Chapter III

SPREAD OF LIBRARY MOVEMENT AND SOCIO POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Cochin Government has as a part of their adult education programme, established rural libraries in different parts of the State as an experimental measure since 1926. In the following years, the number of libraries increased. They were directly under the control of Minister of Village Development, who was elected by the people on the basis of adult franchise. In the Fourth All India Library Conference held at Madras during December 1927, representative from the State had participated. Prominent malayalies like K.C. Chacko, Ambat Sivarama Menon and Chenkulath Gopala Menon were included in the meeting of the Library Committee. They later inspired and encouraged the growth of library movement in Malabar and Cochin States. Ambat Sivarama Menon was one of the first elected Ministers of Cochin State who made significant contributions to the development of library movements in this area. Village Sevak Sanghom (Village Service Society) was formed during that period for the development


of the villages. As a part of their programme they also started many libraries in Cochin area.³

At that time, a literary organisation named Samastha Kerala Sahitya Parishath (1927) was formed by the writers of Kerala, at Cochin. Ever since, it has been contributing for the development of Malayalam language and literature. It also made its own contributions for the growth of library movement; and in later periods, the annual meetings of both the library and this literary organisation were held together.⁴

After the Civil-disobedience Movement (1931), the library movement gathered momentum in Kerala. The youth, who came out of jails, decided to strengthen the freedom movement by organising the agriculturists and labourers. They were the leftists in the Congress Party, and later, they formed a socialist group in the party itself. The pioneers of them were P. Krishna Pillai, E.M.S. Namboodiripad, A.K. Gopalan, K.P.R. Gopalan and K.A. Keraleeyan who opened a number of libraries in different parts of Malabar.⁵ Most of these

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5. Interview with K.A. Keraleeyan, at his residence, Kuthiravattom (Calicut), on 7 December 1990, by the researcher (See Appendix - J).
leaders were workers of library movement in the 1930's and later they became prominent leaders of the Communist Party of India. In those days libraries received one or two newspapers and somebody would read it aloud and others, especially illiterates, listened to it. Most of the people gathered in reading room, leaders would comment on the news in the newspapers. Doubts would be raised and cleared, it would sometimes lead to political discussions. These libraries attracted labourers, agriculturists and educated men. They used these institutions as centres for the social and political activities of that place.

The visit of S.R. Ranganathan, the great Library Scientist of India and President of Indian Library Association, gave inspiration to the people of Malabar for starting new libraries. He made appealing speeches in Palghat in September 1930. Likewise the arrival of Ambat Sivarama Menon to Malabar on first June 1931 gave encouragement to the Library Movement in Tellicherry, Calicut, Tirur,

Palghat and many other places, and gave shape to many programmes regulating the development of libraries.  

As a result of this, the idea of library movement began to spread in every nook and corner of Malabar. The leftists in the Indian National Congress had started a new library called Sree Harshan Library at Mangattu in Kannur District, and libraries were also set up at Bakkalam, Parassinikkadavu, Anchampeedika, Keecheri, Kolencheri, Karivalloor, Ellaram, Blathoor, Kalliyad, Vadakara, Tellicherry, Mattannur, Eranjoli, and other places. The pioneers behind this were Kundanjerry Kunjuraman, M.K. Kelu, Sugreevan Kunjuraman, K.A. Keralalkalam and so on. These libraries were great centres of political, social and cultural activities in Northern Malabar. Under the auspices of Sree Harshan Library, a manuscript magazine called 'Sree Harshan' was published during that period. E.K. Nayanar, the former Chief Minister of Kerala (1980-82, 1987-91), used to contribute poems and articles to this journal. He writes: "Many who read the Sree Harshan journal in Kalliaasserry had predicted a bright future for me. I have worked as writer and editor in my life." These libraries started adult education programmes and night

11. A.K. Pothuval, No.8, p.29. 
They also helped to spread the spirit of nationalism among the people. But the library workers received severe opposition from the landlords who feared that they were organizing the labourers and educated men to voice their rights.

It was in 1931 that library movement got a firm footing in North Kerala. In March 1931 an all Kerala library committee was formed with Trichur as Head Quarters. Subsequently, an All Kerala Library Meet was held at Trichur and formed the Samastha Kerala Pusthakalaya Samithy. Chenkulath Cheriya Kunjuraman, a social worker was mainly responsible for this. This meeting decided to do the following activities for the development of library movement.

