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CHALLENGES OF LIBRARY SERVICES IN MODERN INDIA

Dr. Aarief Basheer

**Librarian, Islamiah Women's Art's and Science College , Vaniyambadi,
Thirupattur District, Tamil Nadu.**

ABSTRACT:

Libraries collect the energy that powers modern India's creativity. Surely, open the windows of the library to see the world and inspire everyone to explore, succeed, and contribute to enhancing their quality of life. According to A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, a good book is equivalent to a hundred good friends, but a good friend is equivalent to a library. Public libraries have recognized the necessity for information for all types of people in society. The government, both at the state and national levels, has taken steps to establish public libraries as essential sources of knowledge for people from all walks of life. This article discusses the sorts and importance of libraries in India, excellent libraries in India and around the world, and the challenges of public library services in India.



KEYWORDS: *Concept of Libraries, types & importance of library, outstanding library worldwide and India, Challenges of library services.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

Knowledge is the key component that fuels growth and success. It is essential for a happy life and the advancement of a country. There are typically two ways to seek knowledge, official education and informal education. Informally acquired information is that which is learned outside of the classroom through daily activities, practice, and experience. However, both methods of knowledge seeking are dependent on libraries. In the global system of education, information storage, and retrieval, libraries are essential. Information of every kind is accessible through publications including books, journals, movies, recordings, and other media. Libraries are renowned for fostering the advancement of knowledge. Libraries, according to the International Federation of Library Associations (2018), are essential for attaining sustainable development objectives. Governments must implement effective and efficient frameworks in place that make it simple to access reliable information in a timely manner. A library is a place where people can go to borrow books, movies, and other media. It offers access to knowledge and music as well as physical and digital resources in the form of printed documents or other tangible resources like DVD, CD, and cassette. When Timbuktu's libraries were built in the fourteenth century, they drew intellectuals from all over the world (Singleton, Brent D. 2004).

2. OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

To maintain the preserve books, materials and resources with historical, cultural, social, economic and archival value and other related materials in an organized collection to provide members

of the community these materials and enriched their personal and professional lives. To provide opportunity, ensuring freedom and equal access to information for all members of the community to educate and enlighten them. To installed the digital library in order to quick global access Data is the kingpin for every successful research outcomes. Descriptive account to the contemporary situation in India with regard to public libraries, digital technologies and development possibilities and using official statistics. The secondary source of data are collected from books, magazines, journals, websites, reports, and newspapers, which are relevant to the study.

3. SELECTED LITERATURE REVIEWS

- According to Co ex Libris A. ProQuest (2022), public libraries must become more effective in order to meet customer demand as well as ongoing budget cuts and implement digitisation. By increasing their efficiency, libraries and their librarians can offer the best services possible.
- According to LizaziMbanga (2013), the library serves as the brain and heart of educational institutions. This means that fundamental education in developing nations will continue to be hampered as long as libraries continue to face these multiple difficulties.
- According to Pew Research Center (2013), majority (80%) of Americans, says that library services including book lending, reference librarians, and free internet access to be extremely important.
- There were 32,000 libraries in India, with a little over 7,100,000 books and a total circulation of over 37,700,000, according to the Indian Library Association Report (1999). The research noted the lack of true public library services and the poor state of public library services nationwide.
- According to Geetha (2017). Report says that the Ambedkar spent 15 to 20 years living at Rajgruha, and millions of people visit the location before Chaitya Bhoomi on December 6 in Shivaji Park. Rajgruha was one of the world's greatest personal libraries at the time of Ambedkar's passing because he had amassed more than 50,000 books there.

4. TYPES AND IMPORTANCE OF LIBRARIES IN INDIA

Libraries can be roughly categorised into four groups based on the services that they provide to readers:

1. Academic libraries,
2. Specialty libraries,
3. Public libraries,
4. National library.

4.1. Academic Library: The term "academic library" refers to a library that is a part of an academic organisation, such as a school, college, or university. A university's faculty, staff, researchers, and students are the primary beneficiaries of an academic library.

a. School Library: A school library serves as a learning laboratory by offering a variety of instructional resources that are crucial for the best possible support of the curriculum. The goal of the school library is to support students as they discover who they are, adopt high moral standards, increase academic productivity through independent study, and cultivate the capacity for critical thought.

