CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

1. Introduction
2. Major Findings
3. Suggestions
4. Recommendation for Further Research
5. Conclusion
CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY OF FINDING, SUGGESTION AND CONCLUSION

1. Introduction

This chapter deals with the following.

1. Major findings emerging out of the present study
2. Suggestions for the betterment of the functioning of Public Libraries
3. Recommendations for further research
4. Conclusion

Kerala Grandhasala Sangham, the Association of Public Libraries in Kerala founded in 1945 have become a statutory body as per the Public Libraries Act (KGS) 1989. Then the Sangham is officially named as Kerala State Library Council. The study pertains to the non formal education and extension activities of the public libraries affiliated to the Kerala Grandhasala Sangham.

The objectives of the study were

• To study Kerala Grandhasala Sangham in relation to Organization and conduct Administration, Resource mobilization, Information dissemination and Extension programmes
• To analyze the role, functions and programmes of the public libraries affiliated to Kerala Grandhasala Sangham.
• To identify the areas of Non-Formal Education implemented through public libraries.
• To explore the possibility of improving the performance of public libraries in Kerala.

To suggest remedial measures based on the study to strengthen the situation.
Chapter VI

The present study attempted to analyse the functions and various activities of the public libraries of Kerala in the field of non formal education. It is hoped that the study will lead to the identification of aims and objectives, planning and implementations, teaching learning materials, selection of functionaries, financial aspects, evaluation and follow-up of the programmes adopted by the public libraries in non-formal education.

2. The Major Findings

The major findings emerging out of the study are listed on the following headings

1. Organisation & Administration
2. Resource mobilization
3. Infrastructure facilities and services
4. Activities

2.1. Organisation & Administration

Kerala Grandhasala Sangham has a hierarchial pattern of organisation. There is a three tier system of administration. State Library Council is the apex body, below that comes District Library Council and Taluk Library Council. The lowest unit of chain is affiliated library. The office bearers in all these levels are elected by the library members.

- Individual member libraries are autonomous institutions working according to the model library rules prescribed by Sangham and accepted by the them. Each library is managed by a committee elected by the general body of all members of library. Each library in a taluk send two representatives to the Taluk Library Council.

- Taluk Library Council co-ordinate all the libraries in its jurisdiction and keeps a close surveillance of the working of each library. It also helps the establishment of libraries by local initiation and in strengthening the existing libraries within the Taluk.
Chapter VI

The District Council, which is constituted by the representatives of the Taluk Library Council, supervises the working of all Taluk Councils. State Library Council co-ordinates, harmonizes, directs and leads the numerous libraries in the state. The Council has the power to advise the government on all matters connected with the overall library policy of the state.

Among the 25 members of Executive Committee of SLC there are two government nominated members and one member nominated by the university. Except these three members all others are elected or nominated by the representatives of libraries. The controlling role of library workers in the affairs of Sangham is evident from this. Professional expertise has a very little place in the system.

Out of the surveyed libraries 68% of the libraries were established between 1945 and 1977. Only 11% were established after 77.

Affiliated libraries are classified into 6 grades as Special Grade, A, B, C, D, E, and F by the KSLC according to the criteria specified by the KSLC. The annual grant given to these libraries is according to their grade.

Generally rural libraries open in the afternoon or evenings (77%). Reading rooms, literacy and other classes of non-formal education programmes are conducted throughout daytime.

2.2. Resource mobilization

- The main source of income of Library Council is Government grant and Library Cess. The Kerala State Library Council maintains a fund called the State Library Fund from which all the expenses of the State Library Council, District Library Councils and the Taluk Library Councils are met.

- Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation, provides matching grant for library development, which in turn distributed to the affiliated libraries by KGS.

- The main source of financial assistance of libraries: All the libraries receive
annual grant and librarian's allowance, according to their grade. 30 percent of surveyed libraries got fund from Local Self Government, 60 percent received funds from RRRL Foundation and 18 percent libraries got assistance from some voluntary organizations other than their own fund in 2002-03.

