Atharva

Public Library Movement In Goa

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Editor's Note

The Vedic litereature traces the importance of acquisition of knowledge Atmavidya (temporal knowledge) and Brahmavidya (spiritual knowledge) for the welfare of the self and society. The references to Sabha (Assembly of Intellectuals) and Samiti (Assembly of Rulers) occur in cantos (2.27) and 7.12 of Atharveda. Sabha and Samiti are equated with the daughters of Prajapati (God of Popular Will).

The invocation of mantras (prayers) or use of herbal medicine in the Vedic tradition highlights upon the importance of unanimity among the members to uphold public interest in the various forums ranging from panchayat to diplomacy. The refernce to Madhu Vanaspati (sweet herbs--- jeshthmadh and gulvel) occur in cantos 1.34 of Atharveda, which stresses on chewing bits of these herbs in the mouth while rendering performance on the stage. The classical vocalists still continue with this tradition in Goa and elsewhere.
The concept of knowledge society is rooted in Indian culture, tradition and heritage. In Goa, Buddhvontachea Fattor (stone seats meant for intellectuals) scattered in the hinterland of Goa depicts the argumentative tradition of the people. The Central Library in the capital city is the oldest library in Asia.

The Portuguese rulers imposed tax on meat and liquor to maintain the libraries, printing materials more for evangelical purpose than secular purpose. The finest piece of legislation helps Goa government to generate revenue to revive the libraries in the State. It appears that the state government is yet to chanelise the revenue for the purpose it is meant for.

Public Library Movement In Goa

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Public library is defined as "Library for the people, of the people, and by the people". The main function of the library is to impart education, entertainment, information and knowledge through its resources Libraries play a pivotal role in creating democratic society. We have evidence that libraries existed from the earliest time, till today. Before the invention of paper and printing the information/ knowledge was written on clay tablets, Bhujpatra, Barch, leather silk etc. Invention of paper and printing press has resulted into proliferation of knowledge. The explosion of knowledge and marriage of computer with telecommunications has further aggravated the situation. Today, paper is being threatened. According to W.B Lancaster, we are heading towards paperless society. Other medias of information storage like computers, CD's Audio and Video's are flooding the information market. Libraries stocks are growing by thousands to lakhs. In this situation reader cannot afford, to either ignore growing information or all what he wants. It is at this point, we have to seriously think of establishment of new libraries, their maintenance and development. In some total, this is a library movement.

In order to study history of library movement in a particular area one must trace the educational system, book production and libraries of region. The educational system in Goa, before the arrival of the Portuguese, ran parallel substantially and culturally with the rest of India. Goa had small learning centers called Parishahds (in temples & in Varandas of big houses), Gurukulas (residential schools). These schools prepared students to read and write three R's (Reading, Writing and Arithmetic). Higher Education was imparted in Agraharas, Mathas and Brahmapuris, prepared students in Hindu religion, mathematics, astronomy, politics and medicine (ayurveda). Among the educational institutions in religion and philosophy, which were in vogue in ancient and medieval time in Goa, Brahmapuri of Ella, Madhavtirtha and Manchalapur agrahara are noteworthy. There was a continuity of functioning of such educational institutions right from the early times to the medieval period (1).

From 7th century onwards, Goa was ruled by several dynasties. The Bhojas, Konkan Mauryas, the Chalukyas of Badami, the Rashtrakutas and Shilaharas, the Kadambas, Sultanate of Delhi, Bahamanis, Vijayanagar, again Bahamanis. Then Adilshahi of Bijapur. The Portuguese arrived after all these dynasties.

Before the arrival of the Portuguese, Arabs and Muslim rulers who attacked Goa, destroyed Hindu temples and along with their Agraharas containing holy repositories of ancient Indian knowledge. Nevertheless, Indian knowledge system laid more stress on oral transfer of information, due to lack of printed word. Knowledge was passed on orally from one generation to another. Hence Hindu cultural traditions remained intact in Goa.

The Portuguese founded the first European based empire, with trading posts and colonies on three continents namely Africa, Asia (Goa), and South America (Brazil). Vasco the Gama sighted Goa on May 18, 1498. His objectives were clear. He was ordered to find the way to India, tap the spice market in the east. And for the spread of Christianity. He came from the Africa to India. He sailed around Africa and completed his first voyage, ever definitely known to have been made by sea between the West and the East. The economic, social and cultural life of the world were to be profound-fully changed by the new trade route opened by his voyage (2) On 15th November, 1510, Alfonso de Alburquerque captured Goa and made the City of Goa as the seat of viceroy and hence it became the nerve center of political activities of the Portuguese in the East. Consequently, it also became the headquarters of the Church and all the religious orders operating in the eastern region. The King of Portugal had the right to conquer the eastern half of the world for Christ. Portuguese believe in "Cujus region, illius religio". The sword and the cross moved hand in hand. They demolished Hindu temples and constructed Churches on that land. In 1560, Goa Inquisition was set up. The early Konkani literature was burned by the Portuguese on the grounds that it contained the percepts of idolatry.

