3.0 Introduction

Library and education are two closely interwoven institutions, depending on each other to such an extent, that they seem inseparable. In this context, the State and District Libraries in India are wonderful institutions that play a significant role to import educational information to its clients. The IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto believes in the public library as a living force for education, culture and information, and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace and spiritual welfare through the minds of men and women. (IFLA/UNESCO 1994). As stated, Public library services are provided on the basis of equality of free access, regardless of age, race sex, religion, nationality, language, religion, or social status. All have equal opportunity to access resources provided to the entire society/community.

3.1 Education and Literacy: Concepts Defined

The idealists, the pragmatists, the naturalists, and the realist philosophers have defined the concept of education differently. As Dewey defined education as, 'Education is the development of all those capacities in the individual which will enable him to control his environment and fulfill his possibilities'. While the Foebel defined education as, a process by which child makes its internal external'. (Rai 1999). M.K.Gandhi expressed the meaning of education as, 'by education I mean an all round drawing out of the best in child and man, body, mind and spirit. Literacy is not the end of education not even the beginning. It is one of the means whereby man and woman can be educated. Literacy in itself is no education'. (Chandra & Sharma 2004). Most widely accepted definition of education in the west is propounded by Plato. The meaning of education is initially available with the works of Plato. He defined education as a life-long process starting, 'from the first years of childhood and lasting to the very end of life'. The concepts of 'Education' and 'Literacy' are therefore are not same but are related to each other in some ways.
3.2 Literacy in India with special reference to district Hamirpur (H.P.): An overview

3.2.1 Literacy: Defined

Definition of Literacy: “Literacy, as defined in Census operations, is the ability to read and write with understanding in any language. A person who can merely read but cannot write is not classified as literate. Any formal education or minimum educational standard is not necessary to be considered literate”.

Literacy and level of education are basic indicators of the level of development achieved by a particular society. Spread of literacy is generally associated with important traits of modern civilization such as modernization, urbanization, industrialization, communication and commerce etc. Literacy therefore forms an important input in overall development of individuals enabling them to comprehend their social, political and cultural environment better and respond to it appropriately. In other words, higher levels of education and literacy lead to a greater awareness and also contributes in improvement of economic and social conditions. While it acts as a catalyst for social upliftment enhancing the returns on investment made in almost every aspect of development effort, be it population control, health, hygiene, environmental degradation control, employment of weaker sections of the society.

3.2.2 Literacy in India

According to the Census 2011, as many as 778,454,120 persons in the country are literate. Of these 444,203,762 are males and 334,250,358 are females. While the overall literacy rate works out to be 74.04 %, the male literacy rate is 82.14% and that for females is 65.46%, showing a gap of 16.68 percentage points between the sexes at the national level. The gap is more in the rural areas. In the urban areas, higher literacy rate has been recorded both for males (89.67%) and females (79.92%) and the difference among the sexes is lower (9.75 percentage points). Kerala, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Tripura, and Daman & Diu occupy the top five positions in literacy while Bihar,
Arunachal Pradesh, Rajsthan, Jharkhand, and Andhra are at bottom. State-wise Himachal Pradesh occupies fifth Place (83.78%) in literacy rate in India.

The literacy rates for rural population are the highest in Kerala (92.92%), followed by Lakshadweep (91.92%), Tripura (85.58%), Andaman and Nicobar Island (84.39%) and Mizoram (84.31%). (Ref: http://censusindia.gov.in/)4

Adult Literacy Schemes of the National Literacy Mission (NLM) have been implemented in nearly all the districts of the country. Special measures have been initiated to improve female literacy in low female literacy districts through focused interventions by Zilla Saksharata Samitis, Non-government Organizations, women volunteer teachers and Panchayati Raj functionaries. Emphasis is also being laid on provision of life-long learning opportunities, imparting vocational skills, and improving income generation of neo-literates through the Continuing Education Programme, which is being implemented in 272 districts.

The Census 2011 provisional reports indicate that India has made significant progress in the field of literacy during the decade since the previous census in 2001. The literacy rate in 2011 has been recorded at 74.04% as against 64.83% in 2001. There is an increase of 9.21 percentage points in the literacy rate during the period. Also for the first time there is a decline in the absolute number of non-literates during the past 10 years.

The Census 2011 provisional figures also indicate that the efforts of the nation during the past decade to remove the scourge of illiteracy have not gone in vain. Although the eradication of illiteracy from a vast country like India beset by several social and economic hurdles is not an easy task. However, realizing this fact, the National Literacy Mission was set up on 5th May, 1988 to impart a new sense of urgency and seriousness to adult education. After the success of the areas specific, time bound voluntary based campaign approach first in Kottayam city and then in Ernakulum district established in Kerala in 1990, the National Literacy Mission had accepted the literacy campaigns as the dominant strategy for eradication of illiteracy.

