REVIEW
OF
RELATED
LITERATURE
Chapter II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

Review of related literature is an important aspect of any research work. The present study has been undertaken to make an appraisal of library facilities and their utilisation in the secondary schools of Kamrup district. Therefore, in this chapter, an attempt has been made to review some of the existing literature related to this area of study. This is important because it helps the research workers to acquaint himself/herself with the available knowledge in this particular area of study and to find out what is already known, what others have attempted to find out, what methods of attack have been promising or disappointing and what problems remain to be solved. It shows whether the evidence already available solves the problem adequately without further investigation. After going through a number of related literature from different research journals, books, theses and other study materials, the researcher found that, although a number of studies were conducted on libraries in general, only a few studies were taken up on the secondary school library in India. In Assam particularly not much work has been done on the secondary school libraries.

Western studies:

A survey of reading interest and use of public library services, made for the American Library Association and 17 cooperating libraries by the National Opinion Research Centre, University of Denver, in January, 1979, reported that 56 percent of the adults interviewed said they spent an average of an hour a day reading newspapers and magazines, 22 percent
said they spent an average of an hour a day reading books. The total number of interviews held in the 17 cities was 2114. More comprehensive in scope is the survey of reading and book buying habits of the country undertaken in 1979, by Henry C. Link and Harry A. Hopf and sponsored by the book manufacturer institute. This survey was based on 4000 personal interviews (1705 men, 2295 women) conducted between May 21 and June 8, 1945; it reported 50 percent of the population interviewed as 'active readers' (one book a month or more), 21 percent as 'inactive readers' and 29 percent as 'non-readers'; but it dealt with the reading of books and did not consider magazines or newspapers.

A survey on user education of New York State academic libraries was made by Arthur P. Young, Morell Boone and Carol Salverson in 1987. They drew responses from 125 institutions. Two-year colleges, undergraduate schools and universities participated in the mail study. Although an aggregate 89 percent supported the value and relevance of some form of library instruction program, 78 percent indicated unhappiness with their present instructional efforts. Lack of sufficient library staff was rated as the major difficulty in developing and implementing educational services. Only 55 percent believed that a full-time instructional librarian should be an essential component of a user education service.

Researches have been made by Sidney H. Ditzion (1991) about the social history of the American public Library movement in over Enland and middle states from 1950 to 1980. Here he described the social, cultural and political background of the movement and the gradual
transition from private to public libraries and also traced the role of library in mass education. Finally, he concluded that for the self relation of the broad masses of the people, both the institution and methods were conceived.

The Division of Research Techniques of the London School of Economics made a sample survey of the London Borough of Bermondsey during 1972-1982 in 1993. The purpose was to investigate the readership figure for the various classes of Newspapers and periodicals and their interest on the extent of book reading of any kind on the characteristic and main sources of reading.

The William Penn Foundation in Philadelphia sponsored a study (2003) that examine how the library effected children’s literacy development, particularly for poor, minority families, and it’s relation to reading achievement, how people used libraries, the relationship between public libraries and school libraries, as well as the hidden stars of libraries-the excellent children librarians that make a difference in their children’s lives.

Some of the key findings of the study were:

1) Libraries are vital to all children, poor and well-to-do. Previous methods of counting “use” in libraries have been based on circulation figures-simply how often children and their families check out books. In many library systems across the country, this figure will be used to determine budget allocations for the next year, leading to some libraries to have larger budgets than others. Libraries in poor areas have dramatically lower Counts than middle-income . In this exit interviews, for example, it
was found that those children in middle-class neighborhoods checked out an average of 6 books per hour, compared to 0 in poor neighborhoods. The interviews revealed that many of these families did not own a library card, or were reluctant to check out books due to overdue fines, or fear of getting them.

2) Library use is different in different communities. Although libraries were important in all communities, it was found that children in poor-and middle-income neighborhoods used them differently. Libraries served as a major resource for home work help in poor neighborhoods. Children would come almost immediately after school and often stay until the libraries closed, receiving help on individual worksheets or projects in poor neighborhoods. Parents regarded it as safe and secure. Literally, at times there were crowds requiring security guards to only allow children to come in when someone would leave. And when a child misbehaved and was told he was no longer allowed to visit the library, it was found that the parent pleading with the librarian for her understanding. Greater access to computers in libraries provided another glimpse of these differences in behaviour. Computer use in general created a good bit of ‘hang time’, as children waited to use them. But in middle-income areas, grade school children were likely to use the computers for reading and literacy related conversations, than those in lower-income areas.

3) Quality of library use is related to children’s efficacy in reading. More often than not, children in middle-income neighborhoods used library materials, books and computer programmes, either at their estimated age/grade level, or above. For example, it was found that 93%
of the materials read with at their grade level, while 7% were above. Contrast this with children in low-income communities who read 42% below level, and 58% materials at grade level.

