

## **Public Libraries in India: Problems And Prospects With Special Reference To Uttar Pradesh**

### **Author**

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**Abstract :** *The history of the development of the public library may be said to be as old as that of education in India. Public library is largely regarded as the People's University. It has tremendous developments in India from the early period to till date at various stages. But district public libraries have failed to serve the people as expected due to number of reasons. Information explosion and increasing knowledge resources & materials for every bit of minutes, development of Information Communication Technology (ICT) and the change in the approaches and information seeking behavior of the people have compelled to modernize the district public libraries so as to serve users in the most effective way according to the taste of the them. Present study focuses on the problems and prospects of district public library services in the Uttar Pradesh. The study finds out the prevailing problems and their prospects for which district public libraries are unable to reach to the common people in the state. The study also highlights the challenges of public libraries in the present day context of modern technology and points out the present status of services given by the public libraries in reality in the state.*

**Keywords :** *Public library, Libraries in India, RRRLF's*

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### **1. Introduction**

The Republic of India, *or Bharat*, is a sovereign country in South Asia. It is the seventh largest country by geographical area, the second most populous country, and the largest democratic country in the world. Bounded by the Indian Ocean on the south, the Arabian Sea on the west, and the Bay of Bengal on the east. India has a coastline of over 7500 kilometres. Surrounded by neighbouring countries namely, Pakistan to the west; China, Nepal, and Bhutan to the north-east; and Bangladesh and Myanmar to the east.<sup>1</sup> (India; Wikipedia encyclopedia).

“The history of the development of the public library may be said to be as old as that of education in India”. <sup>2</sup> (Ekbote;1987;2). Public library is largely regarded as the People's University. It has tremendous developments in India from the early period to till date at various stages. Since ancient times, India is being very much pertinent in search of knowledge and wisdom. The earliest written and recorded materials found in India are the inscriptions on stone pillars of King Asoka (300 BC); these inscriptions could be called the first outside open libraries”. <sup>3</sup> (Patel;2004;3). Later, *Ashrams* came into existence in India and students study under the supervision of well-known teachers. They kept many manuscripts for use of the teachers and students as well as for the visitors. The *Vidyapeeth*, where numbers of teachers are engaged to teach the students. These educational institutions collected many different manuscripts and other materials which can help in their teaching and daily routine. They kept and preserved carefully. “The reading materials, of course, related to many subjects formed the source material for transmitting knowledge in different streams of education and culture. The collections might be

likened to modern libraries since they were carefully maintained and extensively used by students and teachers alike".<sup>4</sup> (Ekbote;1987; 4). Such *ashrams* or *vidyapeeths*, where manuscripts and other reading materials were reserved, may be regarded as a kind of library as they serve information and knowledge to the students and community in different ways.

Most of the time in Medieval Period Muslims rule on India. Historically, it is also known as Mughal Period. There were great changes not only in social and political, but also on education and library system during this period. "The period of Mughal is considered as the golden period of Indian history for its educational, literary, and library activities".<sup>5</sup> (Khursid;2004;5).

Babur, king of Kabul invaded India and annexed Delhi to his kingdom. "He established the first Mughal Imperial Library in 1526".<sup>6</sup> (Patel;2004;6). Babur inherited manuscripts from his father and succeeded to his next generations.<sup>7</sup> (Smith;1981;7)

During the Mughal period, library technical works, viz. Accessioning, Classification and Cataloguing were also carried out in some ways. The head librarian was known as "Nizam" and the assistant librarian as "Muhatin" or "Darogha". Other staff of libraries during Mughal period is Scribes, Book Illustrators, Calligraphers, Copyists, Translators, Bookbinders and Gilders.

The Britishers were very much interested for the upliftment of rich cultural heritage of India. So A number of Academic institutions were established during the British period by the East India Company (the representatives of the British Empire) and by the Christian missionaries".<sup>8</sup> (Patel;2004;8). The Bengal Royal Asiatic Society set up library in 1784, Bombay Royal Asiatic Society in 1804 and Calcutta Public Library in 1835.<sup>9</sup> (Sharma;1987;9). Establishment of these libraries enlightened the community and may be regarded as the foundation of the concept of public libraries to the Indian people. Some of the Indian states also established public libraries. Such as Baroda established Baroda State Library in Baroda in 1877, Cochin established Public Library and Reading Room in Trichur in 1873 etc. The first significant date in the development of public libraries in India is 1808 when the Bombay Government initiated a proposal to register libraries, which were to be given copies of books published from the 'Funds for the Encouragement of Literature'.<sup>10</sup> (Bhattacharjee;2002;10).

