EXPANSION AND EXTENSION OF LIS EDUCATION IN BANGLADESH: A HISTORICAL STUDY

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Abstract: In Bangladesh Library development started with the formation of professional Association. After journey so many barriers different type of courses is now offered in the Government (Public) University & Non-Government (Private) University level due to introduction of modern technology has been introduced in Libraries and standard of Library service and library education is rapidly growing though it is not up to the standard. Now In every college, university, research institute, Different organization there is a library and trained library professionals with the change of time and development of Bangladesh this profession will go with same speed as like as other profession. This article focuses a historical progress of LIS education in Bangladesh.

Keyword: Library Movement, LIS education, Bangladesh

1.0 Introduction:

Independence of   Bangladesh was proclaimed on 26 March 1971 and after a nine-month war of liberation the victory was won on 16 December, 1971. Bangladesh possesses a rich cultural heritage. Education and Library are two inseparable idea basically related to and co-existent with each other. Neither is an end itself; both together are a means to an ultimate end. A society is gradually transformed by modernization and a balanced emphasis is given on liberal as well as specialized education is the professional education which prepares a particular human being for specific profession. The rapid unprecedented expansion of knowledge in modern technological society has produced a heavy demand on the organizer and disseminator of knowledge, popularly known as librarian and information scientists.

Like several other countries, libraries are part of higher education, research and community life in Bangladesh. It is mandatory for higher educational academies and research organizations to maintain and develop libraries to support their assignment and central activities. Academic, Public and research organization, National, International organization in the country have

Some libraries in Bangladesh are in good condition; however, in most cases libraries suffer from adequate of funds, space and skill manpower. There is no national organization or central coordination body for providing training programmes for librarians of Bangladesh. Besides these are four public, ten private universities and one professional association Library Association of Bangladesh provide LIS courses in Bangladesh.

2.0 Library Movement in Bangladesh

The mass library movement in Bangladesh started with the establishment of four public libraries i.e. Woodburn Public Library, Bogra, Jessore Public Library, Barisal Public Library and Rangpur Public Library in 1854. Subsequently public libraries were established in other district towns and municipal areas of Bangladesh. Some

of these are Raja Rammohan Rai Library, Dhaka (1871), Sirajgonj Public Library (1882), Northbrook Hall Public Library, Dhaka (1882), Rajshahi Public Library (1884) , Comilla Birchandra Public Library (1885), Pabna Annada Gobinda Public Library (1890), Noakhali Public Library (1896), Khulna Umesh Chandra Public Library (1897), Natore Victoria Public Library (1901) etc. These libraries were run and maintained by private initiatives and without any assistance from government agencies. (Ahmed, 1998, p. 39).

Alton that Library movement spread on other parts of the country. This library were established due to native of one or more than one reported person in society contribute on of general public money ,monetary help them local Zamindars and some contribution than the government. But in course of time the movement locks behind as a result the library became dependent on dissimilar, person of social contributors only. As a result after hundred years India was divided the condition of the libraries were very miserable. Private collections of many other Zamindars who migrated to India were mostly damaged and destroyed for lack of proper care. It may be mentioned here that private libraries were not open to all .Only the intimate person of the owner of these libraries could use those books. The government of Bangladesh have felt the need of preserving of rare collection of 'puthis' books for the prosperity. These rare collections would be preserved in the museums In the 1930, Muslim officials established some institute libraries in some district and sub –divisional towns of the country.

In 1953 foundation stone fox central public Library was laid which is now known library as Dhaka university library. In 1968 construction of central public library was started and after completion of work in 1977 it was transferred to the new building. On the other hand some libraries were established with the condition of cannot be said satisfactory. Library movement was started with the slogan that the country will be mined by people and to create learned people there must be library which was stepped by professional library association, different organization and personal intuitive of some reported persons. No library legislation act was passed during the colonial period of British and early period of Bangladesh. Nothing was to be done by the civil society intellectual person though the deplorable condition of library were known to them after independence a commission Education named as Kudrat-e-khuda Education Commission of 1974 made the most favorable recommendations for establishing   and running libraries in Bangladesh to improve educational quality in the country, and to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge by the public. In that commission report special emphasis was given regarding library development of the country. The commission recommended to establish primary secondary, high school, college, university, public library, National library Later on environment for library movement spread with the approval of National education policy, library act, Book policy establishment of library started present there. For running of the libraries competent professional librarian are needed so that library can help to create real educated personnel in order to ascertain efficient service the library professional must be highly educated.

The success movement of removal illiteracy from the country depends on the proper library movement and their by creating reading habit among the citizen. If the people are not encourage to create habit for reading the success of education for general mass educational is bound to fail because the prime condition of mass education is to establish libraries in every corner of neighborhood ,village ,union ,thana ,district etc .The condition of professional association is very important for success of library development.

