

# STATUS OF DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY, KURUKSHETRA

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## Abstract

The public library has a great role to play in social education to prepare people for social adjustment. It also offers materials and services to the public understand social phenomena. In this study we inform about library different aspects like staffs, members, collection, timing, finance and expenditure etc.

**Keyword:** Public Library, District Library, Population of community

## 1.0 Introduction

Library form a component of the history of human civilization. Libraries are closely related to intellectual history and as well as to organizational structure of society. The library story of growth and development is an integral part of the story of the peoples being served by it. A library does not exist for its own sake. Its objectives roles, functions, services and kinds depend upon the need of the people served by it. The libraries have responded to these needs. The needs diverse in future, which have grown out of varied conditions existing in a society from period of period. However, there are certain needs that can be identified as basis needs which occur frequently in the story of libraries.

The public library is product of democracy and a practical demonstration in the universal education as a lifelong process. It is back of national harmony, intended to serve the information and educational needs of adults, children, women, blind sick and handicapped, in brief of all without any discrimination of caste and creed. Its positive role on literacy programme has been recognised and demonstrated in developing countries all over the world. It has been rightly called people's university (UNESCO Manifesto, 1949). The vital role that public libraries can play in Adult education programme, National integration, National reconstruction and socio-economic development is well accepted.

## 1.1 Public Library

Public libraries are those libraries which serve the population of a community, free of charge and may serve in general. Public library is a dynamic, living force of the community. It is an institution for the public and the public. The public libraries aim to serve the general public or special category of the public in the community concerned. It is basically a service library which is meant to provide free service or charge a nominal fee for its services.

While defining the public library the UNESCO manifesto for public libraries 1949 and revised 1972 states, "The public library is a practical demonstration of democracy's faith in educational universal education as a continuing and life-long process, in the appreciation of the achievement of humanity in knowledge and culture". It is the principle means whereby the record of man's thought and ideas and the expression of his creative imagination are made freely available to all. It is concerned with the refreshment of man's spirit by the provision of books for relaxation and pleasure.

According to Dr S. R. Ranganathan "a public library is owned and maintained by the public of its area for the socialization of its books and kindred materials for free service to the people of the area."

Encyclopaedia of Library and Information science define that "public library is a public institution supported by taxations, one that opens its collection, facilities and services without distinctions to all".

Haryana Library Act 1989 define public library is a library which permits members of the public to use it for reference or borrowing without charging fee or subscription.

### **1.2 Function of a public library**

A library great or small, privately and publicly supported has two major and unique functions, firstly it makes possible meeting of mind and idea which are not limited by our normal boundaries of time, space, social and economic level. Second great function of a library is that it is the institution in our society which allow and encourage the development, the extension of ideas not their passive absorption but their active generation.

The basic principle of a public library theory is that it must be free of direct charges. It must be free of physical barriers against access of books and its stock must be free of any load of censorship, crediting the reader with the ability to make up his own mind. Such a library is not only a necessary component of democracy, it is an expression of faith in civilization, which no people can hold its own in the struggle for existence. The essential function of a public library is supply to any reader, or group of readers, the book and related material for which they ask or need.

### **1.3 District Public Library Kurukshetra**

District Public Library Kurukshetra was established in December, 1985 at the begning it was established at the municipal Committee premises by Director Higher Education but now it is situated in Sector 13 near telephone exchange Kurukshetra.

The Commissioner Higher Education and Deputy Director Libraries of Haryana at Chandigarh control all the affairs of District libraries. Library has already organized and orientation and refresh courses for the Sr. Librarian and also one short term training courses organized for Jr. Librarian.

Membership fee: there is no monthly or annual fee. Only five hundred rupees is charged as security which is refundable and only ten rupees are charged as replace fund. Kurukshetra District public library issue two book at one time to each registered members

Books are selected in the library by the librarian and Book Selection Committee. Library has adopted DDC scheme 22 editions to classify al its document. Library is allowing AACR-II to prepare catalogue card. Library is maintaining ledger system for keeping records of periodicals. This library is giving all the service like circulation services, reference service, bibliographic service, inter library loan service, carrier guidance service and reservation of books. Library is partially automated and the automation work has under-process. This library has adopted SOUL software package under DELNET. Database of 2900 books has been prepared so far.

### **2.0 Research methodology**

To collect data the questionnaire method was used. This questionnaire contain like library building, staff, members and collection. The questionnaire filled by the librarian.

### **3.0 Data Analysis**

#### **3.1 Organizational Structure**

Kurukshetra district public library has total no of staff is four in which one is professionals and three are non-professionals but trained staff members are not sufficient. This library has a very good seating capacity more than 150 users at a time. The facility of parking and public meeting room also very good. House-wives and senior citizens are less in comparisons to professionals. Students are around fifty percent of the professionals.

