



ROLE OF PUBLIC LIBRARY IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: AN EVALUATIVE STUDY ON THE DISTRICT OF DIBRUGARH AND SIVASAGAR, ASSAM

Mrs. Rashmi Rekha Buragohain¹ and Ms. Jyotirupa Gogoi²

¹Assistant Professor, CLISS, Dibrugarh University, Assam (India)

²Junior Librarian, VKV, Tefrogam Arunachal Pradesh (India)



ABSTRACT

Now a day Public Libraries plays an important role in the development of local community. Public Libraries act as institution of society as well as community. In this article discusses the present status of public libraries in Dibrugarh and Sivasagar Districts, Assam. The study also reflects the contribution of public libraries towards community development in those surveyed public libraries.

KEYWORDS: Public Library, Community Development.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Public Library serves for the upliftment of the community. A community consists of different group of people such as students, teachers, engineers, doctors, educationist, agriculturist, farmer, labors etc. The basic function of the public library is to bridging the gaps among those groups of people and disseminates information to the information needed person.

The public library is that type of agency which works for the community. The relationship between the library and the community it serves as of paramount importance IFLA/UNESCO (1998) 4 declare; "The public library service must be adapted to the different need of community in rural and urban areas". Totter Dell (1981) states the importance of relationship between the public library and community as "if the library is too responsive to community needs then its involvement with the community must be much greater"

The IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto 1994 elaborates the significance of Public Library as "the local gateway to knowledge, provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision making and cultural development of the individual and social group."and also " The public library is the local centre of information readily available to its users. The services of the public library are provided on the basis of equality of access for all, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, nationality, language or social status." Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science defines it as "a public institution supported by taxation, one that opens its collections, facilities and services without distinction to all citizens"

At present, the public library is playing a role of an agency of Community Information Centre as well as Recreational Centre, Centre of Communal Harmony and National Integration, Community Resource Centre and most importantly it bridge the Digital Divide of Local Community.

ifl Public Library Innovation Programme in Public Libraries Advancing Community Development in Asia (2011) mention that today public libraries are interested in providing information to the information seeker and also it contributes to community economic wellbeing, empowerment of women and girls, improving former lives, building healthy community contribution to digital inclusion.

2. OBJECTIVES:

The main objective of Public Library is to act as an institution of Community Development. The objectives of the studies are as follows:

- i) To examine the impact of public libraries on community development in some selected district libraries of upper Assam (India)
- ii) To study the relationship among the local community and public libraries in Dibrugarh and Sivasagar District.
- iii) To find out the problems faced by public libraries in providing different community development programme.
- iv) To study the ongoing practices and attempt towards the enhancement of community development in public library.

3. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

In this article, I have taken help of some books, internet sources and journal articles etc of which some of them are mentioned below:

- i) **Abu, Roziya, Grace, Marty And Carroll, Mary (2011)** in his article "The Role Of The Rural Public Library In Community Development And Empowerment" published in *The International Journal Of The Book* discusses that community empowerment and public library, rural community and rural libraries, community involvement, satisfaction with the rural library program, services and activities, contribution to public and rural library in community development.
- ii) **Chatterjee, partha (2012-13)** in his report " Report On Public Library: reading habits and socio-cultural change" under the sponsorship of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India released through the Raja Rammohun Ray Library Foundation Kolkata which is retrieved from [rrrlf.nic.in>OldWebsite>pdf>report_o...licLibrary](http://rrrlf.nic.in/OldWebsite/pdf/report_o...licLibrary) describe that a brief history of time from ancient library to public library, the impact of public library, public library becomes a power house of knowledge, functional aspects of libraries defined UNESCO manifesto for Public library. This report also describe that what is culture, changing culture of library.
- iii) **eifl Public Library Innovation Programme (2011)** discuss about the innovation programme advances community development by enabling public libraries to implement innovative ideas that use technology to improve people's lives and livelihoods.
- iv) **Islam, Anwarul and Islam, M.M.Ud. (2010)** in their articles ' Community Information Services through Public Libraries in Bangladesh', discuss the problems of providing CIS through Public Libraries in Bangladesh, develop guiding for setting up CIS etc.
- v) **Ngurtinkhuma, R.K. (2007)** in his thesis 'Role of state and District Libraries in Socio-Cultural and Education Development of Mizoram' provide the meaning of socio-culture, role of public libraries in the socio-cultural development and impact on cultural life.
- vi) **Singh, Rajesh (2018)** in his article "public library and society" which is retrieved from [epgp.inflibnet.ac.in>public-libraries>0..pdf](http://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in/public-libraries/0..pdf) describe that role of public libraries as social institution, growth and development of public library and also discusses that role of public libraries in community development and preservation and promotion of culture and public libraries and multicultural society, future of public libraries.

