CHAPTER-1

INTRODUCTION

Libraries have a very basic role to play in selection, collection, organization and dissemination of information about various programmes and other developmental plans and serve their nations providing the constant flow of information to those who need it. Libraries in fact are the indispensable institution for educational and cultural development of all kinds. They support the scientific and technological research and provide essential information, necessary to satisfy the needs of the government, R&D, commerce, industry and the society in general.

In the context of the growth and development of the nations, the organization that is leading for the promotion and support of modern international librarianship and in all respects a major force is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It was established in 1946. The UNESCO has been striving its best to improve the educational standards and sustain cultural heritage of various countries through libraries. It, therefore, developed the pilot Library Projects in selected areas to demonstrate eagerness in satisfying the hunger for knowledge of the people of the concerned areas. It went a step further and convened regional seminars to discuss library problems and to develop a common pattern for library development in those regions. It also set up national documentation centers in some countries to give specialized library services in the field of natural sciences and also in technologies. India has got the unique distinction and opportunity of having been selected for all
these library projects by UNESCO. Indeed India is the first country in Asia to establish the pilot library project and the national documentation center through the financial and technical assistance of UNESCO.

Delhi Public Library (DPL) was established in 1951 as a public library pilot project, to provide public library services for the people of Delhi. It served as a model for all public library development in India and in all other countries where similar development of public libraries was envisaged. Today, it operates on a vast scale, as a Metropolitan Public Library with the network of branches, sub-branches, mobile libraries, prison and hospital services. It has organized the collection to satisfy the needs of the multilingual community. The DPL project has provided a service which meets a very large pent-up demand for reading, and caters to a very deeply felt need of the people.

Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC) now changed to NISCAIR is recognized as one of the premier national documentation centers in the Country. This is the second project sponsored by UNESCO. The pattern of UNESCO assistance has been in the form of a provision of experts, fellowships and equipments for the centre. Since its inception its growth and development is multidimensional. It had introduced several technical services and its library is known as National Science Library. Its services are utilized throughout the country by the community of scientists, researchers and subject specialists. UNESCO being the specialized agency of United Nations is responsible for promotion of education, science, communication and culture as well in promoting the library and information
science, scientific documentation in its member countries throughout the world. It contributes through implementation of the various policy formation in development work, grants, training programmes, seminars, pilot projects, growth and development of library and information services. This has benefited the catalyst action, technical assistance, field mission experts standardization, training, promoting computer application and establishment of regional projects. Therefore, role of UNESCO in the growth and development of libraries, information services, and documentation and archives services in developing countries has been quite extensive. India, being one of the founder number of UNESCO and belonging to the category of developing countries has been a beneficiary from UNESCO not only in the field of education, culture, science, communication but also in the field of library science, librarianship and documentation activities. The details of success achieved in the development of library and documentation services in India vis-à-vis the role of UNESCO is the theme of this thesis.

During the past decades UNESCO has built up an extensive record of specialized programme activities in public library service, librarianship and allied fields, showing success in some areas and slow progress in others. These records are to be assembled, explored and examined and to be assessed in terms of its historical significance. Apart from some topical articles and a few sketchy overviews, the subject of UNESCO's contribution to the library service and librarianship has not been dealt with and it is still most prominent aspect of the organizations spectrum of activities. In order to partially remedy this situation, this study has been undertaken.
1.1 Objectives of the Study

The following are the major objectives of the presented study.

1. To examine the active support of UNESCO in the context of reorganization the library services in India. Keeping in view the changing policies and programmes of UNESCO in the promotion of library and information services in the developing countries.

2. To evaluate the impact of UNESCO’s assistance in library development in India.

3. To evaluate book promotion programme of UNESCO and digitization of print publications, manuscripts and also out of print publications.

4. To review the work of field mission experts assigned to this country as agents of library education and scientific documentation by UNESCO.

5. To evaluate the UNESCO contribution in developing the public library system of the country.

6. To assess the involvement of UNESCO in the fields other than the S&T documentation in India.

7. To evaluate the role of UNESCO in growth and development of libraries and documentation centers in a developing country like India.

8. To know the results of the already sponsored programmes and to review them in the light of the emerging technologies.

1.2 Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is confined to India only and the period covered is up to 2005 since its independence. The main purpose of
this study is to examine as to how and to what extent UNESCO has influenced and helped India in the development of libraries and documentation centers.

1.3 Relevance of the Study

Study of this kind goes a long way in giving new directions and new dimension to the field of activity. The relevance of the study has been examined in relation to the global developments in the field of library information science, more so the effect on information technology and library automation.

1.4 Uniqueness of the Study

Evaluative study has not yet been made with regard to UNESCO’s contribution to India in the context of present day requirements of the Sub-Continent, more so in the changed technological scenario in telecommunication through satellites, electronic mail and networking. The study is not only descriptive but also analytical and critical in some cases of what has been done and what more can be drawn from the lessons learnt, for future planning and development. The uniqueness of the study lies in its objectives, scope and findings of research. In addition, the outcome of this study will enable the planners to prepare the appropriate strategy for projecting the library and information centres suitably in the information society.

1.5 Hypothesis

1. The contribution of UNESCO in the establishment of library and information infrastructure in India has more in the initial Phase of the development of the country after independence
2. The involvement of UNESCO in the overall development of library and information services in the country could not be sustained due to the shifting in the priorities of the nation.

