CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION
The Institution of Library plays a dominant role in the expansion and explosion of education and eradication of the social evil of illiteracy in underdeveloped and developing countries like India. Institutionalisation of agencies of literacy has become one of the most accepted dominant approaches adopted by the Third World Countries during the present era. To keep pace with the rapidly developing and advanced nations these underdeveloped countries also made it a sine qua non to go for establishment of institutions of knowledge, places of learning and temples of enlightenment. The civilization of any nation is reflected through the rate of literacy and the latter is a dependent factor on the growth and emergence of the quantum of these institutions as such. It is an accepted doctrine that civilization and education are the two sides of a coin.
and they always travel side by side reflecting each other. If there is any lapse from the side of paying attention to the enhancement of these institutions of educative life, simultaneously there would be a blow to the sober optimism of progress of civilization. Hence literacy and civilization are the interdependent factors which in turn strive for the social, cultural, political and economic growth of every nation at large, which can be made possible only through the enhancement of status of library institutions in the contemporary society.

A library is a collection of graphic materials - books, films, magazines, maps, manuscripts, microfilms, disc and tape recordings, computer tapes - organised for use. A satisfactory definition of a library would be "a collection of books, assembled for use, as against collections assembled for sale, for display, for the pride of possession, or for any of the purposes for which books may be assembled." The collection
of books are being used by the people in all their walks of life including students, teachers, businessmen, government officials, scholars and scientists in their work. In addition, large number of people turn to libraries to satisfy their thrust for knowledge and to obtain reading material for some kind of their leisure-time activity. All in all, the library ranks among man's most useful service institutions and the culture of the world is contained in its libraries.

GROWTH OF LIBRARIES - FROM A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Library, as an institution of scholarship and wisdom is not of recent origin. It existed even in times immemorial.

In India, a library has been functioning as a lighthouse for those who wanted to read and to extend the boundaries of various disciplines since the ancient times. As a proof of reference as available to this effect that the great Sanskrit
poet and scholar Banabhattacharya, who is the author of the famous work 'Kadambari' managed the Palatial Library of the king 'Bhoj'. Further references are also available to prove that the reputed universities like Nalanda, Taxshila and Vikramshila had their own multistoried libraries with a massive collection of rare documents, treatises and books with huge volumes. The Mughal emperors also established royal and pompous libraries in their royal forts, courts and palaces. Notable among them were a library set up by the Mughal Emperor Humayun at Agra Fort with Lal Beg as its Librarian; and a library set-up by the Mughal Emperor Akbar with Faizi as its librarian. Successors of Akbar, like Aurangzeb and Bahadur Shah Zafar had also set-up and patronised libraries to a greater extent. Among other rulers the Rajput emperors like Maharaja Sawai Man Singh of Jaipur and Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Punjab are to be remembered with great respect and veneration in the

* These universities existed with their glory during 600 B.C.
history of library service in India. Maharaja of Tanjaur, who started Saraswati Mahal Library at Tanjaur is also be grouped with them. The notable feature in the history of library service is that these libraries flourished during ancient and medieval period were managed and patronised by the kings, big capitalists and scholars of repute. But these functioned almost as private libraries and entry to these was strictly restricted and confined to only a few royal and loyal sections. As a result, these libraries though housed with valuable collections in magnificent decorated almirahs kept in palatial and huge buildings, these could not play any essential and profitable role in providing initial and continuing education to the common masses in general and the needy in particular. The situation continued wherein the common masses of the country at large remained deprived of library services until the attainment of independence.
The factors for the growth of libraries is attributed with various dimension.