4. GENERAL INFORMATION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF DIBRUGARH AND SIVASAGAR DISTRICT OF ASSAM:

General information includes different information about public libraries of Dibrugarh and Sivasagar District i.e. two District Libraries and six rural surveyed libraries. The following table 4.1 shows all the information about the name and year of establishment of surveyed libraries in details.

Table no 4.1: Information of the surveyed district libraries and other six Rural Libraries

Sl. No	Name of the libraries	Year of establishment
1	Dibrugarh District Library	1955
2	Young Blue Club & Library, Chabua	1983
3	Arunudoy Sangha And Puthibharal, Lepetkatta	1962
4	Pradeep Puthibharal, Natun Bolai	1960
5	Sivasagar District Library	1968
6	Suruj Mukhi Library, Bogidole	1975
7	Gyanudoy Puthibharal, kalugoan	1967
8	Rupali Yubak Sangha &Puthibharal, Hologuri	1991

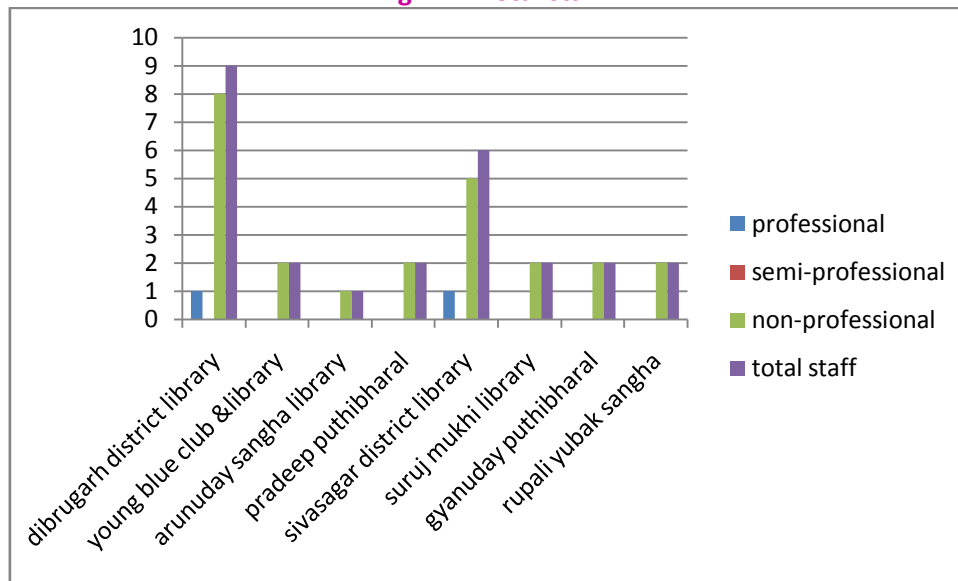
From table no 4.1, it shows the name of the libraries and year of establishment of the districts libraries of Dibrugarh and Sivasagar and also rural libraries of both districts. It is seen from the table that district libraries is one of the oldest public libraries with compared to other surveyed libraries.

Table no 4.2: Library staff in Public Libraries of Dibrugarh and Sivasagar Districts

Name of the District	Name of the district and rural library	Professional	Semi-professional	Non-professional
D I B R U G A R H	Dibrugarh District Library	1	-	8
	Young Blue Club & Library, Chabua	-	-	2
	Arunudoy Sangha And Puthibharal, Lepetkatta	-	-	1
	Pradeep Puthibharal, Natun Bolai	-	-	2
S I V A S A G A R	Sivasagar District Library	1	-	5
	Suruj Mukhi Library, Bogidole	-	-	2
	Gyanudoy Puthibharal, kalugoan	-	-	2
	Rupali Yubak Sangha &Puthibharal, Hologuri	-	-	2

From the above table 4.2 it is seen that only two surveyed libraries have professional staff i.e. Dibrugarh District Library and Sivasagar District Library and rest of surveyed Public Libraries are running by some non professional.

Fig- 4.1: Total staff



The fig-4.1 illustrates that Dibrugarh District Library, among the nine library staff, only one staff is the library science professional and the rest of eight are non-professional. At present, the total staff member of Sivasagar District Library is six only. One is library science professional and other five staffs are non-professional. All the rural libraries staffs, under the Dibrugarh and Sivasagar District Library are non-professional.

