

Issues and Prospective Development of Public Libraries in Karnataka with Special Reference to Tumkur District

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Abstract- *This paper specially highlights to try to find out the troubles and prospective development of Karnataka State Public Library System or Department of Public Libraries, especially in Tumkur District. The important goals of this observe the existing structure of public library system, to know what extent the public library policy operating in the Tumkur district and what are the problems confronted by the public library system inside the Tumkur district in particular and commonly applicable to the Karnataka State.*

Indexed Terms- *Public Library System, Panchayat Libraries, Community Information Centre, RDPR, Public Relations*

I. INTRODUCTION

The dignity and the repute of nation rely not at the social setup or religion of the humans, but solely on the education. Democracy can succeed best in an enlightened society. An enlightened society calls for right education both formal and non-formal to its residents. The non-formal training can handiest be furnished with a sturdy “Network of public Libraries.” Public library is supposed to play a important function inside the social existence of the network it serves. It targets at making books and different analyzing fabric to be had to all via an efficient library provider. It tries to do its exceptional to the network drawing humans all ages to do it and inviting them to make the satisfactory use of the library for statistics, endeavour and studies. Therefore, a public library nowadays serves as a ‘window to the know-how of the sector’. The cutting-edge public library is a conventional company, not just the under privileged but also for the extreme readers. Every citizen is supplied with and equal possibility to have access to the statistics to whatever volume it is required. Thus, it has its contribution towards construction of the welfare state and in time fulfils its responsibility in an ideal

democracy. Alvin Johnson (1938) described the library as the “people’s university”, this idea was not new and continues to be debated today. Just how the libraries, especially public libraries fulfil their functions and contribute to the educational needs of readers.

II. METHODOLOGY

A qualitative method of research was used to gather information for this study. The research skill involves the collection and analysis of non-numerical data in order to understand concepts, opinions or experiences. The study relied on the secondary sources of information, service delivery were reviewed through document analysis; the document analysis of published reports and scholarly articles were beneficial to this study.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are as follow:

1. The very objective of the study is to know what extent the public library system, working in the district of Tumkur
2. To know the existing structure public library system in the district
3. To know the different types of resources available for the operation of the public library system
4. To know the collection and different services rendered by the public library system in the district
5. To suggest the ways and means for the overall development of the public library system in the district.

IV. OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The basic objectives outlined in the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto issued in 1949 and revised in 1972 are:

1) EDUCATION: To foster and provide means for self-development of the individual/ group at whatever stage of education, closing the gap between the individual and recorded knowledge.

Sub-objectives are:

- a. To promote the use of public library as educational agencies for the individual.
- b. The supplementing formal educational programs.
- c. To promote creation of specialized resource.

2) INFORMATION: To bring to the individual/group accurate information quickly and in-depth, particularly on topics of current concern.

Sub-objectives are:

- a. To promote the use of public libraries as information centre.
- b. To promote the use of public library as referral contact point to the specialized source of information.

3) CULTURE: To be one of the principal centres of cultural life and promote a keener participation, enjoyment and appreciation of all the arts.

Sub-objectives are:

- a. To promote the use of public libraries as a centre where individuals can take parting arts in positive way.
- b. To encourage public librarian to assume the role of initiator and organizer of cultural events.
- c. To encourage public librarian to liaise with local society and cultural organizations, fostering the creative use of leisure in field of arts.
- d. To promote and encourage the use of public libraries as a 'special library' agency for local associations and cultural organizations.
- e. To promote and encourage the use of public libraries as a cultural information centres.

4) LEISURE/RECREATION: To play a part in encouraging the positive use of leisure and providing material for change and relaxation.

Sub-objectives under IV are:

- 1) To promote the provision of general leisure material for the individuals.

