CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION
CHAPTER - I
INTRODUCTION

1.1-Rural Libraries:

India is a country consisting of 627000 Villages (1991-census) 240,000 of them do not have proper roads, 18,000 do not have primary schools 450,000 have drinking water problem, 1,40,000 have no proper dwelling facility. 74.3% of India's population live in the rural areas, sizeable number of them are tribes almost the entire Indian population living below the poverty line in remote villages because they do not have proper education, health, employment facilities because of lack of schools, libraries and primary health centers etc.

There are nearly 1,20,000 panchayats in India and they could play a major role in introducing library facilities to their people. According to Raja ram Mohan Roy library foundation, we have 60,000 public libraries in our country we have more than 4,00,000 school libraries according to NCERT survey most of them are in rural areas which can function as public libraries where an information facilitation center can be established.
It is necessary and important to define rural Library from its organization and functional point of view. Its objectives, status, available resources, user groups have to be outlined and surveyed in order to make it meaningful and effective in the contemporary social conditions.

A public library in a village has an important role to play in the national programs of social reconstruction and nation building. Libraries are centers not for revolution but for change, which could eventually bring us to a more equitable and integrated society. The Library service must enrich the aspects of living and reach persons of all age groups and occupations helping them to become balanced integrated and satisfied individuals and valuable citizens. Public library contributes to sustain the quality of life in all its aspects educational, economic, industrial, scientific and cultural and to promote the concept of a democratic society in which equal opportunity exists for all to develop in to true citizens with whole and balanced personalities leading to an increasing in the sum total of man's happiness and his environment. The contribution is effected through the public libraries as a multipurpose information, education, and culture agency.

Rural people are less educated, and they are not aware of the utility of the library in their lives. In fact, they are not familiar with the
library as a social agency. Therefore, it is suggested that programs may be offered, to lure people in to the library. These programs may have to be based on the use of audio-visual aids, and chiefly presented in the form of cultural and recreational activities. Rural people earn their livelihood by hard physical labour. It is remarked, it is quite obvious that occupations that involve long hours shift work and difficult condition will work against people finding the time, energy or motivation to search for information, education or recreation through reading. Books may well be only graphic input registered; rural citizens have several situational and human handicaps that will not help them to use library services. Therefore, the problem of rural services deserves greater attention, and people in rural areas need better and more responsive library services.

1.2 Information for Development.

In this age of information explosion, the organization and management of all human activities depend upon the communication and dissemination of information through proper channels. In the developed countries, information is termed as the multiplier of development. It is imperative to evolve an effective and efficient rural community Information system characterizing the integrated approach. Rural information system is a prerequisite to planning and management of any development program.
The planners and administrators need accurate and specific information related to the needs and aspirations of the people as well as the resources available with the former. Only then rural people can derive the maximum benefits from the socio-economic community development programs.

In the absence of an effective and efficient Rural Information system for the development plans and programs, there is a fair chance of the resources going waste or under utilized, where as the people and the areas around them might not be having adequate facilities and services for the development.

Information is considered to be a resource or an asset. It is deemed to be an asset either as a body of factual knowledge, or as a series of acts endowed with response potential, leading to adaptive behavior. It is essential for the progress of the individual and national development. This is why access to right kind of information or possession of correct and relevant information is a key to the various types of problems faced by the individuals, and also the nation.

A.J.Evans¹ in his study defined information as "a sensible statement, opinion, fact, concept or idea, or an association of statements,
opinions or ideas," Regarding the necessity to evolve in an efficient and effective rural information system;

Ramesh Chander in his study has observed that for socio economic development, it is vital to disseminate information among the masses about specific aspects of Science and Technology, Agriculture, Health, Family planning etc.

Shahwar\(^2\) says that the primary purpose of information transfer in the context to rural development is to bring about a change in the quality of life.

Seth\(^3\) writes that cybernetic approach is the best option to bridge the development gap between rural and urban India.

Paliwal points that without effective communication; no society can afford to ignore the importance of dynamic mode of development. It is as indispensable as developing rural India, which is afflicted with a feudalistic agrarian system, mass illiteracy, acute social deformity and passive political functioning.

Information gathering for Rural Libraries may be generated by the government and other agencies and also from the experiences and
data available from local surroundings and institutions. The information collected from and for improving the awareness level of the rural people.

According to Arun Ghosh Present condition of the rural Library system may be improved having a Rural Library policy adopted by the central and state Government. Information communication Technologies may play a great role in improving the services since a large section of rural population can not read and write but they need information for their day to day life as well as for the country's overall development.

According to Villanilam rural communication is essentially based on local newspapers and interpersonal communication by the illiterates those become part of the information process.

1.3. Rural Library and Information Services

India is, by and large, a rural country and the village is a basic unit of social, economic and cultural life of the Indian society. It is also a center of political and administrative activity. In spite of the central importance of the village for understanding and planning for development of the Indian society, and of the remarkable progress
of village studies in social science knowledge, the library profession did not study the village communities. In fact, the village has not been considered as a component of library planning and services. On the other hand, the development planners and administrators did not appreciate the multifaceted role of public library as a center for information and guidance, a catalyst agent of social and cultural life, an instrument of extension activities, etc. in development process. The library is not considered as an input factor in the planning and development process.

