Chapter VIII

THE STRUCTURAL FRAMEWORK AND FUNCTIONAL DETAILS

All the libraries affiliated to the K.G.S. functioned on the basis of a common law. The administration of the libraries was being conducted by a democratically elected Executive Committee. The number of members of this Executive Committee ranges between five and eleven. In this committee, a teacher and a member of the local bodies may also be included. The committee would elect the President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. The tenure of this committee is three years; after that the members could contest again as the committee member of the library. The library shall be opened on all days and the time of functioning was from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The holidays for libraries may not exceed more than twelve days in a year. The membership of the library was opened to all people of the locality without any discrimination. A membership fee, as well as a small amount as annual fee was collected from members. The following were the powers of the Library Executive Committee.

2. Ibid.
1. To admit new members;
2. To remove defaulters;
3. To take actions against the members who cause loss to the libraries;
4. To meet and conduct the expenses and activities of library as per library budget;
5. To conduct classes in education, arrange elocution competitions, dramas and other art festivals for the overall development of the people;
6. To decide the purchase of books and periodicals; and,
7. To organise other activities which are beneficial to the development of libraries.

The President of the Committee would preside over the meetings, and the Secretary would keep all accounts of the libraries. The meeting of the committee members shall be summoned at least once a month and the quorum of the committee is sixty percent of the total committee members. The library records like Membership Register, Book Accession Register, Periodical Register, Cash Book, Visitors' Diary, File Book, and Acquisition Register were maintained by every library.

Once in every year the annual meeting of the library members was held in every library, and the previous years' audit was

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3. Ibid.
conducted. The quorum of the meetings was twenty five percent of the total members. During the annual meeting, libraries organised various cultural programmes, especially, dramas. The members of the libraries as well as local people acted in these dramas. The role of libraries in promoting amateur and professional dramas had been phenomenal. For instance the Sree Chithira Thirunal Library, Vanchiyoor, Trivandrum and Deshaposhini Library, Calicut made it a point to stage a new drama every year in connection with their annual meetings.

Some of the prominent playwrights of Malayalam like, E.V. Krishna Pillai, Kainakkara Kumara Pillai, G. Sankara Pillai, M.G. Kesava Pillai, K.T. Mohammed, P.C. Appukkuttan Nair, Thikkodian, M.R. Raghava Warrier, N.P. Chellappan Nair, and T.N. Gopinathan Nair wrote dramas for these two libraries.

T.N. Gopinathan Nair, recollects that he became a dramatist through the dramas which he wrote for Sree Chithira Thirunal Library. The themes of the dramas were usually historical and social. It exposed the real life of the society. The dramas against social evil and injustice influenced the public, and helped to improve

4. Ibid.
5. Deshaposhini library was established in 1938.
the intellectual and cultural attitudes of the people. It also helped the participants to develop their dramatic skill and career. Thikkodian, another famous playwright, admits his indebtedness to the Deshaposhini Library of Calicut to establish himself in the field of drama.  

Likewise, in Malabar most of the libraries had Kalasamithis (Arts Centres) and Sahitya Samitis (Literary Centres) which staged dramas and arranged other cultural activities along with the annual meetings of the libraries. Some of the libraries conducted dramas for collecting funds for the development of libraries. In 1964, Kottayam Public Library conducted a drama festival, and collected one lakh rupees for the development of the library. It also raised Rs.130000/- by selling lottery tickets, and used it for the development of the library. Now it is one of the leading libraries in Kerala.