Out of 600 districts in the country, 597 districts have already been covered.
under Total Literacy Campaigns. The number of continuing education districts is 328. The creditable performance of the National Literacy Mission received international recognition when it was awarded the UNESCO Noma Literacy Prize for the year 1999. The International Jury while selecting NLM for the prize recognized its initiation for the Total Literacy Campaigns and along with its efforts in galvanizing activities towards integration, conservation of the environment, promotion of women's equality, and the preservation of family customs and traditions. The Jury also appreciated the training imparted by NLM, the teaching learning material produced by it and the awareness created which is consequentuation-raised demand for both quality and quantity of primary education.

Presently, in India NLM is laying great stress on vigorous monitoring and systematic evaluation of adult education programmes launched under its aegis. For the purpose, it has developed and circulated guidelines for concurrent and final evaluation of the Total Literacy Campaigns and Post Literacy Programmes. Besides a comprehensive set of guidelines on continuing education have also been prepared. So far about 424 Total Literacy Campaign districts and 176 Post Literacy districts have been evaluated by the external evaluation agencies. So far 32 districts have been externally evaluated during continuing education phase. There are rising expectation from this new approach of evaluating literacy campaigns and Continuing Education Schemes which aim at ensuring complete transparency and enhance the credibility of the results and impact assessments. (Ref: http://www.nlm.nic.in/intro_nlm.htm)⁵

3.2.3 Literacy in Himachal Pradesh

The northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh underwent a "Schooling Revolution" during the time span of the year 1961 to 2001. The achievement gained during the period has been called "even more impressive than Kerala's." Kerala has led the nation in literacy rates since the 19th century and seen sustained initiatives for over the last 150 years, whereas Himachal Pradesh's literacy rates in 1961 were below the national average in every age
group. However, through a strategic effort in the last three decadal i.e. from 1961-1991, female literacy in the 15–19 years age group went from 11% to 86%. School attendance for both boys and girls in the 6-14 year age group stood up to 97% each, when measured in the 1998-99 school year.

A key factor that has been credited for these advances is Himachal's cultural background. Infact Himachal Pradesh is a Himalyan state with lower social stratification than many other states in India, which enables social programs to be carried out more smoothly. Once the Government of Himachal Pradesh was able to establish a social norm that "schooling is an essential part of every child's upbringing," literacy as a normal attribute of community life was adopted very rapidly. Government efforts in expanding schools and providing teachers were sustained after the 1960s and communities often responded very collaboratively, including with constructing school rooms and providing firewood essential during the Himalyan winters.

Children below 7 years of age have been treated illiterate, even if he or she may be able to read and write with understanding. The literacy rate of 83.78% has been recorded in 2011 Census, which was 76.48% in 2001 Census in the State. This rate is quite high as compared to national average of 74.04% in 2011 Census. The literacy table reflects a better picture in 2011 Census at districts level for male and female population. In total population, Hamirpur (89.01%), Una (87.23%), Kangra (86.49%), Shimla (79.1%), Bilaspur (85.67%), Solan (85.02%), Mandi (82.81%), Lahul and Spiti (77.24%), Chamaba (73.19%), Kullu (80.14%), Sirmour (79.98%), Shimla (84.55%) and Kinnaur (80.77%) have good literacy rates as per 2011 Census. The lowest literacy rate recorded in Chamba with 73.19%.
### Table 3.2.3

