

A Study on the Contribution of Non Governmental Organizations Ngos for Providing the Community Information Services CIS Through Public Libraries

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Abstract

There is a close relationship between NGOs and public libraries for providing CIS to all irrespective of caste, creed, religion, age, gender etc. Public libraries extend and expand human knowledge by providing CIS to every person in the society individually or collectively. NGOs can play an important role for filling the gap in the public library system for providing CIS according to the needs of the society. NGOs can play an important role for the development of public libraries as part of their social service by providing land for public libraries, construction of library buildings, providing furniture, books, newspapers, computers etc. NGOs can help for removing the financial constraints of public libraries and enable them to provide better CIS to the society. Librarians of public libraries can take advantage by contacting different NGOs for providing library services to common people of the society. According to the Darpan portal of the Government of India, there are a total of 1.87 lakh registered NGOs in the whole of India. Using various newspaper articles, journal and magazine articles, Google search engine etc., it has been found that although the number of NGOs in India is more than lakhs, there are only 30 to 35 NGOs which work for the development of various types of libraries. NGOs mainly support libraries by donating books, book reading and exchange programmes, donating mobile book vans, providing library furniture and training the librarians etc. The article describes about the active NGOs which are actively related to the promotion, expansion, development and provision of CIS of public libraries. The role of NGOs for providing CIS through public libraries, the types of information services and facilities provided by NGOs have also been highlighted. Finally, suggestions have also been given on what kind of programmes NGOs can take to provide CIS through public libraries.

Keywords: Public libraries, Public library services, Community Information Services (CIS), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Rajib Gandhi Foundation (RGF), Ranganathan Society for Social Welfare and Library Development (RSSWLD), Sanmati Pustakalaya Trust, Rural Library Foundation (RLF)

INTRODUCTION

Public libraries are the universities of the people which play an important role by providing free lifelong learning opportunities to people from all walks of life. One of the basic needs of the people of any

independent democratic country is 'Education and Information for All'. Every person needs information individually or collectively to survive and thrive by fulfilling other needs including food, shelter, etc. The basic responsibility of any public welfare Government is to provide proper information services to the people. It is impossible to fulfil the basic needs of people for any Government or any organization alone. Though, the Government of India has enacted the 'Right to Education' and 'Right to Information' act to fulfil the fundamental right of the people for education and information, the act can help a common citizen of the country to take equal advantage of the use of all resources. This process can be further strengthened by expanding the general library system in the society and developing general libraries as local centres of information.

CIS are the services that help individually and collectively to solve their daily problems and participate in the democratic process. People face the most problems in their homes, their workplaces and in the exercise of their rights. In a vast country like India, most of the people live in villages. It is not possible to a public library to collect, organize, maintain, serve and disseminate appropriate community information to the people of all villages and cities of India as per their needs. Various voluntary organizations / NGOs have to come forward along with the Government for providing the appropriate CIS to the people of villages and cities. However, apart from the Central and State Governments, different autonomous bodies, various NGOs, corporate houses and individuals have been playing an important role for establishing, developing and promoting public libraries in India. Public libraries can play an important role by providing effective CIS with the help of various NGOs. Public libraries generally enrich the lives of the people by collecting various books, information and providing services. It has been observed that NGOs have been playing an important role for the development of public libraries in socially developed states like Kerala, Maharashtra and West Bengal in India. In the present era, in order to meet the information needs of the rural and urban people, public libraries and other information providers can jointly take a leading role in meeting the information needs of the people by providing the right information to the right users at the right time through various programmes. In the modern world of liberalization and open-source economy, the efforts of NGOs are too significant. There is a need to utilize the initiatives of NGOs intensively to complement the government efforts in promoting and developing the CIS of public libraries.

Objectives

- To be aware about various NGOs actively engaged in the promotion, expansion and development of public libraries.
- To gather a proper knowledge about the activities and objectives of NGOs mainly related to public libraries and CIS.
- To identify the role of NGOs for providing CIS through public libraries and what kind of information, services and facilities NGOs provide.
- To highlight on what kind of programs NGOs can take for providing CIS through public libraries.

