Significant Challenges in Front of Indian Public Libraries in The Digital Era: An Overview

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Abstract:

In this presented component, we are going to study about the challenges facing Indian public libraries and the strategies that can be helpful for address the challenges in the digital Era. A library is a place of collection of books, library is an ancient social institution with a long history parallel to human civilization. Books, readers, and librarians are the three main components of a library. Mahatma Jotirao Phule, the pioneer of women's education, said that lack of education is the main reason behind the backwardness of the society. In the digital Era, knowledge is said to be power, man's power increases with his knowledge. Therefore, man should convert every moment of his life to add knowledge and increase his strength. Since ancient times, such knowledge has been preserved in the form of books, books are considered very valuable. The best place to acquire knowledge is the library and information center, there are various types of knowledge tools for imparting knowledge to the general public. Education should reach every section of the society as the circle of knowledge widens every day. To make the society progressive, remove the ignorance in the society, increase the appetite for knowledge among the readers and overall development of the society, there is no alternative but public libraries.

Keywords: Public Library, Indian Public Library, Digital Era

Introduction

A public library is a library run by the community for the community. Public libraries are in villages. As there are libraries available to the citizens of the city, such libraries are mainly run by Municipal Councils or Municipal Corporations. These libraries provide social service facilities, this facility is provided at a very low cost, books, magazines and newspapers are made available for reading. Also lecture series for readers by these libraries in occasional form, Conferences, book exhibitions are organized and the transmission of information from one generation to the next is done by these libraries Public libraries have accelerated the work of social education and social transformation. These libraries encourage research, and public libraries are responsible for supporting students pursuing non-formal education.

Objectives of Public Libraries:

- Free reading service
- Acting as a medium of public relations to strive for individual and community welfare, peace and international harmony
- To provide reading services to children, adults, students, women, disabled etc.
- To provide sophisticated and up-to-date services through books and audio tapes to special readers.

- To encourage inter-library exchange by opening branches of libraries in rural and urban areas.
- To provide trained and efficient library staff.
- Functioning of Information Centres, Enlightenment Centres and Cultural Development Centres.

If the public libraries are functional through the above objectives, it will help in eradicating illiteracy, attract readers towards libraries with interest in reading and help in widening the circle of knowledge and creating library network.

Functions of Public Libraries:
- Public libraries work to connect readers and books.
- Public libraries function as centres of conversation.
- Public libraries should provide reading materials of interest and special needs of the rural people.
- Making information available will complete the task of making them interested in the library.
- Public libraries provide complementary services to library services through media.
- Public libraries have the potential to do the work of giving intellectual and mental strength to the human mind.
- Acts to create awareness of social duty.
- Reading to adults, speaking, writing, reading to children can be done through public libraries.
- Public libraries work to provide new facilities of instruction to the readers.
- Public libraries are democratic institutions that work to provide education and information for the preservation of culture.
- Public libraries play a role in encouraging non-formal learning and encouraging education

Thus, public libraries are a very necessary institution in a democracy and its nature is charitable and enlightening, therefore, to create an overall healthy structure of the people, public libraries are information for the masses. It is seen that it is a democratic form of organization that creates self-reliant, creative and ideologically sensible citizens by imparting knowledge and good culture.

History of Indian Public Libraries

Since ancient times, India has been blessed with a rich heritage of knowledge and culture. Even during the medieval period there were some religious and cultural institutions that did the work of imparting knowledge and various forms of libraries existed in various places. Even in modern times, in the background of scientific and technological development, the need to implement a new national policy on library and information science has emerged in the country. India is a democratic nation. People of many religions, castes, races, speaking different languages live here. India is a country of villages, majority of people live in villages Mahatma Gandhi. Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj also gave the message that let's go to the village, with the universalization of education, the standard of the society has definitely been raised, public libraries play a big role in developing a conscious reading culture and inculcating the love of reading in the society.

In the first half of the 19th century, in 1836, Calcutta Public Library, the first public library in India, was established in Calcutta. It was renamed as 'Imperial Library' in 1903. After India's independence in 1948, this library was transformed. It took place in the 'National Library'. Of course, it was considered the National Library of India by the rich Chhatrapati Sayajirao Gaikwad, the ruler of the Baroda State in Gujarat in the early twentieth century. The Chhatrapati Sayajirao Gaikwad Maharaj, the ruler of Baroda State in Gujarat, consciously encouraged the library movement in his state. This is where the public library movement started in India. Dr SR Ranganathan, the father of Indian librarianship, has made significant contributions to library and information science.

Role of Public Libraries in India

It is seen that public libraries have always promoted dissemination of information and knowledge, development of reading habit and education and research. Public libraries can play an important role in promoting literacy and encouraging reading habit in India. Keeping in mind the important role of public libraries, they were well utilized for this work. Availability of library services should be primarily checked while planning the literacy program. Involvement of public library and its librarian in all three functions of pre-literacy program, literacy program, post-literacy program should be indispensable.

Public libraries are a democratic institution, public libraries are of great help in the economic and social development of the nation. The development of information technology has radically changed the way of collecting information, processing it, and distributing this information to every citizen in different forms. There is no discrimination on the basis of caste, language, income, etc., providing all kinds of services to all citizens according to their convenience and time. As public libraries play a very important role in the knowledge society system, attention should be paid to the development of public libraries along with the educational, social and cultural development of the society. But the development process does not seem to place public libraries in community services.

State of Public Libraries in India is still neglected. Strong support from the state government and adequate supply of funds is not available for the development of this library. As per the constitution, public libraries are a subject of the state schedule, although 19 states have enacted public library legislation, none of the governments have shown the generosity to give public library service an important place like other public welfare services of the state government.

