

UGC SPONSORED MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT

ON

**GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM AND SERVICES IN BALLARI DISTRICT OF KARNATAKA: A STUDY**

***An Executive Summary***

**1. Introduction:**

Public Library is one of the most recognized institutions of a society to acquire knowledge and understanding, which helps an individual to be a good citizen in the society. Public Library wherever it operates tends to enrich the lives of people through access to ideas, information and entertainment available from books as well as verity of other reading materials.

According to IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto 1994, “The services of the Public Library are provided on the basis of equality of access for all, regardless of age, sex, race, religion nationality, language or social status……”

Dr.S.R.Ranganathan defines a Public Library as “an institution maintained for and by the community primarily for the social purpose of providing easy opportunity for self- education throughout life of every person and community’.

Hence, the public Library is regarded as a centre of community services, information bureau, school of continuing education, and lifelong learning. It provides essential information for the progress of individuals in every walk of life.

**2. Need for the study:**

Public Libraries are a living force for popular education, culture, information and over all development of the masses. They are the essential agents for fostering social peace and welfare. In the modern society, Public libraries have been making a great impact in the areas of education, recreation, and cultural enrichment, and social welfare, political and economic development of the nation or society due to the globalization, liberalization and privatization.

As a result of this, the Public Libraries in India are facing new challenges and under pressure to deliver its services with traditional type of management and administration system, poor allocation of budget, improper infrastructure, insufficient collection, inadequate staff, and co-operation. Therefore, the Public Libraries need to modernize their systems, operations, process, activities and services as per the current needs of the community.

However, Karnataka is one of the leading states in our country in the field of information technology and has a comprehensive set up of public library system in all most all districts of Karnataka.

Therefore, there is as need for the study to understand the possible areas where the development can be made as a part of overall improvement in the public library system and services, with a view to providing better library services in a changed environment to the people of Karnataka in general and Ballari district in particular.

**2.1. Inter disciplinary relevance:**

The study of Public Library development and services is a multifaceted, multi disciplinary and multidimensional approach of subject. This proposed research project is inter disciplinary in nature and cover socio-economic, political, educational and cultural aspects of the society.

**2.2. Review of research and development in the subject:**

As per the literature review of existing survey reveals that in spite of the developments in librarianship in general and public library system in particular, the overall situation is not encouraging, especially in the Indian context. This is supported by studies in Anupama (2010), Khan (1991), Sadashivamurthy (1983), Biradar (1999) and Vijaya Kumar (2001).

**2.3. International status:**

Public libraries all over the world are currently undergoing huge changes due to the large expansion of information and technology, which has been taken up eagerly by the public library community at national and international level.

The Public Library system has much gained the world attention in early 19th century and he first Public Libraries and Museums Act of England and Wales came into being in 1850 and that made the beginning for the Public Library legislation throughout the world. UNESCO also initiated programmes to promote, use and access to public library for the spread of literary and reading habits, through two declarations: International Year of the Book in 1972 and World Book and Copyright Day in 2000 to be celebrated on April 14th every year.

**2.4. National status:**

In India to promote and provide Public Library services to reach the remote parts of the country, the Govt. of India, Department of Culture created “Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation (RRLF). In India as of now as many as 18 states have enacted Public Library Legislation. It is also known that the Govt. of India has constituted National Mission on Libraries, as proposed by the National Knowledge Commission. Hence, under the light of these developments in our country, the study would be of immense importance.

**3. Significance of the study:**

Public Libraries are a worldwide phenomenon. They occur in various societies of different culture and at different stages of developments. The primary purposes of the Public Library are to provide resources and services in a verity of media to meet the needs of individuals and groups for education, information and personal development including recreations and leisure.

In view of this, Karnataka Public Library Act was enacted in the year 1965 and the Public Library system was established throughout the state, with the motto of providing comprehensive services to the people of rural and urban areas. But, the provisions made in the Act were not relevant and unsuitable for the present situation. Now the role of Public Libraries in the state has been reduced and the entire system is in a pathetic condition.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to rejuvenate the entire Public Library system by way of reinventing and restructuring in several areas, aspects and services. Further, there are no comprehensive studies of examining the state-of-the-art report of public library system and services in Bellary district at the urban and rural library setup. Hence, the following problem is chosen for minor research project and topic is entitled as:“Growth and Development of Public Library System and Services in Bellary District of Karnataka: A Study.”

**4. Statement of the problem:**

The research problem has been stated as, **“Growth and Development of Public Library System and Services in Ballari District of Karnataka: A Study.”**

**5. Objectives:**

The objectives of the present research are:

* To know the historical perspectives and developments of public library in India and Karnataka in general and Ballari district in particular.
* To assess the overall performance of public libraries and its branches in Ballari district.
* To know the existing resources and services of the public libraries in Ballari district.
* To identify the financial position and infrastructure facilities of the public libraries in the district.
* To know the collection development and best practices in the public libraries of Ballari district
* To identify the problems in the public libraries in the district,
* To suggest the suitable measures to overcome the problems.

**6. Methodology**

Research in any discipline is inter-linked with research methodology and design aspects of the study. Methodology involves various tools, techniques and approaches. In the present study, a survey method has been employed using questionnaire as a tool for data collection. The methods of interview and observation have also employed to capture the data that have not possible to collect through the questionnaire. Published literature and other secondary sources of information have been also collected.

The population of the present study includes different categories of public libraries like District Central Libraries, City Central Libraries, Branch Libraries, Mobile Libraries,

Service Centres, Gram Panchayat Libraries, Alemari Libraries and slum libraries, etc. The questionnaire was administered to all the 245 libraries in Ballari district both at urban and rural setup. Out of which, 185 (75.52%) libraries were responded and remaining 60 (24.48%) non responded. Hence, non responded libraries data have been collected from the Head office through various secondary sources. The data collected have been analyzed, tabulated and graphically represented with using statistical software i.e. Statistical Package in Social Sciences (SPSS).

