CHAPTER VII

ANALYSIS OF THE SURVEY

7.1 Introduction

Any survey conducted in the field of social sciences, needs to be analysed and based on facts and figures gathered over a period of time. Analysing the facts yields a clear insight into the highlighting features and avoidable shortcomings. The present survey was taken up with the spirit of adventure as well as to satisfy the curiosity about the state of affairs in the Public Library System of Karnataka.

This chapter analyses the facts and attempts to find out the various merits and demerits of the Public Library System. An objective analysis definitely provides a number of useful points and suggests alternative ways and means of running a large enterprise like Public Library System in an efficient manner. Inferences drawn on the basis of the analysis, form a sound base for planning the developmental activities of any social organisation such as the Public Library system.
7.2 **Library Authorities**

**State Library Authority (SLA)**

At present the number of members in the SLA is 28. The number being a large one, it is obvious and an experienced truth that while deliberations are on, it would be quite difficult to take decisions on library matters, as each member will be venting his point of view.

Under the provisions of Section 3(2) (b) and (c) the Library Authority elects four persons by the Karnataka Legislative Assembly from among its members and the Legislative Council elects two persons from among its members to the State Library Authority. It may be observed here that such large representation by members of political parties seems to be not desirable and more representation needs to be given to other segments of the society including academicians to maintain the public library set up.

The State Librarian being an ex-officio Secretary, has no voice in the Library Authority nor voting power. It is possible that the State Librarian will be aware of the public library affairs in the state and as such his opinions and suggestions though valuable, are likely to be ignored because of the fact that he is not a member of the SLA.
The tenure of the members of the SLA at present is for three years only. This is too brief a period to implement any developmental programmes approved by the Authority.

One enlightened reader has opined that the KPLA is politically motivated and points out that there are more members of the Authority either nominated or ex-officio. This results in providing berth more to politicians than genuinely interested members of the community. Further he suggests that the Act should be free from the influence of politics—ruling party or the opposition. He further states members must be drawn from the cross sections of the society representing economic, social, educational and cultural fields of the community to serve for whom the public libraries are established.

Local Library Authorities (LLA)

The pattern of the City Library Authority and that of the District Library Authority is more or less the same as that of the SLA. Naturally, therefore, the points considered under the State Library Authority hold good for Local Library Authority also.
7.3 **Department of Public Libraries**

Ever since its establishment in 1965 the Department of Public Libraries, continues to be a minor Department of Government under the Minister of Education.

In order to pay proper and adequate attention and to ensure effective and efficient functioning the work in the Department of Education is divided between two ministers - a fullfledged Cabinet Minister being in-charge of higher education, and a Minister of State being put in-charge of primary education. There is, therefore, the need to take similar action in the cause of the Department of Public Libraries.

**State Librarian (Functions and Duties)**

The State Librarian being at the helm of affairs is over-burdened with administrative work, as he has to look after the State Central Library, CCLs and DCLs with their branches and service stations. Most of his time and energy are consumed in bringing about coordination and cooperation amongst the various units of the system. He, therefore, has not much time to devote towards the organisational and developmental aspects of the system.
The qualifications - both educational and professional, and other desirable points like experience and acquaintance with the current topics, etc., for the appointment of State Librarian, have not been explicitly stated in the Act.

7.4 Structure of Public Libraries

The present organizational pattern of the Public Library System is based on certain guidelines, in the form of bye-laws made under the provisions of the KPLA, 1965. It seems much thought has not been given while framing these bye-laws as far as the hierarchical structure of the entire system is concerned. Everything is done on an ad hoc basis and not on sound, scientific considerations. It is fraught with a number of anomalies and inconsistencies which prevail while establishing different segments of the public library system. It may be mentioned here that most of the concepts like branch libraries etc. have been defined brushing aside even internationally accepted dictionary meanings. There are many instances where the very guidelines brought out by the Department have been violated in order to satisfy the higher-ups, yielding to local and political pressures. This state of affairs explains why the
public libraries in Karnataka have not made considerable progress in terms of establishment of new units and of rendering service to the community.

Branch Libraries

The generally accepted definition of a Branch Library is that it is essentially a branch of another bigger library within the same geographical unit like a city or a town.

However, the guidelines provided by the Department, define a branch library as "any public library established in an area whose population is 5,000 and above". This has resulted in an anomalous situation whereby libraries established in Taluka places, towns, suburban areas and villages are all brought on the same level disregarding economic, education and other environments of the communities. For example, the Branch Library established at Gadag, an important taluka place in Dharwad district, is on the same level as the Branch Library established in Hulkati, a small village (pop. 3109) according 1971 census and about 8 kms. from Gadag city.

There are also instances where branch libraries
are set up at places where the population is less than 5,000 e.g., Kobilipeth (pop. 2,254), Kodagu district, Nidgatta (pop. 2,657) Chikmagalur district, Alur (pop. 4,176) Hassan District, and Ittigi (pop. 4,203) Bellary district.

It is interesting to note that at Kanabargi, an outlying village near Belgaum city, a branch library is established with only the periodicals section.

In view of this, a taluka library, a town library or a village library cannot be termed as a branch library, as is done at present by the Department. Such anomalies could have been avoided.

Service Stations

In addition to branch libraries there are service stations established in places where the population is between 2,000 and 5,000.

However, an examination of the situation reveals that this criterion also has not been properly implemented. Moreover, it appears the connotation of 'service station' has not been properly understood. According to the universal concept, a service station means a station or an area served by a mobile unit.
There are instances where service stations are established which subscribe only to a few periodicals. The sole function of such service stations appears to be the periodical section only, irrespective whether they are situated in towns or in villages.

There are instances of service stations established under another mode of action also. In this context, the service stations of a different type where not only books and periodicals are available but lending facilities also exist.

There are some service stations, which are looked after by voluntary organisations like Rotary Clubs, Women's Forums, Youth Clubs, etc., by their own staff.

A clear demarcation is not adopted by the Department in designating 'Branch Libraries' and 'Service Stations'. For example, Bangalore (pop. 29.13 lakhs, 1981 census), there are 5 branch libraries, and 44 service stations. All these have books as also periodicals in their stock, and offer reading and lending facilities. The CCL Bangalore, established independent children's libraries in some areas, and these are also called as 'service stations'. In view of this, all these service stations could have been designated as branch libraries.
7.4.1 Growth of Public Libraries

Since the implementation of the KPLA in the state, the expected developmental programmes and growth rate, both physical as well as service points in the field, is far from satisfactory. Within the span of 17 years much could have been achieved. The reasons for such a state of affairs can be attributed to the fact that proper network planning had not been done soon after the enactment of the Act. No doubt, with the initial zeal, quite a number of libraries and branches were established, but they are still continuing with the age-old practices. It is, therefore, feared that the current situation may not change over to modern demands in the near future.

State Central Library (SCL)

Even though there is provision in the Act to start various centralized sections such as the Bureau of Technical Services, State Bibliographical Bureau and the Bureau of Inter-Library loan, they have yet to be commissioned.

By starting the Bureau of Technical Services at the SCL, nearly 75% of the manpower and finance can be saved, as all the acquisition and technical processing could be carried out at this centre itself.
Bibliographies are basic approach materials for any reader in pursuit of knowledge on any subject. By non-commissioning of the State Bibliographic Bureau, a number of readers have been put to a lot of handicaps in selecting their reading materials for study, even though they are available on the stacks. To this extent, the readers are deprived of very good and helpful service which can be rendered by these libraries.

Regarding the Bureau of Inter-Library Loan, the situation is the same as that of the other two centralised units and further it seems no efforts have been made to facilitate inter-library lending by compiling union catalogues.

The section of copy-right collection is not persuading the publishers and book sellers to ensure that a copy of every book published by them, is sent to the SCL within a month after its publication. Quite a number of publications are not at all received under this provision. Rigorous supervision in the matter is called for.

As per the statistics made available by the SCL, the number of books received by the section in the year
1980 is 1350, whereas the Bibliography of the Copy Right Collection brought out by the SGL in 1982 contains 720 entries in Kannada and 32 entries in English only. It can therefore be presumed that the statistics provided by the SGL appears to be containing the multiple copies of the documents received.

**Library Training School**

A glance at the prospectus provided by the Department of Public Libraries for Library Training course reveals that the Rules and Regulations for the admission to this course are not comprehensive and do not give complete idea regarding the nature and scope of the course. There is no mention regarding the number of students to be admitted for every session.

The coverage of the subjects of Library Science is fairly well on-theoretical part. However, the trainees getting the certificates, lack practical experience and are unable to perform even routine technical work. A little more stress on practical side of the course thus becomes imperative.

As library science embraces vast knowledge and
literature from all the fields, the six month duration for the training is insufficient. Adequate justification cannot be done to the subjects being taught by the teachers within such a short span, as many subjects have to be covered hurriedly and this leads to a haphazard and unsatisfactory understanding of the intricacies of the subjects.

City Central Libraries (CCLs)

While establishing CCLs at various places, the basis of population figures has not been taken into consideration properly.

A City Central Library has been established in 1978 at Hassan, where the population is 71,363 according to 1981 census against the norm laid down by the Department that CCLs have to be established at places with population of a lakh and above.