1. The Council will give publicity to 6000 villages of Kerala for establishing libraries in each village.
2. It will convince its importance to the Government, local bodies and rich people of the society.
3. A Committee shall be formed to select books and periodical from the Publishers for the libraries.

15. K.A. Keraleeyan, No.5.
4. Different publishers may be summoned to one place and arrangements made to purchase books by the libraries.

5. Publicity shall be given for starting new libraries and family libraries.

6. A new book depot on the name of University shall be opened.

7. It was decided to form a branch of this council in Trivandrum and Calicut.

This Samithi also started a quarterly called 'Grandha Vijar' (April 1931) for propagating the ideas of library movement. But the Samity could not continue to function due to the non-cooperation of the people. In the meantime another professional association called All Travancore Library Association was formed in Travancore in 1933 under the initiation of Malloor Govinda Pillai. It also disappeared without making any significant contribution to this field.

In Travancore, the years after 1930 were periods of political awakening, when the under represented communities in the reformed legislature of the state protested and started an agitation. The constitutional reforms announced on 28 October 1931 failed to

satisfy the major communities like Ezhavas, Christians and Muslims, who were eagerly waiting for an important political set up with their due representation. In order to get an adequate representation in the legislature, they formed a Joint Political Congress - an action council (Abstention movement). This movement got support from library workers too. Malayali, one of the leading Malayalam newspapers, was widely circulated in the libraries since it was a mouth piece of the Abstention movement. At that time library premises were used for political meetings and discussions. Soon, the Travancore Government ordered the libraries that in no case shall the building or premises of any reading room or library be granted for meetings in connection with any political agitation directed against the authorities.

On 12 October 1933, the President of All India Library Conference, M.O. Thomas met K.S. Austin, Dewan of Travancore and requested him for the establishment of State Library System in Travancore along with the educational reforms. He pointed out that

22. Ibid., p.23.
two Princely States of India, namely, Baroda and Travancore, were unique in almost every field when they were compared with the other Indian States. Among these two States, Travancore was better than Baroda but the credit goes to the latter. This was mainly owing to the paramount importance they gave to library movement.  

"A State which gladly spends such large amount on providing facilities to her people for acquiring literacy will not certainly grudge spending a few lakh in making public library provision throughout the State so that her literate may get ample opportunities for making use of their leisure and acquiring real culture and enlightenment throughout life, company and companionship with good book."  

The Second Library Conference was held at Trivandrum under the auspices of Sree Chithira Tirunal Library on 25 July 1934. The conference was presided over by P.K. Narayana Pillai, one of the great literary men of Travancore and inaugurated by Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer, the Constitutional Adviser to the Maharaja, who later became the Dewan of Travancore. They highly appreciated, the movement and passed the following resolutions:

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27. Ibid., p.9.
28. Akhila Thiruvithamcore Grandhasala Sanghom, No.2, pp.73-74.
1. To start more libraries throughout the State as a part of library movement.

2. To increase the grant-in-aid of the libraries.

3. To supply the Government publications to all libraries.

4. To request the Government to supply, the library furniture free of cost, and to meet the expenses of the library (expenses incurred by its setting up and the purchase of land for the purpose).

This meeting proposed a Library Bill and sent it to the Government for legislation. It also laid the foundation for the formation of Akhila Thiruvithamcore Grandhasala Sanghom in 1945 which has spearheaded the library movement in Kerala since its formation. 30

The Travancore Government chalked out many new schemes and programmes regarding the library movement during this time. In the light of the report of the Travancore Education Reforms Committee (1932), under the Chairmanship of K.M. Statham, the Director of Public Instructions presented a scheme in 1110 M.E. (1935) for the establishment of a central circulating library and a large number of rural libraries. 31 He also recommended the setting up of public


libraries along with village schools and the use of Motor vans for resource sharing from the central library. The Government approved the proposals of the Director of Public Instructions and decided to open rural libraries attached to the department primary schools in 15 centres with one in every Division.\textsuperscript{32}

Another very important recommendation of the Director of Public Instructions was the establishment of the State Library System and the legislation for the setting up a large number of libraries and local library authorities.\textsuperscript{33} The Government considered the steps to be taken to develop and expand library movement in the State with a view to prevent neo-literates from relapsing into illiteracy and provide facilities for adult education. "Necessary funds were to be provided by the Director of Public Instructions, and rural library section attached to schools would be started. Arrangements should be made for the transfer of excess books and old magazines from the public library to the rural library. The Government did not deem it necessary to have any legislation in connection with the library movement."\textsuperscript{34} These steps of the Government were severely criticised.

\begin{enumerate}
\item English Records, File No.C.349/34 Edn., (Trivandrum: Directorate of State Archives, Kerala), p.15.
\end{enumerate}
by the Public. The leading Malayalam news paper Kesari wrote that the rulers of Travancore have no idea about the basic principles of library movement. A library legislation, an imposition of library cess and establishment of library department, are inevitable for the development of library movement.  

