CHAPTER III
ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARY SERVICES TO THE PRISONERS

"Prison" has been defined as a 'Place properly arranged and equipped for the reception of persons who by legal process are committed to it for safe custody while awaiting trial or for punishment"¹, in the Oxford English Dictionary. As places of detention, the prisons are very old institutions. But their use as places of punishment, is however a comparatively modern concept. Earlier, the usual punishment for the guilty was torture or if they were involved in murder, then the execution was in the same manner in which the victim died.

In India too, the early prisons were only places of detention where an offender was detained until trial and judgement. In

ancient India, the structure of society was based on the principles declared by Manu and explained by Yajnavalkya, Kautilya and others. With the advent of the British, the administrative structure in the country began to assume a new form. Imprisonment became the most commonly used instrument of penal treatment. And from here, it was the birth of modern prison system in India and onwards followed the movement of prison reforms.

Imprisonment is a way of dealing with deviancy and of turning the deviant into conformist. A prison term is supposed to lead the prisoners along the path of responsible freedom, but if responsibility and freedom have to be learnt through the use of force and the emotional or physical torture of the prison cell, then prisons signify a failure. To evolve more human ways of dealing with deviancy, we have to expose deviant minds to the teachings of great men and women. Through out the centuries, the provision of books in prisons have reflected the penal system at that particular time. The rehabilitation programme of the prisons can be fully successful, if the prisoners are given insight into these programme through printed literature. These programmes can be reflected through the library services provided to the prisoners.
3.1 Prison Libraries: Early Efforts

There is no record about the beginning of prison libraries. In the year 1790, the Philadelphia Prison Society provided books to the prisoners of Philadelphia prison. Another early library attempt was found in 1802 made by Kentucky State Prison². In Ireland, in the year 1827, the first prison library was established at Richmond General Penitentiary for the purpose of rehabilitation of prisoners.³ The chaplain of Maidstone (U.K.) in the year 1837 started a library for prisoners⁴. The books provided were mainly Bible and other religious documents for moral guidance, to make them docile, to make them repent for the crimes committed and to make them responsible citizens. Charles Dickens visited United States in 1842, and visited the penitentiary in Philadelphia at that time. The Bible and some religious books were provided to prisoners. He described his visit in "American Notes" in 'Philadelphia and its Solitary Prison". He wrote that "He has a Bible, a slate and pencil and under certain restrictions, has sometimes other books provided for the purpose, and pen and ink and paper".⁵ So this shows that during this time there were no prison libraries, but there was some

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sort of library service provided to the prisoners. In the year 1851, Stillwater Prison was established as a Territorial Prison. There were 900 books for 218 inmates, a fire broke down in the year 1884 then 1000 new titles were purchased.

In the year 1852, a prison library was started at San Quentin (California) Prison. This was one of the first and most liberal prison libraries of its time and it is still one of the very good prison libraries of the world. Throughout the nineteenth century, most of the prisons had collections consisting of spiritual literature, temperance tracts and the books, convicts rarely read or wanted to read. Then, in the year 1870, National Prison Congress was established in Cincinnati. The main purpose of Congress was the rehabilitation of convicts. Education was considered as main part of the techniques of new rehabilitation programs. This led to development of prison reading programmes and the organization of libraries in prisons.

In Indian sub continent, prisons have always been considered as isolated, mysterious and frightful institution where the offenders are confined for having committed an offence. In early periods, prisons were always considered as places of detention but not in a


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form of punishment. British administrators also had neither time nor the desire to introduce a scientific prison system, devised to serve the interest of the prisoners or to rehabilitate them.

In India, the first experiment in prison reforms began in the year 1835. In this year, there were 43 civil, 75 criminal and 68 mixed jails. The managers of the East India Company were reluctant to spend money on jails, to improve the conditions prevailing in prison or to start any rehabilitative programme. A committee was appointed on 2nd January, 1836 to look into the condition of prisons and then report. This was the first committee on jails in India. The committee in its recommendation deliberately rejected all reforms such as moral and religious teaching and education. This may be because the managers of East India Company did not want to rehabilitate or educate the Indian prisoners. In the year 1864, 2nd committee was formed. This committee recommended for education to be given to the prisoners. In 1870 Indian government passed the Prisons Act to amend the law relating to prisons in the country. This act and the Prisons Act of 1894 together formed the legal basis of the existing prison system of India.

