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## THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF PUBLIC LIBRARY ACTS OF DIFFERENT STATES OF INDIA

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### ABSTRACT

*The history of the establishment of libraries in India has also been very important. There are many types of libraries. Public libraries are related to the public and not to any particular person. So it is clear that they are established keeping in mind the interests of the public. The maintenance of the material stored in public libraries and its smooth operation is the responsibility of the government, due to which the Act is required for the operation of the library. Such acts are created by a nation-state or public authority. Therefore, for the establishment, maintenance, and development of public libraries, the need for the Library Act is mandatory for all countries. Even today there are many states in India where the public library act has neither been passed nor any positive efforts are visible in this context. The purpose of this research is to make a comparative study of the Public Library Acts of different states of India.*



**KEYWORDS:** Libraries, Public Library, Public Authority, Library Act

### INTRODUCTION

The role of libraries is important in the development of the public in all the countries of the world, but it is difficult to run public libraries smoothly in the absence of government cooperation because the government is a powerful and dominant medium. After surveying the nation's population, language, literacy level, people's occupation, interest in the study, means of transport, climate, etc., Library Act can be established based on that.

Ignoring the Library Act by the government, another means of nurturing the libraries is to provide grants, grant-in-aid is provided for library operation, but library service is not able to get stability. Sometimes, due to the non-receipt of grants on time, the condition of the library goes on deteriorates, and in the future, it is not possible to compensate that the operation of the library can be resumed systematically. The social, intellectual, political, and economic levels of the country can be raised only through public libraries. Public libraries in the world are making important

contributions to the development of their respective countries.

The need for a public library may be at the national level and the provincial level. The act can also be passed by the authority of the local government. Library Acts can be further improved by establishing proper coordination between governance, administration, and authorities. Similarly, the services of libraries can be further strengthened by establishing proper coordination between the national, state, and local levels. With time, many states of the country have tried to join a new genre by passing the

Library Act according to their capability.

Determining a sound policy for the library structure, making financial arrangements for the development of the library, establishing a library system, determining the continuity and assurance of library service, helping in providing free library service to the public, and creating a base for library cooperation. Providing cooperation for the development of the library, creating a strong board of directors, etc. requires the Library Act.

### Research Methodology:

The research paper has depended on secondary data.

### Objective of Research:

- 1) Getting information about Public Library Act in India.
- 2) To understand the need and importance of the Library Act.
- 3) To comparative study of Public Library Acts of different states
- 4) To understand the present status of the Public Library Act in different states.

### The Comparative Study of Public Library Acts of Different States of India:

Kolhapur was the princely state before independence in western India, where the Public Libraries Act was passed in 1945. Mundra Deo Raj Mahasaya of Bengal founded the Bengal Library Association in 1927 and worked hard to give the Bengal Library Act. Khan Bahadur Asadullah made many efforts for the foundation of the Indian Library Association in 1933. In 1914, the first conference of library workers and persons interested in the library movement was organized at Bezwada in Andhra Pradesh. The first All India Public Library Conference was held in Madras in 1934. To date, only half of the states of the Indian Union have passed the Library Act since India's independence, however, the remaining states are likely to in the coming few years.

By the middle of the 19th century, there were public libraries in the three Presidency towns of Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras. These libraries were mostly funded by the Europeans living in these cities, the most important of which was the establishment of the Public Library in Calcutta in 1835. By the turn of the century, all provincial capitals and many district towns also had public libraries. Even some dynasties, such as Indore and Travancore-Cochin, had the distinction of having public libraries in their capitals. Trivandrum Public Library (1847), Andrews Library of Surat (1850), Gaya Public Library of Gaya (1855), Rajkot Library (1856), Connemara Public Library of Madras (1860), Junagarh Library (1867), etc. Were. The use of these libraries was limited to a small, affluent section of society.

The first three decades of the 20th century can be seen as the golden age of the Indian library system. Here we will study Public Libraries Act in Tamil Nadu, Public Libraries Act in Andhra Pradesh, Public Libraries Act in Maharashtra, Public Libraries Act in West Bengal, and Public Libraries Act in Uttar Pradesh.

