STM JOURNALS

Transforming the Public Library Status in India

Manendra Kumar Singh*

Senior Research Fellow, Department of Library and Information Science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India

Abstract

Libraries of all kinds promote the individual opportunity that ultimately drives the success of our communities and our nation. Public libraries support people at every phase of life. They encourage life-long learning and help to develop skills and promote social inclusion. Libraries are a key contributor to the social, cultural, economic growth, health and well-being of communities and also contribute to ensure that the county remains a vibrant place to live and work. Libraries are remained unique among public services because of their commitment for providing free access to information, community development by organizing extension services, individuals can participate voluntarily in the services. There are some global drivers of change for libraries, including changes to community, technology and information services innovations, learning, and economies. Demographic trends and shifts in Indian communities have an impact on libraries, creating increased demand for new and existing programs and services. Greater cultural multiplicity has also changed the regional landscape, highlighting the growing need for libraries to provide collections and services for newcomers and refugees, as well as programs that are culturally inclusive and enhance cultural awareness.

Keywords: Legislation, library promotion, public library, social agenda, transformation

*Author for Correspondence E-mail: manebhu007@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

Public Library is a social institution but way of handling in India is a multi-billion question. In India, there are 19 states have been passed the public library act and remain ten states are under in passing process. Compare to those state have the public library law and continue without public library act does not show the major differences. After passing the act, many states put the act in cold bag, and no any further actions are taken by them. The importance of public library says by the National Literacy Trust that children who go to a library are twice as likely as those who do not to read well. It is not just picking up a book. It is the social experience of reading, talking about the books, browsing, comparing what you have read with family and friends. Librarians are gatekeepers in that process. They open doors to new worlds and new possibilities. Alan Gibbons indicates the importance of the public library.

According to Das (2010, p. 19) former President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam had coined a term "Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas" (PURA), which is now the essence of India's inclusive growth strategies and as a building blocks for comprehensive knowledge societies in India [Abdul Kalam, 2000]. PURA supplements several social missions such as 'Information for All', 'Education for All', 'Health for All', 'Every Village a Library/ Knowledge Centre', 'No School without a Library', which have been thrust for the United Nations, Government of India and policy advocacy groups. Now the leadership of state and national library associations needs to tap the existing enabling environment of public policymaking.

The smart city and digital India project started by the central government for the balanced lifestyle and digitally empowered citizen. There is no any concept of public library development has been proposed by the government. In the coming future, India needs to sustain as the largest democratic country in the fast-changing world scenario. The problem of global warming, an effort of sustainable development nee, and d of economic inclusion will be the success by the proper knowledge dissemination to common people. The public library is an active hub which useful to aware the common people about the government plan and policies.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Lauren H. Mandel et al. (2010) [1] considered that public libraries may transform by the use of broadband connectivity. They have identified several issues related to library transformation and they also suggested that technology as a tool must be used for the library transformation. John Carlo Bertot et al. (2008) [2] reported that the provision and maintenance of Internet access and services, infrastructure issues, impacts of the technology on community, training, funding for library technology and the role of e-government. The study suggested few things which need to be revised for the further transformation of the public library. Genevieve Hart Mary (2014) [3] discussed the role of libraries as the agent of development and social transformation. The study reports a start-stop-start process of two phases over six years, after the study, it has handed over to the government. The findings show that the political and professional forces as a region which is influenced the Charter writing process, but we argue that the final Transformation Charter offers a vision of a transformed and integrated library system that has to mean to all sectors of South African society. The Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC) is an initiative of the American Library Association for seeks to strengthen the role of the library as a core community leader and change agents. This initiative addresses a critical need within the library field by developing and distributing new tools, resources and support for librarians to engage with their communities in new ways. The ALA transform campaign observed and affirmed that the importance of transformation to the library that "Today's libraries are not just about what we have for people, but what we do for and with people," said by the Feldman in his statement. The goal of the Libraries Transform campaign is to change the perception that 'libraries are just quiet places to do research, find a book and read' to a shared understanding of libraries as dynamic centers of learning in the digital age. Libraries of all kinds promote individual prospect that in due course drives the success of our communities and our nation." The obligation suggests that transformation also design to increase public responsiveness of the value impact, and services provided by libraries and library professionals, the Libraries Transform campaign will make certain clear

path and energetic voice for our profession. Showcasing the transformative nature of today's libraries and elevating the critical role played by libraries in the digital age. The transformation of library maintains the families and workers in the challenging economy. The Libraries are a cornerstone of education, and Libraries are uniquely local institutions that reflect and sustain their communities. Library Champions to join them in a call to action and powerfully proclaim the importance of the library in American society. The Public libraries are supporting the highly needed transform for the digital native generations. the study showed that today's public libraries are a key source of job and career support for their communities, which transformed the lives of job seekers with the help of the public librarian. The findings of the study show that job seekers are using the help offered by their libraries. The study has also discussed the all aspect of public library transformation like funding, training, new government agenda, new economic model effect and so on.