Scope of the Subject

The discussion is limited to the provision of CIS by various NGOs through public libraries. The whole India has been taken as the geographical scope of NGOs. Several Indian NGOs such as Pratham, Bharti Foundation, Aarohan, Free Libraries Network (FLN), Joint Assistance Centre (India), Share A Book India Association (SABIA), Let's Educate Children In Need (LECIN), Akshar Bharati, eVidyaloka, Smile Foundation, Nanhi Kali, DLF Foundation, Goonj, Bharti Foundation have been working directly or

indirectly for the development of various types of libraries across the country. The actively involved NGOs for the promotion, expansion, development and provision of information services of public libraries are Rajib Gandhi Foundation (RGF), Ranganathan Society for Social Welfare and Library Development (RSSWLD), Sanmati Pustakalaya Trust, Rural Library Foundation (RLF) etc. My article is limited in the actively involved NGOs for the development in public libraries.

Role of NGOs for Providing the Community Information Services through Public Libraries in India

NGOs play an important role in socio-economic development, providing knowledge and information to the poor people of the society. Every person in the society needs information. Information helps in personal and collective development and paves the way for development. By establishing general libraries and information centers in different parts of the country and developing established general libraries, NGOs can contribute a lot by providing community information to people from different strata of the society. As per the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission, collaboration between the government and the private sector is required for the development and improvement of general library services, which will help the common people of the society overcome 'information poverty' by providing relevant and timely information services.

Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF)

The Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) is a non-governmental organization established by Smt. Sonia Gandhi on 21st June in 1991 for the purpose of the socio-economic development of the people. The head office of RGF is situated in New Delhi. It has been working for the last 33 years to implement the vision of the late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Smt. Sonia Gandhi is the Chairperson of Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and 7 eminent persons from different sectors are on the board of this foundation.

Objectives of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation

1. To assist the socio-economic development of the common people of the society irrespective of caste, religion or creed;
2. To work for the common people of the society in the areas of health, literacy, science and technology, development of women and children, assistance to the disabled, establishment of panchayat raj, natural resource management etc.;
3. To provide CIS as per the needs of the common people by establishing rural libraries;
4. To strengthen the district library system so that the people of the entire district of India can acquire skills through the use of information;
5. To promote education among children and develop interest in reading books;
6. To train librarians to provide CIS as per the needs of every person in the society.

Role of RGF in developing CIS through public libraries

- Libraries are not only a home for books but also a haven for readers. Now RGF has achieved a great success for the implementation of the vision of late Prime Minister Shri Rajib Gandhi. It has launched the Rural Library Scheme, through which 1648 libraries have been established in different villages and slums of 22 states for spreading the interest of reading among the readers of the rural and slum areas. Among the established libraries there are 1344 rural libraries, 100 city libraries and a number of children libraries, mobile libraries and braille libraries.

- RGF has launched book bank services in three libraries with more than five thousand books to provide book bank services.
- The Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, with financial support from Global Libraries and the Melinda Gates Foundation, launched a pilot project in Barabanki and Raebareli district libraries in September 2013. The objective was to strengthen the district library system in Raebareli and Barabanki districts. In 2015, the District Library Programme project took Barabanki and Raebareli district libraries as a model to strengthen the general library system of the entire country so that all people in all districts of India can avail the opportunity to enhance their skills through the use of information. The first priority was given to create a functional and responsible physical space.
- RGF publishes books in Hindi, Urdu and Telugu from the Rajiv Gandhi Pustakmala series at various times for creating suitable reading material for the neo-literates. The most interesting programme of RGF is mobile libraries for the newly literate to attract the readers and encourage them and provide books to them easily. To achieve the great success through this programme vans have been provided to various NGOs in Delhi, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. By this programme around 1.2 million people have already been provided books.
- 23 books have been printed for children in Hindi and six other languages suitable for them. Besides good quality books have also been printed for children age between 6-14.
- Without a library an educational institution will not be completed. RGF has set up the 'Wonderoom', a unique community space cum library in the heart of the capital with the aim of spreading a love of reading among children aged between 8-15. The 'Wonderoom' has been transformed into an educational centre. It has over 6,500 books in multiple languages. The 'Wonderoom' is remain open daily from 10 am to 6 pm. Children who are interested in using the library can commute from home by taking advantage of the free daily bus service provided by 'Wonderoom'. Children can avail library's computer surfing, drawing, colouring, book issue and return for a specific period of time, among other library services.
- In the current digital era, parents become worried as their children aged 8-15 are highly addicted to mobile phones and other electronic gadgets. To get read from this problem 'Wonderoom' provides fun activities for children like science, art and crafts, and theatre conducted by team members who identify various topics of interest of the children by interacting with them for developing confidence, reading habit, knowledge, and stage acting skills in children by utilizing their creative instincts and hidden potential.
- RGF has launched the Educational Ecosystem Project in Raebareli and Amethi districts of UP, with emphasis on Children's Learning Space (CLS) and also known as 'Vistaar'.
- In 2016, RFG launched a mobile library service called 'Padhaku' in Dwarka area of Delhi to promote education among the children. The mobile library visits children every Sunday with books. The promotion of reading books has created a lot of enthusiasm among children. Children eagerly wait to meet 'Padhaku' every Sunday. Currently, the mobile library service called 'Padhaku' has been expanded to several other places in Delhi.
- RGF has set up children's activity centres called 'Wall O Books' in collaboration with the Crayons of Hope Foundation in low-income colonies of Delhi. 'Wall O Books' is a library on a wall built and run by children together with their teacher, which helps children to improve their reading skills, creativity and expressiveness.