ARRIVAL OF THE BOOKS: 'Carriera da India' or round voyage between Portugal and India inaugurated with Vasco-da-Gama's pioneer voyage did not end until the coming of the steamers. Portuguese had a sound sense of history. Carriera da India was a two-way traffic. Books from Lisbon, Africa, Brazil and from other Portuguese colonies used to arrive in Goa, in bundles and boxes as cargoes. The appointment of the common administrator of

Portuguese overseas territories was also instrumental in furthering the arrival of books in Goa. In 1624, Dom Jorge Mascarenhas was appointed Feitor of Portuguese overseas territories. He became the Chairman of India Company in 1628 (3).

MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS and THE LIBRARIES: The discovery of the sea route to the east had a twin purpose of trade and expansion of Christianity. It was for the second reason, that each succeeding expedition to India had a number of missionaries. Jesuits made their debut in Goa in the person of St. Francis Xavier. They founded St. Paul College, which had a meteoric fame, it was in this college that the first printing press in Goa and in India was installed in where in a handbook of Christian doctrine by St. Francis Xavier was published. This was the most important center of studies in the whole of Goa and the first college in India. This grew up to be known as University of Goa. (5) Portuguese established several educational institutions on religion and philosophy. Coming to the most important catholic educational institutions St. Augustine Church and convent in Old Goa played a vital role in the beginning of the 17th century, that is around 1630. Perhaps it was one of the greatest seat of learning in the whole of Asia, with its 300-strong teachers and elite and with a vibrant 3000 students from convent level to novitiate to college level. It had the best library in the eastern globe, that the other parallel institutions should envy (4). The well-known English traveller Claudins Buchanan commenting on library visited by him writes: "I pass an hour sometimes in the spacious library of the Augustinian convent and think myself suddenly transported into one of the libraries of Cambridge". There are many rare volumes, but chiefly theological and almost all of the 16th century. (5)

After the suppression of religious orders in 1834, most of these institutions ceased to function. The College of Rachol was later converted into Seminary of Rachol and college library was merged into the seminary library. A catalogue of this collection was published in 1900 (6). Swami Vivekanand visited this library to study Christian theology & religion in the early 19th century (7).

GOA STATE CENTRAL LIBRARY: Public library movement in Goa started in 1832, State Central Library was opened by Viceroy Dom Manuel de Portugal e Costro under order dated 15th September 1832, annexed to the Academia Militar to help younger generation acquire interest in military education. On 5th October 1836, books a MSS from abolished convents were transferred to the library and it was redesigned as Bibliotheca Publica, the change in name continued. In 1870, it was named as Bibliotheca Publica da Nova Goa, in 1897 it was upgraded to National Library in 1925, it was renamed as Bibliotheca National Vasco da Gama. (8)

By decree law dated March 18, 1956, the Privilege of Deposited Legal was made applicable to this library by virtue of which the library was entitled to all publications from Portugal and her overseas colonies. After functioning as an annex of the Institute, it was open for about 35 years, from September 1959 the library was put under the direct administrative control of services de Instruccão e s¢úde (Education and health Services) (9).

The library collection consisted mainly of books and journals in Portuguese, French, Spanish, Latin, English, with exception of some local publications in Konkani and Marathi. A Catalog of library was printed in 1907. Later, card Catalog of author title and cross references was prepared. Though the collection was not classified, statistics maintained in the library in 1930, was accordingly to the main classes of Delivery Decimal System. The services were restricted reading and reference. Lending books was not a regular process, but with due permission from the government, officers, Lyceum teachers & members of Institute could borrow books. (10) State Central library is the oldest library in India. It has completed 175 years in 2007. This eventful occasion was celebrated by releasing first-day postal cover up central library by the department of Posts, Government of India. Many eminent librarians with long & meritorious service were also honoured on this occasion.

After Liberation in 1961, the library was renamed as Central Library and its activities were expanded with the introduction of lending, reference and special services for children. The collection was enriched with standard Reference Sources and books in English, Hindi, Marathi and some other Indian languages. Presently the total library collection runs to over few lakhs, which form part of different sub collection i.e. lending, reference, Indo-Portuguese collection, etc. English, Marathi, Hindi, Konkani, Portuguese and some books in Bengali, Urdu covering all subjects right from Generalia to History and Geography. The reference collection consists of general and subject encyclopaedias and dictionaries, yearbooks, almanacs, atlases and advanced books in different subjects. Local History and Rare Books Collection consists of XVI and XVII centuries, manuscripts and imprints, books on history and culture of Goa, including Indo-Portuguese history, bound volumes of local journals and newspapers and books received under the provisions of Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867. The books acquired prior to Liberation also form part of this collection. The children's collection comprises of Reference Books as well as books for lending. The library also makes available to readers current newspapers, magazines and journals. People of different age groups and various walks of life avail of Reading and Reference facilities offered by the library. The lending facility is extended only to those who are registered as members. Students attached to various educational institutions; from not only Goa but also different parts of India make extensive use of the collection of this library for preparing their projects and assignments. Research facilities are availed by research scholars from India as well as abroad.