3.0 Development of Library Education in Bangladesh

The history of library education is not so old it has nearly sixty years. The Library and Information Science education (LIS) in Bangladesh began in 1952 with 3-month training course for the library staff at the Dhaka University Library. The course was discontinued after only one session. Between 1955 and 1959, four 3-month subject-wise training courses were conducted with the help of the supervision of Mr. M. S. Khan, Librarian, Dhaka University Library. These courses drew the attention of a satisfactory number of library staff and persons interested in librarianship. There was no training facility apart from this course available in Bangladesh until October 1958. It was the precursor of regular library education at undergraduate level in Bangladesh. The LIS education in Bangladesh is offered at various level such as Certificate, BA(Pass), BA /BSS(Honors), Post-graduate diploma, MA/MSS, MA/MSS(Evening), M.Phil/MAS, Ph.D degree. These programmes are offered on regular basis as well as through correspondence courses. Details about the types of courses are follows

3.1 Certificate Course (CC):
From the beginning there was no opportunity for professional education in Bangladesh. Though management of libraries is a technical matter. In order to run library and information centre efficiently professional education is a must .The need for foreign training was first realize by founder president of this Association late MS Khan ,Vice president Ahmed Hossain being trained an abroad first. In this circumstance six month certificate was started in 1958 with the initiative of Library Association of Bangladesh (LAB) .This was the first regular educational course in this profession .This course was very

important for creating sub professional in library management of this country. This course has been continuing and now the running course no one hundred one .This course is recognized in employment of government and non-government institution.

4.0 LIS Education in Public (Government) University of Bangladesh:

At Present 4 Public University are conducting LIS Course in Bangladesh namely University of Dhaka is the oldest University where LIS Course was introduced first in 1959 . Later on LIS Department was started functioning at   University of Rajshahi (1991), National University (1999)   and Noakhali Science and Technology University (2016). In this context we can discuss with details about the LIS Education in public university of Bangladesh are gradually:

4.1 University of Dhaka :

University of Dhaka (DU) is the oldest university in Bangladesh. It was established on 1st July, 1921 . It is the largest public university in Bangladesh. In order to create qualified   professional in Library Science a department name ''Department of Library Science '' was created in 1959 and in the session 1959-60 a one year Post Graduate Diploma (PGD) course in library science was started in accordance with the course curriculum of London University. MS Khan then the president of Library Association and Librarian of the Dhaka University was appointed as the head of this new Department. In the session 1962-63 a one year MA Course was started for the PGD holder thus a full flagged department was started under the name '   Library Science'' in Dhaka University. This department was first Library Science in Dhaka University of Bangladesh. In the session 1975-76 MA Course of two years duration was started. One year PGD course in LIS also ran side by side. In the year 1976-77 M. Phil course of two years duration was started in the year of 1978-79 Ph.D course of three to five years duration started. In this way due to initiative of Library Association educational qualification in this field became progress was fulfilled. In the year 1987-88 the name of the Department of Library Science was changed to Department of Library and Information Science and three years honors course was started.In the year 1997-98 the duration for three years honors course changed to four years and in the year 2001-02 the name of the Department of Library and Information Change to Information Science and Library Management(ISLM). Post Graduate Diploma (PGD) courses was discontinue in Dhaka University with starting of Honors course.The University of Dhaka introduced MA (evening) course in LIS from the year of 2005-06.

4.2 University of Rajshahi:

University of Rajshahi (RU) is second largest public university in Bangladesh. It was established in 1953. University of Rajshahi , a one-year PGD course in LIS had been initiated to start in 1991-92. The department Library & Information Science started its journey in 1992-1993 academic session under the faculty of Social Science by Successfully launching a three-year Honour's degree (Bachelor of Social Science, BSS in Short). In 1995-96 academic session the department introduced a one year master program (Master of Social Science, MSS in Short) for its graduates only. In 1997-98 the three year Honour's degree was converted into four year integrated honour's program to carry out demand of the age .By the way the PGD Course certainly stopped due to unexpected cause. The department also offers M.Phil and Ph.D programme from the year of 2006-07. In July, 2007 the University of Rajshahi renamed the Department of Library and Information Science ''Information Science and Library Management '' On the other hand, this Department has been launching two years evening master course (EMSS) from the year of 2014-15 to till now with successfully. Due to tremendous pressure in providing well-trained manpower in library sector, especially for government decision in recruiting library professional in high school and college library ,the department has been restarted one year Post Graduate Diploma Course (DISLM) since 2015-16.

