

**DR. S.R. RANGNATHAN'S LIBRARY LEGISLATION ENCOUNTERED IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF THE STATE OF HARYANA: A HISTORICAL AND LEGISLATIVE APPROACH**

**Raj Kumar Vats**

Librarian, SJK College, Kalanaur-124113, Haryana, India

E-mail: [rajkumarvats2012@gmail.com](mailto:rajkumarvats2012@gmail.com)

---

**ABSTRACT**

*This paper opens the present situation of public libraries in the state of Haryana and explores public libraries in the light of Haryana Public Library Act. This paper revisits the need of proper implementation of library legislation with the presentation of actual status of library legislation by using the historical approach. It explains library legislation as an essential tool for public library and also advocating removing the maladies, defectives and conflict in the library administration which is lies in the non- professional hands. It gives an overview of the Act and presents actual lacking conditions of the libraries with the suitable suggestions and forward contribution of Dr. S.R.Ranganathan.*

**Keywords:** Library, Legislation, Ranganathan, Public.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Haryana was created in 1966 when it was designed out from the state of Punjab. The State has progressed a great tackle since then and having richest position in many field in India, including education with many innovative practices like Semester System, EDUSAT, Progress Based Learning and various kinds of incentives, especially to weaker section and needy group of the society. As far as movement in library is concerned even before legislation the Government of Haryana through executive orders started the State Central Library in the state in 1967 and district libraries and municipal libraries in some district and their urban and rural areas. All these libraries are monitored under the administrative control of Director of Higher Education. Haryana enacted library legislation in 1989 as Haryana Public Library Act 1989 and accepted most of the principle, guideline and growing hidden independent directions of Dr. Ranganathan. The study wants to acknowledge the efforts and steps taken by the state government in this regard with its implementation. Libraries could not stand the

test of time due to inadequate financial resources in the state and the Association is still fighting and pursuing their existence matter in the state. The strengthening of libraries in developing countries forms the most competent arm in the information society. UNESCO stated that “The public library is a product of modern democracy and a practical demonstration of democracy’s faith in universal education as a lifelong process”. (UNESCO Public Library Manifesto, 1994) [1] National Knowledge Commission recommendations for sustained attention for development of Public Libraries and Information centres and also for the up gradation of libraries providing service to the public under National Mission on Libraries. Libraries are the essential tool for people to take better living conditions in a nation. The State Libraries are usually funded by the government from taxes. But in common with most public services they need to supplement these funds with money raised from a range of sources including aid, charging for some services and fines. On account of the Government’s initiative, the library associations and NGO’s have also played a role in improving the state of library awareness in the state and still continue and other library professional raises that question time to time for the correct progress.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

For the purpose of writing the paper on library legislation, understanding its character and knowing its implementation, author had studied the contribution of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan by using the historical approach. It was evident from the literature review that Ranganathan had established that library legislation is and served as the monitoring tool of the state to controlling the library practices. The study also evaluated the effectiveness of Ranganathan’s theories and concept of library legislation in the context of the state’s statute. The source for writing the history is available in various Model of library legislation and Haryana Public Library Act 1989 which possesses the valuable material. The contribution of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan is highly useful and significant. Though scanty, yet there are excellent articles written by the library professionals, such significant works have been consulted for the purpose of the writing of this paper.

## **3. NEED OF THE STUDY**

The paper on library legislation in Haryana, author needs to identify the efforts and steps taken by the state government in this regard with its implementation. The historical approach was applied to identify the weakest issues that are exclusively responsible for poor recognition of library legislation and its implementation; author listed those issues in the paper. Research in library legislation history in

the state has totally neglected area, In this context the role of library professional happens to be much more crucial to an assessment of the growth of public libraries so it is very necessary that library professionals would address the roots and opens the burning issues of public library in the state for the smooth functioning of a network of public libraries and their better footing.

#### **4. NEED OF LIBRARY LEGISLATION IN THE STATE**

According to Ranganathan “To run a public library means money. If it is to be free, who is going to pay for the purpose of books, salary of the staff and various other expenses? It is here that the need of library legislation is felt” (Rana, 1991).

**4.1** Library legislation not only provides the guidelines for development and need of public library system but also gives the provision for its implementation in the state also. It gives a clear objective of Public library system to the state Government.

**4.2** Now a day it is essential for the government to recognise and implement library legislation for the establishment and smooth functioning of a network of public libraries to provide to the educational needs of the populace.

**4.3** In the information age library legislation provides a platform with involvement of library professionals. It will have a blueprint which can be associates with the objectives of the national library easily. It provides a framework for organisation, administration, financing, and for the better footing of the library.

