Chapter - V

FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS
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Section A: Findings

1. Since the study is aimed at identifying the public library services meant for women - citizens, the women libraries and mobile libraries are considered public library services towards women empowerment. Hence women libraries and mobile libraries are taken into consideration as public library services for women development.

The study reveals that total libraries functioning in the state are 4479. Among them 21 are womens libraries and 99 are mobile libraries. This shows a poor representation of library facilities provided exclusively for women under ZGS in A.P. Further 9 districts do not have women libraries and 6 districts do not have mobile libraries. Therefore the public libraries in A.P. do not take care to provide separate services for women-users even in urban society.

2. It is found from the study that 33.43% are women - members using the public libraries in A.P. i.e. out of 7,98,000 members, 2,67,550 are women-users. Further study also reveals that women enrollment is being increased by 3.28% in 2000-2001 and 3.69% in 2001-2002. This is a healthy atmosphere that women users are coming forward to utilize the public library services in A.P.
3. The ZGS are not maintaining separate statistics for women visitors, books issued; books consulted by women etc.

4. The pathetic situation observed is that out of 1433 libraries only 924 (64.48%) are managed by qualified librarians whereas 509 (35.52%) are managed by unqualified staff. This situation clearly depicts the negligence of library authorities to provide at least qualified librarians to look after the public libraries in A.P. Further women librarians are also working very less in ZGS. For instance there are only five women secretaries out of 23 districts in A.P.

5. The budget details provided by secretaries are inadequate and incomplete. Hence it has been collected from DPL. Accordingly, budget is being increased every year at very meager percent. But it is decreased during 2000-2001. Further cess collection from local bodies is also long pending in many ZGS. Based on personal interviews it is obtained that book funds are most inadequate and are not able to meet the demands of the users in ZGS. All ZGS are suffering from want of minimum funds. For instance only 14.87% is being increased during the year 2001 - 2002 understudy.

6. As per the information received from DPL 580 (40.03) branch libraries are having own library buildings out of 1449 and the rest of the branch libraries are functioning in rented or rent free buildings. Regarding furniture also almost all branch libraries do not have the minimum infrastructure such as book racks and reading tables. So also are the case of lighting and other
physical facilities. Therefore providing a separate provision for women-users in branch libraries is totally absent. This shows the helpless situation of the branch libraries to offer separate services for women in branch libraries.

7. The study reveals that almost all libraries are offering conventional library services such as reference services, text book section, competitive examination section and news paper clippings. But only a few libraries are providing document and bibliographic services. About 20% of the libraries are organizing A.V. Programmes in collaboration with Women Welfare Department, Mahila Mandals etc. for the benefit of women users in ZGS under study.

Though there are many women organizations and also the Department of Women and Child Welfare, the public libraries are not utilizing their services to extend services exclusively for women users. This may be owing to lack of public relations by secretaries working in ZGS.

8. Majority of ZGS are organizing cultural programmes such as national festivals, kavisammelanas, musical performances etc. towards library publicity.

So also few libraries are organizing awareness programme for women such as legal awareness programme readers forum for women, seminars on women rights and quiz competitions. No doubt from ZGS do organize awareness programme for women at district head quarters.

9. About 50% of ZGS are using conventional methods such as news bulletin, press meet etc. for library publicity. But $\frac{1}{2}$ of the libraries are not taken care
of library publicity which is more important to inform the users through publicity.

10. It is observed that the linkage in between department of women welfare and public libraries, is found to be very poor. Therefore information regarding women welfare programmes is not properly reached to the women users and the department of public library is also not encouraging with full support for introducing women services in public libraries maintained by ZGS in A.P.

11. The study reveals that majority of the age group of women users of the library is in between 20 and 30 years. The second category of using is in between 31 and 40 years of age. This denotes majority of women users are from student community as well as house -wives. This also proved that 44.14% of the women users are from college students. So also it co-relates that 58.42% of the students who use the library. Thus it is confirmed that majority of women are from student community only.

12. The study high lights that 20.26% of the women are using the library for developing competitive spirit and 18.98% of the users are using the library for the purpose of preparing exams. Only 8.96% of the users come for recreation and 9.17% for fiction reading. Therefore it is also established that majority of students are from student community. 61.62% of the women users feel that the existing staff strength of public libraries are inadequate. As per users' opinion 64% feel that the public library staff are helpful to the users.
13. It is opined that almost all public libraries are offering reference service but not any other service. It is also opined that 44% of the women-users feel that the A.V. facilities available in public libraries are satisfactory.

14. The women-users felt that special services for women such as special wing for women, continuing education for women, legal awareness programme etc. are being conducted in the ZGS but the satisfaction of users is only 60%. It means no doubt the ZGS are organizing programmes useful for women development but not up to the satisfaction of women-users.