Travancore had the lead in establishing public libraries which proved to be an aid to education. But the proposal for establishing a library department, and for making a network of well-equipped and well-supervised library system in the State was delayed. However on 6 March 1935, Muhammed Habeebulla, the Dewan, forwarded a draft letter to His Highness for the reorganisation of Trivandrum Public Library and the establishment of State Library System.  

In the meantime, Travancore Government took more enthusiasm in the development of rural libraries. In 1934, 37 rural libraries received grants from the Travancore Government. The grant received in the previous years was as follows:

Table No.2: Rural libraries and Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of rural libraries</th>
<th>Total sum distributed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1106 M.E/1931 A.D.</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Rs.2,655/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1107 M.E/1932 A.D.</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Rs.2,594/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1108 M.E/1933 A.D.</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Rs.2,673/-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1936 a Rural Library System was introduced to develop and extend library movement in the State and to promote adult education (See Appendix-B). In the same year, 60 libraries were started among which 57 were Malayalam libraries and remaining were Tamil libraries. An allotment of Rs.100/- was made for each library for furniture. The Headmasters of Primary Schools acted as Honourary Secretary of libraries and they were assisted by a local committee consisting of three members. Each library, Secretary received Rs.3/- as remuneration. A set of 200 books was purchased and supplied to each library. Besides this, 4700 books were distributed by Text Book Committee free of cost. A daily newspaper and a magazine were


also supplied to each library. The movement was duly appreciated by the local people.  

The Third Library Conference was held at Neyoor under the auspices of Dewan Nanu Pillai Memorial Library in 1111 M.E. (1936). Mallcor Govinda Pillai, one of the leading advocates of Travancore presided over the meeting. After this meeting, the people and the Government began to evince more interest towards the library movement.  

The libraries expanded their nature of functioning during this time. They began to act as institutions of social service in each village. Many social service programmes like night classes, study classes, literary associations for discussions, public activities and sanitation works were conducted by the libraries. These programmes greatly attracted people to the libraries.  

At that time certain libraries with specific aims and objectives were organised in Malabar. Among these the important were the Sanmarga Darshini Library (1929), (which aimed at the promotion of good morality) Aikya Kerala Grandhasala (1934), (which  

40. Ibid.  
41. Akhila Thiruvithamcore Grandhasala Sanghom, No.2, p.75.  
stood for the creation of a United Kerala), Chowa Thozhilali Library (1934), (which was for the cultural and social elevation of labourers and peasants), and Deshaposhini Library (1936) and Sen Gupta Library (1937) (primarily which stood for promoting national integration). These libraries spread the noble ideas for which they stood.

The first peasant organisation of Kerala called Kolacherry Karshaka Sanghom (Kolacherry Kisan Union) was formed in July 1935 at Thalipparambu in North Malabar with V.M. Vizhnu Bharatheeyan as President and K.A. Keraleeyan as Secretary. In order to expose the socio-economic grievances of the peasants, Sree Harshan Library Workers staged a drama written by K. Damodaran, "Pattabaki", in different parts of Malabar. Sree Harshan Library workers were mainly responsible for the formation of this Kisan Union and drama troop. The Union expanded its area of work throughout Malabar by 1937 and formed Akhila Malabar Kisan Sanghom which succeeded in organising peasant revolts in Kerala which awakened the whole of India. The Union organised a number of libraries in different parts of Malabar and conducted night classes for peasants and labourers in

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45. E.k. Nayanar, No.7., p.10.
order to eradicate illiteracy and superstitious belief. In most of these places, the libraries were centres of peasant and labour movements.

Likewise in South Malabar, a number of new libraries sprang up for which P.C. Raghavan Nair, P.V. Kunjikannan Nair and E.P. Gopalan were mainly responsible.

