CHAPTER VII

Findings,
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7.1. Introduction

This chapter provides a summary of the Findings and conclusions that emerge from the study of research and also gives the recommendations. The investigation has been designed and carried out to use the analysis of village communities as a basis for planning rural library and information services. In the absence of rural libraries, the basis for planning is information services. The basic premises of the study are two fold.

- First, the village communities are not considered as an element in planning for the library organization and services.
- Second, the political leaders, development planners, administrators and the library profession also do not appreciate the multi-faced role of the public library as a center for information and guidance, a catalytic agent of social change, an interpreter of community needs, a forum for social and cultural life, an agent of extension work, etc. in the development process. This is the reason why the rural libraries do not exist in the District and this is also because of the lack of Local Library Policy in the State.
There is hardly any need to justify the importance of an information system in the progress of mankind. The importance of information system can be seen from the disparities, inequalities, imbalances among different societies, communities and regions.

With this background, the present study has been taken to put a systematic enquiry about the role of Information System in the progress of rural mankind in the absence of Rural Library and Information System.

The progress of human being largely depends upon the level of utilization of man and material resources. In a nutshell, the study has been designed to see the impact of an information system on utilization of available man, land and animal resources as there are no Rural Library and Information Services available in the region.

This is a convenient summary of major findings and conclusions presented at one point; and gives added emphasis to some observations; and some issues are further clarified.

All the villages surveyed are basically agrarian communities, with an unusual percentage of salaried employees and laborers in organized sector. Agriculture and allied occupations are the dominant features of the economy.
The villages have provision of public services like education, health care, extension services in the field of agriculture, women welfare etc. They are traditional communities with an inward looking of bent of mind, which are of utilitarian value. Illiteracy is a striking feature of the village communities. People earn livelihood through the performance of manual labour. Under employment or unemployment, social and economic inequality and segregation are widely prevalent in the villages. It has a strong oral tradition for communication of information, knowledge and practical phenomenon.

People have strong bonds of corporate identity in the form of caste group affiliations. There are groups with several denominations like that of caste, occupations such as cultivation, agricultural labour, petty trade, marketing of fruits, animal husbandry and dairy development in the villages. The voluntary organizations are also working for the improvement of the lives of the villages such as social welfare, in the promotion of the interests of farmers, women and caste groups etc. People gather at weekly fairs or haats and celebration of religious festivals. There are informal leaders for several caste groups and political leaders in the village. These are basic facts and features about the village communities.
7.2. Finding I

There are a number of studies, which have highlighted the importance of one or the other components of information system with respect to development of mankind. But none of the studies has covered the Rural Information System in an integrated way and its impact on the developmental aspects and issues. This lacuna may be because of non-availability of the desired data for different levels of hierarchies.

7.3. Finding II

On the basis of the data presented in the table 6.2 and 6.6 it has been found that there is positive correlation between the Rural Information System and exploring the human resources. Particularly TV has played a very important role in dissemination of useful information to the users. It is found that the income of the persons, who view TV have been successful in raising their income.

7.4. Finding III

On the basis of the data presented in table 6.6, it is found that the information system at Block level in Muranipur and Gursarai is higher when compared with other Blocks. The percentage of families
in higher income groups in these Blocks is maximum. Thus we can understand that the information system available at Block level has also a great impact on utilization of human resources.

7.5. Finding IV

Higher the information and higher they explore the land and animal resources. From the tables 6.4 and 6.5, it is clear that information system plays a very pivotal and effective role in disseminating the modern thoughts and practices as experienced by the researchers and extension workers to the rural masses. The percentage of farmers having knowledge of artificial insemination technology and knowledge of improved agricultural technology, is higher in case of those who have access to TV, radio and use other information gazettes.

They got more knowledge in new farming methods, new seeds, fertilizers, timely planting, irrigation, manuring and harvesting. Educated farmers listened to radio regularly and read agricultural items in the newspapers. Many of the young farmers saw films shown by voluntary organizations and attended agricultural lectures. Some of them said that they applied new techniques in the field and thus increased production. Thus we could prove the hypothesis that the agricultural techniques and production have improved by having
access to TV, radio, newspapers, magazines, having awareness of Internet and using other information media.

7.6. Finding V

The information system has a significant role in utilizing the land resources. Cropped area is an indicator for better utilization of land resources. The percentage of families having higher percentage of cropped area to total owned area is higher in the case of Mauranipur, Badagaon. Information system is strong in both the Blocks. The percentage of families having better information system is aware of modern farm technologies.

