CHAPTER 7

CONCLUSION
AND
SUGGESTIONS
7.1 Conclusion

The present study concludes that the development of public libraries in India is making a steady progress in many of the states. It is evident that so far fourteen number of states have recognize the importance of public library service by enacting library legislation for socio-cultural and educational development. This has also been established that the public libraries play an important role for societal and national development. Although many of the states have not enacted public library act, they are still in the process and persuading the state government for early legislation.

Mizoram government has recognizes its importance and therefore enacted library legislation in 1993. This has resulted into wide coverage of public library form village level to state level. These libraries are also contributing a lot in promoting socio-cultural and educational activities in the state. This has also been established from the findings that these libraries are the vital source of information for the local community.

Public library in India, in general, and Mizoram in particular, are facing the constant problems of physical resources (building, furniture, equipment, including ICT infrastructure) acquiring and developing good collection of documentary and non-documentary resources, inadequacy of professional, semi-professional and non-professional staff as well as regular problems of financial resources.

The study further revealed that the impact of public libraries on socio-cultural and educational development could be further gear-up with active support from the state and central government. It is also concluded from the data analysis and findings that the government should encourage, establish and maintain public libraries in order to provide effective and efficient library services, which has a tremendous impact on socio-cultural and educational development of the local community. It is strongly suggested that the government of Mizoram should not only implement Public Libraries Act immediately but at the same time it is equally important to strengthen physical documentary human and financial resources in the greater interest of the state.
7.2 Suggestions

The study reveals that all the government established public libraries in Mizoram have been functioning as daily routine work to meet the information needs of the society. However, the functioning of these libraries are limited to collect, organize and serve the community due to various problems that are confronted by the government and the society. It is well known among the intellectuals that of all the four types of libraries, public library is the only library to serve the community as a whole without any distinction. Public libraries are basically established for the socio-cultural and educational development of the society, and its main purpose is to give, provide and serve the society in their various developmental activities, viz., education, economic, socio-cultural activities, health, employment, etc. This is an accepted fact that Public Libraries play a vital role for socio-cultural and educational development of the society in which the government has a lot to do.

This chapter, concerning about suggestions from the study has its foundation from the findings stated in the previous chapter. State and District Libraries in Mizoram has been serving the society for almost forty years, but its services are not much aware to the community for their educational or socio-cultural developments. Therefore, the researcher has suggested the following significant points for the development of public library system in general and State and District Libraries of Mizoram in particular, so that the community of the state could make use of educational resources through such libraries.

1. District Library may be established in all the district headquarters with modern Information Communication Technology to facilitate each access to the information needs of the local community.

2. State and District Libraries should have their own building with state-of-the-art at the central place of the locality for easy accessibility by the users.
3. Qualified professional staff should be recruited for smooth functioning of library services.

4. Library extension services, such as, Bookmobile, Book Exhibition, Workshop/Seminar, Library Lectures, Audio-visual Programs, Story Hours, etc. may be organized with emphasis on to promote library services and its importance to the local community.

5. Socio-cultural activities, like Cultural Exhibitions, Concerts, Field Trips, Film Shows, Craft Exhibitions, etc. may be organized at various places of the state to give awareness of public library services and its benefits to the society.

6. A section on Career Guidance may be established at the library to provide counseling to the users, particularly for the school children.

7. Mizoram Public Libraries Act 1993 should be implemented for effective and efficient public library service in the state.

8. State and District Libraries should follow collection development policy of the government. Collection development policy may emphasize on information needs of the local community.

9. Internet facility should be provided to the library users, so that they may access their information needs easily. Libraries may be linked with or be a member of library resources in the country, e.g. DELNET.

10. Book Clubs or Readers’ Club may be formed in each library locations to build up reading habits among the local community, particularly among the children.

11. Separate sections for children’s literature, senior citizens, women and disable persons should be established in a library. Collections should also be organized systematically to meet their information needs.
12. Libraries need to be automated to meet the challenges of an information society with necessary hardware and software. Each library should create its own local database and provide effective and efficient computerized library and information services, such as Database Service, CAS, SDI, Reference Service, Document Delivery Service, etc.

13. The state government may continue contributions to RRRLF Matching Scheme and the amount may also be increased so that libraries in the state may receive more reading materials including Audio-Visual through this scheme. Public libraries need a permanent source of finance both from the State and Central Government.

14. Library staff, both professional and semi-professional needs to be fully oriented towards application of ICT. The authority should organize such kind of regular training programs to acquire latest developments in the field. Special initiatives in orientation programs/computer literacy program may be organized for the library staff.

15. Due to inflation, library required more budgets from the state Government. More library budget will facilitate in developing a good collection of reading material for all category of users.

16. State and District Libraries are the center of local gateway to information particularly in providing reading materials. Most of the local community cannot afford to procure such reading material from their own resources. To meet their various information needs, libraries should subscribe more periodicals and journals in different subjects.

17. Public library may be transferred from State List to Concurrent List of the Indian Constitution to give more emphasis and recognized the importance of public library services by the Central and State Governments.