

CHAPTER □ 4

**PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES
IN WEST BENGAL**

4. PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES IN WEST BENGAL

4.1 THE EXISTING SYSTEM AND SERVICES OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN WEST BENGAL

4.1.1 Introduction

According to 'census report of India, 2011, West Bengal is a state of India having an area of 88,752 Squ. Km. and a population of 9,13,47,736; population density 1029 per Squ. Km. 6,26, 14,556 are literate. The literacy rate has improved from 68.64% (in 2001) to 77.08% (in 2011). About 75% of the people live in rural areas. In this situation, the Mass Education Extension Department through the Director of Library Services administers the West Bengal Public Libraries Act, 1979 with the rules framed under it. Establishment of the Public Libraries in West Bengal and introduction of Public Libraries Act, 1979 is the result of library movement led by pioneers in the field of library service, the Bengal Library Association and other voluntary and non Government organisations over a span of one hundred and fifty years. West Bengal Public Libraries Act was enacted in 1979. It was amended in 1982, 1985, 1993, 1994, 1998 and 2003. Several rules have been framed under the Act for proper management of the Public Library System of the State.

4.1.2 Director of Library Services

In 1980, the Directorate of Library Services was set up under the undivided Education Department. In 1982, the West Bengal Public Libraries Act was amended. In 1985, further amendments were made to the said Act. In 1988, Mass Education Extension Department was created with the Adult and Social Education Directorate of the erstwhile Education

Department and with Directorate of Library Services and other functional wings like special Education for the Physically Handicapped and running of Social Welfare Home subsequently added. Thus the Mass Education Extension Department started to be the administrative department for two separate Directorates-one for Library Services and other for Mass Education Extension.

Public Library system in the State at present comprises of 12 Govt. Libraries with State Central Library at the apex, 2462 Govt. Sponsored Libraries at different levels, 7 Govt. Aided Libraries. There exists 3 tier Library system in districts namely, Rural/Primary Unit/Area Libraries, Town/Sub-Divisional Libraries District Libraries. In 1999, the concept of Community Library cum Information Centre (CLIC) came over with the principle to set up such centres in the Gram Panchayets having neither a Govt. Nor a Govt. Sponsored Library. 314 such centres have been set up upto 2006-07.

Directorate of Library Services is headed by the Directorate of Library Services who is assisted by a Deputy Director and an Assistant Director in the Head Office and District Library Officers in the District and other staff members. Minister in charge of Library Services is in overall charge of the public library services in West Bengal.

4.1.2.1 ACTIVITIES OF THE DIRECTORATE OF LIBRARY SERVICES

4.1.2.1.1 To look after and administer libraries and their activities in the state

Public Library system in the State at present comprises of 12 Govt. Libraries with State Central Library at the apex, 2462 Govt. Sponsored Libraries at different levels, 7 Govt. Aided Libraries.

Library Management System under the control of the Directorate of Library Services is manned by almost 5500

employees and administered against the yearly budgetary allocation around Rs.55 Crore. Fixed recurring grant is provided to different categories of Libraries. Besides this different types of non-recurring grant is also provided to some of the eligible Libraries according to their needs for the development and maintenance of the library services provided by them, as per availability of fund.

4.1.2.1.2 Bibliographical Control

The Directorate of Library Services used to publish a subject wise selected list of Bengali Books upto 2001-02 to help the librarians to purchase books for their libraries. It has subsequently been decided in 2002-03 to publish the list of all Bengali Books acquired under Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867.

The Directorate of Library Services arranges for bulk purchase of books as a part of the Matching Programme with Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) with the help of Book Selection Committee. According to the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, submission of newly written books in Press and Registration Office is an essential pre-requisite for selection of books by the Directorate.

4.1.2.1.3 Creation of Database regarding Library Services

Directorate of Library Services is now in a position to create database about different aspects of libraries and employees under the control of the Directorate. Besides that the Directorate has developed a database of Non Govt. and Non-Sponsored Libraries serving in different districts of West Bengal. Along with that the Directorate is now creating a database of rare books and manuscripts lying in the libraries under the control of this Directorate.

4.1.2.1.4 Organisation of Book Fairs in the Districts

Books Fairs are organised in the Districts annually

under the auspices of the respective Local Library Authorities (LLA) with the objectives to :

- i) Provide facilities to the libraries and book lovers to browse and consult large number of titles on various subjects in one compact area for information, selection and purchase.
- ii) Provide facilities to Publishers to exhibit their publications to the visitors – thus benefiting the book trade by interaction and
- iii) Promote reading habit among the people.

RRRLF provided some grants to each of the districts for organising Book Fairs.

4.1.2.1.5 Continuance of the Career Guidance Centres in different libraries

In 1998-99 Govt. has organised separate Career Guidance Centres in State Central Library, 26 Govt. and Govt. sponsored District Libraries, 229 Town/Sub divisional Libraries and selected Rural Libraries. From 1998-99 Govt. is providing special grant to these libraries for running these centres. Objectives of the Career Guidance Centres are to help students and other people in their pursuit of seeking jobs, professional courses uplifting their livelihoods.

Table – 58. Scale of Grant received annually by different Govt. and Govt. Sponsored District, Town/Sub-divisional Public Libraries for running their Career Guidance Centres from 1998–99 to 2006–07

Sl. No.	Name of the Libraries/ Category of the Libraries	Scale of Grant (in Rs.)	Total No. of Libraries	Total amount of Grant sanctioned (in Rs.)
1.	State Central Library	2,00,000.00	1	2,00,000.00
2.	Kolkata Metropolitan Library	50,000.00	1	50,000.00
3.	Uttarpara Joykrishna Public Library	50,000.00	1	50,000.00
4.	North Bengal State Library	50,000.00	1	50,000.00
5.	Deshbandhu District Library	50,000.00	1	50,000.00
6.	Taki Govt. District Library	50,000.00	1	50,000.00
7.	North 24 Pgs. Govt. District Library	50,000.00	1	50,000.00
8.	Central Library, Banipur	20,000.00	1	20,000.00
9.	Central Library, Kalimpong	20,000.00	1	20,000.00
10.	Govt. Sponsored District Library	15,000.00	19	2,85,000.00
11.	Govt. Sponsored Town/Sub-Divisional /Upgraded Town Library	10,000.00	229	22,90,000.00
Total			257	31,15,000.00

4.1.2.1.6 Financial Assistance to Non-Govt. and Non-Sponsored Libraries

Government renders assistances to the age old Non-Govt. and Non-Sponsored Libraries in recognition of their services rendered to common people. A recent survey conducted by the Directorate of Library Services could identify the existence of as many as 2271 such libraries throughout the state. Many of them render commendable library services to the people at their own initiatives and resources. Govt. has a programme of providing Govt. Grants to some of these libraries every year. In 2005-06, the said grants have been given @Rs. 12000/- to the Libraries established before 1900, @Rs. 10000/- to the Libraries established between 1901 and 1950, and @ Rs.8000/- to the Libraries established after 1950 & upto 1997. Similarly in 2006-07, the said grants have been given @Rs. 12000/- to the Libraries established before 1900, @Rs.10000/- to the Libraries established between 1901 and 1950, and @ Rs.8000/- to the Libraries established after 1950 and upto 2000.

This Scheme started from the financial year 1999-00. During the year 2005-06, 269 such type of libraries received financial assistance of Rs. 33.10 lakh. Similarly during the year 2006-07, 353 such type of libraries received financial assistance of Rs.30.08 lakh.