Under the Registration of books Act 1956, Government of India, Central Library is the copyright library of Goa and every book published in Goa, three copies of the same must be sent by the publisher to the said Central Library. Central Library publishes its Annual bibliography every year in Goa Government Gazette. As a part of extension services, programmes for library awareness and for inculcation of reading habits are held on the occasions of World Book Day Librarian's Day, National Book Week etc. The library is fully computerized, all sections are computerized. It has its own website www.goacentrallibary.goa.in. The library also plans to take lead in networking the public libraries in this State with the ultimate aim of making the information accessible to the citizen of the remotest corner of this State.

Central Library is the State library and apex of public library system in Goa, it has under its control under the control of Directorate of Art & Culture seven taluka libraries. Besides 121 Government Village Libraries and panchayat and NGO's libraries are presently functioning in Goa.

Taluka Libraries

The establishment of libraries at Taluka level by the Government started in 1975, with the taluka library in Curchorem, followed by that Valpoi and Cancona. Though there were plans to cover all the talukas with a library, after a gap of nine years in 1984 a library was started in Bicholim, in Sanguem in 1988 in Ponda and in Mandrem 2004. Canacona library is being computerized by using e-granthalaya software by developed by NIC (National Information Centre).

Municipal Libraries

These libraries are run by the Municipalities. The earliest Municipal Library is the one attached to Mapusa Municipality it was inaugurated as Bibliotheca Municipal Athayde on November 13, 1883 (11). After liberation, the library has been renamed as Athayde Municipal Library. Margao Municipal Library was established in 1914, it was named as Biblioteca Municipal Circulante de Salsete, it was thus named because the function of library was to circulate the books through Juntas Parochiaes (12). Presently the library is named as D. Propercia Correia Afonso Figueiredo Municipal Library. Both these libraries offer reading, lending and reference facilities. The available records indicate that the Municipalities of Sanquelim, Ponda, Panjim, Sanguem, Mormugao, Library after remaining closed for ever a decade has restarted its services in a private building away from the municipality office. The library attached to, Mormugao Municipality is presently known as Janata Vachanalaya, it is run by private initiative, and receives financial assistance from the Government.

Private Libraries and Government Aided Libraries

According to available records prior to Liberation, around fifty libraries were started in Goa by private initiative mostly Hindu individuals, organizations and associations. The ultimate aim in starting these libraries was to provide literature in Indian languages like Marathi and Sanskrit. The earliest library was Saraswat Vidyapith Pustakalaya, established in 1899 by Shantakant Maheshwar Bhat Sukthankar in Marcel, the library functioned for 25 years. It had 42 members and membership fee of Rs. 1/- (last available record of library 1912). Similarly, most of the libraries which were started by private initiative could not survive for long, due to various hardships. Initially these libraries provided mostly religious material, however, at a later date books on other subjects as well as material on Indian freedom struggle was also provided by these libraries.

Since this type of material provided by the government libraries, was not thought of providing reading material in vernacular languages, besides periodicals like Kesari, Maratha from Maharashtra, which were sought by the Hindu public at large, was provided by these libraries. Presently many libraries run by private initiative are given financial assistance by the Government. Shri Matalakshmi Prasadik Hindu Vachan Mandir (1907) established in Mala, Panaji, is the oldest surviving library in Goa (13)

In 1898 – 99 'Goa Hindu Pustakalay' was started in Panaji, it was situated in, Panaji, in the House of Dhempe. In 1904, GAO Hindu Club' was established in the same library by Dr. Purushottam Waman Shirgaonkar, Shambarao Sardesai and others. Goa Hindu Club acquired this library but by 1908 it was closed (14). During the period of 1901 to 1910 libraries sprang up in Shiroda, Wadi, Talauli, Panaji, Ponda, Kavalem, Nerul, Mapusa, Chickhli, Pernem, Karmali, Sakhli, Bicholi, Kumbharjuve, Savarde etc. but all these libraries had a very short lived, except the library started by late B.V. Savardekar in 1902, in his own house, at his own expenses. It was called Shantadurga Vachanalay.

