CHAPTER III

LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN ANDHRA PRADESH
In the past, libraries in Andhra Pradesh were generally attached to the temples and institutions which were the centres of festivals, Harikathas, and cultural activities. Several libraries conduct anniversaries, competitions in games, essay writings, elocutions, dramas, sports and games and prizes were distributed on festival days and other days of national importance. Every day, it is a striking feature to note in the newspapers about the opening ceremonies, anniversaries and activities of the various libraries in Andhra Pradesh. By all these means libraries entertain the public and make them library-minded. In certain libraries, mostly in villages, Radios are tuned to attract and entertain the public. Indoor games like Chess and Carams are also given a place in libraries to attract readers.

3.1 SOCIO-POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

Kandukuri Veeresalingam was the pioneer of social reform movement in Andhra. It was also enriched with the expert advice of men like Dr. S.R. Ranganathan. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has created a landmark in the history of the Library legislation in India by appointing the Librarian of the District Central Library as the Ex-officio Secretary of the Local Library Authority and by constituting a separate Department of Public Libraries in the State under the control of the Director of Public Libraries. The Deputy Director of Public Libraries shall assist the Director in discharging his duties. The Director of Public Libraries shall supervise the State Central Library and direct and control the work of all Local Library Authorities in the State of Andhra Pradesh. He shall declare in accordance with the rules under the Act what libraries in the State are
eligible for aid from the Government and Publish annually a bibliography of all the books published in Andhra Pradesh in all the languages except English and Sanskrit. He shall also arrange for centralized classification, cataloguing, inter-library loan of books, co-ordination of book selection and maintenance of copyright registry. State Library Committee is constituted for advising the Government on all matters arising under the provisions of the Act with the Minister for Education as Chairman and the Deputy Director of Public Libraries as Secretary.

Every Local Library Authority shall elect one of its members to be its Chairman and the District Central Librarian will be the Secretary of it. Every Local Library Authority shall levy in its area a library cess in the form of a surcharge on the property or house tax levied by local bodies at the rate of 4 paise for every rupee in the property or house tax levied. The cess so collected will be paid to the Local Library Authority in the District which will maintain a fund called 'Library Fund'. The Andhra Pradesh Government shall contribute to the Library Fund annually a sum not less than the amount collected by the respective Local Library Authorities in the State. With this amount the Local Library Authorities establish and maintain the District Central Library, Branch Libraries and Delivery Station in their respective districts. By enacting the Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act (APPLA), 1960 there is a network of libraries running on uniform lines throughout the State.

The Asafia State Library at Hyderabad was declared as the State Central Library after the formation of Andhra Pradesh and former State Central Library of the erstwhile Andhra State functioning at
Visakhapatnam was shifted to Guntur and was named as Regional Central Library. The Asafia State Central Library has got valuable collections of books and manuscripts dealing with Oriental History and Art, Literature, and Muslim Theology ranging from 15th Century to the present day besides different specimens of the Art of Binding. The Regional Central Library at Guntur is engaged in the Telugu language and in collecting rare and valuable manuscripts and things of artistic importance.

The Library Movement in Andhra Pradesh has helped the Andhras in developing their language and literature, in the spreading of knowledge to rural and urban areas, in awakening public for social and political activities and in making them staunch devotees of the motherland. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, says, “The success of democracy depends on the level of intelligence of the people who compose it”. The enactment of an integrated Andhra Pradesh Public Library Act (APPLA) helped to provide library services throughout the state.

The Andhra Pradesh Grandthalaya Parishad (APGP), a state level autonomous body with statutory powers, is the principal policy formulating body. The Department of Public Libraries, headed by its Director, is the administering entity of the Act. Public libraries in Andhra Pradesh could be divided into 3 categories as under: reform should precede the political freedom. He organized movements against early marriages and performed widow marriages. He advocated the use of Telugu as the medium of official communication. Shripati Venkata Ratnam Naidu was a distinguished educationist and social reformer. Leader of Brahmasamaj, he promoted rationalist outlook among the educated persons in Andhra. Organised
movements for prohibition of consumption of alcoholic beverages, educational and social movement of scheduled castes and reform and rehabilitation of prostitutes. Gurujada Appa Rao wrote popular verses, stories and dramas on themes of social reform. He used literature as powerful medium to spread the message of social reform. Gidugu Venkata Ramamurti Pantulu dedicated his life to bring telugu language and literature within the reach of common man. He started a movement for the use of spoken language in Telugu literature. Komaraju Venkata Ranana Rao established a publishing concern to spread scientific knowledge and literature through Telugu language. He started 'Vignana Chandrika Grantha Mandal' with the help of Gadicharla Harisarvottama Rao Kasinadhuni Nageswara Rao Pantulu (1867-1938) started 'Andhra Patrika' a Telugu daily newspaper, and Andhra Ganthamala' and subsidised the distribution, and free supply of Telugu books to several libraries. Thus Andhra literature and society were transformed the impact of rational outlook, appeal, and zeal for social reform.

All these developments set the stage for the acceleration activities in Andhra Desa. The Madras Mahajana Sabha (MMS) (1884), Indian National Congress (INC) (1885), Andhra Mahajana Sabha (AMS) were established to promote Indian Nationalist movement. They preached the cult of 'Swadesi' and the impact of 'Vandemataram' movement, institutions of national and vocational education were set up and Andhra witnessed a wave of protest against foreign rule. Andhra Mahajana Sabha was formed to promote Andhra movement. The main objectives of Andhra movement were;
➢ Promotion of education and culture among people and create educational opportunities;
➢ Promotion of agriculture and commerce by creating a spirit of cooperation and mutual trust and confidence, inculcating interest in Public Health;
➢ Sanitation and Physical culture;
➢ Promotion of Telugu culture to educate masses;
➢ Secure adequate representation to Andhra in Public services; and
➢ Movement for the creation of separate State for Andhras.