3.2 The Twentieth Century

20th century prison system stressed upon the need of rehabilitation. In most cases, the closest an inmate comes to any kind of rehabilitation is the prison library. That is the reason the need of libraries was felt in the prisons. It is being seen that many librarians have donated their time and efforts to improve these services to the prisoners. They are now trying to get prison officials to see that the libraries are important and a basic part of the rehabilitation process. The librarians are not the only ones who are requesting these services for the prisoners but all social organization and even the prisoners themselves are doing all they can do to promote the library services in prisons. Even political parties are supporting the idea of establishing adequate libraries in correctional institutions.

3.2.1 Chronological Survey of Prison Libraries in America

1903: First recorded designation of a librarian for correctional library service in Iowa.

1905: Iowa State Board of Control created the office of Supervising Librarian to which Ms Miriam E. Carey was appointed in 1907.

1911: American Library Association (ALA) forms a committee on libraries in federal prisons.

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1915: First edition of ALA's Manual for Institution Libraries was published and the prison library was a part of institutional education programme.


1930: The federal government reorganized its prisons and some states modelled their prisons after the federal prisons.


1941: The American Prison Association established a Committee on Institutional Libraries.

1943: The American Prison Association (APA) approved objectives and standards for libraries in adult prisons and reformatories in the year 1943 and by ALA in the year 1944.


1959: The American Correctional Association (ACA) conducted a survey on the conditions of correctional institutions.

1965: ACA and Association of Hospital and Institutional Libraries (AHIL) jointly sponsored inventory of library resources in correctional institutions.

1966: The Library Services Construction Act (LSCA) provided to the states, on a matching basis, funds to establish or improve library service in state institutions.

Prisoners. The Supreme Court ruled on Nov. 8, 1971 that prisoners have a right to adequate law libraries.


1974: The first issue of the News Letter entitled "Inside outside" was published. Its aim was to exchange information about programs inside and outside the prisons.

Thereafter lots of improvements have been made in library services to juvenile detention centres and other prison libraries. Public libraries have also been made the part of education program of prisons. So, up till now prison libraries in America have come a long way. These are now among the best prison libraries of the world.

32.2 Prison Libraries in Canada

The prison system in Canada is divided between the Federal and the Provincial authorities. Earlier there was no pattern for prison libraries in Canada. In the year 1940, British Columbia Public Library Commission was asked to make a survey of library needs of prisoners of Oakalla Prison Farms. In the year 1943, the Attorney General of Oakalla visited the Prison and this visit resulted in the grant of $80000 for purchase of books for the
prisoners. In the year 1949, a full time librarian was also appointed to run the prison library.9

The Canadian Penitentiary Service provides services on a regional basis. There are five regions in Canada. These are Pacific, Prairies, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic, library services in these regions are supervised by regional librarians. Each regional librarian has the responsibility for library services to the correctional institution in the assigned region. In Ontario, library services to the prisons have been provided on an organised basis, since 1958.

In the Pacific and Prairies regions of Canada, all the prison libraries have reference collection as well as legal books, in addition to other books, and these are used regularly. Library service in prisons in the Atlantic region in Canada is on the upswing. These institutions are in the early stages of development. So in Canada all the prisons are providing library services to the prisoners.

3.2.3 Venezuela

In Venezuela, almost all the prisons have prison libraries, but they are not as active as the libraries of America and Canada. The reason for their hampered growth is lack of human and financial

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resources. Recruitment problems are there for securing librarian for prison libraries. Government’s indifferent attitude towards the prison library program is the main reason for the under developed state of prison libraries

3.2.4 Republic of Guyana

Guyana lies on the Northeast coast of South America, bordered by Venezuela and Brazil. It became independent from Britain in 1966. The Red Cross Society of Guyana in 1955 established the prison libraries at the request of Superintendent of Prisons. In 1965, the red Cross Society recommended that the public libraries of the country should take over the operations of the prison libraries. The Committee of Public Libraries then approved the transfer of administration to the public library. Since 1966, Public libraries administered the prison libraries of their localities. So the system of library services to the prisoners has been in operation from quite some time in The Republic of Guyana. Presently, All the prison libraries are staffed by professionally trained prison officers and are managed as the branches of The National Library.

