CHAPTER - VI

ACTIVITIES OF PATHURI NAGABHUSHANAM IN LIBRARY MOVEMENT
“Great geniuses have the shortest biographies” said Emerson. They are seed men; they germinate, inspire and influence their contemporaries and become immortal with their exemplary moral character and the code of conduct together with constructive and selfless public service. Kalaprapoorna Paturi Nagabhushanam belongs to this class of distinguished men. They are like a good, seed, which sacrifices or consumes itself for the sake of the others. Dr. Paturi was a distinguished person in the literary world and the world of books. He lived in his works and writings resplendently like a ‘Karmayogi’. He had diverted and invested all his heritage and acquisitions into the finest art learning and acquisition of knowledge by sharpening his intellectual faculties to be with him, and be his guide at times of most need in his life as selfless and devoted public servant and doyen of the Andhra Library movement.¹

The qualities of devotion, dedication, diligence and discipline which he displayed in his studies and work have culminated in the accomplishment of his life mission. He became a distinguished scholar and a self-made man of letters. In recognition of his distinguished services for the spread of literacy among rural people through adult education and Library movement, Andhra University Waltair, had conferred on him in 1975, an honorary degree of ‘Kalaprapoorna’. In Boswellian phraseology this unsolidated mark of distinction, conferred on so great a literary luminary in turn brought much honors to the judgment and the right spirit of the Andhra University itself. He devoted his entire life to the best of human causes namely, the spread of literacy and knowledge among the people. It speaks of his highly evolved soul and self-realisation. His tastes
are delicate and satvic by nature. This explains his preference for learning to riches and other austerities of life. He rejected the handsome property of his paternal uncle lest the lute of these riches should not endanger and smoother his freedom of choice to develop his personality. It was perhaps a providential choice.

Nagabhushanam received his primary education at Kuchipudi and Pedapalem of Tenali Taluk. From third form to S.S.L.C., he had his education in Edward High School, Nidubrolu. He did his Intermediate during 1927-28 in the Loyola College, Madras and Divyagnana Kalasala, Madanapalli for one year (1936-37). He also learnt Hindi and obtained 1st Rank in this examination conducted by Dakshina Bharata Hindi Prachara Sabha. The Andhra Desa Grandhalaya Sangham (ADGS) for the benefit of those who are desirous of learning Library Science started conducting classes. Nagabhushanam attended those classes in 1934 and got himself trained in Library Science.

The Andhra University Library provided facilities for course studies in Library Science in summer vacations. He studied in those classes for two years and obtained diploma in 1938. In the words of his teacher, Prof. C.G. Viswanadham the germ of library service was already there in his blood which could sprout and get nourished by the scientific approach to Library Service. Also he said if Tamil Nadu could be proud of an idealist in Library Service in late Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, the Andhra Pradesh can equally be proud of a pragmatist in library service in late Dr. Nagabhushanam.
He underwent training in adult education in the classes conducted by the Government for 6 weeks. He participated in the Library workshop conducted in Mysore with the help of Ford Foundation to train workers to write books for neo-literates. Nagabhushanam remained a lifelong student. He believed that learning makes a man more vigorous. He lived true to this belief until his last breath. The Library movement in Andhra was the most praiseworthy and prestigious public movement. Adult education, rural libraries and village re-construction formed part of its functions.

'Padmasri' Iyyanki Venkataramanaiah was the Chief Organiser of the Andhra Library movement for two decades until 1938. Sri Paturi Nagabhushanam, succeeded Sri Iyyanki and earned momentum to the movement. It was under the stewardship of Sri Nagabhushanam that the library movement had flourished. "The Andhra Library movement and the adult education programmes are indeed fortunate in securing the self-less and dedicated services of such a noble person as Paturi Nagabhushanam", said Prof.Ranga on the occasion of his 60th birth day celebrations. For the last 40 years till he breathed his last, he had dedicated his entire life for the library movement and literacy movement. He is a symbol of diligence and hard work.