The contributions of His Highness the Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwar III, of Baroda towards library movement in India cannot be overlooked. He is remembered today as the Father of Library Movement in India. In 1906, during his visit to America, he was very much impressed by the library services of America for the development of the people in their social, economic and educational life. He then invited an American, William Alanson Borden, a pupil-assistant of Charles A. Cutter, who is working as Librarian of the Young Men's Institute, New Haven. He decided to establish library as an experiment in one of the towns of a *taluka* and in order to implement his idea immediately; he issued orders to his ministers. "In conformity to his ruler's instructions, the Minister of Education prepared a detailed plan to open Circulating Libraries in the State, which was approved in March, 1907. Every public library instituted through the State's financial assistance was to be named as Circulating Library". Borden reached Baroda on November 6, 1910, and became the Director of State Libraries. It can be traced back that public library movement started since 1910 in India.<sup>11</sup> (Nagar;1983;11)

University of Madras created the post of University Librarian in 1923 and Dr. S R Ranganathan joined the post on 4 January 1924. He also prepared Model Public Library Bill in 1930 and revised in 1957 and 1972 and drives to legislate library bill in Indian states. He made a tremendous contribution for the development of libraries in India.<sup>12</sup> (Ranganathan;1957;12).

## **2. Growth of Public Libraries After The Independence**

Public libraries in India made a tremendous growth after the independence of India in 1947. The central and the state governments took a number of steps forward for the development of the nation from the point of education and considered library as essential part of it. The programs executed by provincial and central governments since 1910 for the social and adult education of the populace paved the way for the enactment of library laws and rules for grants-in-aid in the country. Hence public library became part of the education budget.

The Planning Commission constituted a Working Group on Public Libraries in 1964 and the Commission submitted its report in 1965 with a Model Public Libraries Act. The model bill was sent to all the states/UTs, which do not have Public Libraries Act with following recommendations:

1. The central and state governments should share responsibility for providing adequate public library services. New government agencies in the central government under the Minister of Education, a directorate of libraries and a state library advisory council in each state should be set up to execute the programmes effectively.
2. State central libraries should be established in four states: Madhya Pradesh, Mysore, Nagaland, and Orissa.
3. States which do not possess adequate functional buildings for their state central libraries should be provided with library buildings.
4. The state central library must have a children's section.
5. There should be 335 District Libraries for the 327 districts in the country, i.e., in large and populous districts, two district libraries may be provided.
6. New buildings should be constructed for the existing 100 district libraries.
7. Block libraries are the chief feeding centre for the rural reading public, and therefore, 2,500 new block libraries, covering 75% of blocks in the country should be constructed.
8. A sum of 10 million rupees shall be provided for distribution of grant in aid to such libraries of urban and rural areas which depend on subscription and donations.
9. Three public libraries on model of Delhi Public Library should be set up
10. The Institute of Library Science established by the Ministry of Education at Delhi University in 1958-59, and then closed in 1962, should be reopened. Such institutes should be established at the state levels also to train graduate and undergraduate librarians to meet future requirements.
11. A sum of Rs.10,000 shall be allocated as financial assistance to all national level and state level library associations to create library consciousness in the country by organizing seminars, conducting surveys, and producing library literature.
12. A programme of book production should be undertaken.
13. A draft of the Library Act should be produced<sup>13</sup> (Panda, 1993, p. 35-36)

Further, Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, an autonomous body under the Department of Culture, Ministry of Education, was established on May 22, 1972. The primary & main objective of the Foundation was to promote the library movement and also to assist public library services in developmental works.

In 1979, a library section was established in the Department of Culture under the Ministry of Education, which section was under the charge of an Under Secretary. The objective was to promote the development of public libraries in India. A Working Group on Modernization of Library Services and Informatics was appointed by the Planning Commission in 1983 and

submitted its report in 1984 with the formulation of National Policy on Library Services and Information system (NAPLIS) in 1985 under the chairmanship of Prof. D.P. Chattopadhyay.