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3.2.5 Australia

Prior to 1950, public libraries in Australia were at various stages of development. Therefore there was no definite policy throughout the country concerning libraries in prisons. The first article on the subject of prison libraries was published in "Australian Library Journal", July, 1951, Miss Jean Arnot described how she and Miss Mean Joan Tighe surveyed the libraries in the prisons of United States and Great Britain and then formed the committee under the guidance of John Metcalfe, Principal Librarian of the Public Library of New South Wales. The Public Service Board of Australia, which acted as liaison between government departments accepted the Committee's proposal that libraries should be attached to the prisons. The idea was that the library service should be provided either within the prison or from outside, which can make a great contribution to the rehabilitation process. This was a very new idea in Australia during 1950s\textsuperscript{11}.

So, in Australia, large prison libraries are run by prison officers with the assistance of the prisoners. In smaller institutions, these are run by prisoners alone.

So, almost all the prisons have well established libraries in Australia. And State Libraries also provide the books demanded by prisoners. In the prison library system in Tasmania, Australia, an effective and well-used request system operates with in the library network. Prisoners, in many cases, request for educational material, which they can use in correspondence courses. And the prison library, in co-operation with the State Library of Tasmania, provides this service very comprehensively. In the State of Victoria, there are thirteen prisons. Book stock in three prisons is supplied by Social Welfare Department and the public library. The State Library provides the reference service to prisoners.

3.2.6 Newzealand

The Justice Department of Government in Newzealand controls the prisons. The National Library provides the books to the prisoners since 1949. The National Library of Newzealand, through its division i.e. the Country Library Service, provides books to the inmates of prisons. The program of this Country Library Service is to deposit the collection of books for the prisoners. Then a mobile
van of the division visit the prisons at fixed times in a year. The books are made available to both staff and prisoners. This service is usually administered by an inmate under supervision. The request service is also provided to the users, in which a request card can be sent for a particular book or for information about a particular topic by an inmate to the country library system. If the library is unable to provide the required material then this request is automatically sent to the National Library in Wellington. So this way interested prisoner make good use of library service.12

3.2.7 Botswana

Botswana is a country in which majority of the prisoners are illiterate, so the language class takes priority over the library services. The Prison Department is small and the prisons are widely spread. Books are however, available in these small prison libraries. Books can also be borrowed from Botswana National Library which has branches in almost all the major towns of Botswana where the prisons are located. The officer in charge obtain the material requested by the inmates which is not available in the prison library from the Botswana National Library.

3.2.8 South Africa

In South Africa, the prisons are generally renamed as reformatories. These reformatories are under the control of the Department of Education, Arts and Science since 1934. The responsibility of developing an institutional prison library is an important and integral part of the total rehabilitation program of Prison Department. The policy of the department is that provision of books will prevent the mental stagnation of the prisoners.

The Prison Department in the Republic of South Africa organizes and operates the library service in collaboration with the library consultant of the National Education Section for Library Services. The State Library, The National Students Library of the Union Education Department, The Central Library of the Department of Agriculture, various South African universities, and municipal & provincial libraries. All the libraries provide or supply books to the prison libraries. Under the South Africa Department of Prisons regulation, suitable libraries must be made available to the prisoners.

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3.2.9 PRISON LIBRARY SERVICES IN EUROPE

3.2.9.1 Belgium

In the early years, in Belgium, there was no central organisation of prison libraries. There were no funds for purchase of books and the book stocks of these prisons were dependent mainly upon the gifts. There was no co-operation between the public libraries and the prison department. But now prisons are under the control of Ministry of Justice. So the Prison libraries are also run by the Ministry of Justice. All Belgium prisons are required to provide library services to their prisoners. The prison of Nivelles has a much larger library than other prisons. This prison library serves as a central loan library for all over prison libraries in Belgium.14

3.2.9.2 Denmark

In an article published in 'Folke Bibliotekernes Social Saeropgaver' (The special social task of public libraries) by H.C. Kraghansen, a clergy man, described the position of public libraries in Denmark.15 According to him, religious books were available in prisons from middle eighteenth century. These were distributed by the clergy. During the second world war, the prison population as

well as number of prison libraries increased accordingly. This was due to close co-operation between the prison officials, teacher and the local public library.