Library movement was also constructed as a movement for promotion of these general objectives in Costal Andhra Region. It has embedded in the activities of Andhra movement and struggle for freedom. This involvement as the cause and context of the unique nature, character and purpose of Andhra library movement.

3.2 FIRST LIBRARY CONFERENCE

The pioneers of Andhra library movement looked at library service as a multifaceted activity to reform and regenerate society. To coordinate and direct the efforts of individual leaders and libraries the first conference of the representatives of libraries of Andhra Desa was held under the auspices of the Rammohan Library, Vijaywada on 10th April, 1914. The prime movers who convened and conducted this conference were Iyyanki Venkata Nrasimham (1880-1933) and Iyyanki Venkata Ramnayya (1890-1979). The Granthalaya veda was proclaimed by Chilakamarti Lakshmi Narasimham Pantulu in his presidential address at this conference.
The Proclamation of this Granthalaya Veda gave direction to the Library movement. Andhra Desa Grandha Bhandagara Sangham (ADGBS) was formed at this conference. Later, it was known as Andhra Desa Granthalaya Sangham (ADGS) (Library Association). After formation of the State of Andhra Pradesh it was re-designated as the present “Andhra Pradesh Granthalaya Sangham (APGS)”.

Since the formation of this Association, it became the centre for promoting Andhra library movement. The 'Granthalaya Sevakas' were full time honorary workers in the Library movement. Iyyanki Venkata Ramanayya and Paturi Nagabhushanam (1907-1987) were devoted nationalists. They as well as promoters of ADLA were swayed by patriotic and emotional fervor.

The Association envisaged that rural development was the base for national librarian. Village library was perceived as the centre-piece of rural development. The village library was information centre. It was a community centre. Village libraries catered to the needs of rural people by arranging lectures, reading newspapers aloud at convenient hours for the benefit of groups of illiterate people.

Granthalaya Sevakas (a section of ADLA) gave oral information to the people on every problem confronted by them. They used audio-visual aids, spring festivals etc. to promote social change. They organized adult literacy classes. Libraries arranged book exhibitions and classes on rural sanitation and public health, organisation of cooperative societies, agricultural and cottage industries. They were centres of social service programmes like the famine and fire relief, and social reform activities such
as the advancement of scheduled castes, woman etc. Libraries used indigenous and popular techniques of publicity such as Bhajans, Harikathas, Burrakathas, Veedhi Natakalu (street dramas), Tholu Bommalu (puppet plays), recitations of puranas and ballads, wall posters and gramophone records to reach the illiterate masses and promote library movement.

The Association conducted a number of library conferences. These conferences had great publicity value for the library movement. They stimulated interest in library movement. Policy resolutions were formulated and approved at these conferences. The Association which in turn promoted library movement and held conferences.

3.3 LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Andhra Library Association (ALA), the first of its kind in India, had been responsible for the promotion of the movement in the other States, without any help from the Government pies the credit conducting the First All India Library Conference (AILC) in 1919 under the Presidentship of J.S.Kundelkar, the then Librarian of the Baroda State Library, and the starting of the first library journal in India by name 'Indian Library Journal', goes to the Andhra Library Association (ADLA).

The Andhra Desa Library Association (ADLA) which is responsible to a large extent for the development of Library movement in Andhra Pradesh. The library Association has conducted library propaganda from village to village in Andhra Pradesh under the scheme 'Granthalaya Yatra'. The Association is running a monthly journal by name 'Granthalaya Sarvaswam' in Telugu, the only journal of its kind in Andhra Pradesh
devoted to the activities and problems of libraries. Paturi Nagabhushanam, Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Library Association must be thanked for writing, translating and editing several books in this connection. The Association has played a leading part in giving the necessary technical information for classifying and cataloguing books, for keeping the records and organizing the libraries on sound lines. It also helped in getting the libraries registered at concessional rates and to get grants from the Government and the public. The association has taken initiative in the free distribution of books and money given by philanthropic individuals, publishers, authors and Association served as a “Guide, friend and philosopher” to the infant libraries in Andhra Pradesh. The Association has been associated with eminent people like Suri Venkata Narasimha Sastry, Kasinathuni Nageswara Rao, Suravaram Pratapareddy, Gadicharla Harisarvottama Rao, Ayyadevara Kaleswara Rao and Ayyanki Venkata Rmanayya. The Association was recognized by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and due representation has been given to the Association in the State Library Committee and the Local Library Authorities constituted under the Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act (APPLA), 1960.

The Andhra Desa Library Association (ADLA) is the first Association in India for conducting training courses for running rural libraries.

3.4 LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN SARKAR OR COSTAL ANDHRA REGION

As a result of Social reform movement of Veeresalingam and the Vandemataram movement that gripped and swayed Andhra Desa, helped create interest in our people about their mother tongue. In consequence a large number of books and magazines were brought out in Telugu. This
atmosphere further promoted the establishment of libraries in Andhra Desa. With the introduction of Western education people were exposed to new ideas and rational thinking. The second decade of the 20th century found Andhra Desa in the grip of fervent and patriotic national freedom movement and the Andhra movement.

It was estimated that by the end of 1913 there were nearly 163 libraries functioning in different parts of Andhra Desa. No attempts were made earlier to establish cooperation among them so that the needs of people could be fulfilled more effectively and efficiently. The need to improve the conditions of these libraries and to call for a conference of library workers for discussion of the situation was first identified by Ayyanki Venkata Ramanayya.

The participants of the Conference formed themselves into an organization, called 'Andhra Desa Grantha Bhandagarula Sanghamu (ADGBS)'. This was later called 'Andhra Desa Granthalaya Sangham'. (ADLA) which in turn is now known as Andhra Pradesh Grantham (Andhra Pradesh Library Association-APLA) since 1957. This is the first library association formed in our country. About 200 delegates from all over Andhra Desa including the Hyderabad State attended this first conference.