b. College Library: The role of colleges in the educational process is significant. Without a library, a university would be like a tree without roots. Every college's standing is determined by the standing of the library that it maintains. Therefore, every college library should transform into a teaching tool in and of itself. The goals of the college should be supported by the college library. A college library's primary purpose is to support the administration of its parent organization's programmes.

c. University Library: Library is powerful resources of every university. Therefore, a university cannot function without a library, a library is more necessary in a university. A university library is a crucial component of the building. Students, officers, staff members, and those conducting research are

the principal beneficiaries of its upkeep. By obtaining materials for educational use for the benefit of students and teaching departments, it plays a significant role in the national life of the community.

4.2. Special Library: Special libraries have grown in popularity since the turn of the 20th century. A special library is one that caters to a certain demographic, such as the staff and members of a professional or research organisation or the employees of a company or government department. Such a library mostly deals with information. (Krishan Kumar; 1987; 72).

4.3. Public Library: A public library, sometimes known as a circulating library, is one that is open to the general public, is typically supported by public funds (such as taxes), and may be run by civil workers. Public libraries may be taxed by any level of government, from the municipal to the federal. A great example of good government is the public library. It serves every person freely, in as much or as little detail as he or she desires, and is a locally regulated public benefit.

4.4. National Library: A national library is a library that was founded by the government of a country particularly to act as the foremost information repository for that nation. These, in contrast to public libraries, hardly ever let anyone check out books. They frequently contain a large number of uncommon, priceless, or important works. A national library is one whose responsibility it is to collect and preserve the literature of the nation both inside and outside of its borders. As a result, national libraries are those institutions whose patrons represent the entire country. (Line, Maurice B.; Line, J. 2011). Few importance of libraries as follows.

- A library provides a valuable service to society by disseminating knowledge.
- The hub of all academic, intellectual, and social learning activities is the library.
- Libraries foster community development
- The digital library, which has a wealth of global internet resources.
- The library offers the ideal setting for learning new things (Binita.S. 2020).

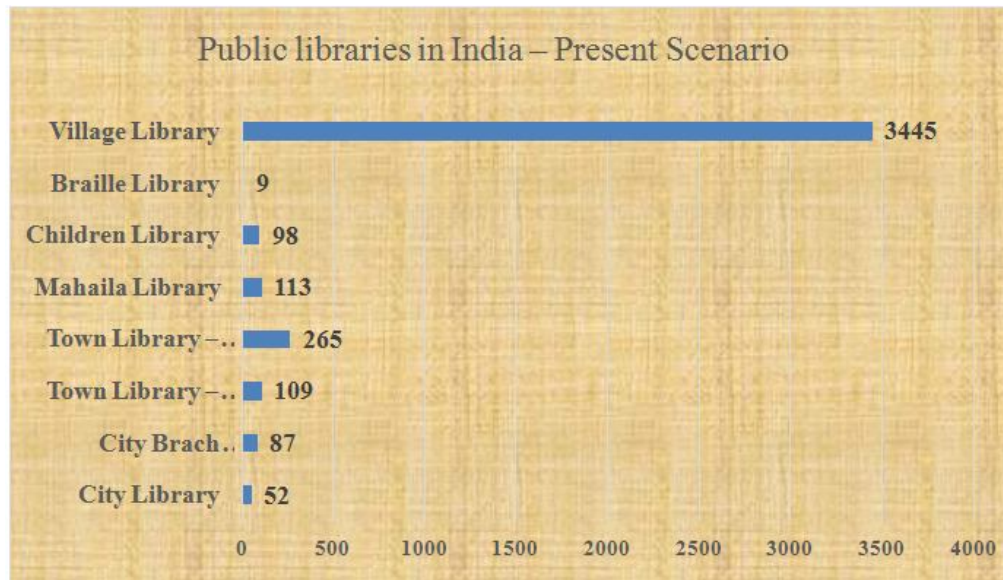
4.5. State wise public libraries acts in India

S. No.	State	Name of the Library	Year
1.	Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu (formerly Madras) Public Libraries Act	1948
2..	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act.	1960
3.	Karnataka	Karnataka Public Library Act	1965
4.	Maharashtra	Maharashtra Public Libraries Act	1967
5.	West Bengal	West Bengal Public Libraries Act	1979
6.	Manipur	Manipur Public Libraries Act	1988
7.	Kerala	Kerala Public Libraries Act	1989
8.	Haryana	Haryana Public Libraries Act	1989
9.	Mizoram	Mizoram Public Libraries Act	1993
10.	Goa	Goa Public Libraries Act	1993
11.	Gujarat	Gujarat Public Libraries Act	2002
12.	Orissa	Orissa Public Library Act	2002

Source: Zahid Ashraf Wani. (2008).

