
UNIT 10 LIBRARY LEGISLATION IN INDIAN STATES - THEIR SALIENT FEATURES

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10.0 OBJECTIVES

In Unit 9, you have been introduced to the facets of a Model Public Libraries Act and salient features of such an Act. In this Unit, we are introducing you to Public Libraries Acts of ten States of India namely, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur; Kerala, West Bengal, Haryana, Mizoram and Goa.

After reading this Unit, you will be able to:

- explain the management of public library system, the governance, structure, finance, infrastructural facilities, etc.;
- house the libraries and introduce the professional services;
- identify the variations in the provisions of the Acts on the five aspects stated in the above para; and
- describe and discuss the main features of the Public Libraries Act in the respective ten States.

10.1 INTRODUCTION

In Unit 9, we have discussed a few important aspects of library legislation. The discussion also included the salient features of a Model Public Libraries Acts in some detail. In this, unit, we shall present a comparative discussion on Public Library Acts enacted in the ten States, of India namely, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Kerala, West Bengal, Haryana, Mizoram and Goa.

The basic provision of a Public Library System as envisaged in these Acts, such as, free access to reading and learning material, establishment of institutional structure, advisory boards to provide guidelines to policy making, decision making, finance, recruiting and feedback,



etc. are discussed: All these aspects are explained in relation to the Public Library Acts of these States, In this Unit a comparative study of the Ten Acts is made in relation to the topics mentioned above. These provision are also studied with reference to their operation, in their strength, and weakness: Although Library Act were passed in ten States', they are under implementation only in five states. So, the study, in some areas, is based on the performance in those five States only.

10.2 LEGISLATIONS STUDIED

Ten States of India have put into state book their Public Libraries Act. The chronological sequence is as follows:

- i) Tamil Nadu
(Then -called Madras Public Libraries Act, 1948)
- ii) Andhra Pradesh
(The Hyderabad Public Libraries Act, 1955, as a result of States reorganisation, merged in Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries. Act, 1960)
- iii) Karnataka
(The Karnataka Public Libraries Act, 1965)
- iv) Maharashtra
(The Koihapur Public Libraries Act was passed in 1945: After States reorganisation, this State, of Kolhapur was merged with Maharashtra State. The Maharashtra Public Libraries Act, 1967 came into being *in* 1967.)
- v) West Bengal
(The West Bengal Public Libraries Act, 1.979)
- vi) Manipur
(Manipur Public Libraries Act, 1988)
- vii) Kerala
(Kerdla Public Libraries Act, 1999)
- viii) Haryana
(Haryana Public Libraries Act, 1989)
- ix) Mizoram
(Ivlizoram Public Libraries Act, 1993)
- x) Goa
(Goa Public Libraries Act, 1994)

The basic provisions of the public library system as depicted in these Acts are discussed here. As stated earlier, library legislation should take care of the following five aspects:

- a) Accessibility of information to all sections of the people.
- b) An establishment of institutional network to provide, care and preserver documents.
- c) Establishment of committees to provide guidelines in relation to policy marking, decision-making and implementation of services:
- d) Provision of finances and the *modus operandi* for expenditure.
- e) Arrangement -of a reporting system of the activities of various public libraries,

We shall *discuss* these features in detail in each of the ten Acts in the following sections, delineating the *provisions* made,. for public library services.



10.2.1 Madras Public Libraries Act, 1948

The Madras Public Libraries Act is the first of its kind in the independent India. This act provided basis of the Public Libraries System in the erstwhile composite Madras State (before November 1956) and Tamil Nadu State. The salient features of the Act are delineated as under:

- 1) This Act facilitates the establishment of Public Libraries in the State.
- 2) Provision to constitute State Library Authority for the purpose of advising the Government on such matters relating to libraries as they may refer to it.
- 3) Provision to appoint a Director of Public Libraries. (From the year 1972 a separate department was created to that effect).
- 4) Constitution of Local Library Authorities, one for the City of Madras and one for each District. The District Library Officer is, the Ex-officio Secretary of the Local Library Authority.
- 5) Each Local Library Authority shall levy library cess in the form of surcharge on the property tax or house tax at a rate of 5 paise per rupee. The Government gives each local-Library Authority, except Madras, a matching grant to the amount of library cess collected.
- 6) The Connemara Public Library, Madras was treated as the State Central Library, Tamil Nadu.
- 7) Declaration that libraries are eligible for Government aid.
- 8) The Act amended Sec.9 of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, Central Act, XXV of 1867 to the effect that every printer shall deliver five copies of each book to the State Government out of which four will be deposited in the State Central Library, Madras.