15. The women-users of the public libraries under study revealed that the library publicity through film shows, special programmes for women etc. are satisfactory.

16. As per the opinions of the women-users the library collection relating to competitive examinations and text books is satisfactory and also subscription of magazines and journals is satisfactory. It is opined that collection of electronic documents is very poor in the ZGS as on today.

17. The women-users of ZGS feel that they are motivated by parents and teachers to use the library.

18. Majority of women-users utilize the newspapers for purpose of news relating to women. So also they visit the library mainly to read fiction.

19. 51.38% of women-users use public libraries to meet their library requirements in stead of college libraries etc.
Section B - Suggestions

1. Indian culture and customs insist that even today women need privacy in public utility centres. The Public Library System is no exceptions. Therefore public libraries should invariably open a separate Mahila Grandhalaya at least at district-head quarters as well as in the towns covered by municipalities so as to encourage women-users. Especially Muslim women are more disadvantaged group in this regard. So also it is mobile libraries which can provide door to door service to housewives especially in towns and cities. Therefore introducing mobile library system is essential even to encourage housewives towards library use. In addition to this it is suggested to appoint women messengers to serve in mobile library system is very essential so as to achieve better results in this regard. Today to rural women, irrespective of their literacy needs, library services through information technology are essential. Therefore opening of rural internet library or community information centers is also felt necessary to provide education and information to rural women to achieve women empowerment in the country.

2. In spite of several attempts to empower women through constitutional rights as well as central and state schemes the women are not encouraged to overcome the social hurdles to identify their rights in the society. It is mainly owing to lack of encouragement in different walks of life of women. As such
public library system has not taken proper steps to encourage women membership drive through incentives such as membership concession and special collection development meant for women users in the existing public library system. Therefore the public libraries of today should offer membership fee concession (50%) as well as special collection development for women users to attract women towards library use both in urban as well as rural areas.

3. It is observed that Public library system in the country as well as in the state of A.P. seems to be decreasing day by day in stead of developing in its structure. The study revealed that 40% of the branch libraries are managed by unqualified staff. It is a known fact that a qualified person is always better than an unqualified person to manage any technical work. The library system has no exception in this matter. Unless all libraries are managed by qualified librarians it becomes difficult to offer suitable services anticipated by the system. Therefore the public library system should examine and provide qualified personnel to manage each and every branch of a library existing under public library system. Further the women reservations must invariably be followed by appointing trained personnel in the library system so as to encourage women towards using libraries.

4. Today the digital libraries are replacing the conventional library system in the field of library services to society. The influence of information technology
demands change of library collection as well as library services to its users. Therefore all public libraries ought to go for electronic document and provide web based services through data bases to meet the challenges of information needs of the users. This also will attract women - users better than the conventional system of library.

5. Today information technology plays an important role in every walk of life. Therefore introducing information technology based service is more essential in public libraries. It means all public libraries should go for automation and networking so as to introduce network-based information services to improve library facilities to all types of users. This will also help resource sharing with other Departments of Government to provide modern library services to its users.

6. In view of new technologies, it is time for the Public libraries to provide access to appropriate technologies and participation in technological development and dissemination to technological centers/ entrepreneurial promotions parks / women development centers with appropriate proper linkage.

7. It is also essential for public libraries to set up women empowerment network centers especially in each Z G S, so as to create awareness towards Science and Technology. That leads to women - empowerment.

8. It is the need of the hour that the public library should have a linkage with all
govermental organizations such as women and child department, social welfare department, health department etc. so as to provide need based services especially meant for women empowerment. This inter-departmental co-operation will enrich the library information services towards women development both rural and urban. This linkage will enable the library to provide allied services to women users at a single place which saves the time of the users.

9. It is the need of the hour that public libraries should have a linkage with the distance education centers, open university centers and correspondence courses and the university running correspondence courses so as to provide course material for continuing education programmes for those women who join correspondence courses and self-study programmes. This will go a long way to provide educational services to women empowerment.

10. The various committees for the purpose of public library development recommended different norms of allocation of funds by government as well as collection of cess from the public especially the Ekbote Committee recommended 10% of the education grant for public libraries and 8 paise on property tax. So also Vavilala recommended fee-norms of sharing method. The Government of A.P. issued a G.O. accepting Vavilala recommendations which have not been implemented till today. These are the bottlenecks for getting suitable funds from the government. Therefore it
is suggested that the government of A.P. should come forward to adopt the said G.O. so as to increase the funds for public libraries for the purpose of developmental activities.

11. One of the important hurdles for public library development is possession of their own buildings. 60% of libraries do not have their own buildings for proper delivery of service. The library needs at least its own building to store books, journals as well as to provide reading facilities. Hence government should come forward to construct library buildings through phase wise programme so as to establish confidence in libraries to serve the public. It goes without saying that providing of suitable furniture and lighting is also very essential to attract the users of library.