Table no 4.3: Library hours of the surveyed libraries

Name of the District	Name of the district and rural library	Opening time	Closing time	Holiday
D I B R U G A R H	Dibrugarh District Library	10:30 am	6:00 pm.	Monday and 2 nd and 4 th Saturday
	Young Blue Club & Library, Chabua	12:30 pm	6:00 pm	Monday and 2 nd and 4 th Saturday
	Arunudoy Sangha And Puthibharal, Lepetkatta	3:30 pm	6:30 pm	Monday and 2 nd and 4 th Saturday
	Pradeep Puthibharal, Natun Bolai	3:30 pm	5:00 pm	Monday and 2 nd and 4 th Saturday
S I V A S A G A R	Sivasagar District Library	11:00 am	6:30 pm	Monday and 2 nd and 4 th Saturday
	Suruj Mukhi Library, Bogidole	12:00 none	3:00 pm	Monday and 2 nd and 4 th Saturday
	Gyanudoy Puthibharal, kalugan	3:30 pm	5:30 pm	Monday and 2 nd and 4 th Saturday
	Rupali Yubak Sangha & Puthibharal, Hologuri	2:30 pm	4:00 pm	Monday and 2 nd and 4 th Saturday

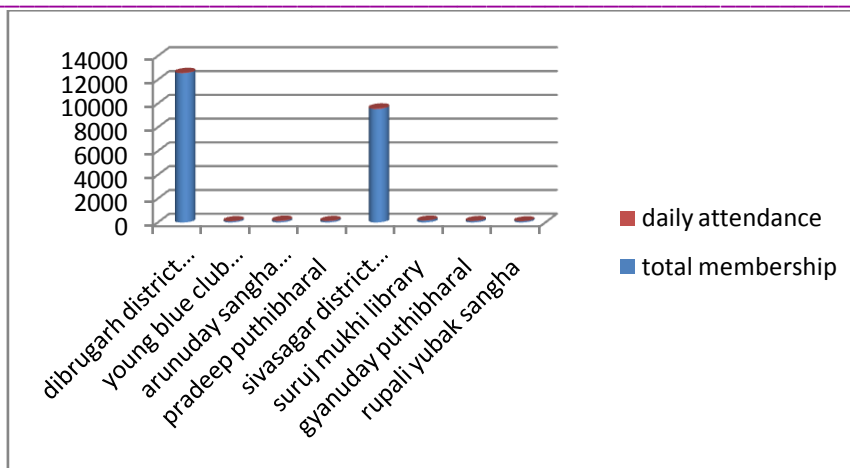
From the table no 4.3, it is found that the two district libraries and their rural libraries remains open for all working days of a week except Monday and 2nd and 4th Saturday and all government holidays.

Table no 4.4: Types of users, total number of membership and daily attendance of users

Name of the District	Name of the district and rural library	Total membership	Daily attendance
D I B R U G A R H	Dibrugarh District Library	12560	42
	Young Blue Club & Library, Chabua	100	25
	Arunudoy Sangha And Puthibharal, Lepetkatta	120	50
	Pradeep Puthibharal, Natun Bolai	115	30
S I V A S A G A R	Sivasagar District Library	9539	70
	Suruj Mukhi Library, Bogidole	160	12
	Gyanudoy Puthibharal, kalugoan	120	15
	Rupali Yubak Sangha &Puthibharal, Hologuri	100	12

From the above Table-4.4 it is discussed that the number of users of Dibrugarh District Library is greater than any other surveyed libraries and the users are mainly student and research scholar. Though the total users of Sivasagar District Library are less than Dibrugarh District Library but number of regular users in Sivasagar District Libraries is higher than Dibrugarh District Library.

Fig: 4.2: Total membership and daily attendance of surveyed libraries



From fig- 4.2, it is found that, in the case of public libraries, it covers all the community irrespective of race, caste, religion, sex, and age. Dibrugarh District Library memberships are more than to the Sivasagar District Library. Total number of users of Dibrugarh District Library is 12560, whereas Sivasagar District Library is 9539. The number of member in rural libraries are comparatively poor.

Table no 4.5: Library facilities and services in Dibrugarh and Sivasagar District Library

Library Name	Facilities	Services
Dibrugarh District Library	Lending facility, Reading room, furniture, almirah/stack, electricity, light and fan, drinking water/toilet facility, conference hall	Circulation services, reference , and newspaper clipping services etc.
Sivasagar District Library	Lending facility, Reading room, furniture, almirah/stack, electricity, light and fan, drinking water/toilet facility	Circulation service, reference service, current awareness service, reprographic service etc.

From the table no 4.5 it is observed that the libraries are unable to provide most of the desired services of the users. In common parlance, it delivers only the circulation, reference, periodical and newspaper clipping services to the users.