4) Librarians can make a difference. A number of libraries in deeply poor, troubled neighborhood, however, belied these patterns. These libraries have similar access to books, computers and activities, but they had something more, excellent librarians. The study observed these exceptional librarians working overtime, trying to understand why they seemed to make a difference. Several qualities stood out: Librarians made an effort to know the children, called them by their first names, developed personal relationships that went beyond the child, to the family and the kin. Librarians did not just point to materials, but taught children how to use them, not in a formal way, but by showing, and demonstrating the activity themselves. In the most difficult of circumstances, these librarians formed writing clubs, chess clubs, reading groups, using field trips to attract and keep their patrons. These people were enablers, pushing children to reach beyond their current abilities.

Studies done in India

A study was conducted by Vora M.K. in 1975 on - The role of school library in primary and secondary Schools of Maharastra.

The study covered different types of schools i.e. public and aided and different mediums such as Gujarati, Marathi, Hindi and English.

The important findings were -

i) Out of total responses, one third of the Secondary Schools has no separate library rooms in the city of Bombay and in the interior of
Maharastra.

ii) Three fourth of the secondary schools having separate library room had converted class room into library due to the problems of accommodation.

iii) As compared to English, Hindi, Gujrati medium schools had better facilities for libraries.

iv) No provision of stock rooms.

v) Most of the Secondary Schools used English Newspaper whereas in interior parts of Maharastra, Marathi newspaper were subscribed.

vi) In the Secondary Schools of Bombay except in few cases, the number of chairs and tables was insufficient.

A study was conducted by YADAV, U.P. in 1979 on -A Socio-Psychological study of library users:

The major objective of the study was to find out the various socio-psychological aspects which may have relevance with the library users with particular reference to attitudes of teachers, research scholars, students and other categories of library users towards the book collection, library building and furniture, library management and library hours.

A survey of social and psychological factors associated with those who were frequent visitors particularly to Bhagalpur University Library was conducted. Questionnaires for students, teachers, research scholars and others were prepared through tryouts and item analysis, covering four main areas (book collection, library management, library building and furniture, and library hours), and used. Social aspects were studied through a personal Data Sheet. All 800 library users (400 students, 200 teachers/research scholars and 200 others) were randomly selected. Further
categories were made on the basis of sex, age, income and residential facilities.

Some of the major conclusions were:

1) Students differed significantly in their attitude towards book collection from teachers, research scholars and others. Student’s attitudes towards library building and furniture were favorable.

2) Mean hours spent in library by females were higher than by males.

3) Sex difference among students was found with regard to attitudes towards library management and library building.

4) Students with agricultural and salaried parental backgrounds differed significantly in their attitudes towards book collection, library management, library building and furniture, and library hours.

5) Residential conditions influenced attitudes of students. Hostellers and residents of lodges near the university campus had more favorable attitudes towards the book collection.

6) There was no faculty wise difference in attitudes of teachers and Research scholars.

7) Age of students, teachers, research scholars and other influenced their attitudes concerning library management.

8) Student’s attitudes differed according to parental occupational background.

9) Students of different income groups showed no significant difference in their attitudes towards book collection except students belonging to Rs. 5000-15000 annual income group.
Another study was conducted by BAVAKUTTY, M. in 1984 on a critical study of the organization and Utilization of Libraries in Higher Educational Institutions in Kerala.

The main objectives of the study were:

i) To assess the existing state of libraries in the colleges under study with respect to their administrative set-up, Organizational efficiency, mode of financing, method of book selection and acquisition, technical processing, servicing, personnel and physical facilities,

ii) To assess the existing library facilities and resources in the colleges under study, in terms of their ability to cater to the varied requirements of modern higher education,

iii) To the service efficiency of the libraries under study with the help of indices like the rate of use of library resources and facilities by both the students and the teachers in the institutions, and

iv) To work out solutions for some of their crucial problems so as to ensure a more efficient organization and operation.

The study covered 9 colleges, 51 librarians, 404 students and 123 teachers. The tools and techniques used in the study were three questionnaires administered to librarians, students and teachers respectively, interviews with librarians using an interview schedule prepared for the purpose, a check list to assess adequacy of book collection, observation by the investigator of the organization and administration of librarians and analysis of relevant records. Percentages of the responses were calculated and differences between percentages were
statistically tested.

The main findings were:

1) No library advisory committee was functioning in the majority of colleges.

2) In a majority of the colleges, the traditional practice of placing a teacher in charge of the library, as a control over the librarian, was in evidence. The status of the librarian, in this situation, was reduced to that of a clerk or attainder.

