



Contribution of Gayakwad Administration in Library Movement in India

KEYWORDS

Dr. Manubhai Patel

Research Guide, Singhania University, Rajasthan

Meghaben A. Patel

Library Assistant, Shiva Bhai Umed Bhai University Library, Patan. & Research Scholar- Singhania University- Rajasthan

ABSTRACT *The contribution made by Maharaja Sayajirao-III of Baroda (1862-1939) to modern public library movement in India is really remarkable. He was an enlightened person. During the course of his second visit to United States of America, he felt greatly impressed by the role played by public libraries in the advancement of education. Therefore, he decided to establish public libraries throughout his state. In order to organize libraries along modern lines, he invited W.A. Borden, Librarian of Young Men's Institute, New Haven, Connecticut. During his tenure of office (1910-13), he established the central library and initiated a public library system. He also conducted library training classes to train staff in 1910. The modern public library movement in India is said to have begun in Baroda during the first decade of the 20th century. 200 users/readers were randomly selected from four public libraries namely Baroda, Gandhinagar, Patan and Anand (50 from each public library). The contribution made by Sir Sayajirao Gayakwad III towards library movement in India is significant and remarkable.*

Introduction:-

Library is an essential component of our society as well as process of education. Library instructs people continuously as a teacher. Library is not merely a storehouse of books and other reading materials, but it is a service institution, an organism that continuously caters to the needs of readers of society. It assists its uses in keeping updated their knowledge in various disciplines. The scope of knowledge and information could be extended further by visiting a library. A library acts as a facilitator of education by providing reading material including documentation of past history and manuscripts.

The public library development in India has been slow and sporadic than western countries. In India, there has been an uneven growth of public libraries in different states/ regions and even within a local library system.

The contribution made by Maharaja Sayajirao-III of Baroda (1862-1939) to modern public library movement in India is really remarkable. He was an enlightened person. During the course of his second visit to United States of America, he felt greatly impressed by the role played by public libraries in the advancement of education. Therefore, he decided to establish public libraries throughout his state. In order to organize libraries along modern lines, he invited W.A. Borden, Librarian of Young Men's Institute, New Haven, Connecticut. During his tenure of office (1910-13), he established the central library and initiated a public library system. He also conducted library training classes to train staff in 1910. The modern public library movement in India is said to have begun in Baroda during the first decade of the 20th century.

Objectives of the Study:-

1. To examine contribution of Gayakwad administration in reading activities in Gujarat.
2. To evaluate contribution of Sir Sayajirao Gayakwad-III in library movement in Baroda State.
3. To make aware people regarding his affection towards books and libraries.
4. To show his initiation in library movement in India.

Problems/Questions of the Study:-

1. Whether readers know about library movement activities initiated by Sir Sayajirao Gayakwad.
2. Whether public know about contribution made by Sir Sayajirao Gayakwad in Library movement in his state.

3. Whether people know about efforts made by Sir Sayajirao Gayakwad towards organising library structure in his state.

Methodology:-

Sample:-

200 users/readers were randomly selected from four public libraries namely Baroda, Gandhinagar, Patan and Anand (50 from each public library)

Tools used

A self-made questionnaire was prepared with the help of guide and sent to respondents to collect their views/ responses regarding contribution of Sir Sayajirao Gayakwad in Library Movement.

Data Analysis:-

Simple percentage was calculated to know contribution of Sir Sayajirao Gayakwad in Library Movement.

Results:-

Percentages of information regarding contribution of Sir Sayajirao Gayakwad in Library Movement are given in following table

Table

1.	Have you read about library movement?	59
2.	Whether your library has reading materials regarding Gayakwad administration?	80
3.	Do you know about the saying: where there is a school, there should be a library	76
4.	Do you know the proverb told by Motibhai Amin that there must be a library in a village?	74
5.	Do you know that Sir Sayajirao Gayakwad invited Borden for library activities?	60
6.	Do you know that Sir Sayajirao Gayakwad gifted twenty thousand books to public library from his personal collection?	52
7.	Do you know that Baroda Central Library started from 1911 AD?	60
8.	Do you know that library activities in Baroda state was started in 1900 itself?	55
9.	Do you know that sir Sayajirao Gayakwad gifted twenty thousand books to public library from his personal collection?	52
10.	Do you know that Sir Sayajirao Gayakwad donated his palace for library building?	53

11.	Do you know that palace of Sir Sayajirao Gayakwad is itself Central Library?	59
12.	Do you know Sir Sayajirao Gayakwad had framed rules and regulations for grants for library?	50
13.	Do you know that Sir Sayajirao Gayakwad had written a letter to his secretary to start library?	53
14.	Do you know that there were 24 town libraries in 1906-07?	54
15.	Do you know that Sir Sayajirao Gayakwad started library activities to promote education advancement?	56
16.	Do you know that Borden started library training classes in Baroda state?	55
17.	Do you know that there were eight peculiarities of Library Training Classes initiated by Borden.	49
18.	Do you know that Sir Sayajirao Gayakwad had separately allocated financial amount to run library training classes?	49

Interpretation:-

The responses received from readers/ users were as under:- Reading about library movement 59% reading material regarding Gayakwad administration in their libraries 80%, knowledge about school libraries in Gayakwad administration 76%, knowledge about village libraries in Gayakwad administration 74%, knowledge of invitation to Borden by Sir Sayajirao Gayakwad for Library Organization 60%, knowledge of gift of 20,000 books to public library by Sir Sayajirao

Gayakwad 52%, knowledge of starting Baroda central library in 1911 A.D. 60%, knowledge of donation of palace by Sir Sayajirao Gayakwad for library movement 55%, knowledge of Gayakwad palace is itself Central Library 59%, knowledge of framing rules and regulations for grants to library 50%, knowledge of writing of letter to his secretary to start library by Sir Sayajirao Gayakwad 53%, knowledge library activities started by Sayajirao Gayakwad was for promotion of education 56%, knowledge of starting library training classes by Borden 55%, and knowledge of separate allocation for library training classes 49%.

In this way, one can say that, readers/users were aware of library movement initiated by Sir Sayajirao Gayakwad III in Baroda State.

Conclusion:-

The success of library movement which is studied in this research can be outlined in brief that it was wholly due to the public spirit and enlightened policy of H.H. the Maharaja Sir Sayajirao Gayakwad III, who conceived the idea, founded the organisation, liberally supplied it with funds, assisted and guided the staff with kindly critics and wise advice, and who continued to watch over its destinies with all the solicitude of a loving parent. In this way, the contribution made by Sir Sayajirao Gayakwad III towards library movement in India is significant and remarkable.

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