SHRI MAHALAKSHMI PRASADIK HINDU VACAN MANDIR: In 1907 the most durable effort was made by late Nanu Tarkar Pednekar of Mala Panaji who's Shri Mahalakshri Prasadik Hindu Vachan Mandir was established in 1907. It was started by Nabhik Samaj, which has completed it centenary in 2007. This library has 25000 books. The library purchases all the local Newspapers as well as national newspapers, also magazines, periodicals are purchased regularly. It has 1000 members. Library has a separate Children's section on the first floor. It is perhaps the first public library to build its own building. Computerization of its database is in the process, and it is ranked as govt. aided grade II library. Recently Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library foundation (RRRLF) has sanctioned additional amount of Rs. 1.50 lakhs for the development of children's libraries in 2007 the library celebrated its centenary with a seminar on "Reading Habit". Since inception extension, services are offered by this library. It has plans to renovate and build its own modern building.

GOMANTAK VIDYA NIKETAN LIBRARY : As soon as liberal period of Portuguese India began, in Margao the first library was started by Saraswat Brahman Samaj. Late Yeshwant Sardesai, Late Kashinath Damodar Naik, late Keshav Anant Naik, late R. K. Naik & other five associates started the library on Gudi Padwa (Hindu New Year) day in 1912. The name of the library was changed to Gomantak Vidya Niketan. Its collection consists of 40,000 books. It has rare Marathi books. It is government aided grade I library.

Saraswati Mandir Library : Dr. Purushottam Waman Shirgaokar is the founder of this library. It was established in 1913, on Dussera Day. The spacious building on 18th June Road, Panaji was built in 1971, where library is situated on the 1st floor. It has more than 40,000 books in all languages, including English, Marathi, Konkani, Hindi. The library has a large reference collection, along with children's section. This library has many rare Marathi books. Its membership is nearly 1000 and children section has more than 200 members. It is computerized. It is very well lit up centrally located library. It is a government aided grade-I library Saraswat Mandir and Gomank Vidya Niketan Libraries offer several extension services like lectures, competitions, quiz contests, essay contests, etc. Both the libraries have well trained staff. Rending lending & reference facilities are provided by these libraries.

DURGA VACHAN MANDIR : Business Community from Mapusa started 'Durga Vachan Mandir' in 1908 along with Dnyaraprasarak Vidyalaya. From 1908 to 1954 it was operative. However, during the visit to the library Governor of Goa found a book with a photo of Subhash Chandra Bose on it. He ordered to close the library. After liberation in 1962, it started functioning again till today.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION: THEIR ROLE IN PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVEMENTS

After Liberation, Gomantak Granthalay Sangha was formed in Goa in 1963, by father of library movement in Goa, B.D. Satoskar, eminent librarian, social historian, journalist and scholar of Portuguese history. He along with Dr. Sukerkar, late Dr. Govind Dhume, late M. P. Sukerkar, late J.R. Sardesai, late Bhagvant Naik, B.V. Phadnis and Suresh V. Tarkar Pednekar and others. The main objectives of the founder executive members:

1. To work for the library movement
2. To provide the facilities for training of qualified libraries
3. To help research in library Science.

To spread library movement in Goa, Gomantak / Granthalay Sangh did the survey of existing libraries in Goa. This suggestion came from the first Chief Minister of Goa D.B. Bandodkar. The survey helped the association to present its report to the Government of Goa. The grants to the libraries in Goa started coming. Even though it was meager to certain extent, it helped the libraries to overcome few problems.

First library conference was held in Goa at Jambaulim Temple Hall, it was 15th Conference of Maharashtra Granthalay Parishad. It was presided over by an N.R. Phatak father of library movement in Maharashtra and an eminent scholar. Gomantak Granthalay Sangh (GGS) organised its 2nd conference in 1984 under the Chairmanship of first-lady of Goa Freny K.T. Satarawala, it was well attended by librarians from various states. GGS celebrated the Dr. S.R. Ranganathan Centenary year in 1992. It was a national conference attended by President of Indian Library Association, Directors of Libraries of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Guraja etc. since Goa had no provision for teaching library science, GGS in collaboration with Mumbai Marathi Grantha Sangrahalay, started certificate course in Library Science from 1966. The course was then taken over by Government of Maharashtra and this arrangement was operational till Goa attained statehood. This course of GGS continued till 1994. GGS prepared manpower to run libraries in Goa and librarians of Goa helped in training young generation to man libraries. In 1984 GGS made arrangement with Pune University for bachelor of library & information Science degree course and master of library and information science course. One seat for both the degrees are reserved for students from Goa.

GGS organized seminar, conferences and training for libraries but as such the movement did not pick up beyond library education. The association became extremely successful in training libraries but it failed on its two other goals.

The Goa Library Association (GOLA) with office at the Goa University Library, has been registered during 2000. The main objectives of this association are to work for the welfare and development of professionals in Goa State; to organize meetings, group discussions, professional activities and publish literature; to conduct seminars, conferences, workshops, symposia and to raise and collect funds by way of subscription, donation, contributions from members, government and semi government bodies for implementation of objectives, in order to achieve the aims of the Association.

