



A STUDY ON SOCIO CULTURAL AND LIBRARY AWAKENING MOVEMENTS IN TELANGANA

ANITHA AMARARAPU
Research Scholar,
Department of History, Osmania
University,
Hyderabad, Telangana– 500 007.

Dr. INDIRA
Professor,
Department of History, Osmania
University,
Hyderabad, Telangana– 500 007.

Abstract

Library movement in Telangana emerged as one of the most significant social movements witnessed during the first five decades of the 20th Century and carved out a niche in the history of Library Movement in Andhra Pradesh in particular and the country in general. This paper briefly traces the genesis and spread of the movement and deals with its characteristics, the establishment of Andhra Jana Kendra Sangham, its activities, library conferences, Andhra Maha Sabha's role in the spread of the movement, the role of individual libraries for the sustenance of the movement, cooperation between the leaders of the movement of Telangana and Andhra regions, the establishment of Hyderabad Library Association and its efforts for the enactment of Hyderabad Public Libraries Act, 1955, and finally an integrated A. P. Public Libraries Act, 1960 by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The paper concludes that Library Movement in Telangana was truly a popular movement of the people, by the people and for the people.

Introduction

Libraries are the storehouses of knowledge. Public opinion can be moulded by supplying books or periodicals to them. The starting of libraries created a great attraction for mother tongues.⁸ It helped the various movements to spread rapidly. The Library movement gradually became a cultural movement, and the renaissance, which followed, resulted in the political movement.⁹ Through the efforts of Mulla Abdul Qayum, the State Central Library was established in 1892. But the public opinion in Telangana in particular, and in the state in general was developed by the opening of Sri Krishna Deva Raya Basha Nilayam in 1901, with the efforts of Komarraju Lakshman Rao, Gadicharla Harisarvothama Rao, Ayyadevara Kaleswara Rao, N. Venkata Ranga Rao, and Ravichettu Ranga Rao, Adipudi Somanath Rao etc. Sripada Damodara Sarwalekar and Kesava Rao Koratkar were responsible in starting a Marathi Library, in Sultan Bazar, Hyderabad, in 1901. The starting of Vignanachandrika Mandali in 1906, Sri Raja Rajanarendra Bhasha Nilayam in 1904 at Hanamkonda, the Andhra Samvardhini Library at Secunderabad in 1905 helped, in the intellectual awakening.¹⁰ The Albert Reading Room, Secunderabad was also prominent during the period. The starting of the Library movement helped in the cultural and political revival in the state. Thus we find that the seeds for the cultural revival in the state were sown as early as 1901, but due to the peculiar suffocating conditions prevailing in the state, one of them being the educational backwardness of the people in general, and of the Telangana people in particular, it took a long time, for the seeds to sprout. However, as Sarojini Regani rightly said, "We find that Hyderabad was also getting affected by the breeze of national renaissance pervading in

British India and this resulted in the spurt of social and cultural activities”, and the awakening of Hyderabad state.

India celebrated its 74 years of Independence in 2021. A brief stock of its development in the library field helps to introspect the progress made in the library field. An important landmark in the history of public library services in India was made by Maharaja Sayaji Rao Gaekward by introducing free compulsory elementary education backed by libraries in 1883 in the district of Baroda and thus free public library services in India were introduced as a system in 1907. It can, therefore, be traced out that 2007 is the centenary year of free public library services in India. In spite of several drawbacks, the public library system in India made considerable progress.

Telangana History Socio-Cultural Awakening Movements

Socio-Cultural and Library Movements in Telangana

- 1) Rajaram Mohan Roy is the father of the modern Indian Renaissance
- 2) In 1828, Rajaram Mohan Roy started the Brahma Samaj.
- 3) Rajaram Mohan Roy established the Atmiya Sabha in 1814 at Calcutta
- 4) By efforts of Rajaram Mohan Roy, Willian Bentinck passed the Abolition of Sati Act on December 4, 1829.
- 5) The Brahma Sabha of Ram Mohan Roy which established in 1828 later came to be popularly known as Brahma Samaj (1861) by the efforts of Devendranath Tagore.
- 6) The first conference of the Brahma Samaj was held at Residency Bazaar in Hyderabad on 20th September 1914.
- 7) Arya Samaj was started in 1875 by Swami Dayanand Saraswathi.
- 8) Swami Dayanand Saraswati wrote Satyarth Prakash (Peavesika), which became the sacred text of the Arya Samaj.
- 9) Swami Dayanand Saraswati propagated the principles of Arya Samaj through a journal called Vaidika Adarsh.
- 10) Dayanand Saraswathi started the Shuddhi movement
- 11) A branch of Arya Samaj was started in 1892 at Hyderabad by Swami Nithyanand with Kamal Pershad, president and Lakshman Desji, secretary. Kesava Rao Koratkar, Vaman Rao Nayak, Damodara Satyalekar and others joined as members of Arya Samaj
- 12) The leader of Arya Samaj Shraddhanand was murdered by Khaja Hasan Nizam for taking up this process of Shuddhi in Hyderabad state.
- 13) Nizam government expelled Balakrishna Sarma and Nithyanand for taking up Shuddhi programs in the Nizam state in 1894.



