



## Library Movement in Hyderabad Karnataka

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**ABSTRACT**

The present paper is focused on Library movement in Hyderabad state in general and Hyderabad Karnataka in particular during National Movement. Public libraries played a very significant role in the political, social, economic, cultural, spiritual, and Nationalistic development in all most parts of the world. The library Movement in Hyderabad state resulted in the establishment of libraries which also contributed to the growth of awareness about freedom movement. Libraries are the store houses of Knowledge. Public opinion can be moulded by supplying News Papers, Books, and Periodicals to readers. The establishment of Libraries created great attention towards mother tongue. It helped the various movements to spread rapidly. The library movement gradually became a literal, cultural renaissance and nationalistic feelings which resulted in the political movement.

### KEYWORDS

Library, Hyderabad Karnataka, Freedom Movement

### Introduction:

The state of Hyderabad, which formed the heartland of the Deccan, was the biggest among the Native states of India at that time. It actually comprised of Telangana, Marthawada and Karnataka with three different linguistic areas. The districts of Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur, Koppal and Yadgir, which now form part of Karnataka, were then included in the Nizam's dominions. The people of Hyderabad state had to fight not only against the British imperial power, but also against the Nizam's feudal and communal rule for achievement of independence and responsible government. The libraries played a vital role in bringing Political and national awareness among the people in the freedom movement of Hyderabad.

The History of Library Movement is traced from ancient times. Libraries were established in ancient India mainly by the patronage extended by Emperors, capitalists, and Scholars. There is evidence of well developed libraries in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century A.D. The famous Nalanda University in Bihar had its own magnificent library with a massive collection of manuscripts covering the universal knowledge. The other ancient universities such as Taxashila and Vikrama Shila had valuable libraries. Foreign travelers Fahien and Huan-tsang appreciated the working of the Libraries of Nalanda and Taxasila. Delhi sultans gave importance to the establishment of libraries in the medieval period. Bahamani Kingdom's prime Minister Mahamad Gawan established big college known as 'Madras-E-Mahamad-Gawan' in Bidar. This has big library and a huge collection of books. The Mogul period gave a further stimulus to the growth of libraries. The names of Maharaja Swami Man Singh of Jaipur and Maharaja Ranjith Singh of Punjab will be remembered with appreciation in the history of library services in India.

The Maharaja of Thanjaur started the Sarswathi Mahal Library in 17<sup>th</sup> century A.D. It remains unique institution in its nature of collection and services. Libraries established by the kings and capitalists functioned like private institutions and the admissions to these libraries were limited for some people. Services to the general public had to wait for the arrival of British. The libraries were western product when libraries began developing in India during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The three presidency towns of Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras had public Libraries during the first half of 19<sup>th</sup> century. These libraries were mostly financed by Europeans residing in these towns. The establishment of public library at Calcutta in 1835 was the most significant and this was the library which later developed into the National library of India. Almost simultaneous subscription li-

braries were started in many Indian cities. These developments impacted very much on almost all the Indian states. The origin and evaluation of library movement is traced to the establishment of Sri Krishnadevraya Andhra Basha Nilayam in 1901 at Hyderabad resulted in the spread of Library movement in Hyderabad state of the Nizam.

### Definition of Library:

Library is a system designed to preserve the graphic records. This system also shouldered the dissemination of knowledge and a network for the healthy growth of society and culture. In other words Library is communication of Knowledge, ideas, thought books and other graphic records.

A library is a collection of sources of information and similar resources, made accessible to a defined community for reference or borrowing. It provides physical or digital access to material, and may be a physical building or room, or a virtual space, or both. A library collection can include books, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, films, maps, prints, documents, microform, CDs, cassettes, videotapes, DVDs, Blu-ray Discs, e-books, audio books, databases, and other formats. Libraries range in size from a few shelves of books to several million items. In Latin and Greek, the idea of bookcase is represented by Bibliotheca and Bibliothēkē (Greek: βιβλιοθήκη): derivatives of these mean library in many modern languages, e.g. French bibliothèque. The public library is an Anglo-Saxon idea. Public libraries developed in democratic set up which are developed and maintained by the public. The concept of the modern public library is new to India.

### The Library Movement in Hyderabad State

Being a faithful ally of the British, the Nizam was against allowing any kind of criticism or agitation, which might displease the British rulers. He tries his best to insult his citizens from what was happening in the rest of India. Despite its best efforts, the Nizam government could not prevent its people being influenced by nationalist ideas blowing across the sub-continent. When the Indian National Congress was formed in 1885, the enlightened middle class intelligentsia in Hyderabad welcomed it. Persons like Mulla Abdul Quyum, Ramachandra Pillai and Aghornath Chotopadhaya played a prominent part in building up public opinion in favor of the Indian National Congress (INC). The news Papers like 'Hyderabad Record' played a creditable role in spreading the nationalist feelings. These developments witnessed a Socio-cultural awakening in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The First reading room and library was opened at Secndrabad in 1875. This was fol-

lowed by the Young Men's Improvement Association Library at Chandergat in 1878 with the great efforts K.V.Laxmanrao, Raja Saheb Mungale, Ravi Chatti Ranga Rao and Adipali somanath Rao. In 1895 Bharth Gana Vardhak Samsthe was established at Pathergatti. The position of Library movement in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secandrabad was a great renaissance in the history of Hyderabad.