Table – 59. District-wise distribution of Non-Govt. and Non-Sponsored Library in West Bengal received Financial Assistance upto 2006 – 07.

Sl. No.	District	Total no. of libraries identified on 31.03.06	Total no. of libraries identified on 31.03.07	No. of Libraries assistance in 1999-00	Total Amount Disbursed to the District	No. of libraries assistance in 2000-01	Total amount Disbursed to the District	No. of Librarians received assistance in 2002-03	Total amount Disbursed to the District	No. of Librarians received assistance in 2003-04	Total amount Disbursed to the District	No. of Libraries assistance in 2004 - 05	Total amount Disbursed to the District	No. of Libraries assistance in 2005 - 06	Total amount Disbursed to the District	No. of Libraries assistance in 2006 - 07	Total amount Disbursed to the District
1	Bankura	37	42	3	20000	1	5000	5	34000	17	146000	11	96000	13	114000	21	178000
2	Birbhum	150	154	1	7500			3	26000	4	36000	1	10000	4	38000	9	78000
3	Burdwan	192	199	6	30000	8	27000	8	60000	9	80000	9	82000	14	124000	22	184000
4	Cooch Behar	59	60	1	7500	1	7500	3	18000	3	26000	4	34000	1	8000	2	16000
5	Dakshin Dinajpur	53	54			1	1000	1	6000	1	8000	4	32000	4	32000	4	32000
6	Darjeeling	93	93						Nil					0	0	2	16000
7	Hoogly	238	241	12	70000	13	70000	18	148000	17	160000	27	252000	28	250000	32	286000
8	Howrah	94	95	9	65000	9	53500	8	68000	10	98000	17	158000	13	128000	19	180000
9	Jalpaiguri	28	28	1	5000			2	16000	2	16000	2	16000	0	0	3	26000
10	Kolkata	77	82	1	7500	13	63500	7	66000	15	148000	18	176000	17	162000	22	214000
11	Malda	204	209			2	6000	17	110000	25	202000	29	236000	18	152000	22	182000
12	Murshidabad	61	62	1	7500	2	10000			1	8000	1	8000	6	50000	5	42000
13	Nadia	78	80	2	12500	5	16000	4	32000	3	26000	14	120000	8	66000	13	110000
14	North 24 Parganas	225	227	9	62500	12	48500	15	122000	21	188000	23	208000	20	178000	25	230000
15	Paschim Midnapur	132	154		17500		24500		62000	5	40000	17	140000	24	196000	49	396000
16	Purba Midnapur	312	335					9		14	114000	39	326000	68	552000	47	382000
17	Purulia	23	32	1	7500			5	38000	5	42000	13	106000	14	116000	18	146000
18	South 24 Paraganas	72	90			2	7500	3	22000	4	38000	13	112000	15	128000	34	278000
19	Uttar Dinajpur	32	34					2	12000	4	32000	4	32000	2	16000	4	32000
	Total	2160	2271	50	320000	76	340000	110	840000	160	1E+06	246	2E+06	269	2E+06	353	3008000

4.1.2.1.7 Establishment of Community Library Cum Information Centres (CLICs) in the Districts:

Community Library cum Information Centres are being established in those Gram Panchayets only where there is neither a Govt. nor a Govt. Sponsored Library. In West Bengal there are 1640 Gram Panchayets out of 3362 which have no Govt. or a Govt. Sponsored Library. Community Library cum Information Centres are to be established by the Gram Panchayets under initiative of the Community. Accommodation is to be provided by the Community free of cost.

Govt. provides one time non-recurring grant of Rs.9000/- for purchase of Books and Furniture, yearly recurring grant of Rs.6400/- for purchase of Books, Periodicals/Newspapers and other reading materials and yearly recurring grant of Rs.9600/- for payment of Honorarium @Rs.800/- per month to the Community Library Organiser.

The centres remain open at least 3 hours a day on 5 days in a week including Saturday and Sunday as per convenience of the Community.

Subscriptions may be collected from the members and grants/donations may be received from Govt./Local Bodies and General Public. No subscription can be realised from the Neo-Literates and Children Members below 16 years of age.

Those centres are looked after each by a Managing Committee consisting of :

1. Pradhan or Upa-Pradhan of the respective Gram Panchayet, as Chairman.
2. One Teacher from the Local College or one Headmaster / Asstt. Headmaster / Asstt. Teacher from Higher Secondary / Secondary / Primary School.
3. One Librarian / Library Asstt. of any Sponsored Library situated in the respective Panchayet Samiti Area.

4. One local person representing in the interest of Literacy Movement or Scientific and Cultural activity.
5. Gram Sebak attached to the respective Gram Panchayet.
6. Community Library Organiser of the Centre, as Convenor.
7. Three Reading Members of the Centre one of those must be Female person.

Table- 60. Statement of Establishment of Community Library cum Information Centres (CLICs) and total amount sanctioned and Disbursed to different CLICs in different Districts of West Bengal upto 31.03.07

Sl. No.	District	Total No. of Panchayat Samities / Blocks	Total No. of Gram Panchayata	Total No. of Gram Panchayats having no Govt. / Spon. Library	Total No. of CLICs sanctioned upto 31.03.07	Total No. of CLICs established upto 31.03.07	Total No. of CLICs sanctioned but not established upto 31.03.07	Total Amount sanctioned & Disbursed as Adhoc Non- Recurring Grant(@ Rs. 9000/- per centre) upto the end of 2006-07	Total Amount sanctioned & Disbursed as Recurring Maintenance Grant (@ Rs. 6400/- per centre) upto the end of 2006-07	Total Amount sanctioned & Disbursed as Honorarium (@ 9600/- per year per centre) upto the end of 2006-07	Total Amount sanctioned & Disbursed upto the end of 2006-07
1	Bankura	22	190	78	22	22	198000	832000	1215400	2245400	
2	Birbhum	19	169	53	19	13	261000	441600	388400	1091000	
3	Burdwan	31	277	122	31	28	315000	1158400	1636800	3110200	
4	Cooch Behar	12	128	40	12	12	108000	439200	796800	1344000	
5	Dakshin Dinajpur	8	65	25	8	8	72000	192000	80	264080	
6	Darjeeling	12	134	44	12	8	108000	179200	239200	526400	
7	Hoogly	18	210	63	18	18	162000	467200	937600	1566800	
8	Howrah	14	157	67	14	14	126000	358400	537600	1022000	
9	Jalpaiguri	13	148	94	13	13	117000	473600	760800	1351400	
10	Malda	15	147	64	15	13	162000	441600	492200	1095800	
11	Murshidabad	26	255	129	26	26	234000	768000	139000	2398000	
12	Nadia	17	187	103	17	15	180000	473200	864000	1517200	
13	North 24 Parganas	22	200	118	22	19	234000	547200	969600	1750800	
14	Paschim Midnapur	29	290	171	29	28	261000	1118200	1612800	2992000	
15	Purba Midnapur	25	224	165	25	23	225000	609600	1169200	2003800	
16	Purulia	20	170	65	20	20	180000	512000	768000	1460000	
17	South 24 Paraganas	29	312	183	29	28	270000	648200	1396000	2314200	
18	Uttar Dinajpur	9	99	56	9	6	108000	198400	240000	546400	
Total		341	3362	1640	341	314	3321000	9858000	15420480	28599480	

4.1.2.1.8 Implementation of Matching Schemes of State Govt. and Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF)

Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation created in 1972 has been promoting activities like Construction of Library Buildings, Storage and Display of Books, Mobile Library Services and Organising of Workshops / Seminars on Library matters under the Matching Grant Scheme equally funded by the State Govt. & Central Govt. Though the Scheme had a modest beginning, with the passage of time, the State Govt. in consultation with the Foundation has enhanced its contribution to effectively meet the fund requirements of the Govt. Sponsored Libraries. During 2005-06 and 2006-07 contribution from each side was Rs.1 Crore. For implementation of this Matching Grant Scheme of the RRRLF, there are two Committee : i) West Bengal State Committee for Implementation of Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation Programme; ii) Book Selection Committee.

