ABSTRACT

An Indian public library development remains uneven throughout the country, with varying levels of quality both within and across states. As state differs in size, population, literacy rate, public library system also differs from state to state so far as its infrastructural facilities and patterns are concerned. A library in Municipal Town in our country is designated as Town Library and one outside Municipal Town as Rural Libraries. Again, the rural libraries in some states form a part of the public library system and in some other states they came under the jurisdiction of Adult Education Department or Public relation Department. Aided Libraries in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Kerala have been grouped into different categories on the basis of the size, resources and strength of Library whether located urban or village center.

On one hand rural libraries are highly underdeveloped whereas on the other, certain urban public library systems, in cities such as Delhi, Chennai and Bangalore, exhibit fairly well-developed infrastructures. Southern states specially Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka have a fairly operational public library setup. In the absence of uniformity, it becomes difficult to define what exactly constitutes a public library. A small room in an urban slum or village with a few books is in less than a central library for village dwellers whereas a more formal organizational structure and technology based service model is required for urban libraries. Though Indian public library development may have the capacity to redefine how public libraries can be run and can serve their communities, several challenges lie ahead for formulation of a concrete public library policy.

So researcher has chosen the topic, "Performance Evaluation and Social Cultural Contribution of Public Libraries in South Region of Ahmednagar District." For this research the researcher has chosen 50 Public libraries in 7 talukas, which Public Libraries are funded by, ‘Govt. of Maharashtra Public Library Act.1967’ in South region of Ahmednagar District. The data was collected by interview, questionnaire, library register and files.

The fundamental aim of the public library is to provide timely, pertinent, accurate and reliable information services to all the public in society. The public library helps different sectors of the community by providing right information to the right reader at the right time. Public librarians are an important forum by which farmers can make use to eliminate illiteracy
and acquire lifelong learning. For the farmers and their children who live in poverty and remote areas, school facilities, resources and reading materials are extremely scarce, and in these respects rural librarians serve the farmers and their children by their reading materials. By this way rural librarians can help to eradicate illiteracy.

Public library is a public institution being run for the people, of the people and by the people. Public libraries play an important and vital role in the development of community. Public libraries are the community base centre for information center. The public library has been a subsidiary branch of public libraries and it is also a social institution which works for great enlightenment of the society in the community circle of a rural area.

The public library gives more information to rural community and it helps for development of rural area. So the government should take step for growth of library in undeveloped area. To achieve the public library and information professionals should develop appropriate library and information system and services for the people in society. In the end, try to give the possible solution to overcome from the respective problems.