

CHANGING DIMENSIONS OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES
IN
TELANGANA AND ANDHRA PRADESH
PRESENTATION MADE AT IPLC-2016

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• IMPORTANCE OF LIBRARIES WRITTEN IN TELUGU

- STRANZA WRITTEN BY CHILKAMARTHI NARASIMHA SASTRY INDICATING THE IMPORTANCE OF LIBRARIES
- THIS IS KNOWN AS GRANTHALAY VEDAM

- KNOWLEDGE SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ALL
AS UNIVERSALLY AS THE AIR WE BREATHE
THE WATER THAT QUENCHES OUR THIRST
AND THE SUN 'S ENERGY THAT SUSTAINS OUR CYCLE OF LIFE

LIBRARY MOVEMENT in TELANGANA AND AP

- Till Independence the Andhra area was in British rule in Madras Presidency. It got independence in 1947. This region was in the Madras State
- Telangana was under Nizam rule till 17 Sept 1948. After that it is known as Hyderabad state.
- On 1 Nov 1956, the new State of Andhra Pradesh was formed.
- Madras Public Library Act was in force in Andhra area and Hyderabad Public Library Act (1955) was in force in Hyderabad State. A new act known as AP Public Library Act was enacted in 1960.
- The new state of Telangana was formed in June 2014.
- Even now the same act with lot of amendments is in vogue in both the States.
- Both the States did not change any provisions of the act after bifurcation of the state.
- Historically many libraries were opened in Pre Independent Andhra and Telangana areas

LIBRARY MOVEMENT in TELANGANA

- 1901—Sri Krishna Devaraya Andhra Bhasha Nilayam, Hyderabad, Recently its secretary sri ML Narasimha Rao died and he was secretary for more than five decades.
- 1904—Raja Raja Andhra Bhasha Nilayam, Warangal,
- 1906—Vignana Chandrika Grandha Mandali
- By 1930--More than 100 libraries were established in Hyderabad State at Nalgonda, Khammam, Suryapet etc
- Andhra Saraswata Parishad, Vishalandra Maha Sabha etc were established.
- Jnana Kendra Sangham was formed to coordinate the library activities
- The stalwarts associated with the library movement were
- N Venkat raja of Munagala, Madapati Hanumantha Rao, Suravaram Pratap Reddy, KV Ranga Reddy Kommaraju Laxman Rao, Burgula Ramakrishna Rao, Kodati Narayana Rao, Vattikota Alwarswamy

LIBRARY MOVEMENT in AP-1

- Book club was formed in Kurnool in 1864
- 1870- American Mission free reading room
- 1881—Reddi Jnana Granthalayam, Jammalamadugu
- 1883—Anantapur, 1884-Proddutur, 1893- Sri Vivekananda reading room etc
- It is estimated about 70 libraries were established by 1930 in Rayalaseema region.
- In Andhra Coastal area it is estimated that there were 163 libraries and the number grew to 600 by 1934.
- 1839- Rajamundry (by British Judge James Thomas), 1850- Theosophical society, Guntur, 1886- Saraswati Nilayam, Vishakhapatnam (by Manthana Adinarayana murthy), 1898-Rgoutami Library, Rajhamundry, Rammohan Librarym Saraswati Niketanam Library Vetapalem Vardhamana Samjam Library, Nellore, Sarada ibrary Ankapalli.

LIBRARY MOVEMENT in AP-2

- The personalities involved in library Movement are:
 - Ayyanki Venkat Ramanaiah (known as Architect of public library movement in India, Gadicharla Hari Sarvothama Rao, Paturi Nagabhushanam,
- 1914-Formation of Andhra Desa Library Association
- Nov 1914- All India Library Meeting (Conference). This meeting lead to formation of ILA, To remember the first meeting in Nov 1914, in 1968 the ILA declared National Library week during 14-19 Nov every year.

Variety of activities during Library Movement in Pre-Independent India

- ✓ Innovative programs were performed as part of independent and social movements
- ✓ The libraries were centres for such movements.
- ✓ Following are programs organized:
 - ✓ GRANTHALAYA YATRA
 - ✓ BURRA KATHA
 - ✓ HARI KATHA
 - ✓ NEWSPAPER READING
 - ✓ LIBRARY TOURS

PUBLIC LIBRARY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE STATE

- Asafia Library was declared as State Central Library
- Six regional Libraries were established by Govt. But there is no administrative relationship between these libraries and also with Zilla Granthalaya Samstha.
- Every district has Zilla Granthalaya Samstha which manages district library and other libraries in the district.
- The cess is collected by Gram Panchayats and Municipalities at the rate of 8 paisa per rupee of property tax. This cess has to be deposited with in a month into Library fund.
- Salaries are paid by the Government and cess is spent only for books and other expenses including development.

