Utilization of Plan Scheme of Kerala State Library Council by Public Libraries in Kerala

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ABSTRACT : The Kerala State Library Council (KSLC) plays an important role to build modern Kerala through public libraries. It offers financial support and guidance to public libraries. In the present study the investigatorattempted tofind outthe various plan schemes under KSLC in the development and promotion of public libraries in the state. Research datawere collected from the annual report of the KSLC published during 2015-2020 financial years. The findings of the study showed that majority ofthe public libraries had received the highest amount for library computerization than other plan schemes.

KEYWORDS: Public Library,Kerala State Library Council, Plan Schemes.

I.   INTRODUCTION

The Kerala State Library Council (KSLC) plays an important role in building modern Kerala through public libraries. It works as the mentor of all its affiliated public libraries in Kerala State. It offers non-formal education and extension activities to the Keralites through its public libraries. It organizes many programmes to the development and promotion of public library system in the state. The Council provides financial support and guidance to all kinds and types of Public Libraries in the state.KSLCis allocating funds for the development and promotion of public libraries in Kerala through different schemes.It has got two kinds of schemes. 1. Plan Schemes and 2. Non-Plan Schemes. Among these schemes, plan schemes in the financial years (2015-2020) are analyzed to see the financial help given by KSLC under the following heads.

Model Village Library
Academic Study Centre
Jail (Prison) Library
Juvenile Home Library Services
Hospital Library
Orphanage Library Services
Hermitage Library
Library Computerization
Building Construction – Council Head Office
Charithra Shastra Corner
Film Club
Book Grant to Flood Affected Libraries

The study is aimed to understand the fund estimation and the amount given to public libraries in Kerala in the financial yearsfrom 2015-16 to 2019-2020.

II.   LITERATURE REVIEW

Anish and Abdul Majeed (2020) compared Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation matching schemes and non-matching schemes in the development and promotion of public libraries in Kerala. The research data were collected from the Grant Statistics (2014-2019) from the official website of Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation. The findings of the study show that majority of libraries / organizations choose matching schemes compared to non-matching schemes.Raghavaiah and Babu (2017)conducted a study to find out the functioning, library resources, services, and problems existing in the District Central Libraries of Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh. A survey was conducted using questionnaire for collecting data from the librarians of the District Central Libraries (DCL) regarding collection development, sources of grants, manpower, library services, physical and ICT infrastructural facilities, etc. The study revealed that majority of the libraries possessed the collection in the range of 40,000 to 50,000. Further, it is also found

that lack of staff, ICT facilities, sufficient budget, etc. are the main problems faced by these libraries in Rayalaseema region.Vilgi and Joshi George (2017) madean attempt to evaluate the present status of the public libraries affiliated to the Kerala state library council, in Thrissur district of Kerala. The study analysed the grade, infrastructural facilities, total collection of books, annual issues of books, number of periodicals and social activities etc. of these libraries. Survey and interview method were used for data collection. The major findings of the study showed that highest numbers of libraries in Thrissur district are of A Grade and least number of libraries comes under F Grade. Major share of the public libraries under Thrissur district library council are functioning in their own buildings. Only a small percentage of libraries are functioning in rented or free of rent buildings.

III.   OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the present study are:

Toassess the various plan schemes under KSLCin thedevelopment and promotion of public libraries in Kerala.

To compare various plan schemesunder KSLCin thedevelopment and promotion of public libraries in Kerala.

METHODOLOGY USED: The research data required for the study were collected from the annual reports (2015-2020) of KSLC published. Interview was conducted with the KSLC staff to ensure the validity of the data collected from the annual reports.

DATA ANALYSIS

BUDGET ESTIMATE UNDER KSLC PLAN SCHEME:KSLC allotted fund in its budget under plan scheme in every financial year. The table given below illustrate the KSLC budget estimation under plan scheme during 2015-2020 financial years.

TABLE – 1
BUDGET ESTIMATION UNDER VARIOUS HEADS IN PLAN SCHEME

GRANT	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	AMOUNT
Model Village Library	9,30,000	9,30,000	9,30,000	9,38,000	9,38,000	46,66,000
Academic Study Centre	8,70,000	8,70,000	9,94,000	9,94,000	9,94,000	47,22,000
Jail Library Services	5,60,000	5,60,000	9,30,000	11,10,000	11,10,000	42,70,000
Juvenile Home Library Service	2,90,000	2,90,000	2,90,000	2,90,000	2,90,000	14,50,000
Orphanage Library	3,80,000	1,90,000	1,90,000	1,90,000	1,90,000	11,40,000
Hospital Library	3,38,000	3,38,000	3,80,000	3,80,000	3,80,000	18,16,000
Hermitage Library	6,72,000	3,36,000	3,36,000	3,28,000	3,28,000	20,00,000
Library Computerization	89,72,000	46,86,000	49,50,000	55,50,000	37,35,000	2,78,93,000
Building Construction – Council Head Office	-	-	2,00,000	-	-	2,00,000
Charithra Shastra Corner	-	-	-	7,50,000	5,65,000	13,15,000
Film Club	-	-	-	9,70,000	4,70,000	14,40,000
Book Grant to Flood Affected Libraries	-	-	-	-	30,00,000	30,00,000
Grant Total	1,30,12,000	82,00,000	92,00,000	1,15,00,000	1,20,00,000	5,39,12,000

The table 1 shows that the highest amount was estimated in 2015-2016 financial year followed by 2019-2020 and the lowest amount was estimated in 2016-2017financial year. The table also shows that the highest amount was estimatedfor Library Computerization followed by Academic Study Centre during 2015-2020 financial years.