2) To promote the provision of leisure and amenity to special groups in the community. [1]

V. FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC LIBRARY

The modern public libraries provided number of services, organize several programs and make them convenient and easy to use. It interprets and guides the use of materials to enable as many persons as possible to apply in their daily lives the record as of what is known. Libraries of all categories (academic, special and public) are used collectively for the following five purposes:

- a. Education
- b. Information
- c. Recreation
- d. Aesthetic appreciation;
- e. Research

VI. ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC LIBRARY

Today, we look upon library as a social agency. The library has been created by actual necessities in modern civilization. It is now a necessary unit in the social fabric. It is a product of society for its cultural advancement. The traditional function of a culture is to enable a group to survive, and this principle implies the conservation of the past. Not only do the libraries conserve our culture, but also as agencies of communication they play an important role in its dissemination. Library is actually the 'Mind of Society'; it reflects the social aspirations. That libraries offer a 'principal road to achievement' becomes an axiomatic truth, and libraries take firm roots in the social concepts. The descriptions of library as Mind of society; the House of wisdom; The House of learning; the Community's intellectual centre; a Training school for democracy, project its influence in moulding the life of the community. To serve as a vehicle of social progress, the library plays a vital role to:

1. Assemble, organize, preserve, socialize, and serve all expressed thought embodied as manuscripts, books, periodicals, their constituent documents, however minute, and every other similar document produced as a means for communication; and by this means to.

2. Help in the transmission of knowledge of the earlier generation to the later ones; and by this means to.
3. Help in accumulation and further building up of knowledge from generation to generation; and in a similar way to.
4. Help in the contemporary development of knowledge, by the unintended and purposeless repetition of effort and the consequent wastage in the research potential of humanity; and further to.
5. Conserve the research time of humanity by the separation of literature search from positive search. Thus, for the co-operative cultural existence and democratic living, the role of public library is essential. [2]

VII. NEED FOR THE STUDY

One of the means of self-education and informal is library, which provides recorded knowledge for use of members of the library. The knowledge is for human beneficence. i.e. for better social order, political order, economic order and for all that is essential for the prosperity and happiness of man and society, is to educate the community in the wider sense, in short, the public library should readily cater to the demand of community's needs and become a place for consumption or use of reading materials. However this study is taken up to know, what extent public library system is providing the services to the public of Karnataka with reference to Tumkur district. To know what are existing conditions of the system in the district. To know what are needs and requirements of the system, to give better services for the public and for development of society. Finally the study is taken up to give some important suggestions for the extent it can provide effective library services for the development of the society.

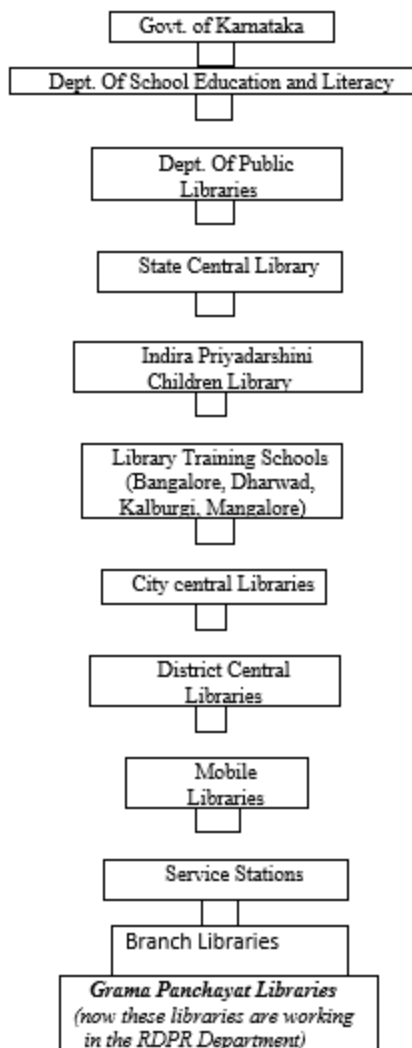
VIII. GEOMORPHOLOGY OF THE DISTRICT

The Tumkur district is located in the east-central and south-east part of the Karnataka state, between 12.45° to 14.20° north latitude and 76.20° to 77.31° east longitude. This Tumkur district was established in the year of 1966. It is about 60 km far from Bengaluru. This is the third largest district in Karnataka by land area with an area of 10648 sq. Km. According to 2011 census Tumkur district is fourth largest by population

(26,78,980). In this male population 13,50,594 and female population 13,28,386 with the growth rate of 3.65% was counted on that time of population.[3] The developmental activities in the country depending upon the enlightened citizen of the nation literacy can play on vital role. According to the 2011 census the Tumkur district has the 75.14% literates. By Department of Public Libraries established good number of District Central Libraries, Central Branch-Taluk level Libraries and Grama Panchayat libraries (now these Grama Panchayat libraries are working in the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department in the Government of Karnataka) to support and educate the people of this district. Therefore nor it is the responsibility on the part of the State Government in general and the authorities of the Tumkur district in particular to provide a well-established network of the public library system for the entire population of the district.