The enumerated states, the provisions of the relevant Acts are more or less fully in effect in the states indicated under 1-5. Although an Act has been approved in the remaining states, complete implementation is still pending. The Acts of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu make provision for levying library cess among other sources of finance, however other states have no provision for collecting library cess.

4.6. Public Libraries in India – Present Scenario



Source: Roland Allison (2017).

The public library system has evolved to provide the citizens of the country with reasonably meaningful library services. In India, 3445 village level libraries have been discovered to be highly installed.

5. OUTSTANDING LIBRARIES WORLDWIDE

5.1. New York Public Library, New York, NY, USA: According to the New York Public Library's annual report, their 92 sites saw 18 million visitors and distributed 23 million items in 2016.

5.2. Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn, NY, USA: According to recent press report highlighted that over 8.1 million people visited the 59 branches of the Brooklyn Public Library in 2017.

5.3. National Library of China, Beijing, China: The National Library of China, which opened its doors as the Imperial Library of Peking in 1909 and currently has over 35 million items in its collection, is the biggest library in Asia.

5.4. State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia: The State Library of Victoria received 2,071,250 visits during the 2016–2017 fiscal year, breaking the 2 million visit milestone for the first time in its history and making it the largest library in Australia.

5.5. Library of Congress, Washington D.C., USA: The The Library of Congress is not just the largest library in the nation and, also the oldest government cultural institution in the United States (it was established in 1800). The library hosted "almost 1.9 million onsite visitors" in 2017, who browsed its 167,000,738 items on around 838 miles of bookcases, according to its website.

5.6. British Library, London, UK: British Library matches the Library of Congress in size. The British Library reported "nearly 1.5 million" visitors during the 2016–2017 fiscal year in their annual report.

5.7. Royal Danish Library, Copenhagen, Denmark: Comparable in size to the Library of Congress is the British Library. In their annual report, the British Library stated that "almost 1.5 million" people visited the institution during the 2016–2017 fiscal year.

5.8. Berlin State Library, Berlin, and Germany: 2009 saw 1.4 million visitors to the Berlin State Library (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin), according to this website and Wikipedia.

5.9. Russian State Library, Moscow, Russia: Moscow Russian State Library is only in Russian. However, according to this website, the Russian State Library hosts 1.17 million visitors annually and holds roughly 44.4 million items.

5.10. Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, France: With 15 million volumes and other things in its collection, the French National Library saw 1,150,000 visitors at its four Parisian locations in 2016.

5.11. National Library of Russia, St. Petersburg, Russia: The National Library of Russia has a collection of 35,718,000 articles, and according to their website, 966,000 individuals visited the reading rooms in 2011.

5.12. Trinity College Library, Dublin, Ireland: According to its annual report, approximately 964,000 people visited Ireland's largest library, Trinity College Library, in 2017. (Emily Temple. 2018).

6. MOST POPULAR LIBRARIES IN INDIA

6.1. The National Library of India, Kolkata: The National Library in Kolkata has the most volumes and other public records overall. Over 2,270,000 books have been stored in the library, which is situated on 30 acres of ground. Additionally, it gathers and keeps safe every printed item ever created. As a result, it has about 3,200 manuscripts and almost 86,000 maps.

6.2. Delhi Public Library, Delhi: Over 18 lakh books are housed in the collection of the Delhi Public Library in Delhi. The fact that the library offers a separate section for Braille books is notable.

6.3. State Central Library, Hyderabad: South Indian State Central Library (SCL) has a surface area of 72,247 square yards. Its library has over five lakh books and has 17,000 rare and priceless manuscripts.

6.4. Anna Centenary Library, Chennai: The 8-acre library in Tamil Nadu has a book collection of about 5 lakh titles. A Braille library is also included to meet the needs of those who are blind.