**4.4** In a democratic state the government has the only authority which can enforce and collect taxes through legal sanction as by way of property and house tax hence library legislation is essential to collect the library cess.

**4.5** It also provides the provision for the Constitution of State Library Authority, State central library, Advisory authority, State Library Directorate, library fund, formation of committees and Public libraries, District and Block level in the state properly.

**4.6** Library legislation provides for the provision to recognize state library associations and cooperative institutions by the State Library Authority and also provide to the State Government should create cadres for public library employees which is similar to those of the employees of Government Departments in the state. Governing of library system in the state and to make it a justifiably which is possible only by the efforts of the governing state.

#### **5. CONTRIBUTION OF DR. S.R. RANGANATHAN IN THE HISTORY OF LIBRARY LEGISLATION**

Dr. S.R. Ranganathan made a vast contribution to Indian library science is indisputable. He drafted library legislation and bring it beyond the state of Madras into other states of India to extend the public library system at broad level. According to Ranganathan “each library was developing in its own growing hidden independent direction, which is acceptable to paper as well as paperless environment. Library professional need to just unifying the actions of these hidden independent direction. Library legislation is one of those actions which not only give a path to run in direction but work as controlling tool for the library”. (Garfield E, 1984) [3] Ranganathan was the pioneer and pattern maker in the history of library legislation. He was the first person in India who ever thought about the need for library legislation. During his eighty year lifespan, Dr. Ranganathan had made many new patterns to library and information science. Among those contributions, library legislation is one of the major works devoted by him for this field; such laws are accepted as O positive blood group universally at national and international standard. He made library legislation as obligation of the state and can be implement through the second law of library science which states that every reader his/her book. Further he stated that the second law can be properly carried out only by legislation (**Ranganathan, 1957**). The work of Ranganathan towards enacting Public library legislation in different state of India from 1925-1972 was in uniform pattern and stand as a Model for each library legislation (**Nair, 1996**). There is no question that his involvement in *Influence of Internet Connectivity and Collaboration...*

initiating the work for planning, drafting, and modelling of library legislation was significant work (**Satiza, 2002**). Dr. Ranganathan drafted and devoted support in preparing some leading Models of Library Bill as first Model library Act 1930 revised in 1957, 1972; second Model Union Library Bill 1951 revised in 1959, 1972; third Model Public Libraries Bill 1963 and fourth Model Public Libraries Bill 1965. Beside that he spent their time and efforts to place on various State Public libraries Act to India. Dr. Ranganathan made single-minded efforts for getting the library Acts passed by various States in having it a platform of libraries. That efforts are Bengal (1931); Bombay (1946); Central Province and Berar (1946); Old Madras state (1946) which later became Act in 1948; United Province (1947); Cochin (1947); Travancore (1947); Union Government (1948); Madhya Pradesh (1950); Union and Constituent States (1950); Constituent States (1957); Union (1957); West Bengal (1958); Kerala (1959); Uttar Pradesh (1960); Mysore (1961) which became Act in 1965; Assam (1964); Gujarat (1964) (**Nair, R. R, 1996**).

## **6. GUIDELINES FROM THE LEAF OF THE HARYANA PUBLIC LIBRARY ACT 1989**

Some leading sections state that Section 3 states establishment of public libraries in the urban and rural areas and constitution of Committee of Experts to prescribe the standards of service. Section 4 and 5 states the constitution of State Library Authority as an apex body to advise the Government in the matter of library developments .i.e. Minister of Education and constitution of State Library Committee as an advisory body of the State Library Authority. Section 6 states the constitution of State Library Directorate for direction and controlling as well as supervising the library services in the state.

Section 7 and 10 states that the State Government shall by an order establish a State Central Library (SCL) located in the State. The State Central Library (SCL) shall have at least two sections, Viz. State Reference Library section and the state Lending Library section.

Section 12 and 14 states the establishment of District Library Committee in each district.

Section 15, 16 and 17 states the Establishment of City Library Committee, Block Library Committee and Panchayat Library Committee in the state.

Section 18 (1) states that The State Government shall create cadres for Public Library employees similar to those of the employees of Government Departments and lay down the qualifications and the other terms and conditions of service for those cadres.

(2) Within a year of its first constitution, the Authority shall frame service rules for the various categories of library employees.

Section 19 and 20 states for the provision of collection of Library cess on house tax and property tax, entertainment tax, professional tax, vehicle tax, etc. The Provision for three types of library fund, such as State Library Fund, District Library Fund, and City / Town / Block / Village Library Fund.