Though several libraries sprang up in the rural areas of the state they were short lived. In spite of there being enough library workers, financial problems and non-cooperation of the public, were the real reasons for the ill fate of the institutions. In order to overcome these difficulties, a meeting of library workers was convened under the leadership of K. Damodaran, a veteran communist leader, at Tirur Grama Bandhu Library on 20 April 1937. It decided to conduct a big library meeting at Calicut on May 1937 with the participation of two members each from the library of Malabar area. A Committee consisting of K. Damodaran as Secretary, Mathuravanam Krishna Kurup as Chairman and Ravi Varma Raja, V. Sankaran Nair and Mukundan Kartha as members was also formed for

46. K.A. Keraleeeyan, No.5.


the future course of actions. Accordingly, a large meeting of the representatives of library workers was held at Calicut and a reception committee was formed for Malabar Vayanasala Conference, (Malabar Library Conference), that was to be held on 11 July 1937. The following were the Committee members:

1. Mathuravanam Krishna Kurup (Chairman)
2. K. Damodaran (Secretary)
3. E.P. Chathu (Joint Secretary)
4. A. Balagopal (Treasurer)
5. C.K. Ravi Varma Raja
6. V. Sankaran Nair
7. A. Damodaran
8. Mukundan Kartha
9. P.T. Eradi
10. N.C. Shekharan
11. P.T. Narayan Nair
12. T. Appu
13. P. Gopalan
14. K. Achuthan Nair

The conference was held at Calicut and it led to the formation of the Malabar Vayanasala Sanghom (Malabar Library Association).

50. Ibid.
The meeting was presided over by K. Kelappan, a prominent freedom fighter, and attended by more than three hundred delegates representing different libraries of Malabar. K. Kelappan said in his presidential address that the role and responsibility of library was greater than formal educational institutions and that this movement should work for the eradication of illiteracy among the people and increase the awareness of the people about foreign countries. The following resolutions were passed in the meeting.

1. To form an All Malabar Library Association.
2. To form a Committee to carry out the functions of the Association.
3. To send a message to Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee for forming libraries in each elementary unit of the Congress Party.
4. To request the Malabar Municipal Council and District Board to form a Central Circulating Library by uniting all the libraries run by these local bodies.
5. To request the authorities of both the elementary schools and the higher elementary schools of Malabar to start libraries along with schools.

53. Ibid.
After the general meeting of the library workers, E. Raman Menon (President), Mathuravanam Krishna Kurup (Vice-President), K. Damodaran (Secretary), P.T. Narayanan (Joint Secretary), A. Balagopal (Treasurer) were elected as office bearers of the Malabar Vayanasala Sanghom. They were political activists and freedom fighters. In the first meeting of the office bearers of the Sanghom, it was decided to form a constitution for this organization and open an office at Calicut Oriental Engineering works building.

In Cochin, though libraries were mainly established under the departments of education and local administration, it received enough support only after 1938, when the new administrative reforms were introduced as per the Cochin Act of 1938. According to this Act, Ambat Sivarama Menon, a prominent leader and member of the Legislative Assembly of Cochin was elected as the Minister of Village Department. He was in-charge of Library Department as well and gave all kinds of support for the development of library movement.

Sivarama Menon was succeeded by A.R. Menon as the Minister who also agreed in principle to establish libraries and reading rooms

54. Ibid.
55. Ibid.
in all villages. Night schools and libraries were the principal models employed in the field of adult education. Trained teachers in the field of agriculture gave instructions through libraries to the public on improved scientific methods of cultivation. Though Cochin Government's attitude towards library movement was appreciable, the amount spent for this movement was very small. They gave Rs. 50/- per year for purchasing books and Rs. 25/- for other purposes for each library. The libraries were inspected once a year along with school inspection. However, there was no satisfactory improvement in this movement. The total number of public libraries and rural libraries were 15 and 23 respectively in 1938. Besides this there were Princes Libraries, Jail Libraries, libraries attached to colleges, and a mobile library. The amount spent on all the libraries together was Rs. 6,354/-. A.R. Menon established 272 rural libraries throughout the Cochin State. In 1943, 10 public libraries and 163 Rural libraries received grant from the State.