Another Association, which is registered in Goa, is Higher Secondary School Libraries Association of Goa (HSSLAG). Its main objective is to uplift the professionalism and to safeguard the interest of members. Seminars / Workshops, publications of Bulletin. Librarians" Day Celebration is a regular activities conducted by HSSLAG.

GOVERNMENT ROLE IN LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

The Government takes various measures for the development of public library services in the state. The Government of Goa, Daman and Diu under their order No. DE/Acad-II(SF) d-2/488/9148 dated 14.12.1978 had constituted a State Level Expert Committee to suggest ways and means to improve the library facilities existing in this territory with S.K. Deshpande as the Chairman of the Committee. The Report submitted by this Committee has 50 recommendations which include Free Public Library through 5-tier structure with 1) State Central Library at the apex 2) District Libraries 3) Taluka Libraries 4) Village Libraries and 5) Mobile Libraries (32) Regular budget allocations are made by the State Government for public Libraries, the budget estimate for 2000-2001 is Rs. 78.00 lakhs.

Public Libraries of Goa also avail of assistance from Raja Rammohum Roy Library Foundation,Calcutta under different Matching and Non-Matching schemes of assistance. The Government of Goa also contributes 40% share towards RRRLF Matching Scheme. For the last 2 years, the State contribution Rs 3.00 lakh each.

LIBRARY LEGISLATION : Though the library authorities had made several attempts to introduce library legislation right from early 1970's, the same could not materialize. The library bill introduced by the then MLA Domnick Fernandes during the monsoon session of Assembly in 1993 was passed in December, 1994, after being referred to a Select Committee appointed for the purpose. The same was assented by the Governor on 29/7/95. The implementation of Goa Public Libraries Act, 1993 started with cess collection from May, 30, 1997, after being amended on 24th April. 1997. The amended Act makes provision for a State Library Development Cell under the Directorate of School Education with the State Library Officer as its Head, and for libraries at State/ District/ Taluka and Panchayat level. The Act also makes provision for library funds and library cess by way of surcharge on the excise duty and public library finance whereby a budget provision of 1% of the Education Budget is to be made for promoting the service for public libraries in this State. Full implementation of the Act is yet awaited. The Library Cell is constituted as envisaged in the Act. Presently Director of Art and Culture acts as State Library Officer and the matters related to public libraries are dealt through the Directorate of Art & Culture.

GOLDEN PERIOD OF PUBLIC LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

Network of Libraries : Government of Goa, Department of Education, Art and Culture suppressed its notification No. 27-273-03/ and payment of Grant –in-aid to the libraries run by Non-Government institutions by Annexure dated 17th February 2004, which came into force with immediate effect. The annexure promises Network of libraries for Goa State, which is as follows: -

a) State Central Library
b) District Libraries
c) Taluka Libraries
d) Panchayat / Village Libraries

Grant-in-aid will be released for Gram Panchayat and NGO's libraries or Municipal Councils managing libraries. Token grant of Rs. 50,000/- will be given for opening new libraries. Taluka libraries and Panchayat / Village libraries are eligible for Rs. 1.20 lakhs (maximum) RRRLF gives matching grant to make the receivable payment to Rs. 2.40 lakhs.

The most important statement in (n) p.4 – make compulsory enrolment of every student in public library on reaching standard eight. For registering in employment exchange library membership certificate is required. This clause should be strictly enforced.

As mentioned earlier the library cess, by imposing a surcharge on the Excise Duty payable under Goa Excise Duty Act 1964 at the rate of Rs. 0.50 paise per proof of like of I.M.F.L and 0.50 paise per bulk litre of the bear. This idea is being copied from the Portuguese, in the Portuguese regime schools and libraries flourished during the reign of Marques de Pombal as in 1772, introduced reforms in Portuguese colonies, in order to meet the expenses on education and libraries. He levied a special tax called literary subsidy, amounting to one pie on a pound of meat and ten pies on a cent quantity of liquor, the tax yield a good income and just one fourth of it was enough to underwrite for educational & library expenses (1) The collection of cess collected by the government of Goa also crosses approximately more than Rs. 1 crore annually. The collected cess is being utilized for construction of new and very spacious and modern functional building for State Central Library, Panaji the cost of the building and its furnishing will cost around Rs. 20 crores for the State exchequer.

Goa Government has also constructed the first District library called Dr. Francico Luis Gomes District Library at Navelim, Margao, Southern, Goa. This ultra modern building and its furniture will cost the government nearly Rs. 10 crores. These are welcome steps as far as the library movement is concerned. This shows the genuine concern of the government to spread the network of libraries in Goa. These two libraries will be fully computerized and will be connected to other government taluka libraries, village libraries, Panchayat libraries etc.