Many educated women were attracted to the field of acting owing to the interest of libraries in dramas Annachandy, Rugmini

Amma, Omana Kunjamma and Indira Pothuval were a few of them.\textsuperscript{11} They acted in dramas staged by the Sree Chithira Thirunal Library, Trivandrum, and they introduced many new techniques in the amateur and professional dramas of the State. The new experiments endowed the dramas with a new outlook, and charm, and the benefits of these were shared by the successors in the field.\textsuperscript{12}

For each taluk there was a Taluk Library Union, each library in the taluk can send two representatives to the Taluk Union, and the representatives of all the libraries in the taluk constitute the general body of the Taluk Union. The general body elects a working committee of nine members. The Taluk Union has a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Joint-Secretary. The administration of the Taluk Union was vested with the working committee. The term of office of a Taluk Union was three years. The source of revenue for the Taluk Union was thirty-six percent of the subscriptions paid by the individual libraries of the Sanghom. In addition, it also received a monthly grant from the centre for organisational work. The Taluk Library Union kept a close surveillance over the working of each library in its jurisdiction, and ensured that the libraries maintained records and generally observed

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{12} Ibid.
\end{itemize}
the rules laid down by the Sanghom. It also helped in the establishment of libraries by local initiative, and the strengthening of the existing libraries in the taluk.\textsuperscript{13}

There was a District Library Committee consisting of:

1. the representatives of the Taluk Unions in the district on the basis of one representative per Taluk;

2. three members of the Bharana Samiti from the district; and

3. two persons nominated by the Bharana Samiti of the Sanghom from a panel of five members proposed by the elected members of the committee.

The District Library Committee co-ordinated the activities of the Taluk Library Union, and convened district level library conferences and seminars. It also rendered assistance to Taluk Unions for their smooth functioning and for the development of the libraries in the districts. It received from the Sanghom twenty percent of the subscriptions paid by libraries and also ad-hoc grants for the conduct of conferences and seminars.\textsuperscript{14}

The General Body of each Taluk Union, while electing members for its working committee, also elected representatives for


the General Body of the Sanghom on the basis of one member for every ten libraries in a taluk. It was stipulated that there should be not less than three, and not more than seven members for each taluk. The representatives so elected along with the life members (those who have donated not less than Rs.100/-) and Vice-Patrons (those who have donated not less than Rs.250/-) constituted the General Body of the Sanghom. 15

The General Body elects members of the Bharana Samithi of the Sanghom on the basis of three members for each revenue district. Two members were elected by General Body among the life members and Vice-Patrons of the General Body. These elected representatives nominate six persons from among renowned educationists, literary men, lawyers, social workers, etc. There were also two members of the Bharana Samiti nominated by the Government, and one member nominated by the University of Kerala. Thus all but three members of the Bharana Samiti were elected or nominated by representatives of libraries. The controlling role of library workers in the affairs of the Sanghom was evident from this. 16

The Bharana Samiti elects a President, two Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, two Joint Secretaries, and a Treasurer, who along

15. Ibid.
with four other elected members constitute the working committee. The *Bharana Samiti* was the chief executive and policy making body of the Sanghom. The working committee concerned itself with the administrative matters within the framework of the policy laid down by the *Bharana Samiti*\(^{17}\).

The Sanghom had a Secretariat which was headed by the General Secretary who was assisted by an Administrative Assistant, a Superintendent, an Accountant and other staff. The Government sanctioned annual grants for the maintenance of the office and for organisational work. The other sources of revenue of the Sanghom were the subscriptions from the affiliated libraries, sale proceeds of publications and donations from institutions and individuals.\(^{18}\)

The structural frame of the Sanghom manifested itself in its functional pattern also. Most of the libraries of the State were the products and publicity medium of the national movement. The slogans of national movement like boycott of foreign clothes, upliftment of the Harijans, eradication of untouchability, and spreading of Hindi language were the other activities undertaken by the libraries.\(^{19}\)

\(^{17}\) Ibid.

\(^{18}\) The Kerala Public Libraries Bill, No.13, p.15.

These libraries helped political workers to improve their standard of political knowledge by reading the books and periodicals available in these libraries. T.K. Ramakrishnan, a leading leftist politician of Kerala, admits that he started his political career as a library worker.\(^\text{20}\)

The hundreds of libraries scattered in different parts of the State stood for creating social harmony among the people of different groups and sects. Each library was a centre for social activity in every village. These libraries served as focal points in the society which helped to solve many social problems. It was a link between different cultures of the society.\(^\text{21}\) The members of the libraries belonged to different strata of the society possessing different cultural traits. It resulted in the interaction among various groups.\(^\text{22}\) The libraries, thus turned out to be an agency for social education, and linking among various segments of people.