Table – 61. State Government’s contribution to RRRLF towards Matching Grant Scheme from 1989-1990 to 2006-2007

Serial No.	Year	Contribution (Rs.)
1	1989-90	Rs. 4,00,000.00
2	1990-91	Rs. 8,00,000.00
3	1991-92	Rs. 8,00,000.00
4	1992-93	Rs. 8,00,000.00
5	1993-94	Rs. 10,00,000.00
6	1994-95	Rs. 10,00,000.00
7	1995-96	Rs. 20,00,000.00
8	1996-97	Rs. 30,00,000.00
9	1997-98	Rs. 50,00,000.00
10	1998-99	Rs. 50,00,000.00
11	1999-00	Rs. 50,00,000.00
12	2000-01	Rs. 75,00,000.00
13	2001-02	Rs. 50,00,000.00
14	2002-03	Rs. 75,00,000.00
15	2003-04	Rs. 75,00,000.00
16	2004-05	Rs. 75,00,000.00
17	2005-06	Rs. 1,00,00,000.00
18	2006-07	Rs. 1,00,00,000.00

4.1.2.1.9 Financial Assistance under RIDF Scheme

On special request to the Finance Dept. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) agreed to include the schemes of Construction / Extension of Buildings of Rural Libraries in the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)-IX Projects. During 2003-04 financial year 40 Rural Libraries got approval for their Construction / Extension work from the RIDF Scheme.

The during of completion of the scheme in case of individual libraries is from 2003-04 to 2006-07. If an individual Library is able to execute the project ahead of the physical target/phasing period fund will be released by the Finance Dept. on the basis of the actual work done by the library. The total amount sanctioned for 40 Rural Libraries under RIDF project (sponsored by NABARD) is Rs.136.28 lakh.

4.1.2.1.10 Co-operation with the Bengal Library Association (BLA)

The Bengal Library Association has always played a leading role in the Organisation, management and extension of Library Services in the State. Since its establishment in 1925, it has been playing a very constructive role towards Library Movement in the State. Directorate of Library Services is in regular interaction with the Association for evolving policies on management and development of Public Libraries. Some members of the Association are also members of the State Library Council (SLC) and the Local Library Authorities (LLAs). Bengal Library Association was supposed to conduct different workshops in different districts of West Bengal.

4.1.2.1.11 Manpower Development

Beside the active role of Bengali Library Association towards development of manpower as state above, the State Govt. is also conducting a Certificate course in Library Science for the students of North Bengal i.e., from Coochbehar. Jalpaiguri, Malda, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Siliguri Mahakuma Parishad are of Darjeeling Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council Area and DGHC are of Darjeeling District at Peoples' (Janata) College, Kalimpong,

Darjeeling. About 30 students complete the Certificate course in Library Science from this institution. The course was originally started to impart training to the Non trained Librarians of Govt. Sponsored Libraries in North Bengal. Subsequently this training was extended for the fresh candidate as well.

4.1.2.1.12 Preservation of Documents with the assistance of National Mission for Manuscripts

National Mission for Manuscripts has been constituted by the Govt. of India to survey, document, preserve and disseminate the manuscript wealth of the country. The Manuscript Library of the University of Calcutta has been designated as a Manuscript Resource Centre authorised to function for all activities related to Manuscripts in all districts of West Bengal. Calcutta University Manuscript Resource Centre in close liaison with the office of the Directorate of Library Services and other Govt. and Govt. Sponsored libraries has launched a statewide programme for creating awareness among various cross sections of the society and also for conducting survey of the manuscripts lying in different public libraries. Besides that the preservation work are going on in Uttarpara Jaykrishna Public Library, North Bengal State Library and in different district and other types of Libraries in West Bengal.

Table – 62. Surveys done by National Mission for Manuscripts in different libraries under the control of this Directorate in 2005–06

District	Name of the Library	Address	Telephone No. (if any)	Status of the Library	Code	Total No. of Manuscripts surveyed till 31.03.06	Survey Data Computerised till 31.03.06	Whether Cataloguing & Accession Register has done or not	Assistance given in Kind
Hooghly	Uttarpara Jaykrishna Public Library	P.O. : Uttarpara, Dist : Hoogly, Pin:712258	2663-8293	Govt.	UJPL	482	482	Two	Red Shalu, paper for inner packing, Napthalin, Vacha, Tobacco leaves
	Bally Sadharan Granthagar	383, G.T.Road, P. O. : Bali, Pin.:711201	2849-5975	Spon.	BSG	185	185	Complete	Red Shalu, paper for inner packing, Napthalin, Vacha, Tobacco leaves
Howrah	Mahiyari Public Library	P.O. : Andul Mouri, Pin.:711302		Spon.	MPL	236	236	Ongoing	Red Shalu, paper for inner packing, Napthalin, Vacha, Tobacco leaves
	Makardaha Saraswat Library	Vill.+P.O. : Makardaha, Pin : 711409	2670-1500	Spon.	MSL	91	91	One	Red Shalu, paper for inner packing, Napthalin, Vacha, tobacco leaves
Bankura	Bankura District Library	P.O.+Dist.: Bankura, Pin.:722101	(03242) 251243	Spon.	BDL	8	8	Complete	Red Shalu, paper for inner packing, Napthalin, Vacha, Tobacco leaves

District	Name of the Library	Address	Telephone No. (if any)	Status of the Library	Code	Total No. of Manuscripts surveyed till 31.03.06	Survey Data Computerised till 31.03.06	Whether Cataloguing & Accession Register has done or not	Assistance given in Kind
Nadia	Akshaya Granthagar	P.O.:Santipur Pin: 741404	Nil	Spon.	AG	26	26	Complete	Red Shalu, paper for inner packing, Naphthalin, Vacha, Tobacco leaves,Almirah
	Dwijendra Pathagar	P.O. : Krishnanagar Pin. : 741101 Nawadwip, Pin :	Nil	Spon.	DP	16	16	Complete	Red Shalu, paper for inner packing, Naphthalin, Vacha, Tobacco leaves
	Nabadwip Sadhran Granthagar	P.O. : Nawadwip, Pin.:741302	(03472) 241420	Spon.	NSG	145	145	Two	Red Shalu, paper for inner packing, Naphthalin, Vacha, Tobacco leaves
Burdwan	Jargram Makhanial Pathagar	P.O. : Jargram	Nil	Spon.	JMP	28	28	Ongoing	Red Shalu, paper for inner packing, Naphthalin, Vacha, Tobacco leaves
Murshidabad	Murshidabad District Library	P.O. : Berhampur	Nil	Spon.	MDL	30	30	Complete	Red Shalu, paper for inner packing, Naphthalin, Vacha, Tobacco leaves
	Ramendra Sundar Smrit Town Library	Jemo	Nil	Spon.	RSSTL	2	2	Complete	Red Shalu, paper for inner packing, Naphthalin, Vacha, Tobacco leaves