There are seven taluka libraries in Goa, Cancona, (1976), Curchorem (1979), Mandrem Bicholim (1989), Ponda (2004), Sanguem (1985), Valpoi (1975). Out of these Cancacona library is computerized. This is the oldest taluka library. Recently Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Marcela has started library Science Course with the permission from Higher Education Directorate.

SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

Suggestions: Since the golden days for the Goan Libraries have began certain suggestion will help to do for more things.

1. Government in its act, states that it will spend 1% of the educational budget on the libraries. Indian Library Association (ILA) and other national association have been demanding that at least 6% of the educational budget should be spent on the libraries. Or all the money collected under the library cess, should be spent on libraries only.

2. Since, the government has not created Directorate of Libraries for Goa, the government can at least rename the Directorate of Art & Culture as Directorate of Art, Culture and Libraries.

3. The Government should not shift the State Central library from Art & Culture to Education. This shift has taken place at whims and fancies of the bureaucrats several times in Goa since liberation.

4. All Non-Government public library employees who do technical work (irrespective of their qualifications) should get at least Rs. 5000/- a month. Others should be given minimum daily wages, announced by the government. As these libraries are open for seven hours and they give excellent library services to its readers. They should not be treated as part – time workers.

4. Government must start Mobile library services, which is discontinued for a long time. One for North Goa and the other for South Goa.

5. Central Library building, which will be vacant after it is shifted to Patto, must start Senior Citizens reading library in its old premises. This senior citizens library can be converted into night study center for the students to come and study in the evening to night, poor students staying in and around Panaji need quite pace to study. Building can also be utilized as a centralized stacking place for libraries in Goa.

6. Gomantak Grantralay Sangh should be housed either in new or old building of the Central library

7. Old books and MSS preservation courses can be started by the Government for presentation of books from old libraries or libraries can depute to them to Asiatic library Mumbai, or Delhi and Lucknow where courses are held in preservation.

8. Microfilming of old NPS and other old documents like Gazettes, government orders, etc. should be undertaken as their preservation is very essential.

We are living in the age of knowledge explosion. In India, alone we have 16000 publishers publishing 75,000 books per year. We have 55,000 registered newspaper and periodical. This is the result of the information explosion. Today the value of the nation is not judged by the GDP, but by the production of knowledge. The more knowledge you create the more powerful you become.

Conclusion : Father of Indian library movement late Dr. S. R. Raganathan was responsible for the enactment of the first library legislation for Tamil Nadu. Today more than 12 states have

enacted library legislations. Goa also joins them. It is a welcome step by the government. What is required today is the rapid development of library networks and facilities for the public at large to know what books / material are available on a particular topic and in which library it exists. Each library government or semi-Government, aided or private must have their own websites. 21st century is described as a knowledge century, so we have to catch up with the rest of India and the world to make our citizens knowledgeable. After all knowledge is power. 'Na He Dnyanen Sadrusham Pavitra Viha Vidyati'.

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Notes
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Tables

Table 1 List of Government Libraries in Goa

Government Libraries Functioning in Goa
1. Central Library, Panaji, Goa.
2. Government Taluka Library, Ponda, Goa.
3. Government Taluka Library, # 9/136, Valpoi, Sattari, Goa.
4. Government Taluka Library, Chaudi, Canacona, Goa.
5. Government Taluka Library, Government Primary School, Patem, Sanguem, Goa.
6. Government Taluka Library, SH-17, NR ADEI, Government, Primary School Bldg, Bicholim, Goa.
7. Government Taluka Library, Curchorem, Goa.
8. Government Taluka Library, Mandrem, Pernem, Goa.

Government Village Libraries Functioning in Goa
1. Government Village Library, Nerul, Bardez, Goa.
2. Government Village Library, Honda, Sattari.
3. Government Village Library, Xeldem, Quepem, Goa.
4. Government Village Library, Balli, Quepem, Goa.
5. Government Village Library, Zambaulim, Sanguem, Goa.
6. Government Village Library, Gaondongri, Canacona, Goa.
7. Government Village Library, Loliem, Canacona, Goa.
8. Government Village Library, Velim, Salcete, Goa.
9. Government Village Library, Chinchinim, Salcete, Goa.
10. Government Village Library, Sanvoredotto, Salcete, Goa.
11. Government Village Library, Kharwada, Bandora, Ponda, Goa.
12. Government Village Library, Bhanastari, Ponda, Goa.

Non-Government Organisation's Libraries Functioning in Goa

Tiswadi Taluka
1. Vikas Mandir Library, Merces, Tiswadi, Goa.
2. Mahalaxmi Prasadic Hindu Vachan Mandir, Mala, Panaji, Goa.