On the basis of these findings one can recommend a complete structure for rural information system apart from the traditional library system; around which all the developmental programmes can be located.

7.7. Recommendations

In the context of the problems that are found in the Third World Countries, the library should become a source of information for making useful decisions.
We are aware of the information explosion and information culture. It has been pointed out, "Information is an important element in problem solving and gainful decision-making, as well as in promoting innovative and creative activities at all levels. Information is also a prerequisite to technology transfer as well as to the general education of each individual. It contributes to human development and to the improvement of the quality of life as a whole." It is also noted that information "has clearly not yet made its entry in the developing world as a major objective, and still plays a minor role in the general flow of communication." Furthermore, it is reported, "For instance, in most developing countries, information facilities and services are concentrated in urban areas, whereas rural areas are practically without such facilities."

The major recommendation is that the local Government should actively take part in establishing rural libraries to work as community based centers for 'information culture'. Its role as a center for information is a crucial factor for the development of the community. It delivers relevant information through appropriate methods to the concerned or target groups of people. It collects and interprets the information needs of the community for the research institutes and agents that generate information.

Thus, the library sends down information to the community, and sends up the information needs of the community for the guidance of
research institutes and agencies that produce information. The library, with its traditional concern and skills for preservation and distribution of knowledge, is the most appropriate agency to function as a buckle to unite the community and information agents.

**Importance of Rural Library and Information System**

The importance of rural library and information system can be understood by reshaping itself as a community based information centre.

The concept of information has assumed critical importance in the modern society. Its value in enhancing problem solving capacity of the individual and community is widely acknowledged. Library can no longer neglect the task of information dissemination.

One of the major problems of developing societies is the lack of relevant information, and low utilization of information in the resolution of problems. Library has a vital capacity to stimulate the generation of relevant information, and also proper utilization of information. This is true, because the library has intimate knowledge about the communities, and its information needs.
The library is indeed the most appropriate body, to deliver information to the rural people, who are in the need of information. Rural areas do not have source of information. The lack of resources and skills, high density of population, the burden of traditional beliefs, and social and economic structures, of rural areas compound the need for information. Yet information sources do not reach and function in rural areas. The library may step into this vacuum, and provide information to the rural people.

The traditional library services failed to work in the Third world countries. This is not due to the fault of library profession. The community does not have skills and value orientation to use the library services. The library cannot ignore the socio-economic and cultural environment, in which it is operating. The library profession has a responsibility to develop appropriate and responsive services to serve the rural communities.

A substantial majority of people in Third world countries does not use the library; they do not have awareness of the concept that library services could be useful to them. Most of them are unable to use the traditional library services.

It has been attested by the findings of several studies that those who do not use the library usually comprise the lower strata of the society. They are poor and less educated people and more often in the Third
World, they are uneducated people, and are socially and economically deprived groups.

They have low self-esteem and ability to learn and use new ideas. They need library services most to resolve their day-to-day life problems. But, the library services should be delivered to them in the form of information dissemination. They need information for survival.

The goals of the library could be partly derived from the premises of the information needs of the community, and also the daily life needs of the people. It is essential that some of the goals of the library should be based on the tangible information needs of the society and people.

All these contribute to the idea, that a rural library should reorder itself as a community based information center, which can be possible with the efforts of the Government.

A Rural information centre as an information and referral service centre.

In the Third World countries, the library’s public does not read books. They are interested in gathering discrete units of information

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that will directly help them to solve their problems, or improve their ability to solve problems.

Therefore, the library should become a centre for dissemination of information. We may look at this function of the library, as active agent to delivered library services to those persons, who do not use the library otherwise.

The library and information centre should undertake the Information and Referral services on a regular basis. This is an urgent task for the libraries in the Third World countries.

People require information to solve a variety of problems related to their work and daily life. They need information about agriculture, health and child care, housing, food and nutrition, family welfare, animal husbandry and dairy development, training programmes for employment, credit and marketing, special assistance programmes for socially and economically deprived groups cottage and village industries, etc. These are problems that are faced by people in their daily life situation.

The Departments of Government have rich information, and the citizens do not know relevant information about these welfare programmes of the government. People also do not have access to the government agencies. The rules and regulations, and the procedural
processes of the government agencies are complex, and the citizens have reasons to develop a feeling of alienation to the governmental agencies.

The library and information centre could function as a coordinating agency for the departments of the government to the citizens. It could guide and direct citizens to the appropriate agencies, and help them in resolving their problems.