10.2:2 Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act, 1960

When Andhra Pradesh was formed in 1956, comprising Andhra areas of composite Madras State and Telengana area of Hyderabad State; Madras Public Libraries Act was in force, in Andhra area. So, administrative problems were bound to be there, when two separate Acts are in operation in one State'. To clear this problem, both the Acts were amalgamated, modified and brought upto-date as Andhra Pradesh Libraries Act in 1960, and later, it was amended in 1964, 1969, 1987. and 1989 (major amendments); and such major amendments resulted into the . constitution of Andhra Pradesh Granthalaya Parishad, more or less a State Library Authority as the apex body. This Act is an improvement over Madras Act. The salient features of this Act are given below: -

- 1) Constitution of Andhra Pradesh Granthalaya Parishad, with nominated body by, Government, as apex body with statutory powers and functions.
- 2) Constitution of Directorate of Public Libraries to direct, supervise and control the Public Library System.
- 3) Constitution of City/Zilla Granthalaya Samsthas through nomination of Chairman and Members by the Government.
- 4) Librarians of City/District Central Libraries will act as ex-officio Secretaries of the City/Zilla Granthalaya Samsthas.
- 5) Provision to collect library cess, upto eight paise per rupee as surcharge. on house tax and property tax collected by local bodies.
- 6) Payment of establishment charges of the staff working in the City/Zilla Granthalaya Samsthas by the Government.
- 7) Grant-in-aid to private libraries by Government and City/Zilla Granthalaya Samsthas.



This act is more functional than the earlier Madras Act and Hyderabad Act.

10.2.3 Karnataka Public Libraries Act, 1965

The Karnataka Act, one of the good Acts, so far, enacted paved the way for a State-wide network of Public Libraries in the Karnataka State. It comprises of Bombay-Karnataka area, old Mysore area, Hyderabad-Karnataka area, Madras-Karnataka area and Coorg, area. The salient features of this Act are given below:

- 1) Provision for a State Library. Authority in the form of a corporate body with Minister in-charge of Education as Chairman. The members are drawn from different segments of the society.
- 2) Provision for creating an independent Department of Public Libraries, with a professional-as its head.
- 3) Provision for the establishment of State Central Library at the apex of Public Library System in the State.
- 4) Constitution of Local Library Authorities for the cities and districts.
- 5) Provision for setting up Advisory Committee for Branch and Village Library Services.
- 6) Provision: for centralised technical processing.
- 7) Provision for centralised units like:
 - a) Copyright collection of the State;
 - b) State Library for the Blind;
 - c) State Bibliographic Bureau; etc.
- 8) Provision for the levy of library cess in the form of a surcharge on all possible taxable units of the State revenues. The District Library Authority gets the annual grant from the State Government (3% of the land revenue).
- 9) Creation of a State Library Service bestowing upon its employees all the benefits~ and privileges as are available to the other State government servants:

10.2.4 Maharashtra Public Libraries Act, 1967

Maharashtra State was constituted with the areas of Western Maharashtra, Marathwada, Vidarbha, and by amalgamating princely states like Kolhapur, in the year 1960. Even though there were efforts for Library Legislation from 1940 onwards, it could succeed only in the year 1967, by enacting of Maharashtra Public Libraries Act:

The main features of this Act are given hereunder :

- 1) Constitution of State Library Council by the Government. Minister for Education shall be the Ex-officio President of the Council. The Council will advise the State Government "on all matters connected with the administration of this Act."
- 2) Constitution of a separate Department of Libraries, and the appointment of a professional as its Director.
- 3) Establishment of State Central Library and a Divisional Library for each Division.
- 4) Constitution of a District Library Committee for every District.- The Chairman of the Education Committee of the Zilla Parishad functioning in the district, as the Ex-officio President of the Committee. In case of the Committee of the Greater Bombay, the Chairman of the Education Committee of the Municipal Corporation, shall be the Ex-officio President of the Committee.
- 5) Establishment of Maharashtra State Library Service and to treat all members of such service as Government servants.
- 6) There is no library cess. The Government shall contribute to the library fund every year,



a sum not less than 25 lakh of rupees. The Government may make special grants to library fund.