Ponda Taluka
3. Marcel Public Library,Marcel, Ponda, Goa.
4. Shri Ram Kala Sangh Karmale, Keri, Ponda, Goa.
5. Pratibha Vachanalaya, Bori, Ponda, Goa.
6. Sidharth dnyanpeet Villagae Library, Volvoi, Ponda, Goa.
7. Shri Ameya Vidyaprasarak Mandal's Swami Vivekanand Village Library, Curti, Ponda, Goa.
8. Surshree Vachanalaya, Keri, Ponda, Goa.
9. Shri Saraswati Vachanalaya, Mardol, Ponda, Goa.
10. Swami Vivekanand Vachan Mandir, Amblai, Panchwadi, Shiroda, Goa.
11. Shri Sharada Mandir Library. Marcel, Ponda, Goa.
12. Shree Mahalaxmi Yuvak Sangh's Library, Talavali, Ponda, Goa.

Sanguem Taluka

13. Bolkornem Sport's Club's Vachanalaya, Bolkornem, Sancordem, Post Tiska, Ponda, Goa.

Bardez Taluka

14. Dyanprasarak Mandal, Durga Vachan Mandir, Mapusa, Bardez, Goa.
15. Saraswati Vachanalaya, BF-SI, 2nd Floor, alcon Residency, Porvorim, Barfez, Goa.
16. Shree toteshwar Maharudra Vachanalaya, Virlossa, Penha de France, Brdez, Goa.
17. People's education Society's Library, Camurlim, Bardez, Goa.
18. Shree Saraswati Vachanalaya, Madel, Tivim, Bardez, Goa.

Bicholim Taluka

19. Mahamaya Vachanalaya, Gaonkar Wada, Mayem, Bicholim, Goa.
20. Yuvak Kala Manch, Pilgao, Bicholim, Goa.
21. Nutan Vachanalaya, Bicholim, Goa.
22. Mahalaxmi Vachanalaya, kudne, bicholim, Goa.
23. Sarvan library, Sarvan, Bicholim, Goa.
24. Shikshan Vikas sanghatana's Library, Bharoniwada, Naveli, Bicholim, Goa.
25. Shri Bhumikeshwari Sahayog Vachanalaya, Sal Bicholim, Goa.
26. Vividha Vachanalaya, naveli, Bicholim, Goa.

Sattari Taluka

27. Dnyan Mandir Vachanalaya, Brahma Karmali, Nagargao, Sattari, Goa.
28. Vivekanand Vachan Mandir, Keri, sattari, Goa.
29. Mhalsa Vachanalaya, Pariye, Sattari, Goa.
30. Mahamaya Vachanalaya, kumthon, Sattari, Goa.
31. Om Sai Prabodhan Vachanalay, Kesarkarwada, Morlem, Sattari, Goa.
32. Jagruti Yuvak Sangh, Khotode, Sattari, Goa.
33. Gramin Vikas Shikshan Sanstha Kalika Vachan Mandir, Sewershe, Sattari, Goa.
34. Satre Sports & Cultural Club's Shantadurga Village Library, Kodal, Sattari, Goa.
35. Netaji Sbhash Chandra Bose Library, Advoi, Sattari, Goa.
36. Sidheshwar Village Library, Golauli, Thane, sattari, Goa.
37. Vikas Youth Cultural Association Village Library, Kopardem, Sattari, Goa.
38. Assode Gramin Vikas Shikshan Samstha's Sandipani Village Library, H. No. 22. Saranguli, P.O.
Khotodem Sattari, Goa.
39. Chawdeshwar Sateri Library, Kudshe, Sattari, Goa.
40. Kelbai Vachanalay, Satode, Sattari, Goa.

Pernem Taluka

41. Utkarsh Socio-cultural Club's Library, Keri, Pernem, Goa.
42. Gram Vardhini Library, Harmal, Pernem, Goa.
43. Swami Vivekanand Kala & Krida Saunsthan's Swami Vivekanand Library, Satyam Hotel, Torxem, Pernem, Goa.
44. Ravalnath Unity Sports & Cultural Club Library, Talarna, Madhalowado, Pernem, Goa.

Salcete Taluka

45. Konkani Bhasha Mandal's Shenoi Goembab Library, Konkani Bhavan, Shankar Bhandare Marg, Margao, Goa.
46. Curtorim Union Library, Curtorim, Salcete, Goa.
47. Jose Vaz Public Library, Benaulim, Salcete, Goa.
48. Goenkaranchem Diaz, Margao, Salcete, Goa.
49. Assolna Union, Assolna, Salcete, Goa.
50. Vissionaries, Lotulim, Salcete, Goa.

Quepem Taluka

51. Dnyandurga Education Society's Subhash Chandra Bose Library, Gokuldem, Quepem, Goa.
52. Sanguem-Quepem Dalit Sanghatana's Gramin Vachanalaya, 2nd Fllor, Raya Chambers, Nr. Holy Cross Institute, Quepem Town, Quepem, Goa.
53. Don Bosco Farmer Rehabilitation Society's Don Bosco Library, Silcorna, Quepem, Goa.
54. Navneet Vachanalaya, Quepem, Goa.