In Denmark, prison officials issued a report in 1970, in which they stated that the aim of the prison department will be the establishment of the prison libraries as an integral part of the public library network. In the year 1975, a nation wide agreement, was made between the State Directory for the prisons and the Communities Organization, regarding all the prisons of Denmark. This agreement stated about the number of books to be made available by the local library in each prison, how often these books should be replaced and the duties of the local librarian to perform in providing library services to prisoners. The goal is that the prison library should function as a branch of public library and the collection of prison library should be an integral part of the collection of local public library. It means that collection for prison library should be according to the rules of Denmark's Library Act without censorship and restriction.

3.2.9.3. Finland

In Finland, prison libraries are organised with a grant from the official prison budget. This provision in the official budget for the prison library is made from the very early times. In 1946, Prisoner’s Welfare Societies appealed for more books and in response all the prison libraries were benefited by new books.

In Finland, the Public Libraries Act came into effect in the year 1962 which was a turning point in the development of Finnish Public Library System. The Finnish Library Association appointed a Prison Library Committee which gave its report in 1969. The committee suggested that the prison libraries which operated at a very limited scale should be placed under control of Municipal Libraries.\(^\text{17}\)

During the year 1970, The Helsinki Central Prison in Finland had about 500 prisoners, whose average age was 28 and whose average stay was six months. The Library had 12,000 books, half of which were fiction. A collection of foreign language literature was also available there. The library is opened for one hour every day and prisoners are allowed to use it once a week. So all the prisons

in Finland has well organised libraries. Prisoners look after the library and the prison teachers select the books for prison Libraries. All prisoner librarians receive a short course on librarian ship. Library service programmes instituted for young offenders in juvenile jails are similar in nature to those in the adult Correctional Institution.18

3.2.9.4 Germany

In Germany during the early times there was no co-operation between Public Library Authorities and prisons though there were small book stocks in each prison library to cater to the needs of the prisoners. In the year 1951, The State Department of West Germany allocated a large sum to provide books in prisons in Ruhr and Lower Rhine. It was also proposed that prison librarians should attend a course of instruction under the guidance of the state Library Department19.

In West Germany, the Hamburg public library provided library service to all the prisons of the district. Though there were certain limitations on the use of books. The libraries were administered along the conventional lines. In 1981 a project group was set up as a result of nation wide survey carried out into the

condition of prison library services. The project group was set up by German Library Institute in Berlin entitled 'Library work in prison'. The report of the project group has helped a lot to improve the standards of prison libraries. Now in Germany, close co-operation is proposed between the public libraries and prison libraries.

3.2.9.5 Norway

In a Royal Decree of 28th October, 1959, it was laid down that there should be "New Testament, one hymn book and one prayer book" in each cell. Then, after 20 years, a prison circular noted that there should be books of educational and recreational content which the prison warden, the priest, or teacher could lend to suitable prisoners. This circular became the basis for the formation of book collection at all prisons.

In Norway, the size of prisons are small. This has certain impact on the size of libraries also and on the problem relating to providing inmates with library services. So the experts in public library service are examining the present system and working with

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prison authorities to find methods and practices to improve library service to inmates.

During the year 1980, a project was established by the state in collaboration with prison authorities to introduce a scheme where prison libraries were attached with public libraries. Due to this project, 80% of prisoners borrowed books from the library and by the year 1989, library services were made available in all prison establishments. This system operates as an extension of normal public library services with collections to meet the special needs of prisoners. In the correctional schools for children in Norway, normal school education is provided and all these institutions have school libraries which receive grant from both local as well central administration of Norway.

3.2.9.6 France

The “Service Central does Bibliotheques de l’ Administration Penitentiaries” of the “Minister de la Justice” in France serves all the Prisons of the country. The individual book collections of these prisons range from 500 to 15,000. Approximately 20,000 books are added every year, with 90% of the prisoners using the libraries.

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The variety of materials and their uses are similar to any public library. The security risk inmates choose from descriptive catalogue or from the weekly mobile service.

3.2.9.7 Netherlands

In Netherlands, the library services to prisoners are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice and these services are provided by the prison personnel as an additional assignment. Each prison has its own book collection and small budget. In some prisons there is a co-operation between the local public library and prison library. If there is some special request for a book, then local library provides the book.