The library may do all this through an active method of Information and Referral services in full-fledged form. The library will achieve a variety of objectives, by implementing Information and Referral service programme. It will disseminate useful information to the citizens, and thus promote the concept of equal opportunity for citizens in making correct decisions.

The disadvantage of lack of right type of information about opportunities to acquire basic conditions of life, and policies of the government, which continues to be the chief drawback of the socially and economically deprived groups, will be reduced to large extent. This is a remarkable gain for the poor people. The library and information service centre will be able to bring citizens with specific problems, and the appropriate agencies of the government together.
This will contribute to the improved performance of the government. The library and information centre will strengthen the base of political order, by promoting an increased understanding of the role of the government and problems of the citizens. It could be an instrument to direct the course of social and economic development. Information about the programmes of the government will help citizens, and also the State implement policies of the government more effectively. Thus the library will promote the interests of the citizens and the State.

In the Third World countries, the library and information centre should function as a coordinating and information agent for the governmental agencies, and render Information and Referral services to the citizens.

The information centre may step into the controversial role of changing the values and culture of the society. Again, in the Third World countries, the library and information centre should play an active role in changing the traditional belief pattern of the people. There is need to encourage people to accept secular values and outlook.

This concept of library service aims to reach and serve the whole rural communities, including the uneducated and unmotivated persons to use the information services. It requires that the library
profession should be committed to its task of serving community. It should be inextricably involved in the daily life needs and should be an integral part of the community life. It is responsive and accountable to the needs and requirements of the community. It seeks to reach and serve the whole community.

The information needs of the community as well as that of the individual’s needs should be met by the information centre. The planning and programming of library and information services will be based on the requirements of the users. Information services and programmes will be derived from an analysis of the needs of the community.

**Important aids of Information service**

Audio-visual aids should be extensively used in the delivery of information services. The visual media is an effective instrument to reach the rural people, and also to convey new ideas and practices related to the community and daily life needs of the people.

The visual graphic media will have an appeal to the people, and have an enduring impression on the minds of rural people. It has been observed, “Modern technology such as television, video-tapes
provides the possibility of disseminating information to remote rural locations in developing countries.

What is needed is a relatively less sophisticated approach to the information infrastructure development in the developing countries. The need for appropriate training to create a nucleus of skilled professionals responsible for handling of the new technology in each country is crucial.

The Information centre should address services to groups of people. Group services become a significant part of the librarianship. Services like library displays, exhibits, lectures and discussions, demonstrations, folk-arts; music concerts, etc. are addressed to groups of people.

Services to special groups like women, children, old people, scheduled castes, farmers etc. may be developed to solve the special problems of each group, and delivered to them. The information centre should render assistance to the various community organizations in conducting their programmes.

We have many voluntary associations and NGOs in the villages. The information centre can collaborate with these organizations in delivering information services. Caste associations are very useful bodies in motivating people to avail the information services.
The informal and influential leadership of the village community also could be utilized in presenting and information services. It is found that people prefer to contact their neighbours, friends, relatives, etc. for information, than rely on recorded source of data. This is especially true in rural communities. Person to person communication, or communication of one person with many people, is an effective method of communication.

It is reported that opinion leaders of the village community like, the teachers, caste leaders, shopkeepers, etc. are very effective channels to communicate new ideas to the people. Audio-visual communication channels appear to have greater effect on the people when they are combined with discussions and person-to-person communication. These are basic features of the behaviour of people in rural areas, when they encounter new ideas.

The Information centre should use opinion leaders and other persons in delivering information services to the community. It could also utilize the several caste associations and service organizations in promoting library and information services.
7.8. Conclusion

In conclusion, we may venture to suggest that the development of community based information service centres is not an exclusive concern of the local government. The government should accept this concept and give necessary support for establishing the rural library and information service centers in the region.

The government must cooperate to provide responsive information services to the rural public. The informal leaders, and those who hold positions of authority in the village communities' power structure should help in the establishment of Information centers in accomplishing their goals.

The government should identify the information centres as vital elements in the promotion of socio-economic and cultural development of the society and promote to implement a Local Library Policy for establishing Rural Library and Information centers all over the State.

The dynamic role and multi-faceted functions of the public library in modern society are crucial in strengthening the base of political system. It also contributes to the effectiveness of the governmental performance.
Therefore, the government should make adequate budget allocations to build up a network of efficient public library system. The science and technology policy of the government should give priority for the production of audio-visual aids and to build up a communication system for dissemination of information especially in rural areas. The support and cooperation of the government and village communities are essential for the development of community based library and information/services.