



A Study Of RRRLF Ngo's Beneficiaries Public Libraries In Manipur

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ABSTRACT

Public libraries are institutions of national importance which can be termed as the people's university. Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), Kolkata is operating as an important agency for promoting the public libraries service in India. Rural people of Manipur which is financially poor, hilly areas, poor information communication provider, poor road connectivity, electricity, etc need an information support system to breach the information shortage among the people through public libraries services. The RRRLF beneficiary libraries in Manipur need an urgent up-gradation in their building infrastructure, trained staff, collections of books, and ICT integration to enhance and meet the people information needs in the rural. A survey method is used, for this structured questionnaire is set up for data collection for the set study. There are 101 RRRLF beneficiary public Libraries in Manipur of this 71 libraries were considered for the study. Based on the finding of the study it is suggested that the majority of the libraries face inadequate finance, Staff, library building, books collection, and electronic items. Libraries are supposed to play a very important role in providing community information services to the masses particularly in rural areas.

Keywords: RRRLF, Library Service, Library collection, Manipur, Public Library.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Public Library is regarded as the people's institution. It is local gateway to knowledge that provides basic condition for lifelong learning and facilities cultural development of the individual and social groups. The public library provides services to all irrespective of age, sex, cast religion, education, and social status; generally all users get the material relevant to their needs and requirements in the public library.

RRRLF is a central autonomous organisation established and fully financed by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. RRRLF is registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act. 1961. It is the nodal agency of the Government of India to support public library services and systems and promote public library movement in the country commensurate with the objectives as embodied in its Memorandum of Association. The Foundation works in close association and active cooperation with different State Government and Union Territory Administrations through a machinery called State Library Planning Committee (SLPC/SLC) set up in each State at the instance of the Foundation. To participate in Foundation's programmed, a state Government/U.T. is required to contribute a certain amount fixed by the Foundation. It extends its support to the Youth clubs and other voluntary organisations in organising libraries and rendering their services to the public.

We all know that Manipur is a hilly and poor state compare to others states of the country. In order to bring the Manipur state to the national level there is a need for human resource development in the state of Manipur this will be done by educating and to bridge the information shortage also to cultivate the reading habit to general people. The active promotion of RRRLF beneficiary Public Libraries services in the state is much needed for the development of human resource and to future development.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Binwal (2011) the paper highlighted public library system in India was not yet ready for knowledge society. There was a need for joint efforts by all stakeholders-governments, leaders of civic society, corporate world. Library associations and other professionals for revamping the system. He suggested that Public library should be included in the concurrent list of the Indian Constitution.

Velmurugan (2013) the author aim of the Public Libraries Department was to enrol all educated person as members of the library and to encourage them for utilizing the services of this Department. He brings out in India

so far 19 states had been pass the library act. He emphasise the enactment of library act in Tamil Nadu brought changes in the development of the State. He also highlighted activities of the Library Department to provide facilities in the libraries, stock Books useful for variety of readers, opening of libraries with the co-operation of the Public, etc.

Sinha.M.K & Data.S.(2018) In study find number of public libraries in Tripura are comparatively less and not in position to the population. A major hurdle for the public libraries development is shortage of finance. The study highlighted the needs for the common recruitment rules for library professionals in colleges and public libraries of Tripura State further the need for un interrupted power supply and internet connection are also mentioned.

Anil Kumar Dhiman and Shukla. B.B.(2020) the study brings out an uneven growth of public libraries amongst the different states or regions and even with local library system is seen in the country. Therefore, the authorities should give proper emphasis to develop a uniform public library system in the country and for state central libraries in particular.

There are 54,851 public libraries in the country but out of 28 states and 07 union territories, only 32 state central libraries are there to cater the needs of their natives. It is seen that no district control of state central library's exist over other public libraries in the state but indirectly they guide and pave the way for other public libraries in the state.

