48. PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN DODAMARG TALUKA

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Abstract

In this paper author has discussed the present status and challenges that public libraries in Dodamarg Taluka are facing. Public libraries are the best medium to transform information, knowledge to the community. Users of public libraries are from child to adult. But the public libraries in Dodamarg Taluka are lacking of basic facilities like minimum required infrastructure and ICT facilities.
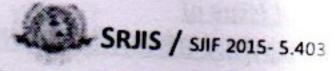*Keyword: Public Libraries, Automation, Dodamarg Taluka*

Introduction: Public library is a local gateway of knowledge. UNESCO public library manifesto (1949) was revised in 1972 and amended in 1995 has defined that public library is a practical demonstration of democracy's faith in educational, universal education as a continuing and lifelong learning process. The manifesto emphasis that

- The public library should be established under the clear mandate of law
- It should be maintained wholly from public fund
- There should be no direct charge for any services
- The public library should be open for free and equal access to all the members of the society irrespective of their age, sex, religion, language, or social status

The manifesto proclaims that the public library is a living force for education, culture and information, and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace and spiritual welfare through the minds of men and women. It is an agency established for providing access to knowledge, information for all purpose of public, it provides resources and services in variety of media to meet the needs of individuals and groups for education, information and personal development including recreation and leisure, they have an important role in the development and maintenance of a democratic society by giving the individual access to a wide and varied range of knowledge, ideas and opinions (Public Library Services, 2001)

Sindhudurg District: An Overview: Sindhudurg district is the southern part of the greater tract known as the 'Konkan', which is historically famous for its long coastline and safe harbours. Sindhudurg district was a part of the Ratnagiri district, but for administrative convenience and industrial and agricultural development Ratnagiri district was divided into Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg with effect from 1st May 1981. Sindhudurg district now comprises the talukas of Devgad, Vaibhavwadi, Kankavli, Malwan, Vengurla, Kudal and Sawantwadi. After 1991, Census new tahsil Dodamarg was created by transfer of 56 villages from Sawantwadi Tahsil. The word 'Konkan' is of Indian origin and of considerable antiquity, though the origin of the name has never been sufficiently explained. The seven kingdoms of Konkan of Hindu mythology are mentioned in the 'Hindu History of Kashmir' and are said to have included nearly the whole west coast of India. The Pandavas, are said to have passed
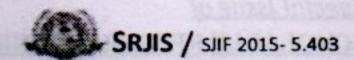
through this region in the 13th year of their exile and had settled in this area for some time. The Raja of this region veerat Ray had accompanied them in the famous war at Kurukshetra with the Kauravas. In the second century A.D. the great empire of Mauryas annexed the entire Konkan coast. In the middle of the sixth century, kings of the Maurya and Nala dynasties appear to have been ruling in the Konkan. The district of Ratnagiri was under the Silaharas and the capital of their kingdom was probably Goa and later it may have been transferred to a more central place in the vicinity of Ratnagiri or Kharepatan. Chandrapur was one of the most ancient towns in Konkan, probably founded by Chandraditya a son of the Chalukay King Pulkeshin II. The 16th century saw the advent and rise of Portuguese power on the west coast of India and Sindhudurg was no exception. The sultan lost hold on the district in 1675 with the rise of Shivaji leading finally into the hands of Marathas. Marathas continued to rule the district till 1817 i.e. when the struggle between the British and the Pashas' came to an end and the whole of Konkan was transferred to the British. In 1819 south Konkan was formed as a separate district with its headquarters first at Bankot and later at Ratnagiri. The three northern subdivisions were transferred to Thane District in 1830 and the district was reduced to a sub-collectorate level under Thane district. In 1832, it was again made a full- fledged district and named as Ratnagiri district. In the year 1945, a new mahal (Tahsil) called Kankavli Mahal (Tahsil) was formed. The former Indian State of Sawantwadi was merged with the district and the Taluka boundaries were reorganized in the year 1949. In the same year the new Taluka of Sawantwadi was created and two new mahals (tahsil) namely, Kudal and Lanja were formed. With the reorganization of States in 1956, the district was included in the Bombay State and since 1960; it forms a part of Maharashtra. The name of the district has been adopted from the famous sea fort of Sindhudurg. This was built by Shivaji Maharaj near Malwan and it literally means 'Sea Fort'. Its construction was started on November 25, 1664 and after 3 years it was completed in such a fashion that it could not be seen easily by the enemy coming from the Arabian Sea.

Public Libraries in Dodamarg Taluka: Dodamarg is a newly formed tahsil place of Sindhudurg district in 1999 and is situated in the lap of Western Ghats and touches the border of Goa and Karnataka state. Dodamarg is basically a hilly region broken by valleys and surrounded by mountains. Dodamarg had played a significant role in Goa freedom Movement. Dodamarg tahsil consists of 56 villages. But it is surprising fact that only 3 villages having public libraries. Muktawar Granthalaya Mandal, Kalne is playing an important role in inculcating reading habits. Followed by Kalne library, Shivshakti Wachanalaya, Zolambe and Dodamarg Taluka Vachan Mandir is trying to satisfy the needs of the community. The following chart show that the actual collection and users of public libraries in Dodamarg Taluka.

Sr. No.	Name of Library	Collection		Library Staff	Member
		Books	Magazine		
1	Muktwar Granthalay, Kalane	20517	23	03	547
2	Shivshakti Vachanalay, Zolambe	3737	06	02	82
3	Dodamarg Taluka Vachan Mandir, Dodamarg	2000	05	02	150

Services Provided by above Public Libraries

- Lending Services to its readers
- Reference Services
- Photocopying Services
- Reading Room Services
- Arranging Book Exhibition
- Arranging Public Lectures
- Celebration of Children's Day, and Festivals

Need of Public Library Automation: Public Libraries work under the Directorate of Libraries. The collection of all the libraries includes Short stories, fictions, and poetries, in Marathi, Hindi, and English languages. Obviously majority of the books are in Marathi Language. The books and other reading materials are not organized in systematic order. So it is very difficult to find out book of specific subject or title or author. Hence it becomes very difficult to provide library services in effective manner to their users. To overcome these problems libraries should get automated.

Library Automation: Automation is a technique to make system or process self active. Library automation requires systematic planning and implementation. Library automation helps library staff for smooth functioning

Definitions of Library Automation: According to the Webster's Dictionary "automatically controlled operation of an apparatus, process, or system by mechanical or electronic devices that take the place of human labour" According to the dictionary.com "automation is the technique, method, or system of operating or controlling a process by highly automatic means, as by electronic devices, reducing human intervention to a minimum"In other word we can say that automation is used to reduce the repetitive works in the library.

Advantages of Automation of Public Libraries

- Accessioning, classification, serial control, retrieval, and indexing can be done using library software
- Issue/ Return can be performed using library software
- Reduce the repetitive work of library staff
- Increase efficiency of library staff

- Save the time of library staff as well as users
- Accuracy and speed in work

Conclusion: The automation will help public libraries to reduce cost of time and labo... automation will help in avoiding duplication of works. For smoothly functioning of ... libraries automation is essential.

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