Table – 63. Awareness and Orientation Programmes arranged by National Mission for Manuscripts in different Districts of West Bengal in 2005–06

Sl. No.	District	Venue	Duration	Date
1	Kolkata	University of Calcutta	1 day	20.09.05
2	Kolkata	Jadavpur University	1 day	22.09.05
3	Howrah & Hoogly	Uttarpara Jaykrishna Public Library	2 days	02.12.05 & 03.12.05
4	Kolkata	Sanskrit Sahitya Parishad	1 day	04.12.05
5	Bankura, Burdwan & Hoogly	Raniganj College, Raniganj	2 days	16.12.05 & 17.12.05
6	Kolkata	University of Calcutta	1 day	03.03.06

Awareness and Orientation Programmes arranged by National Mission for Manuscripts in different Districts of West Bengal in 2006–07

Sl. No.	District	Venue	Duration	Date
1	South 24 Pgs.	Anantarampur High School	1 day	02.02.07
2	Kolkata & North 24 Pgs.	Rabindra Bharati University	1 day	15.02.07
3	Kolkata	University of Calcutta	1 day	23.03.07

4.1.2.1.13 Digitisation of rare books with the help of C-DAC, Kolkata

C-DAC, Kolkata (an autonomous body created by Govt. of India) has doing the work of digitisation of rare books under the scheme of Govt. of India. It has completed its work at State Central Library and doing work at Uttarpara Jaykrishna Public Library, Hooghly District Library, North Bengal State Library and also in two other district libraries.

4.1.2.1.14 Computerisation of Libraries under the control of the Directorate of Library Services

With the assistance of Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation, the State Govt. has planned for automation of libraries. In the first phase, State Central Library will be fully computerised. This work has already been started. After that all the District libraries will be computerised. A wide area network will be established among the libraries. In the second phase, Town/Sub-divisional Libraries will be computerised.

In the financial year 2004-05, Directorate of Library Services has launched its website named **banglargranthagar.nic.in** containing all the information of the Directorate. National Informatics Centre (NIC) has made the Website.

4.1.2.1.15 Installation of “Electronic Information Kiosk” in State Central Library

In 2005-06, “Electronic Information Kiosk” has been set up in State Central Library with the help of C-DAC, a society established by Govt. of India at a cost of Rs.2,75,000.00. Members of Common Public are getting information relating their day to day lives with the help of this electronic device by touch screen method.” On 28th

September, 2005, Hon'ble Chief Minister has inaugurated this service. In 2006-07, this service will be extended in district libraries situated in district headquarters.

4.1.2.1.16 Golden Jubilee Celebration of State Central Library

On the occasion of Golden Jubilee of State Central Library (established in 1956), a two-day national seminar was organised on 20th & 21st February, 2006 on "Public Libraries : Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow". All states of India were invited to attend the seminar. Accordingly 12 states of India participated in the Seminar and presented the status of Public Libraries in their respective states and their future programmes.

One publication incorporating the valuable and critical findings of the eminent personalities in the field of Library Services and the public library scenario in the country as a whole has been published on the occasion.

A second publication containing the status report received from different states and the final recommendations of the Seminar has also been published. This publication has been mailed to all of the participating states, important personalities attending the seminar, RRRLF and Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India and all other state governments in India.

4.1.2.1.17 Inauguration of the Construction of New Library Building of Kolkata Metropolitan Library, Kolkata

On 15th February, 2006, Hon'ble Ex-Chief Minister Sri Jyoti Basu inaugurated the Construction of New Library Building of Kolkata Metropolitan Library, Kolkata at a function organised for the above-mentioned purpose. The building has been proposed to be Hi-tech building and will provide all facility for the users.

4.1.3 Public Library System

The State Central Library is the apex library of the Public Library System of the state. In each District there exists three tier Public Libraries with District Library at the apex. Town and Sub-divisional Libraries at the next tier and Rural, Area and Primary Unit Libraries. Recently, Community Library and Information Centres (CLICs) are also being developed to cater service at villages where there is no sponsored library service.

4.1.3.1 The State Library Council

The Mass Education Extension Department through the Directorate of Library Services administers the libraries under the West Bengal Public Libraries Act, 1979 with the rules framed there under. For organizing and administering library services there is the provision in the Act for constitution of the State Library Council (SLC) with the Minister in Charge of Library Services as its Chairman. The Council is to advise the State Government on the management of the State Central Library, on matters relating to policies and programmes for the development and management of Public Library System and on such matters as may be referred to it.

The Council consists of 31 members representing diverse fields of interest, viz., MLA's, persons representing the interests of education, social work, culture, literary or artistic activity, library & information science, representatives of Bengal Library Association, Government officials like the Secretary of Mass Education Extension Department, Director of Public Instruction, Director, National Library, Kolkata, Director, Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation, representatives of the employees of Public Libraries, representatives from the members of the Local Library Authority, the Librarian of the State Central Library, one Librarian nominated from the District Libraries and other officials.

The Director of Library Services is the ex-officio Member-Secretary of the Council. The Council is the highest advisory body to the Government on policies and programmes concerning Library Services in the State.

4.1.3.2 Local Library Authority

Local Library Authority (LLA) has been created for each district by virtue of the West Bengal Public Libraries Act, 1979. Two separate Local Library Authorities have been created for the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council Area and Siliguri Mahakuma Parishad Area in the district of Darjeeling. The District Magistrate of the District is the Chairman of the LLA and in case of Kolkata, the Chairman of the LLA is the Director of Library Services. In case of Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC) the Chairman of the LLA is the Principal Secretary, Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council. In case of Siliguri Mahakuma Parishad Area, the District Magistrate of Darjeeling is the Chairman of the LLA, Siliguri Mahakuma Parishad area. The LLA consists of 22 to 24 members depending on the number of District Libraries in the district.

The Local Library Authority comprises of Government and non Government members including representative(s) of the Zilla Parishad (Municipal Corporation in case of Kolkata), Panchayet Samities, Bengal Library Association, persons representing the interest of education, social work, culture, literary or artistic activities, literacy or scientific movement, representatives of the employees of the Public Libraries, persons from Managing Committees of Public Libraries, Librarian(s) of the District Library or Libraries, District Mass Education officer, District Information and Cultural Officer and District Library Officer. The District Library Officer is the member secretary of the LLA and carries out the functions on behalf of the LLA.

4.1.3.3 Management of the Public Libraries

The Management of a Government Sponsored Public Library is looked after by an elected Managing Committee. The committee comprises of the representatives from the Corporation /Municipality / Notified Area Authority in urban areas and Panchayet Samities in case of rural areas. The Librarian of the concerned library is the Joint Secretary of the Committee. The Managing Committees of the District Libraries are constituted with representatives of the concerned Zilla

Parishad and institutional members. Librarian of the District Library is the Ex-Officio Member Secretary. The District Library Officer is the President of the Managing Committee of the District Library. Staff members of the Sponsored Public Libraries have been declared as employees of the respective LLAs. The assets of the Sponsored Libraries have also been declared as the assets of the concerned LLA under the Act. For Government Libraries there are Advisory Committees created by the Government.