**Literacy Rate of Himachal Pradesh (Census 2011)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>State/Dist.</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Literacy Rate(%)</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Literacy Rate(%)</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Literacy Rate(%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Chamba</td>
<td>5,18,844</td>
<td>73.19</td>
<td>2,60,848</td>
<td>84.19</td>
<td>2,57,996</td>
<td>62.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Kangra</td>
<td>15,07,223</td>
<td>86.49</td>
<td>7,48,559</td>
<td>92.55</td>
<td>7,58,664</td>
<td>80.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Lahoul &amp; Spiti</td>
<td>31,528</td>
<td>77.24</td>
<td>16,455</td>
<td>86.97</td>
<td>15,073</td>
<td>66.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>4,37,474</td>
<td>80.14</td>
<td>2,24,320</td>
<td>88.80</td>
<td>2,13,154</td>
<td>71.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Mandi</td>
<td>9,99,518</td>
<td>82.81</td>
<td>4,96,787</td>
<td>91.51</td>
<td>5,02,731</td>
<td>74.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Hamirpur</td>
<td>4,54,293</td>
<td>89.01</td>
<td>2,16,742</td>
<td>95.28</td>
<td>2,37,551</td>
<td>83.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Una</td>
<td>5,21,057</td>
<td>87.23</td>
<td>2,63,541</td>
<td>92.75</td>
<td>2,57,516</td>
<td>81.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Bilaspur</td>
<td>3,82,056</td>
<td>85.87</td>
<td>1,92,827</td>
<td>92.39</td>
<td>1,89,229</td>
<td>78.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Solan</td>
<td>5,76,670</td>
<td>85.02</td>
<td>3,06,162</td>
<td>91.19</td>
<td>2,70,508</td>
<td>78.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Sirmour</td>
<td>5,30,164</td>
<td>79.98</td>
<td>2,76,801</td>
<td>86.76</td>
<td>2,53,363</td>
<td>72.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Shimla</td>
<td>8,13,384</td>
<td>84.55</td>
<td>4,24,486</td>
<td>90.73</td>
<td>3,88,898</td>
<td>77.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Kinnaur</td>
<td>84,298</td>
<td>80.77</td>
<td>46,364</td>
<td>88.37</td>
<td>37,934</td>
<td>71.34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2011 Census 90.83% among males and 76.60% among females were literates in the State against national average of 82.14% and 65.46% respectively. The gender gap in literacy at the State level is 14.23% points as per 2011 Census, Which is low as compared to all India 16.68%. The literacy rate of both males and females has improved in the state during 2001-2011. Literacy rate of females has increased from 67.42% in 2001 to 76.60% in 2011.
2011 with a significant gain of 9.18% while male literacy has increased from 85.35% in 2001 to 90.83% in 2011 resulting gain of 5.48% during this period.

3.2.4 Status of Literacy in District Hamirpur (H.P.)

Among the districts, the highest literacy in males 95.28% has been recorded in Hamipur and lowest in Chamba 84.19%. The percentage of female literacy varies in Himachal Pradesh from highest 83.44% in Hamirpur to 62.14% in Chamba with a gap of 21.3%. The lowest gap in male/female literacy is 5.52% which has been recorded in District of Una.

Table - 3.2.4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province (Tehsil/Sub-Tehsil)</th>
<th>Male Literacy Rate (%)</th>
<th>Female Literacy Rate (%)</th>
<th>Total Literacy Rate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barsar (T)</td>
<td>95.56</td>
<td>83.51</td>
<td>89.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhoranj (T)</td>
<td>95.03</td>
<td>82.09</td>
<td>88.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhatwal (ST)</td>
<td>94.14</td>
<td>81.71</td>
<td>87.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galore (ST)</td>
<td>95.38</td>
<td>82.42</td>
<td>88.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamirpur (T)</td>
<td>95.86</td>
<td>85.68</td>
<td>90.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nadaun (T)</td>
<td>95.38</td>
<td>84.69</td>
<td>89.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sujanpur Tira</td>
<td>94.56</td>
<td>80.40</td>
<td>86.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hamirpur (District)</strong></td>
<td><strong>95.28</strong></td>
<td><strong>83.44</strong></td>
<td><strong>89.01</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census of India-2011

As per census 2011, 89.01% total literacy rate is recorded in district Hamirpur, which is the top in the state. The male literacy rate is 95.28% and female
literacy is recorded 83.44%. In 2001 census this literacy rate was 83.16% which consisted 90.86% male literacy and 76.41% female literacy rate. It is seen that for the last 10 years the district has really done well in increasing literacy rate. The main reason for increased literacy rate is district literacy mission and different educational programs run by the Himachal Pradesh State Government.

3.3 The Community Structure at District Hamirpur (H.P.): An Insight

3.3.1 Introduction to Historical view of Hamirpur

The history of Hamirpur is closely associated with the Katoch dynasty which ruled the area between the Ravi and Satluj rivers in the olden days. It is evident from the “Puranas” and Panini’s “Ashtadhyai” that during the Mahabharta period, Hamirpur was a part of the old Jallandhar-Trigarta Empire. Panini referred to the people of this kingdom as great warriors and fighters. The tradition of those people seems to have continued till today, as is evident from the large number of people from the region in Indian Defense Forces. It is believed that in the ancient period, the rulers of Gupta dynasty had set up their sovereignty over this part of the land. During the middle ages, presumably the area fell under the control of Mohammed Gazani, Timurlang and later Sultans. But with the passage of time, all the aforesaid rulers went away and at the time of Hamir Chand, a Katoch ruler, the area was under the control of ‘Ranas’ (Feudal hill chiefs). Some of the prominent Ranas were ranas of Mewa, ranas of Mehalta and Dhatwal. There was no time when these feudal chiefs were not in quarrel against each other. It was only the Katoch dynasty which put these Ranas under its control, to ensure an orderly society. The Katoch dynasty became predominant during the period of Hamir Chand who ruled from 1700 A.D. to 1740 A.D.