IX. PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM IN THE STATE AND DISTRICT: THE EXISTING SCEN

Present Organizational Structure of Public Library System in Karnataka State and Tumkur District.



Sl.No	Types of Libraries	Number of libraries
1	State Central Library	01
2	Indira Priyadarshini Children Library	01
3	Library Training Schools	04
4	City Central Libraries	26
5	District Central Libraries	31
6	Mobile Libraries	13
7	Branch Libraries	703
8	Service Centres	146
9	Reading Rooms	86
10	Grama Panchayat Libraries (now these libraries are working in the Rural	5766

	<i>Development and Panchayat Raj Dept.)</i>	
11	Slum Libraries	100
12	Nomadic Libraries	127
13	Central Libraries for Children	31
14	Other Children Libraries	07
15	BBMP(Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) Wards Libraries	205
	TOTAL LIBRARIES =	7247

The public library system in Tumkur district is divided into six categories, they are:

1. District Central Library
2. Branches of District Central Library
3. Libraries of Slum Areas (Slum Libraries)
4. Tribal Community Libraries
5. Children Library
6. Grama Panchayat Libraries

(Now these libraries are working in the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Dept.)

DISTRICT CENTRAL LIBRARY [DCL], TUMKUR:

There is District Central Library at every district headquarters to establish and supervise the central branch libraries, Libraries of Slum Areas (Slum Libraries), Tribal Community Libraries, Children Library and Grama Panchayat Libraries (“now these Grama Panchayat libraries are working in the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department in the Government of Karnataka”) in the district. At present 31 District Central Libraries are working in the state. The function of the District Central Library is to provide library services to rural folk by establishing the community information centres viz. branch libraries and other all libraries. There are 330 Grama Panchayat Libraries (“now these Grama Panchayat libraries are working in the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department”) and 10 Central Branch Taluk Libraries working in this district. And also this district have 04 slum libraries, 03 tribal community libraries and 01 children library. The district formed on 1966. This district public library system was under the supervision of District Central Library of Tumkur. As per the provision made in Karnataka Public Library

Act, 1965 administrative unit of District Central Library of Tumkur was established on 1967. [4] After this become an independent administrative unit of a District Central Library of district. According to the

provision made in the Karnataka Public Libraries Act (section 30) for collecting library cess on property tax and revenue is in fact major sources of finance.

Sl. No.	10 Central Branch Taluk Libraries in Tumkur District	No. of Staff	Seating Capacity	330 Grama Panchayat Libraries in Tumkur District ("now these libraries are working in RDPR Dept.")	No. of Staff (each G P library have only 1 staff)	Seating Capacity
1	Chikkanayakana Halli	03	70	29 GP Libraries in C N Halli Taluk	1	25
2	Gubbi	02	60	33 GP Libraries in Gubbi Taluk	1	30
3	Kunigal	03	80	36 GP Libraries in Kunigal Taluk	1	35
4	Koratagere	03	85	25 GP Libraries in Koratagere Taluk	1	35
5	Madhugiri	03	40	40 GP Libraries in Madhugiri Taluk	1	25
6	Pavagada	02	35	35 GP Libraries in Pavagada Taluk	1	20
7	Sira	03	50	37 GP Libraries in Sira Taluk	1	30
8	Tiptur	03	50	27 GP Libraries in Tiptur Taluk	1	30
9	Turuvekere	03	80	26 GP Libraries in Turuvekere Taluk	1	35
10	Tumakuru	04	90	42 GP Libraries in Tumakuru Taluk	1	40

GRAMA PANCHAYAT LIBRARIES:

(Now these libraries are working in the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department)

