

The Study of Library Legislation in Indian States

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Abstract

Mr. Edward of the British Museum was a firm believer of the establishment of public libraries with public funds through legislation. The thread was picked up by William Ewart and moved proposal in the Parliament of the Great Britain in 1849. On approval of the Selection Committee, the Bill was introduced in early 1850. The Bill finally became Act on 14 August 1850, which is a red letter day in the annals of the Library movement not only in the Great Britain, but also in the whole world, as it was the first Library Act to be ever enacted. Prof. Ranganathan who visited UK in 1924 saw the functioning of the Library Act and was convinced of the role library legislation can play in the establishment of a network of public libraries for all sections of the society with public funds. At present library act implemented in the different states of India. There are many points of similarity I would like to focus the significance of the library legislation. The discussion also included the salient features of a Model Public Libraries Acts in some detail. In this paper I would like to focus on present a comparative discussion on Public Library Acts enacted in the various States of India namely, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharaashtra, Manipur, Kerala, West Bengal, Haryana, Mizoram, Goa, Gujarat, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar etc.

KEYWORDS :- Library, Legislation, Grant - in – aid.

Introduction:

India is the largest democratic country amongst the countries, with a population of 1.24 billion. Out of which 70.7 % live in rural areas and 29.3% in urban areas. There are 28 constituent States and 7 Union Territories. These comprise an aggregation of about 640 district. There are about 1650 languages. About 21.000 books, monograph and periodicals are published in almost all the 15 major languages of India and in English. Half of- these are fiction. Other half covers normally humanities, with a few titles in science and technology. India imports in bulk more than 1,00,000 titles published in English from the international market; most of these are, for educational institutions. But public libraries do have a good share of the same. The public library is regarded as a centre of community services, information bureau, continuation school and a training school for democracy and renders invaluable services in molding the life and ideals of a community. It provides essential information for the progress of individual in every walk of life. It is recognized that 'freedom, prosperity and the development of society as well as of individuals are fundamental human values'. These values can be achieved through proper utilization of public libraries, Public libraries are necessary for developing human resources. They must support by specific legislation and financed by National and Local Governments Proper library legislation guarantees establishment. development and maintenance of libraries. They have the authority to appoint the staff. make necessary regulations, inspect the functioning and control the system and services.

Library legislation is required to constitute a proper administrative and supervisory body with executive power, to provide well organized library system for the state, district and up to the remote village level with free access to all citizens; to provide a steady and permanent source of finance and to maintain a slandered in library services. The term legislation means the preparing and enacting laws. In other words it is sometimes used to apply to municipal ordinance and to the rules and regulations of administrative agencies passed in the exercise of delegated legislative function.

Public libraries today play an important role in the life of the community. They provide information essential for the progress of culture, education and research. They also provide relaxation and recreation and refresh the community they serve. The public library ads as an intellectual centre for the lifelong learning. This paper is aimed to know about the features of various library act in Indian states and comparative study of various aspect of Library act in Indian states.

Objectives of Research:

- * To study the advantages and functions of library legislation
- * To know the factors that are needed to be considered for library legislation
- * To elaborate the efforts made for library legislation with particular reference to India
- * To discuss the various library bills and acts in India
- * To find out the success and failure of library legislation in India

Library Legislation in India:

Act means preparing the format of law or legislation. In the context of libraries, the Library Act means to give legal provision for establishing a library system, its maintenance, services, functions, right and management under any state or a national government. Library legislation is capable of regulating various organs of public library services. It is an instrument for the development of public libraries in a planned manner to ensure establishment, development and maintenance of libraries in a uniform pattern. It can help in promoting a sense of self consciousness among the people who would feel it obligatory on their part to use services offered by the library.

The following States of India have put into state book their Public Libraries Act. The chronological sequence is as follow-

Library Acts In India:

1. Kolhapur Public Libraries Act (1945) (non-functional)
2. Madras Public Libraries Act (1948) (now called Tamilnadu Public Libraries Act)
3. Hyderabad Public Libraries Act (1955) (non-functional)
4. Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act (1960)
5. Mysore Public Libraries Act (1965) (now called as Karnataka Public Libraries Act)
6. Maharashtra Public Library Act (1967)

7. West Bengal Public Libraries Act (1979)
8. Manipur Public Libraries Act (1988)
9. Kerala Public Libraries Act (1989)
10. Haryana Public Libraries Act (1989)
11. Mizoram Public Libraries Act (1994)
12. Goa Public Libraries Act (1994)
13. Gujarat Public Libraries Act (2001)
14. Orissa Public Libraries Act (2001)
15. Uttaranchal Public library Act (2005)
16. Rajasthan Public Library Act (2006)
17. Uttar Pradesh Public Library Act (2006)
18. Bihar Public Libraries and Information Centers Act (2008)
19. Chhattisgarh Public Libraries Act (2008)
20. Arunachal Pradesh Public Libraries Act (2009)

