

## **A STUDY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN INDIA: POST-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD**

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### **Abstract**

*In India, a democratic nation, equal access to information without discrimination is critical to building a just society. India, with a low proficiency rate it is pivotal to involve public libraries as an instrument to work on the nature of both formal and casual instruction and in this manner work on the general education. This paper is an endeavor to follow the historical backdrop of the development and improvement of Public Libraries in India in post-freedom period. This paper analyzes the different plans, approaches and steps taken by the Public authority of India for the spread of Public Library framework in all over India and furthermore examines the conditions which prompted the advancement of the Public Library framework in post-autonomous India.*

**Keyword:** *Libraries, Indian, literacy, history.*

### **Introduction**

Libraries assumed a critical part in the battle for India's autonomy, Vijayawada Focal MLA Malladi Vishnu said at the introduction of the 52nd Public Library Festivities Week held in the city. Advancing scholarly opportunity has been a foundation of libraries' missions since the beginning of time. However, in today's ever-evolving digital age, the protection and promotion of intellectual freedom responsibilities of libraries have taken on new significance and complexity. As society progressively depends on computerized stages for data and correspondence, libraries end up at the very front of the fight to maintain this crucial common freedom. Scholarly opportunity is the crucial right of people to look for, get, and express data, thoughts, and information without requirements, restriction, or impedance. It envelops the independence to think autonomously, access an extensive variety of data and points of view, and unreservedly offer one's viewpoints and conclusions. Scholarly opportunity isn't just a foundation of a vote based system yet in addition maintains the upsides of variety, resistance, and the option to contradict, permitting people to participate in decisive reasoning, add to cultural talk, and seek after self-awareness. It fills in as an essential shield against restriction, dictatorship, and the disintegration of human pride, making it a major common liberty that supports a free and open society. In India, a democratic nation, equal access to information without discrimination is critical to building a just society. India, with a low proficiency rate it is pivotal to involve public libraries as an instrument to work on the nature of both formal and casual instruction and in this manner work on the general education. This paper is an endeavor to follow the historical backdrop of development and improvement of public libraries in India through a record of the multitude of conditions and conditions - social, financial, and political that existed during post-autonomous. The paper looks at the government's and non-governmental organizations' roles in developing India's public library system. Different drives like outlining strategies, plans, selecting boards of trustees, and setting up the different independent body for public libraries are a portion of the means takes

up by the public authority in post-free India. Additionally, each state's public libraries are examined to learn about the effects of library legislation, as well as ways to address existing deficiencies and potential obstacles to the establishment of new libraries. There is a test before the public authority, normalization of public libraries and to guarantee greatest result at least norm. At the point when the base areas of strength for is, the structure will serious areas of strength for be. So the public authority ought to put cash in open libraries as opposed to seeking world monetary status. Likewise, there is a need to really focus on making libraries effectively open for ladies to accomplish a penny percent education rate. Library regulation demonstration is fundamental "to make and keep up with library administrations on sound footings" yet in India, the library regulation demonstration isn't really that fruitful of a far off country since it is a simple copy of the regulation executed in the USA and England. In western counties, people give money to establish public libraries, but this custom is absent; there is no energetic monetary help from private people.

### **Source of Data**

For this review, the information was gathered by Meetings, Raja Rammohun Roy Library Establishment webpage, Public library yearly reports, legislatures' true records, official sites, artistic compositions, oral narratives, course readings, and Papers individual journals, articles.

### **Contribution of Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations towards Public Libraries existence**

**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** UNESCO is a global non-legislative and non-benefit association, with a unique spotlight on creating public libraries around the world. The UNESCO's public library proclamation was distributed in 1949. Later the proclamation is changed in Paris on 29th November 1994, and it for the most part expresses that public libraries are the doorway to information, "it is a living power for training, culture and data, and as a fundamental specialist for the cultivating of harmony and profound government assistance through the personalities of people." It additionally lays rules for subsidizing, organizing, regulation, combination, activity, and the board, and so on.

### **Library Associations**

India's public libraries have grown significantly thanks to the efforts of library associations. Library Affiliation's principal targets are to fortify the public library framework by advancing library regulation zeroing in on Library and Data Science (LIS) schooling, coordination at different levels (neighborhood, public and global) associations, examination and preparing, authorization of foundations, the distribution of periodicals, and so on. The Andhra Desa Library Association became the first state-level association in 1914. Additionally, in the same year, "the father of the library movement in the state," Sri Iyyanki Venkataramayya Panthulu, organized the first library workers conference in Andhra Pradesh. Afterward, The All India Public Library Affiliation was laid out in 1919, which was the main public level affiliation. The main All India Library Meeting of Curators was held in 1918 in Lahore (unified India). In 1933, the primary All India Library meeting was held in Calcutta. Later in 1934, the main All India Public Gathering was held in Madras. Different affiliations connected with public library advancement are drilled down as follows:

**Commission and Committee established for Public Library and Library Science Education in India**

Commission/Committee	Year	Chairman	Recommendations
Review Committee on Library	1961	S.R. Ranganathan	Co-operation between departments of LIS with University Library.
Mehrotra Committee	1983	R.C. Mehrotra	Revision of professional pay scale and qualification for librarian.
National Policy on Library Information System (NAPLIS)	1985	D.P. Chattopadhyaya.	The policy dealing the different library system and services, man powers, modernization of different library system etc.,
Committee on National Network System	1988	Yesh Pal	By this committee recommendation Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) was established in 1991.
Kaula Committee on Curriculum Development in LIS Education	1990	P.N. Kaula	It proposed National Policy on library system.
Rastogi Committee	1997	R.P. Rastogi	Revision of Pay scale and advancement of the academic staff.
Curriculum Development in LIS Education	1997 - 2001	C.R. Karisiddappa	To strengthen library and library professionals in the country and also suggested that respective Universities can decide two year integrated master's degree in Library Science and one year individual degree for BLISc. and MLISc.

**List of the states enacted Public Library Act**

S. No.	Public Library Act enacted States	Year	Library Cess	Latest updated Total Libraries In the state*
1.	Tamil Nadu (Madras)	1948	10% on property tax	4622
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1960	8% on Lands and Building Tax	978
3.	Karnataka (Mysore)	1965	6% on lands, buildings, vehicles & profession Tax	6798
4.	Maharashtra	1967	No	12191



5.	West Bengal	1979	No	5251
6.	Manipur	1988	No	157
7.	<b>Kerala</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>5% on property Tax &lt;1% of state's education expenditure</b>	<b>8415</b>
8.	<b>Haryana</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>Local Bodies to levy cess</b>	<b>27</b>
9.	Mizoram	1993	No	506
	<b>10.Goa</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>Surcharge on IFML @ 0.50 ps. /lit.</b>	<b>136</b>
	11.Odisha	2001	No	27
	12.Gujarat	2001	No	3464
	13.Uttarakhand	2005	No	47
	14.Uttar Pradesh	2006	No	573
	15.Rajasthan	2006	No	323
	16.Chhattisgarh	2007	No	28
	17.Bihar	2008	No	192
	18.Arunanchal Pradesh	2009	No	118

Source: [http://rrrlf.nic.in/StaticPages\\_PubLibSystem/PubLibScenario.aspx](http://rrrlf.nic.in/StaticPages_PubLibSystem/PubLibScenario.aspx)

**Development of Library Legislations:** The fundamental point of the Public Libraries is to give instructive books, flyers and understanding materials and coordinated them for useful use in best ways. For this, Public Libraries need finance, to guarantee funds; regulation is basic. The Public libraries are free, so it is typical that the confidential undertaking show no interest towards Public libraries. In addition, the monetary prerequisites of the Public Libraries are colossal that the work isn't possible just through charity. At such conditions, Government ought to assume the liability. The appropriate improvement of the Public Libraries in India was beyond the realm of possibilities until the order of library acts. In the event that we see the example of consumption and on training during Public Libraries in the second and third Five-Year Plan, in these plans just a less measure of assets accommodated libraries, e.g., in second arrangement just 5.13 crore rupees distribute for libraries. Except if there is library regulation to fix liability on the Public authority soundly, libraries won't stand out from the Public authority. Dr. S.R. Ranganathan called attention to 'on the off chance that library administrations are viewed as fundamental for the prosperity of the state, it should be given by regulative authorization'. Indian regulation of libraries made principally to spread organization of Public Libraries in public as well as state level. The state of Madras took the first step toward enacting library legislation. The Madras Library Act, 1948, which got the consent of the Lead representative General on the 29th January, 1948. The previous Hyderabad state likewise acquainted regulation due with the work of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan

and S.K. Ujlambhara in 1954, this regulation became follow up on 1955 known as 'Hyderabad Public Library Act, 1955'. Through the relaxes many provinces of Indian passed library regulation demonstration.