**Table 1 Library Collections**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Books</b>	<b>Magazines</b>	<b>Newspapers</b>
1	2881	29711	55	12

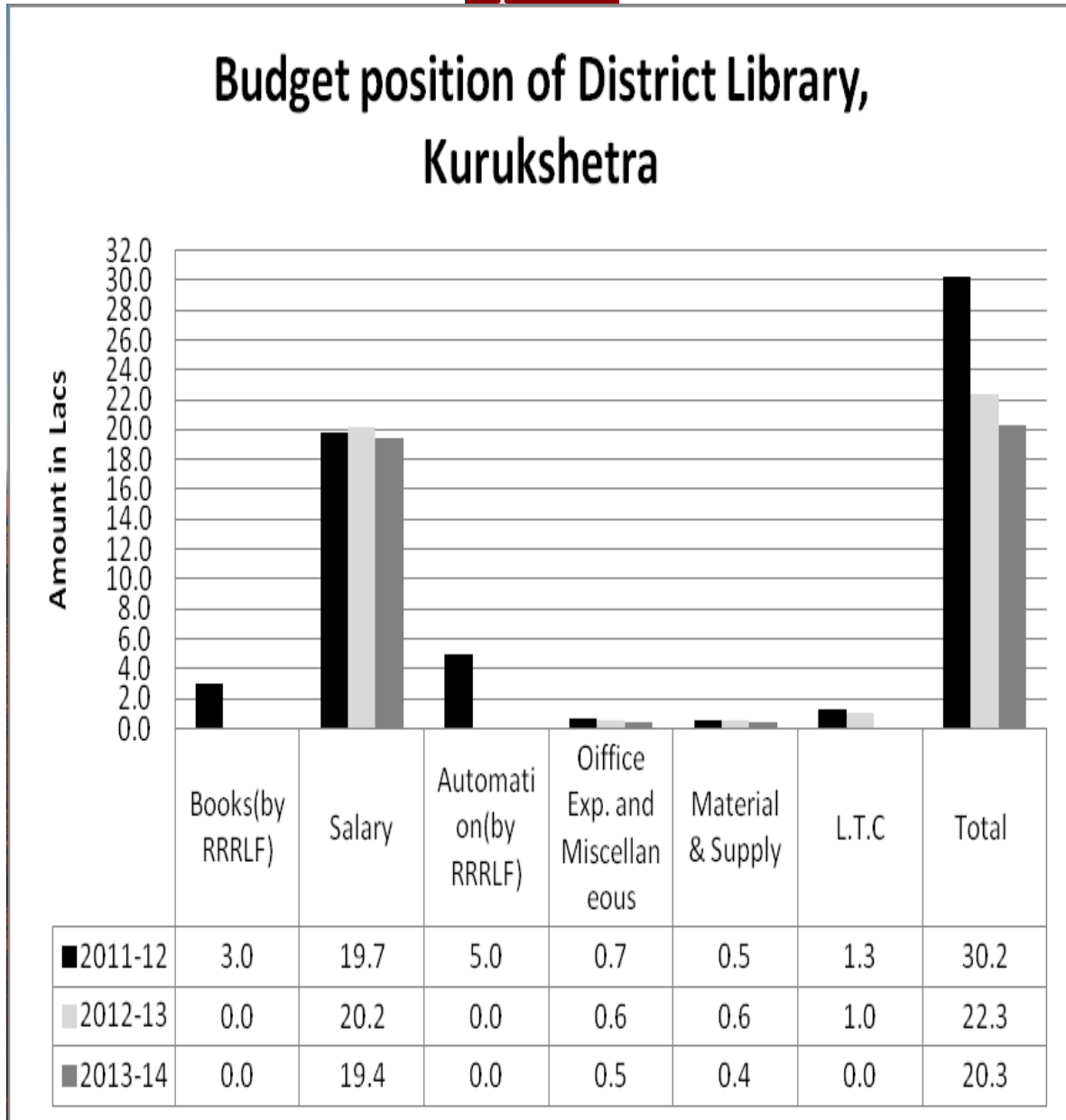
Books are increased by around one thousand every year. Serial publications are increasing by five in number every year and randomly reference books are increasing with fifteen percent annually. In the year 2011-12 total number of books (1206), 2012-13 total number of books and 1279 purchased in kurukshetra district public library. Till June 2014 total collection of this library is 29,711 along with 55 Magazine and 12 newspaper.

**Table 2 -Finance**

Sr. No.	Library Budget	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
1.	Amount in Rupees	3018175	2233045	2028726

There is no grant or financial aid for the central government but the state government is providing regular grant. The national body of public libraries is providing finance help with fixed amount every year and security is also increasing with fifteen percent.

**Expenditure**



The major part of library budget is expended on salary of library staffs which is increased ten percent per year. The library is paying fixed amount of around forty five thousand rupees for the rent of the building.

Miscellaneous expenditure is increasing twenty five percent every year. The library is spending around fourteen thousand rupees on periodicals and newspapers which is increasing twenty five percent annually.

**Table 3 -Library Equipment**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Type of Item</b>	<b>Number of Item</b>
1.	Chairs	150
2.	Tables	15
3.	Fans	14
4.	Rakes	50
5.	Elmira	05
6.	Desert Cooler	02
7.	Water Cooler	01
8.	Computer	02
9.	Catalogue Cabinet	03
10.	Book cases	13
11.	Desk	08

The library has sufficient number of equipment and furniture for its use. But heating and cooling equipments are absent from the library.

#### **4.0 Conclusion**

Library staff and library collection is not sufficient in comparison of library members. The weak section of the library is science and technology and competition books. The main sources of finance of the library are grant from the government of Haryana and Raja Ram Mohan Rai Library Foundation Calcutta. All the major grants are not received in time due to which library activities suffers. All the staff members are fully satisfied with their jobs. Major problem faced by the librarian are lack of funds irregular supply of material and lack of man power. Near future library is planning automated bibliography CAS, automated circulation, reprography service and there is also future plain to provide new computerized identity card to all its members.

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