The conference passed several resolutions concerning the spread of library movement, government’s responsibility, financial assistance for opening and maintenance of libraries, establishment of standing committee under the name of ‘Andhra Desa Grandhalaya Sangham’ (ADGS) appointment of paid Secretary and starting of a periodical as an official
organ for the spread of library movement. The conference elected Mocherla Ramachandra Rao as President, Chilakamarthi Lakshmi Narasimham and Suri Venkata Narasimha Sastri as Vice-Presidents, and Nalam Krishna Rao and Ayyanki Venkata Ramanayya as General Secretaries of the Association. As a result of the Fourth resolution Andhra Desa Grandhalaya Sangham was founded on April 10, 1914 and it was the first library Association of its kind for the whole country.

After the formation of the Library Association, Iyyanki Venkata Ramanayya and S.V. Narasimha Sastri took effective steps for the spread of library movement. The years that followed 1942, witnessed a steady increase in the number of libraries owing to the greater attention paid by the library workers besides the governmental aid and the contributions made by the public. The district-wise figures in 1953 were: West Godavari (110), Visakhapatnam (53), Krishna (80), Kurnool (52), Anantapur (132), Nellore (104), Srikakulam (28), East Godavari (124), Guntur (118), Bellary (97), Cuddapah (42) and Chittoor (139).

3.4.1 Objectives of APLA

The main aim of the Association at the beginning was promotion of libraries and library movement, cultural renaissance and political awakening only. As per the latest amendments to the constitution up to 7-10-1979, the Association’s main objective is, to work for the growth of the library movement, spread of social education and development of the Andhra language and culture among the Andhra People.
3.4.2 Organisational Structure

The Association was originally registered under the name of 'Andhra Desa Library Association (ADLA)' on July 14, 1918. Later it was again registered in 1958 under the changed name of 'Andhra Pradesh Library Association (APPLA)'. All the affairs of the organization are conducted by these two bodies with the advise of the Honorary President of the Association. The General Body elects the Honorary President.

A small library named 'Sarvottama Granthalayam' is maintained by the Association. The office of APLA is accommodated in Sri Sarvottama Bhavanam, Patamata, Vijayawada. The association used rural libraries for the promotion of the movement.

The Association conducted library pilgrimages mainly in the districts of West Godavari, Krishna and Guntur under the leadership of Iyyanki and promoted the establishment and growth of libraries in the rural areas of the State. It helped to start mobile libraries such as carts on wheels, bullock carts, bicycles and library book boxes in certain villages including Kuppam (Chittoor), Pedasangallu (Krishna) and Jaggapuram (Visakhapatnam). Paturi Nagabhushanam, one of the pioneers of the library movement in the state, provided library service for passengers on boats during the period 1935-1942 by maintaining reading rooms and mobile libraries on the shuttle boat service run between Tenali and Nizampatnam (reading room only), Pidapurru and Pedavadlapudi as well as Kolluru in Guntur district.7
3.4.3 Library Legislation and Representations to the Government

The APLA thought that it was necessary to have legislation in their state to bring uniformity in the services and standards of various libraries of their state that were at different stages of development under various patronages. The Association convened a special Conference at Vijayawada under the presidentship of Gadicharla Harisarvottamarao in 1948.

The APLA took keen interest in the formation of the Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act (APPLA) of 1960 by the merger of the Madras Public Libraries Act, 1948 and the Hyderabad Public Libraries Act, 1955. The APLA conducted a seminar in 1959 on the provisions of the Legislature and was also represented on the Sub-Committee that has formed for the consolidation of the Bill.

3.4.4 Library Education

The APLA took up the responsibility of conducting training courses in librarianship from 1920 onwards. Recently, it has got the permission from the Government to conduct this course in English medium also. Library organization, library administration, reference service, bibliography, book selection, classification and cataloguing are taught. Leaders of library movement and eminent public men gave special lectures to these classes. Adult education and social extension service programmes constituted integral part of this course. Dr. Velaga Venkatappiah was the first principal of the School of Library Science during 1966-68 who organised the Certificate Course. The School of Library Science at Vijayawada is named after 'Pathuri Nagabhushanam Granthalaya Sikshanalayam' (PNGS)
recognizing the services of Pathuri Nagabhushanam, to the Association for over five decades.

3.4.5 Conference

The APLA conducts conferences from time to time at different places, mostly in villages in the State. Seminars and exhibitions are conducted during this period and library workers are honoured for their outstanding service and achievements. These conferences help focus the attention of the public on the activities of the libraries and also stimulate the interest of the local people in books and libraries. The last one was held at Anantapur in 1994.

3.4.6 Development of Library Journalism

On behalf of the Association an official organ Granthalaya Sarvaswamamu was started in the year 1915 dealing with literary, historical and other cultural subjects with special reference to the activities of the public library movement at home and abroad. Yatagiri Lakshmi Venkataramana of Kakinada, edited for some years a magazine Dharma Grandhalayam in Telugu on Library Movement. Narasimha Sastri has written, besides many pamphlets, and informative book on the growth of the movement in Andhra Desa.

Velidenda Srinivasa Rao was responsible to a great extent for the preparation of a bibliography of books till 1927. The Association also published some good titles on the eve of the 'shashtipoorti Mahotsavas' of Iyyanki and Gadicharla. Proceedings of the various conferences, special issues of 'Granthalaya Sarvaswamamu' such as 'Pathuri Samsmaranam Sanchika 1987 Nov.), Iyyanki Satajayanti Sanchika (V. 51 N. 4) and the
APLA platinum jubilee and the Golden Jubilee Special Issues of Granthalaya Sarvaswamu (V.50 N.I) are also quite noteworthy. The Association has brought a few publications on adult education. The role of the APLA in the history of the library movement of our country is very significant. In Andhra Pradesh the history of the APLA and the history of the library movement are one and the same.