One important duty of the K.G.S. was to provide good literature to the public through its affiliated libraries. Since its formation it has a very effective Book Selection Committee consisting

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of eminent literary men of the State. The affiliated libraries of the Sanghom purchased majority of their books from the recommended list. Through these books the public developed a fairly good taste for better literature.\textsuperscript{23} The members of the library got the rare opportunity for reading worthy books of the world literature by paying a small amount as subscription. According to Parur T.K. Narayana Pillai, the libraries of the State have played an important role in developing literacy achievements of the nation.\textsuperscript{24}

The Sanghom has won the confidence of the general public. It aimed at making every library in the rural and urban areas as centres of different activities. The Sanghom planned to provide for nursery education to children. The Government, the Bharat Sevak Samaja, the Child Welfare Council, and some Voluntary agencies were running nursery schools in the state. They were not however, sufficient to meet the ever-increasing needs of the people. The growing children need special attention during their formative stages. Hence, the Sanghom decided to start nursery classes attached to 100 libraries in 1970.\textsuperscript{25} Their number increased every year, and more libraries came forward to start nursery classes. The service of the

\begin{itemize}
\item[23.] Parur T.K. Narayana Pillai, "Sahitya Prashanathil Grandhasalakalkulla Sthanam". \textit{Grandhalokam}, (Trivandrum), (Mal.), V.3(8) 1951, pp.9-10.
\item[24.] Ibid.
\end{itemize}
Sanghom in this field has been fully recognised and appreciated by all people. Some of the libraries have a separate section for children. In 1975, 820 libraries had children's section. A special issue of Grandhalokam monthly was published during 1979 commemorating the International Children's Year.26

An award called "Jayasankar Award" has been instituted by the Grandhasala Sanghom for children below the age of fourteen, who have read the maximum number of books in a year and have taken note of them. From among the applicants, the best reader of the year is selected by a selection committee. This prize was instituted during 1971, using an endowment instituted by Sri. K.N. Damodaran Nair.27

When the Sanghom celebrated its Silver Jubilee in 1970, it was felt that the number of readers have not increased in proportion with the increase in the number of libraries. The Sanghom wanted to find out the reason for this strange phenomenon. So the Sanghom organised sample surveys in different parts of the state. It was revealed that even in the capital city of Trivandrum, there were certain wards having more than 80 percent illiteracy.28 This helped

the authorities open their eyes and think of trying to eradicate illiteracy from the state. One of the primary aims of the Sanghom had been the spreading of literacy among the rural folks, and making steady progress in this regard since 1950. The census figures of 1970 showed that nearly forty percent of the total population of 2.12 crores in the State remained illiterate. Even after setting aside the younger age groups, the adult illiterates numbers about forty lakhs.  

The Sanghom submitted a proposal to the Government of India to start 7000 literacy centres in Kerala with 3500 libraries as the nucleus. The Government of India sanctioned a pilot project in 1971 to start twenty literacy classes. These were started in the Athiyannoor Block (Trivandrum district) in the south and Malappuram Block (Malappuram district) in the North, each having ten centres. Literacy Jathas were organised as a prelude to starting these centres.  

The project was completed in six months, but the evaluation showed that the literacy level attained was not upto the expectation. The experts from the Ministry of Education, Government of India, and UNESCO agreed with the Sanghom and suggested an overhauling of the

29. Ibid.  
project. Hence it was decided to extend the duration of the project to ten months with at least three hundred instructional hours. It was also suggested to have primers to ensure the literacy component. Different schemes like agriculture, fisheries, animal husbandry, dairying, book binding and the like were planned, to implement the scheme effectively.  