OBJECTIVES

1. To discuss the transformational need in public library.
2. To discuss why public library needs to transform in India.
3. To give the proper suggestion for transformation of the public library.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

The public library is globally known as the People's University. Public Libraries are established to achieve the social mission which is related to communities and social development. It provides information to different communities about education, daily life, health, culture and so on. Users can freely read and borrow anything which is available in the library system. (Hendrix, Francis) [4]. The library is seen as a safe place for people to meet or just browse their information through line of books. Whatever may be the changes that are taking place, Public libraries cannot set back from their recognized functions, i.e., Culture, education, reading habit, literacy, and information (Linley, Rebecca, and Usherwood, Bob) [5]. According to Ugbomah (1998) [6], the establishment of a public library is premised on the need to assist people to cater for their

information needs which cover a broad area of education about social, political, economic and cultural facets. Public Library holds an extensive range of information bearing materials that can be books and non-books. They mainly deal with various disciplines and focused on different geographical areas and preaching different ideologies while some are in different languages. There is some important point can be said about public libraries:

- The public library is identified as the center of cultural practice.
- Library services can fulfil the modern educational needs of common people.
- The public library supports the building children's reading skills.
- A public library is a suitable place for adult literacy.
- The public library is always relevant as a source of free reading materials, which is beneficial for poor people.
- A library is a place where people can participate for discussing their common understanding and interests.
- The services of library always support the communities and their activities to promoting quality of life and the lifelong learning.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY IN INDIA

The famous library of the ancient period was the Nalanda University of Bihar established in the 4th century A.D. The library was said to be the three building, called "Dharmgajj" meaning mast of religion. The other academic library during that period was Vikramshila, Odantapuri, Somapuri, Jaggadal, Mithila, Vallabhi, Kanheri, etc. the Buddhist and Jain Sangh also used the particular library which is related to religious literature. In the medieval period Mughal king Humayun has his personal library Deenpanah. The East India company established the Fort St. David Library in 1707 at the Cuddalore. In the year 1709, the society for the promotion of Christian knowledge sent out a circulating library to Kolkata the first of its kind in India. In the early 19th century John Andrew's circulating library at Fort William Calcutta (established 1770) was converted into the public library. The other notable library is Asha granthalya, Walter (1800), Calcutta Literary society Library (1818), United service

library, Poona (1818), Raghunandan Library, Puri (1821), Bombay central Library (1830), etc.

The development of the public library in India as the movement started by the Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III, the ruler of Baroda state in the year 1906. During his visit to the USA, he was inspired by the public library system in the USA. To organize libraries along the modern line, the Maharaja appointed the American Librarian William Allenson Borden as curator of the library of his state. But this effort did not set a pace in the letter development due to the lack of interest on the part of the state government.

The contribution of S. R. Ranganathan is unique and remarkable in India that's why he called the father of library science in India. The idea of an integrated library system first introduced by him at the "All India Educational conference" held at Banaras in 1930. There he presented a model library act that forms the basis of the Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka library legislation and as a whole the subsequent library legislation in India. Dr. S. R. Ranganathan prepared the first Model Public Libraries Acts in 1930 and revised in 1957, and 1972 The Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) was set up in 1972, for the development of public libraries in India. RRRLF is an Autonomous organization of Department of Culture Government of India, and it provides the different type of grant to public libraries.

Problem with Public Library in India

After 70 years of independence public library are still crying for establishment and maintenance in the country. The lack of consolidated effort of government put the public library in the trouble zone. A study shows that 91% of the American have ever used the public library or they suggested their family member use the public library. But in the Indian context, people are still in ignorance of values and importance of the public library in society. As the largest democracy of world, India needs such type of institutions which promote the social harmony, policies of government and rights of common people in the society. There were 19 states have been passed the public

library act, but they keep continue in the inactive mode that's why public library development are still untouched by the local government.

The Non-Functioning Act of States

I studied public library act of 15 states out of 20 states from the Raja Ram Mohan Ray library foundation website, and I found that majority of state inactivate with the act of library. In the Uttar Pradesh, there are 11 years has gone after passing act but no any development plan and policy has been announced for the public library. The colleges, schools are running without the library and library professionals. The study also indicates that majority of state copied the act from each other. The public library regulatory system shows the domination of another government department which harmful for the public library functionality. The public library treated as the cultural institutions, in some states, it is a part of the main education system that's why it is under suffer for the establishment. In many countries government not provide the free hand budget for the public library depend on the national surcharge and levy. The Kerala state one percent of the total education of budget is granted for the public library. It shows the formality about the public library in the state.