National Mission on Libraries i.e High Level Committee, has been set up by Ministry of Culture, Government of India, vide notification no. 18-4/2009\_lib (Pt) dated 4th May, 2012 in pursuance of National Knowledge Commission recommendations for sustained attention for development of Libraries and Information Science Sector.

National Mission on Libraries set up four working groups and after deliberating on the recommendations of the working groups formulated the scheme "National Mission on Libraries (NML) - up gradation of libraries providing service to the public". The scheme consists of four components.

1. *Creation of National Virtual Library of India (NVLI)*
2. *Setting up of NML Model Libraries*
3. *Quantitative & Qualitative Survey of Libraries*
4. *Capacity Building*

The purpose of National Virtual Library of India is to facilitate a comprehensive database on digital resources on information about India and on information generated in India, in an open access environment.

The setting up on NML Model Libraries would develop 6 Libraries under Ministry of Culture, 35 State Central Libraries and 35 District Libraries with particular emphasis on economically backward districts, as model Libraries. In addition, 629 district public libraries across the states would be provided network connectivity.

The Quantitative & Qualitative Survey of Libraries would be undertaken to prepare a baseline data of libraries in India through a survey of 5000 Libraries.

The Capacity Building would be undertaken to enhance the professional competence of library personnel.<sup>14</sup>

### **3. States with Library Legislation in India**

During the last seven decades, 19 (Nineteen) Public Library Bills were enacted in different states of India, such as:

#### **1) Tamil Nadu**

The Tamil Nadu (Madras) Public Libraries Act 1948

#### **2) Andhra Pradesh**

The Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act 1960

#### **3) Karnataka**

The Karnataka (Mysore) Public Libraries Act 1965

#### **4) Maharashtra**

The Maharashtra Public Libraries Act 1967

#### **5) West Bengal**

The West Bengal Public Libraries Act 1979

#### **6) Manipur**

The Manipur Public Libraries Act 1988

#### **7) Kerala**

The Kerala Public Libraries Act 1989

#### **8) Haryana**

The Haryana Public Libraries Act 1989

#### **9) Mizoram**

The Mizoram Public Libraries Act 1993

<b>10) Goa</b>	
The Goa Public Libraries Act	1993
<b>11) Orissa</b>	
Orissa Public Libraries Act,	2001
<b>12) Gujarat</b>	
Gujarat Public Libraries Act,	2001
<b>13) 2006Uttaranchal</b>	
Uttaranchal Public Libraries Act,	2005
<b>14) Uttar Pradesh</b>	
Uttar Pradesh Public Libraries Act,	2006
<b>15) Rajasthan</b>	
Rajasthan Public Libraries Act,	2006
<b>16) Pondicherry</b>	
Pondicherry Public Libraries Act,	2007
<b>17) Chattishgarh</b>	
Chattishgarh Public Libraries Act,	2007
<b>18) Bihar</b>	
Bihar Public Libraries Act,	2008
<b>19) Arunanchal Pradesh</b>	
Arunanchal Pradesh Public Libraries Act,	2009.

#### **4. Public Libraries in Uttar Pradesh**

In Uttar Pradesh, some libraries were established in the early days, such as, Raza Library, Rampur in 1750, Allahabad Public Library (Azad Park Library), Allahabad in 1763, Maulana Azad Library, Aligarh in 1877, Bharati Bhawan Library, Allahabad in 1889 and Lyall Library, Aligarh in 1899. The state has a State Central Library at Allhabad, 70 District level public libraries, 62 other prominent public libraries run by voluntary organizations. (Singh;2001;73).

#### **5. Objective of the study**

The present study intended to assess the present status of District Public Libraries in Uttar Pradesh. The study is related to evaluate the Public Library System, Staff-Structure and Collection etc. of District Public Libraries in Uttar Pradesh.

The present study is a systematic approach to know the Present Status and Development of District Public Libraries in Uttar Pradesh, the survey, analysis and interpretation will definitely provide a unique public library model for its development.

