CHAPTER - SIX

CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION
61. **CONCLUSION:**

Public library provides service free of charge to one and all irrespective of caste, creed and sex. It not only acts as an educational media but also as a recreational center. It inculcates a habit of reading and helps in developing an individual as a disciplined citizen. For the public purpose government should spread a network of public libraries in the country.

It is surprising that there is no State Central Library in Madhya Pradesh. In Madhya Pradesh there are five regional and 44 district libraries (42 are located in respective districts while 2 are placed in nearby towns), managed and financed by the State Government. There is no district library at three district headquarters, namely Gwalior, Rewa, and Indore. Thus there is an urgent need to establish one State Central Library in the capital and at least one district library in each district.

There are 12 revenue divisions in Madhya Pradesh. There should be one divisional library in each division. At present there are five regional/divisional libraries in the state. There is an utmost need to have
least one regional/divisional library in each of the remaining seven divisions of the state.

For the use of the community, the libraries should be established in Madhya Pradesh as follows:

(a) State Central Library

(b) Divisional Library

(c) District Library System consisting of

(1) District Library

(2) City/Town Library

(3) Block Library

(4) Panchayat Library and

(5) Village Library

But in Madhya Pradesh there are two types of public libraries - the regional libraries which are looked after by Divisional Superintendents of Education, and district libraries which are looked after by District Education Officers. The district libraries are directly under the control of District Education Officers, who report about their working to Divisional Superintendents Of Education. The above both types of libraries are controlled by Director of Public Instruction. The administrative control of the libraries is quite well, but there is no co-ordination and co-operation
between the regional and district libraries, and to the utmost surprise there is no co-operation and co-ordination among the district libraries themselves. Similarly Panchayat libraries managed by Directorate of Panchayat and Social Welfare have their separate and independent administration and there is no co-operation with the regional and district libraries. In addition to this there are public libraries which are managed by private bodies, some of them are government aided and have their own administration. Due to three controlling bodies there is no co-ordination and co-operation, which adversely affects the services to the readers and funds are wasted.

It is therefore suggested that steps should be taken by the government to see that there is proper co-operation and co-ordination in library services of these libraries. So that users may be benefited more. Further, there should be only one controlling body to look after all above types of libraries in the state.

It is also suggested that there should be a state central library headed by the state librarian and a separate Directorate for the Public libraries. It is also advised that in due course, all aided libraries should be taken over by the government for providing better services to readers.

The number of libraries to be established should be based on the population as per recommendations of Advisory Committee Report(1959). As per the census 1991 and diary of M. P. Govt. 1997 it is
felt that the state should have following number of libraries to have an
efficient public library system in Madhya Pradesh.

State Library 01
Divisional Library 12
District Library 45
City Library 23

(For over one lakh population)

City Branch Library 110

(In over one lakh population for every
50,000 excess population)

Town Library 103

(20,000 to 99,999 population)

Block Library 459

Nagar Panchayat Library 281

Panchayat Library 30,922
611. **LIBRARY SERVICES** -

All the regional and some of the district libraries are housed in the government buildings while some district libraries are functioning in rented buildings. These buildings have not been constructed for library purposes but they have been simply acquired out of the government general buildings. A few libraries are running in two or three rooms only, either in school building or in some other government office buildings. There is no co-ordination between one library section and other sections. Under these conditions it is not possible to organise different sections of the library properly nor the library services can be provided efficiently. Therefore it is suggested that library buildings be constructed both for regional libraries and the district libraries in Madhya Pradesh, as per library building specification. The library furniture like stacking shelves, reading room tables, chairs, issue counter, catalogue cabinet and other office furniture are inadequate or some of the items are missing. The audio-visual aids are also not available in any of the library, which is a must in these days for the public library. It is suggested that the government should take immediate steps to provide sufficient grant to the libraries for the procurement of library furniture and audio-visual aids. In the present time the audio-visual aids for as important as books and other reading materials, for the public library, to import education to the people.

The uniform rules may be framed for all public libraries in order to bring uniformity in their functioning by DPI such as timings,
membership/ registration fee, number of books issued, number of days for issue, overdue charge, security deposit and issue system.

As regards technical services in the library, i.e., classification and cataloguing, separate schemes are adopted in different libraries and in some of the libraries the books are not at all classified and catalogued. This is due to shortage of trained staff, non-availability of Colon Classification, Decimal Classification, and catalogue code sets etc. and involvement of librarians in other works.