4.1.4 Services Rendered In General By Different Types of Libraries

- i) Lending of books for Home Reading.
- ii) Reading Room Service.
- iii) Reference Service.
- iv) Text Book Service.
- v) Newspaper and Periodical Service.
- vi) Special Service to readers pertaining to Career Guidance.
- vii) Service to children readers.
- viii) Service to neo-literate readers.
- ix) Service to the Braille users.
- x) Inter Library Loan Service.
- xi) Mobile Library Service.
- xii) Reprography Service.
- xiii) Information Service on life and livelihood of the masses.

There exists 3 tier library system in district namely, Rural /Primary Unit / Area Libraries, Town/Sub-Divisional Libraries, District Libraries, First type of libraries in general rendered services under serial No. 1, 5, 7. Selected Rural/ Primary Unit Area Libraries render services under serial no. 2, 4, 8. Second type of libraries render services under serial No. 1 to 7. District Libraries render services under serial no. 1 to 8, 10, 11. State Central Library renders all these services.

4.1.5 Services Rendered by the Specific Categories of Libraries

4.1.5.1 State Central Library

This library serves as the apex Public Library of West Bengal. It renders the following Services to its own clientele as well as to other libraries of the state : reading room service, periodical and newspaper service, lending service, service to children, service to visually impaired persons, career guidance service, reference and bibliographical service, document copy supply service, implementation of public library development schemes under the matching scheme of state government and Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation.

4.1.5.2 Government and Government Sponsored District Libraries

Government District Libraries such as, Taki Government District Library at Taki, North 24 Parganas, Deshbandhu District Library, Darjeeling, Barasat Government Library at Barasat, North 24 Paraganas, Uttar Dinajpur District Library and 19 Government Sponsored District libraries render the following services : reading room service, lending service, career guidance service, service to children, periodical and newspaper service, reference and bibliographical service.

4.1.5.3 Town/Subdivision Libraries

Town / Subdivision Libraries are at the second tier of the district library system. These libraries render the following services; reading room service, lending service, career guidance service, service to children, text book service and reference service.

4.1.5.4 Rural/Area/Primary Unit Libraries

These Libraries are at the lowest tier of the library system of a District. These libraries render the following services : reading room service, lending service, service to children, text book and career guidance service, reference service.

4.1.5.5 Community Library Cum Information Centre (CLIC)

The State Government has a scheme to open at least one Community Library Cum Information Centre (CLIC) in a Gram Panchayet that does not have a Public Library. The purpose of this scheme is to expand Library Services to these uncovered Gram Panchayet areas. The CLICs are to provide, along with the books, relevant and useful information to the people in the Gram Panchayet areas.

To start with, one centre in each Panchyet Samity, total 341 CLICs have been set up. A Managing Committee consisting of representatives from the Gram Panchayet, local community, teachers and readers shall look after the day to day functioning of the Centre. The Gram Panchayet is providing suitable accommodation for housing the Centre, which remains open for at least 03 hours a day on 5 days a week including Saturday and Sunday. The community will decide the working hours according to the convenience of the users. The centre is being run by a part time Community Library Organiser (CLO) who is appointed on contractual basis by the Managing Committee. The CLO receives a monthly remuneration of Rs. 800. He should not be an employee of Government or Government Sponsored System and renewal of his service depends on his performance in the centre.

The State Government through the concerned Zilla Parishad provides to each centre one time nonpecurring grant of Rs. 9000 for purchase of books and furniture, recurring grant of Rs. 6400 for the purchase of newspapers, periodicals and other reading materials.

With the traditional functions of the libraries these centres will provide additional services such as dissemination of current information on vital issue, dissemination of occupational information, information on locally available

resources and information related to functioning of local body for countability and transparency.

Considering the backwardness of the area, these CLICs will also be linked with the literacy campaigns and Nodal Continuing Education Centres the districts where continuing education programmes have been taken up.

Table – 64. Different types of Public Libraries Served in West Bengal

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Govt. Library	Dist. Library	Town/Sub-divisional Library	Upgraded Town Library	Primary Unit Library	Rural Library	Total	Aided Libraries	Community Library-cum-Information Centres	Non-Govt. and Non-Spon. Libraries
1.	Bankura		1	5	2	3	119	130		22	42
2.	Birbhum		1	7	3	2	112	125		13	154
3.	Burdwan		3	11	10	25	163	212		28	199
4.	Coochbehar	1		6	1	0	102	110		12	60
5.	Dakshin Dinajpur		1	2	2	1	51	57		8	54
6.	Darjeeling	2	1	7	3	7	109	129		8	93
7.	Hoogly	1	1	16	6	14	121	159		18	241
8.	Howrah		1	7	5	24	99	136	1	14	95
9.	Jalpaiguri		2	5	4	14	85	110		13	28
10.	Kolkata	2		3	5	88	0	98	4		82
11.	Maldah		1	5	4	4	90	104		13	209
12.	Murshidabad		1	10	2	3	144	160		26	62
13.	Nadia		1	7	2	9	91	110	1	15	80
14.	North 24 parganas	3	1	29	9	94	88	224		19	227
15.	Paschim Midnapur		1	9	6	12	130	158		28	154
16.	Purba Midnapur	1	1	6	4	3	107	122		23	335
17.	Purulia	1	1	4	1	0	111	118		20	32
18.	South 24 parganas		1	13	5	22	115	156	1	28	90
19.	Uttar Dinajpur	1		4		3	48	56		6	34
Total		12	19	156	74	328	1885	2474	7	314	2271

Table - 65. District-wise consolidated statement of different Statistics in connection with Sponsored Libraries in West Bengal in the year 2006 - 07.

Sl. No.	District	Total no. of Sopn. Lib(s).	Total no. of collection as 31.03.07	Total no. of documents procured in 2006 - 07	Total no. of Registered Members as on 31.03.07	Total no. of New Members enrolled in 2006 - 07	Total no. of books USED in Reading Room during 2006 - 07	Daily average of books USED in Reading Room during 2006 - 07	Total no. books ISSUED for Lending service in 2006 - 07	Daily average of books ISSUED for Lending service in 2006 - 07	Remarks
1.	Bankura	130	904290	62630	137999	43706	1084700	4047	1194733	4488	
2.	Birbhum	124	636476	33469	58098	5228	623914	2634	515296	1945	
3.	Burdwan	212	1151131	42581	128282	10522	1012102	3892	886955	3412	
4.	Coochbehar	109	501037	16037	31430	675	318098	1195	141536	560	
5.	Dakshin Dinajpur	57	33630	4267	44522	6103	518564	2271	518732	2243	
6.	Darjeeling (other than SMP)	99	254450	18148	17003	2031	36130	615	92813	915	
7.	Hoogly	158	1405350	38922	92019	2108	639675	2235	903822	3422	
8.	Howrah	136	970238	26424	75933?	6792	646337	2439	675093	2548	
9.	Jalpaiguri	110	437438	21069	30839	4834	166075	734	260700	1265	
10.	Kolkata	96	582057	18131	30299	2275	328876	1207	338899	1285	
11.	Maldah	104	612633	603833	93710	31520	8250120	33443	4598350	19109	
12.	Murshidabad	160	504400	1261775	68312	16230	831270	3840	979651	4480	
13.	Nadia	110	544827	58600	44512	3755	268010	1031	43701	556	
14.	North 24 parganas	221	1400251	61010	132461	16000	790000	3038	838604	3225	
15.	Paschim Midnapur	158	832549	55172	71116	11829	700598	25764	576829	2121	

16.	Purba Midnapur	121	703940	28642	78537	8595	527936	3814	416335	2388	
17.	Purulia	117	648658	25376	76026	6324	482639	1930	422572	1690	
18.	Silliguri Mahakuma Parishad (SMP)	28	155179	5233	19952	1224	50000	196	45374	168	
19.	South parganas	156	758251	32146	69413	6332	539912	1565	522036	2578	
20.	Uttar Dinajpur	55	186815	178806	27720	6992	221303	835	232280	790	
Total		2461	13223700	2592271	1252250	193075	18036259	96725	14204311	59191	

4.2 PRESENT SITUATION OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES IN WEST BENGAL

4.2.1 To know the actual situation of the Public Libraries in West Bengal and services rendered by them, a survey was made by Dr. Amit Kumar Bandyopadhyay, Professor, Dept. of Library & Information Science, University of Burdwan. This work was done by him under UGC Major Research Project. It was published in 2008. This survey was made among 331 Public Libraries (including district and town libraries) situated in different districts of West Bengal.