**MULTY-DIMENSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

He is a brilliant product of the Gandhi an age. He practice truth and non-violence and lived a life of austerity. He is a model to others. His life style symbolizes simple living and high thinking. He was a born teacher. He distinguished himself as an educationist and man of letters. As a student of elementary school, he established a library called "Bala
Saraswati Bhandagaramu in his native village. As a student of High School, he conducted night classes for adults for two years in the village of Machavaram, Bapatla taluk.

While he was a student of Loyola College, Madras he worked as a volunteer on the occasion of the All India Congress Conference. He took part in the anti-Simon omission agitation. Thus he exhibited his spirit of freedom and patriotic zeal. He readily responded to Gandhijee’s call and gave up his studies and became a venerable freedom fighter. He is a noble patriot a true nationalist and a real Gandhian. He worked for the upliftment of Harijans and other depressed classes. He became a wholly transformed and realized person.

INNOVATIVE CONCEPT OF BOAT LIBRARY

The youthful Nagabhushanam was innovative in his thinking and approaches. Hence he started a boat library. Why? Because, for interior villages in Guntur District Canals was the means of transport. He realized that people have free time while they embark on a journey by boat. He clinched the opportunity and started the Boat library so that people can use their journey time in a productive way.³ People used to read the books
and journals loud in the journey so that even the illiterate and ignorant will could acquire knowledge. It was the first known boat library in the country. It was in vogue for seven long years.

**BOAT LIBRARIES: A NOVEL AND UNIQUE EXPERIMENT**

Where there is will there is a way, goes the saying Sri Nagabhushanam's will power has got so concentrated on the noblest of human pursuits bringing enlightenment among one's fellow breathings that every natural phenomenon appeared to him as useful instrument. One such phenomenon was the branch irrigation canal which was then being used for inland transport of passengers also. He conceived a novel idea of organizing mobile libraries on these passenger boats and successfully carried his mission for seven years. He is the first man of education to have organized BOAT LIBRARIES in the world itself, for which every one praised him for this genius for finding a novel method of spreading knowledge among the villagers. He also renovated so many libraries in many surrounding villages. He organized the Guntur District Grandhalaya Mahasabha in his village Pedapalem. He conducted librarian course twice in his village by providing free food and boarding facilities.

**EMBARKED ON A WIDER MISSION FROM VIJAYAWADA**

On the eve of Independence, Nagabhushanam felt that Vijayawada was the right place to pursue his life mission of library movement in a wider arena. Library is not a mere repository of books; it is the quintessence of the best thoughts and aims and aspirations, dreams and delusions of people, which were shattered by the vicissitudes of life. The portals of library mould many a life in the right direction as we interact
with the best brains. Thus libraries are instruments of social change. The
progress of society is intertwined with dispelling superstitions, blind
beliefs, outmoded customs and promotion of secular and liberal outlook.

**CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH GADICHERLA HARISARVOTTAMARAO**

His close association with Gadicherla Harisarvottama Rao, a doyen of
library movement, further enhanced his dream for a larger movement. His
constant interaction with Harisarvottama Rao lifts an indelible impression
on his work and ideas. As early as 1938 he became the secretary of Andhra
Granthalaya Sangham and continued to be elected again and again to be at
the helm of affairs of Library movement for decades.

**WOMEN'S EDUCATION**

Nahabhushanam was an ardent champion of women's rights and
women's education. In the villages he encouraged girls to go for higher
studies. Girl's education is one of the means to improve the status of the
girl child in society. He set an example before others by educating his own
children up to the post-graduate level. It is heartening that Sarada
obtained doctorate degree in the field of library Science. One cannot forget
the encouragements and support given by her husband Sivaramakrishna,
all these years. Sivaramakrishna is like a son to Nagabhushanam and right
hand person in carrying forward his work.

**ADULT AND SOCIAL EDUCATION**

Nagabhushanam was concerned with the poverty and misery of the
people in the rural areas. The agricultural workers and even the small and
marginal farmers were victims of exploitation as they were illiterate and
ignorant. Hence Nagabhushanam encouraged adult education programmes
in the rural areas. The three R's were helpful in spreading awareness among these people. In pre-independence period there was no help from Government to adult or social education programmes. It was pure voluntary work. He published Gora’s books on adult education as a means of empowerment of the illiterate masses.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

He realized that library movement would get a fillip when it is a mission and also realized that there is constant need for up gradation of skills of the librarians. Commitment and skill should go together. It is a must in the ever-changing world. Hence he prevailed upon the Government to recognize and start courses in library science.