It was this ruler who built the fort at Hamirpur and the present town of Hamirpur derives its name from this ruler. Hamirpur came to much lime-light only during the period of Raja Sansar Chand-II. He made ‘Sujanpur Tira’ his capital and erected palaces and temples at this place. Raja Sansar Chand ruled from 1775 A.D. to 1823 A.D. He dreamt of establishing the old empire of Jallandhar-Trigarta, which his ancestors had held at one time, perhaps
according to some historians he tried twice unsuccessfully. The rise of Raja Ranjit Singh proved a great hurdle for his ambitions. Therefore, he diverted his attention towards the local hill chiefs. He attached Mandi state and made Raja Ishwari Sen a prisoner for 12 years at Nadaun. He also obliged the Suket ruler to pay an annual tribute and annexed parts of Bilaspur state on the right bank of Satluj. Becoming alarmed by the advancement of Sansar Chand, all the hills chiefs joined hands and invited the Gurkhas to stop the uncontrolled might of Katoch ruler. The combined armies fought against Sansar Chand's army at Mahal Morion in Hamirpur. Raja Sansar Chand army gave a crushing defeat to the combined forces and compelled them to retreat on the left banks of river Satluj. By that time, Raja Sansar Chand, on the advice of his General Ghulam Mohammed tried to affect the economy in the army by replacing the existing ones with Rohillas. This proved a self defeating folly on his part. On hearing about the weakness of Katoch’s army, the combined forces again attacked the forces of Kangra at Mahal Morian in the second battle and forced a crushing defeat in 1806 A.D. Raja Sansar Chand along with family took shelter in the Kangra fort. The Gurkhas sieged the Kangra fort and ruthlessly looted the area between the fort of Kangra and Mahal Mohrian and virtually destroyed the villages. Ishwari Sen was liberated by the Gurkhas from Nadaun jail. The siege of the fort continued for three years. Raja Ranjit Singh on the request of Sansar Chand, Waged war against the Gurkhas and defeated them in 1809 A.D. But Sansar Chand had to pay a heavy price whereby he had to lose Kangra fort and 66 villages to the Sikhs. The Sikhs maintained their sovereignty over Kangra and Hamirpur till 1846 when they were defeated by the British army in the first Anglo-Sikh war. Ever since, the supremacy of the British continued in the area which became a part of the British Empire. Sansar Chand died as a most disillusioned man. His successor (grandson) Raja Pramodh Chand in alliance with the Sikhs and other rulers tried vainly to dislodge the British.

The British made Kangra, of which Hamirpur formed a part, a district in which Kullu and Lahaul-Spiti were also merged to form the part of the district. In 1846, after annexation of Kangra, Nadaun was made the Tehsil headquarters. This settlement was revised in 1868, and as a result the Tehsil headquarters
was changed from Nadaun to Hamirpur. In 1888, Palampur Tehsil was created, merging part of the areas of Hamirpur and Kangra Tehsils. Hamirpur remained a part of Punjab province until 1st November 1966, when these areas were merged in Himachal Pradesh consequent upon the reorganization of the Punjab. As a result of re-arrangement of the districts in the merged areas on 1st September 1972, Hamirpur was created as a separate district with two Tehsils of Hamirpur and Barsar. In 1980 three more Tehsils viz. Tira Sujanpur, Nadaun, Bhoranj were created with the further reorganization of the Tehsils. Of these Nadaun and Bhoranj have become full Tehsils according to census 1991. Presently, district has five Tehsils viz, Hamirpur, Barsar, Bhoranj, Nadaun and Sujanpur and two sub-Tehsils i.e. Dhatwal at Bijhari and Galore. It consists of three Revenue Sub-Divisions namely, Hamirpur, Barsar and Nadaun. The Hamirpur Sub-Division comprises of Tehsils Hamirpur, Bhoranj and Sujanpur, the Barsar Sub-Division comprises Barsar Tehsil and Sub-Tehsil Dhatwal at Bijhari, where as Nadaun Sub-Division comprises only one Tehsil Nadaun. This District has been divided into six development Blocks i.e. Hamirpur, Bijhari, Bhoranj, Nadaun, Sujanpur and newly created Bamsan at Touni Devi.