- RGF organizes storytelling workshops at various times. The storytelling workshop in Karnataka in 2008 was the most successful programme among all the storytelling programme. About nearly 4645 librarians and teachers participated in the workshops. Besides, in the Women and Child Development Project, short sessions on career guidance are organized at various times.
- RGF works with key stakeholders, including librarians, library staff, and key government officials to improve library infrastructure. The foundation has also worked to enhance the skills of existing library teams, onboard new members, strengthen volunteer networks, and deep public interfaces.
- In line with the existing library programme, RGF supports community information centres through Samangan Centres. Samangan Centres are a common place of equal-opportunity for every member of the community. Samangan Centres bring together and encourages young people to discuss issues of mutual interest or concern, build friendships, and foster an active community environment. Samangans serve as vibrant educational and cultural spaces for youth from rural and low-income areas of various states.
- In some states, Samangan Kendras provide and lend books and arrange current and relevant magazines based on the needs of the users. Samangan Kendras also organize camps to create awareness about Government schemes, education and health in rural areas. Samangan Kendras provides internet access to the youth, helping them access information on various exam results and further studies. Workshops are also organized from time to time to build the capacity of local youths.
- The RGF Education and Literacy Programme provides training to librarians under the Library Project through its campaign.

Ranganathan Society for Social Welfare and Library Development (RSSWLD)

The Ranganathan Society for Social Welfare and Library Development (RSSWLD) was established in 2009 to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and information at the grassroots level by establishing public libraries in rural areas of India. The headquarter of RSSWLD is situated in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. RSSWLD is financially supported by Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIMTECH).

Objectives of Ranganathan Society for Social Welfare and Library Development

1. To establish general libraries to provide intellectual development and competitive employment opportunities to the marginalized people of the society;
2. To provide dignified social life to the downtrodden people of the society;
3. To spread educational knowledge and provide improved information services to the underprivileged people of the society;
4. To establish prison libraries to bring positivity, progress and creativity to the monotonous life of the prisoners;
5. To help to introduce the automation in general libraries;
6. To arrange various workshops and training for working librarians and students of library science to provide appropriate CIS;

RSSWLD's role in CIS through public libraries

- RSSWLD is working to establish libraries in rural areas to provide CIS to the common people of the society. RSSWLD has so far established libraries in ten villages of Uttar Pradesh. BIMTECH donates various types of books, like fiction, non-fiction, history, poetry, novels, etc. to the libraries.