Only the public library services portion in this survey report is furnished below.

4.2.1.1 Infrastructure

- Building and ownership : 87% of the libraries are situated on their own land while 10.57% are on some building not of libraries own but for which the library need not pay rent. Only 1.5% of the libraries are on rented building. Nearly 95% of the libraries surveyed have pucca building made up of bricks and mortar. All Town libraries and District Libraries surveyed are having pucca building. Roof of 4.2% of the libraries surveyed are of tiles and another 4.2% are of slate. Roof of very few rural libraries are of tin or straw.
 - No. Of Rooms : 21.3% of the rural libraries and 3.8% of the town libraries surveyed are having only one room. Another 32.2% of the Rural Libraries and 13.8% of the Town libraries have only two rooms each. 33.5% of the rural libraries and 43.8% of the town libraries have 3 to 4 rooms each. 38.8% of the town libraries have 5 or more rooms each. 75% of the district libraries have more than 8 rooms each.
- Approximately 75% all of the libraries has no hall facility. Only 18% of the rural libraries have hall. 42% of the District libraries have said that they are not having any hall. 56% of the town

libraries have no hall. In this situation, it is very difficult for the libraries to organize cultural programme or other extension programme on regular basis.

Reading Room Seat : In 10.9% of the rural libraries there is no provision of any reading room seat. Three town libraries are found without any reading room seat. In 12% of the rural libraries there are no more than 5 reading room seats. In 38.8% of the town libraries there are no more than 20 seats in the reading room. In more than 26% of all the libraries only one reading room seat is available for more than 40 registered members. In 75% of the district libraries there is only one seat for every 60 registered members.

- Electricity : Forty four (18.4%) rural libraries are without any provision of Electricity / Generator / Emergency Lamp. In 28.75% of the town libraries and 33.33% of the district libraries there is provision of generator/emergency lamp to avoid the problem of power cut.
- Drinking Water and Toilet : 64% of the rural libraries, 47% of the town libraries and even some district libraries have no provision of drinking water. Only 40% of the libraries have drinking water facility.

Approximately 32% of the rural libraries and 13.8% of town libraries have no urinal at all. Only 19.6% of the libraries have ladies urinal. 33% of the district libraries have no ladies urinal. 24% of the libraries have gents' urinal. 55% of the libraries have lavatory facility.

- Telephone : 21% of the libraries have telephone connection. All the district libraries have telephone.

4.2.1.2 User and Document

- Membership : in 32.6% of the Rural libraries membership is limited within 300 each. Nearly 33% of all the libraries have more than 500 registered members each. In 32.5% town libraries there

are more than 1000 members each. More than 91% of the District libraries have more than 2000 members each.

- **Book Collection :** In 17% of the rural libraries there are not more than 3000 books each. The collection of many rural libraries is extremely poor and that is why they fail to create interest among their members. Collection of 73% of the rural libraries is limited within 6000 books only. In 62.5% of the town libraries are collection is more than 8000 each. All the District libraries have more than 15000 books each.
- **Books per member :** In only 34% of the rural libraries, 36.25% town libraries and 25% district libraries, there are more than 15 books per member. In 33% of the Town and District libraries number of books per member is 10 or less.
- **Local History Collection :** Only 17.5% of the libraries maintain separate Local History Collection. 33% of the libraries claimed of having separate Local History Collection has ten or less items in the collection.
- **Journal / News Paper :** Nearly 38% of the libraries procure up to 5 current journals and another 30% procure up to 10 current journals. Only 19% of the libraries procure more than 10 current journals. 46% of the libraries procure one or more children's journal.

26% of the rural libraries keep only one newspaper each. Another 33% rural libraries keep two newspapers each. 57% of the town libraries keep more than four newspapers each. Only 13% of the rural libraries surveyed have said that they keep some English newspaper. Only 18% of the libraries preserve the newspapers for more than a year.

4.2.1.3 Tools and procedures :

- **Catalogue :** Only 5.4% of all the rural libraries, 14% of the town libraries and 58% of the district libraries maintain complete dictionary catalogue. 30% of the rural libraries, 15% of the town libraries and each one district library have mentioned that they

have no catalogue. Only 57.5% of the town libraries and 30.5% of the rural libraries have mentioned that they have any card catalogue. But many of these are not complete. 26% of the rural and town libraries have their catalogue in bound register, which is not at all suitable for quick searching of books. 12% of the libraries having catalogue make rendering of English books by Forename and 8.7% render Bengali books by Surname.

- Classification : Books are not classified in 58% of the libraries. In case of rural libraries, only in 27% the books are classified. Only 13.8% of the rural libraries and 52% of the town libraries have their own schedule. Only 17.8% of all the libraries arrange books in classified order. Maximum libraries (33.23%) arrange books by Accession number. More than 29% of the rural libraries and 26% of the town libraries prefer to arrange books by author's name. 16% of the town libraries and 9% of the rural libraries arrange books by broad subject.
- Record Books : More than 8% of the libraries have mentioned that they have no asset register. 21% have no binding register. 6% of the town libraries and 10% of the rural libraries maintain no reading room attendance register. 17.5% of the libraries maintain no visitor's register.
- Open Access : 77.8% of the rural libraries are open access, while 55% of the town libraries and 50% of the district libraries are open access.

4.2.1.4 Services

- Service Provided : Almost all the libraries provide home issue and reading room service, 66% of the rural libraries and 91% of the town and district libraries give service to children 45% of the libraries have claimed to give reference service but only 3% of the rural libraries, 5% of the town libraries and 25% of the district libraries have mentioned of giving community information service. 42% of the libraries give text book service. 12% of the rural libraries, 76% of the town libraries and all the district

libraries have mentioned of giving career guidance service. 75% of the district libraries, 25% of the town libraries and a few rural libraries have claimed of giving photo copy service also. Bibliography service, inter-library loan, post literacy service and home delivery service are provided by negligible number of libraries. Only 50% of the district libraries have claimed to give mobile library service to other libraries.