- 7) Grant-in-aid to public libraries organised by voluntary organisations.

10.2.5 West Bengal Public Libraries Act, 1979

With a gap of more than a decade, the West Bengal Public Libraries Act entered in the statute book in the year 1979. This is more or less a replica of the Madras Act. But the unique feature of the Act is the conspicuous absence of library cess. The State Government is meeting the expenditure *on the* maintenance of libraries from its exchequer. The important features of this Act are given below:

- 1) Constitution of a State Library Council with the Minister in Charge of library Service; as its Chairman, for advising the Government on the matters of public library system.
- 2) Representative from the employees of the libraries as a member in the State Library Council.
- 3) Constitution of a Department of Libraries to supervise and direct the matters of Public
- 4) Constitution of Local Library Authority for each district, The District Magistrate of the District shall be the Ex-officio Chairman of the Local Library Authority.
- 5) Provision for constitution of Executive Committee for Local Library Authority (LLA).
- 6) The Government is empowered/to appoint District Library Officers and District Librarians in districts: The Government, after consultation with the Authority, may place the District -Libraries in charge of District Librarian. He shall manage library affairs subject to the control of the Authority.
- 7) No provision for Library Cess. The financial management for local libraries by the Local Library Authority. The following are *the* means: for augmenting funds:
 - a) Contributions, gifts and income from endowments;
 - b) Grants from the government *for* general maintenance of libraries or for any specific purpose; and
 - c) The amount collected by the LLA under the Act or the rules:

The Act provides funds by the State Government in the form of Annual Grants.

Self Check Exercise

- 1) State three distinct improvements of the Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act over the Madras Act.

Note: i) Write your answers in the space given below.
 ii) Check your answers with the answers given at the end of this Unit

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10.2.6 Manipur Public Libraries Act, 1988

A small State, Manipur, located in the eastern part of India got the opportunity for library legislation in 1988. The Salient features of the Manipur Public Libraries Act are given hereunder:

- 1) Constitution of a State Library Committee, to advise the State Government on all matters arising under this Act and to exercise and perform such other powers and duties as maybe prescribed.
- 2) Constitution of a Department of Public Libraries.
- 3) Provision for constitution of Executive Committee for District Library Authority.
- 4) Constitution of District Library Authority in each District, as a corporate body, for the purpose of organising and administering public library service in the district.
- 5) Constitution of 'Library Fund' formed mainly with the contribution of the State Government:
- 6) No Library cess:

10.2.7 Kerala Public Libraries Act, 1989

Kerala Act is quite a different one, than the other Acts, But it is an unique one because of its democratic and more decentralised pattern. The characteristics of the Act are given below:

- 1) There is a three tier administrative system for the organisation and administration of the public libraries system in the Kerala State. It comprises :
 - 1) Kerala State Library Council
 - 2) District Library Council
 - 3) Taluk Library Union
- 2) The Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, and Joint Secretaries, for the State Library Council, District Library Councils ,and the Taluk Library Unions shall be elected and shall be responsible for the administration and organisation of public libraries.
- 3) The State Library Council advises the Government on all matters connected with the development of public libraries and also acts as authority.
- 4) The State Library Council coordinates the working of District Library Councils and the Taluk Library Unions, and controls the Public Library System in the State.
- 5) The Trivandrum Public Library shall be deemed to be the State Library of the State.
- 6) The District Library Council will supervise, coordinate and control the library service in the district.
- 7) Constitution of Taluk Library Union, with the powers to supervise, coordinate and control the library service in the Taluk and to give directions and advise to affiliated libraries in, regard to their day to. day function and management.
- 8) Transfer of Kerala Granthasala Sangham with its staff, assets and liabilities to the State Library Council.
- 9) Library cess will be levied in the form of surcharge on building tax or property tax in the area with the jurisdiction of panchayats, municipalities and corporations.
- 10) The State Library Council shall maintain a fund called State Library Fund from which all the expenses of the State Library Council, District Library Councils and Taluk Library Unions shall be met. The library cess collected in the State and the grants of the State and Central Governments etc., will be credited to the State Library Fund only.
- 11) Reservation to at least one women and one person belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in all committees.