Section 23 states for the provision to recognize state library associations and co-operative institutions by the State Library Authority. Furthermore State Government shall make provision for the State Library and Information Service based on a State Information Policy.

**(Haryana Public Library Act of 1989).**

## **7. AN OVERVIEW OF HARYANA PUBLIC LIBRARY ACT 1989 AND PRESENT STATUS OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN THE STATE**

Haryana is the eighth state in India with library legislation. The preamble stated its objectives as, An Act to provide for the establishment, maintenance and development of Public Libraries in the State of Haryana and for matters ancillary thereto. Before the formation of this separate state, some public libraries were already established named Guru Gobind

*Dr. S.R. Rangnathan's library legislation...*

Singh Municipal Library (formerly Fyson Library) in 1926, Shri Parmeshwari Yuvak Librray in 1927, and Sri Bal Amar Samiti Library in 1932. A State Central Library was started in 1967 by 4th Government of Haryana (**Jagnayak, 1999**). besides at present it has 19 District Libraries, 6 Sub Divisional Libraries and 24 Municipal Libraries (**Deswal, 2010**). Many charitable trusts and non Government organizations had established public libraries, which took energetic role in the growth rate of reading habits and library services in the state. The HPL Association was formed in 1967. The Haryana Public Libraries Bill was passed in 1989 and Directorate of Libraries was established in 1993 for the promotion of public library system in the state. The history has shown that there are various public libraries established by the state government of Haryana. The author has learned the **Arpana R Deswal** who conducted a study on “Status of public libraries in Haryana: An Analytical study” and collected data shown that there are

One State Central Library situated at Ambala cantt. 19 District Libraries, 6 Sub-divisional Libraries 24 Municipal Libraries and there are approximately 20 Village Libraries in the state of Haryana. All these libraries are maintained under the administrative control of Director of Higher Education Haryana. This study has recorded the actual status of public libraries in the state of Haryana. The first finding has shown that as per Dr. S.R Rangathan formula of library staff, there should be regular addition of persons in the various sections of the library. But the state central Library does not have regular addition of staff according to their collection size developed in each year. [15] The second finding shown that State Central Library does not have sufficient collection size for providing proper library services to their users. The third finding shown that sixty five percent of the district libraries have their own building, while the remaining thirty five percent of the libraries are running in other building on rent. The main reason behind this is found to be shortage of financial aids/ grants which should be provided by the state government. The fourth finding has shown that the availability of staff in these libraries needs immediate attention because; Most of the Senior Position is vacant in these libraries. In the absent of proper staff a library cannot functions properly. Furthermore suggested that there should be computerized system and familiar with computer application, libraries should be fully automated in the digital age. And none of these libraries are providing online searching service and electronic services in the state of Haryana (**Deswal, 2010**). In the present scenario the state Government is lacking on the following administrative aspects

**7.1** At one times Public libraries were established under the Haryana public library Act but later on Government do not have any administrative or management lines directly reaching the aims of that libraries.

**7.2** Although the state government has big range of its own development policies but due to mismanagement cannot provide the attention and focus required for development of the public libraries in the state.

**7.3** In Haryana Libraries are works as a subsystem within another system. But generally librarian's duty and the particular tangible and non tangible requirement of libraries are not clear to many parent institutes. So parent institution cannot provide positive conditions for libraries to perform their function according to their demands.

**7.4** The Haryana Government do not implement Public library Rule and regulation properly and do not set out broad guidelines to all administrative work under which libraries perform their functions for the systematic and planned development of library and information services to keep with the need of all sections of the community whether in the urban or the rural area in the state.

**7.5** The structure of the Public libraries is not in relation with the model administrative and organizational principles. In the state, libraries are working in small pockets of separate administrative jurisdictions with various service rules, service structure, work environments and administrative structures, which are completely different from one another.

**7.6** Now a day all public libraries, library associations and library professional working in these managerial sectors have to fight their own separate battles in highly dissatisfying working conditions.

**7.7** In the state, there is no doubt that libraries do not have any contingency response plan to meet emergency situation in case of fire misshaping also.

**7.8** The acquisition is the first duty of the public library but due to non accessioning of rare books and letters of eminent personalities like Subhas Chander Bose , Bhagat Singh and Mahatama Gandhi were exposed to loss and theft in the each year.

**7.9** The performance of libraries revealed that due to absent of work norms, non implementation of library legislation, weak internal control, and lack of automation the libraries have not able to maintain speed with the library services to the populace.