- Separate Sections : 17.5% of the town libraries and 10% of the rural libraries have separate section for News paper reading. 83% of the district libraries, 56% of the town libraries and only 23% of the rural libraries have separate children's section. 36% of the town libraries and 5% of the rural libraries have separate text book section. Only 5% of the all the libraries have separate reference section. Most of the district libraries have separate career guidance section. 47% of the town libraries have said that they have separate career guidance section.
- Separate Room for different Sections : Only 62% of the libraries have separate reading room. Only 25% of the town libraries and 10% of the rural libraries have separate room for children's section. Nearly 5% of the libraries have separate room for text book section. 75% of the district libraries and 22% of the town libraries has separate room for career guidance section. Clearly, reference or information service is given little attention in the public libraries although this could be one of the most important services.
- Children Users : Only 1-5 children users come per day in 20% of the libraries. More than ten children visit per day in 20% of the libraries. 51% libraries preferred to remain silent about children user.
- Text Book Users : More than 20 text book users visit per day in 33% of the district libraries. Only 1 to 5 Text Book users come in 8% of the rural libraries and 11% of the town libraries. 6 to 10

Text Book users come in 15% of the town libraries. More than ten text book users come per day in another 11% of town libraries.

- Users for Career Guidance : Up to 10 readers are coming for career guidance in some 11% of the libraries. More than 10 readers are coming per day for career guidance in 12.5% of the town libraries and 42% of the district libraries.
- Home Loan : 76.5% of all the libraries allow members to take only one book to home at a time. More than 54% of the users are not satisfied with only one book. We need to increase number of books in our public libraries to meet this demand to the users. 19% libraries allow taking two books to home.

One third of the libraries issue books to home for one week only while, 60% allow to keep books for two weeks. Another 6% allow keeping books for 3 or more weeks.

- Book Issue per Day : In 26.4% of the rural libraries and 6% of the town libraries only 1 to 10 books are issued per day for reading at home. 44% of the libraries surveyed have not given data about reading room issue which indicate that many libraries do not keep proper record of reading room issue.
- Number of Books allowed in the Reading Room : 25% of all the libraries allow to take only one book at a time to Reading Room, while, 56% allow taking four books at a time to Reading Room. All most all the libraries allow non-members to use to library's reading room free to cost.
- Extension Programme : Only 10.6% of the libraries often organize cultural programme. Only 5% often organize cultural competition. 5% Meet non-members on regular basis to make new members. Thus, only 5 to 10% of the libraries are active in organising regular extension programmes. 15% of the libraries never organize any cultural programme while 70% organize it only occasionally. Only 10% of the libraries occasionally organize book exhibition. Nearly 50% of the libraries have said that they never meet non-members to make members. Only 10% of the

libraries have some times helped Neo-literates/illiterates by reading aloud books.

- Rural librarians' most cited problems are lack of money, lack of staff, poor building, lack of documents, lack of furniture, lack of space and lack of users. Town librarians' most cited problems of are lack of staff, lack of money and poor building. District Librarians' most cited problems are lack of staff and lack of money.

4.2.2 To know the present situation of the public library services in West Bengal, an another sample survey has been made by Ranjan Samanta and Dr. Udayan Bhattacharya, Associate Professor, Jadavpur University in 218 sponsored public libraries including 6 District Libraries and 40 Town / sub-division Libraries in West Bengal which is published on 'Librarian' vol.17, March, 2010. Real data has been collected from these different libraries situated in different districts in West Bengal. Only 'Public Library Services' rendered by these libraries are considered in the survey. Survey is made through appropriate questionnaires. Some of the important findings of the survey are as follows.

4.2.2.1 COLLECTION

Table – 66. Book collection

Total Number of Books	Rural Libraries		Town/Sub-divisional Libraries		District Libraries		Total Libraries	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1 – 2000	3	1.74	0	0	0	0	3	1.38
2001–4000	61	35.47	0	0	0	0	61	27.98
4001–6000	50	29.07	1	2.50	0	0	51	23.39
6001–8000	31	18.02	7	17.50	0	0	38	0.46
8001–10,000	8	4.65	9	22.50	0	0	17	7.80
10,001–15000	5	2.90	10	25.00	0	0	15	6.88
15,000>	5	2.90	8	20.00	6	100	19	8.72
No response	9	5.23	5	12.50	0	0	14	6.42
Total	172	100	40	100	6	100	218	100

About 28% rural libraries have more than 6000 books and 58% rural libraries have more than 4000 books. 80% Town libraries have more than 8000 books and all district libraries have more than 15000 books. Book collection of many rural libraries is very poor than town libraries and district libraries.

Table – 67. Number of books per member

Number of Books per member	Rural Libraries		Town Libraries		District Libraries		Total Libraries	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1 – 5	7	4.07	2	5.00	0	0	9	4.13
6 – 10	40	23.26	15	37.00	0	0	55	25.23
11 – 15	32	18.60	10	25.00	2	33.33	44	20.18
16 – 20	25	14.53	4	10.00	1	16.67	30	13.76
21 – 25	21	12.21	3	7.50	1	16.67	25	11.47
25+	25	14.53	4	10.00	2	33.33	31	14.22
No response	22	12.79	2	5.00	0	0	24	11.01
Total	172	100	40	100	6	100	218	100

Only 41% rural libraries, 33% town libraries and 66% district libraries have more than 15 books per library member. 27% Rural libraries, 42% town libraries have 10 or less books per member.

Table – 68. Current journals

Number of Journals	Rural Libraries		Town/Sub-divisional Libraries		District Libraries		Total Libraries	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1 – 5	89	51.74	6	15.00	0	0	95	43.58
6 – 10	64	37.21	11	27.50	1	16.67	76	34.86
11 – 15	8	4.65	9	22.50	1	16.67	18	8.26
16 – 20	2	1.16	6	15.00	1	16.67	9	4.13
20 >	1	0.58	4	10.00	3	50.00	8	3.67
No response	8	4.65	4	10.00	0	0	12	5.50
Total	172	100	40	100	6	100	218	100

About 52% rural libraries procure upto 5 no. of current journals whereas 85% town libraries procure above 5 journals and (100%) all district libraries procure above 5 journals. Above 20 journals have been procured by 0.58%, 10% and 50% of rural libraries, town libraries, town libraries and district libraries respectively.

Table – 69. Newspapers

Number of Newspapers	Rural Libraries		Town / Sub-divisional Libraries		District		Total Libraries	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1	55	31.98	1	2.50	0	0	56	25.69
2	66	38.37	8	20.00	0	0	74	33.94
3	20	11.63	12	30.00	0	0	32	14.68
4	13	7.56	11	27.5	0	0	24	11.01
5	5	2.91	3	7.50	4	66.67	12	5.50
5>	3	1.74	3	7.50	2	33.33	8	3.67
No response	10	5.81	2	5.00	0	0	12	5.50
Total	172	100	40	100	6	100	218	100

24% Rural libraries, 71% town libraries keep 3 or more newspapers. 5% rural 15% town and all (100%) district libraries keep 5 or more newspapers.

4.2.2.2 SERVICES

Table – 70. Services provided by the libraries

Type of Services	Rural Libraries		Town Libraries		District Libraries		Total Libraries	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
i) Lending	171	99.42	40	100	6	100	217	99.54
ii) Reading Room	156	90.70	40	100	6	100	202	92.66
iii) Reference	40	23.26	31	77.5	6	100	77	35.32
iv) Children	105	61.05	35	87.5	6	100	146	66.97
v) Text book	51	29.65	36	90.00	5	83.33	92	42.20
vi) Career Guidance	15	8.72	30	75.00	6	100.0	51	23.39
vii) Community Information	3	1.74	8	20.00	2	33.33	13	5.96
viii) Reprography	1	0.58	3	7.50	4	66.67	8	3.67
ix) Bibliography	0	0	1	2.50	1	16.67	2	0.92
x) Inter-library Loan	0	0	1	2.50	0	0	1	0.46
xi) Mobile Library Service	0	0	0	0	4	66.67	4	1.83

Almost all libraries provide ‘lending services’ and 93% libraries provide ‘reading room services’. 23% Rural, 78% town libraries and all district libraries provide ‘reference services’. 61% Rural, 88% town libraries and all district libraries have ‘children user services’. 9% Rural, 75% town and all district libraries provide ‘career guidance services’. 2% Rural, 20% town and 33% district libraries have mentioned ‘Community Information Services’. No rural library has bibliographical

services, inter-library loan service and mobile library service. Only 67% district libraries have mobile library services. Only 67% district libraries have mobile library services.