In 1901 Komarraju Venkata Laxmana Rao started a library named 'Krishnadevaraya Andhra Bhasha Nilayam' in Hyderabad. A literary association named the 'Vignana Chandrika Gratha Mandali' was established in 1906 to promote publication of popular books in Telugu on science and literature. Young Association Library in 1908, Hyderabad Educational Conference Library was established in 1914, 'Andhra Samvardini' in 1905, 'Marathi Grantha Sangrhalaya' in 1920, at Hanmakonda, 'Sri Bal Sarswathi Andhra Basha Nilyam' in 1922, and 'Veman Andhra Bhasha Nilyam' established in 1923. The library movement, so initiated spread to different towns in the state. These movements helped in the intellectual awakening.

The Library movement in Hyderabad coordinated its activities with the Kendra Sangham, but after the first Library conference held in 1925 the government became suspicious of its aims and did not permit the holding of the second Conference in 1926. Restrictions also imposed on the establishment of Libraries by the Government of Hyderabad. In spite of these restrictions number of public owned libraries came into existence under the inspiring leadership Andhra Pitamaha Madpathi Hanmanth Rao and Suravarma Prathap Reddy. As a part of political awakening of the people libraries played an important role in the History of Hyderabad. The Arya Samaj established libraries in main places of the Hyderabad state with the collection of Books in Telugu, Hindi, Marathi, Kannada, and Urdu. Among them Sultan Bazar Library was the biggest one. Many journals and weeklies like Neelagiri Patrika, Telugu Patrika, Prema, Navashakti, Nizam Vijay etc, published during this period, created the social and cultural needs of the Hyderabad state.

The starting of the Library Movement helped in the cultural and political revival in the state. Thus we find that the seeds for the cultural revival in the state were sown as early as 1901, but due to the peculiar suffocating conditions prevailing in the state, one of them being the educational backwardness of the people in general and the Hyderabad people in particular it took a long time for the seeds of sprout.

### Library Movement in Hyderabad Karnataka

The vernacular press and national schools played a very important role in bringing awareness on Library movements among the people of Hyderabad Karnataka. The library movement in Hyderabad Karnataka was closely associated with national movement. In 1889 the Imam-Ul-Mulk Library was started at Gulbarga in the Middle School. This was the first Library of the Gulbarga region. In 1898 under the auspices of the Sharana Basveshwar Samsthan, a big Library was started and playwright Garuda Sadashiva Rao was appointed as the manger. In 1918 Dodappa App started the Sharana Basveshwar Kannada Library. The main aim of this was to take an active part in the national movement and create national awareness among the people. In 1930 the founder of N.V.School Vittalarao Devalganwakar established National Library Association, and in 1931 Bartha Library established at Osmania Middle School Chincholli.

With the Influence of Pandit Taranath Jagganath Rao Fadnavis, R.G.Joshi and others established Bharth and Jayalaxhmi Libraries in Raichur. Jaganath Desai established Dasappa Library at Kanakagiri of Ganagavathi Taluk. In 1932 advocate Uday Banu and Gopal Dev Shastri established Araya Samaj Library at Basavakalayana. Shirur Virabadrappa opened Vishwanath Library at Adur in 1932. In the same year Basaweshwar Libraries were established at Itagi, Yalburga and Rajuri. Kannada Sahitya Sangha library started at Gulbarga. In 1933 R.V.Beedappa and Hakikath opened Association Library at Chitaguppa. Maratha Sahithya Mandala Library, Irfan Darga Library, and Hindusthani church Library were also established in this region.

The funds for Library were collected from merchants, religious organizations, and volunteers of Araya Samaj, Indian National Congress, and Hindu Maha Sabha. So many Books, News papers, and Navels were kept in the Libraries. the books like Sathyagrha, Dharana, Sathyartha Prakash, Shivaji, Kithur Rani Chenamma, Basveshwar, Baghbat Singth, Jansi Rani Laxmi Bai's life stories and Novels of Galga nath such as Madhava Karna Vilas, Ishwari Sutra and other historic texts were available, Which throw flood light on the past glory of India, how the Indian patriots fought against the invaders explained in those texts, were kept in Library as established in different places of Hyderabad Karnataka region. The News Papers like Samuyktha Karnataka, Harijana, Loka Matha, Sathygraha Darma, Basava Bhumi, Marata and Kesari of Tilak, Dharma Sanjivini, Nijama Vijay, Solapur Samachar, Kalyan Vani and Urdu news papers such as Shiyasat Rahabari E Deccan and Imroz, were available in the libraries, contents of these news papers inspired the spirit of patriotism.

### Conclusion:

Public Libraries have always been the door to learning for a great majority of the population that they serve. In the freedom movement of Hyderabad Karnataka Libraries were played very important role bringing awareness about the freedom to the masses. We find that Hyderabad was also getting affected by the breeze of National renaissance pervading in British India and this resulted in the sport of social and cultural activities and the awakening of Hyderabad. This library movement inspired many people including Hyderabad Karnataka patriots. It creates energy to the readers to make revolt against Nizams and British. It enhanced the mind of this region and make them aware of freedom struggle.

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