Public Libraries Act in Tamil Nadu This was the first Act in post-independence India, enacted in 1948 in Madras State. The Madras Public Libraries Act was later known as the Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Act. As the 'State Central Library,' the Connemara Public Library became the first library to come under the purview of this Act. Subsequently, five district libraries were added in 1951 during the Five-Year Plan. This act s. R. Ranganathan was enacted based on research and activity of the Madras Library Association. Other states have enacted Public Library Acts based on the Madras Public Library Act. Ranganathan had trained as a librarian in London around 1923 and, impressed by the system of public library legislation there, began campaigning for something similar in his own country upon his return to India. Law was "an essential requirement in any country" and was recognized by Ranganathan. The situation was complicated by the existence of different types of governments, including provincial provinces under the control of the British Raj and various states under the control of The resulting research and consultation were presented at the First All India Educational Conference in 1930. This report included the proposed Model Library Act. This was brought into compliance by the Madras Public Libraries Act in 1948, which became India's newly independent library. became the first

Act to be passed in the Republic. Other areas such as Kerala and Haryana followed the Act and generally reformed earlier laws. Before the Act, the principal library in Madras was the Connemara Public Library, which opened in 1860 and became a public library in 1896. It became the State Central Library in 1948 and a Depository Library in 1981.

The Madras Public Library Act is administered overall by the State Library Committee under the chairmanship of the State's subordinate Education Minister. The committee consists of life members from various fields, including representatives from universities and state library associations, as well as a secretary. There is a provision to appoint a director in a public library. Revenue is received by way of Cess, which is collected by the local administrative bodies such as Nagar Palika and Panchayat. Taxes are remitted by those bodies to their local library association (LLA), which acts as a custodian organization at the intermediate district administrative level. The rate of taxation is fixed in law but the state government can request a higher rate from the local library association if it agrees. The local library association sets the conditions of admission to the libraries under its control.

A total of 12 public libraries were in operation as of 2002, although two of these for Hyderabad and Kolhapur were not implemented due to changes in the administrative structure of those regions, and two others. Narasimha Raju observed that these Acts proved ineffective due to a combination of poor funding, poor administrative structure, and, in some states, the weak and negative attitude of their governments.

The Andhra Pradesh Libraries Act ensures the smooth functioning of public libraries. The Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act also makes provisions for finance, human resources, and other resources in the state. When Andhra Pradesh was formed in 1956, there were two Library Acts in force for the development and functioning of public libraries in the state, the Madras Public Libraries Act and the Hyderabad Public Libraries Act in the Andhra region of Telangana. To avoid difficulties in administration, there should be only one unified and amended Act. Dr. S. R. According to Ranganathan, both states have the same unified and amended Act. The Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act, of 1960, was passed as a unified Act that applied to the entire State of Andhra Pradesh from April 1960 onwards and was subsequently amended in 1964, 1969, 1987, and 1989. Through this act, a network of public libraries was created which began to provide effective service to the urban and rural areas of the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Andhra Pradesh is the only state which has a minister for public libraries. The State Library Committee has the Minister as its chairman to advise it. All aspects related to the development of public libraries are focused on by the Directorate of Government, District Libraries, and Central Library Authority. There is a provision of library cess at the rate of 6 paise per rupee on house/property tax. The Directorate of Public Libraries gets the authority for establishment expenditure.

The library of the Bombay Asiatic Society came into existence in 1804. 1808 is the first important year in the development of libraries for the public in India. In the same year, the Government of Bombay proposed to register the libraries. As a result of Dr. Ranganathan's efforts, the Maharashtra Public Libraries Act of 1967 came into existence. The act was to provide for the establishment, maintenance, organization, and development of public libraries in the state of Maharashtra. Establishment, maintenance, organization, and development of public undertakings in the State of Maharashtra and for the purposes connected with the aforesaid matters.

The state government can give special grants to the library fund. Disposal of properties acquired for Government public libraries. All property, movable and immovable, acquired or maintained for any public library maintained by the State Government shall vest in the State Government. Reports and Statements Every person charged with the management of a public library shall submit such reports and statements and furnish such information to the Director or to any person authorized on this behalf as the Director may from time to time deem necessary. Without prejudice to the validity of the inspection of public libraries by the Director or any person authorized by him to satisfy himself as to compliance with the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder.