Vinayaraj (2021) the study reveals the need to identify and reduce the work pressure of librarian and staff by appointing adequate staff in the day-to-day functions of each library. Increasing staff strength becomes important because the public libraries are taking a step further I rolling out the new services and programmes through their spaces which comes as an additional, non-remunerative work for existing support staff in these libraries. Continual professional development training has to be provided to the librarian and staff in raising standards of professional competence of each library. It is also essential that the trained librarian/staff members train each other's in essential skills including systems or software usage and interactions with library users and community.

3. RRRLF CONTRIBUTION IN MANIPUR PUBLIC LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT.

The Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) Kolkata has been playing a vital role in the progress of development and promotion of library movement in the state.A separate wing under the name of RRRLF, sponsored by the Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India, was open at the State Central Library, Imphal since 1978. The state started its participation in various schemes of the Foundation since 1981-82 onwards from the Matching and Non-Matching schemes. Under these two schemes, the Foundation has provided assistance towards procurement of Books, Almirahs, T.V. sets; Organisation of books fairs, Orientation/Training Courses, Construction of buildings for libraries run by the NGOs etc. Besides, the Manipur Library Association (MALA) has been organising seminars almost every year under the sponsorship of RRRLF. Previously the State and RRRLF share was in the ratio of 50:50, but now the pattern has been changed to 10:90 for the North Eastern States. As such the role of the Foundation towards development of public library in the state is quite commendable.

4. BRIEF HISRORY OF PUBLIC LIBRARY IN MANIPUR

The development of public libraries in Manipur can be traced back to 1920s with the establishment of Manipur club on April 7, 1927 with the help of Dr. H Atulchandra Singh a multifaceted personality of the 20th century.After the establishment of the Manipur Club some remarkable pioneering efforts from individuals and general public towards public library movement in the state were also made during 1930-1950. These include the eatablishment of Imphal Reading Club (1930) at Moirangkhom, Imphal, Chitrangada Library (1934) at Imphal, Imphal Public Library (1934) near Uripok Chakrikom, Imphal, Manipur Public Library (1950) at Bir Tikendrajit Road, Imphal, however, almost all the libraries became extinct due to many reasons.

The government efforts towards the development of public library in Manipur came a bit late in the state with establishment of District Librray and Children –cum- museum in 1958. It was followed by the establishment of Netaji Memorial Library (1968) at INA Complex, Moirang, upgradation of the District Library to the status of the State Central Library (1970); establishment of district libraries in different districts of the state of Ukhrul, Mao (Senapati), Tamenglong and Churacanpur (1974), Chandel(1977), one branch of the State Central Library at Ningthoukhong for Bishnupr District(1991), Thoubal(1997), and Imphal West, Imphal East and Bishnupr (2006), the overall affairs of the Public Library mattersin the state is under the Department of Arts and Culture, Government of Manipur.

Besides that, as an important component of the public library system, there are 101 RRRLF beneficiary libraries run by the voluntary organisation/Club/NGOs. They are found scattered mainly in the four valley districts of the state i.e. Imphal- East, Imphal- West, Thoubal and Bishnupur. In total Manipur state has (16) districts, out of which (6) district lies in the valley areas and (10) district lies in the hills areas.

5. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The major objectives of the study are:

- a) To know the collection development of Books, Newspapers and Journals.
- b) To study the functions, services and activities of the Beneficiary Libraries.
- b) To understand the role of the RRRLF towards promotion of such libraries.
- c) To assess the problems and others drawbacks associated with the libraries.
- d) To find out solutions for the overall development of the Beneficiary libraries with the support of RRRLF.

6. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study covers 14 NGO libraries of Imphal East District. 16 from Imphal West District ,10 from Thoubal District,9 from Bishnupur District, 4 from Kakching District, 2 from Senapati District and 1 each from remaining District excluding Tamenglong, kangpokpi, Tengnoupal, Kamjong and Pherzawl districts for the study. Being a time bound study a total of 71 NGO libraries which have been benefited by RRRLF have been taken into consideration for the present study. The study however does not cover Government Libraries of the State such as State Central Library, District libraries etc. Data for the study has been collected from the Beneficiary libraries during January to July 2022.