UTILIZATION OF PLAN SCHEME: The table given below shows the actual expense of plan scheme under various heads during 2015-2020 financial years.

TABLE 2
UTILIZATION OF PLAN SCHEME UNDER PLAN SCHEME

GRANT	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	AMOUNT
Model Village Library	9,30,000 (7.14%)	9,30,000 (11.34%)	9,30,000 (10.10%)	9,38,000 (23.45%)	9,38,000 (14.46%)	46,66,000 (11.40%)
Academic Study Centre	8,70,000 (6.68%)	8,70,000 (10.60%)	9,94,000 (10.80%)	9,94,000 (24.85%)	9,94,000 (15.32%)	47,22,000 (11.54%)
Jail Library Services	5,60,000 (4.30%)	5,60,000 (6.82%)	9,30,000 (10.10%)	11,10,000 (27.75%)	-	31,60,000 (7.72%)
Junvenile Home Library Service	2,90,000 (2.22%)	2,90,000 (3.53%)	2,90,000 (3.15%)	2,90,000 (7.25%)	2,90,000 (4.47%)	14,50,000 (3.54%)
Orphanage Library	3,80,000 (2.92%)	1,90,000 (2.31%)	1,90,000 (2.06%)	-	1,90,000 (2.92%)	9,50,000 (2.32%)
Hospital Library	3,38,000 (2.59%)	3,38,000 (4.12%)	3,80,000 (4.13%)	-	3,80,000 (5.85%)	14,36,000 (3.51%)
Hermitage Library	6,72,000 (5.16%)	3,36,000 (4.09%)	3,36,000 (3.65%)	3,16,415 (7.91%)	3,28,000 (5.05%)	19,88,415 (4.86%)
Library Computerization	89,72,000 (68.95%)	46,86,000 (57.14%)	49,50,000 (53.80%)	3,51,585 (8.78%)	3,64,800 (5.62%)	1,93,24,385 (47.25%)
Building Construction – Council Head Office	-	-	2,00,000 (2.17%)	-	-	2,00,000 (0.48%)
Charithra Shastra Corner	-	-	-	-	-	-
Film Club	-	-	-	-	-	-
Book Grant to Flood Affected Libraries	-	-	-	-	30,00,000 (46.26%)	30,00,000 (7.33%)
GRANT TOTAL	1,30,12,000	82,00,000	92,00,000	40,00,000	64,84,800	4,08,96,800

The above table shows that the highest amount was utilized during 2015-2016 financial year and in 2017-2018financial year and the lowest amount in 2018-2019 financial year. The table also shows that the highest amountwas utilized for Library Computerization and for Academic Study Centre during 2015-2020 financial years.

MODEL VILLAGE LIBRARY: Model Village Libraries are working in all 14 districts of Kerala State. The main motto of Model Village Library is the rural area development through public libraries. The table-2 shows that around 11.4 % of the total plan fund is utilized for it and in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 financial yearsa good figure is utilized for its developmentin each district of Kerala State.

ACADEMIC STUDY CENTRE: KSLC helps the students and teachers by providing books and other reading materials needed in their teaching learning process through academic study centres. As part of that KSLC selected one public library in each districtforrendering academic services to students and teachers. Out of the total outlay, 11.5% of it is utilized for the development of academic centres in selected public library in each district. Table-2 shows that more amount is utilized in 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020financial years.

JAIL LIBRARY SERVICES : KSLC helps 8 District Jails and 10 Sub Jails in the state to run libraries as its part. It is very useful for the jail staff and inmates. Reading of books and journals give them relief and

good mind. 7.7 % of the total plan fund during the period of study were utilized for jail libraries. The table-2 revealsthat the highest amount is in 2018-2019 financial year and in 2017-18 financial year. There is no amount utilized in 2019-2020 financial year.

JUVENILE HOME LIBRARY SERVICES: The main aim of the Juvenile Home Library Service is the development of the prisoners below the age of 18 educationally and mentally. 3.5 % of the total amount under plan scheme were used for juvenile library. Table-2 shows that same amount is spent in all the financial years under study.

ORPHANAGE LIBRARY :KSLC helps orphanages in the state to develop and maintain libraries in the orphanage for the benefit of the inmates there. 2.3% of the total plan fund for the last five years was utilized for this kind of libraries. The table 2 shows that highest amount is utilized for the development of orphanage library services in 2015-2016 financial year. No grant is given in 2018-2019 financial year.