12. It is a known fact that the public libraries should organize cultural programmes related to festivals of all religions and educational activities to attract different types of users to library. This needs a separate fund from the government. Therefore government should earmark suitable grant in the annual budget for organizing as many as cultural programmes as possible to develop the use of the Public library system.

13. The government should recognize the public library as a public information centre and all government projects and programmes should pass through public libraries to the public. Hence all wall-posters, brouchers pertaining to each programme must display on the walls of public libraries. It is also
suggested to organise 'Road - Shows' publicising the activities of the library.

14. Convenient working hours will have high impact on the satisfaction of the public. The study revealed that the working hours fixed by public library system need to be changed and increased according to the convenience of the public. Hence keeping in view the benefits of various types of readers it is good if public libraries function round the year without any holidays.

15. The present study revealed that the public libraries in the state are not at all taking interest in motivating the public to use the public libraries. Even the work turned out by the public libraries was not much rapid and the growth rate of readers books consulted, books issued and registered borrowers is not satisfactory. This shows the lethargic attitude of the employees of public library in motivating the readers. Hence there is the need to take up the programme of motivation.

16. Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act failed to consider the major functions of the library such as 1. Promoting education. 2. Fostering culture. 3. Dissemination of information which are incorporated in the 'UNESCO Manifesto'.

It is pertinent to say that both education and public libraries are the two subjects which are like two sides of a coin. But it is ironical that while education is placed in the concurrent list of the constitution, whereas libraries are delinked and placed in the state list. As a result, a national wide network
of public library system could not be evolved in the country which ultimately weakened the system. Hence it is necessary to amend the Indian constitution and include the public libraries in the concurrent list which enables both central and state governments to participate in the progress of library system and serve as a national network.

17. An insight into the comparative study made on the legislation of A.P. and other states reveals that though they are fortunate to have their library acts when compared with the rest of the states and union territories, there is a wide variety of differences in these existing legislations in respect of definition of terms, state library authority, department of public libraries, local libraries authorities and finances.

In the light of above differences it is necessary to take appropriate steps by the respective state governments to rectify the differences in their acts and uniformity is to be established to create effective public library system in the country. Hence it is suggested that necessary steps should be taken to enact uniform library legislation and an integrated public library system is to be established in the country starting from national level to village level.

18. The book selection policy of government is coming in the way of proper and balanced selection of books. As per section 13, sub-section 1, of the act the samsthas have to select and purchase books from the lists of books approved by the Grandhalaya Parishad; the samsthas have no free hand to acquire
publications which are best suited to meet the requirements of readers. Hence this policy should be amended and should give freedom to samsthas in book selection policy so as to select books required exclusively for women users of all vocations.

19. In order to evaluate the library use by male and female users, it is essential to maintain suitable statistics pertaining to library use. Keeping a separate account for female and male users is suggested. This will help to examine the status of the library use and help the authority to take suitable measures to increase the use by 'weaker section'. Therefore it is suggested that hereafter ZGS should maintain suitable statistics independently for women-users and men-users of library.

20. The public libraries should co-ordinate Adult Education Programme as a part of Educational services. This programme should comprise the following activities:

> Continuous flow of new information especially to rural and tribal areas particularly to inculcate positive attitudes towards women.

> Continuous training of the people in the use of modem tools and methods of production and

> Acquisition of permanent reading and computation skills.

Following from the above three types of programmes may be offered to the users without any discrimination.
❖ Information and literacy.

❖ Information and training in new technology and literacy.

❖ Information and training in new technology with or without literacy, continuous information flows relating to human affairs, gender relations, and the use of Science and Technology for betterment of life would be the common factor in all three programmes.

21. It is also relevant that Public libraries should organize vocational counseling and guidance services exclusively for girl students to help them to choose suitable courses relevant to their talents and interests of their future career.

Section C - Conclusion

In a nutshell, I want to state that women empowerment must begin at home. It is also a fact that no law or legal provision can do justice to women in their domestic environment. It is men who have to recognize women as partners equally empowered and responsible. In the words of Eleanor Roosevelt, “When, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home. So close and small that they can not be seen on any maps of the world … Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity and equal dignity, without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there they have little meaning anywhere. Women constitute nearly half of the population and therefore, there cannot be happiness and full development
as long as women remain depressed and exploited. No society can be free, fair and just until women enjoy freedom, justice and opportunities for utilizing their full potential."

No doubt, public libraries have more responsibility to impart education and information for social growth. As part of this, the public library centers should provide information needs required for women empowerment, so also growth and development of society. The governments, both central and state should pay attention for the growth and development of Public Library System at state and central levels. Finally it is the need of the hour that Indian society demands National Policy on Public Library System for uniform growth of public libraries in all states so as to serve both urban and rural societies in India.