- RSSWLD has established prison libraries in Lucknow, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar in Greater Noida, Aligarh, Meerut, Etawah, Mathura and Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh since 2012.
- Books are true friends which always show us the right path to overcome various problems. RSSWLD has set up "BIMTECH Pustakalaya" in Lucknow, Gautam Budh Nagar, Greater Noida, Aligarh, Meerut, Etawah Ron, Bulandshahr, Firozabad and Mathura district jails respectively in the presence of many high-ranking government officials, high-ranking officials and workers of RSSWLD and BIMTECH, writers, educationists, social workers, businessmen and hundreds of jail inmates with the financial support of BIMTECH and RRRLF.
- RSSWLD has provided about 2000 books, CDs/DVDs, cupboards, tables, chairs, stationery and computers to each prison library so that the prisoners can use their knowledge more creatively through reading books, share knowledge with others and live in the mainstream of society after their release in the future. The books are selected by the eminent scholars of library science after conducting detailed surveys of the prisoners.
- Library Week has been celebrated in various district jails since 2013 on the initiative of RSSWLD. Funny and socially relevant activities are organized for both male and female prisoners during the Library Week celebrations. Essay writing, debate, painting, quiz, singing, poetry, mehndi art and various sports competitions are the main attractions of the Library Week. The main objective of RSSWLD was to increase awareness among the prisoners through the Library Week celebrations.
- RSSWLD helps in the renovation of libraries in district jails. Considering some of the limitations of the jail, RSSWLD has started a separate library for women prisoners in Kasna jail in Gautam Buddha Nagar, Greater Noida.
- RSSWLD has so far helped to introduce the automation in several public libraries. It also advises public libraries on the use of open-source library software 'Koha'.
- RSSWLD provides training on 'Koha' library automation software for working librarians and library science students to provide appropriate CIS.
- RSSWLD organizes various workshops for library professionals every year. Among the workshops "International Conference on Open Access - Scholarly Communication Reincarnated" (ICOASCR) workshop in collaboration with the Department of Library and Information Science, Bangalore University, Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KISTI), Korea and the Indian Library Association (ILA) is a notable one.
- RSSWLD has been organizing National Workshops on Open-source Software, Library Automation and Content Management, Library Management Software Koha and Data Migration at BIMTECH campus, Greater Noida since 2016 with the financial support of BIMTECH, NASSDOC, ICSSR, Sharda University, Learning Resource Centre, Greater Noida, ILA and RRRLF. Among the workshops, the "Workshop on Wheels" was a new and a unique concept. The objectives of these workshops were to provide adequate practical training to the library staff so that they can do library automation and networking, library website design and development for library modernization using open-source software. Hands-on training was provided on all the modules for 'Koha' software installation, customization and management. Besides, in these workshops the use and apply of Joomla and data migration are highly focused.
- Under the auspices of BIMTECH, RSSWLD Mobile Library Project has established an independent mobile library called 'Walking Book Fairs' in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. 'Walking Book Fairs' was started in 2014 in a small town of Koraput in Odisha. The founders of 'Walking Book Fairs', Mr. Akshaya

Rautaray and Mrs. Satabdi Mishra believes that books are a powerful tool for social change and good books should reach more people. 'Walking Book Fairs' has travelled more than 10,000 km across 30 districts of Odisha for spreading the love of books in small towns, villages and cities of the state. 'Walking Book Fairs' have travelled 10,000 km across 20 states of India over a period of 90 days to spread the joy of reading through the 'Read More India' campaign.

- On 24th February 2018, RSSWLD established a library at Man Mandir, Barsana, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh. The Man Mandir library in Barsana has so many books related to religion, cow medicine, dairy products, natural medicine and biographies of freedom fighters. Apart from books, BIMTECH has also provided some digital documents including yoga manuals, mantras, chalisa collections, bhajans etc.
- RSSWLD arranged a visit to Delhi Public Library for Neemka girls in October 2017. On behalf of the Delhi Public Library, Mrs. Beha taught the girls how an ordinary person can become a member of the library, how to search for books and how to issue a book.
- RSSWLD takes suggestions from readers on what kind of collections should be kept in the library and when the library should be opened and closed for the benefit of the readers. In addition, the foundation organizes special lectures to celebrate the birth anniversaries of various eminent persons.

Sanmati Pustakalaya Trust

The Sanmati Pustakalaya Trust is a non-profitable organization situated in India. The word 'Sanmati' means useful knowledge and one who has 'Sanmati' is a noble-minded person. It usually refers to Lord Mahavir. People named Sanmati are mainly Jains. After the death of Masterji Motilal Sanghi, his friends, associates and students collectively established this non-profitable organization called 'Sanmati Pustakalaya Trust' to contribute to the social services provided by Motilal Sanghi. The founder patron of the Sanmati Pustakalaya was the late Kamal Kasliwal, the proprietor of Kamal & Co., the only commercial and passenger vehicle dealer in Jaipur in the 1960s. The Daulatmal Bhandari, the then Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court, laid the Sanmati Pustakalaya Trust's building in May 1969. He was the student of Masterji. In October 1972, the then Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Barkatullah Khan, inaugurated the Sanmati Pustakalaya Trust. Most of the patrons of the trust are Jains. Perhaps the library is named 'Sanmati Pustakalaya' for this reason. The head office of the Sanmati Pustakalaya Trust is located at Arjunlal Sethi Nagar in Jaipur city.