3.4.7 The First Library Association

The first conference of the librarians in Andhra Desa was held on 10 April, 1914 at the Ram Mohan Free Library Vijayawada (then known as Bezwada). Delegated representing 60 libraries had participated in it. The conference was presided over by Chilakamarthi Laxmi Narasimham Panthulu who gave the 'Granthalaya Veda' (the law of the library) as follows:

➢ The Sun's light brightens everything; so shall knowledge dispel Darkness and brighten every life.
➢ Air gives life to all and is freely accessible; so shall knowledge be within easy reach of all breathing life-vigour into them,
➢ Clear Water quenches the thirst of all; so shall knowledge satisfy the curiosity of the curious and the hunger of hungry for it.

As a result of this conference the 'Andhra Desa Grantha Bhandagarula Sangham' (the Andhra Desa Library Association) came into existence.

3.4.8 First to Compile a Library Directory

The work could be completed within a year and was published as the Directory of Andhra Libraries in 1915. This is regarded as the first
directory of libraries compiled and published at state level in India. At the request of the Association Velidandla Srinivasa Rao prepared a scheme for classification for use of Libraries in Andhra in 1915.

3.4.9 The First Vernacular, Library Journal in India

The Granthalaya Sarvaswamu, which was started as an official organ of the Association in 1961 happens to be the first vernacular library journal in India. This journal played a vital part in creating library consciousness, village uplift, adult education and spreading the freedom movement in this part of the country.

3.4.10 All India Public Library Association (AIPLA)

It is again the Andhra Desa Library Association (ADLA) which took lead in convening the first All India Library Conference (AILC) in Madras with J.S.Khudalkar (of Baroda) as President. This was in fact an outcome of a protest against the first All India Conference of Librarians, Held at Lahore in 1918.

3.4.11 First Library Association to Conduct Library Training Classes

This library association is the first one to start library training classes on experimental basis, of a shorter duration, to build-up a cadre of library personnel in the region, mainly to man the local libraries at town and village level. It was in 1920 such training classes were started by this Association.

3.4.12 First Library Journal from India in English

It was Mr.Iyyanki and his associates who took a lead in the professional journalism by starting a full-fledged journal in English for the first time in India totally devoted to the cause of libraries as an organ of the
All India Public Library Association (AIPLA). This journal did yeoman service for about 10 years.

3.4.13 Library Pilgrimages

The first pilgrimage was started in Bhimavaram Taluk of West Godavari district in 1936. The Central Library of Pedapalem started library service in boats instead of motor vans. This service was later extended to passengers travelling by boats between 30 villages. This service was also called as 'Floating Library Service' regarded as first of its kind in the world. This whole scheme was masterminded by Paturi Nagaghushanam, the Secretary of Andhra Desa Library Association.

It is Iyyanki who was responsible for the establishment of a number of State Library associations like the Bengal Library Association (BLA), the Madras Library Association (MLA) and many other. Paturi Nagabhushanam had established a book stall in 1944 with a view to supply quality books to libraries.

3.4.14 Andhra Granthalaya Trust (AGT)

The formation of Andhra Granthalaya Trust (AGT) in 1946 is another landmark in the history of library movement in India. 'Sri Sarvottam Bhavanam' which was named after it's the then President of the Association Gadicharla Hari Sarvottama Rao was finally inaugurate in the year 1949; the Andhra Pradesh Library Association (APLA) is housed in this building.

Andhra Pradesh Library Association (APLA) can be distinguished from all other Associations in this respect also. Right from Iyyanki to Paturi, we are having a number of selfless workers throughout the state
who wedded themselves to the cause of libraries.8 1927 the Andhra Desa Library Association (ADLA) had appointed a ‘Moving Secretary’ whose services were taken without giving any remuneration. Paturi has been working as the Secretary of this Association since 1938 and dedicated himself to this noble cause. He was honoured with Kalaprapurna by the Andhra University on the eve of its Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

The members of the ADLA attended numerous political and other conferences that were held in Andhra Desa, and persuaded them to adopt resolutions for the starting and maintenance of public libraries in their respective districts. The Association also kept itself in touch with the latest library and adult education literature and journals published in the different countries of the world.

3.4.15 New Type of Library and Library System

The Andhra public libraries conducted exposition of Puranas, plays called street-dramas, the recitation of ballads, etc. N.M. Dutt in his Baroda and its libraries says:

"The Andhras have developed quite a new type of library incorporating in its organisation, among others, the hoary indigenous institutions of the Hindu temple and the village community and the modern public library”.

K.V. Krishnaswami Aiyar, Chairman, Reception Committee, All India Public Library Conference (AIPLC), Madras (1927) stated:

“The successful organisation of free public libraries in Andhra Desa, due to the untiring exertions of stalwart patriots in that part of the country. If by any organisation the Andhras have proved their claim to
have an Andhra Province and their fitness for Swaraj, the efficient working of the library movements furnishes the evidence”.

3.4.16 The Library Journal, New York Recorded

"Even before the seed sown by Mr. Borden in the fine opportunity given by the Gaekwad of Baroda, for the development of a library system within his state, India had started on its own initiative a public library movement which is having abundant fruitage. The All India Public Library Association (AIPLA), to some extent, the outgrowth of the nationalist spirit in India, includes now District Associations and considerable number of public libraries which have the modern idea as their motive and the fulfillment of library possibilities as their goal. The addresses at the recent meeting (Andhra Library Conference, Guntur) parallel very closely what might have been said at similar meetings in this country (America), and that these were by natives of India tells in itself a great story. Much of the Chinese development has been directly of American inspiration, while Japan has looked rather to itself for its development. India, with the exception of Mr. Dickinson in organizing the Punjab libraries for the India Government, has not had from America help as she accorded to China; and its development is largely, as in the case of Japan, of indigenous character. This is wholesome, and it would be interesting to note in those three countries the lines of development both in parallel with and in divergence from American methods and ideals".
3.4.17 Success of the Movement was the Key-Note-of Iyyanki

Success was and is the key-note of Iyyanki's life. Here is what Kotaru Ramarao Pantulu (Vijayawada) said at his Shastipurti celebrations on 27 April, 1951: (vide the report of the celebrations published).