In the light of the theme of the problem under investigation, the study aims to focus on the following objectives and will attempts:

1. To examine the present satatus of the District Public Library in Uttar Pradesh.
2. To know the District Public Library System in Uttar Pradesh state.
3. To find out the Staff-Structure and present strength.
4. To examine the strength and weakness of resources/collection of District Public Libraries.
5. To examine the proper building and other amenities.
6. To assess the Modernization and adoption of emerging technologies.
7. To find out the sources of fund/budgetary provisions.
8. To assess the Services provided by the District Public Libraries in the state.

## 6. Methodology

The data available on the website of RRRLF about the public libraries of Uttar Pradesh and also the data collected with the help of a questionnaire personally by the author from many district public libraries have been used for analysis and interpretation. There are 70 district public libraries, but only 50 district public libraries have been registered till now on the website of RRRLF. In other words we can say that 50 district public libraries have been registered and assisted by RRRLF till now. The present study confined to Uttar Pradesh. The relevant data collected on the basis of RRRLF's website and also with the help of a questionnaire personally by the author from many district public libraries have been analyzed and inferences have been drawn to get the results under different objectives.

**Table-1: On the basis of Location, Building and Staff**

S.No.	Name of the library	Location	Building	Staff
1	Govt. District Library	Agra	Own	4
2	Govt. District Library	Aligarh	Own	2
3	Govt. District Library	Allahabad	No	Not Available
4	Govt. District Library	Almora	Own	4
5	Govt. District Library	Azamgarh	No	Not Available
6	Govt. District Library	Bahraich	Own	2
7	Govt. District Library	Banda	Own	2
8	Govt. District Library	Barabanki	Own	2
9	Govt. District Library	Basti	Own	2
10	Govt. District Library	Bijnor	No	2
11	Govt. District Library	Budaun	Own	0
12	Govt. District Library	Bulandshahr	No	2
13	Govt. District Library	Chamoli	Own	0
14	Govt. District Library	Dehradun	No	0
15	Govt. District Library	Etah	Own	2
16	Govt. District Library	Etawah	No	Not Available
17	Govt. District Library	Faizabad	No	2
18	Govt. District Library	Fatehpur	Own	2
19	Govt. District Library	Firozabad	No	Not Available
20	Govt. District Library	Ghaziabad	Rented	0
21	Govt. District Library	Gonda	Rented	2
22	Govt. District Library	Gorakhpur	Own	4
23	Govt. District Library	Hamirpur	Own	2
24	Govt. District Library	Hardoi	Own	2
25	Govt. District Library	Jalaun	Own	2
26	Govt. District Library	Jaunpur	No	Not Available
27	Govt. District Library	Jhansi	Own	7
28	Govt. District Library	Kanpur Dehat	Own	2
29	Govt. District Library	Kanpur Nagar	No	Not Available
30	Govt. District Library	Lakhimpur Kheri	No	Not Available
31	Govt. District Library	Lalitpur	Own	0
32	Govt. District Library	Lucknow	No	Not Available
33	Govt. District Library	Mainpuri	Own	5
34	Govt. District Library	Mathura	No	0
35	Govt. District Library	Meerut	Own	4
36	Govt. District Library	Mirzapur	Own	2
37	Govt. District Library	Muzaffarnagar	Own	2
38	Govt. District Library	Pauri-Garhwal	No	Not Available

39	Govt. District Library	Pili bhit	Own	2
40	Govt. District Library	Pithoragarh	Own	3
41	Govt. District Library	Rai Bareli	No	2
42	Govt. District Library	Rampur	Own	2
43	Govt. District Library	Saharanpur	No	Not Available
44	Govt. District Library	Sahjahanpur	No	Not Available
45	Govt. District Library	Sitapur	Own	0
46	Govt. District Library	Sonbhadra	No	2
47	Govt. District Library	Sultanpur	Own	2
48	Govt. District Library	Tehri Garhwal	Own	4
49	Govt. District Library	Uttarkashi	No	Not Available
50	Govt. District Library	Varanasi	Own	2

**Interpretation of data & major findings (Table-1):**

- ✓ On the basis of data collection, it was concluded that only 58% district public libraries are providing their services in their own building and rest district public libraries have been providing their services either through rented buildings or by other assistances.
- ✓ On the basis of record available (38), only (7) 18.42% of district public libraries have 4 or more than 4 staff members and rest (31) 81.58% of district public libraries have 3 or less than 3 staff members for library works.