The authorities should decide possible uniform scheme of classification and cataloguing in all libraries with adequate trained staff and funds. They would also help in book selection, classification and cataloguing, and preparation of bibliographies.

With regards to reference service there is no such section in the libraries. Neither there is a variety of reference tools nor there is trained professional staff to provide reference service. This is an important service to be given to the readers. For this purpose a trained and experienced librarian should be appointed in each Regional and district libraries and more attention should be given to procure the important reference tools with sufficient funds.

There are book selection and purchase committees in regional and district libraries. The function of these committees is to select the books for purchase. The committees consisting of 3 to 7 members are constituted by the respective authorities of the regional and district libraries, but there
is no fixed criteria as to who should be the members of the committee nor the number of members in fixed. It is suggested that a uniform method of constituting book selection and purchase committee be involved choosing members from the education, readers of library, finance fields, and persons interested in libraries. The number of members should also be fixed. The head of the institution and the librarian should be the Chairman and Secretary of the committee respectively. This would facilitate proper book section as per demand of the users.

The survey of the public libraries revealed that stock verification in libraries is not being done at regular intervals. In such a case the position of losses every year can not be ascertained and the lost books can not be replaced.

It is suggested that stock verification should be undertaken in all public libraries every year. The Director of public Instruction should issue instructions to this effect mentioning therein as to who should undertake this work. The report of the stock verification should be submitted to the concerned authority within a period of one month after the stock verification is completed. The librarians should not be held responsible for paying the cost of books lost during his time, unless gross negligence or dishonesty is proved against him.

It has been observed that in some public libraries the membership and circulation of books have decreased in the pat some years,
due to inadequate finance, lack of professionally trained staff, unavailability of reference books and recent publications.

To solve the situation it is suggested that in addition to funds, trained and experienced library staff should be appointed, so that the libraries may be properly organised. The librarians should also undertake constructive programmes to attract the readers.

There exist a separate children section in all the regional and district libraries. Children books, toys, playgames etc., may be provided along with suitable furniture. It is also suggested that a suitable lady librarian should be appointed in children section. This will cultivate the reading habit among the children. Till this date there is no facility in the public libraries for handicapped readers. The public libraries should therefore cater to the needs of the handicapped readers such as deaf, dumb and blind. It is suggested that authorities should take special steps for providing library service to such readers.

Some district libraries are providing services to the rural people by way of running deposit centers in the villages. It is suggested that government should establish, maintain and strengthen the free public library service for the rural people of the state. The mobile library services should also be provided.

For the popularisation of the public libraries, some important methods like arranging book exhibitions, filmshows, cultural programmes,
library lectures, display of posters, library weeks and personal contact etc., should be organised by all the public librarians.

There is no library committee in the regional and district libraries. It is suggested that the government should constitute library committees in all the public libraries. The committee will consist of following members:

- Head of Institution Chairperson
- One member from local self body Member
- One member from Govt. departments "
- One member from local Area people "
- One member from Readers "
- One member from Educational Institution "
- Librarian Secretary

These members should nominated by the institutional Chairperson. The function of the committee will be as follows:

1. To lay down policy matters for the library;
2. To administer library budget;
3. To frame library rules;
4. To approve the book selection;
5. Library Co-operation;
6. Opening of new branches and purchase of furniture, equipment and mobile van;
7. To supervise the work of the library staff;
8. To issue annual report; and
9. To take any further steps to develop public library services.

612. PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF -

In Madhya Pradesh the professional and non-professional staff employed in the public libraries are treated as ministerial staff. It is suggested that the state government should make clear-cut separation between professional and non-professional staff. The trained librarians will be satisfied with this change and shall cherish their professional qualifications.

The pay-scales of librarians and trained library staff should be on parity with scales available in equivalent professions i.e. education department such as

State librarian - Director
Regional librarian - Divisional Education Officer
District librarian - District Education officer
Librarian senior grade - Lecturer
Librarian Lower Grade - Upper division Teacher
Library Assistant - Assistant teacher

The criteria for the appointment of staff must be same as for Education Deptt.

By the staff formula which is recommended by the Library Advisory Committee the inadequate staff for providing efficient service to reader, the following staff shall be required.