3) Nearly 75 percent of the colleges covered by the study maintained departmental libraries besides a central library.

4) The main sources of finance for a college library being special fees from students, Government and U.G.C. grants, there were variations in finance.

5) The percentage proportion of annual expenditure to the total college expenditure varied between six and nine. The average percentage was far below the proportion recommended by the education commission (1964).

6) The colleges under study did not follow any scientific principles for selection of books.

7) In nearly 90 percent of government college and 60 percent of the private college libraries, the books were not properly classified and catalogued.

8) Private colleges had an average collection of 17,574 volumes as compared to the average of 14,853 volumes of government colleges.
There was no relationship between book collection and strength of

9) The libraries were open on all working days, but the colleges differed in the working hours.

10) Special library services were not attempted in any of the colleges under study.

11) The salary of college librarians was very low.

12) The general qualifications of librarians varied widely, with only 50 percent having a bachelor’s degree in library science.

13) Physical facilities of libraries were very poor, with only 24 percent having separate buildings.

14) Only a small percentage of teachers and librarians were satisfied with the condition of libraries.

15) The frequency of use of library by students was satisfactory, but there were no differences between the different classes of students.

16) The libraries were used more for extra-curricular requirements than for curricular purposes by students, and vice versa by teachers.

17) The extend of borrowing books from the library for general as well as special subjects, was not satisfactory for students but was satisfactory for teachers.

A pilot study was done on -Working of Book Bank Scheme by NIEPA, New Delhi in 1986.

The main objective of the study was to evaluate the working of the book scheme in a few institutions mainly with the intension of trying out
the validity of books.

To conduct the pilot study, two professional institutions, viz. All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Indian Institute of Technology located in Delhi were selected. The research tools employed for this study were discussions, interviews and schedules. An Institutional schedule was designed to obtain information on the working of Book Bank Scheme in the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi. It contained items pertaining to the history of the Book Bank; staffing pattern of the institutions; financial assistance received from the Government of India; The utilization pattern of government assistance, other sources of support, etc. The second part contained some open-ended questions inviting opinions and suggestions for improvement. Schedule II, namely the beneficiary schedule, attempted to obtain information from Scheduled Tribe students who were beneficiaries of the scheme. The schedules were administered in the two institutions and the responses obtained were separately analyzed.

The findings were as follows:

1) The SC/ST students studying in these two institutions found the Book Bank Scheme quite useful.

2) The library staff was of the view that grants should be released on time.

3) The beneficiaries of the scheme as well as the library staff were of the view that the amount of grants should be increased.

One significant study was conducted by Kaul, C.L. and Gupta, J.K. in 1990 on a sample study of school library facilities and their utilization in secondary and higher secondary schools of four selected states.
The study looks into the school library facilities and their utilization in four selected states with the assumption that books are medium of education, and hence the importance of a school library is worth mentioning.

**Major Objectives of the study were:**

i) To study the availability of school libraries, their accommodation, furniture, seating capacity, etc.

ii) To study the utilization of library facilities-issue of books, periodicity of issue, number of books in circulation, etc.

iii) To find out the type of books available.

iv) To study such aspects as the cataloguing system adopted, the stacking arrangement, time for which school libraries remain open, the staff available, and

v) To find out the expenditure on various items connected with school libraries during the year 1984-85.

**Major findings:**

1) Though libraries were found to exist in all the high and higher secondary schools of the four states, they had a very large clientele to cater to in proportion to the meager collection of books.

2) As for the high schools, only a small fraction of schools i.e. 43.8% in Assam, 36.8% in Gujrat, 35.3% in Haryana and 29.1% in Tamil Nadu, had separate accommodation for libraries as compared to the corresponding percentages of 61.5%, 84.9%, 60.0% and 72.4 percent among higher secondary schools in these states, respectively.
3) The libraries of high and higher secondary schools generally were found to function in single room accommodation.

4) The reading room space did not appear to be sufficient to allow room for display of newspapers and magazines.

5) Stacking facilities were mostly found to be meager. Schools had generally one or two almirahs to stack books.

6) Catalogue cabinets, dictionary stands, newspaper racks, magazine racks and working tables were rarely found.

7) The schools adopted the closed-shelf system to stack books. They generally used locked almirahs after stocking books.

8) The accession register was the main record maintained, respectively, by 82.1%, 70.2% and 5.8% of the high schools in Assam, Gujrat and Tamil Nadu. The situation was better in the case of higher secondary schools in all the states except in Haryana where the percentage was found to have declined to 74.3%.

9) Books were issued generally on the issue registers.

10) Most of the school libraries worked for up to two hours each day. These did not open on holidays. Only a few schools had the provision of library period in their timetables.

11) Both high and higher secondary schools were found to subscribe to one or two newspapers and a few magazines.