**States of India those passed Public Libraries Act (legislation)**

1	Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Act	1948
2	Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act	1960
3	Karnataka Public Libraries Act	1965
4	Maharashtra Public Libraries Act	1967
5	West Bengal Public Libraries Act	1979
6	Manipur Public Libraries Act	1988
7	Haryana Public Libraries Act	1989
8	Kerala Public Libraries Act	1989
9	Goa Public Libraries Act	1993
10	Mizoram Public Libraries Act	1993
11	Orissa Public Libraries Act	2001
12	Gujarat Public Libraries Act	2001
13	Uttar Pradesh Public Libraries Act	2005
14	Uttarakhand Public Libraries Act	2005
15	Rajasthan Public Libraries Act	2006
16	Chattisgarh Public Libraries Act	2007
17	Bihar Public Libraries Act	2007
18	Pondichery Public Libraries Act	2007
19	Arunachal Pradesh Public Libraries Act	2009

**The obligation of Governments, Library Professionals and Users**

- 1. Library Legislation:** Public library is the essential need of each and every person. There is a requirement for the methodical improvement of public libraries to really advance practical advancement in the general public. There are as of now 10 States and 8 Association Regions that poor person yet ordered any open library act. Indeed, even those states (like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, MadhyaPradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Odisha, Uttarakhand, and Chhattisgarh) have enacted the demonstration are yet to be executed. Numerous Indian states don't have a different office/directorate/committee for public libraries; This demonstrates how little importance is given to public libraries in various Indian states.
- 2. Library Fund:** Due to a lack of funding, many libraries' operations are experiencing bottlenecks. The public authority ought to guarantee adequate assets for the library convenient and the sum gathered for library advancement ought to be fittingly used. In some cases, the sum assigned for library advancement without appropriately uses the asset return to the public authority.
- 3. IFLA Standard:** By the Worldwide League of Library Affiliations and Establishments standard, there ought to be one public library out of 3000 populace. There were 2843 public libraries in India in 1951 (Wani, 2008), serving approximately 35 million people with a literacy rate of 18.33 percent (census, 2011). in 2018, the all out open library was 46746, around 120 crore populace with 74% proficiency rate. It implies we need to head out a long stretch to accomplish an objective. The issue of libraries ought to be included on the



"concurrent list" by the central government. it can guarantee library development in India; right now, libraries are under the state list.

4. **Rural Libraries:** Father of country India Mahatma Gandhi expressed 'the eventual fate of India lies in its towns', because of absence of assets gets to and expansion in destitution level, the residents move towards metropolitan regions. Public libraries are part of the rural development activity of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan scheme, which means that an institute like IITs, IISER, or NITs must set up public libraries as a pilot project to solve this issue.
5. **Central Information Agency:** The National Library should be centralized information, collection management, and resource sharing agency for the country, and it should network with all state libraries. The state central library is a backbone for the respective state, and it should be hierarchically controlled all-district, divisional and rural libraries in terms of services collection development, resource management. A state like Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttarkhand has to establish state central libraries (Raja Rammohun Foundation, 2018). The current young generation is mostly addicted to smartphones, and thus introducing library services on a mobile device might help enhance the reading habit (electronic reading) (Madhusudhan, 2017). In this internet era, most the users get irrelevant and unauthentic information from insecure internet sources. For those users providing access to the library online is the best way to provide authentic information. On the other hand, without user demand, sometimes the government and library professionals will not provide sound library and library services.
6. **Policy and Plan for NGO:** There are 46746 public libraries in India, of which 19076 (approximately (Raja Rammohun Roy Foundation, 2018) 42 percent are run by NGOs. It shows the outcome of the Public Information Commission's (2005) suggestion of Private Public Organization (PPP), however the principal issue is the majority of the NGOs running libraries have lessened because of absence of government arrangements and plans. So the public authority ought to likewise give full help and its anxiety towards libraries laid out by NGOs.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. The public authority ought to incorporate the Indian Library and Data Administration (IILS) in the Common administrations like that of the Indian Managerial Assistance (IAS).
2. The public authority ought to lay out Focal College/Foundation for Library and Data Science schooling and examination.
3. The public authority ought to make a global level norm of LIS instruction and preparing for the experts.
4. The hypothetical investigation of LIS ought to be coordinated with the commonsense workplace of the Library/Data Center.
5. The public authority ought to present a pilot project wherein every College (right now a sum of 958 colleges are accessible in India) in the nation ought to embrace one town to lay out a model public library in that. Afterward, in view of the criticism, the confidential colleges can likewise follow something similar.
6. The Central Library Network should be established by the government.
7. The working of the public library framework ought to be liberated from political impacts as far as naming the staff, presenting new approach and plan, and so forth.

#### **CONCLUSION**



This study analyzes the effect of approaches and plans for the public library development in post-freedom India. Discoveries of this study shows that there is a tremendous hole in open library developments inside the states, locale, urban communities, divisions, rustic and blocks. Truth be told, in a portion of the states, there is no open library development. Every one of these mirror the direction, financial, instructive, and social advancement of society. India requires further progress in the implementation of public library policies in addition to the urgent requirement for qualified personnel.

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