During the next year, twenty more centres were sanctioned to the Sanghom. These were also organised in the same areas as in the first project. The evaluation carried out towards the end of the ten months period showed considerable improvement in the outcomes, when compared with those of the first project. Another set of twenty centres, ten exclusively for women, and ten for men, were sanctioned for the Sanghom as the second project. In July 1974, twenty more centres were sanctioned for the Sanghom. 

For the implementation of the functional literacy programme, the Sanghom prepared a scheme and constituted an Expert Committee.


32. Ibid.
The committee was expanded later, nominating more members. It prepared primers separately for workers, women, slum dwellers, and so on. In addition to common primers, Hand books, Guide books, literacy charts, etc., were also prepared by the expert committee (See Appendix - H). A fortnightly Sakshara Keralam was published by the Sanghoom from 1972 for the neoliterates, and was sent free of cost, by post, to them. In addition to this, workshops were organised for the production of books for neoliterates.34

The literature helped the neoliterates to save themselves from illiteracy and ignorance. This was made possible by their association with libraries and books. Sufficient books written in simple style on useful subjects by good and experienced authors were


34. K. Sivadasan Pilai, No.28, pp.16-18.
a must to these readers. The scheme was intended to make available such books to the neoliterates besides other publications. As an experimental measure, the scheme was started in some of the libraries including Harijan Welfare libraries during 1979-80.  

The UNESCO have awarded one of the honourable mentions of 'Nadesh K. Krupskaya Prize' for 1975 to the K.G.S., for its services in the field of adult education. This was actually a moral booster for the Sanghom to strengthen its activities into new fields. In a letter from the Government of India to the State Secretary for Education communicating the award, it was mentioned thus: "This is indeed an honour bestowed not only on the Sanghom but on the adult education efforts of the country. On behalf of the Government of India, I would like to convey an appreciation of the services rendered by the Sanghom. We hope the association will continue its pioneering work with the zeal".  

A three-day workshop on curriculum preparation was organised by the Sanghom in collaboration with the Indian Adult Education Association at Kanakakunnu Palace, Trivandrum in March 1977.  

35. Ibid., p.19.  
The literacy programmes, already in existence are being continued even after the take over of the Sanghom by the Government, in 1977. The two hundred women's centres already sanctioned to the Sanghom were organised during 1978-79. The Sakshara Keralam weekly for neoliterates which was discontinued in May 1977 was revived with effect from January 1980. The publication of neoliterate books has also been taken up again with financial support from the Government. 38

Every year '8 September' is being celebrated all over the world in memory of the 1965 Teheran Conference which evolved the concept of functional literacy in place of adult education. The Sanghom and its libraries have been celebrating this day every year since 1970 by organising seminars, conferences, public meetings, and conducting essay and elocution competitions for the school and college students, and social workers separately. 39

The rural libraries also, in turn, celebrate the day in a befitting manner highlighting the urgent need for eradicating illiteracy from the State. Some libraries organised exhibitions and arranged cultural programmes in order to motivate adult illiterates, and to create awareness among the literate elite. 40

38. Ibid., p.24.
In addition to issuing books to those who came to the library, some of the affiliated libraries of the Sanghom had a system of taking books to the doorsteps of the readers. Ananda Pradayani Library at Alleppey has continued this system for the past several years. Even today books are distributed to two hundred families in the town and suburbs in this manner. The founder of the library, V.G. Panicker himself was seen taking books to customers.\(^{41}\) The common method of distribution was as follows. Books were carried in a box attached to a bicycle to the street corners. People assembled on hearing the bell and the books were then distributed. On a later day fixed by the volunteers, the books will be returned by the customers and, if necessary exchanged. This scheme was first introduced in the Koothuparambu Block at Cannanore district in 1973.\(^{42}\)

When this was found to be successful, it was extended to four more districts, namely, Trivandrum, Quilon, Trichur, and Calicut covering hundred villages. This programme was first implemented in 61 libraries at 61 taluks and 12300 families were beneficiaries of this programme every year.\(^{43}\) This scheme helped the housewives Kerala develop a reading habit and establish acquaintance with worthy books.

\(^{41}\) Ibid., p.25.