**Table-2: On the basis of Location, Collection, Newspapers, Magazines:**

S.N o.	Name of the library	Location	Collection	Daily Newspapers Subs.	Magazines
1	Govt. District Library	Agra	25254	10	30
2	Govt. District Library	Aligarh	6219	7	12
3	Govt. District Library	Allahabad	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
4	Govt. District Library	Almora	38800	12	20
5	Govt. District Library	Azamgarh	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
6	Govt. District Library	Bahraich	33320	7	30
7	Govt. District Library	Banda	15000	12	25
8	Govt. District Library	Barabanki	8362	5	15
9	Govt. District Library	Basti	13000	8	7
10	Govt. District Library	Bijnor	11400	10	20
11	Govt. District Library	Budaun	7000	6	15
12	Govt. District Library	Bulandshahr	10000	5	10
13	Govt. District Library	Chamoli	22611	9	29
14	Govt. District Library	Dehradun	7000	4	Not Available
15	Govt. District Library	Etah	4708	8	15
16	Govt. District Library	Etawah	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
17	Govt. District Library	Faizabad	11780	12	21
18	Govt. District Library	Fatehpur	6000	5	8
19	Govt. District Library	Firozabad	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
20	Govt. District Library	Ghaziabad	10000	9	13
21	Govt. District Library	Gonda	6129	5	18
22	Govt. District Library	Gorakhpur	30962	10	35
23	Govt. District Library	Hamirpur	4010	6	29
24	Govt. District Library	Hardoi	4000	7	12
25	Govt. District Library	Jalaun	11792	10	11
26	Govt. District Library	Jaunpur	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available

27	Govt. District Library	Jhansi	43215	10	20
28	Govt. District Library	Kanpur Dehat	8961	5	4
29	Govt. District Library	Kanpur Nagar	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
30	Govt. District Library	Lakhimpur Kheri	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
31	Govt. District Library	Lalitpur	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
32	Govt. District Library	Lucknow	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
33	Govt. District Library	Mainpuri	8863	3	11
34	Govt. District Library	Mathura	5000	Not Available	Not Available
35	Govt. District Library	Meerut	19369	12	28
36	Govt. District Library	Mirzapur	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
37	Govt. District Library	Muzaffarnagar	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
38	Govt. District Library	Pauri-Garhwal	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
39	Govt. District Library	Pili bhit	5675	6	20
40	Govt. District Library	Pithoragarh	20513	9	34
41	Govt. District Library	Rai Bareli	10000	7	20
42	Govt. District Library	Rampur	1700	7	30
43	Govt. District Library	Saharanpur	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
44	Govt. District Library	Sahjahanpur	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
45	Govt. District Library	Sitapur	16467	12	18
46	Govt. District Library	Sonbhadra	975	8	20
47	Govt. District Library	Sultanpur	14576	7	13
48	Govt. District Library	Tehri Garhwal	18376	6	10
49	Govt. District Library	Uttarkashi	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
50	Govt. District Library	Varanasi	27650	8	35

**Interpretation of data & major findings (Table-2):**

- ✓ On the basis of record available (35), only (8) 22.86% of district public libraries have the book collection of 20,000 or more than 20,000 and rest (27) 77.14% of district public libraries have less than 20,000 book collection.
- ✓ On the basis of record available (34), only (10) 29.41% of district public libraries are subscribing 10 or more than 10 newspapers daily and rest (24) 70.59% of district public libraries are subscribing less than 10 newspapers daily.
- ✓ On the basis of record available (33), only (17) 51.52% of district public libraries are subscribing 20 or more than 20 magazines and rest (16) 48.48% of district public libraries are subscribing less than 20 magazines regularly.