Iyyanki Venkata Ramanayya Pantulu is a powerful man who has the capacity to influence others, as no one else can do. He is irresistible. If he tells you 'what a fine man you are', you begin to think you are really so, and so undeniably attractive. If he tells you 'what a fine head you have', you surprisingly find yourself in sufficient possession of powers of which you could never have dreamt.

3.4.18 The Pioneer and Architect

Maharaja Sayaji Rao Gaekwad of Baroda pioneered the modern Library Movement in India in 1910. The natural thirst of humanity for knowledge culminated ultimately into library movement in Andhra Desa. Iyyanki in collaboration with Suri Venkat Narasimha Sastri coordinated, organised and led the Public Library Movement during its formative period from 1914 to 1939. Dr. S.R. Ranganathan the world famous 'Granthalaya Sastra Drashta' sending his message on 22 December, 1969 for the 33rd Session of the Andhra Pradesh Library Conference (APLC) wrote to Iyyanki Venkata Ramanayya:-

"My dear Grandhalaya Pitamaha Iyyanki, "As the Pitamaha I felt that, you should have a copy of it (i.e., the Message)". Immediately after the foundation of the Association, hectic activities were set on foot by a band of workers led by Grandhalaya Pitamaha Iyyanki Venkata Ramanayya.9 This band of workers filled the mind of the Andhra people with library
consciousness. "Whereas the library movement in Baroda was promoted by the Gaekwad himself, the library movement in Andhra Desa was entirely people's movement".

3.5 LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN TELANGANA

The movement in the early days in Telengana was not encouraging. Telengana remained isolated in respect of the Library Movement until the Police Action by the Government of India. Due to the efforts of Madapati Hanumanta Rao, Suravaram Pratapareddy, Burgula Ramakrishna Rao, Vaman Nayak, Kodati Narayana Rao, and some other leaders of the movement in Telengana had made a beginning in the early days of the 20th Century. In the year 1901, the Krishnadevaraya Andhra Bhasha Nilayam as started in Hyderabad. The Andhra Pradesh Library Association (APLA) is keen on the development of libraries in Telengana area just like in Andhra State and it has given due representation in its Association to the Telengana people and by conducting its annual conferences in Telengana area. In the year 1953, the Hyderabad Library Association (HLA) started functioning and it used to publish a monthly journal in English and Hindi besides conducting courses in Librarianship.

3.5.1 Nizam's Support

Asafjah-Sabeh, a man of simple habits, never stood on formalities regarding his dress and ward-robe nor cared for decorations, and ostentations. But he adorned his state capital, the city of Hyderabad, with magnificent buildings which still remind everyone of their founder and all that was done by him to adore learning and libraries during his regime (1911-1948).
In ancient and medieval Deccan collection of books and maintenance of libraries was a hobby among rich and middle classes. Even the poorer section of the people who wished to do something for the upliftment of their motherland also came forward to establish welfare associations, clubs and libraries. Some eminent personalities used their resources and persuaded the Government to establish and patronize such organizations. Some of the European officials also participated in such activities. A number of welfare educational organisations owe their existence to European ladies and gentlemen.

The contemporary literature bears testimony that until the beginning of 19th century Hyderabad was a backward state in many respects. It was Nawab Salar Jung I who, as the Diwan, did a lot for improving the affairs of Hyderabad State. In 1911, Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan, the VII Nizam ascended the throne. He was an enlightened gentleman taught and trained by able and scholarly persons. He zealously tried to develop the state educationally culturally and economically.

As stated in Ekbote Committee Report, although private libraries belonging to rich individuals were a common feature of Hyderabad in the nineteenth century, public libraries began to function only at the beginning of the 29th century. The position in the districts of the former Hyderabad State was also the same. Not many libraries existed at the district towns till 1900.

But innumerable small libraries and reading rooms were established everywhere in the State from 1901 onwards. It can be said of Hyderabad
state that the library movement was a popular movement and derived its motivation, strength and direction from the people.

3.5.2 Libraries during the Nizam’s Regime

The libraries during the regime of the Nizam VII can be divided into the following categories

- Libraries maintained by the elites;
- Libraries for public, maintained by the government;
- Libraries attached to the government's departments;
- Libraries housed in religious institutions;
- Libraries attached to educational institutions;
- Libraries of voluntary organizations;
- Public (aided libraries and riding rooms);
- Libraries established during the people’s movement.

Finances, personnel and books are the three important components of a library. Below is the description about each one of the.

3.5.3 Government Public Libraries

Libraries that were maintained for public by the Nizam’s Government were Asafia Library, and the Library of Dafter-e-Diwani Mulki-w-Mal (present State Archives). Asafia Library was the biggest in the state and is presently an apex library of public library system in Andhra Pradesh State as per the provisions of public Libraries Act, 1960.

3.5.4 The State Archives

This was the personal office of the Diwan (Chief Minister) of the state and was organised during the tenure of Nawab Sir Salar Jung. The official records, the correspondence with the British Resident and the Government
of India, After the amalgamation of the state, the Office was renamed as State Archives and shifted to a specially constructed building at Tarnaka. In recent past the MSS of State Central Library were shifted to this library. The library is now named as A.P. Oriental MSS Library and is equipped with all modern facilities, including reprographical equipment.

3.5.5 Museum Library

It was under the management of the State Museum situated at Public Gardens. The success of the Department, Museum and Library went to the credit of Gulam Yazdani, an expert in archaeology and author of many books on Deccan history.