The study reveals that the libraries provide the lending facility of borrowing books to the users although the reservation facility is not available. DLD also provides separates reading room and reference room facility for the users to study. But in Sivasagar district library does not able to provide separate reading room and reference room facility for the users to study. Sivasagar district library provide reprographic service to the users but Dibrugarh District Library do not provide photocopying services to the users. Dibrugarh District Library has a conference hall, but Sivasagar District Library has not a conference hall.

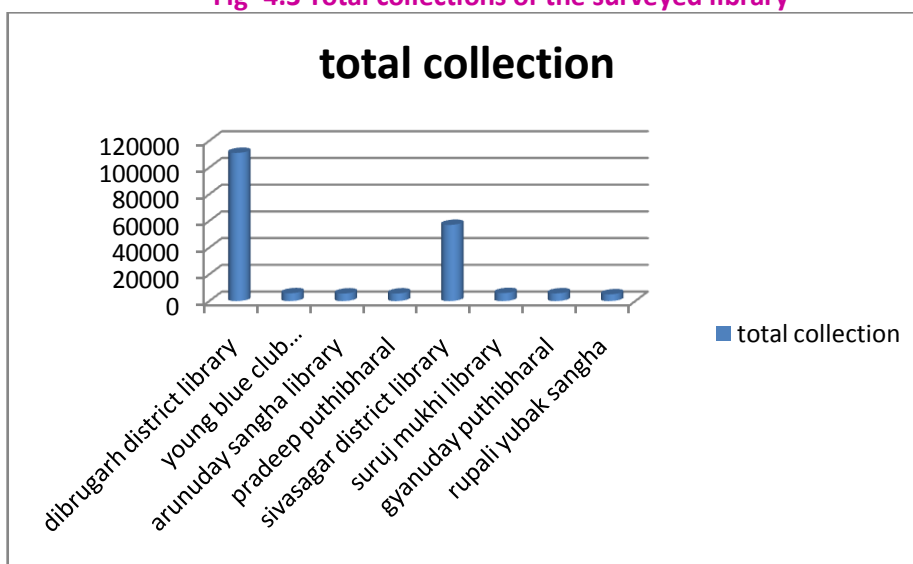
Table no 4.6: Library collection in Dibrugarh and Sivasagar District and rural Libraries

Name of the District	Name of the district library	Books	Newspapers	Magazine	References	Total Collection
DIBRUGARH	Dibrugarh District Library	1,05,937	10	30	5000	110,977
	Young Blue Club & Library, Chabua	5670	2	×	200	5872

G A R H	Arunudoy Sangha And Puthibharal, Lepetkatta	5023	×	×	656	5679
	Pradeep Puthibharal, Natun Bolai	5100	×	×	600	5700
S I V A S A G A R	Sivasagar District Library	57,000	16	16	30	57,062
	Suruj Mukhi Library, Bogidole	5930	1	×	74	6005
	Gyanudoy Puthibharal, kalugan	5000	×	×	789	5789
	Rupali Yubak Sangha &Puthibharal, Hologuri	5067	×	×	×	5067

The table no 4.6 depict the picture of library collections of Dibrugarh and Sivasagar District and Rural Libraries. The total collection of surveyed libraries is quite good enough. Two district libraries have different collection. In Dibrugarh District Library has large amount of books and references with compared to Sivasagar District Library. The Dibrugarh District Library holds different types of collection which includes Books, Periodicals, Newspapers, Gazetteer, Reference, Globe, Ludo, Chess Board etc. Every rural library has the collection of more than 5789-6005 which is includes Dictionaries, Religious Books, Story Books, Novels and other Bengali and English Books.

Fig- 4.3 Total collections of the surveyed library



From this above fig 4.3, it is found that the total number of collection in Dibrugarh District Library is highest among all the surveyed libraries. The libraries mostly receive its fund from the Govt. grants and Raja Ram Mohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF). But the allocated fund is not sufficient to take any necessary

step or action towards the modernization process. Most of the books of these libraries come from the Raja Ram Mohun Roy Library Foundation through director of library service with the help of district library and also gift, donation by public. The allocate fund is not regularly provide to the rural libraries. So, the condition of rural libraries is not good.

Table no 4.7: Section of surveyed libraries

Name of the District	Name of the district and rural library	Acquisition section	Circulation section	Reference section	Children section	Women section	Technical section
D I B R U G A R H	Dibrugarh District Library	√	√	√	√	×	×
	Young Blue Club & Library, Chabua	×	√	×	×	×	×
	Arunudoy Sangha And Puthibharal, Lepetkatta	×	√	×	×	×	×
	Pradeep Puthibharal, Natun Bolai	×	√	×	×	×	×
S I V A S A G A R	Sivasagar District Library	√	√	√	√	×	×
	Suruj Mukhi Library, Bogidole	×	√	×	×	×	×
	Gyanudoy Puthibharal, kalugoan	×	√	×	×	×	×
	Rupali Yubak Sangha & Puthibharal, Hologuri	×	√	×	×	×	×

From the table no 4.7, it is observed that, the different section of the libraries include: children section, reference section, reading room section, circulation section, librarian’s chamber, library assistant’s desk office room and nearly added a special section for handicapped. The above mention rural libraries have only circulation section.