**Table-3: On the basis of Location & Services:**

S.No	Name of the library	Location	Lending Facility	Children Section	Internet Facility	Text-Book section
1	Govt. District Library	Agra	Yes	Yes	NA*	Yes
2	Govt. District Library	Aligarh	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes
3	Govt. District Library	Allahabad	NA	NA	NA	NA
4	Govt. District Library	Almora	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes
5	Govt. District Library	Azamgarh	NA	NA	NA	NA
6	Govt. District Library	Bahraich	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
7	Govt. District Library	Banda	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes
8	Govt. District Library	Barabanki	Yes	No	NA	Yes
9	Govt. District Library	Basti	Yes	Yes	NA	No
10	Govt. District Library	Bijnor	Yes	No	NA	No
11	Govt. District Library	Budaun	NA	NA	NA	NA
12	Govt. District Library	Bulandshahr	NA	No	NA	No

13	Govt. District Library	Chamoli	Yes	Yes	NA	NA
14	Govt. District Library	Dehradun	Yes	Yes	NA	NA
15	Govt. District Library	Etah	Yes	NA	NA	Yes
16	Govt. District Library	Etawah	NA	NA	NA	NA
17	Govt. District Library	Faizabad	NA	No	NA	No
18	Govt. District Library	Fatehpur	NA	No	NA	No
19	Govt. District Library	Firozabad	NA	NA	NA	NA
20	Govt. District Library	Ghaziabad	Yes	No	NA	No
21	Govt. District Library	Gonda	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
22	Govt. District Library	Gorakhpur	Yes	Yes	NA	No
23	Govt. District Library	Hamirpur	Yes	No	NA	No
24	Govt. District Library	Hardoi	NA	NA	NA	NA
25	Govt. District Library	Jalaun	Yes	No	NA	No
26	Govt. District Library	Jaunpur	NA	NA	NA	NA
27	Govt. District Library	Jhansi	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
28	Govt. District Library	Kanpur Dehat	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes
29	Govt. District Library	Kanpur Nagar	NA	NA	NA	NA
30	Govt. District Library	Lakhimpur Kheri	NA	NA	NA	NA
31	Govt. District Library	Lalitpur	Yes	No	No	No
32	Govt. District Library	Lucknow	NA	NA	NA	NA
33	Govt. District Library	Mainpuri	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
34	Govt. District Library	Mathura	NA	NA	NA	NA
35	Govt. District Library	Meerut	Yes	Yes	No	No
36	Govt. District Library	Mirzapur	Yes	No	No	Yes
37	Govt. District Library	Muzaffarnagar	Yes	No	No	Yes
38	Govt. District Library	Pauri-Garhwal	Yes	No	No	Yes
39	Govt. District Library	Pili bhit	Yes	Yes	No	No
40	Govt. District Library	Pithoragarh	Yes	Yes	No	No
41	Govt. District Library	Rai Bareli	Yes	No	No	Yes
42	Govt. District Library	Rampur	Yes	No	No	No
43	Govt. District Library	Saharanpur	NA	NA	NA	NA
44	Govt. District Library	Sahjahanpur	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
45	Govt. District Library	Sitapur	Yes	No	No	No
46	Govt. District Library	Sonbhadra	Yes	No	No	Yes
47	Govt. District Library	Sultanpur	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
48	Govt. District Library	Tehri Garhwal	Yes	Yes	No	No
49	Govt. District Library	Uttarkashi	NA	NA	NA	NA
50	Govt. District Library	Varanasi	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

\*NA= Record Not Available

#### Interpretation of data & major findings (Table-3):

- ✓ On the basis of record available (34), all the means 100% district public libraries have been providing lending services to the users regularly.
- ✓ On the basis of record available (36), only (20) 55.56% of district public libraries have maintained Children Section and rest (16) 44.44% of district public libraries have not been maintained Children Section.
- ✓ On the basis of record available (19), only (1) 5.26% of district public libraries have been providing Internet Facility to the users and rest (18) 94.74% of district public libraries have not been providing Internet Facility to the users.

- ✓ On the basis of record available (35), only (19) 54.28% of district public libraries have maintained Text-book Section and rest (16) 45.72% of district public libraries have not been maintained Text-book Section.