Primarily it is the

i) Political and social stability of the society responsible for the rapid growth. It is added by the high standard of living of the people and the patronage gained from the royal and influential sections of the society.

ii) The high rate of literacy and the greater enthusiasm for the quest for new knowledge also helped for its growth.

iii) Local and national traditions.

iv) The encouragement from the local, state and national governments is also favoured for its growth.

v) Finally, well-established book trade, and

vi) Existence of large chunks of urban population and the social, political and economic conditions also played an important role in the growth and development of libraries in the world in general and India in particular.
IMPORTANCE OF LIBRARIES

Libraries are the repositories of books as well repositories of information and knowledge. It is needless to emphasize that information is indispensable for any human activity aiming at social progress. The researcher, the teacher, the student, the administrator, the industrial and business manager, the artisan, the entrepreneur, the farmer and the worker in the factory and in the field, all need information to equip themselves better for the fruitful pursuit of their respective assignments and vocations. They have to depend on books for the acquisition of such information. It is not possible for an individual to buy even a small proportion of the books that he would need to improve his knowledge and skills even if they were not as costly as they are now. But the present prohibitive cost of books makes their personal acquisition by individuals all the more difficult.
All those who need information have therefore necessarily to depend on libraries.

A library has many social and educational functions. A good library in a locality with a book collection carefully built up to suit the requirements of its clientele is a boon to them. Each person of the locality can draw on the resources of the library according to his aptitude and needs. It would serve as an instrument to improve the quality of life of the people giving them education, information, recreation, intellectual stimulation and enriching their life in all respects. These are also the similar objectives that a University aims at, and it is evidently for this reason that Carlyle felt prompted to observe: "A true University of these days is a collection of books."^9

A library well equipped and organised and with services and activities imaginatively
planned and executed, can transform a society into a well-informed, educated and creative one contributing to its own cultural and economic progress. What the literate sections of the society gain by reading books has to be imparted to the illiterate sections as well through the modern mass media and also through innovative library services like organising talks and reading clubs.

The library is thus one of the most potent institutions that the society has founded for its all round progress. In the absence of libraries, we would be without the means for communication between different generations and between people of the same generation for preserving our cultural heritage. Further the scholars would invariably find themselves deprived of the most important agency to support their efforts to do research and extend the frontiers of knowledge. The creation of new knowledge is possible only on the firm foundations
of the existing knowledge access to which libraries have facilitated throughout their history. Isaac Newton once stated that if he was able to see beyond what others were able to, in the knowledge horizon, it was because he could stand on the shoulders of giants. In this statement he paid rich tributes to the contributions made by his predecessors and how the awareness and the grasp of these contributions helped him to move further in pushing forward the knowledge frontiers. He also emphasised the importance of access to knowledge in research and in the creation of new knowledge. 10

However this important role of libraries for human progress is not reflected in the attitudes of the authorities in several countries. While this has been long realised in the advanced countries and action taken consistent with that realization, it is yet to be fully appreciated in the developing countries
like India. This may be because the benefits of library services are not very obvious unlike the benefits of health and other utility services. Though the investment on libraries bring only long term benefits, but it is obvious that these benefits are of more sustaining in character and help in the moulding of a well-informed and responsible community of people. As Ranganathan, the father of Library Science observed, "libraries are rich springs from which knowledge flows to irrigate the wide field of education and culture."¹¹

The preamble of the Constitution of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) manifests:

"Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that defenses of peace must be constructed."

That the UNESCO envisaged a key role for the library as an agency that can effectively
contribute to the building up of these "defenses of peace" is evident from the attention it has been paying to the development of library services all over the world. Reading fosters an intellectual climate which is conducive to the promotion of peace and goodwill among people. It refines and elevates the mind and insulates it from harmful ideas that cause tensions and frictions. The UNESCO manifesto on public libraries and its promotional activities in the library and information field bear eloquent testimony to its faith in the enlightening and civilising influence of libraries.  

LIBRARY AS A SOCIAL INSTITUTION:

A Library functions as a social institution. As such, it serves several purposes:

1. It helps the life-long self-education of one and all;

2. It furnishes up-to-date facts and information on all subjects to one and all;
3. It distributes, in an unbiased and balanced way, all shades of recorded views and thought to one and all, as a help in the discharge of their political functions in respect of local, national, and international affairs;

4. It contributes to productivity-drive by informing top-management of the latest trends in diverse enterprises, by ploughing back into the minds of researchers, designers, and technologists every piece of relevant new thought, promptly and pin-pointedly;

5. It provides to one and all a harmless and elevating use of leisure;

6. It preserves the literary remains of humanity for posterity, as vehicles of culture and assore materials for antiquarian research; and in general;

7. It works for continued social well-being, as the agency in charge of all socialised recorded thought. 13
CLASSIFICATION OF LIBRARIES:

It may be noted that the classification of libraries and the distinction between one type to the other one are not always sharp.

