source of free reading materials, which is beneficial for poor people.
- A Public library use as a discussion center where people share the common understanding interests.
- The services of the library are always helpful for the communities and their activities in promoting quality of life.

History of Public library act in India-

The first-ever public library legislation passed in the Great Britain in the year 1850. It was an effort of Mr. Edward of the British Museum who first believes that public library fund would collect by the library legislation. In the year 1849, William Edward has presented the proposal to the parliament. The bill finally became act on the 14 August 1950. This contribution makes the history because it was the first time in the world when the Public Library act enacted in Great Britain⁸.

Pro. S.R. Ranganathan was a first person who realizes the necessity of the library legislation. He

was visited united kingdom in the year 1924, and he observes the effectiveness of public library act which plays a vital role in the development of the public library in society. When he came in India, he proposed a model Library bill, and it was present in the Asia Educational Conference which was held at Banaras in 1930. The Kumar Munindra Deb ray makes an effort in the Bengal with the help of S.R. Ranganathan who draft the bill of West Bengal, but they are felt to pass the bill in the Bengal Legislation.

The Janab Basher Ahmad Sayyad introduced library bill in the Madras in the year 1931 with the support of Madras Library Association. The first library act in India passed in 1948 in the Madras Legislation Council by the Avinasalingum Chettiar. The Kolhapur Public Library act passed in 1945. Within the year 1945 to 1950 Ranganathan has drafted the public library bill for the number of state⁹.

Model Public Library Bill in India

Union Bill of Ranganathan, 1948- the bill was presented by the Ranganathan in his report titled "Library development plan thirty years of India with draft library bill for the union and constituent state. The model public library bill, 1963 drafted under the chairmanship of Mr Sen. The bill was distributed to all the state government for the necessary action. The bill included the procedure of developing state library council, state library directorate responsible for the administration, state library committee responsible for preparing

plan, and no any system has been given for collecting library cess¹⁰.

Model Public Library Bill 1965-

When the IV the five-year plan began to develop by the planning commission, it was a working group of library proposed a working group of the library in the year 1964 with Dr V.K.R.V. Rao. The report of the working group handover to the planning commission in 1965. The bill included some points which are establishing the constitutional committee of the expert; advisory plan makes by the state library council, training facility to employees, state library services, library cess also not mentioned in the bill¹¹.

India Library Association model Library act 1989-

A seminar was organized in 1981 named "a second look at the Library legislation in India" held at Hyderabad. In the year 1989, Dr V. Venkatappah proposed the bill at the seminar that was organized by the Indian Library Association and Raja Ram Mohan Ray Library Foundation in Delhi. The silent feature of the bill included the demand of the state library authority work with the minister of libraries. The Department of Public Libraries with a qualified person as director, the state, regional, city, and district library authority should stablished. The procedure of grant in aid to private libraries included in the bill. The first time collection of library cess and grant from the state government mentioned in the bill. There were many board need to be established like the state planning board, staff

welfare board, board of library education, adult education council, and state book development council.¹²

Dr S.R. Ranganathan has drafted the public library bill for the 12 state, and P. N. Kaula wrote the bill for two states.

Table 1- Status of public library and legislation in India

S.n.	State	Year	Total Public library	
1.	Madras Public Libraries Act	1948	4531	now called Tamilnadu Public Libraries Act
2.	Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act	1960	2386	now called as Karnataka Public Libraries Act
3.	Mysore Public Libraries Act	1965	-	-
4.	Maharashtra Public Library Act	1967	12041	-
5.	West Bengal Public Libraries Act	1979	5324	-
6.	Manipur Public Libraries Act	1988	411	-
7.	Kerala Public Libraries Act	1989	7656	-
8.	Haryana Public Libraries Act	1989	50	-
9.	Mizoram Public Libraries Act	1994	465	-
10.	Goa Public Libraries Act	1994	180	-
11.	Gujarat Public Libraries Act	2001	298	-
12.	Orissa Public Libraries Act	2001	1000	-
13.	Uttaranchal Public library	2005	47	-

	Act			
14.	Rajasthan Public Library Act	2006	278	-
15.	Uttar Pradesh Public Library Act	2006	2072	Not in action
16.	Lakshadweep	2007	7	
16.	Bihar Public Libraries and Information Centers Act	2008	4101	-
17.	Chhattisgarh Public Libraries Act	2008	1610	-
18.	Arunachal Pradesh Public Libraries Act	2009	107	-

Note- the data of public library shown in the table based on K.K. Banerjee (Advisor NML) study¹³

How for an act manifested in India

No any insistence for the establishment-

After the 70 years of the independence public library still undeveloped in India. As like other areas people are not aware of the public importance of the library. The establishment process of the act in India started before the independence. At the time of British rule effort of public library act separated in the state. The routine continued followed after independence also, and no one realizes the uniform act for the country. In the constitution of India public library as the subject makes for the state responsibility. It starts the discrimination of public library development by particular state interest. There is no any consolidated effort shown by the central government accept in 1972 when the RRRLF established in Kolkata, but it felt to change the status in country.

Lacks of infrastructure facilities-

It is not mentioned in any public library draft bill that who is responsible for the collection of library cess. The workforce requirement not filled by the government. It affects the development of the public library in India. The plan and policy both change much time but not implemented for the library. The draft bill does not convert in mandatory form so that state and the government are felt to force the action for the public library organization. The 19 state has the library legislation, but they are not bound to provide the fund and the guidance of development in their state. The Uttar Pradesh public library act¹⁴ which is passed in 2006 but still it waiting for the full implementation. The government and the common people and library professionals think that public library not needed in the state.

