Chapter 7
Conclusion

7.1 Summary

The IFLA/UNESCO Manifesto proclaims that the public library as a living force for education, culture and information, and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace and spiritual welfare through the minds of men and women. UNESCO therefore encourages national and local governments to support and actively engage in the development of public libraries. The public library is the local centre of information, making all kinds of knowledge and information readily available to its users. It is considered as “People’s University”.

The services of the public library are provided on the basis of equality of access for all, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, nationality, language or social status. Specific services and materials must be provided for those users who cannot, for whatever reason, use the regular services and materials, for example linguistic minorities, people with disabilities or people in hospital or prison.

The study has discussed the significance of public libraries and public library systems, the provision of legislations, cooperation, resource sharing, automation and networking and the systematic planning for the public library systems.

For the public library system in Bhutan, some objectives have been identified and to obtain these objectives, an elaborate survey has been conducted in all dzongkhags to know the views of the Bhutanese both in rural and urban areas.

The study gives a small sketch for a systematic planning of the public library system in Bhutan. The study has provide some valid standards and basic factors for effective and efficient functions and services of the public libraries which includes the methods of
collection development, the need of qualified librarians and the supporting staff, and the customer focus i.e., to fulfill the requirements of the different user groups.

The study tells about the provision of mobile libraries for the small villages where immediately the public libraries can not be created. The study also gives some tips to know the book donation programmes to meet the requirements for PLS in Bhutan at the initial stages.

### 7.2 Recommendations

The main focus of the study is to give adult education for the illiterates. In this study, the Fuzzy cognitive mapping technique has been used which is the best suit for the unsupervised data. Using the technique, it has been proved that the eradication of illiteracy will give Human benefits, Political benefits, Democracy, Ethnic Equality, Cultural benefits, Social benefits, Health benefits, Education benefits and Economic benefits to the country. With these logical findings, we derive some useful recommendation to the Royal Government of Bhutan which is as follows:

- **Promotion of Literacy**

1. The Government of Bhutan should take necessary steps to involve public libraries in the literacy movement. The village libraries should run night schools and impart adult education and literacy. The librarian should be entrusted with the responsibility of creating reading habits among the village people, especially among the children and school-going students.

2. Separate budget should be allocated for library service under the Adult Education Programme Funds. In this regard, the government should give more funds for the development of public libraries.

3. The primary and Mass Literacy Directorate, Non-Formal Education Directorate, Rural Development and Co-operatives Division and the Social Welfare
Directorate may prepare their own action plan for using their own potentiality in the promotion of mass literacy.

4. The Government of Bhutan has to give top priority to mass literacy. So, different activities and programmes for promoting literacy are being implemented through the government agencies and NGOs.

5. Public library services should provide more extension services, like the radio and film vans, cultural programmes in local languages to attract different group of people like illiterates, neo-literates and the rural mass. Without these extension services, the neo-literates will soon relapse into illiteracy.

- **Public Library System in Bhutan**

6. A public library grid should be established in all the twenty districts (dzongkhags) of the country with their branches in all over two hundred blocks / taluks (gewogs). The establishment of public libraries for all dzongkhags and at least 50% of gewogs should be completed in first phase i.e. 2010 to 2015.

7. In the second phase i.e. 2016-2020, all the remaining gewogs and the elaborate coverage of villages should have PLs. There must be a provision of mobile libraries to the villages where the libraries can not be established at the beginning.

8. Many villages of Bhutan are located in the remote places. The people living in such areas find very difficult to reach the motor roads. Even mobile libraries too are not feasible for these people. The digital libraries at free of cost is the solution to find some positive changes in this group of people. Proper education and training is essential to use the systems.

9. NGOs may take a vigorous and integrated programme jointly with the government to establish and maintain village libraries and information resource
centres. A favourable government policy relating to public library may encourage among NGOs in this regard.

10. The essential factors of the public libraries or any other type of libraries are books, staff and the user group. The public libraries should follow a steady development of collection to fulfill the requirements of the users. The librarians may require regular training programmes to keep them up-to-date. The Royal University of Bhutan (RUB) can come forward to start library and Information Science programme which will provide qualified and competitive human resources to all kinds of libraries in the country.

11. Organize seminar, workshop, training programmes for information, documentation and library personnel. And conduct study/research in various facets of library and information science and services.

12. The Royal government of Bhutan (RGB) has to encourage the public and the private organizations to produce more books. This will help the country to save their cultural and traditional values of the society. The collection of more local publications in public libraries will draw the attention of the society. This will lead more research and development in Bhutan.

- **Cooperation and Resource Sharing**

13. All public libraries should run under the mandatory library legislation. RGB should come forward to formulate legislation to facilitate library cess.

14. To ensure nationwide cooperation, legislation and strategic plans should be well defined. There must be an administrative unit with necessary powers to maintain the system and the creation of network among public libraries.
15. All the member libraries those who participate in a resource sharing should follow some standards of international bibliographic formats like MARC 21, CCF, Z39.50, etc. and all the member libraries should follow single, universally accepted classification scheme. This facilitates their inclusion in wider networks.

- **Automation and Networking**

16. In systematic planning of public library system, the Automation programme is very essential aspect to control over the collection of resources. It involves careful computer hardware selection, software selection, standards to support network programme and maintenance.

17. The Star network is a topology for the proposed PLS in Bhutan in which the NLAB has been put up as a central hub and the dzongkhag libraries are the nodes. A vital computer network system without any interruption will facilitate the libraries to provide quality information services to the society.

7.3 Conclusion:

Bhutan has very rich traditional values and culture. Public libraries are the treasure houses of recorded knowledge. They are treated as bridges of civilization. The public libraries have big role to maintain social balance, to keep traditional values updated. The present situation of the Public Library System is far behind as compared to its neighbouring countries; not to speak of the developed countries.

A number of reasons have been identified in this study to which the public library situation is not at par. Socio-economic, educational, geographic locations, etc are some of the areas which invite proper attention from the government for their improvement. There is a need for developing reading culture among the people especially rural masses. They do not have the purchasing capacity. Establishment of Public Library System catering their solution are to be given due heed.
This study is regarding how to implement the plan proposal for the Public Library System in Bhutan.

- **Scope for Further Study**

There are sufficient scope for study and research at the stages of implementation and impact after such implementation. These include implementation of public library system, continuous evaluation of the system and its services including total quality management of libraries, user study, job satisfaction of librarians, etc. The public library legislation found in Bhutan is also to be studied further in order to make the public library a workplace for both literates and illiterates to uphold education, economy, culture and civilization of the country.

Now this is the ideal moment for the Royal Government of Bhutan to think over the establishment of public library system in a full-fledged manner which will bring the real "Gross National Happiness" to the country.