In modern age, libraries in general are classified in a three-dimensional way. They are:

1) Academic Libraries, which include Schools, Colleges and Universities
2) Public Libraries and
3) Special Libraries

I. ACADEMIC LIBRARIES:

(A) School Libraries:

The library is a part and parcel of a school set-up. It exists to serve the objectives of a parent organisation. A school library can play a very important role in helping the educational system to achieve its goals.
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

A school library is "an active force in the educative process." The educational aims and objectives of school library should be well understood and accepted by administrators and teachers as given hereunder:

1. To help the child acquire 'reading habits' and self-study habits;

2. To develop in pupils the ability to learn from books without a teacher;

3. To break down the rigid divisions which the school time-table often creates between different 'subjects';

4. To give civic and social training in observance of democratic principles;

5. To supply teachers with materials needed in the teaching work and for their own professional growth;

6. To serve as a stepping stone to the use of all public library resources;

7. To create a lifelong liking and longing for new knowledge;
8. To re-emphasise the pedagogical principles of self-education at individual love of interests and abilities;
9. To help an individual to realize the full potentialities of his personality; and
10. To contribute to the fulfilment of the educational aim of the school.

Thus, the function of the school library is to help the students in the process of their self-discovery, to adopt high ideals in life, improve scholastic efficiency through self-study and to develop the capacity for critical thinking.16

(B) College Libraries;

A College without a library is like a tree with no roots. The status of every College is measured through the position of the library that it maintains. Hence every college library should become a teaching instrument in itself. In order to determine, how far it has succeeded in achieving the objective, one should determine
the extent to which the users (students and faculty) use the resources of the library as an integral part of the curriculum. In other words, teaching in the classroom must depend more on the collection of various books in the library than on mere text books. Hence, the library must become an integral part of the teaching programme every time.

Functions:

A college library is expected to support the objectives of the college. Thus the basic function of a college library is to assist its parent body to carry out its programmes. This means that it must adequately serve the needs and requirements of the teachers and students in reading, study and research. This can be achieved, only, when adequate resources, facilities and services are made available. It may be added that the major distinction between a college library and university library lies in the fact
that a university library lays emphasis upon research. 18

In addition to these, there are also some other added functions of college library. They are: 19

a) To secure, organise and service books and other materials required for the instruction programme;
b) To provide the reading materials for keeping the teachers abreast of their field of teaching and to do individual research;
c) To instruct students in the effective and efficient use of the library and library materials;
d) To encourage students to develop the habits of self education in order that books and libraries may contribute to their intellectual development;

e) To co-operate with other libraries in the community, region and elsewhere at large.

C) University Libraries:

Karl Jaspers describes the University as "a community of scholars and students engaged in the task of seeking truth." 20 The University
Education Commission, under the able chairmanship of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan (1948-49), suggests that our education system must find its guiding principles in the aims of a social order for which it prepares, in the nature of the civilization it hopes to build. It suggests that 'democracy depends for its very life on a high standard of general, vocational and professional education. Dissemination of learning, incessant search for new knowledge, unceasing effort to plumb the meaning of life, provision for professional education to satisfy the occupational needs of our society are the vital tasks of higher education.'

Functions of the University Library:

In order to achieve the objectives of university education, university libraries should re-design their activities in such a way that they may prove to be significant partners in "conservation of knowledge and
ideas, teaching, research, publication, extension and service, and interpretation of results of research. The library exists not merely to help the instructional functions of the university, it does also a good deal in aid of research, which is another major functions of the university. The library therefore performs a variety of functions, by way of helping students with textbooks, parallel studies, reference books and periodicals; by providing a large number of bibliographical tools and up-to-date literature on every subject for students, teachers and research workers; as well as by maintaining an efficient reference and information service. The objective ultimately reaches the noble height of helping to produce leaders in the community—leaders in different fields of human activity, and it nurtures the inventor and also the discoverer, persons who create history." 22

The Kothari Commission on Education (1964-66) has laid stress on the proper development of
university library system in the country and recommended that the library should

- provide resources necessary for research in fields of special interest to the university;
- aid the university teacher in keeping abreast of development in his field;
- provide library facilities and services necessary for the success of all formal programmes of instruction;
- open the doors to the wide world of books that lie beyond the borders of ones' own field of specialisation; and
- to bring books, students and scholars together under conditions which encourage reading for pleasure, self-discovery, personal growth and the sharpening of intellectual curiosity.  

II. PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

UNESCO Manifesto for Public Libraries (issued in 1949 and revised in 1972) states, "The Public Library is a practical demonstration of democracy's faith in educational universal education as a continuing and life long process, in the appreciation of the achievement of humanity in knowledge
and culture. It is the principal means whereby the record of man's thoughts and ideas and the expression of his creative imagination are made freely available to all. It is concerned 'with the refreshment of man's spirit by the provision of books for relaxation and pleasure.' The manifesto further emphasises that (i) the Public Library should be established under "the clear mandate of law;" (ii) it should be "maintained wholly from public fund"; (iii) there should be no "direct charge" for its any of the services; and (iv) it should be open "for free and equal use by all members of the community, "irrespective of their age, sex, religion, language, status or level of education." 25

**Functions:**

The Committee to frame structure of the Public Library Service in England and Wales (1957) has mentioned that the public library should perform the following functions:
It is the function of a public library* not to satisfy, but to promote the desire of books. Consequently the provisions of a children's library with adequate stocks and expert guidance in the choice of books should be regarded as an integral part of the library service. 26

American Library Association has prescribed the following functions of a public library:

1) To facilitate informal education of all people in the community.

2) To enrich and further develop the subjects on which individuals are undertaking formal education.

3) To meet the information need of all.

4) To support the educational, civic, and cultural activities of groups and organisations.

5) To encourage wholesome recreation and constructive use of leisure time. 27

A detailed discussion about the various aspects of Public Libraries is dealt in Chapter II.
III. SPECIAL LIBRARIES:

A special library is the one, which is specializing in a particular subject or group of subjects or a particular form of documents. Some people even consider libraries serving the needs of a special clientele like blinds, prisoners, patients, children etc., as special libraries. 28

Objectives:

A special library exists to serve its parent body. Therefore, the aim of a special library is to further the interests of its parent body by means of the following:

(a) Provides information service, which the members of the organization to keep track of the significant developments in their field of interest.

(b) Library searches literature exhaustively and brings it to their notice before the start of
a project to be undertaken by the organization, assuring them to go ahead. This helps in avoiding duplication of efforts.

(c) Provides information promptly, thereby saving time of the users.

(d) Provides inspiration and stimulation to users by means of balanced collections and fine services. Sometimes users will come to library to seek ideas and inspiration. Browsing amongst documents would be very helpful for such persons. 29

Functions:

A special library generally performs the following functions as given by Weisman: 30

1) Selection of documents and sources of data/information.

2) Acquisition of documents and data/information.

3) Processing of documents and data/information.
4) Storage of documents and data/information, data.

5) Retrieval of documents and data/information.

Conclusion

Library is a social institution. It is playing pivotal role in the democratic society. The outlook of the present day society is changing at a rapid pace. The impact of the same is also on the libraries. Whatever be the type of library, the persons in the library should strive a lot for the proper growth and development of libraries and should understand and appreciate the information requirements of the clientele of their own library. The dedicated persons who are at the helm of affairs of the library set up must increase the utility of the resources and improve the image of the library.

All the libraries as classified into public, School, College, University and Special categories
must prove themselves as the dedicated institutions of education, culture and civilization. Particularly the School, College and University Libraries are meant to serve the educated community and they must try to lead the rest of the libraries and be model functioning institution in the society. They have no doubt got a special status in the set-up. The special libraries will meet the information requirements of the specialist users. But the public library has to serve all types of users, irrespective of age, caste, sex as discussed in the succeeding chapters.
REFERENCES


6. ibid.

7. ibid., PP.8-9.


10. ibid., PP. 5-6.

11. ibid., P.6.

12. ibid., PP.6-7.


18. ibid.


25. ibid.

26. ibid., P.5.

27. ibid.


29. ibid., P.63.