3.3.2 Geographical view of Hamirpur

Map - 3.3.2

Geographical view of Hamirpur
Hamirpur is situated between 31°25′N -31°52′ North Latitude and 76°18′ E-76°44′ East Longitude. The district of Hamirpur covers an area of 1118 sq. km. The total population of Hamirpur is 4,54,293 according to the census of 2011. Among which 2,16,742 are males and 2,37,551 are females. It is located in the south western part of Himachal Pradesh. It is covered by lower Himalayas where the elevation varies from the 400 meters to 1,100 meters above sea level. The main hill ranges of the district are known as Jakh Dhar and Sola Singhi Dhar.

3.3.3 Reigning Social Setup and Structure of Communities at Hamirpur

The maximum population of Hamirpur district is mainly of Hindu religion, divided into different castes and sub-castes. As compared to Hindus (98.87%) other population of Muslims (0.84%), Sikhs (0.13%), Jains (0.07%), Buddhist (0.05%) and Christians (0.03%) are very less.

Table – 3.3.3

Percentage of Population based on Religion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Community Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>98.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Muslims</td>
<td>0.84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Sikhs</td>
<td>0.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Christians</td>
<td>0.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Jains</td>
<td>0.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Others</td>
<td>0.089%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census of India-2001
In Hindu religion, mainly two castes dominate the total population i.e. Brahmins and Rajputs as compared to other castes. Irrespective of these all people live in harmony. There are very less number of villages where only one caste group or particular community resides.

In the sphere of social relations an important feature is strong family affinities. Most of the community members are firmly attached to the joint family system. Their family and social environment has in fact greatly influenced the social status of women. The sturdy and self-reliant women of the district as well as state enjoy a great degree of freedom than her counterparts elsewhere in India.

The identifiable occupationists in communities of the Hamirpur district are agriculturists, doctors, lawyers, teachers, engineers, salaried employees, shopkeepers, businessmen, laborers, students, housewives, ex-servicemen, unemployed etc.

3.3.4 Educational development in District Hamirpur

The Himachal Pradesh, which is also called as the mountainous state, has one of the highest literacy rates in India. In this, Hamirpur is the most important district of which is located in the central region of the state. The administrative headquarter is also located in Hamirpur town. Hamirpur has the distinction of being the most literate district of the state and it is amongst the top most districts of India in education. Even the National Institute of Technology is also located there. In Hamirpur, the literacy rate of 89.01% (Census 2011) is higher than the national literacy rate of 74.04%. The district has male literacy 95.28% and female literacy 83.44%.

The department of education has made huge progress in the field of education, so that everyone gets better education and makes his/her future bright. Primary education for every single child has been made compulsory in the state now. One of the most important steps undertaken by the government is the education of the girl child. Now, Education of girls is an integral part of
social and national development. So to promote the education of girls, it is being provided free of cost at all levels so that they easily get the education and will do some job and spend her life with full respect. Moreover the department also organizes different training programs for the training of teachers so as to make them aware with latest educational know how. As everyone knows that nowadays, IT Education is holding the key for future development. As today, everyone must have knowledge of Computers or internet, so to encourage IT education in the state, the Information Technology (IT) education as a subject is induced totally on self-finance basis. One of the main purpose of this IT Department is to provide the basic knowledge to the students from 4-8 class and the students from 9th to 12th Classes in Govt. Sr. Sec. School can opt for the IT-Education voluntarily so that they can choose the better career with the help of internet based suggestion. As we know that today the internet is only the best source where we put our problems and get the better solution. In year 2001-02 IT-Education has been started in at least 236 Govt. Sr. Sec. Schools and signing an agreement with companies. These Companies are:

- M/s Electronics Corporation of India Ltd., Hyderabad which provide facilities to 219 schools
- M/s Maharashtra Institute of Advanced Electronics and Computer Technology Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai which provide facilities to 15 Schools.

During the session 2002-03, one agreement has been signed with M/s RCC, which is now merged in DOEACC Society, New Delhi for starting IT-Education in the schools and other educational areas and this company is imparting the IT-Education in 261 Govt. Sr. Sec. Schools so that all one get the basic knowledge of Computers and information technology. At present, with the help of these companies IT education in providing in 495 Govt. Senior Secondary Schools.
So by all this IT-Education, the upcoming generation of Himachal Pradesh will easily choose out their careers and provide the best facilities to the state so that their younger one will get the best knowledge.