This Act appears to be more functional. Some how, it has not been implemented so far, and reasons for it are not known.

10.2.8 Haryana Public Libraries Act, 1989

The Haryana State was formed in the year 1966, carved out from the earlier Punjab State. Haryana Act has got the following features:

- 1) Constitution of the State Library Authority to advise the Government on all matters in promotion of Library Service in the State.
- 2) Formation of State Library Directorate to implement the programmes approved by the State Library Authority.
- 3) Establishment of the State Central Library.
- 4) Constitution of a District Library Committee for each District.
- 5) Constitution of a City and Town Library Committee for each city with a population of over a lakh and a Town Library Committee for a Municipal Town with a population of not more than one lakh, were provided in accordance with such rules as may be framed by the District Library Committee concerned.
- 6) Constitution of Block Library Committee and Panchayat Library Committees by the District Library Committee concerned:
- 7) Constitution of the State Library Fund, District Library Fund, City or Town or Block or Village Library Fund meant for the development, improvement and maintenance of the Library Service.
- 8) Levy of Library Cess in the form of surcharge on properly tax and house tax at such a rate decided by Government from time to time.
- 9) Provision to recognise State library associations, and co-operative institutions by the State Library Authority.

This Act was passed to provide for a comprehensive rural and urban library service with . the establishment of network of libraries. However, this Act has not come into force so far:

10.2.9 Mizoram Public Libraries Act, 1993

Mizoram became a full fledged State in 1987. Within five years it enacted the library Act. It possessed the following special features.

- 1) Constitution of the State Library council to advise the Government on all matters relating to libraries and also in regard to promotion and development of libraries in the State.
- 2) Constitution of Department of Public Libraries to control and supervise the public library system in the State.
- 3) Establishment of State library, District Library, Sub-divisional Libraries, Village Libraries, and so on.
- 4) Provision of grant-in-aid for private libraries.
- 5) There is no library cess. The total expenditure for the establishment and maintenance of the public library system will be met from the State funds.

10.2.10 Goa Public Libraries Act, 1994

Goa is the tenth State to have library legislation.

- 1) Constitution of State Library Authority with Minister in-Charge of Libraries as its Chairman. This Authority shall advise the Government on all matters arising under the Act.



- 2) Constitution of State Library Directorate for controlling and directing the public Library System in the State.
- 3) Organisation of State Library, District Library, Taluk and Village libraries.
- 4) All the employees are treated as Government Employees.
- 5) Grant-in-aid for private libraries.
- 6) Recognising the State Library Associations.
- 7) There is no library cess. Expenditure on the maintenance of the Department will be met from the consolidated fund of the State:

Self Check Exercise

- 2) State the difference in governance of public libraries between Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra States.

- Note:** i) Write your answers in the space given below.
ii) Check your answers with the answers given at the end of this Unit

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10.3 COMPARISON OF THE TEN ACTS

So, far, you were given the salient features of the ten State Acts. There are many points of similarity and also of major differences. We shall fix a comparative matrix for these Acts.