3.5.6 Libraries Attached to State Government Departments

Every department of Nizam's Government had a library of its own. There used to be an exclusive person in-charge for each of such libraries. The efficiency of the Librarian and the interest he evinced in organising the library and acquiring standard material required, depended on this officer. The annual administrative reports of H.E.H., the Nizam's Government indicate that funds for the purchase of books were provided by the Education Department.

3.5.7 Secretariat Library

It was a good example under this category. The Registrar, Abdul Mahmood, who acquired training in archives in Delhi was officer incharge of this Library. Libraries of the High Court and other Courts in the state are also worth mentioning. The constitution of these libraries were notified in the Government Gazette dated 11th Sharewar 1312F/1902. The rules were provided for building library collection and their management. The
system had hierarchy of supervision. Members had to pay subscription as per the category they belonged to. According to Bustane Asafia, the total number of books in High Court Library in the year 1909 was 4,250.

3.5.8 Libraries Attached of Religious Institutions

Nizam, though a Muslim King, respected other religions and people. As stated by Manik Rao Vithal Rao, the Eastern culture had provision for organizations and institutions such as mosques, temples, math's, gurudwaras where people met and exchanged their views. Many mosques, khanqha, Muslim monasteries, temples and maths maintained their own libraries. They organised meetings on important religious occasions and arranged lectures by eminent persons. In the library of Dargha-e-Md. Sarear, there were important palm-leaf MSS relating to Islamic faith.

3.5.9 Libraries attached to Academic Intuitions

During the regime of Asif Jahas, especially during the reign of VII Nizam, there was a popular demand for educational facilities; Preference was given to establishment of schools and colleges. There was, however, provision for a library in every school and college. Librarians of the academic libraries were deputed to Madras, Lahore, Calcutta and Delhi for professional training. The librarians at colleges were officially designated as Superintendent of Library.¹⁰

In some of the districts mobile libraries (travelling libraries) were organized, which used to send boxes to schools for a limited period and then exchanged them with other titles in regular basis. These services were supported financially by the Government. Some outstanding libraries
attached to universities and colleges still exist and serve the students, teachers and scholars.

3.5.10 Libraries of Osmania University

Osmania University was the first Indian university which adopted an Indian language (Urdu) as medium of instruction. It was managed and financed by the Nizam’s Government. Arts College Library served as the main library for the university constituent colleges and departments. In addition, departments had their own Seminar Libraries.

3.5.11 City College Library

The city College Library needs a special mention. The building of City College was specially designed and constructed. This was the first catalogue based on Colon system printed in Urdu. This could still be used as a subject bibliography. In fact, City College Library was the best example of a model library. It adopted Open access system, card catalogue and Brown system for issuing of books.

3.5.12 Nizam College Library

Nizam College enjoyed a unique position with English as the medium of instruction and affiliation to the University of Madras. The books were classified by Browne’s scheme of subject classification. It was compiled by the late proof. Hanumantha Rao and was effectively used by students and teachers.

3.5.13 Library of Voluntary Organizations and Public (Aided) Libraries

The libraries of the above two categories were public libraries established by voluntary organizations for the benefit of common man. It was a period of renaissance for Hyderabad State. New knowledge was
spreading and new methodologies were coming in force. The Hyderabad State, which was comparatively slow in adopting English language and modern ideas, was making rapid strides.

Like the other parts of British India, in Hyderabad State also the formation of associations and establishment of libraries gradually increased. Thus libraries came into existence as a part of some association or full-fledged separate libraries. Most of the above libraries were established in the first half of the 20th century, that is, during the period of The Nizam VII. It should be inferred from this that these associations and libraries were founded by various cultural and linguistic groups in the former Hyderabad State and were patronized by government, Umras and high officials. The organizers of libraries used to raise funds from a particular cultural group, but yet these libraries were kept open for all.

Each association had a library and librarian of its own. Even university and college students unions had their separate libraries and a librarian was duly selected in the annual election. Manik Rao Vithal Rao in his Bustsane-Asafia has given a few details of the working of such associations. Some of these liberers used to get grants-aid from the Education Department, besides lump-sum grants for specific purpose sanctioned by the government, Sarfekhas and Jagirat. Financial assistance also was granted as donations from paighah, Peshkars and other nobles and officials of the state. Many libraries under this category flourished during regime of the Nizam VII.
3.5.14 Library Established During the People's Movement

The overall progress on the field of libraries in Hyderabad State was, however, not so notable as compared to Bombay, Madras and Calcutta Presidencies or even other states like Baroda. The libraries became venues for social, educational and political activities such as Andhra Bhasha Nilayam, Hyderabad, Rajarajanarendra Andhra Bhasha Nilayam, Hanumakonda and so on. The representatives of the Telangana area participated in the first Andhra Desa Garantha Bhandagara pratinithula Mahasabha held at Vijayawada in 1914, and in the subsequent conferences, and maintained a close contact with the library movement in Andhra area.

3.5.15 Early Library

This library was converted into Asafia State Library, and after the formation of Andhra Pradesh it was renamed the State Central Library, Hyderabad. The Bolaram Library and Reading Room which was established in 1892 at Bolaram, Secunderabad, is functioning even today. Bharat Guna Vardhaka Samstha established library at Shalibanda in the old city of Hyderabad in 1895. At the dawn of this century Krishna Devaraya Andhra Bhasha Nilayam was started in 1901 by three illustrious personalities, Sheiyut Ravichettu Ranga Rao, Komarraju Venkata Laxmana Rao and Nayani Venkata Ranga Rao, the zameendar of Munagala estate of Nizam state. The library was of great help to the Telugu people in the city in developing their language and culture. It encouraged the establishment of several libraries in the twin cities and in the districts of Telangana area.
Vijayana Prakashani Granthalayam was established in Suryapet. Due to the initiative taken by Kodati Ramakrishna Rao and Boorgula Ramakrishna Rao Balasaraswati Granthalaya was established in 1923. In the year 1936 Gella Kesavarao and Mudiraju Ramakoteswara Rao, Gyana Vidyut pravahini Andhra Bhasha Nilyam was established in Kammam district. Other important libraries that were established in the following year were Manmohan pustakalayam, Veddepalli; Varavara Ranganayaka Bhashanaaiayam, Ganapavaram; Viratarayandhra Bhashanilayam, Nelakondapalli; Sanskrita Kalasamvardhani Sarawwati Samajam, Secunderabad; etc.