In the field of education, emphasis has been laid on qualitative and quantitative improvement of education. The government of the Hamirpur district is committed to development of elementary, primary and higher education, as evidenced by its creation of various schools and colleges over the last 40 years. The government has recognized the importance of education in the development of the region and country, as it has increased its education budget from Rs.393 crores in 2001-02 to Rs. 3164.54 Crores in 2011-2012. Besides this there are many scholarship schemes for meritorious students.

The government has also decided to introduce information communication technology as compulsory subject in all senior secondary and high schools in the state in a phased manner. To ensure that teachers opt for posting in far-flung and tribal areas of the state ‘Yashant Gurukul Awas Yojna’ has been started in the state and teachers in this areas are being provided semi-furnished accommodation with kitchen and other facilities in senior secondary and high schools. To ensure better environment of the education to the children in primary schools ‘Saraswati Bal Vidya Sankalp Yojana’ (Rs.13.26 crore) was started in the year 1999 and target of ensuring minimum of three rooms in each primary school with in a period of three years was fixed. In all, 13612 new rooms were to be constructed and the target under the scheme has been achieved. Technical education has been given added attention and 17 new technical institutions, 1 polytechnic, 11 Industrial Training schools have been opened.
3.4 Library and Information Support for a Highly Literate Himalyan Community of District Hamirpur: A Profile

Introduction;

There was no public library service existent in Himachal Pradesh till the formation of the state in April 1948. The Union Ministry of Education started the project of Integrated Library System only in the year 1952. Under this project, Central Libraries were established in selected areas of each State for intensive educational development with financial assistance from the Central Government. It was to serve as an experiment in introducing a full-fledged library system throughout the State.

In 1959, the Education Department of Himachal Pradesh following the recommendation of the Library Advisory Committee Report-1958 (Government of India) came forward with a full-fledged scheme of introducing in stages a network of libraries throughout the Pradesh. To begin with, a State Central Library was established in Solan in 1959, and within next two years District Libraries in all the six districts were opened. Simultaneously two Mobile library units were also established at Solan and Mandi to take library services as far away in the interior as was feasible.

As present the Himachal Pradesh state has 1 State Central Library, 11 District Libraries, and 918 Community Libraries (Senior Secondary School Public Libraries) in the State.

3.4.1 Community Library setup at Hamirpur

The first Public Library in Hamirpur was established in 1974 at Hamirpur town. Keeping in view the Community Information Needs, the State Government vide its Notification No. Ka(4)-9/81-Shiksha-ka dated 25.09.1986 declared all government senior secondary school libraries as Community Libraries. The Notification states that all concerned school students can access Public Library free of cost. For other children and adults the library security
(refundable) is Rs.50/- and Rs.200/- respectively (for those who are not on the roll of the school) At present there are 70 such Community Libraries in the district Hamirpur and one District Library at Hamirpur. Tehsil wise distribution of Community Libraries are given below;

Table - 3.4.1

Tehsil-wise Distribution of Community Libraries in Hamirpur

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Tehsil</th>
<th>Number of Community Libraries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barsar</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhoranj</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamirpur</td>
<td>17 (Including one district library)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nadaun</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sujanpur Tira</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Datwal (ST)</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>71</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These libraries are serving as a complete Community Library System at the district to assist in development of local communities in various field of knowledge. The District Library and all the other 70 Community Libraries are managed and developed by the State Government. They are also assisted by Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation for the collection development purpose.

For the purpose of carrying present research study, the researcher has chosen 34 out of total 71 Community Libraries. An overview of all these Community Libraries is given below;
3.4.1.1 Indira Gandhi Government District Library, Hamirpur

The District Library of Hamirpur, an apex Public Library of the district Hamirpur, was established in 1974 at Hamirpur Town to cater information needs of the local community. There are 8 Staff members in the District Library and 3 staff members have professional degree in Library and Information science.

District Library is open six days in a week except Tuesday and last Saturday of the month. In Summers Library timings remains from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm and in winters the Library timings are from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Library Membership is divided into two categories, namely Adults and Children. Anybody who is interested can become a member of the District Library by filling up of simple Membership Card and depositing a membership security Fee Rs. 200/- for adults and Rs.50/- for children on refundable basis. Currently there are 850 users; whereby from among them 405 are registered members of the District Library and 445 users are non-registered members of the District Library. An average number of daily visitors of the District Library are for 40-50 everyday, which includes library registered members and non-registered members.