HOSPITAL LIBRARY: KSLC helpsthe government hospitals to develop and maintain hospital libraries for the benefit of patients and their by-standers. 3.5% of the total amount under plan fund for the last five years were utilized for hospital libraries. The table-2shows that highest amount is utilized in 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018 and 2019-2020 financial years. There is no amount spend in 2018-2019 financial year.

HERMITAGE LIBRARY : Hermitage Libraries in Old Age Homes is another kind of public libraries funded by KSLC in the state. It was started in 2011-2012 financial year. 4.9 % of the total outlay in plan fund for the period under study were utilized for these libraries. The table 2 shows that the highest amount is utilized for the development of Hermitage Library Services in 2015-2016 financial year.

LIBRARY COMPUTERIZATION : KSLC is assisting public libraries for automation and modernization. The main aim of the fund for library computerization is the application of modern ICT facilities in rural libraries in Kerala State. About 48% of the total plan fund for the last five years were utilized for library computerization. Table-2shows that the highest amount is utilized for library computerization in 2015-2016financial year.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION – COUNCIL HEAD OFFICE: As part of the extension of the KSLC office building, fund was utilized from plan fund. 0.5% of the total plan fund is utilized for the purpose. The table2 shows that a small amount is allotted to the construction of state library council head office in 2017-2018financial year and it is not allotted in other financial years covered by the study.

BOOK GRANT TO FLOOD AFFECTED LIBRARIES : An amount is allotted by KSLC for book grant to flood affected libraries during 2019- 2020 financial year. 7.3% of the total fund allotted under plan fund for the years under study are utilized for supporting flood assisted libraries in the state. Table 2 shows that it is given in 2019-20 financial year alone.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PLAN SCHEME : The table given below shows the comparative analysis of budget estimation and utilization of plan scheme under various heads during 2015-2020 financial years.

TABLE – 3
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PLAN SCHEME

GRANT	BUDGET AMOUNT	UTILIZED AMOUNT	AMOUNT NOT UTILIZED
Model Village Library	46,66,000	46,66,000 (100%)	0
Academic Study Centre	47,22,000	47,22,000 (100%)	0
Jail Library Services	42,70,000	31,60,000 (74%)	11,10,000 (25.99%)
Juvenile Home Library Service	14,50,000	14,50,000 (100%)	0
Orphanage Library	11,40,000	9,50,000 (83.33%)	1,90,000 (16.66%)

Hospital Library	18,16,000	14,36,000 (79.07%)	3,80,000 (20.92%)
Hermitage Library	20,00,000	19,88,415 (99.42%)	11,585 (0.57%)
Library Computerization	2,78,93,000	1,93,24,385 (69.28%)	85,68,615 (30.71%)
Building Construction – Council Head Office	2,00,000	2,00,000 (100%)	0
Charithra Shastra Corner	13,15,000	-	13,15,000 (100%)
Film Club	14,40,000	-	14,40,000 (100%)
Book Grant to Flood Affected Libraries	30,00,000	30,00,000 (100%)	0
Grant Total	5,39,12,000	4,08,96,800	1,30,15,200

The above table shows that the full amount was utilized under the heads model village library, academic study centre, juvenile home library service, building construction – council head office and book grant to flood affected libraries during 2015-2020 financial years. There is no amount utilized in Charithra Shastra Corner and Film Club during 2015-2020 financial year. There are some heads under which full amount is not utilized. They include library computerization, jail library, hospital library, orphanage library and hermitage library.

IV.   DISCUSSION

The overall picture of the fund allocation to the twelve programmes under plan fund shows that the amount is allotted considering the importance of the programme. The findings of the study showed that majority of the public libraries had received the highest amount for library computerization than other plan schemes. The library automation programme has got the highest amount in all the financial years covered by the study. It scores more than 47 percentage of the total amount allocated under plan fund. This may be due to the fact that the cost of computer system and other related electronic devices are high and the process of automation is also costly. The second and third highest amount is allotted to academic study centre and model village library respectively. KSLC had allotted more funds to Jail (Prison) library, Juvenile Home Library Services, Hospital Library, Orphanage Library Services, Hermitage Library etc, throughout every year. Assistance to these kinds of libraries shows the care of KSLC towards the inmates in such institutions. These inmates are part of public and they should get library services at their place. Though the KSLC earmarked fund for public libraries, non-utilization of the fund allotted is not good. It shows that the public libraries are not much interested to develop the maximum by utilizing the fund already allotted for them. Therefore, public libraries should try to utilize the allotted fund fully for the purpose for which it is given and also find out more sources of fund including government, private and public sources.

V.   CONCLUSION

KSLC, the official agency for the development and promotion of public libraries in Kerala, is doing well to the upliftment of public libraries in the state. It is good to see that KSLC is taking leading for the development of public libraries at orphanages, juvenile homes, old age homes, hospitals, etc. The inmates of these institutions are part of the public and we have to provide library services to them. Similar to these institutions, people are largely found in major bus stations, railway stations, airports, parks, etc. Introduction of public library services in these areas will surely increase the goodwill of the KSLC and the public at these places will be benefited from it.

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