



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Library Science

REACHING THE UNREACHED: LIBRARY RESOURCES AND SERVICES IN KALYANA KARNATAKA

KEY WORDS: Library Movement, Public Libraries, Rural Libraries, Information Resources, Library Services, ICT Infrastructure, Gram Panchayat Libraries, Library Utilization.

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ABSTRACT

The library movement in kalyana Karnataka, a state in Hyderabad state, during the Indian national movement. Public libraries have historically played a significant role in advancing various aspects of development. In kalyana Karnataka, which has faced socio-economic underdevelopment and limited access to information, libraries have become agents of change, bridging knowledge gaps, promoting literacy, and empowering marginalized communities. The study evaluates the utilization of library resources, facilities, and services, focusing on women, youth, and other socially disadvantaged groups. The growth of libraries in kalyana Karnataka represents a transformative revolution.

1. INTRODUCTION:

The discusses the library movement in Hyderabad state, particularly in Hyderabad Karnataka, during the national movement. Public libraries have played a crucial role in political, social, economic, cultural, spiritual, and national development worldwide. Libraries have been instrumental in raising awareness about the freedom movement and influencing public opinion. The movement has also led to a cultural revival and nationalist sentiments, resulting in a political movement. Kalyana Karnataka, formerly known as hyderabad-karnataka, has faced socio-economic underdevelopment, educational backwardness, and limited access to information. Despite these challenges, libraries have emerged as powerful tools for bridging knowledge gaps, promoting literacy, and empowering communities, particularly those in rural and marginalized areas. The study evaluates the utilization of resources, available facilities, and range of services in libraries in kalyana Karnataka, focusing on their impact on literacy rates, community development, and lifelong learning, particularly among women, youth, and marginalized groups.

In an age where information is a vital currency for social progress, the evolution of libraries in this region represents a quiet yet powerful revolution, enabling citizens to learn, grow, and actively participate in the democratic society.

2. Review Of Literature

Nwokocha (2004), a public library is defined as an institution established to serve the generality of the residents of the community or town where it is located. Compared to other types of libraries, public libraries cater to the most diverse range of users, as there are no restrictions on who can utilize their services. This openness reinforces the library's role as a democratic space for learning and participation.

Roberson (2005) emphasizes that the public library is an institution that delivers intellectual and informational services in a way that is easily accessible to the general public. Its primary aim is to support community education, information dissemination, and lifelong learning.

The IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto (1997) further defines the public library as "the local gateway to knowledge," asserting that it provides the basic conditions for lifelong learning, independent decision-making, and cultural development of individuals and social groups. This definition

underscores the multifaceted role public libraries play in empowering citizens and strengthening communities.

Knowledge, in this context, is viewed as a vital societal resource, and public libraries are not only repositories of information, but also dynamic social institutions. They contribute to individual well-being and community development by nurturing informed, engaged, and literate populations.

3. Public Libraries Of Kalyana Karnataka

The public library system in Kalyana Karnataka, including districts like Kalaburagi, Bidar, Yadgir, Raichur, Koppal, and Bellary, has played a crucial role in addressing the region's educational backwardness, low literacy levels, and limited access to knowledge resources. The system, governed by the Department of Public Libraries, is organized into a tiered structure, including District Central Libraries, City and Town Libraries, Taluk Libraries, Gram Panchayat (Village) Libraries, and Mobile Libraries. Services offered include lending and reference services, access to newspapers and magazines, digital library services, career guidance, reading rooms, study spaces, and literary and cultural events. Key libraries in the region include District Central Library, Kalaburagi, City Central Library, Raichur District Library, and Mobile Library Services in Yadgir and Koppal. Challenges faced include inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, limited digital access, outdated resources, and lack of awareness. Opportunities for growth include digitizing resources, public-private partnerships, training programs for librarians, and expanding inclusive services for women, differently-abled individuals, and minority communities.

3.1 Kalyana Karnataka Gram Panchayat Library And Information Centre

In India, especially in rural and underdeveloped regions like Kalyana Karnataka (formerly Hyderabad-Karnataka), Gram Panchayat Library and Information Centers (GPLICs) serve as critical grassroots institutions for knowledge dissemination, literacy promotion, and community development. These libraries, operated under the Department of Public Libraries, Government of Karnataka, aim to bridge the rural-urban knowledge divide by providing access to reading materials and digital resources at the village level. To provide free and equitable access to books, newspapers, and government publications to the rural population. the support of adult literacy, school education, and competitive exam preparation.