In Netherlands, every prisoner has a right to make use of this service at least once a week, Although standard of service to be provided to prisoners vary among institutions, the trend in recent years has been towards an improved pattern of service. Among the non-compulsory activities of the prisoners, libraries are most widely used, in some institutions prisoners are allowed only a brief period to select books. While some prisons allow the prisoners to use the library as a browsing and study area.24

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3.2.9.8 Sweden

In Sweden Earlier, the libraries in all the prisons and reformatories were maintained by the Central Prison Board. Each consisted of a permanent collection, supplemented by a mobile loan collection sent by the Prison Board. A survey, carried out in 1946, covered 44 prisons showing capacity for 2,676 inmates and an actual book stock of 37,916 volumes.

Currently, the prison library service in Sweden is another example of library service to prisoners by public libraries with positive results. Prison libraries at Kumla and Hall-Haga supported by the Swedish National Board of Education and the Prison Board, proved the importance of full scale library service in prisons. The National Prison Board employs consultant librarians to supervise and develop a library service in prisons. The services are provided by the public library in the community where the prison is located. The Hall and Haga Prisons located South of Stockholm in Sweden had the highest number of volumes issued.25

3.2.9.10 Switzerland

There wasn’t any special public library service to prisoners during the early times in Switzerland. The large prison institutions

with population up to 500 inmates had their own libraries ranging from 10,000 to 20,000 volumes. Prisons were not centrally organised, but were regionally independent. Prison libraries were consequently organized individually. The libraries are usually served by the prison personnel. An exception to this pattern is found in Geneva where the service is provided by librarians from the public library. This trend is towards the co-operation between the prison library and public libraries. 26

3.2.9.11 United Kingdom

In United Kingdom, due to Prisons Act of 1877, The Central Government becomes responsible for the administration of all prisons. The law demanded prison custody for wrong doers and enforced rigorous discipline in an endeavor to deter them from further crime. Attention was also directed towards the education of prisoners and writing and arithmetic were taught up to standard three the local Prison Code of 1878 stipulated that library books, sanctioned by the commissioners should be provided in prisons. In 1910, Winston Churchill set up a Departmental Committee on the supply of books to prisoners. Report of the Committee reviewed the whole system and chaplain of each prison prepared a list of new

Many of the prison libraries had catalogues which enabled the prisoner to indicate the book of his choice. The choice depended upon the Institution and the library staff. The growing need for books was recognised in 1923 when the prisoner's Education Committee approached the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust for financial assistance for the purchase of books. An initial grant of £1000 was made and repeated the following year. A further grant of £750 was made over a period of three years. The Education Act of 1944 empowered the Ministry of Education to provide for educational work in prisons through the agency of local authorities and for the implementation of such facilities by the purchase of books. In 1951, there were 15 Municipal and 13 county authorities giving a library service to prisoners. The chief aim of the penal system in the U.K. was to deter the potential lawbreaker and to reform the convicted offender. Prisoners may use the prison libraries which depend on the local public library. Prison libraries in U.K. are presently run by The Home Office and Prison Department and are treated as a component of general education provision. The prison libraries are financed by Central
govt. fund as received at per capita rate determined from a formula agreed between the prison Department and the local authority. On 31st March, 1981, 70.5% of prisoners had on average of 4 books each on loan.\textsuperscript{27} This shows an increased interest of prisoners in the prison libraries. A research project was also carried out at the Department of Information Science and Library Science, University of Wales to develop and test a series of performance indicators for use in evaluating prison libraries, so as to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of such services.\textsuperscript{28}

Library Association Working Group on prison organised a seminar on 'The Prison Library and its Programme from an International View Point'. This seminar was attended by 35 delegates, both by librarians and representatives from prison authorities.

3.2.10 Russia

Earlier in USSR, the libraries in prisons were small and functioned as voluntary libraries. The libraries of the country operated with a centralized book collection of social and political


literature. Other materials like periodicals, educational books and books requested which were not available in the prison libraries were supplied through local libraries.

According to Makinen, the libraries were also present in soviet prisons and labour camps during the Stalin era. Correctional libraries existed in labour camps also.

3.2.11 Japan

The correctional system in Japan is centralized in organization. The country has been divided into eight regions, each with its regional correctional headquarters, library service is an important means of correctional education in Japan. Special emphasis is on the selection and acquisition of books to be used by inmates. During the year 1951, Advisory Council on Selection of Books for inmates was formed. On May 31, 1971, the prisons in Japan had 49067 books in their libraries with largest number in Tokyo.