6.5. Allahabad Public Library: The largest public library in Uttar Pradesh, Allahabad Public Library or Thornhill Mayne Memoria, has 1.25 lakh books, 40 different types of magazines, and 21 Arabic manuscripts with Parliament Papers.

6.6. Krishnadas Shama Central Library, Goa: Shaman Krishnadas Portuguese, Latin, French, and English-language books and magazines are available at Goa's Central Library, one of the city's oldest libraries. Additionally, it has books from the 1961 era.

6.7. State Central Library, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala: Since its founding in 1829, the State Library of Kerala has amassed a collection of 3,67,243 documents in a range of subjects and languages.

6.8. Smt. Hansa Mehta Library: The Smt. Hansa Mehta Library was founded in 1950 and is headquartered in Vadodara. Its largest reading room is 10,600 square feet, and it has a library of about 25,000 books.

6.9. Saraswathi Mahal Library: One of the oldest and most distinctive Asian libraries is the 16th-century Saraswathi Mahal Library. Later, the general public was allowed access by the government. Over 35,000 manuscripts in languages including Tamil, Sanskrit, and Telugu are included in its collection.

6.10. Asiatic Society, Mumbai: Over 15,000 volumes are rare and precious in the society's collection. Dante's Divine Comedy is available in the library's original editions. (Vibes of India. 2022).

7. CHALLENGES OF LIBRARY IN INDIA

7.1. The absence of a library policy is a serious drawback in most nations. A library policy is meant to provide instructions for decisions to be made and actions to be done inside the library.

7.2. Poor staffing procedures: The majority of the studies highlighted bemoaned the inadequate staffing. Either there isn't a single qualified librarian, or there aren't any. Lack of qualified workers in the library creates further issues including an irrelevant choice of books and books that are improperly catalogued and organized. Malanga (2017) asserts that inadequate staffing contributes to kids' lack of information literacy.

7.3. Insufficient funding: Insufficient budget results in inadequate staffing and resources. Within the Ministry of Education's library policy and national library policy, the problem of library finance and budget needs to be addressed.

7.4. Weak ICT infrastructure: 4. Weak ICT infrastructure: In the modern day, the school system must have robust technical infrastructures. Sadly, the condition at the majority of libraries in developing

countries is depressing. Libraries that lack ICTs are forced to continually offer outmoded information sources.

7.5. Lack of knowledge: Because libraries are seldom advertised, patrons are unaware of their importance to education. Principals and headmasters do not recognize the crucial role that libraries play in the teaching and learning process because of a lack of marketing.

8. SUGGESTIONS FOR PROBLEMS-SOLVING

- ❖ Establishment of a library fund: It is necessary to enact a tax on books that can be collected and administered by PTAs and management committees for libraries in coordination with the appropriate authorities. The school library fund can lessen reliance on public funding for libraries.
- ❖ Rural development should be accelerated: Developing nations should speed up the development of rural areas. Teachers and students will be able to access library books and other amenities, especially those in previously underserved rural locations (Shandu, Evans, & Mostert, 2014). The growth of rural areas might entice qualified librarians to go to rural school libraries.
- ❖ Collaboration between public and academic libraries: Plans must be in place for joint initiatives between the two types of library. In order to share expertise about management techniques and information resources, librarians should create relationships between public and school libraries.
- ❖ There is a need for incentives for qualified staff members operating in remote regions who are working as library staff in order to motivating the workforce. This might contribute to greater job satisfaction and better performance.
- ❖ Build public libraries with a focus on creating community and cultural spaces rather than just physical repositories of information.
- ❖ Develop "universal wisdom" a global awareness and understanding building online bridges across many cultures.
- ❖ Develop the hybrid library, our digitized collections, services, and knowledge for knowledge, education, and information in various forms.
- ❖ Establish national, global, and national standards for the Internet.

CONCLUSION

A fundamental prerequisite for lifelong learning, independent decision-making, and the cultural development of the individual and social groups is provided by the public library, the neighborhood's entryway to information. They carry out this activity frequently and without assurances of success. More dedicated, brave, and inventive librarians are needed to create the best library in the world if public library education is to become more widely available.

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Dr. Aarief Basheer

**Librarian, Islamiah Women's Art's and Science College , Vaniyambadi,
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