Table no 4.8: Classification Scheme of surveyed libraries

Name of the library	Classification Scheme	Edition
Dibrugarh district library	DDC	23 rd edition
Sivasagar district library	DDC	22 rd edition

In the above table no 4.8, it is observed that, the two district libraries are technically processing the books stock. They used DDC classification scheme for arranging the documents. But the rural libraries do not use any classification scheme.

Table no 4.9: Automation and name of the Software use in Dibrugarh and Sivasagar District Library

Name of the library	Automation	Name of the software
Dibrugarh District Library	Partially	Koha
Sivasagar District Library	Partially	Koha

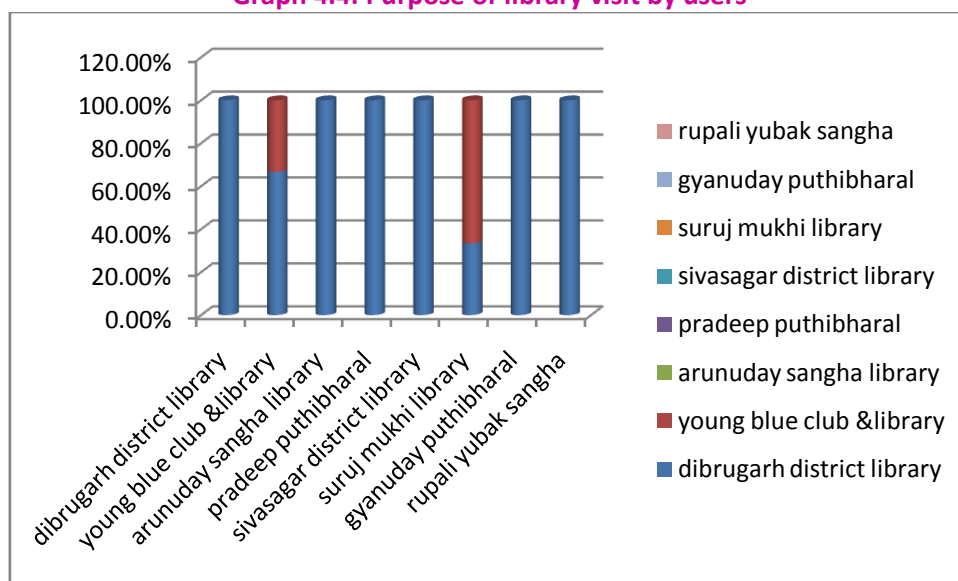
From the table no 4.9, it is observed that the two libraries use the Koha library management software to perform different operation. Those libraries are partially automated.

Table 4.10 Purpose of Library Visit

Name of district	Name of the library	Preparation of examination	Developing Knowledge on different subject	Acquire recent information	Entertainment	Read text book	Read Reference book	Read Newspaper	Searching internet
DIBRUGARH	Dibrugarh district Library	62.5%	–	100%	–	–	50%	100%	–
	Young blue Club & Library	–	–	–	–	–	50%	100%	–
	Arunodo y sangha & puthibharal	50%	–	–	–	–	75%	–	–
	Pradeep Puthibharal	–	–	–	–	–	100%	–	–
SIVASAGAR	Sivasagar District Library	66.67%	25%	58.34%	–	–	33.33%	58.34%	–
	Gyanudo	–	–	–	–	–	100%	–	–

S A G A R	y p u t h i b h a r a l								
	Suruj mukhi library	-	-	-	-	-	100%	-	-
	Rupali yubak sangha & Puthibha ral	-	-	-	-	-	100%	-	-

Graph 4.4: Purpose of library visit by users



By analyzing the above data at Table 4.10 and graph, 4.4, visit library for the purpose of preparation of examination, 100% visit the Dibrugarh District Library for acquire recent information 50% goes to the library to read reference books and 100% for newspapers. In Sivasagar District Library, 66.67% visit library for the purpose of preparation of examination, 58.34% visit the Dibrugarh District Library for acquire recent information 33.33% goes to the library to read reference books and 58.34% for newspapers and 25% visit library for the purpose of developing knowledge on different subject. In rural libraries, 100% user visit library for the purpose of reading newspapers and entertainment. Therefore, main purpose of library visit by the library users is to read the reference books.