Though the population of Gadag-Betgeri (Dharwad district), Bhadravati (Shimoga district), Hospet (Bellary district) and Raichur, Mandya and Bellary cities have crossed the population of a lakh and above, the Department has not yet converted the libraries into City Central Libraries.
The location of the CCLs established is not on proper lines. For example, the CCLs at Dharwad and Belgaum are located on the busy roads, and at Davangere at a far of place. Some of the branch libraries and service stations are located in less known places and one has to move about here and there and ask the people of the locality to find these libraries, as for example, the branch library of CCL at Shukrawar Peth, Dharwad.

Further, within a distance of less than a mile, two branch libraries - one at Saptapur and another at U.B.Hill of Hubli-Dharwad CCL, have been established. Such a situation creates an overlapping of library services, and other areas where actually services are needed, are neglected.

**District Central Libraries (DCLs)**

The first DCL according to the KPLA, 1965 was established in Bellary in 1966 by converting the then existing DCL set up according to the Madras Public Libraries Act, 1948. However, it took more than a decade to establish the last DCL in 1977, at Karwar, by taking over the Karwar General Library.
One can surmise from this, that the administrative machinery at the Department did not function as speedily as it should in providing library services at the earliest opportunity to the various district places.

The selection of places for opening branches under DCLs at various districts provides another peculiar situation.

The criteria adopted by DCL for establishing branch libraries are: (i) the place must have a population of 5,000 and above; (ii) in places with population from 2,000 to 5,000 service stations are to be provided.

Ignoring this norm, branch libraries have been opened in places where the population is less than 5,000. For example, Lakkavalli (pop. 373) Mudigere Taluk; Basavani (pop. 776) Tirthahalli Taluk; K.Bidre (pop. 1056) Kadur Taluk; Jakkur (pop. 1,495) Bangalore North Taluk; Byaramangala (pop. 1,643) Ramanagar Taluk; Shisuvinahal (pop. 1,866) Shiggaon Taluk; Hidgatta (pop. 2,657) Kadur Taluk; Gama (pop. 2,690) Shikaripur Taluk; Hulkoti (pop. 3,109) Gadag Taluk; Hebsur (pop. 3,946) Hubli Taluk; Chigateri (pop. 4,130) Harapanahalli Taluk; and Ittagi
(pop. 4,203) Hadagalli Taluk. (The population is according to 1971 census.)

The principle of decreasing extension, geographically and population-wise should have been considered while opening the branch libraries. Instances are many, where a village is enjoying the services of a branch library. Quite contrary to this, many taluk places are deprived of facilities even of a service station. To cite an example, Ammigeri in Navalgund Taluk, with a population of 18,616 (1981 census), is having a branch library whereas Navalgund, the Taluk headquarter, is denied this privilege.

Keeping aside bigger population clusters, branch libraries are opened at smaller places, e.g. Alnavar (pop. 13,024) in Dharwad Taluk, does not have a branch library whereas Shishuvinahala population 1,866 (1971 census) Kundgol Taluk boasts of a branch library established in 1977. It may be interesting to note that both these are in Dharwad district.

The service stations under DCLs more or less depict the same picture as exists in service stations under CCLs. One can easily make out that at present
there are only 22 S.Ss, working in the whole of Karnataka state, which shows the unsatisfactory progress. Though there is vast scope for developing the S.Ss, the authorities have failed to pay attention to this sphere.

**Delivery Stations**

The 35 Book Delivery Stations under the DCL, Mangalore, present a totally different picture. No periodicals are subscribed or supplied to these 35 Delivery Stations, which are open from 5 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. under the charge of a part-time primary school teacher, who is paid Rs.50 p.m. out of the cess fund. This works out Rs.21,000 per year on staff. This is not advisable to spend the money on staff from the cess fund, because of the fact that much of developmental activities are curtailed in the DCL, Mangalore, every year.

A collection of 2,000 books is kept for a period of 2 months, and is exchanged by the nearest branch library's librarian. The duration of sixty days is quite a long period. However, information regarding the number of borrowers, visitors, books consulted and lent out and how the collection is otherwise utilized and the feedback, etc. is not available.
Hospitals and Prisons

About the branches, service stations located in hospitals and prisons, meant for serving the sick and correctives, much needs to be done. This category of readers is served by very few branches both by CCLs and DCLs. In every city and every district place one finds a general hospital or two and a jail. However, it is found that the Mysore CCL is serving the prisoners by establishing just a service station with periodicals only. Hubli-Dharwad CCL has branches in Karnataka Medical College Hospital, Co-operative Hospital and Cancer Hospital at Hubli. At Belgaum, Civil Hospital and Hindalga jail are having branches of CCL.

In all, three CCLs only have established branches and service stations at hospitals and prisons. The remaining 7 CCLs have not even considered actively to provide library services to hospitals and prisons where these can be started without much difficulty.

About the affairs of DCLs only, Bellary DCL has established a branch in the Central Jail; a service station at District Jail at Raichur; Chitradurga DCL has opened only a service station in the Civil Hospital; where only periodicals are being received.
This picture clearly gives one an impression that the infirmary and prisons have been a neglected lot.

Statistically speaking, the total number of public library service units being 378 as against the total population 3,70,43,451 works out to 1 unit for every 98,000 persons (1:98,000). The urban centres are in the proportion of 1:43,016 of population, whereas in rural areas 1 unit serves a population of 2,04,126 (1:2,04,126).

The overall growth of the libraries - CCUs and DCLs and their respective branch libraries and service stations is not on a steady, constant and progressive pattern. The entire situation has been under the whims and fancies of the higher-ups in the Department of Public Libraries. This can be surmised from the graph which is towards minus side, rather than upwards.

7.5 Books and Other Reading Materials

Acquisition Policy

The Book Selection Committee at present consists of the members drawn from the MLA and no subject experts from various fields are included. As the collection in public libraries must be all pervasive and comprehensive
not only meant for the present generation, but also for posterity, a lot of care and consideration needs to be given while acquiring books. The lack of advice from the experts in the fields, definitely leads to an imbalanced collection, with no good or at least representative materials covering the various areas of human endeavour and experience.

Though the readers' recommendations in selecting books are accepted, how far they are honoured is anybody's guess.

**Bulk Purchase**

The procedure of bulk purchase of books is as follows:

The requisitions are sent to the SCL by CCLs and DCLs depending upon the local demands as well as other socio-economic considerations. The SCL processes the lists and sends them to those publishers and suppliers, selected and approved by the State Library Authority, from time to time. On receipt of the books in bulk, they will be sent to the respective CCLs and DCLs according to their requisitions, with a request to clear the
bills. However, the present practice in respect of bulk purchase has drifted far away from this procedure on which the scheme was based. The State Central Library selects and purchases the books according to the recommendation of the Central Book Selection Committee without ascertaining whether the books purchased are actually in stock or are wanted by the CCLs and DCLs at whose doors they are dumped.

The financial position at various CCLs and DCLs while making bulk purchase has never been taken into account, thus putting the respective Chief Librarians in embarrassing positions.

While passing the bills for payment in respect of such purchases of books, it is noticed that ninety per cent of the bills are paid without verifying the prices mentioned in the bills with the prices quoted by the book suppliers in their price lists or catalogues. The only care that is taken while passing the bills is about the percentage of discount offered.

It is surprising to note that most of the libraries are not at all equipped with international, national and even local book selection tools. This
definitely leads towards improper utilization of public funds.

**Nature of Book Collection**

Public libraries are not only centres of recreation but also fountain heads of knowledge. An inventory of the reading materials stocked in the public libraries in Karnataka would reveal the fact that the nature of book collection is not in conformity with accepted principles.

A large percentage of the book purchase fund is spent on procuring popular fiction only. Literature on other subjects is conspicuous by its absence. A very small percentage of the collection comprises books on philosophy, history, science, geography and other social sciences. The latest books and other reading materials are not acquired not only in the subject fields, but even amongst the novels and story books. Readers are being served with old, dilapidated, dog-eared, brittle, soiled, worn-out, torn books. The entire affair in the opinion of some readers, is repugnant and loathsome. One wonders, where the public money, which was meant for the upkeep of the public libraries, has gone.
The SCL being at the apex, must be an ideal one, and make all other public libraries like the SCLs and DCLs, their branches and service stations, to be its replica with modifications to suit local needs. Such an ideal environment and situation is rather difficult to find both at the SCL and its subordinate units.

The readers are hopelessly turning their back on the SCL due to lack of various important reading collections. The SCL is devoid of collections in the following spheres:

1) Government Publications; 2) Local History;
3) Manuscripts; 4) Archives; 5) Popular Science;
6) Audio-Visual materials.

Even the copy right collection has not been maintained in a proper and comprehensive manner. The reference section is very weak with obsolete collection.

Demands from patrons for copies of articles in journals or chapters from books cannot be met with as no reprographic section has so far established.

The SCL is taken to be the citadel of reading materials of all kinds. However, it lacks a State
Depository Centre for books and reading materials of lasting and historical value. There is no significant collection to cater to the needs of neo-literate.