Lack of National Coordination

At the national level many programs, and plan are launched earlier for the public library development. The ILA, IASLIC, RRRLF, and other state library associations exist in the country for the development of library activity. These all the associations have their separate agenda and functional responsibility. At the national must need a higher agency which coordinates with all state association and other national organizations. The RRRLF is actually established for the development of the public library in India. It situated in Kolkata and regulated all the country from this place. So, it felt to tackle the problem of public library development in the rest of India.

Low Budget Problem

The public library in India suffered from the small budget problem. As the increasing, the technological advancement public library needs to revise the budget allotment by the government. The public library development under the state responsibility, so the central government did not provide the direct fund to the public library. I studied the act of 15 states, but I did not find the stable procedure for the public library budget. The property tax, Municipal tax, Zila Parishad tax state government grant is defined as the major source for the public library. The actual demand for the public library not described in the act and how they fight with their future needs also not mentioned in act any state. In the Chhattisgarh act budget of the public library included in the annual budget. In the Kerala state, one percent of total education budget granted every year for the library. In Gujrat, every local body may levy the tax for the library besides this Dr S.R. Rangathan says that total education should need to allot for the library.

Not in Government Primary Agenda

In the five-year tenure government engaged with that plan and policy which help them to again come in power. The government of India will spend the 2.3 Lacks crore for the subsidy in the fiscal year 2017-18. The state government like Uttar Pradesh sanction the 36000-crore fund for the pardon of farmer lone. It is an example of the expenditure of the state and the central government. Currently, no any political party has been announcing the library development program in its election charter at the time of election campaign since the independence of India. They area only race the problem of poverty, inflation, transport, subsidy, electricity, religious funding and other activity. It is natural when they are come into power again avoid the public library development. Any community development program will not be the success without the activity of storing and disseminating knowledge.

People Awareness Problem

A public library expects its users only to spend time and not money for the utilisation of services. As a genuinely social institution, the public library is an essential part of any country. The public library was not accessible in India as like other social institutions. It can say that reading activity separated in the room by the Indians. They are expressing their thoughts on every current discussion but them not willing to

read on the current scenario. The librarian community does not come in the main stream like the teachers, scientists, doctors, leaders, layers and so on. It affects the popularity of librarians so that people not even demanded the public library like other social institution from the government. They all focus on the other infrastructure needs.

Insufficient Coverage of Public Library
The early effort of public library development starred by the Sayaji Ray Gayakwar II the ruler of Baroda State in 1906. Currently, 133000 public libraries exist on the paper, but this number is not sufficient because the majority of the library is in dead condition. Some report says that inter colleges of Uttar Pradesh convert their library into the public library, but I did not find any example in Varanasi and Mirzapur district. No one has a plan that how many public libraries needed in India. According to IFLA public library[25]manifesto, guideline public library should be available every 3000 population by the government.

WHY THE PUBLIC LIBRARY TRANSFORM?
- First, there are many challenges faced by libraries form various angels and we try to reflect that how areas can be transformed in such standard which is accessible and beneficial to every common people.
- Second, we look at the central issue of how to ensure that impediments to universal access and participation can be removed.
- Third, there the strong relationship between National, regional and Local Government Departments, and how their respective mandates can be more clearly defined to avoid overlap and confusion.
- Fourth, there must be a provide framework for the determination of national norms and standards which will help to take the area on a critical and measurable for transformation path.
- Fifth, in each of these areas there must be the specific recommendation based on evidence and testimonies from a range of stakeholders. These recommendations are spelt out in greater detail in the final chapter of Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation.

HOW THE PUBLIC LIBRARY TRANSFORM
The transformation used by the American Library Association for the enhancing the capacity of every type of library. The new concept of change for public library related to promoting education, work as a hub of community information Centre, serving as a periphery of recreation and building community. In India, public library activity should start from the establishment of new public library act, uniform and reliable autonomous organisation for public library and latest technology implementation for current and future requirements. In the future, our country will face the communal disturbance, environmental decrease, lack of morality in people, and gap of economic strength. More than 217 million Americans agree or strongly agree that the public library improves the quality of life in their community. The 222 million Americans agree or strongly agree that because it provides free access to materials and resources, the public library plays an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed. It is increasing from 216.6 million reported in 2006.

Should be a National Act for Public Library
The Article 246 of Indian Constitution, Seventh Schedule List II of State List No.12 and the Indian Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956, Section 27 reads, "Libraries, museums and other similar institutions controlled or financed by the State; ancient and historical monuments and records other than those to be of national importance". We felt to provide the public library facility to all people of India. The central government need to pass the uniform legislation in parliament for the public library development and the regulation. This step will transform the public library in India because they can generate resources for the public library. The act should include the procedure of independent authority, free from any ministry and department, proper budgeting facility, regulated by the library professionals, mandatory for all state, right to library concept for all people.