12) There was no provision of full time librarians in schools.

13) There was considerable variation in expenditure on different items connected with school libraries.
An interesting study was conducted by Mathew, Raju M. in 1990 on Allocation of resources in recently started university libraries in developing countries with special reference to some Indian university libraries.

The study investigates the allocation of resources for library and information services of universities so as to ascertain to locative efficiency and optimability in relation to the overall academic standard of the university.

**Objectives of the study were:**

i) To examine the nature and allocation of resources in Calicut University and Madurai Kamraj University,

ii) To identify the existing and possible user-resources interaction in these two universities, and

iii) To examine the basis of the measure for attending greater user resource interactions and thereby increasing the developing countries, especially in India.

**Major Findings:**

1) The administrative set-up of the two universities was different.

2) 2) The percentage of total expenditure for books and journals varied from year to year but was seen to be decreasing in Calicut University and increasing in Kamraj University in recent years.

3) The majority of the students, research scholars and teachers were of the view that (a) the library resources were not adequate; (b) they were not relevant; (c) and not up-to-date.
4) There was no common or fixed pattern of allocation of resources for books and journals in the two universities.

5) User-resource interactions and their contributions could be termed as almost non-existent; only 15% of users showed any impact of library resources.

6) Resource allocations were done at a sub-optimal level and user-resource interactions were very low. An alternative strategy for improvement was suggested.

A survey was conducted by the students of Library and Information Science of Manipur university during May-June 1990 to obtain a first hand knowledge about the library system prevailed in the schools and colleges of the state. Individually, equipped with questionnaire, the students visited various schools and colleges in and around the capital city Imphal. Because of their urban characteristics, these schools and colleges, as the students apprehended, ‘are supposed to be in better position’. But unfortunately, the students were disappointed very soon, particularly when they had encountered some of the schools. To their utter surprise, they did not find anything to be noted regarding library system in most of the schools. They were, however satisfied after experiencing the system of some of the ‘A’ grade schools like the Central School (run by central government), Sainik school, Public school, Navodaya school and some of the missionary schools. But in most of the other schools, they found, the concept of library was totally missing, though ‘most of the libraries have some collection but without room, librarian, furniture, any fixed time for consultation or use and without any fixed budgetary allotment.’ The
annual budget of one of the fortunate Higher Secondary school, as they recorded, was ‘only Rs. 300/- which comes from the state Government.’

A study was done by Lalrinpuii in 1997 on Study in planning and management of libraries in government and public higher secondary/secondary schools of Aizawl District, Mizoram.

The study was undertaken to study the planning and management of school libraries in Aizawl District.

The objectives of the study were:

i) To analyze the existing libraries in terms of their adequacy, utilization and usefulness.

ii) To identify major issues and problems in planning and management of school libraries.

iii) To study the existing systems in acquisition, processing of library books and other printing materials.

iv) To study the role of school libraries in teaching-learning process.

v) To suggest a model school library.

The scope of the study was delimited to the Government and public Secondary/Higher Secondary Schools of Aizawl District.

The sample study consisted of 7 Government Higher Secondary Schools, 4 public Higher Secondary Schools and 27 Government and 9 public schools of Aizawl District. Data were collected with the help of Separate questionnaires for the

a) Head of the institution, b) Teacher, c) Librarian/teacher-librarian and d) Student
The findings were:

i) 100% government secondary schools and government higher secondary schools are having libraries but 90% of Government Secondary Schools and 70% of Government Higher Secondary Schools do not have the knowledge that they have libraries. It indicates that most of the school libraries are not within the reach of the pupils.

ii) Only 14% Government Higher Secondary Schools have separate room with no reading space and 14% combined library and reading room. All the schools have no separate reading room. Most of the school libraries are either housed in the Principal's room, office room or staff room. The study also reveals that collections of library materials are not only inadequate but also unsuitable to cater to the need of the users. Non-availability of separate room for library and inadequate collection of materials results in ineffective use of library on the part of the students as well as the teachers, which further affects the quality of teaching and learning.

iii) All the Schools have neither full time librarians nor the teacher-librarians are given orientation or training on library technique. 100% Schools use ordinary register for accessioning of books. From the observation made by the investigator, systematic accessioning of books is not done. Classification and cataloguing of books are not done due to lack of trained staff to do the job. If the books are not accessioned, classified and catalogued, the books cannot be arranged systematically and effective library service cannot be provided.
iv) Only 11% of Government Secondary Schools and 21% of Government Higher Secondary Schools encourage students to use library while 72% teachers of Government Secondary Schools and 35% of Government Higher Secondary Schools find School library useful for their teaching. It reveals that while teachers use library, the students are hardly encouraged to use the library. It also clearly indicates that school libraries are not fully utilized by the students.