The Madras Public Libraries Act is the first of its kind in independent India. This Act provided the basis of the Public Libraries System in the erstwhile composite Madras State (before November 1956) and Tamil Nadu State. The Act amended Section 9 of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, Central Act, XXV of 1867 to the effect that every publisher shall deliver five copies of each book to the State Government out of which four will be deposited in the State Central Library, Madras. When Andhra Pradesh was formed in 1956, comprising Andhra areas of composite Madras State and Telangana area of Hyderabad State; Madras Public Libraries Act was in force in Andhra area. So, administrative problems were bound to be there, when two separate Acts are in operation in one State. To clear this problem, both the Acts were amalgamated, modified and brought up-to-date as Andhra Pradesh Libraries Act in 1960, and later, it was amended in 1964, 1969, 1987 and 1989 (major amendments): and such major amendments resulted into the constitution of Andhra Pradesh Granthalaya Parishad, more or less a State Library Authority as the apex body. This Act is an improvement over Madras Act. Maharashtra State was constituted with the areas of Western Maharashtra, Marathwada, Vidarbha, and by amalgamating princely states like Kolhapur, in the year 1960. Even though there were efforts for library legislation from 1940 onwards, it could succeed only in the year 1967, by enacting of Maharashtra Public Libraries Act. With a gap of more than a decade, the West Bengal Public Libraries Act entered in the statute book in the year 1979. This is more or less a replica of the Madras Act. But the differing feature of the Act is the conspicuous absence of library cess. The State Government meets the expenditure on the maintenance of libraries from its exchequer. A small State, Manipur, located in the eastern part of India got the opportunity for library legislation in 1988. Kerala Act is quite a different one, than the other Acts. But it is a unique one because of its democratic and more decentralised pattern.

Comparative study of various Library Act in India:

According to Ranganathan, “We mean by this an integrated nation-wide network public libraries, giving free book service to one and all of the citizens, literate or illiterate.” To achieve the objective, a public library system is necessary for providing. Use of the libraries without any consideration. Reading materials with a common pool from state to village users. Information needed by the user. Free facilities to. have the benefits from cultural heritage, arts and scientific achievements and innovations. Facilities for personal development. Periodic evaluation and feedback of service to users and their impact on administration. Regulation of a financial income and expenditure to meet the needs of the society. I have examine a few details of the access points where the library legislation is under implementation. Gujarat State is carved out from Maharashtra State. It has a State Central Library and 17 district central libraries and libraries in all towns and some villages. However, the Central Library, Baroda and Gujarat Vidyapeeth are treated on par with State Central Library. Rajasthan has a State Central Library at Jaipur and 5 Divisional Libraries and 24 District Libraries. Goa is a small state, with the influence of Portuguese rule has a Central Library for a long time. 5 taluk libraries and 56 rural libraries are functioning at village level.

The State Central Library of Orissa is known as Hare Krushna Mahtab State Library located at Bhubaneswar. There is it city library also at Bhubaneswar. The Sub-divisional library is located in Mayurbhanj. Besides there are 17 district libraries, 6 ex-district board libraries, 12 municipality libraries and 314 block level libraries. Public access is more in Kerala State, which has now achieved cent per cent literacy through Total Literacy Campaign. The earlier Trivendrum Public Library was upgraded as State Central Library, after the formation of Kerala State. There are about 3030 libraries located at District, Taluk, Village level and accessible to the public. Maharashtra, is the fifth State to have a library Act; it has around 5900 Public Library nodes. As per the Madras Act (1048), the Government has provided for about 4,500 Public Libraries, 32 District Libraries, 7 Mobile Libraries, 1538 Branch Libraries. 2,500 village libraries. They provide access to 24 lakhs volumes of documents. There were around 2 crores registered borrowers and 5 crores visitors to libraries per annum. However, the volumes used can be categorised into those consulted, 2 crore; and borrowed 3 crore volumes. Borrowing of books is around 1 volume per literate person. The District Library of Ambala, was upgraded as State Central Library of Haryana in 1467. 20 District Libraries were established in the State. In addition to it 11 libraries at Municipal areas, 11 sub-divisional libraries are accessible to the people. Karnataka State has a structure of one State Central Library, 20 District Central Libraries (out of 20, 10 District Central Libraries are having library and the remaining 10 are having office only). There are 15 City Central Libraries, 392 Branch Libraries, 1151 Mandal Libraries and 11 Mobile Libraries, with 6.54 lakh registered borrowers and a total book stock of 371 lakhs. About 8 lakh people visit the libraries in the year.

