



A STUDY OF HISTORY OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

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Abstract:

Library means house of books. That is a place where there are many books with few regular readers. Nowadays such libraries are found in every locality of good cities, they are also present in towns and big villages. Now they are being expanded in every village. Libraries are usually public. Many enlightened citizens also keep personal libraries. Here the government has also arranged mobile libraries. Library movement refers to such efforts and activities, through which a dense and interconnected system of public libraries can be established for the use of the general public and according to their needs. While library development means showing the new development order by installing different types of libraries at different places in this changing period. "Library movement" means the planned development of libraries. Library development is the first aspect of the library movement. From a practical point of view, 'library development' and 'library movement' are synonymous. In this research paper, the history of library development in India has been studied.

Keywords: *Library, Library Development, Library Movement, committees, library association, Libraries Act*

Research Methodology:

The research paper has depended on secondary data.

Objective of Research:

- 1) To know the history of library development in India.
- 2) To understand the obstacles coming in the way of library development in India.
- 3) To be familiar with the main factors related to library development in India.

Introduction:

The tradition of libraries in India has been going on since time immemorial. About six thousand years ago, the Indus Valley Civilization was at its peak. Many such proofs have been obtained from the excavations of Mohenjodaro and Harappa. The cultured society of Indus civilization spread from Punjab to Indus and Balochistan. Probably during that period, hieroglyphs had been developed in India. Historians accept that there were many libraries in Mohenjodaro and Harappa. Aryans arrived in India around 3000 B.C. after the decline of the Indus civilization. He invented the Brahmi script. Books were written on Bhojpatra and palm leaves, but their use for the disciples was limited. The gurus had such a collection of handwritten books that we can call a personal library. In the Vedic period texts related to the Vedas, Itihasas, and Puranas, grammar, and various branches of knowledge were written. During this period, many subjects were taught to the students in Gurukulas and many texts related to them were also available in the libraries. Even today there are collections of ancient Jain texts in cities like Ahmedabad, Patna, Poona, Nashik, and Surat. With the efforts of

Bharatiya Jnanpith, five libraries were discovered in the south, and many palm-leaf handwritten texts and unpublished texts were found in them.

The Buddhist period saw the development of centers of learning such as Takshashila and Nalanda, which had very good libraries. Books on many subjects like Vedas, Ayurveda, Dhanurveda, astrology, painting, agriculture, animal husbandry, etc. were collected in the library of Takshashila. The description of the huge library of Nalanda is found about 500 years before Christ. The name of this library was Dharmajung which was founded by Sabhaditya. This library was used to get financial help from many big kings and rich moneylenders. The library had three parts – Ratnodhi, Ratnasagar, and Ratrananjam. Books were arranged according to the subjects of these departments and they were fully protected. Many foreign scholars, such as the Chinese travelers Fa-Hien, Hiuen Tsang, and Itsing, have described the Nalanda library in their travelogues. He also took many handwritten texts with him. Apart from these, many foreign scholars came to study in Nalanda's library. By the way, due to the weakness of the Buddhist kings, many rulers cast an evil eye on this library, but Bakhtyar Khilji destroyed it in 1205 A.D. The students and monks fled with some texts. Thus this exclusive center of knowledge, preserved and cherished for centuries, almost came to an end. In the categories of these libraries were the libraries of Vikramshila and Vallabhi which were fully developed. King Dharmapala had established the library of Vikramshila and many handwritten texts were furnished here. The sad destruction of this library also took place due to the evil vision of Bakhtyar Khilji.

Vallabhi Nagar in the state of Gujarat had a huge library which was established by Daksha, the sister of King Dharsen. Apart from textbooks, books on many subjects were collected in this library. The entire expenditure of the library was borne from the treasury only. Thus the proper development of libraries was at its peak in ancient India.

Even during the Muslim period, there are mentions of many libraries in our country, including the library of Nagarkot and the library established by Mahmud Gawan were there. About 25 thousand books were stored in Akbar's library. The library of Raja Sharbhoji in Tanjir is still alive today. In this, more than 18 thousand books are written only in the Sanskrit language. Very ancient rare texts of Indian languages related to various subjects are also preserved here.

