CHAPTER - IX

CONCLUSION.

9.1 Summary and Suggestion

9.2 Questioner Schedule (Appendix)

9.3 Glossary

9.4 Bibliography.
Library administration is an integral part of educational administration. Education and library are interrelated and interdependent on each other. Classroom and laboratory teaching has to be supplemented by library work. Various Committees, Commissions, and noted educationists are of the opinion that more emphasis should be given to tutorial classes, group discussions, seminars, symposium, refresher courses, study tours, and educational excursion programmes rather than traditional lecturing in the classroom, which means greater emphasis on the importance of library in the modern educational system.

Library administration in Assam, so long has not been considered important for study and research. But the fact remains that the success of democracy depends on the proper education of the people. Liberation of man from the chains of ignorance is the function of education. Education is the mental medicine for all mental maladies. It cuts the roo-
ts of ignorance. Education generates confidence. It infuses courage of conviction. It makes man, a full man, a complete man, and proper and full education is possible only when oriented to a properly administered library system. Of late, the government has introduced some institutions, so that, the people may improve themselves. But the steps so far taken and the policies adopted are not at all satisfactory so far as library organisation and administration are concerned. This is due to the fact that the people are not interested in this matter. There are, libraries of different categories at different levels but most of them are not adequately equipped with either materials or personnel with technical know-how. It has been observed that it is not only due to the lethargy of the department concerned, but also due to the indolence and indifference of the library users. This attitude towards the library has aggravated the problems of library administration. Unfortunately, nobody seems to take any very great interest in the library development.

The village public libraries are the only means of mass media of self education to the rural community. The control, care, organisation and management of the libraries are in the hands of some voluntary organisations which are very much neglected by the organisers themselves and the concerning authority of the government as a result of which they fail to serve their very objectives. These libraries are managed by untrained librarians for the benefit of the people, who believe that a library has no role to play for the prog-
Public libraries such as sub-divisional, district, and Gram Panchayat libraries are functioning under the direct control and management of the Directorate of Library Services, Assam. These libraries are not adequate to meet the increasing demand of the users. Inadequate provision for building and library resources, untrained and unqualified personnel, low salary scale and improper organisation are the hindrances for development of these libraries. The State Central library has failed to serve its purpose. Better organisation, management, and services are very much expected from the principal institution of the state.

School education which shapes the basic foundation of a child's future life, has no provision in curriculum for library education. In elementary, secondary, and even in Higher Secondary Schools of Assam there is practically no provision for library education. Even Universities and Colleges, both technical and general, have libraries which are poorly managed. Not to speak of school libraries even some college libraries have been running without any qualified and adequate staff. Lack of proper organisation, scanty library resources, diversion of library grants to other heads, lack of proper supervision of the higher authority, submission of false reports and statistics, unrecognised status and low Salary scale of the librarians, inadequate staff, lethargic, antiquarian and negligent attitude of the concerning authori-
ty and the government are the great hindrances for development of college libraries in Assam.

So far as special, industrial, research and technical libraries are concerned the management, control, and organisation are vested upon the parent body of the respective institutions. Due to rigidity of its functioning and bureaucratic attitude of the authority towards the library and its personnel, development of libraries is hampered to a great extent.

The Director of Library Services has been formed for better organisation and management of library service in the State. This is a landmark in the history of library Science in the State of Assam which is expected to justify its constitution by breaking new grounds in the organisation and management of library services of the State.

A well organised library is a foundation of modern educational structure. For the success of any developmental scheme, systematic, planned organisation is very much essential. But it has been observed that the libraries in Assam are not properly organised and well managed. The organisers and the authority seem to be more theoretical than practical. The achievement or development which is shown in official reports and statistics seems to be fictitious. Therefore, the libraries in Assam are to be organised on practical
basis and due emphasis should be given as per need and requirement of the particular locality. It is of course a good sign that the government of Assam have opened a new department as Directorate of Library Services from the year 1984-85. It cannot be predicted how far this department will succeed.

Recruitment of library personnel is an essential factor for development of library. Fruitful result can be expected only from trained and properly qualified personnel. To achieve efficiency and accuracy better organisation and management both preservice and in-service training are required. The Gauhati University introduced both bachelor and master degrees in Library and Information Science to train personnel for this profession. But the institution is not sufficient to fulfil the rising demand of the State. Still at least 30 percent posts remain vacant and 45 percent libraries are functioning with underqualified staff. The government and the respective authorities do not pay heed to the inservice training of the library personnel. It is a matter of disappointment that still the government have been appointing professionally unqualified personnel in the library. The pay scale of trained and qualified librarian is very poor. It is lower than that of an upper Division Assistant of an office whose basic qualification is matriculation or higher secondary standard. The lower grade of University Grants Commission scale of pay has been implemented only in August 1987 after more than 14 years of vacillation. The
latest revision with effect from 1-1-86 has not still been implemented.