3.2.12 Singapore

Singapore prisons do not have libraries in their prisons. There is no formal library service being provided to prisoners. But

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Singapore government is now providing bulk loans to prisons to purchase books. The prison staff has been asked to select books according to their requirements.

3.2.13 Thailand

The Department of Corrections in Thailand has its own Central Library attached to the Correctional Staff Training Centre which is responsible for training correctional personnel at all levels throughout the country. Every Prison throughout the country has its own library for both prisoners and prison staff. Books are available in English and Thai. Each Prison has a small reading room for prisoners.

3.2.14 Iran

The Central Prison in Iran has educational and training sections attached to it. So prisoners between the age of eighteen and twenty-five study there and take training. The Central Library is located in Central Prison of Iran. The Canoone Eslahe Tarbiat Correctional Institute of Iran houses teenagers between the age of twelve and seventeen, who receive both educational and vocational training. Library is also situated there.
3.2.15 Kuwait

Correctional institutes in Kuwait do not provide any library service to prisons. But a beginning has been made. During the year 1977, a new prison library was established in Kuwait Central Jail.

3.2.16 India

In India various committees were appointed to recommended necessary reforms the Indian Jails Committee (1919) gave new path to prison reforms. The report contained number of recommendation regarding prisoner's education, reading time to be given to the prisoners and establishment of library and reading room in Prison. It recommended that Jails should have a supply of books suitable for issue to those prisoners who can read. A small library be provided in every central and district jails. It should be placed in charge of an Assistant Jail or possibly of an educated convict. It also recommended that the prisoners should be allowed to borrow and exchange books freely. Encouragement should be given to any prisoner who shows an inclination to spend his spare time in reading. The books in Jail libraries should be both in English as well as in vernacular language. There should not be exclusively religious or moral books but should also include books which will

promote a taste for reading. A list of suitable books might be prepared with the help of the officers of the education department.

The Publication of the report gave an immediate and great impetus to prison reforms throughout India. The government took its strictures and recommendation seriously and issued instructions to all local governments to study the report and implement the suggestions. Unfortunately, the prison reform movement received a sudden set back due to constitutional changes brought about by the Government of India Act, 1919.

In 1935, another Government of India Act was passed. The penal reform movement again received an impetus and attention. was focussed on the neglected prison reforms.

The Jail Committee report of 1939 laid down various reforms regarding the reading facilities to the convicts. The simple imprisonment convicts were allowed to wear their own clothes, possess and use their own books and periodicals, in addition to those available from the prison library. The simple imprisonment convicts usually spend the whole of their time in prison in idleness, as few of them opt to labour. The presence of idle person in prison is considered unfavorable to prison discipline, so by reading, they can pass their time favourably.
After independence the Government of India has taken lot of interest in the matter of prison reforms. An All India Conference of Inspector Generals of Prisons was held in Bombay in 1952 which also recommended the setting up of committee to draft a skeleton Model Jail Manual. After that Government of India appointed an All India Jail Manual Committee in 1957 to prepare All India Jail Manual, to examine the Prisons Act and other laws and make proposals for reforms to be adopted uniformly throughout the state.

The Committee submitted the report in 1959. The Committee also recommended the establishment of library in the Prison\textsuperscript{32}.

1. The library should provide reading opportunities to all prisons. It should serve as a source of supplementary information. Books, periodicals and newspapers should be selected to meet the needs of the inmates. Suitable provisions should be made in the annual budget for the purchase of books and periodicals etc.

2. There should be a close co-operation between library and other educational activities of the institution.

3. Arrangement should be made to distribute books, newspaper and periodicals to sections of the institution where inmates are housed.

4. The librarian should stimulate interest of inmates in reading.

Various states of India, afterwards formed their own jail manuals on the guidelines provided by Model Prison Manual.

Government of Punjab also formulated 'Manual for the Superintendence Management of jails in the Punjab', in the year 1963. This Manual formulated following instructions to be followed in the jails regarding library services:

1. Libraries will be maintained in all jails for the use of prisoners, and the rules pertaining to such libraries will be pasted in the room where the books are kept.

2. Every educated prisoner, who is well behaved, may be allowed to borrow a book to read on Sundays or during the hours of rest on other days, such book may be supplied from the jail library or by any person outside the jails, provided that the Superintendent sanctions the indulgence, and in that case, approves the book.