**City Central Libraries (CCLs) and District Central Libraries (DCLs)**

The reading materials in stock both in the CCLs and DCLs with their respective branches and service stations are found to be far from satisfactory. Even within the limited funds available for acquisition purposes, the collections could have been developed with latest titles.

The number of books in the regional language, i.e., Kannada, is not high when compared with the books acquired in the English language. Details about the number of books available in the various languages are not obtainable as no library has maintained statistics of the collections language-wise.

As regards the reference collection the less said the better because this important collection is a totally neglected one and contains books which are old, out-moded, and have obsolete reference value.
In the case of other sections meant for readers—like manuscripts, archives, local history collection, popular science collections and books for neo-literates—these again are absent in all the CCLs and DCLs. Even the DCLs being the store-houses of knowledge for the districts have not made any effort to augment and acquire such collections.

The CCLs and DCLs do not have again reprographic units, government publications, so necessary in a library situated in the various cities and District Headquarters.

Even the general collection is found to be inadequate and cannot meet the demands of the reading population of the locality.

The range of available documents in SCL, CCLs, DCLs and branches and service stations is given in Table 1.

It is clear from the table that the maximum number of books that a taluk library has is 5,000, 2,000 at a village library and 1,000-2,000 books in branch libraries and service stations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range</th>
<th>SCL</th>
<th>CCs</th>
<th>Br</th>
<th>SS</th>
<th>CCs</th>
<th>Br</th>
<th>Talu</th>
<th>Vill</th>
<th>SS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Only periodicals</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 1000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1001 to 2000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001 to 3000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3001 to 4000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4001 to 5000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5001 to 6000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6001 to 7000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7001 to 8000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8001 to 9000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9001 to 10000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10001 to 12000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12001 to 14000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14001 to 16000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16001 to 18000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18001 to 20000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20001 to 22000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22001 to 24000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(contd.)
(Table 1 contd.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24001 to 26000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26001 to 28000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28001 to 30000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30001 to 32000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32001 to 34000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34001 to 36000</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36001 to 38000</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38001 to 40000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40001 to 42000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42001 to 44000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44001 to 46000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46001 to 48000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48001 to 50000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50001 to 75000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75001 to 100000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100001 to 150000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,03,521</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,73,646</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 1 10 43 49 10 129 79 22
A strange situation exists in the case of some service stations which are having more books than the branch libraries in Bangalore city. For example, the Rajajinagar Branch Library has 8,350 books whereas the Sheshadripuram service station has 27,303 titles on its shelves.

On an average, only 4,000 to 5,000 books are used i.e., either consulted on the premises or borrowed - in all the branches situated in urban areas.

The collection of the SCL (established in 1915 styled as Bangalore Public Library) was 2,03,521 in March, 1982 as compared with 3,73,646 in the CCL, Jayanagar, Bangalore, established in 1970. It can, therefore, be stated categorically that the collection of the SCL has not been developed assiduously since its inception, though it is financed by the State Government. The authorities of the SCL have failed in persuading the Government to sanction more funds for developing the book collection and further whatever the funds that were made available for the purpose, have not been utilized properly.
Some Remarks of the Readers on the Book Collection

Four hundred questionnaires were distributed amongst the readers of the SCL, CCLs and DCLs and branch libraries for a random sample to ascertain their reactions on the working of the libraries. A scrutiny of the replies received revealed that 77% of the readers felt that the book collection is inadequate and have categorically stated that the number must be increased considerably. They feel further that there is a dearth of new books particularly in Kannada. A major part of the collection comprises only of novels and popular literature. The number of good books in other subjects is meagre.

Students using the public libraries to supplement their reading have stated that there should be a collection of text books also in all the libraries.

Some readers have requested to provide government publications as well as a comprehensive collection of useful reference materials.

Reaction of Readers in News Papers : CCL ; Rajajinagar Branch, Bangalore

A frequent visitor to the above branch library has given vent to his grievances as under: "The Library is
full of English, Tamil and Telugu books. To find books in Kannada one has to become a sleuth. If approached for Kannada books, the Librarian-in-charge passes on the buck to the Main Library".1

CCL : Moorusavir Math Branch, Hubli-Dharwad

Another reader has expressed his dissatisfaction about the degeneration of the Shri Moorusavirmath Branch at Hubli, by saying that all his pleas to get books have fallen on deaf ears.2

CCL : Belgaum

A reader using Belgaum CCL has said that the books found in the Library are good-for-nothing. The books sent by the SCI to this library under the bulk purchase are fit to be sent to the paper factory for repulping.3

District Central Libraries and Their Branches : Ankalagi Branch (Belgaum DCL)

The above branch library has been compared to a stable, by a reader. The library has rickety and broken

2 Samyukta Karnataka, Kannada Daily, 29.3.1982.
furniture and no books on its shelves.  

Kampli Branch (Bellarv DCL)  

"Old and brittle books with beginning and last pages invariably missing, thus rendering them useless, are displayed. No new books have been added to the stock since many years," a voice of a reader.

Similar is the situation prevailing in the Branch Library, Bailhongal, of the Belgaum DCL.

The Collection in Relation to Population  

The total collection at the disposal of the reading public of Karnataka taking the entire public library system was 36,06,533 as on March 31, 1982. The population of the entire state is 3,70,43,451 as per 1981 census. Pictured against the population the present collection works out to 94 books for every 1,000 readers i.e., only 9 books for every one hundred persons.

---

The ratio 91:1,000 includes the multiple copies of various titles.

The literate population of the state is 1,42,28,947 (1981). With the above mentioned figures, the ratio works out to 201 books per 1,000 readers i.e., 20 books per every 100 readers.

The additions made in the book collection during 1980, 1981 and 1982 are 4,07,821; 3,86,379 and 4,66,020 respectively. Considering the total population mentioned above, the additions made, every year would stand at a figure of 1 book for every 100 readers.

The above statistics definitely speak on the sad state of affairs of the public libraries in the state.

Periodicals

The periodicals section as maintained by the public library system throughout the state are not appealing. Though the libraries are subscribing to a number of dailies, weeklies, fortnightlies and monthlies the variety and the coverage of subjects many times are found to be quite uninteresting. In spite of number of periodicals being subscribed to,
they do not cater to the various reading tastes of the cross sections of readers making use of the periodicals. Readers are served monotonously with a set of periodicals to scan and browse through, many-a-time with stale news and articles.

The periodicals of a popular nature are made available to readers of public libraries. Quite a number of the magazines are pulpy in their contents rather than providing food for an agitating mind coming in search of information. At present, they are taking care only of the recreational side of the reading public rather than knowledge-providing and creative side.

The SOL is getting 517 periodicals, through subscription and gift. This is quite inadequate. The upkeep of even this small section is not at all satisfactory.

Regarding the back volumes, the picture is very pathetic. The SOL is the repository of knowledge serving the entire state. The apathy shown towards the back files of periodicals is shocking. All the back files have been simply dumped in heaps without proper binding and periodical dusting.
In the CCLs and DCLs also with their respective branches and service stations, one finds the same state of affairs.

The range of periodicals comprising dailies, weeklies and fortnightlies in all these libraries, is 3 to 4 only and these again provide popular and light reading.

It may look strange but it is a fact, that the back issues of journals in CCLs and DCLs are disposed of at regular intervals.

Almost all the periodical sections are poorly maintained and the current issues are not properly displayed.

Nowhere the kardex is used to keep a check over the periodicals received. Only the DCL, Bijapur, and the CCL, Bangalore are provided with kardex for keeping a regular record of the periodicals received. It is, however, strange that this is not commissioned into use and old registers are being used to check the periodicals. In other libraries also, such old procedures are followed for checking periodicals.
The periodical sections have been criticised by a majority of the readers (70%). A number of readers have expressed their concern over the disorganized way in which periodicals were lying helter-skelter on tables. Many of the readers have stated that they very rarely get the current issues.

Monday being the weekly holiday for the libraries, readers visiting them on Tuesdays, were denied the use of newspapers for Monday.7

7.6 The Staff

In the preceding pages it has been shown that the situation regarding books and periodicals is far from satisfactory. The reason for such an unhealthy atmosphere can be attributed to the fact that the persons looking after the various libraries and branches are either overworked due to inadequate staff and/ or are unqualified or less efficient personnel.

The failure in providing proper service to the readers is due to the fact that there is no proper

7 Indian Express, Bangalore Edn. 15.5.1982.
organisational structure of personnel in the Department of Public Libraries. At present, the State Librarian is a class I gazetted officer followed by class II gazetted officers under the designation of Deputy Librarian and Chief Librarians. The post of Deputy Librarian has been provided at SCL only. Further the post of Deputy Librarian as well as Chief Librarians attached to CCLs and DCLs are on-a-par with each other. This factor does not give the usual hierarchical pattern found in administration.

To cite an example, a Deputy Secretary in the Department of Education, Government of Karnataka, was holding charge of the State Librarian from April 1980 to September, 1980, on retirement of then State Librarian. Similarly from 28 September 1980 to 27 September 1982, the State Librarian's post was held by a professional librarian whose services were secured by the Government on loan for two years. At the end of this loan period, again a Deputy Secretary in the Education Department of the Government is holding charge of the post of the State Librarian. Had there been one more Class I post of professional officer, there would not have been any need for the Department of Public Libraries to be looked after by a non-professional person.
As prescribed in the C and R Rules for the appointment of State Librarian, the candidate must have attained the minimum age of 40 years. This stipulation unnecessarily prevents younger candidates possessing higher qualifications and sufficient experience in the field from aspiring for the post. The spirit of healthy competition in occupying this coveted and important post gets dampened. This clause must be removed and suitably amended to provide a fair chance to all the professionals in the field.