The village public library is intended to satisfy the diverse needs of users by the help of books, magazines, and newspapers and the printed publications of the entire rural area irrespective of their age, sex, and type of occupation and the social characteristics of particular of rural inhabitants. The Government of Karnataka has introduced the panchayat raj system in the state during the year 1987-88. Each Grama Panchayat comprises five to six villages. At the same time a scheme "library for every Grama Panchayat" was launched in the entire state. In the budget for the year 1987-88, the Govt. of Karnataka announced policy for the establishment of mandal libraries for each mandal. The Dept. of public library was entrusted with work of establishing Grama Panchayat libraries in the entire districts. The Dept. of public library created a separate cell with a special officer for this new project. This project was given funds under plan scheme in a phrase manner every year, district were intimated to identify the Grama Panchayat as with availability of suitable building for housing branch libraries taking into consideration the population, literacy, educational institutional facilities

and other civic amenities like schools, bank, post etc. Grama Panchayat were selected for the purpose. The demands of the public and people representatives were also given priority in updating this list. Between the periods 1987-88 to 2007-08, 3050 Grama Panchayat libraries were established and they are providing the library services to the rural population in the state of Karnataka. There are 330 Grama Panchayat libraries and 10 central Branch Libraries are working and providing the services to the rural folk in the Tumkur district.

Grama Panchayat Libraries helps rural Karnataka citizens to spend their free time in reading and help children and adults stay connected to reading. Grama Panchayat Libraries were under the control and managed by Education Department. Now, vide Government Order letter ED/64/2015/Bangalore dated 26.02.2019 Grama Panchayat Libraries are fully managed and controlled by Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department. Now Grama Panchayat Library is renamed as "Grama Panchayat Library and Information Centre". Grama Panchayat Library and Information Centre working hours have been enhanced from 4 hours to 6 hours. Grama Panchayat Library supervisor's honorarium have been revised from 7000/- month to 12000/- per month.

In the wake of COVID-19, schools were forced to close for months on end. Rural readers needed a way to stay connected to reading. “Oduva Belaku” began as a programme across Karnataka to revive rural public libraries, help readers stay connected to reading and build a library culture within communities. Library membership was made free (Children of 6-18 years). In the months that followed, one million rural readers enrolled. They received library membership cards so they could take a book home to read. Rural libraries were taken up for revival in phases. Many were given new spaces and some got new buildings, electrical connections, book racks, furniture, reading rooms or balconies, study desks for readers.

As part of the ‘Oduva Belaku’ “Odina Manege Hogona” campaign has been held in Grama Panchayat Libraries. To engage Grama Panchayat Libraries into student friendly educational settings, we are taking up this programme. The programs and events (life skill sessions, conducting competitions, showing education-based films, read aloud, storytelling, health checkup, model parliament in library etc) are arranging at Grama Panchayat Library premises. [5]

A donation drive was taken up as “Pustaka Jolige” an initiative to sow the seeds of a public library movement was launched, for “Pustaka Jolige” initiative there was a good response (11.8 lakhs books collected) by NGOs/CSOs like Pratham books and Azim Premji Foundation have joined hands in the initiative.

An open-air library came up, a “Bayalu Granthalaya” in a garden. Many Grama Panchayats have converted open spaces around the library as reading space. Created separate spaces for Children, adults, senior citizens, specially abled and job seekers with necessary infrastructure. On the ‘Roof top of the Grama Panchayat Library or Grama Panchayat’ here minimum infrastructure has been set up to facilitate readers or users to study beyond library hours also.

RDPR department envisaged to setting up digital libraries in all Grama Panchayat libraries with necessary infrastructure in convergence with 15th FC and GP own resource funds. Already 2632 libraries are upgraded as digital library in rural Karnataka. In addition to this Government Order has been issued to

revive one library into a ‘Beacon Library’ in each taluk. To create barrier free environment with good infrastructure like Disable Friendly Toilets, Braille Books, Audio Books, Digital Devices etc. Already 470 Grama Panchayat Libraries have identified for the transformation of “Beacon Library” across rural Karnataka.