Marmugao Taluka

55. Shri Shantadurga Education Society's Shankhwal Vachanalay, Sancoale, Marmugao, Goa.
56. Shri Shantadurga Education Society's Cortalim Village Library, Cortalim, Marmugao, Goa.

Canacona Taluka

57. Omkar Vachan Sadhana, Mashem, Cancona, Goa.
58. Shri Malliarjun Vachanalaya, Shristhal, Cancona, Goa.
59. Shraddhanand Vachanalaya, Poiguinim, Cancona, Goa.

Aided Taluka Library

60. Saraswati Mandir, Panaji, Goa.
61. Gomant Vidyaniketan, Margao, Goa.

Village Panchayat Library

Tiswadi Taluka

1. Village Panchayat Library, Neura, Tiswadi, Goa.
2. Village Panchayat Library, Carambolim, Tiswadi, Goa.
3. Village Panchayat Library, Ela, Old Goa, Tiswadi, Goa.
4. Village Panchayat Library, Cumbharjua, Tiswadi, Goa.
5. Village Panchayat Library, Azossim, Tiswadi, Goa.
6. Village Panchayat Library, Santa Cruz, Tiswadi, Goa.

Ponda Taluka

7. Village Panchayat Library, Bethoda, Ponda, Goa.
8. Village Panchayat Library, Savoi Vere, Ponda, Goa.
9. Village Panchayat Library, Curti-Kandepar, Ponda, Goa.

Bardez Taluka

11. Village Panchayat Library, Assagao, Bardez, Goa.
12. Village Panchayat Library, Colvale, Tarwade, Bardez, Goa.
13. Village Panchayat Library, Parra, Bardez, Goa.
14. Village Panchayat Library, Revora, Bardez, Goa.
15. Village Panchayat Library, Penha de France, Bardez, Goa.
16. Village Panchayat Library, Pirna, Bardez, Goa.
17. Village Panchayat Library, Assnora, Bardez, Goa.

Bicholim Taluka

18. Village Panchayat Library, Sanquelim, Bicholim, Goa.

Pernem Taluka

19. Village Panchayat Library, Agarwada, Pernem, Goa.
20. Village Panchayat Library, Tueyem, Pernem, Goa.
21. Village Panchayat Library, Ozari, Pernem, Goa.
22. Village Panchayat Library, Korgao, Pernem, Goa.
23. Village Panchayat Library, Morjim, Kattewadi,

Pernem, Goa.

24. Village Panchayat Library, Dhargal, Pernem, Goa.
25. Village Panchayat Library, Tamboxem, Pernem, Goa.
26. Village Panchayat Library, Varkhand, Pernem, Goa.
27. Village Panchayat Library, Virnoda, Pernem, Goa.
28. Village Panchayat Library, Paliem, Pernem, Goa.
29. Village Panchayat Library, Torxem, Pernem, Goa.
30. Village Panchayat Library, Madhalamaj, Mandre, Pernem, Goa.

Salcete Taluka

31. Village Panchayat Library, Chandor, Salcete, Goa.

Quepem Taluka

32. Village Panchayat Library, Morpil, Quepem, Goa.
33. Village Panchayat Library, Ambaulim, Quepem, Goa.
34. Village Panchayat Library, Barcem, Quepem, Goa.
35. Village Panchayat Library, Avedem, Quepem, Goa.

Marmugao Taluka

36. Village Panchayat Library, Chicalim, Marmugao, Goa.

Canacona Taluka

37. Village Panchayat Library, Agonda, Canacona, Goa.
32. Village Panchayat Library, Khola, Canacona, Goa.

Table 2 Number of Educational Institutions in Goa

1(a) University... 1
1(b) Colleges (general) ... 24
1(c) Colleges (professional) ... 21
Total ... 46

2(a) Professional Postmatric schools ... 25
2(b) Technical ... 6
Total ... 31

3(a) Higher secondary schools (Central Board) ... 6
3(b) Higher secondary schools (government) ... 9
3(c) Higher secondary schools (non-government) 67
Total ... 82

4(a) High schools (non-government) ... 294
4(b) High school (government) ... 74
4(c) High schools (Central Board) ...7
Total ... 375

5 Schools (special) ... 14
Total ... 14

6(a) Middle schools (non-government) ... 13
6(b) Middle schools (government) ... 56
Total ... 69

7(a) Primary schools (non-government) ... 311
7(b) Primary schools (governmnet) ... 937
Total ... 1248
Grand Total ... 1865

Source: Based on List of Educational Institutions in Goa as   on 30/09/2008 (2007-08), Directorate of Education, Government of Goa, Panaji-Goa.

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[***Dr. Archana Kakodkar, Public Library Movement in Goa, Atharva, Vol. IV, No. 6, June 1, 2009, Ponda, Goa, INDIA***]
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