As a staunch believer in voluntary effort, he started the training and orientation programmes for librarians to impart scientific and technical skills. In order to create social awareness and to increase the commitment in the wider canvas, he invited experts from different social sciences to share their expertise and experiences with the librarians. Thus he envisaged that librarians must be experts with social commitment. I and many other members of Atheist Centre had the unique opportunity to interact with the budding librarians in the training programmes. Library movement is an instrument of social change. It must be ever receptive, innovative, and instructive and a means of ennobling people.

CONSTRUCTIVE WORK

In 1928 in his native village Pedapalem, Paturi, and Mellacheruvu Venkateswarlu established “Sevasramamu”. Under the is age of that institution, they started National Educational School, preached the
economics of Khadi, propagated Hindi Language, they educated the masses about Naturopathy agriculture, animal husbandry, organization of Sevadalam, publication of books etc., they brought out a hand-written journal.

**GRANDHALAYA TRUST**

Sri Komma Sitaramaiah started ‘Andhra Grandhalaya Trust’ in Patamata Lanka in 1946 Sri Nagabhushanam has had the honour and credit of being the honorary correspondent from its very inception. While engaged in the construction of the Bhavan, Paturi simultaneously undertook the publication of books written by Gadicherla Hari Sarvottama Rao on Adult Education and Goteti Jogiraju’s books on agriculture. For getting these books printed he set up a printing press called Sarvodaya Press in 1950. He started Grandhalaya Pustakasala in 1944 for securing and keeping rate and lasting books and to give wide publicity to them. On its behalf he published 3 volumes of Veerasalingam’s works and Sri Manikonda Satyanarayana Sastry’s Bhumiriyatu Raju and Dr. C.R. Reddy’s Musalamma Maranam and others. Gadicherla Hari Sarvottama Ras book, “illustrated exercise map of alphabets” and Gora’s Ma-Pathalu(Our lessons) two parts. All these publications have been recently placed at the disposal of the Andhra Grandhalaya Trust.

**SRI NAGABHUSHANAM’S SENSE OF GRATITUTE**

He is humble and unassuming and extremely courteous to the core. His sense of gratitude is proverbial. Irrespective of high or low he gratefully acknowledges the help rendered to him in his long service packed and humility scented life. He belongs to the galaxy of eminent personages who
made a distinct mark in their own fields of work. He is a man of affection. His actions are result oriented. He is a Saraswati Putra. He is endowed with good sense of gratitude and admiration. On the occasion of the opening ceremony of Sri Sarvottama Bhavanam he honoured Sri Goteti Jogiraju, an expert agricultural scientist. Vejendla Sriramulu an expert Veterinary Doctor and Kalipatnam Kondayya a man of Science. On the occasion of the opening ceremony of Bapuji Mandir, he honoured the well-known patriots Unnava Lakshminarayana and Cherukuvada Venkatanarasimham. Nagabhushanam is equal only to himself in respect of bringing to public notice and acknowledging all the good personalities and their noble services. He gratefully acknowledges the help done to him in his long eventful life.

Paturi published more than one hundred books on various subjects intimately connected with the spread of knowledge among the people. He himself authored some books, translated some from English and Hindi and got many written by eminent authors. The librarians whom he has trained are the true torch-bearers of Gnana (Knowledge) to the people of rural Andhra. For his work in work ship; he sincerely puts into practice that “Service to fellow beings is service to God. He breathed his last in Yoke. The meeting of Andhra Grandhayala Sangam was convened on 24th July, 1987. He breathed his last in the meeting at 3-00 P.M. Amidst his most affectionate, intimate and dear friends. His death is unique and rare.