Similarly, in the absence of Chief-Librarians in CCLs and DCLs there is no officer below them authorised to look after the library matters.

The Chief Librarians have to shoulder a number of administrative responsibilities. They, therefore, cannot spare any time to provide guidelines and to look into organizational and technical matters and the problems of readers.

Regarding the non-gazetted officers, one finds only the following categories:

1. Head of Technical sections and Lecturers in Library Science Training School,
2. Librarian,
3. Assistant Librarian, and
4. Library Assistant.

The procedure of appointment and promotion to the above mentioned posts is prescribed by the Department Cadre and Recruitment Rules for posts in the Department of Public Libraries. The relevant extract from the Rules is given below in Table 2.

In the case of Librarians the qualifications and experience have been mixed up leading to a confusion in the hierarchical set up. For example, a Librarian having a basic degree with a degree in Library Science of a recognised university, is drawing the same salary and enjoying the same status with that of a person working as librarian with a basic degree and possessing a certificate in Library Science awarded by the Department of Public Libraries, or a Diploma in Library Science awarded by the Women's Polytechnic at Bangalore. It may be noted that the minimum qualification for admission to the certificate course is a pass in the SSLC and a pass in the PUC examination for the course conducted by the Women's Polytechnic.
### TABLE 2

Extract from Annexure III to G.O. No. ED 155 D.I.S 66

dated 11.6.1970 and Subsequent Amendments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Category of post</th>
<th>Method of recruitment</th>
<th>Minimum qualification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1      | Head of Technical Sections and Lecturers in Lib.Sc. | 1. By promotion on the basis of seniority-cum-merit from the cadres of Tech.Assts. & Librarians.  
   i) 75% direct recruitment,  
   ii) 25% by promotions. |
|        |                  | ii. If no suitable person is available for appointment by promotion by direct recruitment. |
|        |                  | For promotion:  
   Should have passed the pre-university course Exam. of a University established by law in India or should possess a qualification equivalent thereto.  
   Should be a holder of Diploma in Lib.Sc., of a University established by law in India or of the Women's Polytechnic, B'lore.  
   Or should have passed certificate course in Lib.Sc., of the Govt. Lib. Training School, Bangalore. Must have put in not less than two years of service in the cadre from which he is to be promoted.  
   For direct recruitment:  
   (1) should be a holder of: |
|        |                  | (contd.) |
2. Librarian

By promotion of the cadre of Asst. librarian and if no suitable person is available for promotion from the cadre of First Division clerk on the basis of seniority-cum-merit.

1. Should be a holder of certificate course of having passed the certificate course in Lib.Sc., conducted by the Govt. Library Training School, Bangalore.

2. Should have passed the Accounts Higher examination and Kannada language test.

(contd.)
(Table 2 contd.)

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For direct recruitment:

1. Should be holder of a Degree in Lib.Sc.
2. Should have not less than one year's experience in a Library recognised by the Govt.
3. Age: Should not have attained the age of 45 years.

For promotion:

Twentyfive percent by promotion from the cadre of Asst.Librarian and if no suitable person is available for appointment by promotion, by direct recruitment.

Should have put in not less than five years of service in the cadre of Asst.Librarian.

3. Assistant Librarian

By promotion from the cadre of II Dn. Clerks on the basis of seniority-cum-merit and if no suitable person is available for promotion by direct recruitment.

For promotion:

1. Should have passed Accounts Higher examination and Kannada language test and must have put in not less than five years of service as second Dn.clerks.
2. Should possess a certificate of having passed the certificate course in Lib.Sc. of Govt. of Lib.Training School, Bangalore.

(contd.)
For direct recruitment:
1. Should be holder of a Bachelor degree of a university established by law in India.
2. Should possess a certificate of having passed the certificate course in Lib.Sc. of Govt. Training School, Bangalore.
3. Age: Should not have attained the age of 45 years.

Probation: Two years. During the period of probation should pass Accounts Higher examination and Kannada language test.

Fifty per cent by promotion from the cadre of Library Asst., and if no suitable person is available for promotion, by direct recruitment.

For promotion

Should have put in not less than five years of service as Library Assistant.

4. Library Assistant

1. Should be holder of a certificate in Library Science awarded by the Govt. Library Training School, Bangalore or equivalent qualification.

(contd.)
(Table 2 contd.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Should have not less than one year's experience in a library recognised by the Govt.</td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Age: Should not have attained the age of 45 years.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Similar position and categorization is found in the case of Assistant Librarians also.

It may be of interest to note that there is an isolated case of a professionally qualified member of the staff, possessing a university degree and a degree in library science of a university, working as Library Assistant along with the certificate holders, i.e., semi-professionals.

The above state of affairs has created a lot of frustration and despair among the members of the staff which has cast its ill-effects on the smooth working of the libraries. To add to the above, there is no job satisfaction because of remotest promotional opportunities found in the organisational set up.

Barring the SCL, where two professionally qualified persons with a degree in Library Science look after the reading rooms, in the CCLs and DCLs no professionally qualified staff is looking after the reading rooms. However, in the Rajajinagar Branch Library of the CCL Bangalore, the reading room is managed by a permanent qualified person. At the Indira Nagar Service Station of the CCL Bangalore, and at Haveri Branch Library of the DCL
Dharwad, two qualified persons are appointed on casual basis to look after the reading rooms.

Out of 43 branch libraries under various DOLs, six branches are being managed by non-professionals. Out of a total of 49 service stations 19 are under the care of non-professionals.

Out of 208 DOL branch libraries 45 are run by non-professional. Out of 22 service stations 19 are served by non-qualified staff.

A total of 17 branch libraries and service stations of the DOLs, though established in Taluka places, are being administered by non-professionals.

The table 3 given below clearly indicates the pattern of personnel under whose care the fate and status of the various branch libraries and service stations depend.

From the above table one finds a peculiar, rather a precarious situation, prevailing in the Public Library System in the State.

A matter of grave concern is being found in the DOL of the Dakshina Kannada District. With its 14 branch
### Table 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of CCL/DCL/Br/SS</th>
<th>300</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
<th>Feces</th>
<th>Surplus</th>
<th>Sweep time</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
<th>Code No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CCL Mysore : SS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Sri Ram Mandir</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Anjuman</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C1a1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Jail (Mysore)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C1a2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Friends' union</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C1a3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hubli-Dharwad</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mangalore : Br</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Ashok Nagar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C3b6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Kudroli</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C3b7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bangalore</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. ESI Hospital</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C4a10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Munireddypalya</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C4a13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Subramanyanagar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C4a18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Leoprosorium</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C4a22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Magadi Road</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C4a23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police quarter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C4a24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Richmond Town</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C4a25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police quarter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C4a26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Sirsi Circle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police quarter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Bowring Hospital</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(contd.)*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Branches</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Chitradurga</td>
<td>Br. 6. Mayakonda, 6th District Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Hassan</td>
<td>Br. 4. Holenarsipur (Tq.), 5. Belur (Tq.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kolar</td>
<td>Br. 2. KGF, 11. Gauribidnur (Tq.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Kodagu</td>
<td>Br. 5. Suntikoppa, SS. 1. College Road (Madikeri), 2. Police Coop. Society</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Chief Librarian: D3a Vacant

All are certificate holders.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>D2</th>
<th>D2b8</th>
<th>D2s1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D3a</td>
<td>D3ab6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D4a</td>
<td>D4ab4</td>
<td>D4ab5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D5</td>
<td>D5b2</td>
<td>D5b4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D6</td>
<td>D6b5</td>
<td>D6s1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D7</td>
<td>D7b7</td>
<td>D7b9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D7b10</td>
<td>D7b12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Table 3 contd.)
<p>| | | | | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29. SDS Sanitorium</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. Broadway</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38. Vasant Nagar</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39. Cleave land town</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44. Arablane</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49. Ashoknagar Children's lib.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 Belgaum

Br. 5. Basavan Kudachi | " |   |   |   |   |   |

7 Hassan

Br. 1. Children's Lib. (Hassan) | " |   |   |   |   |   |
SS. 1. Reading Room (only periodicals) | " |   |   |   |   |   |

DCL

1 Bellary

Br. 12. Moka | " |   |   |   |   |   |
14. Chikkajogihalli | " |   |   |   |   |   |
16. Ramnagar | " |   |   |   |   |   |
SS. 3. Bachigondanahalli | " |   |   |   |   |   |
4. Central Prison | " |   |   |   |   |   |

(Table 3 contd.)