Finance is the fuel to run any administrative machinery. The libraries are spending institutions. To offer best services to its clients, to run the library more efficiently and effectively finance is very much essential. As the public Library Act has not been implemented in the state of Assam, levy of library rate is quite impossible. Most of the libraries are run by government grants, membership fees etc, but these grants are not sufficient to run a library in modern form.

Control of library administration is different for different libraries. Government libraries are directly controlled by the government. Technical, special, industrial libraries are controlled by dual authorities that is by the parent body and the concerning department of the government. The village public libraries are controlled by voluntary organisation though these types of libraries receive nominal grants yearly, after fulfilling the required conditions from the department of Social Welfare Board/Adult Education Department.

Library does not mean a store house of books and other readable things, but also the provisions and facilities which are required for study of these things, so that correct habit of reading can be formed and the acquisition of kno-
knowledge becomes possible. It does naturally imply that there is the inevitable necessity of proper management and administration. The administrative aspect of the library has been undergoing substantial changes in different ages and a modern ideal library has been serving the readers better than in the past, with the application of diverse means and techniques. But so far as library administration is concerned, problems of acute type have raised their heads for solution. Library administration in Assam has not obtained a perfect status for want of proper authority or want of materials and technical know-how. The term administration covers all the diverse aspects of the library which go together to make it an ideal institution for mental growth and propagation of knowledge.

Library can furnish the readers with proper reading materials for study and pin-pointed information, so that their minds can have a proper growth. It is the library alone that saves time, money and energy of the readers by supplying them adequate number of books at the proper time. Human civilization, its culture and intellectual development is unthinkable without library.

The modern age is characterised by competition in knowledge, experience and the fitness with which the different forces of nature might be controlled and fruitfully harnessed in the service of man. But all these achievements require a through knowledge of things. So it can be
easily held that an adequate library is the basis upon which the building of an edifice of knowledge is possible. But how far the library system in Assam and its administration have been able to adequately manage the field of study for the readers is yet to be evaluated. The main objective of the library being to spread the spirit and enthusiasm for study, it is time to examine how far library administration in Assam has been able to perform its professional function to the society and the State.

The present trend of education is to consider it as a means of employment, and the proper objectives of study and love of books have been lost. Reading habit should be freed from prejudices and superstitions. To cultivate an atmosphere congenial for study to develop library civics sense, use of library materials etc. user's education is important. It is, therefore, suggested that the members of library should be trained. A short term course, at least for seven days, preferably once in a week should be imparted by a technically qualified personnel. In the school, college and Universities just at the beginning of the session classes should be taken by the professionally qualified personnel or the librarian. Readers will learn to handle books, and not to damage or destroy them by tearing out pages.

Due to the introduction of question bank by the university, and speedy printing of answers to the question bank, students have lost the study habit of, reference
books. Even some students have never seen the text book. This has lend to the problems of copying of malpractices in the examination hall. The department of Education should take proper steps to stop this habit of neglecting the library, which will destroy the objective of the library.

For all this a substantial change is necessary and the whole organisational and administrative structure of the library is to be reviewed. It is, therefore, suggested that library going and reading habits are to be encouraged among the children right at the lower primary level.

In every educational institution up to the High School level an institutional library is to be set up under the direct control of the Head of the Institution. A separate library staff or at least a trained teacher with attractive remuneration should be provided for this purpose. The scheme of free supply of text books to the students from pre-primary to the Class VII level will incur huge amount of money. But a text book library with the book supplied by the government can minimise the cost. These books issued to the students through the institutional library for the year will have to be returned before the examination result for use by the next batch of students in time. It is suggested that this saving be utilised by the government for providing at least a library staff in every educational institution.

A compulsory paper containing hundred marks is to be introduced on library education in the High School stage, to be taught by the librarian and the trained teacher of the school. At the same time in the teacher training ins-
Institutions a compulsory paper, both theory and practice, is to be introduced for library education. After completion of the course, the teacher shall teach the subject in the school. Such trained teacher shall be incharge of the library till a full-fledged librarian is appointed. Basic training schools will arrange imparting training to the teacher of elementary stage, and B.Ed. or B.T. Colleges for Secondary stage. Besides, a certificate course is to be introduced through the State Politechnique Institutions. The practical classes will be arranged either in nearby college or the District or Sub-divisional libraries whichever is convenient.