3. Every prisoner, with the sanction of Superintendent, have a book or books of a purely religious character:

The central government has been providing financial assistance to supplement the efforts of the state government for modernization of prison administration. Under the ongoing scheme of modernization, central assistance is provided for strengthening of security and communication arrangements, repair and renovations of prison building, medical facilities, vocational training etc. Assistance is also provided to few selected states for constriction of high security enclosures for accommodating hard core terrorists. During the period 1993 to March 2000 a grant of Rs. 72.78 Crores was released to various state governments.
3.2.16.1 Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh has twelve Jails, one Juvenile Jail and one Borstal Jail. Out of these twelve jails, there are two Model Central Jails, one is located at Kanda, (Shimla District) and the other is at Nahan. There is one Open Air Jail located at Bilaspur. Borstal Jail is situated at Mandi and the Juvenile Jail is situated in Una district.

Uptill now Himachal Government followed Panjab Jail manual. But in the year 2000, The government has framed the new jail manual called as ‘Himachal Jail Manual-2000’ which has came into force since October, 2000 and replaced the century old Punjab Jail Manual, which has been in force in the state till now. The main objective of the new policy on Prison is that Jails in Himachal Pradesh will no longer be the centres for inflicting deterrent punishment on offenders but will be transformed into reformatories to enable the offenders to reform themselves and get reassimilated in the mainstream.

All the prisons of Himachal Pradesh provide library services to the prisoners with a meager number of books. Prisoners are allowed to read the books and journals and get the books issued from the library whenever they have free time to read. Few prisons
in Himachal Pradesh like Open Air Jail at Bilaspur and Model Central Jail at Nahan have libraries with comparatively more number of books and in some of the prisons, there are no separate libraries but only few almirahs of books in one of the rooms in each prison of books.

From the 10th Finance commission, Prison Department in Himachal Pradesh has demanded a separate budget allocation for the establishment of fully equipped libraries in the prisons, for the recruitment of library staff and for purchase of books. Thus, the beginning, in this direction has already been made 33.

The Jail Department in Himachal Pradesh is headed by Sh.I. N.S. Sandhu, Additional Director General of Police, Prisons. According to him, the new policy and jail manual will change the face of the jails and help reduce the incidence of crime in the state by ensuring proper rehabilitation of offenders through effective correction services, by providing opportunities for diversified education and inculcation of social and moral values.34

Presently, the top organizational set up of Jail department of Himachal Pradesh is as follows:

1. Additional Director General of Police, Prisons.
3. Chief welfare officer (Prisons)

The proposal has been sent to the Government for the separate post of Director General of Police (Prisons) or Director, Correctional Services, one Additional Director General of Prisons, three posts of Deputy Inspector Generals to expedite the reform movement in the prisons of Himachal Pradesh.

'Himachal Jail Manual' which has come into force from October 2000 recognized that imprisonment is not always the best way to meet the objective of punishment and lays down that the state will endeavor to provide new alternative to punishment on offenders but will be transformed into reformatories to enable the inmates to reform themselves through educational development.35

All India Committee on Jail Reforms and the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, while considering a scheme on modernization of prison administration, decided to set up Regional Training Centre for prison personnel on August 2, 1988. As a result of this decision, the Institute of Correctional Administration was set up in Chandigarh at Sector 26. This institute will cater to the training needs of prison personnel of Punjab, Haryana and

Himachal Pradesh. The Institute was formally inaugurated in February, 1999. The institute lays importance on education to make the inmates self reliant and socially acceptable.³⁶

Some states have inadequate library service in their prisons. Neither it is in their future plans nor it is a priority in the jail reforms. Other problems which stand in the way of prison library service are that there are several languages spoken by small groups of people. Secondly there is illiteracy and hence lower readership has made library service difficult. Thirdly lack of funds and proper infrastructure for libraries pose a big problem for the authorities to provide library services to prisoners.

Problems also exist in the libraries which provide an organized and developed library service to prisoners. These include outdated book collection, lack of qualified staff, inadequate physical facilities and over all financial difficulties.

The system of prison library services which has developed in advanced countries in the form of organized library services can provide alternative patterns for those countries which are reviewing their programs and for countries which have not yet developed library services. By reviewing the state of prison library services in

different countries, it can be ensured that library services of better quality will be developed in a manner best suited to the needs of prison population.