Table 4.11: problem face by the librarian in the library

Name of district	Name of the library	Insufficient funds	Poor infrastructure	Poor communication	Attendance of readers	Co-operation from local community
D I B R U	Dibrugarh district Library	√	√	-	√	-
	Young blue	√	√	-	√	√

G A R H	Club & Library					
	Arunudoy sangha & puthibharal	√	√	—	√	—
	Pradeep puthibharal	√	√	—	√	√
S I V A S A G A R	Sivasagar District library	√	√	—	√	—
	Gyanudoy puthibharal	√	√	—	√	—
	Suruj mukhi library	√	√	—	√	—
	Rupali yubak sangha & Puthibharal	√	√	—	√	—

From the table no 4.11it is found that the major problems face by the librarian in the library such as insufficient fund, poor infrastructure, poor attendance of readers etc. lack of co-operation from the local community is the another major problem face by the librarian in some of the rural libraries.

5. PUBLIC LIBRARY IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Public Libraries provide different types of services for the development of community. They organized different extension services for the upliftment of the society. Public Libraries are always trying to keep a good relationship with community.

5.1. Programmes organized by Public Libraries

Organization of library extension services, such as, book exhibition, seminar, lecture, quiz competition, workshop, etc., to aware public library services to the public is very limited.

Table 5.1: Programmes Organised by the Libraries

Sl. No	Name of the library	Cultural programme	Religious Programme	National/international Day observe	Book exhibition	Art/Dance Programme	Games/sports
1	Dibrugarh District Library	√	×	×	×	√	×
2	Young Blue Club & Library, Chabua	√	√	√	×	√	√
3	Arunudoy Sangha And Puthibharal, Lepetkatta	√	√	×	×	√	√
4	Pradeep Puthibharal, Natun Bolai	×	√	×	×	×	√

5	Sivasagar District Library	√	√	×	√	×	×
6	Suruj Mukhi Library, Bogidole	√	√	×	×	√	√
7	Gyanudoy Puthibhal, kalugoan	×	√	×	×	×	√
8	Rupali Yubak Sangha & Puthibharal, Hologuri	×	√	×	×	×	√

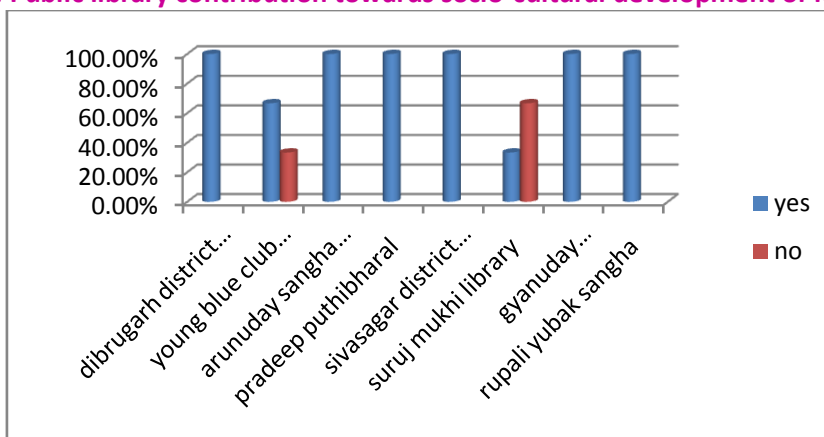
From the table no 5.1, it is observed that, Dibrugarh District Library organizes cultural programme as well as art and dance programme and Sivasagar District Libraries organizes cultural programme, religious programme and book exhibition. The rural libraries organized religion programme, games/sports, art dance programme, national/international day observation, with the help of Sanghas and Namghara of those particular villages. These libraries perform as community intellectual centre in its respective locations. In rural libraries, student, children, adult, general public, teachers are use the library resources and develop their intellectual mind.

Table no 5.2: Public library contribution towards socio-cultural development of local society

Name of district	Name of the library	User response	
		Yes	No
D I B R U G A R H	Dibrugarh district Library	100%	–
	Young blue Club & library	66.67%	33.33%
	Arunudoy sangha & puthibharal	100%	–
	Pradeep puthibharal	100%	–
S I V A S A G A R	Sivasagar District library	100%	–
	Gyanudoy puthibharal	100%	–
	Suruj mukhi library	33.33%	66.67%
	Rupali yubak sangha & Puthibharal	100%	–

From the above table it is seen that public libraries make a good relationship with local community. The responds of the users for Public library contribution towards socio-cultural development of local society is good enough.