3. UNESCO initiative for development of Library and information science education and training institution in India, particularly with the application of IT is not adequate as is apparent in the ease of other developing and under developing countries in the world.

4. UNESCO took major initiative in eradication of adult illiteracy by making available the reading materials in Indian languages.

1.6 Methodology

The role of UNESCO in the development of library and information services in India since its establishment in 1946, has been of paramount significance in establishing and improving the library activities in India. The assistance provided by UNESCO in the promotion of library activities and services has been primarily in the form of financial assistance, manpower development through study-cum-training programme in developing countries of the World, library science education and training, bibliographical activities, establishment of public library at Delhi as a Pilot project are the areas where India has reaped large scale benefit. It is appear that Changing emphasis on various fields of activities has in a way restricted the continuation and enhancement of UNESCO help to India in the library and information services. The impact of initial assistance support provided by UNESCO is not seriously analyses and published so far both in the form of comprehensive document explaining some sporadic using here and there. There is a visible paucity of literature on this aspect. It is thus necessary to
make a comprehensive study and research on this area so that the actual situation can be gauged. The present study is outcome of this effort.

The research design for the study includes the planning and implementation of the plan of action with the formulation of a hypothesis for the purpose and listing it. The plan included the survey of the available literature both in the form of periodical articles, monographs, books and other documents generated as reports and studies by UNESCO. Since the depository libraries of the Indian National Commission (INC), UNESCO mission did not keep the grey literature brought out by UNESCO from time to time, the reliance was primarily on the literature available in published journal and books in most cases. The implementation of the research proposal was done by preparing for a comprehensive bibliography of all the documents followed by the consultation of the documents as are available in different libraries in Delhi and other University and research libraries in India.

The methodology adopted for the study is primarily historical method of research. Wherever necessary important personality/senior professionals connected with UNESCO activities and also knowledge on this object were interviewed during the course of the study. However, no structured questionnaire was designed for the purpose. The important and knowledgeable persons contacted for the study include Mr. Prem Kripal, former secretary, Ministry of Educational and Culture, Government of India and Chairman, General conference of UNESCO who was associated with UNESCO for more than 20 years, Prof. D.R.Kalia, the first Director, of Delhi public Library, 1951 and later adviser to
the Government of India on library matters who were consulted profusely. Prof. D.R. Kalia had a rich and varied experience in serving as Librarian, National Library of India, Central Secretariat library, New Delhi and also as UNESCO consultant on library matters to various countries like IRAQ, IRAN and Africa. Prof. A Neelameghan, former Programmer Director of PGI and Chairman UNISIST, Shri S. Parthasarathy former Scientist in-Charge, INSDOC, and an expert in the field of scientific and technical documentation and Prof. Jogesh Atal, former consultant in the Social Science Division of UNESCO were also interviewed for the purpose of this study.

The literature were studied thoroughly the analysis of which have been provided in various sections of the thesis. Similarly the views expressed by the experts on the subject and connected with UNESCO's programme and planning have been incorporated in the thesis. Thus the methodology adopted uses historical method and oral history where ever possible. The statistical data available for different types of libraries have been presented in tabular form and diagramatically presentations with a view to observe arrive at the trends of development in the library and information services and library science education and training in India.

1.7 Documentary Sources

To establish basic facts and events and to justify the formulated objectives, search for the documentary sources from all the libraries and information centers connected with UNESCO have been made. In fact, original UNESCO documents were being the primary sources for this study. Among the official records, the
proceedings of the sessions of the General Conference, the reports of the UNESCO Director General, the programme and the budget for the years covered and the records of the meetings of the Executive Board and its Committees provided the basic information from which a sequence of events and a time frame for organizational developments has been examined.

1.8 List of Libraries and Documentation Centers

All UNESCO depository libraries, University libraries, CSL, ISI, UNO, UNDP, CSO, National Library (Kolkata), DPL, Connemara Public Library, Chennai, Central Library BHU, Tagore Library, University of Lucknow, Mysore University Library, University of Bombay Library, SNDT Women’s University Library, Mumbai, Jayakar Library, University of Pune, Hans Mehta Library, M. S. University Baroda, University of Calcutta Library, Jadavpur University Library, Central Library, The University of Burdwan, Punjab University library Chandigarh and others were consulted for reviewing the literature. The UNESCO's library, Archives and documentations (DIT/IR), UNESCO Headquarter, Paris, University of London library, London, BLISS, (library Association), London and Regional Office of Science and Technology for South and Central Asia, New Delhi has been very much helpful in obtaining the relevant data for the purpose of the study.

1.9 Discussion and Interview

To get first hand knowledge of both the existing and expected information on infrastructures, interview and discussions with the past and present Directors of the Public Library Pilot projects as
well as documentation centers such as INSDOC (Delhi), and other former Heads of Projects, UNESCO field mission experts and the selected community of users have been thoroughly conducted. This could help in strategic planning and designing the practically feasible and possible suggestions.

1.10 Survey and Analysis

In addition to the above-mentioned methods and approaches, considerable amount of efforts were made to collect the relevant data. Suitable statistical and computational methods and techniques have been applied to analyze the data. Apart from this the print sources highlighting the activities and programmes of UNESCO was referred to a considerable extent to prepare this thesis. It is hoped that the observations and the planned conclusion will be ably reflecting the existing state of the art of UNESCO sponsored programmes with reference to Indian Library development and also to gives the direction to reorganize, restructure and reorient the future programmes.

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