CHAPTER II
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.0: INTRODUCTION

A review of related literature in the field of study is attempted in this chapter. This includes Commission Reports, Proceedings of Seminars and Conferences, doctoral studies and other important studies conducted in India and abroad.

2.1: COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

A number of Commissions were appointed in the field of Education and Library in India during the pre-Independent and post-Independent periods. The Commission reports on education have helped for the development of Academic Libraries in India. These Reports emphasised the role of University Libraries in the field of higher education. In addition to this, the Commissions pointed out the important problems including fiscal inadequacy faced by University Libraries in India in achieving the objectives of higher education. The major reports and their recommendations are given below.
The Indian Education Commission was appointed by the British Indian Government in 1882 to study the progress of Education. The Commission, better known as the Hunter Commission after the name of its Chairman, Sir William Hunter, reviewed the Indian educational system including the status of Academic Libraries. The Commission was disappointed to see the condition of Libraries and declared them "hardly creditable".\(^1\) The recommendation of the Hunter Commission about special grants to Libraries was actually the first official statement stressing the need for assistance to Libraries attached to institutions of higher learning.\(^2\)

The Indian University Commission under the Chairmanship of Sir Thomas Releigh was appointed by Lord Curzon in 1902 to investigate the conditions and prospects of the Indian Universities and to recommend measures to improve their constitution and working and standards of teaching.

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The Commission paid special attention to the University Libraries and found that "of the present University Libraries there is not much to be said. The Library at Madras appears to be entirely neglected. Bombay has good collection of oriental and other books; but the Library is little used by graduates and hardly at all by Students. Calcutta has a Library and money has been granted for the purpose of making it supplementary to other Libraries in Calcutta. It is open to fellows and to persons permitted by the syndicate to use it for the purpose of Library research. The Allahabad University has no Library".3

The Commission recommended that "Good reference Libraries should be provided in this connection both with the Universities and Colleges inorder that students may have an opportunity of forming the habit of independent and intelligent reading".4

The Commission known as the Calcutta University Commission was appointed by the Government

4. Ibid., p.59.
in 1917 to study the situation and make recommendations to solve the existing problems. The Commission is also known as the Sadler Commission, after its Chairman, Sir Michael Sadler. The final report of the Commission was published in August 1919.

The Commission made important recommendations and also looked into the affairs of Libraries and found them in a very poor condition with small collections. The Commission pointed out that the majority of Academic Libraries did not provide open access to their collection and books could not be borrowed for home use. The general observation of the Commission about the University and College Libraries is that in general the Libraries are quite inadequate for the needs of the students, and still more for those of the teachers.5

In respect of finance, the Commission recommended that Rs.2.0 lakhs be provided to the Calcutta University for the initial expenditure on books with a minimum of Rs.50,000/- per year to keep the books and periodical collection uptodate.

There is no doubt that the recommendations of the Commission were very practical and in fact a landmark in the history of the Academic Libraries in India.

In 1944 the Ministry of Education of the Government of India requested the Central Advisory Board of Education to survey the educational conditions in the country. The Board's report, known as Sargent Report, came up with a master plan for the development of education in India. A University Grants Committee was established in 1945 under the federal Government to advise the Government and to exercise"... a general supervision over the allocation of grants to Universities from public funds with the object of ensuring that Universities are in a position to meet the demands which may be made upon them".6

The University Education Commission (1948-1949) has observed the inadequacies of the financial assistance given to University Libraries and recommended that the expenditure on Libraries and Laboratories

will also have to be increased if teaching is to become effective. The Commission recommended that at least 6.25 per cent of the total budget of each academic institution should be set aside for Libraries; only then the conditions of these Libraries improve.7

The UGC appointed a Library Committee in 1957 under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan to look into the conditions of the University and College Libraries in India. The recommendations of the Committee with regard to fiscal aspect were that:

i) The entire finance of a University or College Library should be provided by the University Grants Commission and the State Government;

ii) The Commission and the State Government should determine from time to time the proportion of their respective grants to a University Library;

iii) For the time being, the Commission's share may be four-fifths of the total requirement and the share of the State Government may be the remaining one-fifth:

iv) The Commission and the State Government should have a gentleman's agreement that each will actually pay its own share of the Library Grant;

v) The Commission should not withdraw or lower its grant to a University or a College Library because the State Government fails in its obligation and vice-versa;

vi) The Library grant to a University or a College should be determined according to an agreed per capita formula;

vii) For the time being the formula may be at the rate of Rs.15/- per student
and Rs.200/- per teacher and research fellow. There should also be a special Library grant in case of a new University;

viii) The Library grant for any year should be normally based on the statistical data of the preceding year. Without prejudice to any unexpected special demand arising in the course of the year of grant.

Since Independence the growth of higher education in India has been rapid. But it was felt by the Government that the growth was more quantitative than qualitative. Therefore, Mr. M.C. Chagla, Minister of Education, appointed an Education Commission in 1964 under the Chairmanship of Dr. D.S. Kothari. The Commission laid emphasis on the importance and need for Libraries in all academic institutions and recommended that every University should have a balanced and well equipped Library according to its needs.

Monetary guidelines were also suggested by the Commission: "As a norm, a University should spend each year about Rs.25/- for each student registered and Rs.300/- per teacher or from 6.5 per cent to 10 per cent of the total budget depending on the stage of development of each University Library".9

The Committee on National Policy on Library and Information System headed by Mr. D.P. Chattopadhyaya emphasised the need for development of different types of Libraries including Academic Libraries. This Committee report states that "Adequate financial support for the development of Libraries and Information Systems will be made available by the Government of India and State Governments. The National as well as State Governments should provide for an expenditure of 6 to 10 per cent of their education budgets for the Libraries. All

educational institutions should similarly provide for their own Libraries 6 to 10 per cent of their total budget". 10

2.2: SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

A number of seminars and conferences were held on various aspects of Library and Information Science at various levels. But only few seminars and conferences were convened specially on University Libraries.