## **7. Problems & Prospects of Public Library System in U.P.**

There are so many problems have been identified in development, modernization and functioning of public library services in the state of Uttar Pradesh. The followings problems have been identified in practical & smooth functioning of the public library services in the state:

### **7.1. Library-Staff**

The most crucial constrain is that the District Public libraries in the state of Uttar Pradesh are running with very less or without professional library staff for which the conditions of the libraries are in a negligible position. The Government authorities never feel the need for the appointment of permanent library professionals to run the district public libraries.

From above table-1 we can see the clear status of staff status in the different public libraries of the state of Uttar Pradesh. Even there is a huge imbalanced in appointment of library staff-members. Most of the staff mentioned above is on temporary basis or on contract basis which needs to be regularized and are not library professional. Some of the libraries are running without professional library staff for which the public libraries are not in a position to reach the public in reality. Most interestingly some of the public libraries are not functioning in true sense of the library and the staffs appointed for those libraries are being used in other departments. It is painful to see the functioning of public libraries in the state. So the government should provide the required number of trained manpower to these district public libraries for functioning of them in real sense and also the government should apply the library legislation in the state strictly.

### **7.2. Collection**

Collection is one of the most important components of the library activity which can be termed as heart of the library. Maximum numbers of district public libraries of the state of Uttar Pradesh have very less collection of different reading materials for which these libraries are not in the position to serve the real needs of the common people. Even there is a huge imbalanced collection among the libraries. The government should do needful for providing enough reading materials to the libraries so they can serve the real needs of the users and also there is independent scope and prospect to have proper planning for the modernizing and automation of library services in the state. Since Open Source Software for library automation is easily available in the present era, there is immense prospect of modernization and automation of library services in the state.

### **7.3. Infrastructure Available**

Infrastructural facilities, like buildings, furniture, IT accessories etc. for the smooth functioning of public libraries are not up to the mark in the state of Uttar Pradesh. These facilities are not sufficient and also some of the public libraries do not have minimum infrastructural facilities to run the libraries. The Authorities concerns are not interested in creating infrastructural facilities for the development of public libraries. It is most interesting to mention that most the public libraries in the state of Uttar Pradesh do not have their own building and are being run in the rented buildings as show off.

#### **7.4. Indifferent Attitude of The People & Advertisement**

There is lack of understanding about the importance of library services among the common people. That is why the indifferent attitude of the common people has also become a major problem in extending public library services to the common people. The common people still do not understand the importance of the library services and ignorant about it. There is immense prospect of creating awareness among the different sections of the people about the library services and its importance through the authorities, so there is a need of advertising district public libraries and their services (Dias B.L., 2023).

#### **7.5. Lack of Reading Habit**

The lack of reading habit has become a major obstacle in providing public library services. The young generations of these days have no time to read thus losing the habit of reading. Visiting the public libraries has become rare. So the district public library authorities must organize various programs for inculcation of reading habit among the common people regularly.

#### **7.6. Libraries as community information Centres**

Prominent library leaders in India have discussed the need for libraries to transform from collection-oriented institutions to service-based institutions<sup>14</sup> (Dasgupta, 2000). In addition, the awareness that public libraries can serve as community information centres has existed for the last several years. The National Policy on Library and Information System (NAPLIS) report of 1986 specifically recommended that village libraries should serve as local information centres, bringing areas such as public health, adult education, and local self-government under the same umbrella.

### **8. Conclusion**

Despite of the rising world economic status of the country, an investment in public library services, while only a small and modest part of the solution, can make a large difference in the achievement of social development and education goals. A momentum around the public library issue is developing in the country and the time is ripe for enlightened action; if proper action is not taken, this moment may slip away, as others have in the past. National and state governments, ruling coalitions, and elected officials come and go and the National Knowledge Commission may in fact not live up to its potential. However, the library movement in India and the state of Uttar Pradesh have received some much needed momentum, which will need to be sustained. So from the above discussion it is very much clear that there are abandoned of challenges coming forth in a way of public libraries, so public libraries of India specially public libraries of Uttar Pradesh should coup up with the upcoming challenges to make their place in the society or else one day it will lose its immense importance and identity. The time has started to think and act to disseminate required knowledge so as to build a vibrant sustainable society which society is based on Knowledge. Thus there is a great role of Authorities, Library Professionals, Politicians and the common people in strengthening the public library services in the state so as to reach the common people.

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