Fig no 5.1: Public library contribution towards socio-cultural development of local society

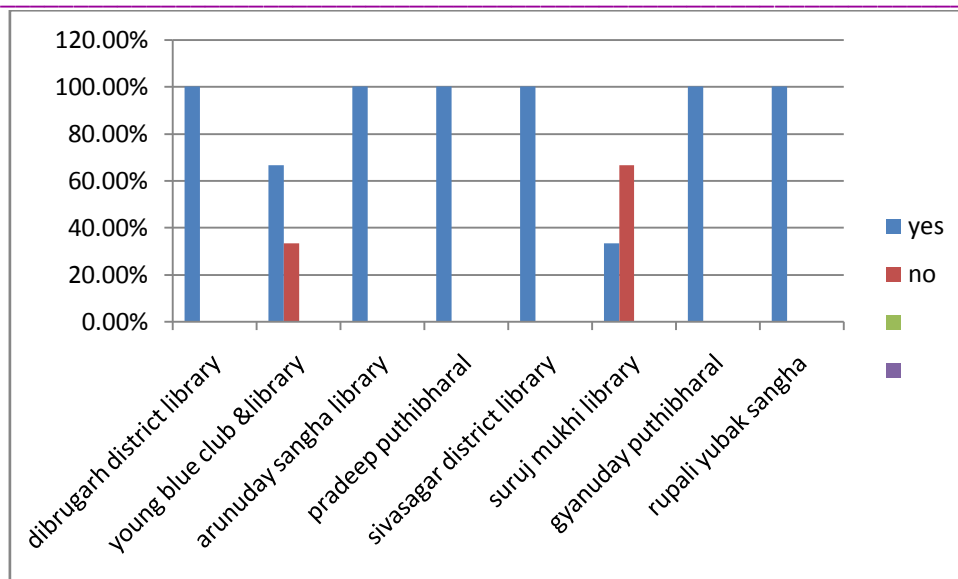


The above table and graph shows that in Dibrugarh district library and Sivasagar district library 100% user’s response that public library contribution towards socio-cultural development of local society library. In Young blue Club & library and Suruj mukhi library 33.33%- 66.67% public libraries does not contribute towards socio-cultural development of local society library.

Table no 5.3: Relationship between local community and library staff according to users view

Name of district	Name of the library	Good	Very good	Average	Below average
D I B R U G A R H	Dibrugarh district Library	62.5%	37.5%	–	–
	Young blue Club & library	33.33%	66.67%	–	–
	Arunudoy sangha & puthibharal	100%	–	–	–
	Pradeep puthibharal	100%	–	–	–
S I V A S A G A R	Sivasagar District library	66.67%	33.33%	–	–
	Gyanudoy puthibharal	–	100%	–	–
	Suruj mukhi library	33.33%	–	66.67%	–
	Rupali yubak sangha & Puthibharal	100%	–	–	–

Fig-5.2: Relationship between local community and library staff according to users view



From the table no 5.3 and fig-5.2, show that in Dibrugarh district library 62.5% good and 37.5% very good response for the relationship between local community and library staff according to users view. In Sivasagar district library 66.67% good and 33.33% very good response by the users. But the rural libraries and local community relationship is 100% good except Young blue club and library and Suruj mukhi library.

6. FINDINGS

The study reveals that District Libraries and their Rural Libraries in Dibrugarh and Sivasagar districts are engaged in the routine functions to meet the information needs of the community. There can be various reasons for which these libraries could not cope up with other developed libraries in providing different kinds of information to the community.

- None of these libraries have enough space to organize different sections of the library to provide efficient services to the readers.
- None of these libraries have adequate professional staff to take up technical works and to organize library services in systematic manner.
- RRRLF provided grants for computerization of district Library, but the progress is very slow. None of these libraries are fully automated till present.
- Most of the readers' approaches are for educational and recreational information in nature. Approaches for social and cultural information are very low.
- Services provided by these District Libraries are not satisfactory to the users to cater their information requirements. Only Sivasagar district library has Photocopy machine, but is rarely utilized by the users.
- Organization of library extension services, viz., book exhibition, seminar, lecture, quiz competition, workshop, etc., to aware public library services to the public is very limited. District Libraries do not organize such kind of programs at all, but the rural libraries organized religion programme, games/sports, art dance programme, etc.
- Although the District Libraries and their rural libraries of Dibrugarh and Sivasagar district serve as local community information centre they are facing the problems of inadequacy of reading materials to support formal and non-formal education as well as life-long learning process. The findings clearly stated that these libraries too contribute valuable services for the promotion of the social life of the local community but these services are neither properly organized nor made available at reader interests.
- District Libraries preserve cultural heritage of the society through its collection of various documents. But less number of programs on cultural activities are organized to give awareness of library as centre of cultural preservation.