PRESENT STATUS OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

- In spite of increased collection of library cess and increased population as well as growth of cities and towns
 - No staff recruitment from 1993
 - No new library is established from 1987
- It is estimated about 80 to 90 crores is being collected as library cess in Hyderabad city based on Rs 1100 property tax collected by GHMC.
- GHMC is giving only 12 lakhs per month towards expenses which is insufficient. The libraries in Hyderabad city finds it difficult to buy new books and struggle for maintenance
- The commissioner promised to establish 1000 e-libraries in the city by ignoring the library authority, which could not take place.
- Due to non-recruitment of staff, one person manages more than two libraries.

PRESENT STATUS-Contd

- The library services are not reaching the people in spite of the cess paid by the citizens
- However, Book Depository Centres were established by few ZGS
- No new books are purchased as the RRRLF fund is not released for last few years stating the technical hitch after bifurcation of the state.
- Where there is non payment of cess to Library Fund, the libraries are unable to buy the resources.
- The libraries are run on out sourcing basis where in meagre salaries are paid to these staff. Naturally, service get effected and they may not show interest to service.
- Buildings and toilets are at bad shape.

CHANGING DIMENSIONS

- Rural Library Foundation
 - More than 5 libraries were established with the funding of NRI in their villages, about 50 libraries are functioning.
- BREAD SOCIETY
 - It established many libraries both in Telangana and AP , by establishing the libraries in schools. They have established about 900 libraries in schools for children
- Private libraries
 - These libraries are being established by societies and individuals. There are plenty of them.
 - Many private organizations are coming forward for opening of public libraries in their villages.
 - Recently when Telangana Library Association met Husband of Dy Speaker and electricity minister they want to construct the libraries in their own constituencies.
 - There are plenty of individuals who would like to establish the libraries in the State.

ATTEMPTS TO FIND SOLUTIONS BY TSLA

- Telangana Library Association is a registered Library Association formed after bifurcation of the State. It is government registered association.
- The members of TSLA met MLAs, MLCs and MPs (from all parties) and represented for development of libraries and requested them to contribute for the development of the libraries.
- Recently, we met the new mayor of the Hyderabad municipality seeking his involvement to release the dues to libraries.
- We met the members of think tank of Hon'ble CM and impressed them to support us.
- We met close associates of the Hon'ble CM for their support.
- Every one is sympathetic and accepted to support the cause of public libraries.
- Promoting the private contribution for development of public libraries.

- After waiting for all these days a new idea was formed and we started writing articles in the newspapers.
- I wrote two articles and made few newspapers to write few more articles. They took the matter from us and published few articles.,
- One of the professional Mr Sudhakar Goud had filed a PIL which is under consideration by the High Court.
- He is also responsible for writing articles and getting the data about the funding through RTA.
- TSLA met the Joint Secretary of the Government and requested to issue orders to enable the library staff get the salaries directly.
- TSLA want to organize the national conference wherein it want to look for a model public library act by consolidating the existing acts. But RRRLF does not respond to our application

CONCLUSIONS

- Before blaming the States, even the condition of the National Library seems to be neglected. There is no meeting of advisory board for last two years.
- Every one knows how the NML and RRRLF are slow in working.
- It is a known fact that recruitments is stand still in both at states and centre controlled libraries.
- There is a need for change of approach and RRRLF should be proactive.
- A pressure group should be formed at this level and it should work for the development of libraries.
- Will this type of conferences do any thing for the development of public libraries? Unfortunately after the conference the issues are neglected.
- We should be able to impress that public library service is a welfare activity.
- A coordinated group should be formed to work for the development of the libraries. There are many influenced people in this gathering they should work for the cause of the public libraries.
- The training programs (capacity building) should be relevant and levels have to be based on the target audience. Most of the programs are not found useful as the language is major issue for understanding. Without practical training just lectures do not help. Resource persons should have knowledge of public libraries otherwise it is futile exercise.
- It is not high profile of the resource person but how far these resource persons are delivering goods important.

•THANKS
•FOR
•YOUR PATIENCE