- 14) Nizam banned the publication of Vaidika Adarsh, a journal published by Arya Samaj in Hyderabad state.
- 15) In September 1947, police opened fire killing 150 people and injuring nearly 250, when they were hoisting Indian National flag at Parakal,
- 16) In December 1938, All India Arya Samajists Confederation was held at Sholapur, Confederation president Loknayak Sri Madhava Rao and Veer Savarkar was the chief guest
- 17) Arya Samajists organized Hyderabad Day in January 1939 throughout the country.
- 18) Arya Samaj worker Boolugoddu Achari started a gym called Sadhanagandi in Warangal.
- 19) Ittehad-ul-Jainul-Muslimeen was formed on 9th November 1927 for the development of Muslims. In 1929, the term Jainul was removed by forming Majlis-Ittehadul-Muslimeen (M.I.M).
- 20) 7th Nizam, Mir Osman Ali Khan. Conferred on him the title of Yar Jung.
- 21) In 1938, conflicts between the Hindus and Muslims for the first time in Hyderabad. This spread throughout the country and came to be popularly known as the Dhulpet case.
- 22) In September 1940, Sayyed Mahmud Hasan formed volunteers in his organization. These volunteers are known as Razakars, means independent servants
- 23) After Bahadur Yar Jung, Kasim Razvi became the president of Majlis-i-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen in 1946.
- 24) Razakars has reached 50,000 by November 1947, Kasim Ravi announced that his volunteers would be raised to 5,00,000.
- 25) On January 10, 1948, the Razakars set ablaze(fire) Railway station at Bibinagar.
- 26) Razakars murdered editor of Imroz magazine, Shoabullah Khan on August 21, 1948, for criticizing the acts of the Razakars.
- 27) After Operation Polo, Union Government attacked the Razakars as part of Police Action and arrested Kasim Razvi
- 28) In 1911, Chandala Kesavadasu wrote a play, Karnakataara which laid a foundation for Modern Drama.
- 29) Chandala Kesavadasu founded Andhra Saraswatha Parishad
- 30) Pasam Narayana Reddy wrote Swamy Dayananada Saraswathi's auto biography in the form of "Buraa Katha", and composed poetry on Tyagamurthulu and Sadavisa Reddy.
- 31) Saahithimekha, first Literacy Organization to start in Telangana, 1936 by Ambatipudi Venkataratna Sastry in Nalgonda with the help of Dhavla Srinivasa Rao, Pulijala Hanumantha Rao, Survaram Pratapa Reddy