A study was conducted by Vijay Raghav Tiwari in 2005 on -

Role of Public Libraries in the Development of Adult Education of Arunachal Pradesh; with a specific view on Papumpare district: an analytical approach

The objectives of the study were:

1) To assess the practical problems of the adult education programs working in the state.

2) To assess the needs of the neo-literates in regard to reading material.

3) To attract the attention of public libraries system for this special category of the users.

4) To give a new dimension to the status of adult education program through the co-operation of the public library system.

5) To create new environment through public library systems service to this category of users and increase in its use.

6) To achieve an overall development in the scene of adult education program and public library system of the state.
Some of the major findings of the study were:

1) The number of professionals involved in the public libraries is eight in administrative status, out of which seven were interviewed and almost all suggested in favour of the proposal to bring these neo-learners into the net of public library users group. It becomes 95% of the professionals who were in favour of extending the services to the neo-learners.

2) The adult education officers, Preraks/instructors, adult education workers also 8(eight) out of 10(ten) were agreed to coordinate with the public library system. The basic work of providing library material to the neo-literates can be done by the library system, as it will in turn invite them to the daily newspapers.

3) The groups of learners and neo-literates interviewed were completely agreed with the proposal of library being involved in their help. They expressed their eagerness to attend the library as well.

4) The adult education department, Naharlagun suggested that some Problems in the execution of the program e.g.

i) The fund scarcity in running the program smoothly throughout the year.

ii) The problem of migration in the Papumpare district population because of being a capital complex.

5) It was observed during the interviews with the learners that the reading material was always in English or Hindi languages, which was little difficult in following sometimes. The basic reason for not getting the study material in their mother tongue was that there was
no script available for their mother tongue, as most of the inhabitants speak different kind of dialects to be precise not less than 25 dialects are being used throughout the state. Of course some efforts are being made to evolve some acceptable scripts for these spoken dialects.

Studies done in Assam

An important work has been done by R.C. Sarmah in 1989 on - Library Administration in Assam.

The objectives of the study was to investigate thoroughly about different problems of library administration in Assam and to find out ways and means for their solution so that the attempt to study the topic will add new dimension in the field of education in general and library science in particular. The investigator was keenly interested to investigate library administration and it's associated problems particularly from an administrative point of view.

Major findings of the study:

1) Library administration in Assam, so long has not been considered important for study and research.

2) The steps so far taken and the policies adopted by the government are not satisfactory at all so far as library organization and administration are considered. 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 material of 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 development of library.

3) The village public libraries are the only means of mass media of self-education, to the rural community. The control, care, organization and management of the libraries are in the hands of some voluntary organizations which are very much neglected by the organizers themselves and the concerning authority of the Government as a result of which they fail to serve their very objective. These libraries are managed by untrained librarians for the benefit of the people, who believed that a library has no role to play in the progress of the society.

4) Public libraries are functioning under the direct control and management of the Director of library services, Assam. These libraries are 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 organization are the hindrances for development of these libraries. The state central library has failed to serve its purpose. Better organization, management, and services are very much expected from the principal institution of the state.

5) School education, which shapes the basic foundation of a children'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 organization, scanty library resources, diversion of library grants to other heads, lack of proper supervision of the higher authority, submission of false reports and statistics, inadequate staff, lethargic, antiquarian and negligence attitude of the concerning authority and the government are the great hindrances for development of college libraries in Assam.

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

7) The Director of Library Services has been formed for better organization 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 organization and management of library services of the state.

8) A well organised library is the foundation of modern educational structure. For the success of any developmental scheme, systematic, planned organization is very much essential. But, it has been observed that libraries in Assam are not properly organized and well managed. The organizers and the authority seem to be more theoretical than practical. The achievement or development, which
is shown in official reports and statistics, seems to fictitious.

9) Recruitment of library personnel is one essential factor for development of library. Fruitful result can be expected only from trained and properly qualified personnel. To achieve efficiency and accuracy better organization and management both pre-service and in-service training are required. 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 librarians is very poor. It is lower than that of one Upper Division Assistant of an office whose basic qualification is matriculation or higher secondary standard.

10) Finance is the fact to run any administrative machinery. The libraries are spending institutions. To offer basic service 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 run by govt. grants, membership fees etc.; but these grants are not sufficient to run a library in modern form.

11) The admistrative 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 admistration in Assam has not obtained a perfect status for want of proper authority or want of materials and technical knowledge. The term admistration covers all the diverse
aspects of the library, which go together to make it an ideal institution for mental growth and propagation of knowledge.

An **exclusive study was conducted by Ms. Premada Bora Nath in 1993 on -A critical study of the organization and administration of library services in Kamrup District and it’s impact on adult education.**

**Major Objectives of the study:**

1) To study the organization and administration of library services in Kamrup District.