Table – 71. Separate section for different services

Type of Services	Rural Libraries		Town / Sub-divisional Libraries		District Libraries		Total Libraries	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
i) Reading room	15	8.72	8	20.00	6	100	29	13.30
ii) Children	12	6.98	29	72.50	6	100	47	21.56
iii) Career Guidance	2	1.16	25	62.50	5	83.33	32	14.68
iv) Text book	3	1.74	19	47.50	4	66.67	26	11.93
v) Reference	1	0.58	5	12.50	3	50.00	9	4.13

8.72% Rural, 20% town libraries and all district libraries have separate reading room. 7% Rural, 73% town and all district libraries have separate children section. Only 1% rural libraries, 63% town libraries and 83% district libraries have separate career guidance section. 2% Rural 48% town and 67% district libraries have separate text book section.

Table – 72. Average books lending per day

Lending per day	Rural Libraries		Town Libraries		District Library		Total Libraries	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1 – 15	40	23.26	1	2.50	0	0	41	18.80
16 – 30	82	47.67	11	27.5	0	0	93	42.66
31 – 45	38	22.09	19	47.50	0	0	57	26.15
46 – 60	1	0.58	2	5.00	1	16.67	4	1.83
61 – 80	1	0.58	2	5.00	2	33.33	5	2.29
81 – 100	0	0	2	5.00	2	33.33	4	1.83
100 >	0	0	1	2.50	1	16.67	2	0.92
No response	10	5.81	2	5.00	0	0	12	5.50
Total	172	100	40	100	6	100	218	100

15 or less books are issued in 23% rural libraries whereas 45 more books are issued in all district libraries per day. Above 30 books are issued only in 23% rural libraries. Above 60 books are issued only in 18% town libraries whereas 82% district libraries. Above 100 books are issued in 3% town libraries and 17% district libraries.

Table – 73. Average users per day in reading room

Users	Rural Libraries		Town / Sub-divisional Libraries		District Libraries		Total Libraries	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1 – 15	44	25.58	7	17.50	0	0	51	23.39
16 – 30	38	22.09	7	17.50	1	16.67	46	21.10
31 – 45	32	18.60	8	20.00	1	16.67	41	18.81
46 – 60	3	1.74	3	7.5	2	33.33	8	3.67
61 – 80	0	0	1	2.5	1	16.67	2	0.92
80 >	0	0	1	2.5	1	16.67	2	0.92
No response	55	31.98	13	32.5	0	0	68	31.19
Total	172	100	40	100	6	100	218	100

Above 30 users use per day in 20% rural libraries, 32% town libraries and 53% district libraries. Above 60 users use per day in 5% town and 33% district libraries. There is no rural library where above 60 users use per day.

Table – 74. Average users per day in children section

Users	Rural Libraries		Town / Sub-divisional Libraries		District Libraries		Total Libraries	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1 – 10	62	36.05	12	30.00	0	0	74	33.94
11 – 20	48	27.90	14	35.00	1	16.67	63	28.90
21 – 30	11	6.40	8	20.00	2	33.33	21	9.63
31 – 40	5	2.91	3	7.50	2	33.33	10	4.59
40 >	3	1.74	1	2.50	0	0	4	1.83
No response	43	25.00	2	5.00	1	16.67	46	21.10
Total	172	100	40	100	6	100	218	100

Above 30 children use per day in 5% rural, 10% town and 33% district libraries. 25% Rural, 5% town and 17% district libraries preferred to remain silent about children users.

Table – 75. Average users per day in text book section

Users	Rural Libraries		Town / Sub-divisional Libraries		District		Total Libraries	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1 – 5	20	11.62	3	7.50	0	0	23	10.55
6 – 10	11	6.40	5	12.5	0	0	16	7.34
11 – 15	6	3.49	4	10.00	0	0	10	4.59
16 – 20	6	3.49	3	7.50	0	0	9	4.13
21 – 25	1	0.58	2	5.00	2	33.33	5	2.29
25 >	0	0	0	0	2	33.33	2	0.92
No response	128	74.41	23	57.50	2	33.33	153	70.18
Total	172	100	40	100	6	100	218	100

Above 15 users use in only 4% rural, 13% town and 67% district libraries. 75% Rural, 58% town and 33% district libraries preferred to remain silent about text book users.

Table – 76. Average users per day in career guidance section

Users/day	Rural Libraries		Town Libraries		District Libraries		Total Libraries	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1 – 5	3	1.74	6	15.00	0	0	9	4.13
6 – 10	2	1.16	4	10.00	1	16.67	7	3.21
11 – 15	1	0.58	3	7.50	1	16.67	5	2.29
16 – 20	0	0	1	2.50	2	33.33	3	1.38
20 >	0	0	1	2.50	1	16.67	2	0.92
No response/ section not exist	166	96.51	25	62.50	1	16.67	192	88.07
Total	172	100	40	100	6	100	218	100

Upto 10 users are coming to career guidance section in 3% rural, 25% town and 17% district libraries. Above 15 users use in 5% town and 50% district libraries but no rural library has ‘above 15 users’ per day in this section.

4.2.2.3 PROGRAMMES

Table – 77. Programmes organised by the libraries

Types of Programmes	Rural Libraries			Town Libraries			District Libraries			Total Libraries		
	Often	Occa-sional	Never	Often	Occa-sional	Never	Often	Occa-sional	Never	Often	Occa-sional	Never
i) Cultural	12	81	30	4	30	6	4	2	0	20	113	56
ii) Cultural Competition	8	41	99	3	19	15	3	3	0	14	63	114
iii) Book Exhibition	0	3	128	0	5	16	4	2	0	4	10	144
iv) Reading Story Book	0	6	116	0	1	35	1	2	3	2	9	154
v) Users Orientation	0	2	152	0	2	36	2	4	0	2	8	188
vi) Awareness programmes	1	38	105	2	12	25	4	2	0	7	52	130
vii) Meeting with non-users	5	12	75	2	10	23	4	2	0	11	24	98

N.B. Number of Libraries with ‘no response’ are not mentioned here.

Book exhibition, story book reading, users orientation programme have not been organised often by any rural or town library. However, ‘story book reading programme’ have never been organised in 50% district libraries.

4.2.3 Conclusion

From these two studies, it is concluded that users of the public libraries are decreased day by day. The development of public library services in West Bengal is not so satisfactorily compared to many other countries of the world. Collection development of rural libraries is very poor in all respects. Libraries should organise more and more extension programmes. Very few libraries have separate children section. Career guidance /employment related and academic information are of prime need in our libraries. Mobile library services is very poor. Users orientation programmes and meeting with non-users in locality are not organised by most of the public libraries. There is very poor inter-library loan system in West Bengal.

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