The district Library functions comprises Acquisition, Circulation, Periodical management, and Reference Service. The total collection of district library currently stands at 29000. The library has been subscribing 30 periodicals. Seven National Newspapers are also being subscribed. The Library Services include Library membership, Circulation Service, and Reprography etc. Hamirpur District Library, since its inception, is being operated from a building taken on rent. However, a new library building is already raised in Town Hall building Hamirpur. But there is a still wait for Govt. clearance to shift entire library in a new building.
3.4.1.2 Community Library, Bani (Tehsil: Barsar)

The Bani Community library is formed by converting Government Senior Secondary School library in the year of 1990. The library is being looked after by one professional assistant librarian. The collection is nearly containing 15000 books. There are nearly 750 library users of library.

3.4.1.3 Community Library, Jaure Amb (Tehsil: Barsar)

The Jaure Amb Community library was established in the year 2000. The library is being looked after by teacher-in-charge. Library collection includes 2000 books. Nearly 300 community members are currently using the Library facilities.

3.4.1.4 Community Library, Bagwara (Tehsil: Bhoranj)

The Bagwara Senior Secondary School library is converted into Community Library in the year 1986. One professional assistant librarian and one Library restorer manage the library. The Current Library collection stands at 18000 books. There are approximately 720 users of library.

3.4.1.5 Community Library, Bhoranj (Tehsil: Bhoranj)

The Bhoranj Community library was established in the year 1986. The one professional assistant librarian and two Library restorers are looking after the library. The collection is nearly containing 8000 books. There are approximately 850 Community Users of this library.

3.4.1.6 Community Library, Ladraur (Tehsil: Bhoranj)

The establishment of community library at Ladraur took place in the year 1996. The users are catered by a Teacher In-Charge. The total collection of books is nearly 1500. There are 460 Community Member, who visit the library for their informational needs.
3.4.1.7 Community Library, Mundkhar (Tehsil: Bhoranj)

The Mundkhar Community Library was formed in the year 1997. Teacher In-Charge looking after library. It has current collection of 1200 books. Library has about 360 Community Users.

3.4.1.8 Community Library, Jhirlari (Tehsil: Bhoranj)

The community library at Jhirlari was established in 1986. The library has one Assistant Librarian and one Library Restorer. The library is located on the first floor of the school building. There are approximately 335 user of this library. The collection is made up of 4700 books.

3.4.1.9 Community Library, Bhareri (Tehsil: Bhoranj)

The Bhareri Community library was established in the year 1986. The library is being looked after by the Teacher In-Charge. The collection is nearly containing 5000 books and it caters to 295 users’ information requirements.

3.4.1.10 Community Library, Tal (Tehsil: Bhoranj)

The Taal Community library was formed in the year 1995. Library has one serving Assistant Librarian and hold total collection of 1900 documents. Library is being used by 410 Community Members.

3.4.1.11 Community Library, Bijhari (Tehsil: Datwal)

The Bijhari Community Library was established in the year 1989. An Assistant Librarian is looking after the library. Library is having good collection of 7000 books. The current number of library users is 815.

3.4.1.12 Community Library, Meharal (Tehsil: Datwal)

Meharal Community library was established in the year 2001. Library having a collection about 2000 documents. This library is looking by one Teacher In-Charge.
3.4.1.13 Community Library, Amroh (Tehsil: Hamirpur)

The Amroh Community library was established in 1999. A Professional Assistant Librarian manages the library. The library collection reaches nearly 2500 books. There are approximately 320 users of library.

3.4.1.14 Community Library, Nalti (Tehsil: Hamirpur)

The Community Library at Nalti in Hamirpur district was set up in the year 1986. Library is served by Teacher In-Charge and has the collection of 3000 book. There are 425 Library Users.

3.4.1.15 Community Library, Hamirpur (Boys' School) (Tehsil: Hamirpur)

The Community Library at Hamirpur (Boys' School) was established in 1986. The Library has one Assistant Librarian. The library has one spacious hall for reading purpose as Library building. The collection is approximately 10000. Library caters to informational needs of 500 Community Members.

3.4.1.16 Community Library, Hamirpur (Girls School) (Tehsil: Hamirpur)

The Community Library at Girls School in Hamirpur was established in the year 1994. One Assistant Librarian is serving in the library. The library has the collection of 6800 books with total user strength of 570.

3.4.1.17 Community Library, Jhagriani (Tehsil: Hamirpur)

An Assistant Librarian is looking after the Jhagriani community library. Library has a current collection of 1400 books. It was established in the year of 1997. Nearly 330 Community Members use library on regular basis.