2) To add a new dimension in the field of library education in the rural areas and also it’s role in adult education programmes in the district.

**Major Findings of the study:**

1) Out of total 40 nos. of libraries, 5 libraries are established near the bazaar area and only one library is attached with the village namghar in Sualkuchi village and other libraries are near park, civic center and some of the libraries are located in midst of the village. Most of the libraries in Kamrup District are housed in places donated by well-to-do persons in the respective localities and some are yet housed in government-reserved land.

2) A well-equipped library building seems to be a far cry for the common public in the rural areas public in the rural areas.

3) The furniture in the rural libraries is in the state of deplorable condition.

4) Number of books in each library is like a drop of water in the wide sea of sand. Again some of the libraries have a collection of such type of books, which are of no use for the reading purposes.
5) Out of 40 number of libraries, 10 number of libraries have still no provision for newspaper and magazine. The librarian of the remaining libraries expressed that due to anomalies among the members of the library committee it is discontinued.

6) Though the periodicals increased day by day in the state but looking at the circulation figures in the rural libraries it is found that some of the libraries have the collection of only ‘Jana Sikha’ the popular magazine published by the Department of Adult Education for the neo-literates and also found that some of old issues of old magazines (most of them are contributed by the local people) are preserved in the library.

An important study was conducted by Alaka Buragohain (Phukan) in 1995 on -A study of the socio-cultural aspects of library support for non-formal learning in Assam.

The objective of the study was to present, analyze and identify those significant trends of history, local and foreign which having been reinforced by necessary legislative bases and other modern concepts and devices may provide guidance in formulating a dynamic multi-purpose public library system under a central state library system in Assam consisting of a network of library and information centres in both urban and rural areas serving as “people’s university”, non-political and autonomous in functioning.

Major findings of the study were:

1) On the basis of the two surveys made on the current state of affairs of public library system in Assam, and information needs of the users, it is found that comprehensive development of government controlled
library service is badly suffering due to want of mandatory sufficient fiscal niche and autonomous library authority at the top, capable of making independent library development plan and so invest money by it's own decisions. In the absence of a legal base for public library system, everything depends upon either bureaucratic or political discretion of the government.

2) Most of the libraries do not have their own buildings, nor the Directorate has any plan at present, all causing space constraint as well as financial constraint for recurring payment of rent. It is unfortunate at the office of the Directorate of library service created during 1983-84 is still operating from the District Library building without having it's own accommodation.

3) While staff strength is found to be tolerable, but their professional education is not up-to-date. Not a single public librarian has obtained Master’s degree, neither any scheme taken to upgrade the qualifications of the existing staff, nor deputing them for any refresher or orientation courses. A few district, sub-divisional and branch libraries are yet to get the first professional degrees. Other staff members are not at all trained either by in-service training or short term courses.

4) Due to non-existence of Library Advisory Committees in most of the libraries at district and sub-divisional levels, no local demands could be made felt in the central book purchasing process, thus, the libraries at different levels particularly at sub-divisional become not co-related to the cultural life of the community, as if something extraneous is thrown from outside. Local authors and local publishers are not specifically considered by central bookpurchasing committee in concern of collections Moreover, the local
subjects of interest including professional and technical subjects, local languages including tribal languages do not get due share in central book selection.

5) The rate of growth of library collection is drastically diminishing since 1990-91, and at present it is much suffering. There is much dissatisfaction among public library users due to non-subscription of necessary magazines, journals and newspapers by the different library units. Collection is also not of standard as per reader’s comments. Cheap novels are more in number than serious books in different subjects, Science and technical books, travels and biographies, selected translations, basic information sources of latest editions, local and national magazines and newspapers, etc.

6) Collection is not properly organized by classification and cataloguing and proper circulation system, which obstructs location of books and knowing about availability of books. The function of information services by librarians in absent except in certain exceptional cases. Not to speak of maintaining repository of all local collection and rare documents, there is no bibliography of local collection of the state as a whole.

7) There is budget deduction in non-plan budgets for last two years. This would happen in future also unless legal fiscal niche is made in this respect. Directorate of library service is considered as a minor directorate; as such, as and where there is budget constraint it falls directly as library service as it’s demands and needs are perhaps not as palpable as biological needs nevertheless, it’s impact upon society is wide and far reaching. It is strange that although Central government has provided large amount from world Bank grants on Adult and non formal education, public library service has not yet
received any share; there is no public library operation project in spite of it's being a vital component agency for man's education.

8) Different units of public library system serve only a microscopic figure of the entire population of Assam. There is no membership drive, membership be enhanced only through co-relation with local socio-cultural organizations.