Function as a community knowledge hub, offering information on agriculture, health, governance, and local development schemes. They encourage reading habits and cultural engagement among villagers, especially women, youth, and senior citizens.

3.2. Facilities And Services

Most gram panchayat libraries in Kalyana Karnataka offer basic book collections: Kannada and regional language books, school textbooks, and general knowledge resources. Newspapers and magazines: local and regional publications to keep citizens informed. Reading rooms: quiet spaces for study and reading, though infrastructure varies by village. Children's corners: in some locations, a small section with storybooks and educational toys. Information services: access to government scheme brochures, agriculture bulletins, job alerts, etc. Digital access (limited): some libraries are part of Karnataka's digital initiatives with computer kiosks and limited internet services, often hindered by infrastructure and connectivity issues.

3.3 Role In Rural Development

In Kalyana Karnataka, where illiteracy and poverty have historically hindered development, these libraries play a transformative role; they empower villagers with information on livelihoods, health, legal rights, and education. They help create a reading culture in communities with low formal education levels. Libraries often become meeting points for self-help groups (SHGs), women's associations, and youth forums. They support digitally assisted governance, especially where e-Governance kiosks are integrated.

3.4 Challenges

Despite their potential, GPLICs in Kalyana Karnataka face significant challenges. Insufficient funding for books, staff, and technology. Lack of trained librarians or volunteers in many centers. Poor infrastructure, especially in remote villages (leaky buildings, no electricity, no internet). Low awareness and engagement among villagers about the benefits of libraries. Outdated book collections and minimal integration of digital resources.

3.5 Improvement

Strengthen budgetary support for infrastructure, technology, and new collections. Provide training for library staff and volunteers in information services and community engagement. Develop targeted programs for rural youth, women, and farmers. Improve internet connectivity and integrate e-resources. Encourage public-private partnerships and NGO collaboration for resource development and awareness campaigns. The Gram Panchayat Libraries and Information Centers in Kalyana Karnataka are vital for creating an informed and literate rural society. While they face resource and awareness challenges, with proper support and modernization, these centers have the potential to become empowerment hubs that truly reach the unreached.

4. Rural Public Libraries As Learning (Kalika) Centers

Rural public libraries in India, particularly in underdeveloped regions like Kalyana Karnataka, are being transformed into "Kalika Kendras" or learning centers. These libraries serve as inclusive spaces for informal education, skill development, and community empowerment, particularly for children, youth, women, and marginalized groups. They offer literacy and remedial learning for school dropouts, activity-based learning, storytelling, group reading sessions, and digital learning support centers. They also provide safe spaces for girls and women to access knowledge and build confidence. Key functions include supporting school education, organizing reading competitions, storytelling sessions, creative workshops, life skills and awareness programs, technology access, and remedial support for government school students. The impact on rural communities is improved

learning outcomes, increased library usage, empowered women and girls, and increased community participation. Challenges faced by these libraries include limited trained staff, lack of funds and infrastructure, poor digital access, and inconsistent community involvement. Recommendations include training librarians and volunteers in educational facilitation, introducing structured Kalika modules in all rural libraries, enhancing infrastructure, and encouraging community ownership through local participation and village education committees.

5. STE (A) M Education in Gram Panchayat Libraries

TE(A)M education, an integrated approach to Science, Technology, Engineering, (Arts), and Mathematics, is gaining popularity in rural India, particularly in Kalyana Karnataka. Gram Panchayat Libraries (GPLs) serve as interactive learning hubs for children and youth, fostering creativity, innovation, and digital literacy. Key components of STE (A)M education include Science Corners, Technology Stations, Engineering Activities, Arts Integration, and Mathematics Engagement. Implementation strategies include training librarians and volunteers, collaborating with NGOs, local schools, and science outreach programs, using low-cost materials, hosting STEAM Days or Maker Fairs, and integrating with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 goals for foundational and experiential learning. The benefits for Kalyana Karnataka include empowering rural children, promoting gender equity, enhancing school retention and learning outcomes, building a culture of curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving, and preparing rural youth for higher education and future careers.