West Bengal has one State Central Library. 12 Government Libraries about 3500 Public Library nodes. These include a State Library, 21 District Libraries, 156 Town Libraries, 2,462 Government sponsored Libraries and 2313 Rural/Primary Unit area Libraries. There are additional District Libraries at Siliguri and City Central Library at Durgapur. This is a newly forward State with head quarters in Dehradun. It has 23

District Level Libraries and few Village Libraries. The West Bengal Act. provides the post of a Director of Libraries, as Chief Executive of the public library system. The State Central Library, Kolkata Metropolitan Library, District Libraries and Town Libraries are managed by professional librarians. Karnataka has a Director of Public Libraries to supervise and direct all matters relating to public libraries. The State, City, District and Branch Libraries are managed by professionals. The professional possess a minimum qualification of Bachelor's degree in Library Science but several has Master's degree in Library Science. There are many certificate holders. The entire technical staff of the public libraries comes under the cadre of 'Karnataka Library Service.' The Deputy Director of Education, Government of Mizorarn, is the controlling officer of the State Library, District Library and Sub-Divisional Libraries. They are managed by qualified librarians.

The Maharashtra Act provides for a Director of Libraries as the Head of the Department of Public Library Service. He is responsible for planning, maintenance and organisation of public library service in the State. There is one Assistant Director in each of the 5 divisions to assist the Director The libraries up to District and Town levels are maintained by professionals. Since the Haryana Act has not come in to force, the personnel who are managing public libraries are under the control of Director of Higher Education, Haryana. At present the staff working in the State and District Libraries are treated as Government servants. The Director of Public Libraries is the controlling officer for the library system in the Andhra Pradesh. Most of the libraries in the system are managed by professionals only. The Librarian. City/District Central Library is the Ex-officio Secretary of the City/Zilla Granthalaya Samstha. The librarian of the Central Libraries, Government of Goa, Panaji is the controlling officer of the human resources. Professionals man the State Central Library (Bibliotheca National De Nova Goa), and its five Taluk Libraries. However, teacher-librarians are incharge of most of the Government Village Libraries. In Manipur there is provision in the Act to appoint a Director of public Libraries. It appears that the Act was not implemented so far. Now the Chief Librarian of the State Central Library, Imphal looks after the libraries.

Libraries can grow with increasing use and number of readers. They should be of course, well financed. Maharashtra Act does not levy any library cess. However, the State Government has to provide for at atleast 25 lakh of rupees as grant-in-aid for library development. This does not include administrative and establishment expenditure. Five Divisional Libraries and eight District Libraries in-Vidarbha are fully financed by the Government of Maharashtra. In West Bengal, since there is no provision for levying library cess, the entire expenditure on public libraries, started through the provisions of the Act, are to be met from the consolidated fund of the State. Every Local Library Authority shall maintain library fund out of the grant received from Government, contribution of gifts, income from endowments etc. However, a few private libraries get grant in aid from the Government, for their maintenance. In Manipur Act, there is no provision tor library cess. So, the State Government has to meet the total expenditure from the State Funds. This State has also to support the private libraries with grant-in-aid and same position prevails in all other States.

Conclusion:

The Public Libraries Acts have been passed in seventeen States, so far only five States have implemented them, i.e. Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and West Bengal States. In my finding state library Acts have provided an infra-structure for the public library access to general public in each state. The details on governance indicate that the provisions in Andhra Pradesh Act are comprehensive. In all the States, Government is supporting the libraries managed by Local Bodies and Voluntary organisations by Grant-in-aid, of course on a small scale. The special feature of the Kerala Act is that there is no post of Director of Public Libraries. The Act has not been implemented so far. Only after the implementation of the Act, we will be able to know the position of the staff. There is provision for library cess in the acts of the states of Madras, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Haryana. It may be observed that the staff structure and cadre for librarians are well-organised in Karnataka Public Libraries Act. In all other States, the public librarians' status and salary are not commensurate with their duties and responsibilities. Most of the Public Libraries still suffer for the lack of minimum facilities such as a functional building, good ventilation, lighting, furniture-fittings, cleanliness, drinking water, toilets etc. A minimum core collection of books and periodicals. The concept core collection was introduced in India so far; A minimum salary structure for the staff.

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