4.3 National University:

National university (NU) of Bangladesh was established in 1992 .From the year 1999 as per approval of National University near about 15 institute are rendering to PGD course in LIS education in different areas of Bangladesh. At Present there are on campus and 27 Institutes are offering one year Post Graduate Diploma course in LIS education under the National University. Another course LIS is included as a separated subject in degree and it is being taught 15 **colleges** of Bangladesh. The Four Year BA (Honours) course of LIS education has been started in Lalmatia Mohilla Colleges, Habibullah Bahar Colleges in Dhaka from the year 2005-06 and 2017-18. The Lalmatia Mohilla College, Habibullah Bahar Colleges and Institute of Education Library Management (IELAM) have taken the opportunity to start MA Courses under the National University. At present Masters of Advance Studies (Equivalent M.Phil) and Ph.D Course in LIS started under National University from the year of 2015-16.

4.4 Noakhali Science and Technology University:

Noakhali Science and Technology University (NSTU) was established in 2006 . The Institute of Information Sciences (IIS) has been established under Noakhali Science and Technology University Act 2001, Section 41 as a constituent Institute with a separate Board of Governors. This Institute is provide one year Post Graduate Diploma (PGD) course in LIS education for the year of 2016-17. The current scenario LIS Education in Bangladesh may be categorized as follows.

Table 1:   Level of LIS Education in the Public University and LAB of   Bangladesh

Level of Education	Nomenclature	Name of Degree	Duration of Course	Offered by
Certificate	Certificate in Library and Information Science	CLIS	6 months	LAB
Post Graduate Diploma	Post-Graduate Diploma in Library and Information Science	PGDLIS	1 year	RU,NU, NSTU
Bachelor	Bachelor of Information Science and Library Management	BA (Hons.)/BSS (Hons.)	4 years	DU,RU,NU
Bachelor	Bachelor of Arts (Pass) (Optional subject)	BA (Pass)	3 years	NU
Master	Master of Information Science and Library Management	MA/ MSS/M	1 year	DU, RU, U
Master ((Evening)	Master of Information Science and Library Management	MA (Evening)	2 years	DU, RU, NU
Research	Master of Philosophy	M.Phil/MAS	2 years	DU, RU,
Doctorate	Doctor of Philosophy	Ph.D	3-5 years	DU, RU,

Library education in Bangladesh is offered at several levels, including certificate, BA/BSS(Honors), Master's, and doctorate. There are at least three (MA, MSS) types of master's degree programs. Duration of courses ranges from six months to four years. The same certificate, diploma, or degree course name, and name of awarding certificate or degree can vary among universities and institutions. Numbers of credits can also vary. Among public universities, the University of Dhaka offers a four-year BA (honors) course, one-year MA, two-year MA (evening), two-year M. Phil, and three to five year Ph.D program.

5.0 LIS Education in Private University of Bangladesh:

There are 131 universities in Bangladesh. Out of these, 37 universities are in the public sector, while the other 93 are in the private sector. There are also some private Universities offering LIS education in this field side by side. Among private universities International Islamic University of Chittagong (IIUC) offers a one-year PGD course in the year of 2009 Isakha International University of Bangladesh, Kishorgonj started one year (Three semester) postgraduate Diploma course in LIS from 2013. Khwaja Yunus Ali University, Sirajgonj has started the PGD course in LIS. Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib university Jamalpur, started one year Postgraduate Diploma in LIS from 2015. Recently Daffodil International university of Bangladesh started one year Postgraduate Diploma In LIS from 2016.Royal University of Bangladesh is also introduced MA course in LIS and Asian University of Bangladesh two-year MA Course in LIS and East west University, Dhaka and Khwaja Yunus Ali University, Sirajgonj has started the Honors course in the year of 2014-15. The present scenario of LIS Education under private university in Bangladesh as follows :

Table-2 : Library and Information Science education Under private University of Bangladesh

SN	Name of the University	Year of Est.	Course Started	Course offered	Duration	Semester	Intake
1.	Asian University of Bangladesh	1996	2010	Masters	2 Years		200
2.	Coxs Bazer University	2013	2014	Diploma	1 Year	02	50
3.	Daffodil International University	2002	2015	Diploma	1 year	03	50
4.	East West University	1996	2016	B.S.S (Hons)	4 Years		40
5.	Feni University	2012	2015	Diploma	1 Year	02	50
6.	Ishakha International University	2012	2013	Diploma	1 Year	03	50
7.	International Islamic University	1995	2009	Diploma	1 Year	02	200
8.	Khwaja Yunus Ali University	2010	2013	B.S.S (Hons)	4 Years	08	30
			2016	Diploma	1 Year	02	50
9.	Royal University of Bangladesh	2003	2005	Master	20 month	05	170
10.	Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Mujib University	2014	2016	Diploma	1 Year	02	60

Conclusion:

Bangladesh is a developing country and its library system is till growing. The ground reality of the present LIS education system in Bangladesh indicates that the quality improvement is essential and unavoidable, not only for its survival but also for facing the major changes and challenges of today and tomorrow. National bodies such as Professional Association and University Grant commission of Bangladesh and Ministry of Education should give serious thinking to find the standard course curriculum, training facility, infrastructure, and accreditation are very much needed.

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