In order to propagate the reading habit of good books among the members of the family, a scheme called 'Family Reading' was introduced by the Sanghom, in 1971. In this, all the members of the family assembled at a convenient time in the house, and one of them will read a book, while others listened to it. In each home gatherings, books having some message alone will be read. This scheme was expected to improve the reading habits of people. Reports of such home reading sessions were regularly received by the Sanghom from people belonging to different walks of life.\textsuperscript{44}

Along with the spread of literacy, the reading habit of the people of Kerala increased tremendously. It helped the growth of the publication of books in the state. The total number of books published in Kerala between 1941 and 1980 is as follows.\textsuperscript{45}

Table No.10 \textbf{Number of Books published between 1941 and 1980}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>Subjects of Books</th>
<th>1941-50</th>
<th>1951-60</th>
<th>1961-70</th>
<th>1971-80</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literary</td>
<td>Books</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>4606</td>
<td>4565</td>
<td>4407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational</td>
<td>Books</td>
<td>1154</td>
<td>2856</td>
<td>2749</td>
<td>2817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>3167</td>
<td>7462</td>
<td>7314</td>
<td>7224</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{44.} K. Sivadasan Pillai, No.28, p.27.

Table given above indicates that the number of books published in between 1941-50 was more than double that published in 1951-60. One important factor for this increase might be the work done by the United Travancore-Cochin Library Association, and to some extent the work done by Malabar Local Library Authority for the expansion of the library movement. The K.G.S. and its affiliated libraries were also responsible for the growth and development of publishers and writers of Kerala. It could find out market for their books. It was one of the reasons for the healthy existence of publishers and it indirectly sustained the writers of Kerala.

The growth of literacy, increase in the publication of books and periodicals and the easy availability of literature through the libraries moulded the reading habit of the people. Some commercially motivated publishers of books and periodicals of Kerala misused this reading habit. They published low quality novels and stories through which they exploited the weak sentiments of the people. A leading Malayalam Magazine Kalakaumudi wrote that the cheap weeklies

46. Ibid., p.80.
49. Ibid.
50. "Vilkan 12 Laksham Vayikkan 69 Laksham". Kalakaumudi,
called Painkili magazines spread Painkili Sahithyam (trash literature). Most of these magazines are being published from Kottayam and their names begin with the Malayalam Alphabet 'Ma' and so they are called 'Ma' publications. It is very difficult to get a novel by paying rupees ten but by paying rupees ten, seventy novels can be read in every week.\textsuperscript{50} Cheap novels are serialised through such periodicals. The growing commercialism is reflected in these magazines which attempt to present stereo-type romances and detective stories instead of the real life of the society.\textsuperscript{51}

Apart from books, the K.G.S has played an important role in developing the habit of newspaper reading. Almost all the libraries have more than three newspapers. In some libraries, the literate would read the newspaper loudly and the illiterates who gathered in the library premises would listen to it. It is a normal process especially in some of the libraries in north Kerala.\textsuperscript{52}

The number of newspaper readers is the highest in Kerala in comparison with other states of India. The fifty-five per cent of the

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{50} "Vilkan 12 Laksham Vayikkan 69 Laksham". Kalakaumudi, (Trivandrum), (Mal.), 8 July 1990, pp.10-13.
\item \textsuperscript{51} Sreemanthini Nirajuna, "Negotiating Totalities: Towards an analysis of popular Magazine, fiction". Social Scientists, (New Delhi), V.16(8), 1988, p.16.
\end{itemize}
people of Kerala is newspaper readers. According to Sakkariya, a well known Malayalam writer, the thoughts of the people of Kerala are designed by the newspapers. Their self-perception is done through this media. They are the 'prey and product' of newspapers. These newspapers decide what a Malayalee should think; perhaps a Malayalee is the first person in the whole World who has been intellectually doomed by his high rate of literacy.