- 32) In 1939, "Sadhana Samithi" organization was established. Members of the organization were Burgala Ranganadha Rao, Bhaskarabhatla Krishna Rao, Veldurthi Manikya Rao. The main aim of the organization was to encourage upcoming young writers and their works
- 33) Sadhana Samithi organization published the writings of Burgala Ranganadha Rao's Vyahyali (Stories), Devulapalli Ramanuja's Rao's Navya Kavita Neerajanam, Bhoginarayana Murthy's Pariksha Chaduvula, Gaadiraja Venkataramanaiah's Bhogaraju.
- 34) On 20th November 1914, Suravaram Pratapa Reddy started a Literary Organization called Vignana Vardhini Parishad
- 35) on May 26th 1943, Nizam Rashtrandhra Saraswata Parishad was established in Reddy Hostel for the promotion of Telugu language.
- 36) In 1949, word Nizam Rashtra was deleted from it and named as Andhra Saraswata Parishad. The prominent founder members of this organization were Madapati Hanumantha Rao, Devulapalli Ramanuja Rao and Burgula Ranganadha Rao.
- 37) Ravi Narayana Reddy, Navya Sahithi Samithi, Kaloji Narayana Rao, Vaithalika Samithi played an important role in the development of Telugu language in Telangana.
- 38) The famous song Bandenaka Bandi Katti, Padahaaru Bandlu Katti, Ye Bandla Vatoavu Koduko Nizam Sarkaroda which shown the Telangana Armed Struggle was written by Yadagiri
- 39) Sudhala Hammanthu a famous Harikatha artist, wrote songs Pasulagase Poragada, Paalu marasi yennallayindo has reverberated the entire Telangana
- 40) Thirunagari wrote songs like Sai sai Gopala Reddy! Neevu nilichavu pranaloddi.
- 41) Kaloji wrote songs like Mana Kompalaarchina, mana streela cherachina, mana pillala champi manila bandhinchina.
- 42) In Telangana, Komarraju Lakshmana Rao's Yebadivela Beramu, wrote in 1910 was considered as the first story to have been published. But some others opined, Hrisaya Salyamu, which was written by Madapati Hanumantha Rao in 1912, was the first story.
- 43) Thirunagari Ramanjaneyulu writings were like Golla Suddulu, Pittaladora Vesham and Burra Kathas.
- 44) Maa Bhoomi drama by Sunkara- Vasireddy's
- 45) Thirunagari wrote Virabandagi and Telangana Vira Yodhul Burrakathas.
- 46) Literary works were Bollimuntha Sivarama Krishna's Mrityunjayula(1947) and Lakshmikanth Mohan's Simhagarjana (1950).
- 47) Vattikota Alwar Swamy was a renowned Brahmin and known as Telangana Gorki. He wrote Chinnappade in 1944, Prajalamanishi (1955) and novel Gangu



- 48) Kanchanapalli China Venkatarama Rao wrote Aruna Rekkalu, and a collection of stories called Manavoollo Koodana.
- 49) Avula Pichaiah trained youngsters in guerillas war strategies in the movement. He also wrote no of stories between 1946 and 1948. His stories were like Eethaginja ichi Taatiginaja laagina Jamindar, Doura, Oogegimpul, Vettichaakiri (Bonded Labor), Dinacharya, etc.
- 50) 1st time the thought of mother of Telangana (Telangana Talli) was expressed by B.Viswanadham.
- 51) Dasarathi worte Naa Telangana Talli Kanjaatavalli, Naa Telangana Seema Soundarya Seema, Naa Telangana Koti Ratanaala Veena
- 52) P.V.Narasimha Rao wrote GollaRaamavva
- 53) Dalit poet Bhagyareddy Varma wrote Vyakthi Maadiga Katha
- 54) The Kambukandara Charitra was the first novel written by Tadakamalla Krishn Rao in Telangana region.
- 55) Jagganidde wrote Lokamalahari explains Dalits lifestyle.
- 56) Rudramadevi was the first historical novel written by Oddiraju Ramachandra Rao.
- 57) Dasarathi Rangacharya wrote novels like ModuguPoolu (1971), Janapadam (1976) and Chillara Devullu. In 1971, Chillara Devullu novel received Rashtra Sahitya Academy Award.
- 58) Gollapudi Narayana Rao wrote novel, Telugu Gadda
- 59) Thirunagari Ramanjaneyulu wrote Sangam
- 60) Kandimalla Pratapa Reddy wrote Bandook
- 61) Mudiganti sujatha Reddy wrote Maluputirigina Ratha Chakralu
- 62) In Telangana, Library in Secunderbad in the year 1872 started by Somasundar Mudaliar. This is considered as the first library in Andhra pradesh and Telangana. This was merged in Mahboobia College in 1884.
- 63) In 1872, Mudigonda Sandaradyulu started Shankarananda Library at Shankar Math in Secunderabad. He also established Sarvajanika Library at Secunderabad in the same year.
- 64) In 1892, Asafia State Library was established
- 65) In 1895, Bharat Gunavardhak Association Library was started at Shalibanda.
- 66) In 1896, Albert Reading Room was set up at Bollaram.
- 67) Komarraju Lakshmana Rao was consider as father of the Library Movement. He worked as Diwan in the estate of Munagalazamindar