Public library is of great importance in development programs.

M.Ruthna Swamy in his studies expressed that "Until and unless the ideas of reform - social, cultural, educational, political, sanitary, economic are made available to and incorporated in the lives of the rural folk of India, we can not expect the progress that shall be lasting and secure,"

The Library makes rural life more attractive. It should be equipped with all methods of cultivating intellectual interest so that it may contribute towards the prevention of a wholesale drift from the village to the city. Through books, audio-visual materials and other extension activities, libraries can do spectacular performance in the socio-cultural, educational, economic and political fields. The village
library can enrich the individual times of the villagers as also the corporate life, of the village community.

Donton in his Education for librarianship says "the potentialities of the country is of its free public libraries from the point of view of the sociological significance to the people."

A village unit at present does not have a proper and complete information system for disseminating the policies and programs devised by the planners for rural people. It also does not have an effective and efficient information system to present all the facts and figures about the quality and quantity of the resources available at the village level to the planners.

1.4. Topic of the present study

This study has been carried out to ascertain the present status of Provision and pattern of Rural Library services in Uttar Pradesh with special reference to Jhansi District.

1.5. Objectives.

As regards the importance of rural library and Information services for rural development, the present study has been under taken with the following objectives:

1. To study and review the existing rural library and Information system available in rural areas.
2. To categorize rural library information services available different places study areas.

3. To examine the impact of different categories of information system are:
   Utilization of men and material resources.
   Awareness of development programs and policies among rural people.

4. To examine the problems faced by rural people regarding information.

5. To design and develop the suitable rural library and Information services.

1.6. Hypothesis

To realize the above objectives, the below mentioned hypotheses have been formulated which are as follow:

1. Better Rural library and Information services lead to better utilization of men material resources.

2. The library (Profession) is largely disconnected with the socio-economic and cultural setting of the village community.

3. Better Rural library and Information services have better chances of creating awareness among the rural folk regarding the increased usage of these services
4. Illiterate people are interested in securing information relevant to their occupational and daily life problems. They will use the library if the library services are directed to solve their information needs and problems.

5. The library is not emerging as a vital instrument of socio-economic change.

6. The traditional passive model of library profession, which serves the literate and motivated persons, is not effective in the village.

7. The library system has to be radically altered in order to make it a useful agency and an integral part of the community. A Rural library policy has to be adopted by the central and state Government.

8. The forms of library services, collection and lending of printed materials is not harmonious with the basic features of the village community like illiteracy, manual labour, social deprivation and inequality etc.

1.7. Methodology

This study uses data for a two-purpose information system existing with library and different organization working at the grass root level. The data also relates to the family, utilization of men and
material resources, awareness of different rural development programs and gains achieved etc.

1. Questionnaire Method:
Questionnaire has been designed and administered for the collection of data with simple, open-ended and closed questions.

2. Interview schedule and field survey:
Personal open-ended Interview with field survey in the village was carried out.
The data collected have been analyzed to understand the rural library and Information services available at different places.

The analysis is also to find out the impact of different categories of information system on utilization of men, land, agricultural resources and information gazettes, implementation efficiency, awareness of library and Information services and their utility, awareness of rural development programs and benefits derived by the rural people.

1.8. Sources of Information
To materialize the study, the required information has been collected from a variety of sources, which include libraries of various Institutions and places.
i.e. DELNET.(Development library Network),Delhi.
National Informatics center, Jhansi
Jiwaji University, Gwalior
National Institute of Science communication and Information Resources, Delhi.
Association of Indian Universities, Delhi.
State Institute for panchayats and Rural Development, (SIPRD), Kalyani, W.B.
Bundelkhand University, Jhansi.
Ganesh Shanker Vidyarthi Public Library, Chirgaon, Jhansi.
Ghasiram Vyas public Library, Mauanipur, Jhansi.
Laksmi Brigade Public Library, Nai Basti, Aashik chauraha, Jhansi.
Distrit public Library, ka cheri chauraha, Jhansi.
Published reports, documents pamphlets and other literature issued by —
National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad,
Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation, Block Development Officers and other agencies involved in rural development programs and policies.

1.9. Importance of the study

The study seeks to design, methodology and framework to evolve a suitable Rural Library and Information services for the State of U.P. with special reference to Jhansi District. The study highlights the role of Information among the rural folks and Rural Development.
The study may help the rural people to understand the importance of the utility of library and Information services. It may give a new line of thought to information scientists to reorient their efforts.

1.10. Organization of the study

The thesis is structured in seven chapters.
First - Introduction, Explaining the need of Rural Library and Information services and Functions, Objectives, Scope, Importance of the study, Methodology.
Second - Review of literature on Rural Library and Information Services.
Third - Coverage and Research Methodology.
Fourth - Scenario or Public libraries in U.P. with special reference to rural libraries.
Fifth - Study of Jhansi District for Rural Library and Information services.
Sixth - Analysis, results and Discussion.
Seventh - Findings, Recommendations, Conclusion.
Bibliography
References


2. Shajwar, J. - Information transfer for rural development.
   - Seminar on rural development and communication. - Hyderabad: IIMC, 1979, p. 78-88.