7. SUGGESTION

The study reveals that all the public libraries in Dibrugarh and Sivasagar have been functioning as daily routine work to meet the information needs of their client. From the above discussion it is suggested the following significant points for the development of public library system in general District Libraries and Rural libraries of Dibrugarh and Sivasagar district in particular, so that the community of the district could make use of educational resources through such libraries.

- a) District Library may be established in all the district headquarters with modern Information Communication Technology to facilitate each access to the information needs of the local community.
- b) District Libraries and their rural libraries should have their own and well building with state-of-the-art at the central place of the locality for easy accessibility by the users.
- c) Qualified professional staff should be recruited for smooth functioning of library services.
- d) Library extension services, such as, Book Exhibition, Workshop/Seminar, Library Lectures, Audio-visual Programs, Story Hours, etc. may be organized with emphasis on to promote library services and its importance to the local community.
- e) Socio-cultural activities, like Cultural Exhibitions, Concerts, Field Trips, Film Shows, Craft Exhibitions, etc. may be organized at various places of the state to give awareness of public library services and its benefits to the society.
- f) A section on Career Guidance may be established at the library to provide counseling to the users, particularly for the school children.
- g) District Libraries should follow collection development policy of the Government. Collection development policy may emphasize on information needs of the local community.
- h) Internet facility should be provided to the library users, so that they may access their information needs easily.
- i) Book Clubs or Readers' Club may be formed in each library locations to build up reading habits among the local community, particularly among the children.
- j) Separate sections for children's literature, senior citizens, women and disable persons should be established in a library. Collections should also be organized systematically to meet their information needs.
- k) Libraries need to be automated to meet the challenges of an information society with necessary hardware and software. Each library should create its own local database and provide effective and efficient computerized library and information services, such as Database Service, CAS, SDI, Reference Service, Document Delivery Service, etc.
- l) The state government may continue contributions to RRRLF Matching Scheme and the amount may also be increased so that libraries in the state may receive more reading materials including Audio-Visual through this scheme. Public libraries need a permanent source of finance both from the State and Central Government.
- m) Library staff, both professional and semi-professional needs to be fully oriented towards application of ICT. The authority should organize such kind of regular training programs to acquire latest developments in the field. Special initiatives in orientation programs/computer literacy program may be organized for the library staff.
- n) Due to inflation, library required more budgets from the state Government. More library budget will facilitate in developing a good collection of reading material for all category of users.
- o) District Libraries and rural libraries is the centre of local gateway to information particularly in providing reading materials. Most of the local community cannot afford to procure such reading material from their own resources. To meet their various information needs, libraries should subscribe more periodicals and journals in different subjects.

8. CONCLUSION

Public library in India, in general, and Assam in particular, are facing the constant problems of physical resources (building, furniture, equipment, including ICT infrastructure) acquiring and developing good collection of documentary and non documentary resources, inadequacy of professional, semi-professional and non-professional staff as well as regular problems of financial resources.

It is also concluded from the data analysis and findings that the government should encourage establish and maintain public libraries in order to provide effective and efficient library services, which have a tremendous impact on socio-cultural and development of the local community.

The development of public libraries in our state began under the first five year plan. But yet these have been little progress in its proper functioning. The rural libraries of Assam serve the whole community; it should serve the people in their functional need of the rural people or community. These rural libraries have also a good and effective impact in respect of functioning various activities in literacy development and other socio-cultural development. All types of libraries are for the society, by the society and of the society.

REFERENCES:

1. Abu, Roziya; Grace, Marty and Carroll, Mary (). The role of public library in community development and empowerment. Retrieve from <http://researchoutput.csu.edu.au/files> (accessed on 23.11.2018) 2.30p.m.
2. Chatterjee, partha (2012-13). Public Library: reading habits and socio-cultural change. Retrieve from http://rrrlf.nic.in/oldwebsit/pdf/Report_On_Public_Library.pdf. (accessed on 29.11.2018) 12:23pm
3. **Islam, Anwarul and Islam, M.M.Ud.** (2010). Community Information Services through Public Libraries in Bangladesh. Retrieve from digitalcommons. Unl.edu >viewcontent (Accessed on23.11.2018)12.30 p.m.
4. Ngurtinkhuma, R. K. (2007) An Assessment of Role of State and District Libraries in the Socio-cultural and Educational Development of Mizoram". Retrieve from http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/1204/11/11_chapter%204.pdf. (Accessed on 12.05.2018) 9:43 am
5. Public Libraries play a vital role in community development/EIFL. Retrieve from www.eifl.net/Resource (Accessed on 15.11.2018) 5.30 p.m.
6. Rural Libraries for Social Development: a study with reference to Assam. Retrieve from http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/jspui/bitstream/10603/127594/13/13_chapter%204.pdf. (Accessed on 30.05.2018). 2:30 pm