Matriculation passed Motilal Sanghi was a teacher of a government secondary school in Jaipur. He used to buy books worth Rs 10 per month from his monthly salary. He started a library in 1920 with the collection of over 1500 books in the place where Masterji lived. He collected all these books with his own money. He was always determined for spreading the love of reading and knowledge of books. It is said that he used to take books from door to door to encourage people for reading. If he realized that no one had read books, he would spend hours for explaining the contents of the books to awake the desire for learning among them. Masterji single-handedly provided this social service till his death from 1920.

Objectives of Sanmati Pustakalaya Trust

1. To provide free public library services to all sections of society and to assist in the management of public libraries;
2. To promote the main vision of Motilal Sanghi was to provide free services to the needy, to spread the love of reading and knowledge of books;

3. To provide facilities for those who do not have adequate space for studying at home.
4. To organize Motilal Memorial Lectures at various places in Jaipur, Rajasthan;
5. To award the Best Librarian Award to encourage the working professionals of libraries;

Role of Sanmati Pustakalaya Trust in providing CIS through public libraries

- The public library of the Sanmati Pustakalaya Trust is open to all members of the society, irrespective of caste, creed and religion. Currently, the library has a collection of over 40,000 books on various subjects ranging from religion to science, botany to history and fiction.
- Most of the readers of the Sanmati Pustakalaya Trust's public library come from low-income family. The trust's public library is used by an average of more than 200 readers every day. During school and college exams, the daily readers of the library become more than 400. So sometimes the library users sit on the floor for the scarcity of enough seating space in the library.
- Apart from the public library of the Sanmati Pustakalaya Trust, the Sanmati Pustakalaya Trust also runs a public library and conducts a certificate course in IT.
- The Sanmati Pustakalaya Trust organizes Motilal Memorial Lectures at various places in Jaipur, Rajasthan in different times of the year. It also publishes 'Master Motilal Shri Sanmati Pustakalaya Memorial'.
- The 'Master Motilal Singh Best Librarian Award' is given on the birth anniversary of Master Motilal Sanghi. The Best Librarian Award is given to encourage the working professionals of public libraries in India. This national level award was started in 2008.
- The main vision of the Sanmati Pustakalaya Trust is to promote Masterji's vision to provide free services to the needy, to spread the love of reading and knowledge of books. Financial donations to the Sanmati Pustakalaya Trust are exempted under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act. Donations of books and periodicals on any subject to the Sanmati Pustakalaya Trust are accepted.

Rural Library Foundation (RLF)

The Rural Library Foundation (RLF) is a voluntary organization based in India that establishes public libraries in various villages to inculcate the habit of reading among school-going children or rural youths. However, any common citizen of the society irrespective of party affiliation can use the rural libraries established by RLF. The head office of RLF is located in Shankarpalli, Rangareddy area of Hyderabad city. The active committee of RLF includes people from various backgrounds including professors, librarians, software professionals, community organizers and development professionals etc. They have mainly received primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary education in government schools and are aware of the pitiful condition of school facilities. They firmly believe that positive changes can be brought about in the society through their initiatives.

Objectives of the RLF

1. To develop the reading habit among the rural children and young people by establishing general libraries in rural areas;
2. To help to increase the knowledge of the general people by providing CIS through rural libraries so that they can become confident, competent and caring individuals;
3. To establish school libraries in upper primary, secondary and higher secondary schools in villages with the financial support of various library-loving people and organizations;

4. To develop the interest in reading among school goers by celebrating the International Children's Book Day;
6. To help build a better nation and a better world;