## **8. SUGGESTIONS**

The fast and easiest access of the best to the society is through public library, a dream project of Ranganathan. It is destiny or bad luck of library profession that ruling party begins to formulate the outlines for the library legislation, the detail of library pattern prepared by the civil servants and when government has decided to implement it, the all task of public

libraries handed over to the non professional's hands and administrators. Although there is a will and sympathy to implement the library legislation, but the delay in causing due to lack of will/ interest of the present government and administrators of the state. Since the field of librarianship is so far neglected and treated subsidiary, hence one of the suggestions has forward to make a separate Ministry for library sectors in Haryana state. So the author would like to suggest herewith all the pertinent activities of the library system and services should be government under a distinct and separate Ministry called "Ministry of Library Affairs", as it is in the west Bengal of India.

- The present government should come forward with the proposal of proper implementation of library legislation.
- The state government should accept the responsibility of Public library service because it provides the safeguard to the "Right to information" by providing free information access to the people of state. The education minister and state representatives should develop interest for public libraries and initiate it at the floor of developing digital state.
- Legislators and Member of Parliament specially the education Minister should be approached and presented a strong case for implementation in each district.
- The on duty librarian and administrator of Public libraries should put up the proposal upon the ruling government for its implementation. For this purpose the department should suggest to the State Government to appoint an Expert Committee to study the fail system and recommend the necessary amendments to HPLA. Again, the Department should appoint a Review Committee to overcome the problems encountered by the Public libraries in the state. (Rout, 1991) [17]
- Library associations can play a greater role to impress upon the government for enhancement of libraries by way of organizing conference and seminars on the concerned issues. The publishers and book sellers also can contribute to develop a big library collection by providing the leading books on the current issues.
- The academicians, state universities and online vendors can contribute by providing the e-resource sharing facilities by way of online sharing access in Public libraries on the moderate rate.
- Library week and library workshop should be organized time to time through state central library. The State Government should finance such workshops. The welfare

societies and NGO's can play a vital role in persuading the government in the interest of the society at large.

- In order to get meaningful results from HPLA legislation the government needs to reshape it and modify its scope to include digital form of information and to enlarge their scope for state-wide implication.

## **9. DISCUSSION**

After Haryana came into existence on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1966, late shri M. L. Bhagi the then state librarian drafted a Public Library Bill by accepting the principles, guidelines of Dr.

Ranganathan and piloted by the then state education Minister Mrs. Sushma Swaraj in the Haryana Vidhan Sabha and enacted on 1989, till now this Act is ruins garbage in the catalogue of Government of Haryana. Mrs. Sushma Swaraj claimed that the enactment of the legislation would strengthen the library movement and also promote the reading habit and the use of books among the general public. She also indicated that stable financial support on a progressive basis would be provided for the libraries, besides a permanent, uniform, efficient, expanding and coordinated library service (**Narinder Kumar, 1991**). But today actual position indicates that the efforts made by various governments were sadly uncoordinated and contradictory for the implementation of this Act in the state. In a developing country like India, the public libraries should have a very energetic extension program. And public library is a living force for popular education and not the treasure house of the yesteryears as museums and monuments are. (Navalani, K, 1989) [19] Legislation provides a framework for organisation, administration, financing, and for the better footing of the library. Library legislation provides the establishment and maintenance of public libraries with the support and cooperation of the state and matters connected therewith. But library being a part of the concurrent list the state government of Haryana does not paying a nodal role in the implementation of the public library Act which is one of the prime objectives of the state. In case of non implementation of the legislation in public libraries there is no system of issuing default notices to the state government or Director of Higher Education Haryana who control the public library system in Haryana. Although the public libraries are aware about it as a matter of state duties but they did not respond it.

As per the theme of this article the author discusses the implementation of library legislation and dynamic of public library as a fine duty to the state government of Haryana who is still sleeping since a long time. Interestingly such libraries are treated as the bedfellows of museums and ancient monuments of the state. It is the crying need to correct this view. Let us