For this purpose, we have to get at a set of criteria. You may recall that when We began these units, we set up five criteria for the purposes of a State Library Act, namely:

- Public Access to libraries
- Development of infrastructure
- Establishment of a governance system
- Provision for financial management.
- Organisation of self-reporting and regulating system

We shall see how these ten State Acts compare with each other. This is based on the *five* criteria mentioned above:

10.3.1 Public Access to Libraries

India is the largest democratic country amongst the commonwealth countries, with a population of 84.63 Crores (1991). Out of which 94.30% live in rural areas, and 25.70% in urban areas. There are 26 constituent States and 6 Union Territories. These comprise an aggregation of about 494 districts. There are about 1650 languages. About 20,000 books, monographs and periodicals are published in almost all the 15 major languages of India and in English. Half of these are fiction. Other half covers normally humanities, with a few titles in science and technology: India imports in bulk more than 100,000 titles published in English from the



international market; most of these are for educational institutions. But Public Libraries do, have a good share of the same.

Public Library System

According to Ranganathan; "We mean by this an integrated nation-wide network of public libraries, giving free book service to one and all of the citizens, literate or illiterate." To achieve the objective, a public library system is necessary for providing :

- 1) Access to use the libraries without any consideration.
- 2) Access to reading materials with a common pool from State to village users.
- 3) Access to information needed by the user.
- 4) Free facilities to have the benefits from cultural heritage, arts and scientific achievements and innovations.
- 5) Facilities for personal development.
- 6) Periodic evaluation and feedback of service to users and their impact on administration.
- 7) Regulation of a financial income and expenditure to meet 'the needs of the society.

We will examine a few details of the access points where the library legislation is under implementation.

i) Tamil Nadu

As per the Madras Act (1948), the government has provided for about 4,500 public libraries, 20 District Libraries, 7 Mobile libraries, 1538 Branch Libraries, 2,500 village Libraries. They provide access to 24 lakhs volumes of documents. There were around 2 crores registered borrowers, and 5 crores visitors to libraries per annum. However, the volumes used can be categorised into those consulted, 2 crore; and borrowed 3 crore volumes. Borrowing of books is around 1 volume per literate person.

ii) Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh has a total of about 4,000 public library nodes viz. one State Central Library, 6 Regional Libraries, 1426 Branch Libraries, 344 Village Libraries and 3 Mobile libraries under Zilla Granthalaya Samsthas, and about 2,400 aided libraries. They provide access to about one crore volumes. They have registered borrowers of about 2 lakh persons, and about 2 crore visitors to consult books in libraries. The borrowing is about 1.5 volume per literate person.

iii) Karnataka

Karnataka State has a structure of one State Central Library, 20 District Central Libraries (out of 20, 10 District Central Libraries are having library and the remaining 10 are having office only). There are 15 City Central Libraries, 392 Branch Libraries, 1151 Mandal Libraries and 11 Mobile Libraries; with 6.54 lakh registered borrowers and a total book stock of 371 lakhs. About 81 lakh people visit the libraries in a year.

iv) Maharashtra

Maharashtra, is the fifth State to have a library Act; it has around 5900 Public Library nodes. Of these, one is a State Central Library, 5 Divisional Libraries, 8 District Libraries, 31 District Public Libraries; 259 Taluk Libraries and 5589 other types of Libraries. They provide access to about 50 lakh of books, the number of registered borrowers is more than 60 thousands and consulting readers is around 60 lakhs per annum.

v) West Bengal

West Bengal has about 3500 Public Library, nodes. These include a State Library, 21 District Libraries, 234 Town Libraries, 2,300 Government sponsored Libraries and 200 other type of libraries. There are additional District Libraries at Siliguri and City Central Library at Durgapur.



vi) Manipur

This State has, one State Central Library at Imphal and five District Libraries, and about one hundred Public Libraries are functioning which are managed by voluntary organisations.

vii) Kerala

Public access is more in Kerala State, which now achieved cent per cent literacy through Total Literacy Campaign. The earlier Trivendrum Public Library was upgraded as State Central Library, after the formation of Kerala State. There are about 3030 libraries located at District. _ Taluk, village level accessible to the public.

viii) Mariana

The District Library of Amble, was upgraded as State Central Library of Mariana in 1.967. 12 District Libraries were established in the State. In addition to it 11 libraries at Municipal areas, 11 sub-divisional libraries are accessible to the people.

ix) Misogamy

After the formation of the State, State Library was established at Arial and two more District Libraries started functioning. There are three sub-divisional libraries accessible to the people: About 80 village libraries are recognised by the State Planning committee.

x) Goa

A small State, with the influence of Portuguese rule has a Central Library for a long time. Five talk libraries and fifty six rural libraries are functioning at village level.