Librarians are poorly paid except in LLA (Local Library Authority) of erstwhile Malabar which were under local self government and now taken over by the Government of Kerala.

2.3. Infrastructure facilities and services

- Most of the libraries (81 %) were housed in own building and the rest few were in rented building.
- An average number of six newspapers were subscribed to by libraries. Kerala Gazeteer is subscribed to by 73 percent libraries.

In 83 percent of the surveyed libraries there were no professionally qualified librarians.

The survey revealed that, in 87 percent of libraries, books were not classified or catalogued professionally.

- Most of the libraries were not equipped with computer and internet facilities. Among the surveyed libraries only 12 libraries (22%) possess computer.
- Only 34 percent of the libraries have separate section for neo-literate.
- Most of the interviewed neo-literate (70%) were not satisfied with the library service provided to them.

2.4. Activities

- Ninety two percent of rural libraries were actively engaged in community education activities. But only 14 percent of urban libraries were engaged in extension activities. The urban libraries were mainly engaged in information dissemination and other advanced information services such as Internet browsing, documentation and reprography.
* The KGS established Academic Study Centers in 14 selected libraries, 63 Taluk Reference Libraries and library service in 5 Jails, 5 Juvenile Homes, 7 Orphanages and 3 Sanatoriums.

* Rural information and guidance centers: The KGS, the IT Mission of the Kerala Government and the Panchayatiraj institutions jointly introduced a pilot project in 1999-2000-the Rural Information and Guidance Center (Sevana) -in one library in each district.

* Book Bank Scheme: Libraries which have poor book collections can borrow books for a definite period from these Book Banks. Book Banks are working in nine districts.

* The public libraries of Kerala, along with the service of information dissemination, undertakes rural extension activities, social awareness programmes, cultural development programmes and community interactive programmes. The programmes include organizing and running nursery schools, women’s forum (Vanithavedi), children’s club, (Balavedi) youth club and career guidance centers.

* Skill development training and literacy centers: The Library Council started 100 model literacy centers all over the state in 1999. Functional literacy and Continuing Education were given importance in these centers. But now these centers are not working properly because the KGS couldn’t provide the grant for the last two years, as the Sangham couldn’t afford the expenses as the Literacy Mission stopped giving funds to KGS.

* Many awareness programmes were sponsored in areas like literacy, health and hygiene, nutrition, child-care and family welfare. Social awareness programmes on subjects such as environment protection, pollution control, consumer protection, fundamental rights, religious tolerance were given due importance.
The Sangham organizes seminars, literary criticism sessions, and exhibitions at State, District and Taluk levels as a part of its non-formal, community education scheme.

The KGS promotes the cultural development of the community. Local level, Taluk level, District level and State level cultural competitions for children and youth are organized by the KGS.

The KGS organizes a reading competition for high school students in which the aptitude and the standard of reading are rewarded.

The KGS selects one model village library in every Taluk considering their extension activities.

The NFE activities conducted by the surveyed libraries mainly come under the following categories, Literacy and Continuing Education, Vocational Continuing Education, Health Education Programme, Career Guidance, Physical Training and Sports, Cultural Development Programmes, Social Awareness Programmes.

Different agencies sponsored programmes in their field through local libraries. They are mainly State Literacy Mission Authority, Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishad, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Gandhian Study Centre, Krishi Bhavan, Social Welfare Department, Local Self Government, Public Health Department and other voluntary organizations.

Libraries conduct various activities for specific target groups. The main target groups are Children, Women, Youth, Farmers, Neo-literates, Illiterates.

The main activities of literacy and continuing education were conducting literacy survey, preparation for equalancy exam, mobilizing learners to the programme, collecting and distributing learning materials and follow-up activities. Survey revealed that only a few libraries are engaged in these activities.
Book distribution schemes for women were organized by 42 percent libraries with the special grant received from KGS to nurture reading habit in women.