**7. Scope and Limitations of the study:**

Public Library is a multi-dimensional and multi-faceted centre of knowledge. It is very difficult to study and cover all aspects of the public library movements and developments. Hence, the scope of the study is restricted to the “Growth and Development of public library system and services in Ballari District of Karnataka state only”.

**8. Organisation of the study:**

The whole study of the research work has been divided into five chapters.

***Chapter –I:*** DescribeIntroduction, Conceptual Background of Public Library, Need for the study, Statement of the problem, Objectives of the study, Methodology, Scope and limitation of the study and Chapterization.

***Chapter-II***:Deals with the review of related literature.

***Chapter-III:*** Gives the information onPublic Library Movement in India with historical perspectives, Public Library development through Five Year Plans, Public Library legislation, Public Library Developments in different states, Public Library development in Karnataka particularly in Hyderabad Karnataka region.

***Chapter. IV***: The State -of –art of public library growth and development in Bellary district.

***Chapter V:*** Deals with findings, suggestions and conclusion.

**9. Summary of Findings:**

In chapter five, the data collected from the various libraries in the Ballari district have been analyzed with respect to the growth and development of public library system and services in Ballari district. Based on the state-of-art report, analysis and discussions have been made in this chapter to present the major findings that facilitate to offer suggestions for the improvement of public library system and services in Ballari district.

The major findings of the study are:

1. Growth and performance of public libraries in Ballari district is showing progressive trend in the establishment of service units and provision of different types of services.
2. The district central library Ballari established in 1952, having 9 branch libraries, 196 Gram panchayat libraries to maintain and provides library services for reading elite for the district.
3. It has been observed that the financial resources at the disposal of DCL show that fluctuations year to year.
4. Considering the number of branches to be taken care of, new branches are not to be established, due to the escalating the cost of books and periodicals and increase in the number of clientele the funds available are most inadequate.
5. The district central library is managing with hardly 5 professionals and 3 semi professionals, considering the quantum of work the staff is inadequate.
6. Except 4 branch libraries, rest of the branches (05) is housed in rented/non rented building. Some of them are not in function and some are in old and damaged structure with insufficient natural light and ventilation.
7. Out of 9 branch libraries in DCL, only 6 branches are under the stewardship of professionally qualified personnel. However, all the branch libraries under study show that there are no administrative supporting staffs such as clerks and accountants.
8. Due to insufficient space in reading halls, adequate numbers of seats have not been provided; naturally the reader feels lot of discomfort and cannot have the pleasure of longer reading hours.
9. The most discouraging situation prevailing in all branch libraries that they have neglected the children and they have not provided a space or a corner to the children.
10. From the available statistics, it is observed that the number of registered borrowers of different branch libraries is decreasing year after year. This tendency can be attributed to the fact that some of the borrowers have left the place; increases in the amount of deposit to avail the borrowings facility and the borrowers may not be finding time and reading materials according to their requirements.
11. Reference section is another neglected activity in the branch libraries under the study.
12. Though the National library week, Librarians day and book exhibition were organized, some more extension activities are to be chalked out to promote the reading habits among the public.
13. The concept of establishing Gram Panchayat Libraries throughout the state by the Dept of public libraries under the jurisdiction of district central library is most encouraging
14. In the district of Ballari, since 1988 only 197 Gram panchayat libraries are established and serving for the rural community.
15. Most of the Gram panchayat libraries are housed in village panchayat and free buildings and only 13 Gram panchayat libraries are housed in own and Independent buildings.
16. Due to inadequacy of space, borrowing of book is encouraging than reading in the library as the seating capacity of these libraries are not sufficient.
17. Majority of the Gram panchayat libraries are managed by semi professionals and non-professionals.

**10. Suggestions**

Major suggestions are grouped as follows:

1. There is a need for proper co-ordination and co-operation of all public libraries under the jurisdiction of Ballari district.
2. Arrangements should be made for centralized cataloguing and classification of books at the District Central Library.
3. District librarian should be made for regular inspection on libraries and for making improvement of library services.
4. There is a need for the sanction and appointment of more professional staff for district libraries for various library activities.
5. Vacant post at all levels to be filled up immediately. Local person should be given preference for any new appointment.
6. More space and more reading room seats need to be provided in rural libraries.
7. Provide sufficient budget to rural and town libraries for collection development, furniture and making library buildings attractive.
8. There is a need for more extension, marketing and publicity programmers for all types of libraries for maximum utilization of resources.
9. Library week should be observed to make new members. Librarian, library staff and committee members should take keen interest.
10. Library services should be provided free of charge.
11. Reorganize our library services to attract younger generation by providing information in the field of career development, employment, etc.
12. Every library must have a children’s section having useful and though providing reference books, story books etc.
13. Public libraries and school should work together to create reading habits amongst new generation.
14. Special programs / drive should be organized by all public libraries for neo literates or less educated for converting them to regular library users.
15. Orientation cum motivation program for the members of the managing committee should be organized at district level to assure their right participation in development of the libraries.

**11. Conclusion:**

The growth and development of public libraries in the district of Ballari is showing a progressive trend in the establishment of service units and making for different types of services, including the automation of libraries and introducing the IT and ICT based services to the rural masses under “Digital Library Project” supported by the Hyderabad Karnataka Regional Development Board, Kalaburgi.

However, there is an urgent need for improvement of public libraries both at urban and rural levels in Ballari district in terms of their buildings, infrastructure, information resources, equipments, human resources, and services offered. The minimum facilities such as drinking water and washroom facilities need to be provided on priority basis.