Comments

"hus, we find the State Library Acts have provided an infra-structure for the public library access to general public in each state.

Self Check Exercise

- 3) State the configuration of public libraries with their numbers and levels of location, operating in each of the five states which have operational library Acts.

- Note:** i) Write your answers in the space given below.
ii) Check your answers with the answers given at the end of this Unit

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10.3.2 Financial Provision

Libraries can grow with increasing use and number of readers. They should be of course, well financed. Let us look at the financial status of these library acts.

i) Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu Public Libraries have three types. The State Central Library, Connemara Public Library and the Kaurmani Nilayan Library, Government Oriental Manuscripts Library maintained by Government Funds. The District Central Libraries, and Branch Libraries established under the Act are maintained from Library Fund (i.e., Library Cess plus Government's matching contribution. Besides this, the Government is giving grant-in-aid to the libraries such as, Thanjavur Saraswati Mahal Library maintained by local bodies and voluntary organisations.



ii) Andhra Pradesh

The total expenditure on Government Libraries will ' be borne by the Government. The establishment charges of Zilla Granthalaya Samstha will be met by the Government. The Expenditure on other items such as books, periodicals, buildings etc., will be met from library fund of the City/Zilla Granthalaya Samsthas, They will provide some grant-in-aid to private libraries.

iii) Karnataka

The State Central Library is funded fully by the State Government. The libraries at District and City level, including Branch Libraries are financed from 'Library Fund'. Under the provision of this Act, Library cess is levied as surcharge on properties tax, motor vehicle tax, entertainment taxes. The Cess is collected by the local bodies such as, Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, District Boards and Village Panchayats. The State Government provides for the salaries of the staff of the public libraries at all levels.

iv) Maharashtra

Maharashtra Act does not levy any library cess. However, the State Government has to provide for at least 25 lakh of rupees as grant-in-aid for library development. This does not include administrative and establishment expenditure. Five Divisional Libraries and eight District Libraries in Vidarbha are fully financed by the Government of Maharashtra.

v) West Bengal

In West Bengal, since there is no provision for levying library cess, the entire expenditure on public libraries, started through the provisions of the Act, will be met from the consolidated fund of the State. Every Local Library Authority shall maintain library fund out of the grant received from Government, contribution of gifts, income from endowments etc. However, a few private libraries will get grant in aid from the Government, for their maintenance.

vi) Manipur

In Manipur Act, there is no provision for library cess. So, the State Government will meet the total expenditure from the State funds. This State will also support the private libraries with grant-in-aid.

vii) Kerala

There is a provision for library cess in the Kerala Act. Since, the Act was not implemented, the State Government is helping the libraries by grant-in-aid, through the State Funds.

viii) Haryana, (ix) Mizoram and (x) Goa

The same position prevails in Haryana as in the case of Kerala. The Library Act was not implemented in these States.

Comments

There is provision for library cess in Madras, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Haryana Act.

The provision for library cess has a greater impact as a democratic right to contribute for the development of libraries as well as to get access to library facilities. Government will have to actively consider establishment and maintenance of libraries, as library cess makes it imperative. However, one of the problem faced is the uneven distribution of library cess in cities and districts as the property value varies from place to place.

In all the State, Government is supporting the libraries managed by local bodies and voluntary organisations by Grant-in-aid, of course on a small scale.

Self Check Exercise

4) State the sources of finance in the ten States which have a public library Act.

Note: i) Write your answers in the space given below.

ii) Check your answers with the answers given at the end of this Unit



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10.3.3 Human Resources

The library staff in different states are provided for variously.

i) Tamil Nadu

The State has Directorate of Public Libraries which supervises, directs and runs public library service: There is a Librarian to manage the State Central Library (Connemara Public Library), The District Central Library is manned by a trained librarian with Degree in Library Science; and the Branch Library is usually manned by a person holding a Certificate in Library Science. The delivery stations are generally looked after by local elementary school teachers employed on part-time basis on monthly remuneration.

