

PUBLIC LIBRARY AND EDUCATION POLICY IN PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT:

The idea of Public Libraries was introduced by the U.S.A. Government in 1948 and after this other countries have introduced Public Libraries in their respective countries. In 1956, under the Colombo Plan, the Government of Pakistan has taken necessary steps for the establishment of Public Libraries in our Country and in 1972 some Public Libraries were established in different Cities/Villages of Pakistan. For this purpose I have visited some Public Libraries and collected data of the visited libraries. No basic survey of Public Libraries has been conducted to date but according to Who's Who in librarianship in Pakistan, there are about 99 Public Libraries in our Country.

INTRODUCTION

The rapid progress made in all directions: political, economic, industrial, educational, scientific and technical fields in the 19th century brought a radical change from older concept of a library as a place for the protection and preservation of books for the few, to an educational storehouse of knowledge, and guidance and inspiration for many. The free public libraries are now recognized and knowledge and of educating the people, upon which rests the very edifice of a democratic society. Public libraries have been accepted as the spearhead of a new social doctrine of eradicating the disease, poverty and ignorance. They can inspire enthusiasm and guide the people. They also serve as the "universities of masses" where the education is important not for the degrees but for advancing the knowledge in every walk of life. It not only provides knowledge to educationists, research scholars, teachers, students, doctors, engineers and administrators but also to workers farmers, laborers, mechanics, and artists who neither can spare time and not afford to go to universities and professional schools of their fields. It encourage the reading habits in children, keeps abreast the young with the new knowledge and a refreshing corner for the old and retired people.

Idea of Public Library

1. USA

USA was the 1st country in the world to introduce a system of free public library and it was 1848

when the USA Govt. has introduced public library without any charge from individual borrower.

2. Great Britain

Great Britain entered in this field in 1850. This was followed by other countries such as Poland, Finland, Denmark, Sweden and Norway. Within a few years, seven libraries a Postal and Book Box Library with the assistance of three mobile libraries and three children libraries had been established.

3. Unesco

The main efforts of Unesco in the pursuit of this aim are directed towards eliminating illiteracy. In this task one most important weapon and a Pilot Public Library in Delhi. It was a model library for India and other countries. It was designed to carry the Unesco Public libraries manifesto and this project was very successful. It included a children library, reference library, lending library auditorium and mobile library, to serve 15 towns.

Pakistan

1. Since the birth of our country, due attention has not been given towards the cause of libraries and library education. Our 75% of the population is living in the rural area, out of which only 15% is literate. However in the urban areas, the literacy is 45% of the population.

2. In 1956, under the Colombo Plan, Mr. I.G. Key comes to Pakistan to advise the Govt. on the development of library sciences in the country. He chalked out a plan and admitted a report to the