Since the formation of Kerala Grandhasala Sanghom it had taken interest to start separate section for ladies. In 1975, 179 libraries had separate sections for ladies. It also celebrated international women's year in 1975 with different special programmes for women in accordance with the direction of the UNO. The Sanghom had submitted a proposal to the Government of India for starting 1000 women library centres for eradicating illiteracy among women. This programme had attracted the attention of the house wives of Kerala and educationally backward women who had established a rapport with libraries. The membership of ladies in the libraries have considerably increased due to the above programme.


The Central Social Welfare Board had a scheme to educate women of the age group between 18 to 30 years to pass S.S.L.C. in the course of two years. Preference was given to the underprivileged sectors of the society who had studied at least up to the fifth standard and have not appeared for the S.S.L.C. examination. Thirty women from a group, and majority of them were provided with free boarding and lodging. Those who came from their houses were given pocket allowance. One such project was allotted to the Sanghom during 1975-76. Along with the academic subjects, cutting and tailoring, book binding, basket making, and so on were also taught. The programme was a success but during the time of Board of Control the Sanghom failed to continue such programme.

Agriculture, the backbone of Kerala economy, has been given due importance by the K.G.S. With the collaboration of the State Institute of Languages and the Farm Information Bureau, the Sanghom started a pilot project to organise agricultural book corners in selected libraries in 1974. Books on agriculture were supplied to popularise agriculture in the village and to improve agricultural methods. The scheme was being extended to more libraries. Such book corners existed in 1246 libraries during 1977-78, and the

56. K. Sivdasan Pillai, No.28, p.25.
membership had risen to 2000 in 1980. The State Institute of Languages had produced standard books on various aspects of agriculture. Books worth Rs.300/- were supplied to libraries receiving only one third of its price, i.e., Rs.100/-. The other two parts were shared by the Institute and the Farm Information Bureau. The area where these books were kept was noted as 'Farm Book Corner'. Discussions, group seminars, film shows and so forth on farming were also arranged in these libraries.  

In a number of libraries scientific books were stored, exhibited and distributed for reading. Books produced by the Sasthra Sahitya Parishad and popular science, and books published by different agencies were included in this special corner. This was expected to spread scientific literacy among the villagers.

In different parts of the State, twenty one libraries had organised Jail Library Service effectively during 1976-77. Books which might improve the character of the inmates of the jails were mainly distributed through them. This scheme was extended. In 1985, jail libraries were opened by the Sanghom in important jails of Kerala and now they have the same status of the affiliated libraries.


59. K. Sivadasan Pillai, No.28, p.27.

60. Ibid., pp.27-31.
This was a peculiar service rendered by the K.G.S., unique in many respects. Likewise, in the Nooranad Leprosy Centre a library has been in existence since 1960. This library has 11000 books and 34 periodicals. There were two sections in the library of the leprosy hospital where men and women had separate library facilities. There was a library meant for the T.B. patients also, at Pulayanarkotta Hospital in Trivandrum. Similarly, connected with the factories like Titanium (Trivandrum) and the FACT (Alwaye), libraries have been organised for the benefit of the workers. Also, a scheme had been prepared to start libraries in hospitals for the benefit of patients. The Sanghom provided all timely help and facilities to these libraries.

The Sanghom has a scheme to supply dictionaries, lexicons and reference books at concessional rates to the deserving libraries. The Kerala University, State Institute of Languages, State Institute of Encyclopaedia, and such other institutions collaborate in this scheme. The government gazette was also supplied at concessional rates to libraries receiving grant-in-aid from the Government.

District and taluk level seminars were organized by the Sanghom every year. These aim at reviewing the working of libraries.

62. K. Sivadasan Pillai, No.28, p.31.
63. Ibid., p.33.
and explaining distribution system. In the beginning, no financial support was given to organise such seminars but recently financial help is being given for this purpose at the taluk, District and State levels.  

The libraries in Kerala celebrate along with libraries in other parts of the country, the National Library Week every year. Book exhibitions were organised on these occasions. Likewise the birthdays of local, national and international leaders like, Kumaranasan, Gandhi and Lenin were celebrated by the libraries of the state. During these occasions, people got opportunities to understand the ideas and lives of these great men.