Each District Central Library is inspected by the Directorate of Public Libraries. Each Branch Library is inspected by the District Library Officer.

ii) Andhra Pradesh

The Director of Public Libraries is the controlling officer for die library system in the State. All the libraries in the system are managed by professionals only. The Librarian, City/District Central Library is the Ex-officio Secretary of the CityIZilla Granthalaya Samstha. The number of professionals are about 250 and semi-professionals are more than 1000 in number.

iii) Karnataka

This State has a Director of Public Libraries to supervise and direct all matters relating to public libraries. The State, City, District and Branch Libraries are managed by professionals. The strength of the library staff in public libraries is around 500. The professional strength is around 150 with minimum qualification of degree in Library Science but several have MLISc degree. There are many certificate holders: There are 300 non-professional and about 150 unskilled workers. The entire technical staff of the public libraries comes under the cadre of ` `Karnataka Library Service.

iv) Maharashtra

Maharashtra Act provides for a Director of Libraries as the Head of the Department of Public Library Service. He is responsible for planning, maintenance and organisation of public library service in the State. There is one Assistant Director in each of the 5 divisions to assist the Director: The libraries upto district and Town level are maintained by professionals.

v) West Bengal

West Bengal Act provides a post of a Director of Libraries, as Chief Executive of the public library system. The State Central Library, Calcutta Metropolitan Library, District Libraries and Town Libraries are managed by professional librarians.

vi) Manipur

There is provision in the Act to appoint a Director of Public Libraries. It appears that the Act was not implemented so far. Now the Chief Librarian of the State Central Library, Imphal is looking after the matters in libraries. The total number of professionals working in Public libraries does not exceed 20 in the State.



ii) Andhra Pradesh

To organise and promote library service in the State, the Government of Andhra Pradesh amended the Act in 1989, and constituted Andhra Pradesh Granthalaya Parishad, an apex body.

The Parishad is the principal policy making body and exercises the powers and performs the functions as per the directions of the Government. The State has been divided into 23 Revenue Districts including the City of Hyderabad for the purpose of administering the Library System. There is a Zilla Granthalaya Samstha for each district and one City Granthalaya Samstha for the Hyderabad City.

In the Pyramidal system of organisation, the State Central Library is at the apex, the village library at the bottom and the Branch Libraries, District Central Libraries, and Regional Libraries in between.

iii) Karnataka

This State is divided into 20 revenue districts. A separate Department of Public Libraries started functioning with effect from 1 November 1966 as per the provisions of the Karnataka Public Libraries Act (1965). The Department is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of public libraries and the organisation of a comprehensive rural and urban libraries' service in the State. The Act provides for the establishment of the following libraries including Branch Libraries and Book Delivery Stations:

- a) A State Central Library at Bangalore which will act as the reservoir of books for the entire state
- b) A City Central Library for each of the 15 principal cities.
- c) A District Central Library for each of the 20 Revenue Districts in the State.

In the State three library authorities have been established. The Karnataka State Library Authority advises the State Government on matters related to library development in the state, and acts as managing authority for the State Central Library. The Local Library Authorities of the major cities and Revenue Districts will look after the matters of public libraries in their respective jurisdiction.

There is a fair amount of democratic representation as well as technical expertise built into the composition of the State Library Authority.

iv) Maharashtra

In Maharashtra, the State Library Council has been set up to advise the Government on all matters concerning libraries: It consists of 28 members with the Minister of Education as the Ex-officio Chairman, and the Director of Libraries as the Ex-officio Member Secretary. At District Level; District Library Committees have been set up for advising the Government on all matters concerning public libraries in their respective areas. The Directorate of public libraries with a Director as its head looks after the planning, management, organisation, development and maintenance of public libraries and the library system in the State. This state has 35 revenue Districts.