7. METHODOLOGY

The following methods and techniques have been adopted in the present work:

- a) Related government records and materials have been reviewed.
- b) Officials of the State Central Library, Imphal have been interview.
- c) Libraries/Library in-charge of various beneficiary libraries has been contacted and interview.
- d) Related literatures have also been scanned for review.
- e) Structure Questionnaire is set for data collection.

8. MANIFESTATION

Total of 71 NGO libraries under RRRLF were cover and have responded to the approach of the investigation. All the data under study was systematically analysed in order to bring out the qualitative Information. The numbers of distributed and returned questionnaire for the study are discussed below.

8.1 Sample Characteristics: The sample characteristics of the present study are highlighted from the following tables below:

Table 1: Sample Characteristic of the study

Sl.No.	District	Population (2011)	No. of Beneficiary Library	No. Of questionnaire distributed	No. Of questionnaire returned	Percentage %
01	Imphal East	4,52,661	17	15	14	93%
02	Imphal West	5,14,683	36	21	16	76%
03	Thoubal	4,20,517	17	13	10	76%
04	Bishnupur	2,40,363	17	10	9	90%
05	Kakching	1,35,481	6	5	4	80%
06	Jiribam	43,818	1	1	1	100%
07	Senapati	3,54,772	2	2	2	100%
08	Ukhrul	1,83,115	1	1	1	100%
09	Chandel	1,44,028	1	1	1	100%
10	Churachandpur	2,71,274	1	1	1	100%
11	Tamenglong	1,40,143				
12	Kangpokpi	Survey pending				
13	Tengnoupal	Survey pending	1			
14	Kamjong	45,616				
15	Noney	Survey pending	1	1	1	100%
16	Pherzawl	47,250				
TOTAL			101	71	60	84.5%

Source: Returned Questionnaire

Table 2: Response rate

No. of Questionnaire Distributed	No. of questionnaire Respondent	Rate%
71	60	84.5%

Source: Returned Questionnaire

Table 1 and 2 show that there are 101 beneficiary libraries in Manipur of which 71 beneficiary libraries, 1/3 of the libraries taken as sample size for the study. Out of 71 questionnaires distributed 60 questionnaires were returned. The finding of the study will be based on the responses made by these libraries.

8.2. Collection size of Library: The following table shows the collection size of the libraries under consideration.

Table3: Collection size of the Libraries

N=60

Books	0-2000	2000-4000	4000-6000	6000-8000	8000-above	
	4	33	13	6	4	100%
Newspaper	0-2	2-4	4-6	6-8	8 above	75%
	20	18	7	3	0	
Journal	1	2	3	4	5	38%
	10	8	0	5	0	
Bound Volume	1-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	60 above	13%
	7	4	0	0	0	

The above table shows that total collection of books of the NGO members Libraries of RRRLF. Only 4 libraries have the collection of above 8000 in number. 4 Libraries are in the range of below 2000 collection. 33 libraries have the maximum collection of between 2000 to 4000, 13 libraries have the collection of between 4000 to 6000 and 6 libraries have the collection of between 6000 to 8000.

The 20 NGO/ Club are found subscribing maximum number of Newspaper at the range of between 0 to 2 daily, 18 libraries have subscribing 2 to 4 newspapers, 7 libraries have subscribing 4 to 6 newspapers and 3 of them subscribing 6 to 8 Newspaper Daily.

Total collections of journals of the NGO Libraries, 5 Libraries have the maximum collection of 4 journals and 10 libraries have the maximum collection of 1 journal in number. Libraries have the maximum collection of 20 to 30 bound volumes by 4 libraries while 7 of them have 1 to 20 such collections.

8.3. RRRLF Contribution:

The book assistance is the major assistance given by the RRRLF and it is followed by the furniture, Training Programmes, TVs set, Computer, Journals and other electronic and Digital materials. Orientations/Seminars / Refresher Courses are conducted under the RRRLF in a very small manner, not in grand Style.