The K.G.S. paved the way for the formation of similar organisations in the State. Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad (1968), is a leading voluntary organisation in Kerala and India. It is the offshoot of the work done by P.T. Bhaskara Panicker at Ottappalam in 1957. He was one of the leading personalities of the library movement and he was the President of the K.G.S. from 1970 to 1973. The K.G.S. and Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad are complementary to each other. These organisations worked together to conduct different


65. Ibid.

public programmes through libraries. Often science classes were conducted in different libraries of the State by the Parishad. The aim of the Parishad is to cultivate scientific knowledge and scientific awareness among ordinary men in order to equip them to live in the modern society. It is also one of the aims of the K.G.S.

For spreading national integration, Hindi classes have been conducted by the Sanghom through the libraries of the State since 1961. Selected Hindi books were purchased and a portion of Grandhalokam was used for Hindi language and literature. In 1961, the Government of India gave an aid of Rs.30,660 for libraries for encouraging Hindi sections in the libraries of the State.

One of the important drawback of the libraries of the State was that in most of the rural libraries, books were not scientifically arranged and they were functioning scientifically. This was mainly due to lack of qualified library persons in these libraries. Most of the librarians were not qualified, but they were persons voluntarily serving the libraries. Taking this fact into consideration, the Sanghom had given adequate training to library organisers, since

69. Ibid.
A three-month training course for library workers was commenced by the Sanghom in 1958. Likewise, workshop on librarianship and hundreds of lectures of library scientists were arranged by the Sanghom in different libraries. Moreover, the Sanghom compelled the Kerala University to commence a Bachelor's Degree Course in library science, and the University opened a Library Science Department in 1961. Even then, the situation has remained the same in most of the rural libraries.

The K.G.S. also supported the Government for the speedy implementation of the latter's different programmes. For instance, when the Vana Maholsavam (forest festival) was conducted by the Government of India in 1950, the Sanghom gave instructions to the affiliated libraries to celebrate the festival by planting trees in the premises of libraries and also in dry land. Most of the libraries celebrated the festival and cautioned the people against deforestation. Likewise, for the spread of certain other Government programmes like National Savings Scheme (1973) and the

72. The University of Kerala, Handbook, 1977-78, (Trivandrum: Kerala University, 1977), p.120.
73. "Vanamaholsavam". Grandhalokam, (Trivandrum), (Mal.), Vol.3(1), 1951, p.53.
74. It is one of the Saving Schemes introduced by Central Government for developing saving habit among the public.
Twenty-point programme (1975-77)\textsuperscript{75} the Sanghom extended it helping hand by activating and motivating.\textsuperscript{76} The Sanghom, through its libraries, sold application forms of Public Service Commission, and other Government forms which were highly helpful to the public.\textsuperscript{77}

The libraries also rendered services for slum clearings, market cleanings, road repairs, house construction, thatching of huts, flood relief works, war helps and so forth. According to Prof. Malkom Adisesha Aiya, a famous educationist of India, though there was no public law prevalent in the state of Kerala, the conditions of public libraries in the State were better than elsewhere in India.\textsuperscript{78}

Thus it is obvious that the K.G.S. has made liaison with the social and economic life of the people of the state, though it was previously introduced for the promotion of literacy and education. This socio-economic commitment of the K.G.S. is a unique feature and it is quite natural that the activities of the Sanghom are keenly watched by the general public as well as the people at the helm of affairs in the Government.

\textsuperscript{75} The economic programme of the Government of India consisted of 21 programmes for promoting the economic conditions of the country.

\textsuperscript{76} "Desheeya Sampadya Padhathiyum Librariyum". Grandhalokam, (Trivandrum), (Mal.), V.25(3), 1973, p.8.

\textsuperscript{77} K. Sadasivan Pillai, No.28, p.37.

\textsuperscript{78} "Kerala Grandhasalakku Abhinandanam". Sakshara Keralam, (Trivandrum), (Mal.), V.5(33), 1976, p.3.