

Role of Self-Financing in Public Libraries of Karnataka State

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Abstract:

Due to information explosion, public libraries are facing financial problems as the library financial resources are limited, but there is need to acquire and access more information sources and documents for their users. There is also decrease in financial support from Government, national agencies such as RRRLF, Ministry of Culture etc. In Karnataka Library Cess is six percent. But many city corporations are not given the said cess to library. Hence, now public libraries are forced to generate their own income and such income generation may be made by self-financing techniques such as extending services to external users, composing Directories for the use of different people, etc. From such innovative services, the libraries may earn more income. On the other hand, it is essentially needed to reduce the expenses of libraries.

Keywords : Self-Financing, Public Libraries, Karnataka, Library Cess, RRRLF.

Introduction:

Public libraries are popularly known as people's universities as they are promoting education of the masses and these libraries are playing significant role in rural areas to increase education, developing knowledge and increasing reading habits of rural masses

The Republic of India, or Bharat, is a sovereign country in South Asia. It is the seventh largest country by geographical area, the second most populous country, and the largest democratic country in the world. Bounded by the Indian Ocean on the south, the Arabian Sea on the west, and the Bay of Bengal on the east. India has a coastline of over 7500 kilometres. Surrounded by neighbouring countries namely, Pakistan to the west; China, Nepal, and Bhutan to the north-east; and Bangladesh and Myanmar to the east. (India; Wikipedia encyclopedia).

Public Libraries in Karnataka:

Early libraries Karnataka State were established and supported by kings. Kings of Vijayanagara Empire established good libraries and also they had donated land for the libraries. Tippu Sultan established a personal library. Nalwadi Krishanaraja Wodeyar and his successor, Jayachamraja Wodeyar undertook translation of ancient books into Kannada language and the translated books were distributed free of cost to interested institutions. Epigraphic evidences are available to show that many libraries attached to universities and Religious Maths did exist. Some such centers where university prospered were Holey, Pavaiatage, Nagai and Balligavi (Deshpande, 1962).

The first modern public library in Karnataka was started at Belgaum in 1848, known as Sarvajanic Library by J. D. Inveralty, the then District Collector.

Public Libraries in Hyderabad-Karnataka Region:

In comparison to other regions, public libraries movement in Hyderabad Karnataka is not so good, even though some of the libraries did exist in the region. The Hyderabad Karnataka area comprises the districts of Gulbarga, Raichur, Bidar and Koppal. Prior to the introduction of the Karnataka Public Libraries Act, 1965, there were two public libraries in Bidar district, one at Bidar city and the other at Hudgi village in Humnabad taluk. The public library and Reading room in Bidar city, established in 1939, is oldest grant-in-aid library in the district. In 1976, it contained 5,000 books worth Rs.50,000 and 125 members. On an average, 100 to 150 persons make use of the library daily. The Sarvodaya Library, Hudgi, was started in 1956, with its own building. By 1975, it contained 2,846 books worth about Rs. 15,000. It has 190 registered members, and daily, on an average, 85 persons make use of it. The institution has a trained Librarian, assisted by a Library Assistant (Reddy, 2014).

The Municipal Library in Bidar, was started in 1959. In 1975, it contained 4,381 books worth about Rs. 20,000. It had 436 registered members, and daily, on an average, 410 persons make use of it. It is housed in its own building and has a Librarian in charge of it. Sri Manik Prabhu Vachanalaya, Manik Nagar, was established in 1955 and was registered under the Karnataka Registration of Societies Act, 1960. In 1975, it contained 1,547 books worth about Rs. 5,000. It has 20 registered members, and daily, on an average, 40 persons make use of it.

Public Libraries in Karnataka State: Present Status:

The Department of Public Libraries came into existence on 1st November 1966, consequent to the implementation of Mysore Public Libraries Act, 1965. The Act provided for the establishment of the public libraries. In Karnataka State, at present, there is one State Central Library in Bangalore and twenty seven City Central Libraries located in district headquarters, where population is more than 1, 00,000. In addition to this, Thirty District Central Libraries, 490 Branch Libraries and 5766 Gram Panchayat Libraries are there. In addition, Government of Karnataka provides funds for 15 Mobile Libraries, and 42 aided Libraries (Government of Karnataka, 1965).

Increasing Sources of Finance:

The public libraries may increase its income by getting financial support from RRRLF, Library Cess etc national level agencies and the State Governments. Such grants and financial support from these agencies has become reduced now. To generating more incomes for libraries, there is need to increase different types of library services and also extend its scope and also get support from external users. In this way, public library may follow self-financing techniques and services as under.

Self-Financing Techniques and Services:

Libraries generate income under a number of heads. These include, from internal sources, photocopying fees, room hire, and fines for late returns.

As discussed above, with increasing technological developments, library collections and diverse user's needs, it is essential to introduce different services on payment or fee basis. Following are few services of library, through library finance may be generated.

1. Membership Fee:

Public library collects fees from members and generally, such fee is collected from only users. It is suggested to public libraries to allow students by collecting membership fees

subject to rules and regulations. In this way, revenue from library membership fee may be increased.

2. Photocopying:

To provide photocopying service, library may purchase a new machine or hire machine from vendors. It is highlighted that, photocopying services also reduce the tearing off or mutilation of pages of documents in library. But profitability from this service is lower compared to expenses incurred to photocopying.

3. Extension Services:

There are different types of professional users, who needed constant and continuous information about their subject and such users include legal professionals, medical professionals, tax consultants, etc, and following services may be provided to these professionals on payment basis:

- ❖ Bibliographic Search Service;
- ❖ Current Awareness Services;
- ❖ e-alert through e-mails;
- ❖ Electronic Document Delivery;
- ❖ Information Packaging and Consolidation based in User's Needs;
- ❖ Telephonic Reference Service;
- ❖ Photocopying;
- ❖ Information consolidation of specific cases in law, medicine, etc.
- ❖ Print document services such as Circulation of documents, etc.

4. Community Information Services:

There is digital divide between rural and urban areas. Urban areas are with advanced technological applications and improved infrastructure and on the other hand, the rural areas are backward with inadequate facilities. As a result, the information and knowledge of the rural people is limited or under-developed. To bridge digital divide, the public libraries may organize the programmes to increase computer literacy of rural people periodically. Further,

the library professionals based on the information sources that are available in print and online sources of information may provide different information services to rural folk such as farmers, artisans and self-employed people on their occupations and information should be given by library professionals. The library may collect fees for the same.

5. Spiral Binding and Lamination:

An public library may generate finance through providing spiral binding and lamination services to personal work.

Conclusion:

From the above discussion, it is clear that due to decrease in financial support from parent organizations, government, national level agencies such as RRRLE, Ministry of Culture, Cess and increase in number of print and e-resources and also due to technological change, the public libraries are facing problems of severe financial deficit, specially City Central Libraries because of local authority such as Municipal corporation, municipal council or other municipal bodies not given the collected cess to libraries. Under such circumstances, it is essential that the public library must be developed and promote use of collection among all people, so that its importance should be known to the society at large. Even public library can generate its own resources by different types of services to whole community. In this respect, the library professionals have to play significant role to assess the information needs.

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