294
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Shimoga</td>
<td>Br. 8.Saha</td>
<td>VPC: Chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tumkur</td>
<td>Managed by the Semi-professional</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Bangalore</td>
<td>Br. 5. Nelamangala (Tq.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>8. Magadi (Tq.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13. Jakkur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Belgaum</td>
<td>Br. 3. Ghatraprabha</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8. Pachapur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9. Raibag (Tq.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Dharward</td>
<td>Br. 24. Naragal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>26. Hulakoti</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>28. Haunsbhavi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Bijapur</td>
<td>Semi-professionals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mandya</td>
<td>Br. 4. Nagamangala (Tq.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Br. in city, 2 Children's lib.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5. N.G.O. Building</td>
<td>(contd.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3 cont.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS. 1. Xikkeri</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Halebudhnur</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Belakawadi</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. K.R. Sagar</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Holalu</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Kottatti</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Mysore</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Br. 1. Nanjangud (Tq.)</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Hunsur (Tq.)</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. K.R. Nagar (Tq.)</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. S.R.D. Kotte (Tq.)</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Periyapatna (Tq.)</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Gulbarga</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Raichur</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Br. 1. Itagi</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Mudhol</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Sirwar</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS. 1. Family club</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. UAS Engineering Institute</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. District Prison</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Club people
Institute
Their own staff

(Continued...)
(Table 3 contd.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Bidar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Br. 1. Bhalki (Tq.)</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Chitgappa</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SS. 1. Nitur</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Lakhanagaon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Nehru Youth Kendra</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 19 | Uttara Kannada | | | | | | | | | |
|    | Br. 1. Haliyal (Tq.) | " | | | | | | | | |
|    | 2. Bhatkal (Tq.) | | | | | | | | | |
|    | 3. Dandeli | " | | | | | | | | |
|    | 4. Ankola (Tq.) | | | | | | | | | |
|    | SS. 1. Shirali | | | | | | | | | |
|    | 2. Siddapur (Tq.) | | | | | | | | | |

Only periodicals
libraries and 35 depositary centres, the DCL here is functioning without a Chief Librarian. Nor does it have professionally qualified persons on its staff. The DCL office and branch libraries are being managed by certificate holders.

21 branch libraries and service stations of the CCLs and 24 branch libraries and service stations of DCLs are run by mere attenders. It may be interesting to note that 5 DCL branch libraries/service stations are run by attenders appointed on casual basis. Further, 6 of the DCL branch libraries/service stations are managed by peons. Unemployed graduates (known as stipendiary graduates) are the custodians of 10 DCL branch libraries/service stations. In 4 of the DCL branch libraries/service stations only part-time staff is appointed. Two service stations at Sirali and Siddapur under DCL Uttar Kannada, are at the mercy of sweepers appointed on casual basis.

Administrative Staff

The administrative staff is also inadequate. In the SCL, there is at present one Administrative Assistant, 2 Office Superintendents, and 5 First Division clerks (FDC) to look after the office. In the CCL,
Bangalore, there is one Administrative Assistant, one Office Superintendent and 2 EDCs who look after the office routine work. In the CCL Mysore, there is one office superintendent and one FDC managing the office. The CCLs of Hubli-Dharwad and Belgaum have only one Office Superintendent each to look after the office. Further, three more CCLs at Hassan, Bijapur and Gulbarga are being managed by only one FDC each. The CCLs of Davangere and Mangalore are at the mercy of only one second division clerk (SDC). The office of the CCL Shimoga is being managed by stipendiary graduates.

As far as DCLs are concerned, the DCL Dharwad has one office superintendent and one FDC. In DCLs at Chitradurga, Dakshina Kannada, (Mangalore) Hassan, Kodagu, Chikkamagalur, Belgaum and Uttar Kannada, the office is being looked after by FDCs only. The remaining DCLs are being managed by SDCs only.

The other supporting staff like SDC and typists is also inadequate (See Table 16). Because of this administrative setup, the Chief Librarians have been forced to shoulder more administrative responsibilities than necessary affecting even the routine readers' services.
Such is the state of affairs in respect of the personnel of the public library system.

Until 1978, no norms or standards regarding staff had been laid down by the Department. In 1978, after a lapse of twelve years, the State Government appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of an Under Secretary in the Education and Youth Services Department, to lay down norms for different categories of staff in the Department of Public Libraries (G.O.No. ED 62 PML 77 dated 5.10.1978). (Vide Annexure IV) It would have been better if the Committee had been headed by a professionally qualified competent person. The relevant extract from the above mentioned order is given in Table 4.

An analysis of the staff pattern suggested by the Committee indicates that the norms recommended are devoid of logic and scientific approach.

Many Chief Librarians have opined that the norms laid down are not feasible. Their suggestions to improve upon the staff pattern have fallen on deaf years. Even this defective pattern has not been uniformly implemented.
Norms Fixed for Different Categories of Staff
by the State Government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>No. of hands allowed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chief Librarian</td>
<td>One for each district.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Technical Assistant (Librarian)</td>
<td>A minimum of one Technical Assistant (Librarian) for each District Central Library/City Central Library. The Technical Assistant's posts admissible to a District Central Library/City Central Library may be partially converted into those of Assistant Librarians of Library Assistants, as in the statement below:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average No. of books purchased</th>
<th>No. of Librarians/Assistant Librarians/ Library Assistants allowed to a District Central Library/City Central Library</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upto 4000 books</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4001 to 6400</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6401 to 6800</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6801 to 8800</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8801 to 9200</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9201 to 11600</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11601 to 14400</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of Librarians/Assistant Librarians/ Library Assistants admissible should be worked out on the average number of books purchased in a year to be arrived at taking into consideration the purchase made in three years, and deducting there from 20%.

As and when the annual average work-load increases, say, from 6400 to 6800 books purchased, the Department may (contd.)
send proposals to upgrade the post of one Library Assistant to that Assistant Librarian. Similarly, when the work-load increases further up to 8,800 books purchased in a year, the Department will have to utilise the services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Of the Assistant Librarian elsewhere, if justification is forthcoming, and ask for two posts of Library Assistants. Otherwise, the Department should ask for down-grading the post of Assistant Librarian to that of Library Assistant along with the creation of one more post of Library Assistant. Action to be taken only after the incumbents are provided equivalent posts elsewhere.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3</th>
<th>Assistant Librarian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>As shown in the table above.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4</th>
<th>Library Assistants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upto 125 books issued per day. One Lib. Assistant 126-250 books issued per day. Two Lib. Assistants. 251 to 400 books issued per day Three Lib. Assistants.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One Library Assistant for a newly opened Branch Library to be allowed temporarily for a year, further continuance being subject to review of work-load. |
Readers Vs Personnel

The readers (74%) using the libraries have opined that the attitude of the staff members towards them is indifferent. The work carried out by the staff is generally not satisfactory. Readers seldom get cooperation from the staff even in respect of small queries.8

Staff Strength

The total strength of staff (including professionals, semi-professionals, and non-professionals, casual and part-time workers) is 1230 only. Of these 75 are professionally trained, 448 are semi-professionals and the remaining are non-professionals.

Viewed against a total population of 3,70,43,451 of the State there is one professional for every 4,93,912 people in the State.

Taking the professional and semi-professional together the ratio is 1:70,828.

This being the case how one can expect efficient and effective service to readers is anybody's guess.

It was only in 1981 for the first time, that a two-week refresher course was conducted by the Department, for the benefit of the Chief Librarians and other professional and semi-professional staff to enable them to keep abreast of the current trends in the field of library and Information Science.

Since 1981, the Department is deputing every year two persons for undergoing B.L.I.Sc. and for M.L.I.Sc. Course to improve their qualifications for rendering better service to the readers. It is a bold and healthy step taken so far.

7.7 Finances

Cess

City Central Libraries

The CCLs are solely depending upon cess on property, entry of goods, vehicles and professions, trades and callings, as their main sources of income. In addition, they collect overdue charges and interest on bank deposits. The amount so collected is utilised for development of book collections and equipment of the CCL and their branches. No grants are made available from the state Government for this purpose.
There is a declining trend in the total amount collected through cess by the CCLs every year. It was Rs.29,11,547 in 1979-80, Rs.26,30,177 in 1980-81, and during 1981-82 the figure stood at Rs.25,26,366 only.

District Central Libraries

In addition to financial resources similar to those of the CCLs, the State Government also provides grant to DCLs.

Here also there is a marked decrease of income year after year, both in respect of cess as also of the grants provided by the State Government.

The following figures indicate the gloomy picture of finances in the case of CCLs and DCLs.