X. SUGGESTIONS

The main recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission on libraries are:

1. Set up a national mission on libraries.
2. Prepare a national census of all libraries.
3. Revamp library and information science education, training and research facilities (Indian Institute of Library and Information Science).
4. Re-assess staffing of libraries.
5. Set up a central library fund.
6. Modernise library management.
7. Encourage greater community participation in library management.
8. Promote information communication technology (ICT) applications in all libraries.
9. Facilitate donation and maintenance of private collections.
10. Encourage public-private partnerships in development of library and information services. [6]

Major Findings of the Study: Some of the important Suggestions are made for Improvements of Services of Public Library system in Karnataka State with reference Tumkur district they are:

1. The Karnataka Public Libraries Act 1965 should be modified while keeping in mind the latest developments in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Then only it is possible to provide even minimum networked service for the urban and rural elite. [7]
2. Finance is the only hurdle of the development of public libraries in the state; therefore, it is suggested that the State Government and Local Governments should ensure proper financial support for the public library system.
3. The authorities of public library should give more emphasis for the Acquisition of Non-Book Materials like video, audio-books, Radio, tapes

and films etc. to help illiterates and neo-literates in the rural areas.

4. The present study reveals that, the library building at the taluk places as well as in Panchayat is not at all satisfactory and non-functional. It is necessary for the department to have own buildings for running the library at Grama Panchayat level. Therefore, the department, through the concerned authorities shall try to acquire the land and construct the building through Raja Ram Mohan Roy Foundation Scheme. The Grama Panchayat can also identify available vacant community land in the village, raise funds from voluntary organizations/voluntary contributions to facilitate to have own building for library and keep separate account especially in the rural area.
5. Library Personnel are going to play a pivotal role in helping the present and potential user. Therefore during appointment of library personnel the state government in general and authorities of the department in particular must taken interest in appointing well qualified and trained personnel especially at the Grama Panchayat level.
6. The department of public library should provide the Mobile Library Service to the district for the effective implementation of the library service in the rural areas.
7. The department of public libraries should purchase and acquire good reading materials and books containing knowledge and information according to the needs and requirements of the rural folk. In case of Panchayat libraries, it is necessary that Grama Panchayat Presidents/Vice Presidents and other members be motivated for mobilizing funds through voluntary contribution from various means for improving the libraries. For this purpose, the department of public libraries may consider the possibilities of organizing a sort of workshop or awareness building camps to the elected Grama Panchayat members regarding the role of Grama Panchayat in growth and development of the Grama Panchayat libraries.
8. As could be seen from the budget allocation to the department the funds available is too less. The department has to manage its activity within the funds provided. The department also does not have other means of resources except collection of 6% library cess through land revenue. Collection of cess is not done regularly. Therefore, in the interest

of rural folk, it is impressed upon the Government, to give directions to the concerned authorities to collect the 6% library cess in the form of property tax or release appropriate portion of funds from out of the consolidated funds of the State Government.

9. Authorities at state level should take initiative the automation of public library keeping in mind the recent development in libraries to provide the optimum level of service to the user community.
10. Library consortia and networking are means of communication and sharing the information between the libraries. The state public library introduces the networking between the public library in the state.
11. Information Communication Technology is other concern with libraries over the last two decades. Authorities ensure the computers and internet facilities to the rural folk.
12. More publicity about the Taluk as well as Gram Panchayat libraries is essential. Book exhibitions, Leaflets/Handouts, Notice Boards/Walls of Gram Panchayat, Schools, Hospitals and Post office could be used to popularize the library activities.
13. The department should make provision for basic facilities like drinking water, furniture, supply of magazines of interest, newspapers, so that, people from all sections can use the institution. Similarly, the quality of resources will reflect the quality of library.
14. Computerization of Libraries will attract more users.

CONCLUSION

For the successful implementation of the proposed plan the authorities should made all the provisions that are delineated in the plans to organize and administer the public library services fruitfully and gainfully to the citizens of the district. Finally, the need of the hour is the authorities of the public library and respective authorities they must bring pressure on the government for the proper amendments to existing KPL Act, 1965 on priority basis. Probably this is the only solution for the public library system in the state or at the district level to render efficient and effective services to the rural folk.

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