This State has 17 Revenue Districts. West Bengal Public Libraries Act was adopted in 1979. The Act provides for the creation of a State Library Council and Local Library Authorities. Under the control of Director of Libraries, the Public Library System, with State Central Library at the apex. Calcutta Metropolitan Library, District Libraries, Town Libraries and Rural Libraries will function with a paramedical structure and governance.

vi) Manipur

Manipur has 8 Revenue Districts. The State Central/ Library, Imphal is managed by Education Department and the District Libraries are attached to District Educational Officers.

vii) Kerala

This State is divided into 14 Districts. Trivandrum Public Library is the only Public Library



State	Apex Committee	Structure	Executive Head
Andhra Pradesh	A.P. Granthalaya Parishad, Chairman nominated by Govt.	Separate Dept. of Public Libraries	Director of Public Libraries
Maharashtra	State Library Council, headed by the Minister of Education. The Director is the Member Secretary	Separate Dept. of Libraries	Director of Libraries

- 3) The configuration of Public Libraries, number and location, in the five operational States having public Library Acts, are as follows:

State	Total Number	Levels of Libraries
Andhra Pradesh	4000	One State Central Library, Six Regional Libraries, 1426 Branch Libraries, 4 Mobile Libraries, 344 Village Libraries, 2400 aided libraries
Karnataka	2700	One State Central Library, 15 City Central Library, 20 District Central Libraries, 392 Branch Libraries, 10 Grant-in-aid Libraries, 2140 Other kind of Libraries
Maharashtra	5900	One State Central Library, 5 Divisional Libraries, 8 District Libraries, 31 District Public Libraries, 259 Taluk Libraries, 5589 Other Types of Libraries
Tamilnadu	4000	One State Central Library, 20 District Libraries, 1538 Branch Libraries, 7 Mobile Libraries, 2500 Village Libraries
West Bengal	4000	One State Central Library, 6 Regional Libraries, 1629 Libraries under Zilla, Parishad 2400 Aided Libraries

- 4) Sources of the ten States:

States	Cess	State Grant
TamilNadu	Library Cess on Property Tax or house tax	A matching grant not less than the cess collected
Andhra Pradesh	Library Cess on House tax and properties	Payment of staff salaries



Karnataka	Library Cess on lands and buildings Octroi, duty, vehicle tax, Taxes on professions, trades callings, and employments	Grant-in-aid from Government payment of staff salaries
Maharashtra	No Library Cess	State Grant
West Bengal	No Library Cess	State Grant
Manipur	No Library Cess	State Grant
Kerala	Library Cess on buildings or property tax	Grant-in-aid from Government
Haryana	Library Cess on property tax and house tax	Grant-in-aid from Government
Mizoram	No Library Cess	State Grant
Goa	No Library Cess	State Grant

When there is no library cess, the major part of maintenance of library is met from Government grant.

- 5) Karnataka has a well-organised staff strength to manage its public libraries in the State. The Director of Public Libraries is a library professional: This gives the opportunity to improve the strength of qualified staff. The entire technical staff of the public libraries comes under the cadre of Karnataka Library Service: A qualified staff having minimum qualification of B.Lib. Sc., some with M.Lib.Sc., and holders of Certificate in Library Science operate the public library system. All these staff provide a professional competence and ensure a minimum standard of service.
- 6) Andhra Pradesh State has a comprehensive structure of Public Libraries in a Pyramidal structure.
 - a) Andhra Pradesh Gnanthalya Parishad
 - b) Directorate of Public Libraries
 - c) Regional Libraries
 - d) City/District Central Libraries
 - e) Mobile Libraries
 - f) Branch Libraries
 - g) Village Libraries
 - h) Aided Libraries
- 7) The two helpful factors of Library cess are:
 - a) Library cess makes it imperative on the government to actively consider the establishment and maintenance of libraries.
 - b) The provision for library cess has a greater impact as a democratic right of citizens to contribute to the development as well as to get access to library facilities.
- 8) The five criteria for a comparison of the Public Libraries Acts are:
 - a) Public access to literature
 - b) Development of infrastructure
 - c) Establishment of a governance system
 - d) Provision for financial management
 - e) Organisation of self-reporting and regulating system



10.7 KEY WORDS

Cess	: Surcharge collected on some statutory taxes
Governance	: A method or system of government or management
Infrastructure	: The basic underlying framework.

10.8 REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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