6. Programmes Associated with NGOs and Rural Public Libraries

NGO partnerships play a crucial role in revitalizing public libraries in rural and underserved regions like Kalyana Karnataka. These partnerships help transform rural libraries into dynamic community learning hubs by introducing innovative programs, resources, and training opportunities. Key areas of NGO involvement include literacy and reading promotion, digital literacy initiatives, women and youth empowerment, library development and staff training, and community ownership. Key programs and contributions include book donation drives, mobile libraries, reading clubs, storytelling sessions for children, adult literacy programs, STE(A)M and Activity-Based Learning, digital literacy initiatives, women and youth empowerment, and library development and staff training. NGOs like Agastya International Foundation, Pratham Books, Akshara Foundation, Digital Empowerment Foundation, Room to Read, and India Literacy Project have contributed to these initiatives. Prominent NGO-Library Collaborations in Karnataka include Agastya International Foundation, Pratham Books, Akshara Foundation, Digital Empowerment Foundation, Room to Read, and India Literacy Project. These organizations provide innovative programs, resources, and training opportunities to help rural libraries become dynamic community learning hubs.

7. ICT Infrastructure for Rural Public Libraries

The integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in rural public libraries is crucial for transforming these institutions into dynamic knowledge and learning hubs. In regions like Kalyana Karnataka, where educational resources and digital access are limited, strengthening ICT infrastructure can bridge the digital divide, improve information access, and foster lifelong learning. ICT infrastructure includes hardware, software, office productivity tools, educational platforms, digital storytelling tools, connectivity, Wi-Fi access, and access to public digital infrastructure. Government initiatives supporting ICT in libraries include the National Mission on Libraries, Rural Digital India Libraries, e-Granthalaya Project, and Karnataka Knowledge Commission Initiatives. However,

many rural public libraries in Kalyana Karnataka have basic computer systems, poor internet connectivity, and minimal digital content and software tools. Challenges include limited funding, lack of technical staff, poor internet connectivity in remote villages, low awareness and digital literacy among rural populations, and outdated or non-functional ICT equipment.

8. Grama Digi Vikasana (Village Digital Development Initiative)

Grama Digi Vikasana is a digital empowerment initiative in rural India, aiming to transform Gram Panchayat Libraries into digital knowledge hubs. The initiative aims to build digitally inclusive, literate, and self-reliant communities by enabling access to technology, digital literacy, e-learning, and government services. The core components of Grama Digi Vikasana include digital infrastructure, digital literacy programs, e-government access, educational support, STE (A)M learning zones, digital job help desks, and inclusion initiatives. The implementation strategy includes a pilot phase in select Gram Panchayats, partnerships with local NGOs, CSR foundations, and government departments, training programs for librarians and volunteers, community engagement through digital awareness camps, youth clubs, and school linkages, and regular monitoring and feedback using digital dashboards or app-based tracking. The expected outcomes include increased digital literacy rates, improved educational outcomes, enhanced public service delivery, empowered rural youth and women with employable skills, and Gram Panchayat Libraries being redefined as active digital learning hubs.

9. Library And Information Management

Library and Information Management is the systematic organization, operation, and administration of libraries to ensure efficient access to knowledge, preservation of information, and delivery of services to users. In the digital era, library management has evolved from traditional book lending to include digital resource management, information literacy, and community engagement. Effective information management is crucial for bridging the information divide and promoting inclusive education and development in public and rural libraries, particularly in developing and underdeveloped areas like Kalyana Karnataka. Key components of library and information management include collection development, cataloguing and classification, circulation management, reference and information services, digital resource management, ICT and automation, preservation and archiving, and user services and community engagement. In rural contexts, library and information management plays a significant role in bridging the knowledge and digital divide, ensuring efficient resource utilization, supporting lifelong learning, managing information services, and promoting transparency and accountability.

CONCLUSION

Public libraries in Kalyana Karnataka have transformed the region from traditional reading rooms to modern Grama Panchayat Library and Information Centers, promoting literacy, lifelong learning, digital empowerment, and community participation. Initiatives like the library movement, STE (A) M education, ICT infrastructure integration, and partnerships with NGOs have redefined rural libraries as multi-functional learning spaces. Programs like Grams Digi Vikasana highlight the potential of libraries to bridge the digital divide, deliver e-governance services, and support marginalized groups. Strengthening the library ecosystem is crucial for creating a more equitable, informed, and empowered society.

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