59. Ibid.
During this period, Kerala witnessed great socio-political developments. In addition to the social reforms mentioned earlier, the caste organizations and political parties like the Sri Narayana Dharma Paripalana Sanghom (1903), Yoga Kshema Sabha (1908), Nair Service Society (1914), and the Indian National Congress and its regional leaders led the campaign for eradication of untouchability and other social evils prevailed in the society. These caste organisations declared war against some of the outdated social practices and pleaded the people to switch over to the track of modernism.

The major events in the agitation against untouchability were the Vaikom Sathyagraha (1924-25) and Guruvayur Sathyagraha (1931-32). It attracted all India attention, and Mahatma Gandhi, the unquestionable leader of the National Movement, got involved in both. On 12 November 1936, the Maharaja of Travancore Sri Chithira Tirunal Balarama Varma issued his historic proclamation throwing open temples in Travancore to all Hindus irrespective of caste.

Simultaneously, a series of Social Regulation Acts like Nair Regulation Act of 1925, Cochin Nair Act of 1937-38, Madras


65. These Satyagrahas were organised against the prohibition that was in vogue in the approach roads of Vaikom temple and for securing entry in the Guruvayoor Temple by the lower caste people respectively.

Marumakkathayam Act of 1933, and Mappila Marumakkathayam Act of 1933 passed by the respective Governments of Travancore, Cochin and Madras, broke the old Joint Family system and allowed the partition of Joint Family (Tharavad) property and legalised the inheritance from father to son, instead of uncle to nephew. 67

Likewise, the land reforms introduced in Kerala paved the way for a new socio-economic order during that time. The amendments of Janmi Kudiyan Regulation of 1932 by Travancore Government had given full property rights to Kudiyans (tenants) subjected to the payment of Janmi Karam (Lord's rent). 68 The Tenancy Act of 1915 and the Cochin Tenancy Act of 1938 granted fixity of tenure and imposed restrictions on eviction of tenants. The Madras Tenancy Act of 1930 provided security of tenure and enabled aggrieved parties to approach the Courts of Law for fixation of their fair rent. 69 The working class became more conscious of their rights and duties, and they formed their own unions for collective bargaining. The working class of Alleppey took the lead in this front and they organized a Labour Union on 31 March 1922. 70 During 1934 and 1935 a

67. A. Sreedhara Menon, No.64, pp.230-231.  
68. Ibid., pp.232-233.  
69. Ibid.  
series of industrial strikes took place at Cannanore, Calicut Feroki, Trichur, Cochin and Alleppey respectively. As a result, the working class of Kerala got itself organised as a class. 71

The political atmosphere of Kerala also underwent changes at that time. By 1935, the left wing had gained predominance over the moderates and the rightists in the K.P.C.C. The leftists scored this upperhand over the rightists mainly owing to their public service, like conducting night classes, establishing libraries and organising labourers and peasants. 72

The first Conference of the All Kerala Trade Union Congress was held at Calicut on May 1935; which coincided with the formation of the Congress Socialist Party. 73

Meanwhile a secret meeting of the Communist Party of India was held at Calicut, where E.M.S. Namboodiripad, P.Krishna Pillai, N.C. Shekhar, K. Damodaran and S.V. Ghate were present. 74

Apart from trade unions and kisan unions, unions for teachers and students were also formed by the middle of 1937. 75

The Malabar Aided Teachers' Union helped the spread of library movement and

73. E.M.S. Namboodiripad, No.72, p.139.
owing to its initiation many libraries were formed. Likewise the trade unions of Kerala took keen interest to spread literacy and social education among the labourers of Kerala. They conducted many libraries and night schools in different parts of the State. It was highly beneficial to their socio-cultural developments.

As per the Government of India Act of 1935 the Provincial Government was formed in Madras on 14 July 1937 under C. Rajagopalachari; Kongattil Raman Menon was the representative of the Malabar region in the ministry. Likewise, on the election to the Malabar District Board (a local administrative unit), K. Kelappan was unanimously elected.

Meanwhile in Travancore, the Travancore State Congress was formed in February 1938 and declared that its object was the attainment of responsible government on the basis of adult franchise. The Dewan of Travancore, Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer, adopted a policy of unprecedented repression towards the State Congress workers. In 1939, a secret meeting of the Communist Party of India was held at Pinarai Vivekananda Library at Cannanore and resolved to come out

76. K.M. Lenin, No.6, p.140.
into the open, and function in Kerala. It was also decided to convert the entire socialist group in the Congress Socialist Party to the Communist Party. Thus one of the libraries of Malabar got a unique opportunity of witnessing the formation of the Kerala Unit of the Communist Party of India. Along with the formation of the Communist Party a number of new libraries were opened in Malabar area, and both celebrated their Golden Jubilee in 1989.