A. Through Cess

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount collected</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Decrease in percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1979-80</td>
<td>Rs.33,13,424</td>
<td>34.36</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-81</td>
<td>Rs.31,75,998</td>
<td>32.94</td>
<td>1.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-82</td>
<td>Rs.31,51,458</td>
<td>32.68</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Rs.96,40,880</td>
<td>99.98</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. State Government Grants for DOLs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount collected</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Decrease in percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1979-80</td>
<td>Rs.25,04,032</td>
<td>43.06</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-81</td>
<td>Rs.20,83,809</td>
<td>35.83</td>
<td>7.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-82</td>
<td>Rs.12,27,315</td>
<td>21.10</td>
<td>14.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Rs.58,15,156</td>
<td>99.99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reasons for Decreasing Financial Sources

A number of factors are responsible for the decrease in the amount of cess collected and the state Government grants. These are:

1. Non-implementation of the provision in the Act to levy tax on professions, trades, callings, employment and vehicles;

2. In spite of the provision made under the Act to enhance from time to time the cess rate from 3% to 5%, the same has not been implemented. This has naturally curtailed the books funds of the CCLs and DOLs. During 1966, the per capita
income of the state was Rs. 392.66\(^9\) and in 1981 it increased to Rs. 1,352.00\(^10\), showing a rise of Rs. 959.34. In spite of this the cess rate has remained static even to this day;

3. Abolition of octroi or tax on entry of goods by the Government in 1979, has contributed greatly towards the decrease in finances of the CCLs. The Government has not given any alternative grant to cover this deficit;

4. **Concessions to Agriculturists**

Farmers having less than 10 acres of land are exempted from paying land revenue, by the Government order. This has an adverse effect on the sources of funds for the CCLs, as a large number of agriculturists in the state come under this category. The Government has not provided any other sources to make good the shortfall in income. The

\[\text{(References)}\]


authorities concerned also have not taken up this issue as well as the loss of income due to cancellation of octroi, with the Government. Nor have they suggested alternatives to make good such deficits;

5. The granting of concessions to the agriculturists who are subject to natural calamities like, droughts and floods leads to the decrease of funds for the DCLs;

6. The present trend of converting the agricultural lands into individual estates and into residential quarters, adds again to the decrease in cess funds of the DCLs;

7. The civic authorities as cess collecting agents are not prompt in transferring the funds collected for the CCLs and DCLs. The funds are many a time released only after repeated persistence by the LAs and even then the amount is not released in lumpsum but in instalments;
8. The cess collected through land revenue by the Government is not paid to the DCLs promptly;

9. The contribution of 5% of the cess collected by the CCLs and DCLs towards the SOL impoverishes the former;

10. The deduction of 10% as collection charges out of the cess collected by the cess collecting authorities, further reduces the income of the CCLs and DCLs.

Under these conditions, how can the public library system of Karnataka efficiently serve its clientele? How can it grow and develop?

**Annual Grants : SOL**

The development grant sanctioned by the Government to the tune of ₹2.5 to 3 lakhs only every year to the SOL is quite inadequate.

The provision asking the CCLs and DCLs to contribute 5% out of the cess funds collected by them, towards the SOL funds happens to be ill-conceived. This practice definitely curtails the income of the CCLs and DCLs which are always short of funds owing to various reasons.
Further, there is neither compensation nor any alternative measure provided by the Government or the SCI to adequately compensate the CCLs and DCLs in the matter.

**Expenditure**

**State Central Library : Books**

The expenditure on books shows an increase during the year 1981-82, as compared with the expenditure during 1980-81 and 1979-80. (See Table 12 of Chapter VI Expenditure : SCL).

However, there is a decrease of 20% during 1980-81, as compared with the position in 1979-80. During 1981-82, the SCL gained an increase of 34% as compared with the figure for 1980-81.

There are some interesting facts while considering the number of books purchased during the year 1979-80, 1980-81 and 1981-82. While in 1979-80, 7,993 titles were purchased for Rs.1,50,179, in 1980-81, 13,374 titles were purchased for a total amount of Rs.1,28,391. The figures for 1981-82 are 14,949 books for Rs.2,91,751. It may thus be seen that a fewer titles are purchased for a larger amount during 1979-80. Whereas the reverse is the case
during the year 1980-81.

An examination of the above mentioned facts reveals that the norms laid down for acquisition of books do not appear to have been followed scrupulously.

**Periodicals**

The expenditure on subscription to periodicals presents a different picture. It was ₹69,938 during 1979-80 and took a very big leap in 1980-81 touching the figure of ₹1,23,115. But it took a backward step during 1981-82 when the expenditure came down to ₹69,188.

It may be observed here that generally the annual expenditure on subscription to periodicals goes on increasing. Instead, in the present case, there is a wide variation every year.

**Binding and Furniture**

The same irregular pattern of expenditure is discernible in binding, furniture and equipment.

Taking the overall expenditure of the SCL for the past three years the expenditure curve shows a slight upward trend as is clear from the following figures.
### Tear Expenditure Difference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1979-80</td>
<td>7,50,166</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-81</td>
<td>8,60,790</td>
<td>1,10,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-82</td>
<td>9,85,261</td>
<td>1,24,291</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A mere increase of Rs.14,000 cannot bring about any improvement or progress, considering the phenomenon of price rise.

**Expenditure: CCLs and DCLs**

**City Central Libraries (CCLs)**

The expenditure on books, periodicals, etc. incurred during the past three years shows a fluctuating trend. It was Rs.41,43,508 during 1979-80 whereas it slumped down to Rs.33,54,629 in 1980-81, and again shot up to Rs.47,07,122 in 1981-82. It will thus be seen that there was a decrease in the total expenditure to the tune of Rs.78,869 in 1980-81 compared with the expenditure of 1979-80. However, the expenditure shot up by an increase of Rs.13,52,493 in 1981-82.

The salary of the staff, however, shows an increase year after year. From Rs.6,44,365 in 1979-80
it rose to more than double during 1980-81, taking
the figure to Rs.13,87,041. More or less, it increased
by another 50% during 1981-82, touching the figure of
Rs.19,00,215. This increase is due to the upward
revision of the pay scales of the staff.

Taking into consideration the expenditure on
books and other reading materials and salary of staff,
an increase in expenditure of about 50% per year is
discernible in the case of CCIs.

**District Central Libraries (DOLs)**

The total expenditure on books and periodicals
etc. of the DOLs shows a downward trend as shown below.
The amount spent during 1979-80, 1980-81 and 1981-82
being Rs.35,73,884, Rs.33,73,539 and Rs.28,06,407 respectively,
clearly indicates the downward trend. There was a
decrease in the amount spent on books and other reading
materials in 1980-81 by Rs.2,00,345 as compared with the
figure of 1979-80. Further, the expenditure for 1981-82
shows a decline of Rs.5,67,130 compared with the figure of
1980-81. These figures indicate that all may not have
been well in respect of purchase of books and other reading
materials during 1981-82. However, the expenditure on
staff on salary went on increasing year after year, due to the revision of pay scales as also in some respect, the recruitment of additional staff.

An examination of the figures would indicate wide variation of expenditure on various items. There appears to be no convincing reasons for such variations which might prevent healthy development of the public library system.

The following Table 5 gives the statement of expenditure (excluding the salary for both CCLs and DCLs together for the year 1979-80, 1980-81 and 1981-82.

To rationalise and to bring about a standard pattern on spending in the public library system, the Government of Karnataka evolved a formula in 1975 and fixed the percentages for spending on the various budget heads (vide Govt.Order No.E 38:SLS 70 Bangalore dated 6th August, 1975) (Annexure II).

Observations

1. According to this order, an amount equal to 20% of the total amount collected can be spent on staff salaries and other staff welfare schemes like P.F., Pension, T.A. and
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Books</th>
<th>Periodicals</th>
<th>Binding</th>
<th>Equipment &amp; Furniture</th>
<th>Building</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Total Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1979-80</td>
<td>55.55</td>
<td>9.91</td>
<td>0.88</td>
<td>8.82</td>
<td>6.93</td>
<td>19.88</td>
<td>99.97</td>
<td>79,56,153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-81</td>
<td>46.78</td>
<td>13.73</td>
<td>2.72</td>
<td>9.59</td>
<td>8.01</td>
<td>19.13</td>
<td>99.96</td>
<td>70,30,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-82</td>
<td>51.36</td>
<td>13.58</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>4.98</td>
<td>7.86</td>
<td>21.14</td>
<td>99.96</td>
<td>78,93,382</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
D.A. etc. This is not advisable as it reduces the funds for purchase of reading materials etc.

It may be noted in this connection that under Sub-Section 3 of Section 15, it is clearly laid down that the salary, allowances, pension and similar other payments made to the employees of the Public Library Department shall be met from the consolidated fund of the State. In the light of this, it stands to reason how 20% of the cess collected was utilised on payment of salaries etc. to staff. Even if this sanction is covered by a bye-law, the bye-law itself violates the provision made in the Act and further it is the generally accepted principle that any rules or bye-laws made under any law or act shall not go contrary to the provisions in the main act.

2. The Government have fixed the following percentages to be spent on various items: Books: 45%, Equipment: 15%, Periodicals: 15% only. The allotment does not seem to be scientific. While 15% towards equipment may be justifiable, 15% towards periodicals is quite inadequate. The rules seem to have been framed by a non-professional, ignorant of the real needs of the readers.

3. To top it all, the contribution of 5% of cess funds,
towards the SCI fund is undemocratic as the SCI gets full financial support from the Government for its operations. This contribution of 5% therefore should be discontinued.

As regards the utilization of the SCL funds also, there is a directive that 45% of the funds are to be earmarked for establishment charges, and only 30% should be spent on developmental programmes. Establishment charges should not have been included, as the entire establishment charges are met out by the State’s consolidated funds and the amount of 45% thus saved should go towards developmental activities. This brings the total amount for development to 75%.

In short, such rules should not be framed by non-professionals, that too without the advice of the professionals. Such rules do not help to improve the condition of the public libraries; on the contrary, they check their progress.

