

A Study of Status and Growth of Public Libraries in Maharashtra

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Abstract

After the independence the then government of Bombay province decided for development of public libraries to implement the recommendations of the Fyzee committee. The Committee also recommended the establishment of one State Central Library at Mumbai and one Regional Library at Pune. The public library is expected to perform various functions. In a democratic society the public library is much more important than other institutions of formal education. The Maharashtra Public Libraries Act envisages development of library service with the help of non-official public libraries. Director is making efforts to develop the services within the framed rules of the Act and the financial resources available.

Keywords: Public Library, Regional Library, Library Legislation,

Introduction

RRRLF is a Raja Rammohun Roy, a founder social worker who had highlighted the importance of modern education in the development of the country. The year was also celebrated as the International Book Year with the slogan "Books for All" **Books for All:** Focus was laid on encouragement of reading habit in the masses for welfare of their lives. Dr. S. R. Ranganathan ended his momentous career after organizing an All-India Seminar autonomous organization established and fully sponsored by the Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development, and Government of India: RRRLF is registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act. 1961. The supreme policy building body of RRLF is called the Foundation. It has 22 members designated from eminent educationists, librarians, administrators and senior officials. The Administrative Committee looks after the administrative and financial affairs. The Minister of Department of Culture, Government of India or his nominee is the Chairman of RRRLF. Director is the executive head and ex-officio Member- Secretary of the Foundation. Brijkishor Sharma is the present Chairman and Dr. Arun kumar is the Director Chakraborty General.

Status of Public Libraries in Maharashtra: Study of Selected Districts

Ahmednagar District public library:

Ahmednagar was the seat of the Ahmednagar Sultanate of late medieval periods (1496– 1636 CE). Ahmednagar district is part of Nasik Division and one of the largest districts in Maharashtra state.

Ahmednagar Public library:

There is a Government District Library situated at Mahalaxmi Garden near Triveni court, Bhutkarwadi, Ahmednagar. It is established in the year 1st February 2010. Library is having separate building with 900 sq. ft. The membership of the library is 45. There are more than 60 visitors visiting the library daily. Library is open for 8 hours per day.

Aurangabad District public library:

Aurangabad is named after the Mughal royal leader Aurangzeb. The city is a tourist hub and historical monuments, include Bibi ka Makbara, Ajantha caves and Ellora caves. The main office of Marathwada region is situated at Aurangabad. Aurangabad district public library is situated in Savarkar chok, Sahjivan colony Samarth nagar, Aurangabad. It was established in the month of January 2011.

Latur District public Library:

Latur is the 16th largest city in the state of Maharashtra it comes under the division of Aurangabad. The library was located at commissioner office premises, Latur and in the year 2010 it was established. There is an OPAC facility, reference, issue/return, orientation programme, photocopying provided by public library. Library is having 31368 Collection of book and 75 journals; the membership of the library is 205. 15 news papers are available in the library. There are 05 non professionals and 01 professional library staff providing library services to the users. The working hours of the library are 9.45 am to 5.45 pm. Library is open for 8 hours in a day.

Nagpur District Public library:

The District is a part of the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state in central India. There is government district library situated near patwardhan Maidan Dhantoli, Nagpur. It is established in the year 1955. The library is having 5968 sq. Ft. library building. The membership of the library is 2000. The number of books is 83126. The collection of journal is 54. The collection of News papers 18, library reading room Capacity is 250.

Nanded District public library:

The government district public library is located at Varadanand Sankul, Ashok Nagar, Nanded. It is established in 2nd May 2005. It is situated in a building having 10000 sq. ft area. There is computer available in the library for various operations of the library. The working hours of the library are between 10.00 am to 6.00 pm. There are library professional staffs and non professionals Staff areas are working in the library. There is a separate section for senior citizens and women.

Osmanabad District public library:

There is a government district library located at Old Zilla Parishad Jalaswarai Hall, Osmanabad. It is established in the year 2011 on 12th January. Library is having separate building with 2000 sq. ft. The membership of the library is 483. The library collection of books is 22112. The library collection of journal is 24 and 15 news papers. There are 219 members are using the library. Reading room capacity is 50 there is an OPAC facility to the user of the library.

Parbhani District public library:

Parbhani District was also known as Prabhavati Nagar it is one of the eight districts in Marathwada area of Maharashtra state. It is enclosed under the division of Aurangabad. The library was established on 12th January 2011. Its district level office is located at Ganesh Vachanalaya, Nanal peth Parbhani. Library is having separate building with 5000 sq. ft. There are 53225 books in the library.

Pune District public library:

This is forth most popular district in India. Pune district is a part of Pune division. There is a Government District library located in sardar building Raviwar peth, Pune. It was established in the year 1997. It is rented building with the area of 2000 sq. ft. 106622 books are available in the library and 40 journals, 04 news papers, 23 CDs material is available in the library.

Mumbai District (Worli) Public library:

Worli was one of the seven islands that consists the city of Mumbai. First and foremost a fishing village, the Warli fort, a British fort that is now cleaned out it is located at Warli later known as the land of the kalsi. Warli has a mosque, the Hajji Ali Dargha on a rock in the sea.

Mumbai District public library (Mulund):

There is government public library located near kalidas Natyagruha, P. K. Road Mulund (west) Mumbai. It is created in the year 1997. It is having library building on rental basis the area is 3500 sq. ft. 49960 Books are there in the library 15. News papers, Reading room capacity is 59. MKCL's Libreria Software installed for library activities. Orientation programme, book exhibition inter library loan facility xerox, fax, scanner, printer, facilities are available in the library. Professional Staff is 01 and non professionals Staff are 05. The working hours of the library are 9.45 am to 5.45 pm. Library is open for 8 hours in a day.

Solapur District public library:

Solapur district public library is situated at Sahastrarjune Mangal Karyalaya, Sidheshwar Peth Solapur, it was established in the year 2010. It is on rental basis building with an area of 2000 sq. ft. It has books and journals News papers, CD's material available. There are reports which include census and economics. There are professional staffs and non professionals Staff is providing library services..

Growth and development of public libraries in Maharashtra

The public library is a social institution providing continues education to irrespective of cast, creed, sex, age, and status. It serves the society free of charge and it is supported by the government financially. Above all a public library is a source of information and communication to the various statuses of the society. A public library can be defined as a library that serves free to all residents of the community in district or region and receives either fully or partially financial support from the state. Some definitions of public libraries are given as follows. (Agarwal, S. P., Walia, M., & Lal, M. (1985)

Public libraries are libraries which have collections and services of all type of suitable media and both modern technologies and traditional materials with high quality. These materials have significance to local people needs and conditions. Material must reflect present Trends and estimation of society, as well as the memory of human imagination. Thus, the definition for public library that's accepted all over the world is,

1. Most of the public money is funded by them.
2. Which gets no money from readers, yet it's always open for full-time use by the local public without any restriction of gender, caste and religion.
3. Which provides reading material giving reliable information freely without partiality, and prejudice on a wide variety of subject as well satisfy the interests of reader

K.P. Sinha in his report published in 1957 has described a public library as an institution which is financed from public funds. It charges no fee from reader and is open to the public without any distinction.

Objectives of Public Libraries:

The main aim of public libraries in developing countries is to enrich the intellectual development of the public support

Following are the objectives of public library:

1. To develop the democratic society in which equality of opportunities exists for all
2. To enhance and nature the free flow of information and idea
3. To inculcate and accelerate reading habit among users
4. To provide sustainable development of quality of service in all spheres of social life
5. Economic, cultural and educational industrial and scientific

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