Along with establishment of public libraries, mobile libraries on cycles, Rikshas were put onto service to extend service to remote villages. Several library workers took lead in running adult education classes as well.

3.5.16 Andhra Jana Sangam (AJS)

To protect the interest of Telugu people Andhra Jana Sangham (AJS) was started on November 12th, 1921 with the initiative of Veterans like Shriyut Madapati Hanumanta Rao, Adiraju Veerabhadrarao, Konda Venkata Ranga Reddy and Burgula Rama Krishna Rao with the following objectives:

- To open libraries, reading rooms and schools;
- To publish books and booklets to disseminate knowledge and information;
- To collect the manuscripts, inscriptions and to encourage research;
- To take all steps to protect the Telugu language and culture; and
To honour the scholars.

Andhra Jana Sangham had taken up the cause of libraries in Telangana area. The Sangham encouraged the starting of libraries in villages and towns. By 1925 there were 125 libraries in this region. Later in 1923 the Andhra Kendra Jana Sangham was formed to co-ordinate and regulate the activities of the various local Janasanghams formed throughout Telangana. These objectives were declared at the first conference of the Kendra Jana Sangham held at Hyderabad on 27th July, 1923.

The Andhra Maha sabha formed later in 1930 took up the cause of library movement from the Kendra Janasangham and pursued it until 1937 when Kendra conference was held at Nizamabad. Later in 1946 the Andhra Mahasabha merged of Hyderabad state Congress to fight for the merger of Hyderabad state in the India Union.

**3.5.17 Nizam Rastra Andhra Library Conference (NRALC)**

The first Nizam Rastra Andhra Library Conference (NRALC) was held at Madhira on 22nd Fed., 1925 along with the 3rd conference of the Andhra Kendra Jana Sangham the Fourth Conference of the Andhra Jana Kendra Sangham the Second Nizam Rastra Andhra Library conference was held at Suryapet from 30th May to 1st June 1928 under the chairmanship of Desabhakta Vaman Nayak. After this conference, no separate library conference was held in the state. It was at this conference only the Nizam State Libraray Association was started which could not survive long.

**3.5.18 Influence of ADLA Conference held in Telangana**

The Andhra Desa Library Association conducted four of its Annual conference in Tilangana from 1944 to 1956, that was still the date of
formation of Andhra Pradesh. For establishing closer contacts between the workers of Andhra and Telangana regions, the ADLA established its branch office at Khammam on 18th April, 1945 with the initiative and drive of Kodati Narayana Rao.

After the Suryapet conference (1950), the ADLA conducted three training camps for the library workers at Kodada (Nalgonda District) Hyderabad and Nalagonda. This in turn resulted in the speedy realization Visalandhra (Greater Andhra) in 1956.

These Conferences brought well deserved recognition to the library movement amongst the people. The ADLA was converted into Andhra Pradesh Library Association in 1957 extending the jurisdiction to the whole of Andhra Pradesh.

3.5.19 Institutions that helped the Growth of Library Movement in Telangana

A few Grantha Malalu (Book series) such as Vijnana Chandrika Granthamala, Ana Grantha Mala, Desoddharaka Grantha mala, Krisha pracharini Grantha mala, Vijnana pracharini Grantha Mala, Andhra Chandrika Grantha Mala, etc., published useful and popular books in Telugu at reasonable prices. They helped spread knowledge, scientific spirit and public awareness amongst the masses.

Golconda patrika

This paper was started in 1926 from Hyderabad under the editorship of Suravaram Pratap Reddy. The “gastinishan-53” banning all library conferences and meetings in Telangana in 1929, the “Nilagiri patrika” started in 1922 from Nalgonda and the “Telugu patrika” started in the
same year from Inugurti (Manukota Taluka) by the Oddiraju Bbrathers did their bit in the growth and development of library movement in Telangana.

3.5.20 Andhra Saraswata Parishath

The Andhra Saraswatha parishath of Hyderabad gave much support to the library movement as a platform and vehicle for its literary activities. This parishath maintained close relations with the library movement and its leaders. Many of the Telagana writers and poets also participated in the library movement and helped establish reading rooms and libraries throughout Telangana.

3.6 LIBRAY MOVEMENT IN RAYALASEEMA

The Library Movement was a potent instrument of progress in India. Education through the Public Library, specially the Rural Library was a part of the work of national reconstruction, a necessary preparation for our full national self expression. It was a great movement with infinite possibilities.

The Library Movement in Rayalaseema grew along with the Freedom Movement. Gadicherla Harisarvottama Rao was a pioneer in the movement. He was the first political prisoner from Andhra. After some years of active participation in the Home Rule Movement, he was attracted to Adult Education and Library Movement. He propagated the idea of establishing Libraries and Reading Rooms in all the towns and villages in the State. He was honorary Director for Adult Education for Andhra Area from 1948 to 1953. During that period he toured the Rayalaseema districts. Bellary district was also a part of Rayalaseema then. I had the privilege of following him as translator of his speeches from Telugu to Kannada in 1952. During
his tour he visited the village Libraries and the Night Schools during the night. He was of the opinion that Adult Education and the establishment of Rural Libraries was quite essential for development.

3.6.1 Anantapur

The earliest of the Reading Room in the district was the one established at Anantapur in 1883, Newspaper Clubs were started at Penukonda and kambadur. In 1893, the Edward Coronation Reading Room was started at Dharmavaram. The Edward Cornotion Reading Room is at present functioning under the management of Kalajyoti. Sri A.R.S. Haranath, the dynamic secretary of Kalajyoti has been striving for the development of this Reading Room and the attached Library. It celebrated its Centenary of service in 1922.