The Maharashtra Public Libraries Act, 1967 provides for the State Library Council. Whose work is mainly to give advice. Apart from this, there is no mention of the State Library Authority, under this

act the government receives money from the library fund. There is a provision to appoint qualified employees under this act. There is no provision for a state, central library under this act. There is no provision for any kind of tax in this act.

Public libraries emerged with the increase in education, literacy, and development around the world. Every country's public library has its separate history. The public library movement took shape with the evaluation of the library system in India. In 1784, Sir William Jones established the Asiatic Society of Bengal with a library. Its initial collection included the collection of Tipu Sultan's library. In 1900, the Calcutta Library opened its doors to the public. The Imperial Library Act was passed on 31 January 1902 and Lord Curzon converted the Imperial Library into the Calcutta Public Library in 1906. This act is spread to the whole of West Bengal in 5 chapters. The Act does not provide for any kind of taxation/cess, every Local Library Authority maintains a fund to which Government grants, as well as contributions from other sources, are credited and for the management of library services, Funds are paid for maintenance, improvement, and development.

The Minister in charge of the Government of West Bengal for the extension of mass education and library services looks after the affairs of library and information services. The State Library Council is the principal advisory committee to advise the Government on policies and programs about library services. The Minister of State in charge is the chairman of the advisory committee. The Directorate of Library Services enforces the Act. Under the supervision of the Department of Mass Education Extension and Library Services, the Director of Library Services administers the West Bengal Public Libraries Act, 1979, and subsequent amendments.

The Department, through the Directorate of Library Services, also manages the State Central Library and other public libraries established or maintained by the Government of West Bengal and directs all matters relating to such libraries. It is directed to all matters relating to the work of all Local Library Officers under this Act and the Local Library Authority for each district, except the District of Darjeeling, to carry out the purposes of the Act. Two separate local library authorities have been created for Darjeeling district, Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC) and Siliguri Mahakuma Parishad Area (SMPA). Generally, the District Magistrate of each district is the chairman of the local library authority of that district. This also applies to the Siliguri Mahakuma Parishad area, however, the Principal Secretary of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council is the chairman of the local library authority of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council Area. For the Local Library Authority of Kolkata, the Director of Library Services, West Bengal is the Chairman, District Library Officer who is appointed by the Government Act as ex-officio Member Secretary of the Local Library Authority and acts on behalf of the local library.

For the last ten years, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh was considering making an Act to make arrangements for the regulation, strengthening, and expansion of library services in the state. Requests have been made to the Government of India and other sources for such action. But it could not be built due to the extra weight involved. Whereas, in the meanwhile, Acts on the said subject had been implemented in many other states and continuous demands were being made from various fields for the implementation of the Library Act. Therefore, after due consideration by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, it was ensured that a law should be made to make arrangements for the establishment, maintenance, strengthening, and development of public libraries in the state. Since the State Legislature was not in session and it was necessary to take immediate legislative action to implement the above regulation, the Governor promulgated the Uttar Pradesh Public Library Ordinance, 2006 (Uttar Pradesh Public Library Ordinance No. 7 of 2006) on July 31, 2006. promulgated. The Uttar Pradesh Public Libraries Act, 2006 was passed to replace the above Ordinance.

## CONCLUSION:

The position of public libraries and library acts in India is quite different from other countries. The Library Act determines the structure of the library and ensures its development within a model framework. The act curbs the irregularities of politicians and administrators. The Act makes arrangements for financial assistance for the library on a permanent and gradual basis so that there is

no financial shortage in its continuous development. The above authority is prescribed for the administrator of the library. At the same time, it is ensured that the power is accountable to the Legislature and the people's representatives. National Library, State Library, Central Library, District Library, Block Library, and Panchayat Library should be established as a service in the country for the public, Advisory Council constituted as a central agency to review Indian libraries should go. State governments should accept responsibility for public library services in their states. There should be free access for every citizen of India to avail the facility of the library services.

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