The main programmes of vocational education in the surveyed libraries were Tailoring, Embroidery, Fabric painting, Toy making, Food processing, Bookbinding, Umbrella making, making soap and cleaning materials and Service trainings such as DTP classes, Sewing machine repair, Driving etc were also organised.

Career guidance classes include preparation for PSC test, preparation for bank test, Communicative English and public speaking, notifying employment opportunities, counselling.

- Health Education programmes include mainly Health seminars, Health survey, Immunization campaign, Blood donation camp, Eye testing and Film shows. Most of the rural libraries were utilised by the Public Health Department in organising the programmes of Health Education.

- Celebration of National Days and felicitation of talented children, youth and outstanding personalities of the locality were organized by almost all the libraries.

- *Arts and sports clubs*: 53 percent of libraries have arts and sports clubs. These clubs organize cultural competitions, literary camps, and music and dance classes for the children. Many libraries organize literary clubs to give opportunity to young writers to present their creative works. Three surveyed libraries reported that they publish the literary creations of the members. A painting exhibition was organized by one surveyed library where paintings of few members were exhibited.

- Sports clubs conduct athletic competition for children and youth. Two surveyed libraries conduct yoga and physical exercise classes.

Libraries conducted local level cultural competitions and the winners were participated in the taluk level and district level and state level competitions.
The libraries organise seminars, Jathas (procession), debates, workshops and speeches of eminent people in the concerned field for giving awareness to the people on different social problems. The different topics mentioned by the responded libraries were environment protection, Health and Hygiene, Reading and continuing education, Women empowerment, Ethnic culture, Religious tolerance, Drug abuse and Importance of mother tongue.

- Twenty surveyed libraries (38%) felicitate the students of the locality who secured good marks in the SSLC exam and the University exams.

- Most of the instructors for non-formal educational programmes were local people; teachers of local colleges or schools or other professional hands and resource persons of the sponsoring agencies. Librarians themselves work as instructors in some cases. A good number of them were offering their service voluntarily.

- Instructors were given shortterm training or orientation by the Council. Although resource person / skilled instructors are poorly paid most of them had reported as satisfied with the job, as it is a service for their community.

- The libraries which excel in their functions have a good team of educated and voluntary workers of the locality.

- The available infrastructure and resources of the public libraries are under-utilized by the Literacy Mission and other educational systems.

- Political interference is found to be a major hindrance in the co-operation between the development agencies of the community and local public libraries.

3. **Major Suggestions**

- Integrated and co-ordinated activities with other Governmental and Non-Governmental agencies of development are necessary to increase the effectiveness of the programmes of the Kerala Grandhasala Sangham.
The Kerala Grandhasala Sangham may be given due representation in all local level developmental activities as it possesses a good infrastructure, well-established networking and influence among the people.

Public Library System and its infrastructure and resources may be properly utilised by the Literacy Mission Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Open Schools, Open Universities, Distance Education and other educational systems.

- In order to ensure the participation and involvement of eminent personalities of the locality, the Executive Committee of the library may include nominated members.

A better information service, the prime role of public libraries, is to be ensured by a more professional approach to the management of library resources and provision for advanced information technology. Library Act should provide for the recruitment of professional staff for a better information service to the public.

- Public libraries are to be made clearing houses of different departments of Government, Banks, Universities and other important institutions of public utility.

- Various forms of inter-library co-operation and networking of resources may be resorted to by the Grandhasala Sangham in order to increase the range of accessibility of resources of the public libraries and to meet the needs of the users.

- The allocation and disbursement of Government grant to the KGS, and the remittance of library cess to the KGS by the Panchayat are to be regular and proper so as to implement the development policies of the KGS efficiently. Adult Education activities should be given a definite place in the library budget.