8.4. Services provided by the Libraries

Table 4: library services

Circulation of book	Issue and receive of book	Reference service	Reading Room Service	Current awareness Service
23	32	16	27	18
38.33%	50.33%	26.66%	45%	30%

Source: Returned Questionnaire

As the table shows, many services are not available in various libraries for their users but 23 libraries have the Circulation of books, 32 NGO Libraries has providing issue and receive, 16 NGO Libraries has a Reference Service. 27 NGO Library have a Reading room service and 18 NGO Library is providing the Current Awareness Services The Overall Services of the Libraries are not satisfactory as 60% grade were not reach by any of the services provided.

8.5. Furniture Items

Table 5: Furniture items available in the Libraries

N=60

No. of Chairs/ No. of NGO	0-10	10-20	20- Above	60%
	25	15	20	
No. of wooden Rack/ No. of Ngo	0-5	5-10	10- Above	21.66%
	15	5	1	
No. of Book cash/No. of NGO	0-5	5-10	10-Above	11.66%
	5	2	0	
No. of reading table/ No. of NGO	0-5	5-10	10-Above	45%
	15	9	3	
No. of Almirahs / No. of NGO.	0-5	5-10	10-Above	73.33%
	32	9	3	

The above table shows that there is inadequate collection of Library Furniture in almost all the libraries. It is also found that there is some Library which has not any such Furniture also. Further it is observed there is poor Management of Library Properties.

8.6. Library Hours:

Table. 6: Library hours of the 60 NGO's Library

Operational hour of library in a day	1-3 hours	3-5 hours	5-above	N=60
No. of library	17	22	6	45
Percentage	28.33%	36.66%	10%	75%

The above table shows that the opening hours of the libraries are not same in all the libraries under survey. They are grouped into three categories. Among them only 6 Libraries are opened above 5 hours a day, 17 libraries are opened for 1 to 3 hours per day and 22 library which opens for 3 to 5hours in a day. It is said that the Library hours of all NGO Library is Inadequate.

9. MAJOR PROBLEMS FACED BY THE LIBRARIES.

The major problem faces by the libraries under the study include the following.

- ❖ Inadequate of finance.
- ❖ Lack of Infrastructure, Furniture Items.
- ❖ Inadequate Library Building.
- ❖ Lack of electronic items.
- ❖ Lack of Library Concept in due of returned Books.
- ❖ Lack of Library User.
- ❖ Lack of Library Staff.
- ❖ Lack of idea on the Library Maintenance.
- ❖ Less number of collections of books in the Library.
- ❖ Voluntary Organisation could not run for long, some amount of Honorarium is needed for staff for the motivation

10. SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Some of the suggestions and recommendations that can be made out of the finding of the study are enumerated below:

- ❖ Deputation of trained staff to the libraries.
- ❖ Financial Assistance to the Library Staff.
- ❖ Proper application of The Manipur Public Library Act, 1988.
- ❖ State Government needs Aids to NGO'S Library of Manipur.
- ❖ Establishment of well function separate Directorate only for the Public Library of Manipur.
- ❖ The state central Library should extend its services.
- ❖ The NGO'S Library of Manipur should co-operate.
- ❖ Supply of power during the Library hour.
- ❖ Internet facility should be provided in accordance with appropriate electronic materials.
- ❖ Training Programme should be conducted frequently for the staff member.
- ❖ Need more schemes of grant-in aid to NGO's providing Public library Services.

11. CONCLUSION

Public library is the heart and soul of the society. There is no doubt that the public library is wide impact on the society. It has to serve as a cultural and educational centre of the community. But the Public Library specially run by the NGO'S in Manipur which are in the study has shown tremendous constrained due to the lack of infrastructure and finance. A public library not only fosters in education and culture but also provides up to date technical, scientific and sociological information to the people. Actually, it may be treated as an Index of the State or Nation or a country. So, all the people should join together in the Development of the Library movement in our state as a whole. The study comes to know that the collection of the libraries materials is found to be insufficient. Only 10 libraries have the collection of more than 4000 books. The RRRLF has given emphasis mainly on the books. On an average 63% of the libraries have inadequate furniture items and inappropriate. 35% of the libraries have no proper library hours also there is a shortage of library hours on an average 01:87 hours in a day.

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