- 68) In 1901, Komarraju Lakshmana Rao established Sree krishnadevaraya Andhra Bhasha Nilayam with the support of Munagala Sri Nayani Venkataranga Rao and Raavichettu Ranga Rao in Hyderabad. This library was set up in Sri Ravichettu Ranga Rao's house.
- 69) In 1904, Raja Raja Narendra Andhra Bhasha Nilayam library was started in Hanumakonda, in Warangal
- 70) In 1905, Andhra Samvardhani Library in Secunderabad
- 71) Komarraju Lakshmana Rao, Ravichettu Ranga Rao started Vijnana Chandrika Grantha Mandali in 1906, at Hyderabad.
- 72) Kodati Narayana Rao wrote autobiography Narayanatrayam
- 73) In 1910, Andhra Bhasha Nilayam was established in Khammam.
- 74) In 1913, Prataparudra Andhra Bhasha Nilayam was established at Masikonda in Warangal District and Sanskruta Kalavardhini Library in Hyderabad.
- 75) War of Independence written by Veersavarkar, banned by Nizams Government.
- 76) Suravaram Pratapa Reddy wrote Telangana-Anshrual Kartavyam
- 77) 1920, Maduri Raghavulu started a Library, Bhashakalpavalli in Secunderabad,
- 78) In 1923, Balasaraswathi Library was established at Afzalganj in Hyderabad.
- 79) In 1923, Vemana Andhra Bhasha Nilayam was established by Konda Venkata Reddy
- 80) In 1923, Andhra Vidhyardhi Association Library was established in Khammam
- 81) 1925, Andhra Sisters Association Library was established in Hyderabad.
- 82) In 1926, B.S.Venkata Rao established Adihindu Library in Medak District.
- 83) On 1st April 1923, Andhra Jana Kendra Sangham was established with Madapati Hanumantha Rao as Secretary and Barrister Rajagopal Reddy as its president.
- 84) In 1941, the leader of Telangana Armed struggle, Ravi Narayana Reddy established Farmers Library at Chilukuru in Nalgonda district.
- 85) The First Mobile Library in Telangana was started by T.K Balayya, the Taluka officer of Armor in Nizamabad District.

Hyderabad: Eight years after the formation of Telangana, the nodal agency of the Government of India to support public library services and systems and promote the public library movement in India remains oblivious to the existence of the country's youngest State. More importantly, it doesn't acknowledge the history of the public library movement in Telangana, dating back to over 100 years and considered one of the most significant social movements of the early 20th century in the country. The Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), a central autonomous organization established and fully financed by

the Ministry of Culture, it appears, has not updated all the details it has on the public library scenario in the country for the last eight years, with no mention of Telangana on the page where the scenario in each State and union Territory is given (http://rrrlf.nic.in/StaticPages_PubLibSystem/PubLibScenario.aspx). The doubt whether Telangana has been forgotten, or ignored, arises because the same page has been updated to include the union Territory of Ladakh, declared in 2019, while Telangana, formed in 2014, remains absent. The other details on the website too are updated, including the addition of the name of the present chairman of the foundation, who is the union Minister of Culture. That the Foundation chairman, Gangapuram Kishan Reddy, is mentioned on the website despite his State not finding a mention remains a sore truth. Former head of the Department of Library and Information Science, Osmania University, Prof N Laxman Rao, terming the glitch a very unfortunate one, said the library development in Telangana could be traced back for more than a century. "In spite of the great history of libraries in Telangana, no information is mentioned on the website. It is unfortunate that information related to Telangana is ignored. It reflects on the updating of information on the RRRLF website," he said, pointing out that Telangana was the second State (then Hyderabad State) in the country to have a Public Library legislation way back in 1955. "Telangana has a great history for the involvement of libraries in Independence and social movements in Pre-independent India. We have several public libraries that are more than 100 years old. Still, information about Telangana is ignored," he lamented, requesting Minister Kishan Reddy to take up the issue.

Conclusion

India now has become one of the most developing countries in the world. It spreads in various fields of knowledge and disseminates its resources to the world. It has also established public libraries and community information centers to give and help local community to acquire information from various agencies. Public library services have been expanded to serve the local people. But even after 70 years of independence India, public libraries could not be administered and managed with the clear mandate of law in many states of India. As such, the development of the nation through library services is neglected in some states, and its services are beyond the reach of the rural poor. The public library service in Andhra Pradesh has been one of the means of instrument to develop and educate the community. It provides reading materials to the community and has been an institution for the society in their formal and non-formal education through its various collections and programs. It is not only for that purpose it also helps the society in various kinds of activities by providing knowledge and information through its services and activities.

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