Study of The Problems of Public Libraries

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Abstract- *This article is based on problems faced by public and private libraries in India. Public Library is the heart of any city or town but it is the most neglected part of our society due to many reasons like funding problems, ineffective library laws, lack of government initiatives, lack of modern infrastructure which can fulfill needs of the young generations due to technology advancement, and many more problems which are faced by public libraries. To overcome these problems, government should take action.*

Keywords- Public Library, Development, resources, library law

I. INTRODUCTION

Library is a social Institution which is found in every sector of the society. It serves to meet information needs of the society. Earlier libraries were considered as store house of historical documents but now they have emerged as a reading body of information resources and services. The primary purpose of the library has not changed from that of creating access to information. Thus, The Library is an important part of the society.

Public Libraries

Public libraries are the most common type of libraries in modern societies (Aiyebelehin, James Afebuameh 2012). Private Libraries are those library which is run by Private organization or Institutions. In case of management, finance function and aims are the same for both Private-Public Libraries. Private Libraries received their maintenance fund from donations, subscription or membership fees, while Public Libraries also get their fund from Government grants, donations, membership fees etc. (Vasanthi, M. Christina, 2002). Even though library has been providing most valuable services to society, it has to be facing many problems to perfume its duties efficiently. In recent scenario, Libraries have to compete for their existence, survival and growth. In this digital era, Libraries face many problems like...

Funding Problmes:

Finance is a life blood of any organization. To run successfully, organization needs adequate finance to meet their needs and expectations. Library is a non – profit organization. Its main objective is to serve society. Every business has to do for profit motives but library is not a business organization and it does not do any business. So Library has to face the problem of fund to carry out their day to day activities. Most of the libraries have to depend on donations, government grants; therefore it is very difficult for libraries to carry out their activities most efficiently. Libraries also charge some fees but it is very negligible part of fund. As per the needs and expectations of the user, libraries have to purchase costly materials, books and documents. Government does not give proper attention to it. Though government allocate fund for libraries, it would not be utilized for their development and growth. With increasing demand and need for information, libraries should also develop as per the requirement of present demand and for that purpose, it needs funds.

Lack of Resourece:

Library resources are library material, staff (man power), equipment etc. As per the laws of library science given by Dr. S. R. Rangnathan, Library is a growing Organism. Library should have required staff according to requirements. Day by day collection of library has been increased therefore, for maintain and safety proper qualified staff has been required but many libraries don't have proper staff to maintain and carry out their activities due to inadequate financial resources and other management policy. Public libraries have very less number of staff to carry out their activities. Government does not take any initiative to appoint qualified staff. Minimum staff requirement are prescribed by UGC as well as other committees, even though this minimum requirement also been neglected. Library books and other collection should also be increased, with increased demand and number of users. But due to insufficient fund, Libraries are not able to fulfill their user's requirement. Libraries are large depend upon government grants and donations which is very less in comparison to its requirement. In this 21st century, Library should also cope with changing needs of the users. Library should also develop new

information tools to satisfy their needs. Government has not been given more attention to it. Government has announce many scheme to transform India In to knowledge based society , therefore they has launched the scheme of the national mission on libraries to provide digital content to the citizens but only few states has been considered and others are neglected.

Lack of Effective Library Laws:

For smooth functioning of any organization, there should be some standard and laws. Public libraries needs certain forms of development in terms of infrastructure collection. It should be established and maintained under the clear authority of law. After independence, there was a remarkable establishment of public libraries based on legal basis. During the last decade's 14 public library bills were enacted in India. Such as the Tamil Nadu public libraries act 1948. The Andhra Pradesh public libraries act 1960.The Karnataka public libraries act 1965.The Maharashtra public libraries act........... (Shodhganga, Inflibnet)

The laws have been passed but proper implementation has not been done and there is no any authority to regulate and inspect such implementation has been followed or not therefore the condition of public libraries becomes very miserable.

Lake Of Marketing:

Like other business firm or company, library doesn't advertise themselves. They don't market online. Public libraries don't advertise their services due to this most of the citizens don't have proper knowledge about libraries. They just think that library is a store house of books. Many of people don't know the actual working and service of the library. In India and most of the developing countries, it is one of the major problems. A new library user would not be familiar with the ways of the library. The tools of the library are not easy for a beginner to understand, due to this new users might feel inhibited in using library (Smart, Darren & Brook, Mike).

Infrastructure:

Changing needs of the users, libraries should also make some changes in their infrastructure. Those libraries built in olden days now they need some infrastructural change. Libraries should be near the public places. Libraries should be equipped with computers to automate all library activities. Information technology should also be used in every private public library for effective management and administration.

With increasing resources, library has to face space problems therefore every private public library should acquire modern technologies to meet the complex demands of the users(Aiyebelehin, James Afebuameh 2012).

Socio Cultural Circumstances:

Most of the developing countries depend upon oral tradition for knowledge acquisition, storage and dissemination. Reading culture and book trade are very far away to their life style. Most of the people don't consider library as a source of information or knowledge. The concept of library to the general public just a place where books are kept and the librarian as a custodian of books (Aiyebelehin, James Afebuameh, 2012). Public libraries are found only in the big cities and urban centers while rural communities rarely own anything like a library or own community reading room with a basic reference books(Aiyebelehin, James Afebuameh, 2012).Society don't give more attention to have libraries because they don't have feel that if they don't have libraries, they don't lose anything at all. People don't request to the higher authority to have library in their area. Just they demanding amusement park, gardens,roads,hospitals,schools etc. From the beginning of the school level, children don't have the experience of the library system and its importance when they become adults and having high position of authority, the importance of the library system hardly crosses their minds.

II. CONCLUSION

Libraries are run with financial assistance from the government and support from the local people but public libraries could not be administered and managed with clear vision of law. Government should take action to make Library system more powerful and active. Without proper implementation of Library Act and guidance of library committee, libraries cannot sustain and grow. Government should look into problems face by Public Libraries and take initiative step to remove such problems because roles of library in development of nation and life of the individual within any society are enormous.

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