The role of the RLF in providing CIS through public libraries

- RLF established 5 rural libraries in Telangana in the year 2000. Currently, it is running more than 100 rural libraries in 25 districts of Telangana with the help of NRIs and local sponsors. Out of these, 96 libraries are active and 12 libraries are temporarily closed.
- RLF provides a grant of Rs. 25,000 at the time of establishment of the library in rural areas for purchasing the minimum required books and furniture. It also provides a grant of Rs. 10,000 every year for regular maintenance. Besides it also provides computers to school libraries.
- RLF supplies some or most of the magazines like Balabharati, Balamitra, Bujjayi, Chekumuki, Chempak (E), Chempak (H), Chempak (T), Discovery, Gyana Nidhi (10th), Man Pawan (E), Telugu Velugu, Udyoga Sofanam, Vijetha Competition, Wisdom, Wonder World etc. to each of the libraries maintained by them every month.
- The active committee of RLF monitors, maintains and supervises the rural libraries. The committee periodically provides reports to the sponsors on the functioning and financial status of the various rural libraries.
- RLF establishes school libraries in upper primary, secondary and higher secondary schools in various villages of Telangana under the patronage of Aurobindo Foundation, Manikonda Bhupathirao Memorial Trust and various library lovers. RLF mainly accepts donations from those individuals who are the residents of the concerned village and want to contribute by establishing one or more libraries in the village schools.
- RLF celebrates the International Children's Book Day every year in various schools of Telangana. Quiz competitions are organized for the school students on the occasion of the International Children's Book Day. This programme has already been successfully implemented in 80 schools in 25 districts of Telangana.

Findings of the study

- To provide community information services, the RGF Library Project has set up more than 1648 rural libraries, slum libraries, city libraries, children's libraries, mobile libraries and Braille libraries, most of these are limited to the states of Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. The public libraries established by RSSWLD are limited only in few villages of Uttar Pradesh. The mobile library service started by RSSWLD with an aim to spread the love of books among the common people, which is limited only to the state of Odisha. The Sanmati Pustakalaya Trust runs only one other public library except their own library which is limited in Jaipur city. The RLF runs more than 100 rural libraries which are limited into the 25 districts of the state of Telangana.
- RGF publishes Hindi, Urdu and Telugu books from Rajiv Gandhi Pustakmala series as the reading materials for neo-literates and started mobile libraries through literacy programme. RSSWLD donates various types of books like fiction, non-fiction, historical, poetry, novels etc. to public libraries. RLF provides grants for books, furniture and maintenance to the public libraries and provides various magazines every month to each library.

- RGF organizes training for the librarians through the Education and Literacy Programme. RSSWLD regularly organizes various workshops regularly and training for the librarians and the students of Library Science. Sanmati Pustakalaya Trust awards 'Master Motilal Singh Best Librarian Award' on the birth anniversary of Master Motilal Sanghi to encourage the librarians for working in public libraries in various states of India.
- RGF has launched Book Bank service in three public libraries. It has set up Samangan Kendras in various states to provide a common space for equal access of community information for every member of the society. Besides, it has also provided special grants to strengthen the district library system in Rae Bareilly and Barabanki districts.
- RGF has printed books for children in 7 suitable languages for their reading. It has set up a unique community space cum library called 'Wonderoom' in the heart of the capital with the aim of creating an interest of reading among the children. It has launched a mobile library service also called 'Padhaku' in Dwarka area of Delhi with the aim of spreading education among children.
- RGF organizes storytelling workshops at various times in public libraries and also organizes short sessions on career guidance in women and child development projects.
- RSSWLD has established many libraries in various district jails of Uttar Pradesh to bring positivity, progress, creativity and mainstreaming of the monotonous life of the prisoners after their release. RSSWLD donate books, CDs/DVDs, cupboards, tables, chairs, stationery and computers to the prison libraries and provides necessary materials for maintenance.
- RSSWLD organizes special lectures on the occasion of birth anniversaries of various eminent persons with celebration of Library Week in various district jails to create awareness among the prisoners. Sanmati Pustakalaya Trust organizes Motilal Memorial Lectures at various places in Jaipur, Rajasthan in different times of the year.
- RSSWLD advises for using 'Koha' in libraries as an automation and open-source software. RSSWLD receives requests from various public libraries every year for upgradation and automation their public libraries.
- Sanmati Pustakalaya Trust conducts a certificate course on IT and publishes 'Master Motilal Shri Sanmati Pustakalaya Smarak'. RSSWLD takes suggestions from readers regarding libraries.
- RLF establishes school libraries and provides computers to school libraries in upper primary, secondary and higher secondary schools of Telangana state under the patronage of various library lovers and organizations. Every year, various schools celebrate 'International Children's Book Day' and organize 'Quiz Competitions' among children on that occasion.
- The active committee of the RLF oversees the monitoring, maintenance, functioning and financial status of public libraries.