In India the UGC organised a seminar on 'From the Publisher to the Readers' hands: work flow in University and College Libraries from the 4th to 7th March, 1959, at New Delhi. 11 This seminar was conducted to give the professional staff of University and College Libraries an idea about the modern developments in Library Management.

The first national seminar on University Librarians in India was held at the Rajasthan University, Jaipur from 16th to 19th November, 1966. The seminar was sponsored jointly by the University of Rajasthan and the UGC. This seminar put forward a number of recommendations but recommended the following in respect of financial aspects of University Libraries.

1. Upto 10 per cent of the University budget be set apart for the Library;
2. All book grants be deemed as non-lapsable grants;
3. The policy of calling for tenders for the supply of reading materials be dispensed with, reconcile service with cost and encourage competition.\(^{12}\)

A national seminar on University Libraries was organised by the Osmania University Library on 29-30, September 1986.\(^{13}\) Various recommendations


\(^{13}\) Inamdar, N.B., and Ramaiah, L.S., ed.,: "National Policy for University Libraries in India", New Delhi, Concept, 1989, pp.303-308.
were made by this seminar. All the recommendations were classified under different heads such as 'status of the Library', 'collection building', 'financing', 'resource sharing' etc. Under the facet 'financing' the seminar recommended the following:

The recommendations with regard to the financing of Libraries made by both the Radhakrishnan and Kothari Commissions are several decades old. Taking into consideration the phenomenal rise in the number of books and journals being published and their price rise, the seminar recommends the suggestions made by the Karnataka State Universities/review Committee in 1980-81 under the Chairmanship of Dr.K.N. Raj be adopted for implementation. The Committee has recommended that 20 to 25 per cent of the total budget of the Universities may be set apart for the operation grant for University Libraries. This recommendation, if implemented may enable the Libraries to operate at the research and teaching level. The seminar further recommends that the annual increase in the budgetary provision of University Libraries shall be of the order of 20 to 25 per cent in keeping with general price rise.
Besides the afore said seminars and conferences a number of seminars and conferences were organised in India by ILA, IASLIC, and DRTC. All these seminars and conferences highlighted the important problems especially inadequacy of finance in University Libraries.

2.3: DOCTORAL STUDIES

Tejomurthy has conducted two doctoral studies on University Libraries in Madhya Pradesh. Of these, one study is specifically on University Library finances. This study examines the University Libraries in M.P. in the context of the state of Library finances. The important findings arrived at this study are:

1. The UGC grants constitute the major portion of the finance (70 per cent) for the improvement of University Libraries in M.P.

2. On an average the Universities in M.P. have spent 5.5 per cent of their total funds on Libraries.
3. There is a very high degree of positive correlation between the total University expenditure and total Library expenditure in M.P.  

The second study of Dr. Tejomurthy on University Libraries in Madhya Pradesh has examined the various aspects of University Libraries in M.P. As regards fiscal allocation and management it is observed in the study:

1. 25 per cent rise in the financial aid every year to justify and satisfy the growing needs of the University Libraries should be made a statutory and regular feature.

2. The Library resources of M.P. Universities are inadequate to meet their current and future requirements. Funds are inadequate not only for non-recurring items, but also for recurring items like books and periodicals.


3. Because of the financial inadequacy, lack of proper administrative structure and non-availability of mechanical devises, the University Libraries of M.P. are confining themselves to the traditional functions of the Library.

A doctoral study entitled 'Development of Academic Libraries since 1800 and Contribution of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan - a critical study' by R.N. Sharma was conducted at the State University, New York in 1983. The study analyses the development of Academic Libraries, higher education since 1800 and the contribution of the late Dr. Ranganathan to the Academic Libraries of India. The study examines a number of problems which hinder the normal development of Libraries. It is stated in the study that the financial condition of Indian Academic Libraries is far from satisfactory. It is far below the standard recommended by the Radhakrishnan Commission and Kothari Commission. Most of the institutions spend

only 1.5 to 2.3 per cent of their budget for Library purposes. It is also observed in the study that while inflation in India is rising the UGC contribution to Libraries is shrinking.

The doctoral study of Sri G. Devarajan on "An Investigation into the Financing of the Kerala, Calicut and Cochin University Libraries during the plan periods" examined the pattern of revenue and expenditure of three University Libraries in Kerala. The following are the important findings of the study:

1. The proportion of Library revenue in relation to University revenue varied from 0.29 to 4.65 per cent. There is a high degree of positive correlation between the total University revenue and total Library revenue in the University Libraries in Kerala during the plan periods.

2. The percentage of University Library expenditure in relation to University

expenditure in Kerala varies from 0.35 per cent to 5.66 per cent during the plan periods. There is wide disparities in the Library expenditure and it deviates from the existing standards. Fiscal investment in the University Libraries in Kerala is highly inadequate.

3. Inadequacy of Finance and unscientific fiscal allocation for the various operations and services in the Libraries are the major hurdles in meeting the actual requirements of the user community.

2.4: OTHER STUDIES

In addition to the above studies, the following Indian and foreign books on University Libraries provide and exhaustive and suggestive measures for University Library funding. They are found to be most useful reference books for the purpose of present study. Significant observations were made by these authors and those implications amply rewarded and author in the pursuance of present study.
3. Thompson, James: An Introduction to University Library Administration.