NATIONAL MOVEMENT

Pathuri Nagabhushanam was a volunteer at the Madras session of Indian National Congress, as a student at the Loyola College, Madras. He
was an active member of the agitation held at Madras during the boycott of Simon Commission. In 1930, he was arrested for participating in the Salt Satyagraha and he was imprisoned for 1 year at Alipur camp Jail in Ballary as a political prisoner. Manikonda Satyanarayana Sastry was his co-prisoner. In 1932, he took part in the Civil Disobedience Movement and was imprisoned for six months. In 1942, he took part in the Quit India Movement after which he went into hiding for a few months. During that time he served as a courier to distribute and carry pamphlets and magazines. The Central Govt. recognized his services to the cause of freedom struggle in India and honoured him with *Tamra Patram* (a citation) an honour befitting a freedom fighter.6

**GANDHIAN MOVEMENT**

Pathuri Nagabhushanam served 15 years as a state board member of Andhra Pradesh Gandhi Memorial Fund. He was closely associated with the likes of Dr. J.N. Melkote, Ramananda Tirtha, Jamalapuram Kesava Rao, Madapati Hanumantha Rao, K.V. Narasingha Rao and Suravaram Pratap Reddy. As a "Gandhi Tatva Pracharak" (a Preacher of Gandhian Principles), he took leadership of the Vijayawada Branch and propagated the importance of Khadi products, spinning, improving the state of the Harijans and small scale industries that can be carried on at the village level. He was a role model to everyone else with his approach of during his works on his own. He was a person who attached a great value to hard work. On the occasion of the Birth Centenary Celebration of Mahatma Gandhi, he translated 10 books on Gandhi into Telugu and brought out books on Gandhi's life in a lucid style as gift to the boys and girls of the
day. He was a true Gandhian in action as not only he wore Khadi Products but also he ensured that even his wife did the same. In 1928, he founded Sevasramam in his native place and successfully carried on the following activities.

- National School.
- Advocating the use of Khadi & other Swadeshi Products.
- The importance of Hindi.
- Natural Medicine.
- Agriculture and Cattle.
- Organising of Sevadala.
- Propagation of the importance of reading books.
- Running a Magazine (a manuscript)
- Library Movement and Adult education.
- Upliftment of the Harijans (the down trodden)

In 1950, he founded the Sarvodaya Press at Vijayawada and ran it with great integrity. He appointed women for doing the hither to works of men i.e., setting of letters, binding and Printing. Then he helped women earn financial independence. He was the pioneer in recruiting women personnel in the press.7

**LIBRARY MOVEMENT**

After he took over as the Secretary of the Guntur District Library Association in 1935, he was instrumental in the starting of libraries in about 160 villages in the district. He also ensured the construction of buildings for libraries in 28 villages. To house the Head Office of Andhra Pradesh Library Association, he bought one acre of land in the hub of
Vijayawada in 1939 and with the help of donors, he constructed Sri Sarvottama Bhavanam in 1949 and Bapuji Mandiram in 1958. To create a shelter for the staff he constructed Jogi Raju Bhavanam in 1960 and Ramineni Sadanam in 1983.

During 1935 – 42, he started the ever innovative project of Boat Libraries, a national sensation at that time, to help the readers engage in more beneficial work during their journey between Pedavadlapudi and Kolluru and Pedavalapudi Pedaparru. This acted as an impetus at the national level and marked the way for many more Boat Libraries throughout India. He was an active member of five – member sub-committee constituted by the state government to prepare the draft of Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act. He was responsible for the sanctioning of a separate ministry for the Libraries after getting it separated from the Ministry of education. He was the founding father of Library Science literature in Telugu. His first book “Grandhalaya Sastra Pradhama Paatamulu” (the first lessons of Library Science) was released on the first Independence Day on August 15, 1947.

As the Secretary of Andhra Pradesh Library Association for five decades, he was responsible for the spread of libraries in each and every district of A.P. He ensured that the association enjoyed permanent and valuable funds so that the activities of Association can go on without any hindrance. He ensured that the APLA always enjoyed the best infrastructure among all the Library Associations in India. There is no district which he hasn’t covered; no Library he hasn’t visited. As a prelude to his intentions of bringing about closer ties between the Libraries and those who use them,
he started Grandhalaya Vasanthsavlalu (Library Spring Festivals). He carried this novel Project forward with great success during the summer of each year.