- An Expert Committee consisting of members of State Library Council, District Library council, Taluk Library Council and Library Executive Committee should be constituted for the selection of books for each library which can maintain the relevance and standard of books.
• Subject experts are to be included in the committee to select books for Academic Study Centers.

• Extension activities of the libraries should be promoted by providing more financial and resource support to the public libraries by Local Self Government.

• A permanent setup may be maintained for the monitoring and evaluation of all activities of the affiliated libraries, Libraries should have accountability to the higher level of administration.

• Follow-up support for the newly educated or trained candidates should be ensured by the Council and the follow-up activities are to be organised effectively.

• The library legislation is to be updated according to the changing information needs of the society and the emerging role of the public libraries.

• The participation of women and children in the programmes targeted to them is to be promoted so as to get them maximum benefit out of these programmes.

• Rural libraries being the centers of information dissemination, lifelong education and cultural development of a community, it is imperative to establish A/CE centers in all the rural libraries of Kerala.

• E learning centers may be established with public library net work.

Recommendation for further research

• Information service of public libraries of Kerala.

• Comparative study of the Public Library system of Kerala and other States where legislation is already being enacted.

• Analysis of people’s involvement in the development of the rural library.
Problems faced by the KSCLC in implementing their programmes in rural areas.

Role of Panchayatiraj in public libraries.

A study of the reading habits of neo-literates and others in the state.

Study of the strategies for strengthening the library movement of Kerala in the context of Information Technology.

Conclusion

Kerala Grandhasala Sangham played specific roles for the total education of the community: for target groups like children, youth, women, illiterates, neo-literates, farmers and those who were not able to reach the main stream of life, like inmates of jail and juvenile homes, hospitals, sanatoriums and orphanages.

Through a variety of Non-Formal Education programmes like literacy and continuing education, vocational training, career guidance, health education social awareness, sports and cultural activities, relevant knowledge to the target groups, positive changes in their attitude were developed. In addition to that necessary skills for income generation and better life style were also developed among certain target groups.

Necessary resources were mobilised from Government Organisations and Non Government Organisations and from the community for the effective organisation of Non-Formal Education. Resources include men, money, materials and time. Not less than 81 percent of libraries were housed in their own buildings. This is an important indicator of the success in resource mobilisation. At the same time certain limitations were found in getting professionally qualified personnels for handling library resources.

The following specific features were noticed related to the role of libraries in conducting Non-Formal Education programmes.

i. Focus was given to those who were not able to reach the formal system of education.
ii. Variety of programmes were organised for target groups ranging from children to illiterate adults according to their needs and necessities.

iii. Special attention was given to cover those target groups who were not able to reach the main stream of life.

iv. Current issues relevant to the needs of the community were given priority in conducting Non-Formal Education.

v. Due importance was given to programmes of health, hygiene, sanitation and prevention of diseases

Kerala Grandhasala Sangham applied the following strategies in the systematic organisation of Non Formal Education programmes.

i. Pre-organisational planning:” Need identification, resource mobilisation, planning, organisation and publicity etc. were focused.

ii. During the programme:-Quality of programme, appropriate delivery, influence of the programme among the people, participation and involvement of the beneficiaries and coverage of programmes in local media etc. were the major focus On the spot problems and issues if any were focused to strengthen the quality of the programmes by the organisers.

iii. Follow-up activities:- Even though the percentage of such activities were found comparatively less, the follow-up activities were conducted to identify the reactions of the target groups about the programmes through News Letters, Handwritten magazines, personal visits, group discussions, lectures etc. These feed back activities were helpful for the organisation of Non Formal Education programmes and to strengthen the future programmes.

In organizing Non-Formal Education activities, the rural libraries are more involved than the urban libraries. Most of the rural libraries act as community interaction centers which promote positive social changes. At the same time the potential strength of the public libraries is not properly utilised by the educational systems and research and development. Grandhasala Sangham has future plans to integrate the advancement of Information Technology with library for the benefits of the target groups.