New medium of information sources-

This time internet, DTH, e-newspaper, mobile technology, are taking away the need for the public library in the mind of common people. We are felt to establish the basic structure and facility of the library to the common people. The virtual library, digital library concept hit the mind of policy maker, so it difficult to make the public library. The latest example is national digital library project which has the total cost of 500 crores.

Other country library legislation-

- ❖ In the Argentina 1600 modern libraries provided by non-governmental

organizations or organized communities which are regulated by national legislation..¹⁵

- ❖ The Finnish Library Act (1998) stipulates that the public library should be provided by the municipality, either independently or in co-operation with other public libraries, that public libraries should cooperate with other types of library and that the municipality should evaluate the library and information services that it provides.¹⁶
- ❖ The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996 provides the constitutional framework for the provision of library and information services in South Africa. It lists 'libraries other than national libraries' as an area of exclusive provincial legislative competence. It is, therefore, a provincial responsibility to develop the legal framework in which library and information services can be provided.¹⁷
- ❖ In Armenia, local authorities have responsibility for the financing and maintenance of public libraries. The Law on Local Self-Government defines their obligations for maintaining and developing public libraries.¹⁸
- ❖ In the Russian Federation, there are two laws relating to libraries at the federal level, the Library Act and the Legal Deposit Copy Act. They are not concerned

solely with public libraries through most of the Library Act is devoted to them.¹⁹

- ❖ The Italian Constitution gives Regions the control of public libraries established by municipalities and provinces. Some Regions have issued Library Acts to regulate co-operation between libraries and other information, documentation, cultural and educational agencies and to set quality standards.²⁰
- ❖ The Danish government provides funds for Public Lending Right payments, which go to Danish authors, translators, artists, photographers and composers who contribute to a printed work. It is defined as cultural support.²¹
- ❖ The Estonian Public Libraries Act (1998) details the responsibilities of each level of government. It states that the local government body establishes the public library and that the county or city library is responsible for the coordination of library service, interlibrary loans and bookmobiles. The local authority is responsible for employees' wages, but the funding of library materials shared between the local authority and the state.²²

Feature of proposed public library legislation

1- The Article 246 of Indian Constitution²³, Seventh Schedule List II of State List No.12 and the Indian Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956, Section 27 reads, "Libraries, museums

and other similar institutions controlled or financed by the State; ancient and historical monuments and records other than those to be of national importance". This amendment needs to change, and public library should be the subject of central government.

- 2- Act should place in the fundamental part of the constitution as the right of reading for common people.
- 3- Act should have the procedure of central regulating authority which is governed by the central department of the library.
- 4- The development goal of the public library should include in the five-year planning agenda.
- 5- The central government support the funding to the state in a ratio of 75:25 and for the special state 90:10 and it must be mandatory for the every state.
- 6- A procedure also needed for the formulation of national library association which is responsible for the making plan and policy for maintaining the library standard and their development.
- 7- The hierarchy of library network indicates in the act, which is start from the library of India, state library district library, Block library and the village library.
- 8- The minimum and the practical guideline for the budget must be written in the act.
- 9- The act must be highly adaptable for the future amendment.
- 10- The public library will get funding from business enterprises in the city to run a commercial and economic information service.

11-The common standard for the library services must be followed in all over India.

12-the higher authority insured time to time whether resources deployed sufficiently

13- The procedure of full grant-in-aid support to local library insured by the government and they normally treated as the government library.

14- The lower library submit its report to the higher library from where they locate the fund.

15-the standard is designed to be used as part of the long-range planning procedure and also used as the library evaluation tools for promoting effective library services.

16- The development goal must be achieved in new India vision 2022 which is given by the current government.

17- A public library must establish on this proposed population in the particular area.

Urban area- 50000

Urban village area- 10000

Plain area- 5000

Hilly area- 1000 to 3000

18- The library should provide the online and mobile access to its user.

19- The technological guideline and the infrastructure must change when the new things come into use.

20- To make the most efficient use of available library and information resources, public libraries should be an essential element in such policies legislation should ensure their participation in development.

21- Public lending right legislation need to introduce for provides a payment to authors and others those are involved in the creation of a book, related to its provision in, and the loan from, public libraries.

22- Public libraries should be governed by a duly established representative body which is represented by the local community and included them who elected either for the local council or library board.

23-Library committees and boards should have rules of procedure and their proceedings which is needed to open for the general public.

24- The library charter needs to publicize the level of service of public library so that it needs to be included in the legislation.

Conclusion-

An effective act for the development of the public library in India needs to come into force as soon as possible. The older generation already contributed their great effort for the public library development in India. This study shows the condition of the public library in all states of India. Many states have passed the public library act but till now not implemented it as required. It is universally verified that Public libraries will further develop the roles of information, literacy, learning and job-seeking support centers in the community in addition to the traditional functions of promoting, literature, reading and culture. India is a second largest populated country and most populated democracy in the world so that our

country needs such type of institution which enhances the values of democracy in the common people. If the India need to convert it to the skilled knowledge power of the world, it needs the sufficient number of the public library. The library legislation in India need to pass by the central government, and a central agency will regulate the public library equally in all state so that our paper demand the one India public library act for all state.

Author Biography-

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