Regional Library - 60
District Library - 50

For the block and other types of libraries - 50000 to 75000.

It is suggested that for better service conditions for their continuous professional growth and promote morale of library personnel by sending them to seminars, conferences, workshop etc. They should also be sent to training programmes from time to time. The department of
education should also organise at regular intervals the orientation
programmes for librarians.

613. PUBLIC LIBRARY FINANCES:

Finance has been recognised as a key factor in the
development of public library system. Yet not much efforts have been made
in this direction. In Madhya Pradesh the aspect of public libraries such as
the organisation, structure, personnel, have not received enough attention
and finance has been neglected area. The public library resources in
Madhya Pradesh are not substantial to meet their current and future
requirements. Allocation of funds are inadequate not only for non-recurring
items but also for recurring items like books, periodicals etc. It is therefore,
suggested that additional funds be made available to the public libraries
which would result in enough reading material, adequate staff, better library
services and more comfortable furniture and reading material etc. It is also
suggested that to meet financial resources for public libraries calculation
can be made on the basis of method of proportion; means that library
budget should be made at a level equal 6.25 percent of the total education
budget of the State.

Once the budget allocations are made, they should be placed at
the disposal of the librarians. He should be given free hand subject to rules
and regulations of accounting and auditing in utilising the allotted budget,
because a good library service mainly depends upon a sound financial
administration. As regards the involvement of all the three levels of the
government namely central, state, and local bodies in the running of public library services, there is an area of disagreement as to the degree of such involvement. In Madhya Pradesh the state government is better suited to undertake the public library service, because the financial resources of the state government are more sound. Further, the subject of education is already handled by state government and, therefore, an allied subject like public library service should also go with it.

The Government of India has not provided sufficient grant in the five year plans for the development of the public library service. Starting from first five year plan a very small amount had been made until the fourth plan, but there is no provision in the fifth, sixth and seventh plan. It is suggested that a massive provision should be provided in Eighty Five year plan for the development of public library service.

Allotment of grants by the state government to the public libraries is not uniform under several heads. This fact should be considered by the government at the time of head-wise allocation to the public libraries. A provision for reappropriation of budget heads should be allowed. It is suggested that a new budget head, viz., binding of books and periodicals, should be added, and the head furniture and equipment should be separated. The budget provision for books periodicals and magazines is so meager that it is consumed in the magazines and newspapers only and very small amount is left for purchase of books. It is, therefore, suggested that the amount under this head should be increased to a greater extent.
Further, in all the budget heads there should be a trend of increase by 10 percent every year.

614. LIBRARY LEGISLATION:

Madhya Pradesh is one of the biggest states of the nation having a 44.2 percent literacy against the nation's literacy of 52.2 percent. The library is the only effective institution for prolonged, systematic self-education of men/women. The social, cultural, educational life and progress in a country is intimately integrated with the library in general and public libraries in particular. UNESCO also considers public library services so important that it brought out "Public Library Manifesto" in 1949. It has also been said that the government is wholly responsible for the public library services in the state. Therefore, the establishment of network of library becomes a logical and necessary part of the public libraries services, and the effective and efficient library services can only be achieved on a statutory basis. For this purpose the enactment of legislation is necessary in the state. Efforts were made and a draft public library Bill to the government was submitted by Dr. S.R. Ranganathan in 1948. Later Madhya Pradesh Library Association also submitted a draft library bill in 1958. Again, a draft bill was presented to the government in 1970, but it was not taken up by the government. Similarly, draft bills for enactment for legislation were submitted in 1978 and 1982, but all in vain. The last attempt was made in 1986, but unfortunately it could not be placed before the legislative assembly. Now it is right time that the state government should come forward to enact the library legislation in the state for efficient
functioning of network of public library system. The legislation must provide for the financial support on a stable and a progressive basis. The report of the advisory committee of libraries too recommend a comprehensives state library law, because it will bring homogeneous and unified library service to the state and it will ensure statutory recognition of state responsibility for the maintenance of public libraries in the state. It would not be out of place to mention here that eight states have already enacted the library legislation. It is also suggested that Madhya Pradesh Library Association and concerned bodies should persuade the government from time to time to enact library legislation in the state.