In the Degree level there should be provision for library education in the newly introduced courses of Foundation Course, to be taught by the librarian of the College.

Libraries serve the society in the widest sense. Successful library administration and service depend directly on the attitude of the people. Consciousness and care must be cultivated among people of all levels and age groups. Library going and reading habit is to be formed from early childhood. Besides, the library expansion system should not end at the District or Sub-divisional level, rather it should be extended to Circle, Block, Gaonpanchayat and village level. The proposed extension of library to the village level will require fulfilment of financial and equipment demands, which can be met with subscription, fees, donation and government grants. Of course, those who are
unable to pay, should have free supply of books with the prescribed rules for taking and returning of books etc., being applicable to all. In order to encourage the readers there might be some provisions of rewarding the best readers. To attract the readers to the library debates, seminars and discussions may be arranged.

The college librarians have been granted University Grants Commission scale of pay and they have also been recognised as teaching members of the staff. But mere granting of the scale of pay does not make a librarian a teacher. Effective measures should be adopted to make the librarian's status equal to the College teachers. In most cases, either the Principal or the Governing Body is the vital point in managing the library. The librarian's business being simply to keep records of books issued and returned. He is not supposed to know anything about grants and purchase of books and other materials of the library. Measures should be adopted by the government for giving the librarian a free hand in the administration of the library.

In some College library grants are diverted in the most callous manner. Even U.G.C. buildings are used for some other purposes. What is most disheartening is that neither the teachers nor the students even care a fraud for the inconvenience due to such irregularities. The Directorate should formulate uniform library rules and
policy for management and administration for all categories of libraries in the State. It is, therefore, proposed that, in the Directorate of Elementary, Secondary, Higher and Technical education, a separate wing for library administration is to be set up with professionally qualified personnel. The person should not be below the rank of Deputy Director or Joint Director which will exclusively deal with library matters in respective institution under the jurisdiction of the Directorate.

For greater academic achievements in the country the U.G.C. have introduced grade scale of pay to the College and University librarian, but the University authorities have not yet implemented the scheme. The low pay structure will not encourage the placing of the right persons in the right place. It is, therefore, urged that the University authorities should implement the U.G.C. scale of pay to all professional staff of the library, without further delay.

The habit of going to the library is rather an exception than a rule among our students. It is, because of the fact that the students coming from remote places never see any example of study by the Yelders nor are there any kind of facilities for the same. Therefore, attempt should be made to encourage students to study library books through demonstration methods, so that the students develop interest for library books in future. The school authority should provide possible facilities for spreading the habit of study among the school students. College students can improve in
study only when they imbibe the habit of study from the School level.

The government, University and the U.G.C. are not providing fellowship or financial assistance for advanced study and research to the working professional staff, as is done in the case of the teachers of the University and the Colleges. It is, therefore, urged that the scheme should be extended to the professionally qualified staff of the library. The formation of the habit of study can grow only when there is provision for holding seminars, group discussions and tutorial classes. These are to be arranged by different departments but so far this has been very badly neglected in our educational institutions. In most of the colleges of Assam, seminars etc. have not been considered to be of any value. The most important role to be played in this direction must be initiated by the teachers of the colleges. If the teachers of the colleges arrange subject-wise seminars etc. and give due importance to rendering of library books, automatically, the students will be motivated to use library books.

Another important thing to be noted is that there is no state level Cataloguing of Assamese books or books published in the State. A uniform cataloguing can help the process of inter-library loan system in the State. But this important thing should be properly done by the Directorate of Library Services, Assam. This will also help the readers in having comprehensive picture of the books. It is regrettable that there is no initiative in this line on the part of the
government, and the Department of Education or the Directorate of Library Services. The Directorate of Library Services should enact necessary laws, so that manuscript of every book to be published should be submitted to the Directorate, who will fix the price of the book and suggest improvements for benefit of book trade and readers in the State. Book trade in Assam has been suffering a great deal as it has been controlled by the Publishers. Common people cannot afford to buy a book or a magazine for their personal use, due to the high price. So, it is expected that the trade itself should be brought under the direct control of the Directorate, and unscrupulous publishers should be brought to block or banned from the trade.

Library must be considered as an independent institution which has to play a vital role in lending the people, in academic, intellectual, and pragmatic aspects of life. It is one of the best possible sources of social service. If the library administration is freed from all drawbacks and restraints, it can render the best possible service to the society. The library must be made to grow into a full-fledged institution for it to be of fullest service to the society. Library itself is a sacred institution and it has got a very important role to play in sharing public opinion and in helping the growth of civilization and the society at large.