The Voice of Library movement ‘Grandhalaya Sarvaswam’ Monthly was brought out by him being the editor of the magazine from volume 12 to volume 48. The magazine is still going great guns as the one and only magazine on Library Science at the National level winning accolades from everyone for the last 9 decades. His Organized Training Programmes for the Volunteers of Libraries at various places in the State. Besides this, in 1966, he started the Certificate course in Library Science recognized by the Govt. A.P. As per the topics of the curriculum, he has written the material for carrying on this programme. These books on Library Science became the basis of books on Library Science in A.P.

He published about 20 books by “Vyavasayadhurini” (the king of Agriculture) Goteti Jogiraju and made scientific material on agriculture available to the agricultural formers at the village level. These books which were considered as the books of authority on agricultural science were first published five decades ago, but they were edited by the Agricultural Scientists so that quality material is made available to the farmers at various villages. He published the works on Adult education presented by Gadicherla Hari Sarvottama Rao, considered the Doyen of Adult education. He brought out volumes 1, 2, 3 of the books on Adult education, Adult Education Vachakam and the books into reprinting for 12 to 15 times. The speaks volumes of Sri Paturi’s interest in Adult education. He organized the centenary celebrations of Gadicharla at the
head quarters of various districts. On this Occasion he brought out a 400 page book with the title “Vande Mataram”. It is to the total credit of Sri Paturi that many students, academicians and scholars have benefited from the knowledge bank made available to them at the Sarvottama Library founded by him.

After the glorious period of Ayyanki Venkata Ramanayya, the founder of the “Andhradesa Grandhalayodhyamam” (Andhra Desa Library Movement) Paturi Nagabhushanam led the Library Movement forward for five decades and gave it a clear sense of direction and purpose. Without craziness for power or authority, like a true yogi with sense personalized in his nature, he could visualize and the course of Library Movement and take it forward. If the whole of A.P. called him as “Grandhalayodyama Rupa Silpi” (The Sculptor of Library Movement), or the Andhra University honored him with the honorary title of ‘Kala Prapoorna’, he considered these honours not as personal awards but as recognition of the Library Movement. 20th August, 2007 is his birth centenary. It is the deep yearning of every member of the Librarian fraternity that Paturi’s relentless and selfless efforts in the cause of Library Movement are rightly and aptly recognized nationwide so that his life acts as a positive appetizer for future generations.8

LIBRARY SPRING FESTIVALS

As a part of the Library Movement, the Andhra Desa Library Association has come out with many innovative programmes the best of which is the organization of Library Spring Festivals. These Spring Festivals were started in the Nandana in the year Telugu Calendar. Though
the Spring Festivals were limited in their execution at the National level, the librarians in Andhra Pradesh have been successfully organizing the same year after year. In the first year of Spring Festivals, Dr. S.R. Ranganathan expressed his great happiness over the starting of such an innovative programme to inculcate in the minds of the people the advantages of Libraries. “By organizing Library Spring Festivals, in Andhra Desa Library Association is carrying on the vital project in the cause of Library science” he said while wishing the association a great success. Iyyanki Venkataramanaiah, Founding Father of Andhra Desa Library Association expressed his feelings thus:

“The Andhra Desa Library Movement has always worked relentlessly to achieve its noble mission, a fact which can be emulated by any Library Movement globally. Despite the lack of encouragement and support from the government or the rulers, it has always led the movement forward. The more the obstacles that were created by the government, the better it shone. As Duggirala Gopalakrishnaiah said, ‘It bought fire out of ashes’. It kept its flag flying high in the interest of the Nation. “Wish that the Starting of Library Spring Festivals will usher in good tidings and let the event becomes historically significant in the annals of Andhra Desa Library Movement history he wished”.

The world today is rushing ahead of times. Though there are many issues yet to be addressed, India is journeying towards development in all directions. The first Library Act was passed by the Madras Government and the second one is passed by the Hyderabad Government. With the formation of Andhra Pradesh as a separate state we have both acts
becoming the acts based on which Libraries function. After an analytical study of the both acts, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has come out with a single Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act.