Social/Economic Characteristics:

According to the 2011 census, 74.04 percent of the total population of India is literate. Some of them live in villages, the rural society is still predominantly agricultural, about 40 percent of the people live below the poverty line, the economic disparity in the country is clearly visible. The country is divided into linguistic regions and the population can be divided according to religion and caste.

Historical/Political Features:

According to the constitution, India is a republic. But if we look at the history, it can be seen that the country was monopolized by kings, emperors, sultans.

Educational Features:

35 percent of our country's population is still illiterate. There is a huge disparity between the educated and the uneducated yet many people are not aware of the technological and scientific progress made in the country. Health that affects their lives, Diet, other things useful for development are not reached to them properly. Scientific advancements have been made a lot but their implementation is not seen enough in real life.

Some significant Challenges facing Indian Public Libraries in Digital Era

There are some special characteristics of the Indian society. Since the post-independence period till today, India has made great achievements in many fields. Similarly, the expected goals have not been achieved in many sectors yet. The 20th century is ending and the 21st century has dawned. In such a transitional

period, the current situation in India has raised various challenges for public libraries, some of which will be studied.

A public library is an information centre.

1. **Library Services for All:**

Everyone in the population of our country should have the benefit of public library service. Information is a fundamental right. Public library service is an emancipation of citizens. There is a means to do. Till date what we have been given under the name of library service. At the same time, it is being neglected to provide tools that provide ideological information. This is necessary one of the challenges before us is to draw attention to the matter.

2. **Building of Information Society:**

Our society is not an information society, hence there is no demand for libraries. As there is no public library service in our society, information is our right .One has to scream, even worse is that even if the information is provided, someone uses it or not. First of all, it is necessary to create an information society, for this the librarians should take the initiative as per challenges are also big.

3. **Basis of law:**

A fundamental matter related to our countries in terms of law is that the subject of libraries is under the jurisdiction of the states. The central government only takes care of the National Library. But it is not fully public and the state government helps, it is supplementary, very meager and the center needs some mechanism to compel the states to provide services regardless of whether the aid is properly allocated or not. It should also be backed by law, the challenge for librarians is to make a thorough effort to provide a suitable legal framework for public library services.

4. **Building a library organization:**

Libraries should build organization, organization is self-restraint, organization is the right of citizens in a democracy to make themselves active and as they are free to build it, it is not possible to limit the number of organizations. But the organizations that will be created must work within the wider objectives behind the building. Organizations should be based on different functions at different levels and there should be total cooperation, unanimity. There should be consistency.

5. **Manpower Development**

To create the necessary manpower to provide quality library services to the society. Skilled librarians to run large libraries, management, technicians to take care of technical matters, organizational skill full persons to build organization should be available and the system should be created. Another component of manpower is for library work Vocational training required. For that, creating the right curriculum and implementing it is the foundation of creating the right manpower.

6. **Challenges of book production:**

Books are the basic tool of librarianship. That instrument should be of sufficient number and capacity. Government publications should be made available in all public libraries. If the information is available before and immediately after publication, it will be possible to inform the readers, many questions are related to the librarian. So this is a challenge for librarians.

7. **Availability of Government Publications:**

Information in government publications is reliable and more. Also, because decisions related to daily life are taken on that information, updated information is given in it. If this information is to be available to

all the public, government publications should be in all public libraries. And making it available is also a challenge.

8. Classification and tabulation:

Since the dawn of the computer age, librarianship has been undermining classification and cataloging. Keeping the bibliography as per the entry number of the books is rejecting the classification. There is a lot of misunderstanding about the classification and it is a formidable challenge to overcome it.

9. Development of Standards:

Self-discipline in any business is essential for the credibility of that business. Such punishment is a delicate matter. They are necessary, but also difficult to follow. Some are troublesome in some situations. Standards of library management and services can be determined with the help of Indian Standards Institution based on Dandaka. From the nature of the work in this process, it is easy to see that it is a challenging task.

Some of the strategies that will be adopted to address the challenges faced by Indian public libraries:

- Various schemes and programs can be devised to expand public library services in India.
- Some loopholes in the Indian Library Act can be identified and amendments can be drafted.
- Plans can be made for library team building at different levels.
- How much manpower will be required for the library service and how to create it can be planned.
- Frequently important notices can be given regarding the availability of various government publications.
- Creation of a national list can be planned.
- Subjects with special reference to Indian languages may be classified and cataloged entries of books with reference to Indian languages may be made.
- Techniques to deliver library services to doorsteps can be tackled using technology.

In this way the challenges faced by the libraries can be met.

Conclusion

Library is seen as a collection of important factors that give meaning to human life Human progress, growth of knowledge, increasing number of books, well-stocked libraries are the chain of human progress India is inhabited by people of different religions, different castes, each with a different culture, their conservators. The center is the library. Those who really love reading. It is the responsibility of libraries to make excellent books easily available to them. Today there are thousands of texts. Wise persons present their entire knowledge in scriptures, it is possible to go ahead of Gurus by imbibing its knowledge. The most precious thing in the world is a book. Such feeling should be rooted in every level of the society. The landmark 'Granth Mouli is the shadow of successful life' should be built, only then will a generation of decent, cultured and virtuous thoughts be created.

Today, as the culture of reading is dying out in the age of robots, the government also seems apathetic about public libraries. Employees working in public libraries and library servants have to work on wages less than the minimum wages fixed as per the government directives, but every time instead of giving relief to the government approved public library employees who work on a subsidy less than the minimum wages, their work is questioned. That seems unfair. It is necessary to take note of the remuneration paid by the government for the wages of these servants and the work done by them keeping in view the challenge of modern technology.

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