Should be a National Association for Library
There is a definite need of national association for the public library. The RRRLF is an

autonomous organization working for the public library development in India, but it felt to cover the all Indian state and provinces. The national association should be able to spend the budget of the public library, headquarters in the every state, will responsible for the making policy and giving the guideline for the public library development and the regulation. The budget planning and expenditure also decided by the association.

Should be in Government Social Activity Agenda
The public library should need to the part of government social development agenda. The 13th five-year plan is currently in progress, but no any formal budgeting and planning seemed for the public library development. The government of the need to take the agenda of the public library development like the other social activity. It should promote the literacy program, health program, and many awareness programs and other social activity.

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS OF PUBLIC LIBRARY
The code of ethics is the document that translates the values of intellectual freedom that define the profession of librarianship into broad principles. It directly related to the handling user query and duties of library professionals for the user. The International federation of Library Associations and American Library association given the professional ethics framework for the world library professionals. In India, there is no such type of professionals standards followed. There is a definite need for public library professionals in India. The majority of people in India not aware of the use pattern of the public library. In the digital environment, professional ethics will play a role to make people able to use the Library resources. The ethics will formulate by the think tank of library professionals, and it should be created for the public library and their needs.

Support of NGO
The government will support the NGOs for the deployment and the awareness of public library in India. NGOs are active in many regions of India where they involve into the promotion of public libraries. The READ India' stands for Reading, Empower, Administer and Develop

India – an overarching slogan for the transformation of public library services across the country. Few NGOs such as READ India, Room to Read India, M.S. Swami Nathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in collaboration with international donor agencies such as International Development Research Centre (IDRC Canada) and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation are engaged in establishing few thousands of community libraries across the country particularly at the level of reaching the unreached. So for the transformation of the public library, we strongly need to the support of national and international NGOs.

Public Library as Village Knowledge Centre
The role of public library has changed after the introduction to the information technology in the library services. The transformation involves with the converting library as the village knowledge centre. The impact of mobile technology and networking all government department, District offices, village panchayat, academic institutions will need to more information in the digital form, so the public library will not the success if it depends on the traditional way of services. The village knowledge centre provides the information related to all type of user. The agriculture-related progress, government plan policy, social programs, educational resources, daily needs of information's, Internet access, health-related information, the local economy and skill development information, election-related information, marketing especially for the farmer and local producer. It will enhance the coverage and importance of the public library.

Public Library Membership
The sufficient number of the user is necessary for the justification of any organization. The public library needs to increase its use by the promoting membership. Some idea will enhance the membership like that student are belong to the particular area of the public library automatically convert as a member of that public library when they enrolled in the schools. When the new baby born The ASHA or Anganwadi member will provide the membership on the birth certificate. The every ADHAR card is acceptable for the membership card for the library. Like the ATM card or election card, every person has the public

library card which is provided by the public library on the nominal fee. This effort will promote the membership of public library which is beneficial for the society as well as the library.

CONCLUSION

The transformation of the public library in India is not an easy task as we think; it desires highly devoted effort of the government. The sufficient funding, making top-level authority, given the power of an autonomous body, awareness of common people, promotion by the library professionals, the help of NGOs and other things are needed for the transformation. In the Bangladesh, public libraries are currently running in good condition and they contribute the valuable effort for the social development. This study suggests the need of public library transformation in India. So in this context government of India should take a necessary action for the development and transformation public library and its activity for the betterment of society in the future.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Manendra Kumar Singh is presently working as Senior Research Fellow in Department of Library and Information Science, Banaras Hindu University (B.H.U.), Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. He has done his graduation in B.A. (History) from M.G.K.V. Varanasi. He has also completed M.A. (History) and MLIS from B.H.U. Varanasi. He has qualified UGC NET in History and also in Library Science. The area of his research is Scientometric study.

REFERENCES

1. Lauren H Mandel et al. Broadband for public libraries: Importance, issues, and research needs. *Government Information Quarterly*. 2010; 27 (3): 280–291p.
2. John Carlo Bertot et al. Public libraries and the internet 2007: issues, implications, and expectations. *Library & Information Science Research*. 2008; 30: 175–184p.
3. Genevieve Hart, Mary Nassimbeni. South Africa's LIS transformation charter: policies, politics and professionals. *Creative Commons Attribution.* 2014; 1–4p.
4. Hendrix Frances. *The Role of Public Libraries in the information Society.* Humanities Computing Unit, Oxford University. 1998.
5. Linley Rebecca, Usherwood Bob. *New measures for the new library: A social audit of Public Libraries.* Centre for the Public Library in the Information Society, The University of Sheffield. 1998.
6. Ugbomah MU. A Survey of the Public Branch Libraries in Delta State. *Nigerian Libraries*. 1998; 32(2): 29–35p.