The History of Library Development in India:

The credit for starting the development of libraries in India in 1910 is given to Baroda King Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad. The library conference was organized in Madras on 14 November 1912 by IV Ramaiah, the pioneer of the Indian National Library movement. National Library Week is organized from 14-20 November since 1968. The library is like a temple of knowledge of any society. With the invention of the press machine in the 15th century, the picture of libraries changed and there was a significant increase in the publication of books, newspapers, and periodicals. The Imperial Public Library was established in India during British rule. For some years this library was restricted to the use of distinguished persons only. But in 1930 it was approved for the use of common people. The Connemara Public Library opened in Chennai and the Asiatic Society Library in Mumbai. The British played an important role in the development of these libraries. But these libraries were not very useful to the Indian citizens, as most of the books kept in them were in foreign languages. However, the library was used only by educated people, especially those who knew foreign languages. Nevertheless, these libraries had an important contribution to the independence of India. For example, reading books about the governance and freedom of other countries instilled a sense of freedom.

The University Grants Commission established the Information and Library Network in 1991 under the chairmanship of Professor Yash Pal. The purpose of this is the development of academic libraries and mutual coordination between libraries so that there is no repetition

of the work being conducted in libraries, uniformity in the work of academic libraries remains and the use of information communication technology is maximum.

Libraries have developed very slowly in modern India. Our country was dependent and due to foreign rule, no attention was paid to education and libraries. Due to this, the nature of the library movement was not national, nor did this movement get any legal support. The contribution of Baroda State in this direction has been commendable. The library movement started here in 1910 A.D. A library department was opened in the state and the libraries were divided into four categories – district libraries, tehsil libraries, city libraries, village libraries, etc. Their trap was spread all over the state. The first mobile library in India was also established in the state of Baroda. Shri W. A. Borden was the chair of the library department.

At this time Baroda State Library Association was established mainly due to the efforts of Baroda State and mainly by Mr. Borden. A central library was established in the city of Baroda which received 20,000 books from the ruler of the state. Later Mr. Borden also arranged for the education of library science here and many librarians were given education.

In the year 1927 in Madras state, the convention of the All-India Public Library Association was held. The Madras State Library Association was established the following year. Dr. S. R. With the efforts of Ranganathan, in 1933, the 'Library Act' was passed by the assembly. The Library Association published 20 books on library science, mainly Dr. Ranganathan's books.

The association started a 'summer school' in 1929, the objective of which was to provide training in library science. Later, with the inspiration of this association, Madras University started a Diploma course in Library Science.

The library movement in Bombay State began in 1882 when the Native Central Library was established at Dharbar. A library was established in Ranevannur in 1873 AD. In the year 1890 AD, the Karnataka Vidyavardhak Sangh was established, due to which the library movement got a lot of help. This association gave many books free of cost to the libraries of Bombay State. In 1924 the All-India Library Conference was held in Belgaum and in 1929 the Bombay Karnataka State Library Conference was held in Dharwar under the chairmanship of Shri Venkata Narayan Sastri. An exhibition of newspapers and magazines was also organized on this occasion. Library Development Committee was formed in Bombay State in 1939 and gave its report to the government in 1940, But action on the report of the committee was possible only after independence. Central Library and many developed libraries have been established in this state. Library Science is also taught at Bombay University.

The library movement started a little late in the state of Bihar. Khuda Baksh Library was established in Patna in 1891 AD. In this, a very beautiful collection of more than eight thousand handwritten texts and rare ancient paintings was made. In 1915 AD, Patna University Library and in 1924 AD Sinha Library was established in Patna. Bihar Library Association was established in 1937.