When the Second World War broke out in 1939, Indian National Congress decided to non-cooperate with the British Government in India and to start Individual Satyagraha. The Kerala unit of the Congress Party was also pleased by this decision and observed 15 September 1939 as anti-imperialist day. This was followed by a series of police firings and conflicts between police and activists of the Communist Party in different parts of Malabar. Many people were killed and most of the leaders of the Congress and the Communist Parties were arrested. Certain public buildings and libraries were destroyed by the police. People even, feared to look at the place where once the libraries stood. The authorities and police viewed


82. A. Sreedhara Menon, No.78, p.124.

the libraries as centres of propaganda of socialist and communist ideas. Soon the Communist Party was banned and the ban continued till the time of Quit India struggle in 1942.  

In Cochin, though dual Government was introduced in 1938, people were not satisfied with this. On 26 January 1941 a political organization called Cochi Rajya Praja Mandalam was formed and it demanded responsible Government on the basis of adult franchise. They had continued their agitation in order to achieve their final goal. During the time of Quit India Movement (1942), many political leaders and workers were arrested and tortured. At that time some of them went underground at certain places where they were provided with much reading materials. These secret places were later converted into public libraries. As a part of the anti-imperialistic movement many reading rooms were also opened at Malabar which later developed into good libraries of the State. Further, when the national movement was in high peak, some young men met secretly at different places, where they read books and periodicals and conducted discussions on it. Later on it were developed into Young Men's Associations and Social Libraries at various places.

84. A. Sreedhara Menon, No.78.
85. Prajamandala Charithra Rachana Committee, No.3, p.80.
The literature of that time reflects the best thoughts and emotions of the people. The writers who influenced and led national movement were eager to break the shackles of traditions and establish a new order of society. They were called progressive writers who formed the Progressive Literacy Union in 1944. They were ardent supporters of the library movement and whose works were made available in the libraries and reading rooms. The young generation read such materials and their influence began to act upon the society of Kerala.

The educational policy of the State, particularly in Trivandrum and Cochin, began to make giant leaps. The Dewan of Travancore, Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer, substantially contributed towards the development of primary and higher education that led to the formation of Travancore University in 1937. He had certain original ideas on educational innovations, which finally resulted in placing Travancore in the forefront among all native states and British India. With his initiation Travancore Government, the Dewan took measures for the speedy implementation of free and compulsory

89. Interview with S. Guptan Nair, at his residence, Peroorkada (Trivandrum) on 19 September 1990 by the researcher.
education in the State. He also gave importance to the non-formal educational institutions like library and reading rooms. To mark his Shashtiabtapurthi (reaching the age of sixty) three libraries and two reading rooms were opened to the public.

Kerala also witnessed remarkable industrial growth during this time. On 17 August 1925, the Travancore Rubber Factory was opened at Trivandrum. Besides, in 1937, the Travancore Government nationalised the Road Transport Department. The outbreak of the Second World War had accelerated the demand for many new products and the Governments of Travancore and Cochin States gave special attention to promote oriental industries. Consequently, a variety of industries were established in Travancore and Cochin. When the World war was over, a fairly strong industrial base was set up in Travancore State while Cochin was following the example of Travancore, and Malabar remained undeveloped.

In the field of communication media, new developments were brought about. A number of new magazines and newspapers were

91. Ibid.
94. Ibid., pp.5-6.
started. The number of libraries increased and a large number of people began to depend on this for getting of information of every kind. On 12 March 1943 the Travancore Broadcasting Corporation started to function. It was a milestone in the history of communication media in Kerala. 95

At that time library movements mushroomed in different parts of Indian States. The political parties like the Indian National Congress and some voluntary agencies took interest in this movement. Certain professional associations of libraries were formed in different parts of the country. In 1933, the first All India Library Congress was held at Calcutta and at the proposal of that Conference the All India Library Congress was formed for the development of library movement throughout the country. It conducted conferences once in every two years in different parts of India. In April 1942, 'Library Bulletin', a monthly special for libraries was published and recommended training courses for librarianship. 96 During that time two strong associations of libraries were formed in the South and the North of Kerala. Under the leadership of these associations, the library movement in Kerala seems to have gained a new orientation.