9) Children read books for recreation for pleasure and enjoyment, which facilitates in creation of habit of reading. But, pre-degree and degree level students use the library for curricular programmers and knowledge than pleasure alone. That means there is demand for curricular subjects also in public libraries and the students of the predegree level form a formidable group among public library readers. Masters degree level and research students use public library only rarely as there are University and other special libraries.

10) Adult members of public libraries also use library for education and knowledge than mere recreation. Library is treated as a component of Adult and non-formal system of continuing education.

**Bhrigu Ram Bharali conducted a study in 1996 on -Role of Special Libraries in Asssam and it’s Socio-economic impact on Societies-A study.**

- Major objectives of the study was to made an effort to find out the role, performance and ideals of the special libraries, which are considered, now as a social need. All efforts have been made to give a composite picture of the special library system in Assam and it’s socio-economic impact on different societies. The study undertaken was an attempt to assess the performance and ideals of the special libraries, which are considered, now as a social need. All efforts have been made to give a composite picture of the special library system in Assam and it’s socio-economic impact on
different societies. The study undertaken was an attempt to assess the view that how far special library system in Assam has proved to be an effective agency in regard to the socio-economic activities of the people and to favour and formulate measures for it’s development so that it can be a real and active participant in the nation building process.

**Major Findings of the study:**

1) The development of social libraries in the most scientific way is very much low in the state of Assam. Though the growth and development of this type is under progress, the spirit of challenge is visible in the special libraries of Assam. This trend has been noticed in the newly developed libraries attached with different coming-up organizations.

2) The British government which took up the administration of our state in 1826 felt the establishment of the special libraries in order to utilize the resources hitherto unexplored in the state. Thus the process of scientific enquiry for the economic development and social upliftment started by the British government had it’s own legacy to this day, but now in a broader way. The dynamic change that has been achieved in this present scientific and industrial studies actually begins from this process.

3) A special library which tries to cater to the needs of special types of users demands documentation services to utilize the resources in their mobility and to serve the time of the users who are otherwise engaged in their responsibilities and duties in their parent organization. Creation of databank in the same field will help in easing the situation. Computer, which is not only a part of librarianship rather it has become a fact of librarianship cannot be underemphasized. Moreover network services with the proper
co-operation of other such libraries will help a lot. INTERNET, INFLIBNET, DELNET, CALNET and such other programmes can suitably be tapped in this line. Almost all the special libraries of Assam are not in a position to avail of such services.

4) In the analysis of the services rendered by the special libraries of Assam, it is found that some libraries are set-up for the sake of establishment only i.e. they are organized for the name only and not for the spirit.

5) Library education for the professionals of the special libraries of Assam is not properly geared up.

An important work has been done by Narendra Lahkar in 1997 on -Prospects of Automated cataloguing in the three University libraries in Assam.

Objectives of the study:

1) To study the University library system in Assam and to find out how far the present systems are satisfactory in providing service to the users.

2) To study automated library system and to find out the merits in introducing automated system in the libraries of Assam.

3) To study automated catalogues and to find out it’s advantages in having access to information.

4) To find out the advantages in meeting readers needs with OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue)

5) To study the present manual card catalogue system Practiced in the university libraries of Assam and to find out to what extent such catalogues could reflect the actual potentiality of the library.
6) To find out whether existing card catalogues could satisfy readers in meeting various approaches under - author(s), title, subjects, etc.

7) To find out whether different entries in manual catalogue system helping locating and retrieving documents successfully from library collection.

8) To find out whether users are satisfied with preparation, maintenance and functioning of manual catalogues by the libraries.

9) To find out the deficiencies in existing card catalogues in meeting its stated objectives in order to retrieve information specifically, sufficiently and instantly.

10) To find out bibliographic standard for creation of bibliographic database of the library collection in the University libraries of Assam.

11) To find out and suggest a phase-wise scheme for introducing automated catalogue system in the University libraries of Assam.

12) To study the different existing conditions regarding management, finance, staff, collection, users, etc. and to find out the ways to deal with these aspects in the process of automation.

Some of the principal findings were:

1) University library is the chief instrument in order to assist in achieving the objectives of the parent institution, preserving and dissemination knowledge among the enlightened class of people and all study and research activities being radiated from them. However university Libraries in Assam have seemed to fail to achieve the stated objectives. Use of library services by its users is very discouraging
2) It is found that a large number of University students have not again those enrolled members are casual in visiting the library as found from visitor's registers of the libraries. The gap between potential users and actual users is much.

3) Of the different categories of reading materials, the three university libraries have a large percentage of books of it's total collection. Subscription of current periodicals by the libraries is very discouraging, although the situation in Dibrugarh University library is comparatively better than the other two. The growth trend of collection in the university libraries of Assam is found to be uneven and not up to the mark. It is very discouraging fact that the three university libraries have not given due weight age on the book purchase and subscription of current periodicals.