Mere cleaning of the house doesn’t mean you are ready for a festival. Just because we have Library Act, it doesn’t mean everyone has access to Library Services. Right from the 19\textsuperscript{th} century, scores of libraries were established in various parts of Andhra Pradesh. Most of them are formed as a result of the sense of service and encouragement displayed by a few local Philanthropists. Later, a few organizations have come out with libraries. Libraries run by the Government and the libraries run by Local Library authority under the Public Library Act are the most important libraries. Comparatively these are fewer in number, yet they are strong materially and financially. Only these Libraries can’t quench the thirst for knowledge. Though certain Libraries run by local bodies have better facilities than the ones run by committees, they are not functioning properly due to the negligence of the authorities. Though there is dedication and the spirit of service in the committee libraries, because of lack of financial support, they are not able to serve the needs of the people.\textsuperscript{9}

It is not enough that we stock up the Libraries with books. It is also important to get more and more people to read those books. It is here that publicity is greatly required. The publicity should go on a long-term basis in very many innovative ways. Only then there will be awareness in the people about the importance of Libraries. Spring Festival is one such publicity tool to conscientious people. Starting from Ugadi, the Telugu New
Year day, for two months we have the spring season. The Telugu are free during the period. The knowledge rich teachers and lawyers can spare sometime off their busy schedule during this time. The period is very suitable for journeys also. This is the movement us period to start the publicity nationwide. Spring season lasts two months. It is also difficult for the same person to conduct the activities to be carried on compulsorily by everyone. It is important to have subcommittees. The sub-committees can collect the required reformation from the APLA and its district branches to conduct the programmes.

Where even there are Libraries, Reading Rooms Adult Education Centre, the subcommittees can conduct the programmes. At other places, the likeminded educational institutions and individuals can conduct the programme. The programme they have to conduct can be clarified into five parts. On the day of Ugadi and that Sri Rama Navami special programmes can be arranged. The following are the activities that need to be done.

Day one - Prabhoda (the Day of Teaching)
Day two - Abhivruddhi (The day of Development)
Day three - Adult Education Day
Day four - Publicity Day
Day five - Sarasvata (The day of Felicitations)

On Day one, there is a procession in the morning an exhibition in the evening; in the evening or night, a meeting is arranged to conscientize people about the importance of Libraries and Library Movement. The hortatory songs to motivate the people are found in the book “Grandhalaya Gitalu” (The Library Songs). The slogans to be raised must be about
Libraries and Adult Education. In the exhibition the literature on Library Science and other materials, magazines and books in the local Library etc, should be displayed. On day two, there must be a clear cut plan to start libraries or reading rooms in places where they are not available. Where these are available, an effort must be made to develop them. It is the ideals day to start construction of buildings for libraries or reading rooms.

On day three, the Adult Education Day, the starting of new centers of adult education. Visiting of the old centers and arranging materials for their maintenance should be taken up. Eg: Lamp, Games & Sports goods, materials needed for libraries.

On day four, collecting books and magazines for the local library and enrolling the members to the Andhra Pradesh Library Association needs to be done. Each Library, Reading room and adult education Center should concentrate on enrolling at least five new members and the collecting membership fee from the old members. This could augur well for the movement. The terms and conditions membership details with application forms will be made available by APLA at your request. In the evening an annual function needs to be arranged and the history of local library needs to be discussed. The method of conducting these anniversaries is provided in the book “Sabhalu-Samavesalu”. If an anniversary can’t be arranged the time can be made use of for making people more aware of the facilities available at the local Libraries or Reading Rooms, for more details, one can read “Grandhalaya Pracharam-Vignana Vyapti”.

Day five is intended for felicitating the local poets singers artisans, philanthropists etc, Quizzes and other competitions can be arranged for
the youth of the village to make them knowledge conscious. If this is not possible there can at least be a meeting where in the best literature is introduced to the people. Special programmes for women and the kids can be arranged. There is no obligation to conduct the five day event on consecutive days. They can be certain relaxations based on the requirement.

Reference


7. Ibid, P.13

8. Ibid, p.14-15

9. Ibid, Pp.28-29