Per Capita Expenditure on Public Libraries

The total population of the State according to 1981 census is 3,70,43,451. Of this the literate population is 1,42,28,947.
The state has spent Rs.16,25,24,600 in 1980-81\textsuperscript{11} on education. The number of students during the said period was 59,11,795,\textsuperscript{12} who were on the rolls in schools, colleges and universities. Thus the per capita expenditure on education came to Rs.27.58 only.

Similarly, Rs.7,41,50,000 was spent on medical and health services. This works out to Rs.2.00 per head during 1980-81. Comparing the figures of expenditure on Education, Medical and Health Services, with the expenditure on library services for the same period it is found that a meagre amount of 30 paise per head was spent, (shown in Table 6B at 1980-81 Expenditure).

The statistics of expenditure on libraries given below in Tables 6A & 6B for the three years (1979-80 to 1981-82) reveal the true state of affairs.

\begin{itemize}
  \item\textsuperscript{12} Times of India Directory and Year Book including Who is Who, 1982, Bombay, Times of India Press, 1982, p. 170.
  \item\textsuperscript{13} Op.cit. 11. p.6.
\end{itemize}
### TABLE 6 A

**Per Capita Expenditure on Reading Materials on Total Population**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Per capita expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1979-80</td>
<td>79,56,153</td>
<td>0.2147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-81</td>
<td>70,30,232</td>
<td>0.1897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-82</td>
<td>78,93,382</td>
<td>0.2130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TABLE 6 B

**Per Capita Expenditure on Reading Materials and Salary on Total Population**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Per capita expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1979-80</td>
<td>1,90,07,672</td>
<td>0.2917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-81</td>
<td>1,14,33,282</td>
<td>0.3086 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-82</td>
<td>1,32,62,246</td>
<td>0.3580</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There was a marked decline as regards the per capita expenditure from 1979-80 to 1981-82 though there is a slight increase in 1981-82 as compared with expenditure of 1980-81. However, the slight increase of 3 paise per head cannot appreciably contribute to the development of the libraries.

Let us now consider the per capita expenditure per literate person in the state. The figures shown in tables 7 A and 7 B also tell a pathetic tale.

**TABLE 7 A**

*Per Capita Expenditure on Reading Materials on Literates*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Per capita expenditure on literates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1979-80</td>
<td>0.5591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-81</td>
<td>0.4940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-82</td>
<td>0.5547</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The public library is an agency for continuing education and for maintaining the literacy gained by society. It has, therefore, to promote the reading habits of the community by providing good reading materials. But the conditions prevailing in Karnataka are not encouraging.

### Technical Processing

The provision made in the Act under Section 36(b)(v) to set up a State Bureau of Technical Services, has not been fully implemented by the Authorities. As a consequence, the same technical work is being done in the SCL and all the CCIs and DOLs. This has resulted in

---

**TABLE 7 B**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Per capita expenditure on literates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1979-80</td>
<td>0.7665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-81</td>
<td>0.8035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-82</td>
<td>0.9320</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
multiplication of needless efforts and has led to a collosal waste of money, man-power and material. Had the authorities established the centralized unit for technical processing in the SCL nearly 75% of wastage could have been avoided. Further, the inconsistency in classification, cataloguing, etc. that is noticed in various libraries could have been avoided and the man-power thus released could have been used to help the readers.

**Accession Register**

The basic record of any library is the Accession Register as it contains the full bibliographical details of the reading materials. It is unfortunate to note that in all the libraries this basic record has not been maintained properly, as the columns are not correctly filled in.

As no separate Accession Registers are maintained for Purchased collection, Donations and Exchanges, one cannot ascertain the exact figures of acquisitions made under the above modes of acquisitions, during a given period.
Kannada being the lingua-franca of the state, a separate Accession Register of Kannada books could have been very ideal. But the situation is not so, as there are no language-wise Registers.

However, the SCL is maintaining a separate Accession Register for its copyright collection, irrespective of language.

Classification

The Colon Classification (6th Amended Edn. 1963) is being adopted to organize the reading materials in the SCL, 8 CULs and 14 DCLs only. Here again, only a broad classification is attempted. It is, however, noticed that this activity is being carried out half-heartedly, resulting in wrong class numbers and inconsistencies in classifying the collection.

In what way the collections are arranged, maintained and managed by remaining libraries without classification, is a matter of serious concern.
Cataloguing

The SCI is maintaining a catalogue of authors, subject and titles. It is, however, found to be not up-to-date and the same condition being noticed regarding the Kannada catalogue also.

Six CCLs are maintaining either author, subject and title or author and subject, or author and title or author catalogues only, which again are not up-to-date.

More or less the same situation is prevailing in the DCLs.

As there are no catalogues of the stock in the branch libraries and service stations of the CCLs and the DCLs, how the readers are served by the staff and how the readers are getting themselves helped in finding their required books, is anybody's guess.

The filing of the catalogue cards is another sad affair, as in many cases alphabetical arrangement is not followed correctly and cards in the classified part also are not arranged properly.

The processing of books also lacks care and
aesthetic approach. The placement of tags, ownership plates, the book pocket, etc. is erratic; the rubber stamp defaces, at times, the textual matter.

**Opinion of the Readers**

The readers (91.75%) of the various libraries have opined that the scheme of classification is not easy to follow for calling the books and the catalogues maintained are not helpful in choosing the desired reading materials.

**Reasons for this State of Affairs**

The following reasons may be ascribed for this state of affairs:

1. Inadequate staff;
2. Most of the technical sections are in charge of semi- and non-professional staff;
3. In addition, they are also inexperienced.

In almost all the libraries, the technical processing is being done by either diploma or certificate holders in Librarianship, who do not possess the much needed experience, significant knowledge
of various fields of knowledge and sufficient training in understanding the multi-disciplinary subjects and the intricacies and idiosyncrasies of the documents that are pouring in.

Whenever a professionally qualified (graduate in Library Science) person is provided, he cannot devote his full time for technical processing, as he has to discharge the functions of the other sections of the library also;

4. The Colon Classification is a scientifically developed scheme and technicalities involved in it require a thorough knowledge and sufficient practice in applying its rules and regulations, for classifying the documents;

5. No proper supervision is done or any guidance given by the higher-ups in the library both in classifying and cataloguing.

Naturally, all the above mentioned factors have a cumulative effect on the technical processing of reading materials. This results in more difficulty in retrieval of reading materials in an easy and speedy way.
7.9 Library Services

Library Hours

The State Central Library, 8 CCLs out of the total 10 and 7 DCLs out of the total 10 and 5 branch libraries of CCL Bangalore and 2 branch libraries of CCL Hubli-Dharwad are keeping the libraries open to the public for 12 hours on all working days.

No library is working on Mondays, which is the weekly holiday in place of Sunday, second Saturdays and on gazetted holidays. However, some libraries keep open only the periodical section on these days for three to seven hours. The remaining libraries i.e. 2 CCLs are kept open generally for 7 hours per day. While 3 DCLs are kept open from 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., the Branch libraries are kept open from 8.00 a.m. to 12 noon and from 4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

The working hours are not suitable to the reading public because 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. is the time when many would be attending to their work and as such inconvenient to them. Besides, the seven hour period from 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. is quite inadequate. To provide continuous service to readers, libraries should never be
kept closed even on holidays to enable the public to utilize fruitfully their leisure hours.

Users of the Libraries

As viewed against the total population of the state which is 3,70,43,451 according to the 1981 census, it was found that of every 1,000 persons only 4 have enrolled themselves as users of the libraries. It is further noticed that out of 1,000 population only two visit the library daily, one borrows a book per day and one consults books on the premises.

Taking into consideration the literate population of 1,42,28,947 (1981 census) in the state, it is noticed that out of every 1,000 literates, only 11 persons are availing of the library facilities. Of these 11 persons again six frequently visit the libraries, three take books from home reading and 4 consult and/or browse the reading materials on the premises.

It was found that the total number of borrowers as given by the various libraries seems to be inflated as the number of discontinued members has not been subtracted from the grand total of the borrowers. This should have been done at least at the end of the financial
year regularly. Thus the statistics maintained by most of the libraries do not give a true picture of the use made of the libraries.

Services

It is disheartening to note that no other library service except lending books is provided by all the libraries.

The SCL, the CCLs and the DCLs have brought out the catalogue of recent additions of 1981-82. However, there is no consistency in the entries in these lists brought out by the various libraries. Moreover, the arrangement of the entries and the classification numbers given were in many cases found to be incorrect.

Personal guidance to the readers is conspicuously absent in almost all the libraries.