3.4.1.18 Community Library, Lamloo (Tehsil: Hamirpur)

The Community Library Lamloo was established in the year 1999. It has rich collection of 5000 books. One Assistant Librarian is serving to the 620 Community Members.
3.4.1.19 Community Library, Mair (Tehsil: Hamirpur)

Mair Community Library was formed in year 1999. It is managed by one Assistant Librarian and has collection of 2500 books. There are 420 Community Users of Library.

3.4.1.20 Community Library, Uhal (Tehsil: Hamirpur)

The Uhal Community Library was established in 1997. Teacher In-Charge is catering to the needs of Community Members with total collection of 1500 books. There are about 390 Library Users.

3.4.1.21 Community Library, Tauni Devi(Tehsil: Hamirpur)

Tauni Devi Community Library was created in the year 1986. The Library has one Professional Assistant Librarian. It has a total collection of 12000 books. It caters to the informational needs of 550 Community Members.

3.4.1.22 Community Library, Jol Sappar (Tehsil: Nadaun)

The Community Library of Jol Sappar is serving the Community Members since 1997. At the time of survey, there was no Professional Library Staff and Teacher In-Charge managed Library. The total collection of library was approximately 1200 books and there are 394 Library Users.

3.4.1.23 Community Library, Jalari (Tehsil: Nadaun)

The Jalari Senior Secondary School library is converted into Community Library in the year of 2000. Teacher In-Charge is looking after the library. The collection is nearly containing 1500 books. There are approximately 290 Users (including school students) of this Library.

3.4.1.24 Community Library, Bhumpal (Sudhial) (Tehsil: Nadaun)

The Community Library at Sudhial was established in 1997. There is no Professional Library Staff available and a Techer In-Charge is looking after library. There is a collection of 6000 books and used by 485 Community Users.
3.4.1.25 Community Library, Dhaneta (Tehsil: Nadaun)

The Library is established in the year 1994. The Dhaneta Community Library is managed by an Assistant Librarian. 520 community users use the library. It has a collection of 1800 books.

3.4.1.26 Community Library, Galore (Tehsil: Nadaun)

Galore Community Library was set up in the year 1986. An Assistant Librarian and a Library Attendant are serving to the Community Members for their informational needs. The Library has the collection of 8000 books and catering to 520 Community Members.

3.4.1.27 Community Library, Bara (Tehsil: Nadaun)

The Bara Senior Secondary School library is converted into Community Library in the year 1998. One Teacher In-Charge is looking after the library. The collection is nearly containing 1000 books. This Library caters to 455 Community Users.

3.4.1.28 Community Library, Kangoo (Tehsil: Nadaun)

Kangoo Community Library was started in the year 1986. The Library has an Assistant Librarian and one Library Attendant. Total collection of Library is 12000 books. Library has one spacious reading room and is currently catering to 560 Users.

3.4.1.29 Community Library, Nadaun (Boys School) (Tehsil: Nadaun)

The Community Library at Nadaun was established in the year 1986. One Assistant Librarian is catering to the needs of the Users. Library has total collection of 25000 books for 700 Community Users.

3.4.1.30 Community Library, Nadaun (Girls School) (Tehsil: Nadaun)

This Library was started in 1997. There is no Professional Library Staff available and Library is being looked after by a Teacher In-Charge. There is a collection of 1800 books. Library caters to 495 Community Members.
3.4.1.31 Community library, Rail (Tehsil: Nadaun)

Community Library Rail in Tehsil Nadaun was established in 1995. An Assistant Librarian with total collection of 7700 books is serving the Library. 350 Community Members use Library services.

3.4.1.32 Community Library, Sera (Tehsil: Nadaun)

This Library was started in 2000 as a Community Library. There is no Professional Library Staff available and a Teacher In-Charge is looking after library. There is a collection of 3000 books. Library caters to 250 Community Members.

3.4.1.33 Community Library, Kakkar (Tehsil: Sujanpur Tira)

Community Library Kakkar was established in 2000. Teacher In-Charge looks after the Library with total collection of 6000 books. There are 415 Community Members who use Library services.

3.4.1.34 Community Library, Sujanpur Tira (Tehsil: Sujanpur Tira)

The Community Library at Sujanpur Tira was formed in the year 1988. Teacher In-Charge looks after library. Library has collection of about 6000 books and caters to 490 Community Members.

Conclusion

The Community Libraries in Hamirpur are treasure house for storing and serving important reading materials to the community. These libraries collect, preserve and conserve documents relating to socio-cultural aspects of the society for future generations. They act, as center for fulfilling the local information needs relating to the social life of community members of Hamirpur. The role played by these libraries for socio-cultural development of the society also has contributed to the educational development of the district.
References