*Dr. S.R. Rangnathan's library legislation...*

attempt for bringing libraries on balance with education in the state. The Haryana public library act came into existence in 1989 but just for the namesake. And the HPL Act is totally neglected and does not implemented in the state properly till now. On behalf of the professional spirit of the author and after study the critical status of public libraries in Haryana author compelled to share their views and also offer the suggestion to the State government and invite the state government to took up the lenient view for the implementation of the Haryana Public library Act in the state properly without any delay. Experience has shown that most of these libraries are housed in a building for other purposes and are also poor from the library furniture, lacking of regular and skilled staff, insufficient collection, inadequate finance, no book fairs, seminars, competition and literacy programme for users are organised by these libraries. There is no book selection committee and the financial condition of these libraries is very poor. Library fund is not fixed by state government since the effective of the HPL Act till date. So a part of education budget must be set aside for these libraries time to time. So for the government action there is a need to appoint an Expert committee to examine the functioning of Public libraries in the State and suggest suitable measure and have taken some steps for their improvement and promotion for proper functioning. State government need to order to assign skilled and competent librarian in each Public library for the smooth functioning. After considering the expert's views the government is pleased to order the implementation of the library legislation which is waiting for your lenient steps with immediate effect. Presently, Government of Haryana is in a better position to implement the HPLA. The public libraries of the state is waiting for state government initiation for the proper implementation of HPL Act 1989 in this regard and this paper going to be publishing in library journal state soon, in case of no response of the state government, the library professionals shall have no alternate but to seek the redresses in the competent court of law for the correct action.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

This paper is an attempt to explore the role of the state Government can play in implementation of the library legislations. When author explored the duties of the state government found that it is the primary responsibility of the Government to ensure implementation of the library legislation. This is evident that our government has passed number of social and educational Acts/ Laws to solve the social problems. But it is indeed surprising to note that Haryana Government has not yet properly implement these ordinances for the growth of public library system. It is very frustrating situation so far that

*Dr. S.R. Rangnathan's library legislation...*

Government is not meet the purpose of Haryana public library Act. How can Haryana Government channelize the literacy programme and library services without the proper implementation of the Act? From the educational point of view being part of the concurrent list the Central and state governments are both responsible for ensuring effective implementation of the legislation. Presently, Government of Haryana is in a better position to implement the Haryana Public Library Act and has Directorate office for public libraries in the state. It is very said that development initiatives, planning activities and financial expenditures made by various governments were sadly uncoordinated and inconsistent. It is suggested that a revival of interest of the state in library legislation would be useful as the denote activities to solve problems of public library by offering initiative steps from the state of Haryana. Library is not something readymade education place. But it comes in educational action from ruling government own actions. And furthermore no professional force is able to motivate the state governments in this regards. The author has few words except this when library without legislation acts like a poor person when legislation acts like a poor authority of the state government.

#### **11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The academic assistance from Department of library and information science and Vivekanda Library of Maharshi Dayanad University, Rohtak is gratefully acknowledged.

#### **REFERENCES**

- IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto 1994 (English Version) Retrieved from <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s8/unesco/manif.html>. On dated 15.12.2015.
- Rana, J. S. (1989). Public library network in Haryana. *ILA Bulletin*, 24 (4): 178-185.
- Garfield E. (1984) A Tribute to S. R. Ranganathan, the Father of Indian Library Science. Part 1. Life and Works. *Current Contents*, 7: 37-44.
- Ranganathan, S.R., (1988). The five laws of library science. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Bangalore: Sarda ranganathan endowment for library science.139-141.
- Nair, Raman R. (1996). Ranganathan and public library system. *International and comparative librarianship and information system*. Chap in 14. Delhi: B R Publication, 127-129
- Satija, M. (2002). Public library planning and legislation in India: role of S R Ranganathan. *SRELS Journal of information management*, 39 (3): 255-270.
- Nair, op. cit., p.129.
- Haryana Public Library Act of 1989, S. 3, 4,5,6,7 Haryana Vidhan Sabha.

*Dr. S.R. Rangnathan's library legislation...*

- Ibid., S. 10,12,14,15
- Ibid., S. 16, 17, 18, 19
- Ibid., S. 20, 23

Retrieved from <http://www.lawsofindia.org/statelaw/1277/ThHaryanaPublicLibraryAct1989.html> On dated 10.01.2016.

- Jagnayak, S. S. (1999). Public Library Development in India: An Historical Perspective since 1947. 50 Years of Indian Librarianship edited by G Devarajan. New Delhi: Ess Ess Publication.13-14.
- Deswal, A. R. (2010). Status of public libraries in Haryana: A Analytical study. ILA Bulletin, 46(1-2): 17-22.
- Deswal, op. cit., p.17.
- Ranganathan, S. R. (1998) Library administration. Bangalore: Sarda Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science.430-436.
- Deswal, op. cit., p.22.
- Rout, R.K. (Ed.). (1991) Library legislation in India: Problem and prospects. New Delhi: Reliance Publishing House.129-134.
- Narinder Kumar (Ed.) (1991).Preface In: Library legislation in Haryana. Kurukshetra: Haryana Library Association Kurukshetra, xiii-xvii
- Navalani, K. (1989). Model public library Acts: A comment. ILA Bulletin, 25 (3):141-145.