Reasons for the Present State of Affairs

The overall situation prevailing in the libraries in respect of utilization of the resources made available to readers, definitely dampens the spirit of librarianship. This is due to various factors as stated below:
a) No definite policy for acquisition purposes;

b) Uncertainty about availability of funds;

c) New books are not added to the libraries frequently. Only one book per 100 readers was added during the 1981-82;

d) The collection also does not represent many varieties of subject. Old, dog-eared, brittle, unattractive books are the main stock in almost all the libraries;

e) The absence of scientific catalogues of the holdings of the libraries act as deterrents to the readers in getting books of their interest;

f) In spite of the fact that the books have been broadly classified, the shelving being not proper, the readers are frustrated in the welter of books;

g) The books returned do not go to their respective places on the shelves immediately;

h) All these problems encountered by the readers
could have been overcome, had there been at least some guidance from the library staff. But this has not been possible because the libraries are hopelessly understaffed.

i) To add to the above misery, a semi-professional and/or a non-professional member of the staff is put in-charge of the circulation section;

j) Such underqualified and overburdened staff is naturally indifferent towards the readers' queries;

k) Most of the libraries have housed their stocks in small rooms, where reading space, and space for administration is also given. This has created an unhealthy, congested and noisy atmosphere in these libraries;

l) The physical facilities and the creature comforts conducive for a peaceful reading are totally absent. Hence, most of the readers do not feel like stepping into the libraries;

m) The question of extending extension activities
under such adverse circumstances does not arise at all;

n) Though the staff cannot be blamed for creating such a murky and discouraging environment, they justify their position by stating that they are burdened with unavoidable and heavy administrative work.

**Stock Verification**

The verification of stock has not been taken up by many libraries. This again can be attributed to the inadequate staff.

**Reference and Information Service**

Reference service is unheard of in almost all the libraries.

However, one finds some reference works housed in these libraries; but these are obsolete in their contents.

Inadequate personnel, appointment of semi-professionals, absence of interest and zeal, indifferent attitude towards readers' queries, utter ignorance about reference works and failure in understanding the
significance of reference service, are some of the reasons, which are responsible for projecting a poor image of the public library services.

Children's Sections

The children's sections, wherever maintained by some of the public libraries, present a painful and most disheartening picture. They are an eye-sore to the onlookers. It appears these sections are maintained for name sake. They are not housed in independent rooms/halls. Dark and dingy corners of the reading rooms which are in distractive and unhygenic atmosphere are allotted for the children.

No specially designed furniture and racks are provided for these sections. A big table, with two long benches on either side of it are the only furniture pieces provided. The book racks are not of low height, thus making the books inaccessible to the children.

The maximum number of books available for children is 6,000 in the CCL, Bangalore. The average number of books in the other libraries is about 500. The collection is an indifferent assortment of comics, short stories, etc.
The number of periodicals subscribed for children varies from 2 to 6 only. Except at the Kolar Bal Bhavan Branch Library, toys and "puzzles" are conspicuously absent in the other libraries. Special programmes like story hours, film shows, etc. are totally absent.

No separate opening hours are provided for children. The sections are kept open during the routine library hours.

No separate statistics are maintained in most of the libraries, regarding the number of child borrowers, their attendance, consultation and lending books for home reading etc.

The child readers are at the mercy of either a semi-professional, or in some case there is no staff at all to look after their specific interests and needs.

It is clear from the above that the children's sections present a sorry state of affairs.

Braille Section

Section 37(2)(a) and (b) of the KPLA 1965 states as under:
37(2)(a): The production and storage of books, sound records of books and kindred materials for the blind and the issue of such books and materials for the use of the blind shall be dealt within the section relating to the State Library for the Blind.

37(2)(b): The State Central Library may collaborate with other libraries for the Blind in India and undertake such work as may be necessary for purposes of such collaboration.

These provisions are not yet implemented with full swing, although 17 years have rolled by since the enactment of the Act.

The number of braille books available only at the SCL has remained at 1000 only since the establishment of the SCL. No efforts are being made to increase this number.

No steps are taken as yet to implement the provision for braille books as mentioned in Section 37(2)(b) mentioned above.

No separate statistics are maintained even to this day regarding the use of the collection and the number of members enrolled etc.
Inter-Library Cooperation

In the KPL Act, the provision made under Section 37(3)(a) and (b) states that:

(a) 'The State Bureau of inter-library loan shall implement such schemes of inter-library loans among the public libraries, academic libraries, state-owned libraries, aided libraries and the other libraries in the state as may be prescribed.'

(b) 'The State Central Library may with the approval of the State Government, collaborate in any scheme of inter-State Library loan.'

So far no efforts have been made to implement the above mentioned provision.

Extension Activities

This vital activity was much neglected and was in deep slumber till November, 1981, when for the first time the National Library Week was celebrated. However, such functions were not held in 1982.

7.10 Library Buildings

Buildings housing some libraries are owned by the Department. These buildings need structural modifications.
to suit the various functions to be performed by the libraries. The librarians have not been consulted while the buildings were either renovated or newly constructed. The P.W.D. Engineers' advice only has been sought, so far.

Some of the librarians had sent their proposals for construction of annexes to the existing buildings and also for constructing new buildings. These proposals are put in cold storage.

Rent-free and rented buildings where a majority of the libraries are at present housed, are neither functional from the library point of view, nor suitable hygienically to house the collections for readers.

A majority of the library users (80%) have recorded their dissatisfaction over the present state of the buildings in which they are to get enlightenment.

7.11 Library Furniture and Fittings and Equipment

No standard library furniture (tables, chairs etc.) are in use in all these libraries, including the SCL. Whatever furniture pieces are in use, are insufficient and not comfortable for the users. Some
of them are in a dilapidated condition and no attempts have been made to get them repaired.

Equipment

Three libraries - the CCL, Hubli-Dharwad, and two DCLs - Raichur and Gulbarga - have 16 mm film projectors, but because of non-availability of films, are laying unused.

7.12 Bindery

No bindery is established in any library including the SCL. The binding work is carried out through commercial binders, though, there is provision suggested in the staff pattern to have a binder at every CCL and DCL to take care of minor repairs and binding of documents. Lack of timely repairs results in more damage to the books rendering them unusable; more so as 80 per cent of the books acquired by the libraries are paper-backs.

7.13 Accounts Section

An independent Account Section is maintained in the SCL only. This important section is conspicuously about in the CCLs and DCLs. All the financial matters
concerning CCLs and DCLs are either looked after by the librarian or some clerk/clerks, who does not possess the adequate knowledge about accounting.

7.14 Raja Ram Mohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF)

The RRRLF with its noble objective of serving the rural folk with literature, has been sanctioning since 1973 about Rs.2 lakhs every year to the Karnataka state.

Once the books are purchased and sent to the rural areas, by the SCL through DCLs, the responsibility on the part of the SCL seems to be over as no supervision is made either by the SCL or by the DCLs of the book collection.

The books that are purchased are not suitable to the rural community, as quite a number of them are English books. The books in Kannada are of serious type, and beyond the interest of the rural folk.

Regarding the organization, circulation and maintenance, no rules and regulations are so far framed as guidelines of the utilisation of this collection fruitfully and profitably. Further, the care-takers of the collection, like the Village Panchayat people, Primary School teachers, etc. are not paid any honorarium which
would act as an incentive. Because the fear of loss of books under their charge prevents them from promoting their use.

No statistics regarding the use of this collection are maintained. Because of this, it is not possible to ascertain the readers' reactions regarding the upkeep and organization of the collection.

Other facilities under the Foundation like provision for binding, conducting of seminars and symposiums, mobile library services and audio-visual materials, etc. have not been availed of by the authorities.

7.15 Conclusion

The analysis made on the basis of the facts concerning the public library system in Karnataka turns out to be unhappy. The reasons responsible for such a situation though already given at appropriate places are summarised here:

1) The first and the foremost factor is the lack of planning of the public library system, considering the various socio-economic, educational and cultural conditions of the state. This has led to unhealthy growth of libraries;
2) With all zeal and struggle, the Act came into force in 1965. But it has not been implemented in full measure up till now. No Review Committee also has been appointed so far to examine the working of the Act;

3) Under Section 41 of the Act bye-laws governing the working of the CCLs and DCLs have been framed. Unfortunately, however, consistency is not maintained in such bye-laws governing the various libraries;

4) Minimum comforts like good furniture, good ventilation are not provided to library users. There is an urgent need to provide these on a war footing;

5) The paucity of funds due to abolition of octroi and similar other decisions of the Government towards library cess, have adversely affected the working of the libraries;

6) To add to this, whatever funds are made available for purchase of reading materials and upkeep of collection and maintenance, are normally released at the fag end of the financial year, putting the book purchase programme in jeopardy;

7) Unimaginative attitude and at times indifferent decisions taken by the authorities have been responsible
for the slow and lopsided growth of libraries in terms of collection, readers and the staff;

8) Insufficient shelving space has transformed many libraries into mere book godowns. Whatever collections are exposed to the reading public, are left at the mercy of the termites due to lack of proper care;

9) Personal assistance to readers by the library staff is non-existent because of inadequate and under-qualified staff;

10) The children’s section as well as the Braille Section are being totally neglected by the authorities;

11) The total absence of Extension Activities is responsible in not attracting many readers of the community to the libraries;

12) No proper supervision and technical guidance is provided to the junior staff;

13) There is a lot of dissatisfaction among the qualified staff as they do not enjoy status and scales of pay commensurate with their qualifications and experience;

14) The promotional opportunities are severely limited;
15) A most vital factor for the successful working of any system being cooperation and coordination between and amongst the various nodal points is conspicuously absent in the Public Library System of the state; and

16) It appears the Government is not much sympathetic towards the improving the lot of public library system in the state.

The remedy for overcoming all these maladies lies in the proper planning right from the grass root level and timely implementation of the same.