615. COMPUTER AND NETWORKING:

It has been observed that in the age of Information technology or INTERNET, there is no serious consideration has been undertaken by the Librarians of the Public Libraries of Madhya Pradesh and by the Government to adopt the computer and network facilities to enhance the capabilities of the libraries. The reason behind that the most of the librarians are not willing to work with this, they prefer to work in the library in their conventional style. Presently the Madhya Pradesh Government is also facing the financial problems, even the Government is not in condition to provide the sufficient finance to purchase the books, periodicals, other reading material, furniture, fixture. In this situation we do not think that the public libraries of MP will able to attain the sophisticated material and service for their readers. One most effective reason of this is the Public Library Act, which is still lingering on some uncertainty.
62. **SUGGESTIONS:**

After the completing the study it has been found that the Public Libraries in Madhya Pradesh are not working as they suppose to be. The reasons of this is the Government not giving importance to the libraries. The research scholar is would like to take the opportunity to give some suggestion for proper and rapid improvement of public libraries in Madhya Pradesh. The suggestions invited from the librarians in reference to the questionnaire sent to them for improvement of the public library services in Madhya Pradesh with regard to the library staff, building, furniture, and equipment's, finance and book collection etc, have also been kept in the mind while giving the suggestions. These suggestions are:

621. **LIBRARY BUILDING:**

- There should be separate library building constructed and based on the modular plan.

- The existing library building are not sufficient to accommodate all library sections, and therefore additional space should be provided.

622. **LIBRARY STAFF:**

- The most of the post such as Deputy Librarian, Regional Librarian, District Librarian etc. are lying
vacant. So it is suggested that the selection and promotion procedure should be streamlined.

- Library staff should be provided in all libraries according to the staff formula recommended by library advisory committee.

- Library staff should be provided on the basis of number of volumes added per year, number of reader served per year, and number of books issued per day opening hours of the library. For this purpose library statistics should be collected.

- The trained staff members should be deputed to participate in library seminars and workshops inside and outside the state. The orientation programmes should also be organised from time to time in the state.

- Old unserviceable books should be weeded out from the stock from time to time. For this purpose Department of education should lay down a comprehensive policy.

- The pay scales should be revised at par with the teaching staff. The promotion opportunities should be provided at least three times in the whole period of the service.
The librarian should be given necessary powers for supervising the activities of libraries including financial powers.

- The librarian should not be held responsible for loss of books every year, except in cases of personal negligence of duty.

623. FINANCE:

- Almost all librarians suggested that the funds released to the libraries are inadequate. Some have suggested that one lakh rupees should be provided for books, periodicals and magazines only.

- It has been suggested that budget heads for furniture and equipment's should be separated with increased grant, and a separate budget head for binding should be provided.

- There should be either a separate budget for a children section or the budget of the books and periodicals should be increased to meet out this contingency.

624. FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT:

- Furniture is very old and inadequate in all the libraries. The issue counter, book shelves, catalogues cabinets etc.
should be provided and the old reading tables, chairs etc. should be repaired and new ones should be provided.

- The audio-visual aids should be provided in all libraries.

- The mobile van for libraries should be provided for the services in the rural areas.

625. **BOOK COLLECTION**:

- The reference books are inadequate in all the libraries. As such, some important latest reference tools should be provided.

- The other general collection of books is also very poor. The latest publications should be provided as per the demand of the readers.

- Children literature should also be provided in all libraries.

626. **LIBRARY LEGISLATION**:

- Every librarian has stressed upon the enactment of the library legislation in Madhya Pradesh.
It is advised that the above suggestions/recommendations from the librarians of the state should be considered favorably for a speedier implementation.

627. COMPUTER & NETWORKING:

It has been suggested that the Public Libraries in Madhya Pradesh first adopt the automation in their libraries and make their approach to build and proper network as model given in this study.

Recently State Government has announced that the M.P. is now going to get the INTERNET facility through Department of Telecommunication. It is suggested that if the above given network model become functional, the members of the public libraries of Madhya Pradesh, can take the advantages of networking.

It has also been suggested that the network of the public libraries of Madhya Pradesh could be established with the help of I-NET. The I-NET is the network exhaustively dedicated for general information transfer. The facility are being provided by this network can also be utilise for connecting the various Public Libraries of Madhya Pradesh. This network perform functions or connect destinations with telecommunication lines, and most of the Regional, Division, District, Tehsil Public Libraries can get the telephone connection or already having the telephone connection.