Proposals and Suggestions for Providing CIS through of NGOs through Public Libraries

- NGOs can play an important role for providing community information services by establishing public libraries in the areas where there is no public library or the library services are limited and by developing the infrastructure of established libraries, providing access to books, educational materials, computers, information and communication technology equipment.
- The collection of documents of public libraries includes books (purchased, donated or received as gifts), newspapers, magazines, maps, atlases, globes and CDs/DVDs obtained from books and

magazines etc. English magazines along with local language magazines should be kept regularly in the library for the preparation of various All India Competitive Examinations and the number of magazines should be increased as per the requirement. A certain percentage of the Central and State Education Budget should be allocated for public libraries to enrich the collection of printed and e-resources of the library. Besides, if NGOs provide grants along with Government grants, it will be possible for public libraries to provide community information services as per the needs of the common people of the society.

- To meet the needs of individual development or groups, public libraries can assist NGOs for providing all the important regular services that they provide within and outside the library such as Book lending, Reference and Information services, Newspaper display service, Career guidance services, Information services through computer and internet use, Reprography & printout facilities, Readers' advisory services, Children's services, User education, celebration of important days, Information literacy programme etc.
- NGOs can help in providing regular services of public libraries as well as in collecting and providing services through various means such as livelihood information, education information, health information, housing information, transport information, employment information, agriculture information, drinking water information, emergency services information, consumer information, cultural and recreational information, legal information, Government information and publication information etc.
- NGOs can also play an important role in developing digital information literacy skills and eliminating inequalities by providing free computer awareness camps, training and internet access to enhance the overall services of public libraries.
- To ensure the smooth functioning of public libraries and to provide community information services, public libraries should employ Library Science trained staff. The staff of public libraries should be trained for using modern technology so that they can provide information services by using modern technology.
- To provide community information services, maintenance and preservation of documents and special collections of public libraries is very important. As there is no Government grant for preservation of library collections for public libraries, it is not possible for libraries to take conservation measures for preservation of documents at regular intervals. If special grants are available from the Government or NGOs for preservation of library collections of public libraries, public libraries can adopt pest control methods as a conservation measure for the preservation of library documents every year.
- To provide community information services, public libraries and NGOs can jointly undertake public relations, area-based profile preparation, identification of needs of different people in the society, preparation of information files, collection and preservation of indigenous knowledge, miseducation, user education programmes etc.
- To democratize the right to information, a Free Libraries Network (FLN) should be developed among public libraries across India.
- NGOs should play an important role in promoting the various services and importance of public libraries among the general public by framing strong library laws and regulations and undertaking various social programmes.
- The prison library established by RSSWLD will help in bridging the gap between the prisoners and the society. Like others people in the society, prisoners need the same information. But for the low

educational skills, they face difficulties in finding information and fulfilling their information needs. Therefore, library orientation programme should be conducted for the prisoners at regular intervals.

- The mobile library service which has been started by RGF and RSSWLD in Delhi and Odisha to spread the love of books among the common people, should be started in every state of India.
- If the authorities of public libraries and NGOs encourage librarians and staff to participate in various conferences, seminars, training programs on library issues, then the librarians and staff will be able to provide up-to-date community information services by learning how to apply modern technology in libraries.
- The State and Central Governments should encourage private sectors to provide community information services collaboratively by supporting existing libraries and establishing new libraries.

Conclusion

The two essential components of a public library are the development of library collections and the provision of services to the society. With the help of NGOs, public libraries can play an important role by expanding their resources and general services and providing the necessary community information services to every member of the society at the right time. To fulfil the community information needs of the library users, the library also needs continuous positive changes which satisfy the fifth law of library science 'Library is a growing organism'. Therefore, to provide effective and fruitful community information services, the library services have to be reviewed at regular intervals and necessary changes have to be made in the services as per the needs of the users. The invention of computers and the development of information technology have brought about a huge change in all spheres of life. So, the use of technology in libraries has also become very necessary. Library automation will not only brighten the image of the library staff but it will also be possible for the existing staff to provide some additional services beyond the normal services of the library. In this changing scenario, public libraries should focus on community information services, otherwise libraries will lose their importance and become repositories of books and other printed documents. Public libraries should be developed as community information centers with the financial support of the Government and private organizations so that they can provide services to adults, children, literate and illiterate people from all walks of life through reading materials and audio-visual materials. If NGOs and public libraries work together, it will be possible to improve the gap for providing community information services in the public library system and provide the necessary social information to the common people of the society at the right time.

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