The development of libraries in Uttar Pradesh has been done properly in the modern period. Libraries were opened with all the universities here, including the Gaekwad Library of the Banaras Hindu University, the Aligarh Muslim University Library, and the full-fledged libraries of the Lucknow and Allahabad Universities. Libraries like Nagripracharini Sabha, Kashi's Aryabhasha Library, Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Allahabad's Hindi Museum, Lucknow's Aminuddaula Public Library, etc. are the main libraries of this state. Chintamani Memorial Library was established in Allahabad in 1941 AD with the efforts of Akhil Bhartiya Seva Samiti. This library is a unique collection of literature related to social service. In 1737 AD, a directory of libraries across the province was presented by the Library Association of Uttar Pradesh. In 1941, library science education was started in Banaras Hindu University.

In 1915 AD, the library of Punjab University, Lahore, Mr. A. Developed by the efforts of D. Dickenson. The Punjab Library Association was established in 1929 AD and in 1945 AD a magazine named Indian Librarian was published from Lahore and a quarterly magazine named Modern Librarian was also brought out.

The Bengal Library Association was established in 1931 AD. The publication of a magazine started in 1938 on its behalf. The association also did commendable work in the direction of library science. In 1931, library science classes were opened in the Imperial Library (National Library) and after that in 1945, Calcutta University established a department related to this subject.

Similarly, library associations were also established in Assam and Orissa. Poona Library Association was formed in 1945 and Delhi Library Association in 1946. Undergraduate studies in library science were started at Delhi University and arrangements were also made for post-graduate classes.

The first such effort in the world towards the library movement started in England and in 1850 the first Public Library Act was implemented in England. Shri Ganesh of this movement in India took place in 1910 with the efforts of Naresh Shayaji Rao Gaekwad II of Baroda. He is also known as the father of the Indian library movement. Gaikwad was a visionary and scholar ruler, who visited Western countries. During the tour, he saw the libraries of these countries and their arrangements. He was greatly impressed by this and after returning home, he established a public library system in his country on the same lines as there and kept it free for the service of the public. W. A. Borden, an expert in American library science, was appointed as the director of this library. Due to the important efforts of Mr. W. A. Borden, the training program for the first Indian library personnel was started in 1911 and as a result of the efforts of Mr. W. A. Borden, the first Indian library science magazine - "Library Miscellany" was published in 1912.

Major Committees Appointed for Library Development:

1. Advisory Committee for Libraries: In 1957, K.K. Under the chairmanship of P. Sinha, the "Library Consultative Committee" was established, which made its report to the Government of India on 12 November 1958.

2. University Grants Commission Committee: This committee was appointed in the year 1958 under the chairmanship of Hara Ranganathan, University Grants Commission of India. It presented its report to the Commission in 1959. This committee presented its suggestions regarding the planning and construction of university and college library buildings, furnishing and equipment, library administration, training of library personnel, salaries, numbers, etc. which were accepted by the commission.

3. Monitoring Committee of the University Grants Commission: This committee was also appointed by the Commission in July 1961 under the chairmanship of Ranganathan. And in the year 1965, it presented its report in the name of "Library Science in Indian Universities". It presented its suggestions regarding library training and research to the commission, which were accepted by the commission.

Library Association in India:

1. All India Public Library Association: This association was established in the year 1920. It had several sessions in which Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Mr. C. R. Das, and Dr. Co-operation of great men like Motichand were received. Sun. This union dissolved in 1939.

2. Indian Library Association (ILA): This association was established on December 12, 1933. Its first president was the then Vice-Chancellor of Punjab University, A.C. Woolner, and the First Secretary, of Imperial Library, Calcutta Librarian K.M. Asadullah Khan was elected. In the initial years, this association was not very active. From 1946 to 1953, under the chairmanship of Ranganathan, this association did remarkable work. The association also receives grants from the Central Government and the State Governments. Its conferences are now held every year in major cities in India. Books in English and Hindi have also been

published by the Sangh. This association published the 'Indian Library Directory' in 1938, whose revised editions were published in 1942 and 1951, and 1988. This association also publishes journals in library science. Nowadays, through this union, I.L. A. Since 1965, a quarterly magazine is being published continuously in the name of Bulletin (ILA Bulletin). This organization has its building located in New Delhi, where some paid employees are also working. It can be said without doubt that the activities of this National Association have not been in line with an All India Library Association, mainly due to the apathy of the library professionals.

3. Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centers (IASLIC): This association was established on September 3, 1955. Dr. L. Ale. Hora was elected its first president and its first session was held in Calcutta in 1986. Training in specialized librarianship and documentation is imparted by this association. German and Russian language classes are also conducted. The association publishes quarterly journals called 'Laslic Bulletin' and 'Indian Library Science Antracts'. Apart from this, some books on specialized librarianship and documentation have also been published. "Directory of Special and Research Libraries in India" is also published by this association. This association also provides book reproduction and services for a small fee. This association is affiliated with the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), and the International Federation of Documentation (FID) is also affiliated.

4. Various State and Regional Library Associations: In addition to the above All India Associations, Library Associations have been formed in almost every state and Regional Library Associations are also functioning.

Library Act in India

The first library act in India was passed as the Madras Public Library Act (1948), which is currently implemented in 19 states. Act refers to the law that is made by the government. Library Act is a law that is made by the government to provide stability to the development and operation of library services. It is only through the library act that the management of finance and infrastructural facilities are also developed for public libraries. Provision of taxes is also made through the Library Act, by which funds are arranged for public libraries from this amount and proper development of public libraries cannot be possible without the Library Act.

The work of preparing the Library Act in India was also done for the first time by Dr. Ranganathan. He presented a draft (model) of the All Asia Educational Conference 'Adarsh Library Act' held in Banaras in 1930. At present, the Library Act passed by various states is a modified form of this format. As of 2017, 19 states have passed Library Acts.

Constraints in Library Development in India:

Still, 40% of the country's population is not literate. In such a situation, it is not possible to demand a library on behalf of the general public. At present, it is not possible in this country to fulfill the three necessities of life i.e., bread, cloth, and house. In such a situation, the government is not paying attention to establishing the desired library service. 70 percent of India's population lives in small villages and hamlets. In these, library service can be provided only through mobile libraries, which is a very expensive means. Even today, in most parts of India, teaching and writing to women is considered unnecessary. The purdah system is still prevalent. The workplace of women is the four walls of the house. Therefore, almost half of the public does not feel any need for books and libraries. In ancient times, only Brahmins were considered to have the right to study. Apart from this, importance was given only to the proverbs of Vidyakanth. In this way, the democratic spirit of attaining knowledge could not be developed. There is a dearth of books, especially scientific and technical literature in Indian languages. The main reason for this is to make the English language the medium of instruction. Educated people in our country do not have an interest to read new books. Educated people also do not feel the absence of library service nor do they make

active efforts for their establishment. The general public is not interested in any public welfare work. There is also a lack of motivation for library development. Education in India mainly comes under the purview of the state governments. The state governments are not at all keen on library development. This is the reason why even today library act could not be passed in many states in India.

Conclusion:

Libraries have developed progressively since ancient times. Today the books stored in the library are not for decoration but are available for the use of all sections of the society. For the rapid development of libraries, all sections of society should come forward, especially the students, teachers, and other employees related to the library and the library organization. Modern libraries acquire knowledge and informative material and organize them in such a way that maximum use of information can be made. The library should not only be full of reading material but the library building should also be comfortable so that it can attract the readers. Using information communication and technology, the services of libraries can be accessed by the end user through computers and telecommunication networks, this is the modern concept of libraries. The development of libraries in India has been slow as compared to developed countries, the main reason behind this is illiteracy. Due to illiteracy, the sense of use and use of libraries could not be developed among the people here. The second main reason is the paucity of grants. Even today, the Library Act has not been passed in most of the states, so there is difficulty in getting grants for libraries. Where the Library Act has been passed, the condition of the libraries is better. Where libraries should be made the center of getting acquainted with the cultural pride of the nation, there should also be propaganda of national spirit through them. The importance and significance of libraries lie in this happening.

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