LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN ANDHRA PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

The present paper is focused on library movement in Andhra Pradesh in modern times. Public libraries played a very significant role in socio-economic, cultural and spiritual development of communities in all parts of the world. The library movements in Rayalaseema, Andhra and Telangana regions resulted in the establishment of libraries which also contributed for the growth of awareness and freedom movement in those regions.

KEYWORDS: Public Libraries, Rayalaseema, Andhra, Telangana, Freedom Movement

INTRODUCTION

Public libraries played a very significant role in socio-economic, cultural and spiritual development of communities in all parts of the world. The history of the library movement is traced to ancient times. Foreign travelers, Hieuan-Tsang, Fahien, appreciated the working of the libraries in ancient Indian Universities like Nalanda, Takshasila etc. Nicholo Conti others significantly focused on libraries in medieval times. Dr. S.R. Ranganathan made useful contributions for the cause of public libraries in Andhra Pradesh and even established modern public libraries.

The origin and evolution of library movement is traced to the establishment of Swadeshi Grandhalayam at Vishakapatnam in 1886.1 the establishment of Sri Krishnadevaraya Andhra Basha Nilayam in 1901 at Hyderabad resulted in the spread of library movement in Telangana and Andhra desa. The formation of Andhradesa Grandhalaya Sangham in 1914 resulted in the establishment of as many as 163 libraries in Andhradesa.2

DEFINITION OF THE LIBRARY

Library is a system designed to preserve the graphic records. This system also shouldered the dissemination of knowledge and a network for the healthy growth of society and culture. In other words library is ‘Communication of knowledge, ideas, thought books and other graphic records.3

The encyclopedia of Britannica defines library as ‘a collection of written, printed or other graphic material for organized use’. The library glossary defines library as a ‘collection of books and other materials kept for reading, study and consultation’.4

The public library is an Anglo-Saxon idea. Public libraries, developed in democracies, are developed and maintained by the public. They are established by state laws and taxation.5 The concept of the modern public library is new to India. The advisory committee states that the British failed to give active encouragement for setting of public libraries in British India.6 the Ekbote Committee appointed by the government of Andhra Pradesh in 1976 to review the working of A.P. Public Libraries Act, 1960 expressed the same opinion. Library movement in Andhra Pradesh was an essentially a people’s movement.
LIBRARY MOVEMENT

The UNESCO manifesto, the Ekbote committee opines that public library has collection, organization, distribution, interpretation and guidance of documents.  

LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN ANDHRA PRADESH

The advent of British rule in India the establishment of company rule in Andhradesa by 1800 bought economic, social and administrative system. The assumption of power by the crown bought vital changes in economic, social and administrative set up of Andhradesa. Political and administrative stability in post 1857 period gave encouragement for library movement in Andhradesa. The spread of education in Andhra districts due to the efforts of the government, Christian missionaries and philanthropic zamindars resulted in the spread of western education in Andhra region. The Christian missionary societies initiated the establishment of schools at Machilipatnam and Vijayawada. They started the establishment of libraries in those schools. The western Indian educated elite were pineers in popularizing the idea of libraries. Kandukuri Viresalingam Panthulu (1848-1919) was greatly influenced by the writings of Raja Ram Mohan Roy dedicated himself for the spread of library movement in Andhra.

JOURNALISTIC SUPPORT

A number of vernacular news papers, Viveka Vardin from Rajamundry, Andhra Prakashika (1885) Krishnapatrika, Lokaranjani played a very important role in bring awareness on library movements among the people. The Madras Mahasabha, founded on 16th May, 1884 by Rangayya Naidu and Anandacharyulu made an attempt to get-together the western Indian elite to start literary associations and library movement in Andhra region.

DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARY MOVEMENT – RAYALASEEMA

The library movement in Rayalaseema was closely associated with freedom movement, social and adult literacy movements Gadicharla Hari Sarvotham Rao gave more importance to adult education and library movement. Book club of Enropean Gentlemen was established at Kurnool in the year 1864. American Mission Free Reading Room was established in Madanapalle in Chitoor district in the year 1870. American Mission Free Reading Room was established in Chittoor in the year 1880. Reddijana Grandhalayam was established in Jammalamadugu in Cuddapah district in the year 1881. In 1883 at Anantapur, Proddatur in 1884, at Pulivendala in 1889, 1893 at Dharamavarm Sri Vivekandndra Nilayam reading room was established libraries in many towns of Kurnool. The following table shows the establishment details

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<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Est. Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adoni</td>
<td>1883</td>
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<td>Nandyal</td>
<td>1900</td>
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<td>Lepakshi</td>
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<td>Cholasamudram</td>
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Source: Report of the Public Libraries Act Review Committee, p.10
In the year 1915 the total number of libraries in Kadapa district were four in number, 2 in Kurnool, 2 in Bellary, 5 in Anantapur, 2 in Chittoor. Gadicherla Hari Sarvottama Rao who was native of Kurnool district toured the entire district in 1936 and motivated educated to start libraries. The voluntary associations started libraries in many towns of Rayalaseema viz., Velngodu, Racherla, Errocota, Kurnool, Allagadda, Avuku etc. First library was started in Tirupati by Sri Lakshmi Venkateswara Dinanadana Sarnaga Andhra Pusthaka Bangaramu in 1914. Lakshmi Venkataramana in his book titled ‘Grandhalayodhyamamu’ published in 1923 mentioned 13 libraries in Kadapa district. By 1930, the total no. of libraries were numbered as 27 in Anantapur, 11 in Kadapa, 29 in Kurnool and 9 in Chittoor.

The regional library was established in 1964 at Tirupati to meet the requirements of students, children and general public of Rayalaseema. Zilla Grandhalaya Samstha was established in Chittoor in 1952. The Chittoor district Local Library Authority was formed in the year 1952 due to Madras Public Libraries Act, 1948.

Zilla Grandalaya Samstha in Anantapur established the District Central Library in 1952. Madras Public Library Act of 1948 resulted in the establishment of District Central Library in Kurnool in 1953. Thus, the establishment of Zilla Grandayala Samstha in four districts of Rayalaseema fostered library movement in Rayalseema.

COASTAL ANDHRA

Due to the establishment of Andhra Desa Library Association in 1914. There were 163 libraries functioning in different parts of Andhra desa. Andhra desa library workers conference was held on 10th Apr, 1914 under the auspices of Ram Mohan Library at Bezawada. 200 delegates attended this conference. This conference passed several resolutions for operation and maintenance of libraries. The number of libraries increased from 163 in 1913 to 600 in 1934. By 1954 this number is more than three times. School library movement was active in Andhradesa resulting in the establishment of more libraries in schools.

TELANGANA

The establishment of Sri Krishna Devaraya Acharya Andhra Basha Nilayam in 1901 at Hyderabad. This establishment paved the way for library movement in Telangana. By 1927, 7 libraries in Hyderabad, 4 in Secundrabad, 2 in Attrupubalda, 15 in Warngal, 9 in Karimnagar, 13 in Nalgonda, 5 in Mahaboobnagar 1 each in Adilabad and Raichur districts. The Andhra Jana Sangam was formed on 12th November, 1921 with the objective of establishment more libraries in Telangana region. It conversed conferences and resolved to establish schools and establishe libraries, reading rooms in schools and provided medals to the students.

Library conferences were held and resolved to establishing hundreds of libraries. After police action in 1948, Hyderabad state was merged into the Indian Union. Telangana and Andhra regions library associations merged together and decided to resolve to foster the library movement. Golkonda patrika in its editorial dated 22-09-1953 reminded the need for dedicated workers for sustaining the library movement which was its lowest ebb. Finally, the Hyderabad Library Association established in 1951. Zilla Gradhalaya Samstas were established in Medak, Nalgonda, Nizamabad, Warangal. These samstas looked after library movements in Telangana region.

CONCLUSIONS

As on 31-03-1951 to present day there developed one state central library, (Six) Regional libraries, (Twenty Three) City district present libraries, One Thousand Four Hundred Forty Nine, Branch libraries, Ninety Nine
mobile libraries, Three Hundred Fifty Seven village libraries, Book deposit centres One Thousand Eleven and Aided libraries One Thousand nine Hundred Fifty Five.

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