4) While library budget is not sufficient in the three university libraries, the budget allocation is not found to be scientific. A lion's share of the library budget has been spent on staff salary head leaving very less amount on other heads including collection development.

5) Different services that a university library should offer in the present day situation have not been introduced in the libraries. Problems in operations and rendering services in different areas of libraries are increasing rather not improving due to continuation of still the traditional methods. While number and variety of publication are increasing day by day only lending and some kind of casual reference services are provided for by these libraries.

6) Although, the number of research scholars in comparison to total number is more in Assam Agricultural University (7%) in
comparison to Gauhati university (2%) and Dibrugarh University (2.6%), the use of library is less in Assam Agricultural University than in other two university libraries. This implies that documents of Assam Agricultural University are not used enough for research purpose.

7) The three university libraries of Assam are using card form of catalogues prepared and maintained manually inviting much time in preparation and used as well as maximum floor area of a library is being occupied by the catalogue cabinets containing card catalogues.

8) No up-to-dating, no replacements, no checking, no withdrawal of unnecessary cards are found in practice in the catalogue boxes resulting in chaotic conditions of the catalogue which makes the catalogues not so useful.

9) Records of card catalogues are found not uniform, consistent and complete. This has resulted in barriers in sharing bibliographic resources among libraries.

Although the library catalogue is a tool for retrieving document instantly and specifically, readers are found to be not at all seriously aware of the advantages of the existence of catalogue of the three university libraries.

11) The process of library automation in this North Easter Region of India is at the initial stage. Lack of expertise in the area, financial, infrastructural, and such other constrains are there. Moreover, management of libraries is still in the state of indecision in matters of opting for automation.
A study has been conducted by Tilak Hazarika in 2003 on the topic - Documentation works and services of forestry/literature in Indian Council of Forestry research and education (ICFRE): A study

The objectives of the study:

1) To conduct on the growth of forestry literacy and to identify the present trend of development.

2) To study the availability of electronic information sources in forestry literature and to what extent these information sources are able to meet the needs of the researchers.

3) To make a survey on the organization pattern of these sources in order to have an idea on their merits in information retrieval pin-pointedly, exhaustively and expeditiously.

4) To study the organizational structure and research perspectives of Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE).

5) To study the state of the Art Documentation of different institutes under ICFRE.

6) To suggest a plan for proper documentation service in order to use existing sources of literature of various forms by the researchers at optimum level.

Some of the major findings of the study:

1) Research and studies in forestry has got momentum all over the world with active co-operation and coordination at the international level. Such an international effort to forestry has reflected in increased collaboration of research and studies and direct impact in development of literature. Literary outputs obviously come in different forms and media published by various agencies.
2) Forestry being an interdisciplinary area of studies and comparatively new emergence in comparison to other pure disciplines of studies, bibliographic control of forestry literature not yet been practiced properly. ICFRE libraries are yet to initiate effective measures to cope up with the challenges.

3) The library collection and modernization of infrastructure facilities in all the libraries have taken momentum especially since the year 1995-96. This is related to the fact that in the year 1994-95, a project was launched under sponsorship of the United Nations Development Programm (UNDP), towards strengthening the research infrastructure and strategic planning in all aspects of ICFRE. It was supplemented by another project known as Forest Research Education and Extension Programm (FREEP) under the financial assistance of the World Bank.

4) The insufficient skilled professional support to the ICFRE library is one of the main impediments responsible for poor handling of electronic resources.

5) A vast amount of resources in the form of manuscript and other non-conventional form are being housed in the NFLIC. The resources are recognized as chronicle to the scientific forestry research not only for ICFRE but also to entire Indian sub-continent. Techniques for archival of these resources not yet been practices in proper perspectives.

6) Recognizing the importance of support of library and documentation wings to research, ICFRE has in its mandate to develop a national forest library and information center which would act as
clearinghouse for all information relevant to forest and wildlife of the country.

7) Documentation of literature in the ICFRE libraries show a deplorable picture as none of the libraries except the NFLIC practicing the documentation of scientific literature. However, NFLIC undoubtedly may claim to be the oldest library in India practicing documentation of scientific literature. But the documentation wings in the library has failed to fulfil the aspirations of the users community due to the age-old and almost outdated practices.

The findings of different studies that have been stated above reveal that very few studies have been undertaken to appraise the facilities and the utilization of secondary school libraries in India. In North-East India, particularly in Assam not much work has been done on the secondary school libraries. As such it was considered worthwhile to make a study on secondary school libraries in the context of the local educational environment. Thus, the study has been entitled as: "An Appraisal of library facilities and their utilisation in the secondary schools of Kamrup District."