An efficient, effective and adequate Public Library System is sine qua non of social development and cultural maturation. A Public Library is the rising tide of information in the ocean of education and knowledge. The flood of literature and the explosion of information are the twin basic ingredients which underline the philosophy of Socialization of knowledge and enlightenment. Information is the input to knowledge and the dissemination longest lived and most persistent information is conceivable only through a net-work of stable Public Library System.

A Public Library is the nucleus of the community's intellectual attainments, beating-heart of cultural growth and life
blood of national heritage. It has become a web of social relationships; the hub of research activities; the crowning glory of education, and an agency for educating the masses in the values of democracy - Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. The Public Libraries have become the behives of activity... busy humming market places of ideas where the fields of interest are not narrowed to the educational or the cultural, but limitless as the span of man's own consciousness, a veritable treasure chest of facts and follies... a kind of intellectual service station. This gives the feeling of the modern busy library, though some secondary activities are put on par with primary functions.

The advent and advancement of democracy; the extension of the horizons of education; the intensification of research, and the
The virtual explosion of knowledge and information have necessitated the services of a well-stocked, well-staffed, well-organised and up-to-date library in India at large. Further, the progress of a country depends largely on education which provides to the citizens, either through formal or non-formal education. Active and informed participation of the masses in the country's affairs is also essential for a real democratic set-up. A democratic country like India needs such citizens who are aware of their environment and are well acquainted with the cultural, social, political and economic heritage of the country. This type of education is possible through an effective Public Library System.

Realising the importance of Public Library System, the Government of India, immediately after the dawn of independence took a challenging
step in encouraging for the enactment of Public Libraries Act and consequently the Madras Public Libraries Act was passed in 1948. It was later followed by the Hyderabad State in 1955 and the States of Karnataka, Maharashtra and West Bengal followed their forerunner's foot prints.

The State of Andhra Pradesh is well in advance in realising the importance of Public Libraries and it acclaimed to be one of the leading states which have enacted the Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act April 1, 1960 and further developed a net-work of Public Library System to provide library services throughout the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Anantapur is one of the four Rayalaseema Districts of Andhra Pradesh. The Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act provided for the constitution of Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas at every district level with a District Central
Consequently the District of Anantapur also constituted its Zilla Gran-dhalaya Samstha according to the provisions of the Act and a District Central Library and various other public libraries were also started in urban and rural areas.

**PROBLEM:**

The success of Public Library System in Andhra Pradesh in general and Anantapur District in particular depends to a greater extent on the organisational structure and administrative set up. The administrative set up must be such that it provides for good organisational structure and in turn the latter must mobilise resources, their utilisation and makes the working of the total organisation effective through providing services on equality basis to all citizens. Further, the Act guiding the entire
Public Library System in the State must be such that it eliminates all the organisational and administrative haphazards, act as a panacea to all the problems in the day to day functioning of the Public Libraries which are detrimental in fulfilling the objectives for which they are established.

But, the present controversy and criticism from all sections of the society in that the present Public Library System in Andhra Pradesh in general and Anantapur District in particular which is entrusted with the responsibility of providing efficient, comprehensive and integrated library services to the citizens is not successful in fulfilling its objectives under the present Act and the current administrative organisational structure. There is also a hue and cry on all quarters and at all levels with regard to the working of public libraries in Anantapur District.
Scope of the Study:

Hence, an attempt is made in this thesis to study the administrative and organisational structure of Public Library System, the various provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act, the day to day working and problems of the public libraries and various other related aspects with a view to promote performance standards through reorganisation and reorientation with a view to make Public Library System in Andhra Pradesh in general and Anantapur District in particular more service oriented and public spirited.

Objectives of Study:

The objectives of the present study are five fold in character.

1. To study the historical factors responsible for the growth of libraries in India;
2. To examine the growth of Public Library System in India and their objectives;

3. To analyse the Administrative and Organisational structure of Public Libraries in Andhra Pradesh from the perspective of the Governing Act.

4. To assess the organisation and working of Public Libraries in Anantapur District; and

5. To discuss the problems of Public Library System in Andhra Pradesh in general and Anantapur District in particular and offer suggestions for its reorganisation and re-orientation to be more service oriented.

Methodology:

The present study is based on both primary and secondary sources. The primary data was collected from the State Central Library, Hyderabad, Zilla Grandhalaya Samstha and
District Central Library, Anantapur, Branch Libraries, Village Libraries, Aided Libraries, Book Deposit Centres and Mobile Libraries in Anantapur District. Personal visits were conducted to make on the spot study of various operational as well as organisational problems faced by them. The historical information was collected from the old records of Zilla Grandhalaya Samstha of Anantapur, State Central Library and State Archives of Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad. Personal interviews were conducted and fruitful discussions were held with concerned members of Zilla Grandhalaya Samstha, Librarian and other office personnel. Personal and group discussions were also conducted with the visitors of Public Libraries in Anantapur District to extract their reactions.
The secondary data was collected from the budget proposals, expenditure statements, office files, circulars, orders of Zilla Grandhalaya Samstha and the Department of Public Libraries and the State Government. The relevant Acts, Amendments, Rules and Regulations, Andhra Pradesh Gazettes, District Gazettes, various reports on Public Libraries by various study teams were also consulted. Further, various books and journals pertaining to the Library and Information Science, Library organisation and Management, Library Manuals, Librarianship, Public Libraries etc., were also studied. Data was collected from State Central Library, Hyderabad, Government and University Libraries, Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas and other Public Libraries in the District. Finally, the national and regional newspapers, brochures and other published and unpublished literature was also made use of.