From 1912, the Panchayat Boards started Libraries and Reading Rooms in the district. Later, the Anantapur District Board started a Library at Anantapur in 1928. The Municipalities of Hindupur and Tadipatri started Reading Rooms and Public Libraries. Local Library Authority was constituted at Anantapur in 1950. The Zilla Grandhalaya Samstha of Anantapur District is now running 70 Branch Libraries. Besides these, there are 11 Aided Libraries managed by Private Organisation in the district.

3.6.2 Chittoor

The first Reading Room and Library was opened in 1870 in Madanapalle under the name of The American Mission-Free Reading Room. A Similar Reading Room was also started in 1890 by the American Mission
at Chittoor. In 1952, the District Central Library was started. It has now 66 Branch Libraries, 2 Children’s Libraries and one Library for women.

3.6.3 Kadapa

The Library Movement in this district is intimately connected with the Freedom Movement and a series of Adult Literacy Campaigns. In 1881, Reddijana Grandhalayam was started at Jammalamadugu. In 1884, a Public Library was started at Proddatur in 1889 Saraswati Vilasa Mandiram Library was started at Pulivendual.

Sujanananda Library was started at Rajampet in 1906. In 1910 Ramakrishna Paramahamsa Memorieal Reading Room was started in Cuddapah. In 1917 Free Library and Reading Room were started at Cuddapah. Ayra Vysya Pathanlalayam and library was started at Proddatur in 1919. This Reading Room and Public Library are now functioning well.

The Cuddapah District Library Conference was held in 1916 at Proddatur. Gadicherla Venkata Rao, D. Rajasekhara Satavadhani, Vedam Venkata Krishna Sarma, K. Gundu Rao, Badri Sitaramaiah, B. Pitchaiah and some others played a notable role in starting a number of Rural Libraries in the district.

Polepalli Venganna Sreshty started “Sri Sita Ramachandra Grandha Bhandagaramu” in 1923 at Vallur near Cuddapah. It was functioning very efficiently and earned a good reputation. Later in 1991, this Library was merged with the C.P. Brown Memorial Library at Cuddapah.

The District Board started a Library at Cuddapah with the advent of the Andhra Pradesh Local Library Act. The District Central Library was
opened in 1950 at Cuddapah. The Zilla Grandhalaya Samstha of Cuddapah is presently running 50 Branch Libraries, 2 Children Libraries and one Library for women.

C.P. Brown (1798-1884) a savant of Telugu literature established his own Library for Research in Telugu at Cuddapah in 1826. He was a great patron of Literature and there were 20 pundits under his roof. He collected nearly 4000 manuscripts in different languages. He created Library awareness among the people of Cuddapah. He edited a large number of Telugu classics. He translated the verses of Vemana into English and published them at his own cost.

To perpetuate the memory of this great scholar, a Library Building was constructed in 1991 at a cost of nearly Rs.10 lakhs. 100 volumes of the Xerox copies of the works of C.P.Brown are preserved in this Library. This unique Library in memory of C.P.Brown is managed by the C.P.Brown Manorial Trust. Sri C.K.Sampath kunar, donor of the valuable site on which the bungalow of C.P.Brown was situated is the president of the Trust. Sri Janamaddi Hanumath Sastri is the Secretary of the Trust.

3.6.4 Kurnool District

The first Reading Club was opened in 1864 in Kurnool town under the name of Book Club of European Gentlemen. During 1883 and 1900 Library-cum-Reading Rooms were started at several places like Markapur, Alur, Adoni, Nandyal, Papali, Yemmiganur and Kosigi. The District Central Library was established in 1950. In 1993, it had 58 Branch Libraries, one Children Library and 5 village Libraries. There are 10 Aided Libraries 7 Municipal Reading Rooms in the district.
The new building of the District Central Library has been named after Sr. Gadicherla Hari Sarvottama Rao. K.Chandra Sekhara Kalkura, the Present Chairman has been taking a lot of interest in spreading the Library Movement in the district. The Libraries attached to Universities and Colleges in Rayalaseema have been doing yeoman service. Notable among them are S.V.Arts College, S.G.S Arts College, S.V.Oriental College at Tirupati, B.T.College at Madanapalli, Satya Sai Institute of Higher Learning at Puttaparthi, Government Arts College Library at Anantapur and Cuddapah. Sri Venkateswara Central Library and Research Centre at Tirupati, S.V.Oriental Research Institute Library, Rashtreeya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth Library at Tirupati are growing day by day.

Sri Padmavathi Manila University Library, Agricultural University Regional Library at Tirupati, Sri Krishna Devaraya University Library at Anantapur has a large number of very valuable Books. The Oil Technological Research Institute Library at Anantapur has more than 12,000 Books on various subjects of Science and Oil Technology. The Department of Library and Information Science of S.V.University are running Bachelor of Library and Information Science and Master of Library and Information Sciences course. The Rayalaseema Institute of Library Sciences at Cuddapah is run by a Private management Sciences Course since 1990. The distinguished persons who have contributed to the Library Movement in Rayalaseema are Gadichela Hari Sarvottama Rao, K.Raghava Reddy, R. Sripathi Nasidu, Amalladinne Gopinath, B.Venkataram Reddy, Dr. P.Kamaiah, Polepalli Benganna Sresty, J.Mahaboob Saheb, Muchukota Venkataramaish, Janamaddi Hanumath
Sastri and V. Ramapathi Raju. In 1993, the Rayalaseema Library Professionals Association was established with the objective of developing the Library Movement in Rayalaseema.

Reference


3. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University (Hyderabad). Course material of BLISc.


9. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University (Hyderabad) BLISc Course material.


