

Funding Dilemma in Pakistani Libraries: Causes, Effects, Responses

Khalid Mahmood^{*}

Abdul Hameed^{**}

Syed Jalaluddin Haider^{***}

Background

Libraries play a vital role in social and economic development of a country. Libraries also contribute towards better education, healthy social environment, and growth in agriculture, business, and industrial sectors. Their role in national security and other spheres of life is becoming evident as our society is transforming into information society. Libraries are the clearinghouses of cultural heritage. They provide valuable information on vital national issues and in this way they function as national resource such as water and energy. The national intellectual resources contained in libraries makes a nation rich and strong. Keeping this in view wise nations always invest heavily in establishing a network of libraries with modern facilities and technology.

Without finance no service can be continuously provided. In this modern world, democratic governments take the responsibility of establishing libraries. During last two/three

^{*} Dr. Khalid Mahmood is Associate Professor and Chairman at the Department of Library and Information Science, University of the Punjab, Lahore.

^{**} Dr. Abdul Hameed is Professor and Chairman at the Department of Special Education, University of the Punjab, Lahore.

^{***} Dr. Syed Jalaluddin Haider is former Professor and Chairman at the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Karachi.

decades, however, it has been becoming more and more difficult for any government to meet the increasing financial demands of libraries for their optimum functioning. Reasons for this financial stress are multiple, however, an overall recession in world economies had compelled governments to impose financial cut on libraries along with other economy measures. The information explosion has placed increased pressure on already stretched financial resources of libraries. User demands for a kind of new library services have been growing during these decades. They want new material in faster and more conveniently accessible modes. The cost of library materials (books, periodicals, audio-visual aids, multimedia, etc.) is increasing exponentially due to inflation and increasing cost of material.

This problem is more severe in poor economies like Pakistan where libraries have never been provided funding adequate to offer services to their users in a satisfactory manner. During more than fifty years after the independence of Pakistan all plans for library development in the country have proved fruitless due to lack of funding. Library literature in Pakistan is full of negative expressions such as 'inadequate' resources and 'poor' funding. While narrating the miserable conditions of any kind of Pakistani libraries, poor finance has emerged as one of the major deterrent in providing proper library services. "The chief deterrent to their development has always been the lack of money. The improvement of library service in Pakistan is more closely linked to the country's economy than in any other developing country" (Haider, 1975, p. 383). Qureshi (1982) also expressed his concern about low financial support for libraries by considering it as "one of the major factors which hindered library development in Pakistan" (pp. 52-53).

When the funding problem was got worst in Pakistan? In Haider's (1993) opinion, before the mid-1960s libraries received the most favored treatment in the shape of generous budgetary allocations. After the War of September 1965 between India and Pakistan, the national economy was badly affected. Afterwards,

because of political upheaval in the country, and dismemberment of the country, the limited library resources were further curtailed. In the following years, because of the ever-increasing costs of material and galloping inflation, the situation did not improve.

Literature shows that all types of libraries in Pakistan are the victims of this problem. Presenting the picture of university librarianship in Pakistan during 1970s Haider (1983) stated that:

The book budget, truly speaking, has had always been a problem of vital significance to the university librarians, university administration, and even to the students concerned with library affairs. Evidence of this interest could even be seen in the election manifestos of the candidates contesting the elections of university student unions. Despite of all this, the situation with regard to budget allocation for acquisitions of library materials did not change much over the years (p. 211).

Discussing the problems of public libraries in Pakistan, Haider (1996b) considers poor funding as the major cause for their poor state of affairs. He says:

In fact, the crux of the problem lies in the non-availability of adequate financial support for public library services. Funding for public libraries has not been only below the critical amount needed to provide effective services, but irregular, too. Most of the library allocations are spent on salaries; only a small amount is spent on purchase of books. ... The shortage of funds has not enabled these libraries to improve their resources and services (p. 165).

Describing the poor condition of college libraries in Pakistan during 1970s Haider (1983) stated that “there is no practice of definite budgetary provision for library purpose in regular budget of the college” (p. 215). The situation remains same even in 1990s (Haider, 1996a, p. 211)

A study group was set up by the University Grants Commission in 1977 to investigate the problems of degree-colleges in Pakistan. About financial condition of the college libraries they reported that "Library grants are dismally poor and have hardly any relation with the student intake and the present price structure of books" (cited in Khan, 1981, p. 421)

An article by Majid (1993) throws light on funding conditions of agricultural libraries in Pakistan as follows:

Scarcity of funds has always adversely affected the performance of agricultural libraries in Pakistan. The funding situation seems to have further deteriorated in recent years. Most of the agricultural libraries have been operating with a budget of less than US\$1000. Few of them did not have separate library budgets and were using budgets of their parent organizations which themselves experienced financial stringencies (p. 234).

What are the causes of this funding dilemma and its devastating effects on libraries in Pakistan? How did Pakistani libraries respond the funding problem? These questions need serious attention of researchers in the field of library and information science. This study was conducted to answer these questions.

Methodology

This study is based on the review of literature. For literature search standard sources, such as *Library Literature*, *Library and Information Science Abstracts*, *Dissertation Abstracts*, and *ERIC Online Database* were used. Online catalogs of various large libraries, such as Library of Congress, the British Library, etc., and World Wide Web search engines, such as *Google*, *Altavista* and *Yahoo* were used extensively. Various indexes and bibliographies on library and information services in Pakistan were also used. To collect relevant literature the principal researcher

personally visited various libraries in Lahore, Islamabad and Karachi.

Causes

Various factors contribute in the worsening situation of library funding. Some significant reasons are described here.

Economic conditions of developing countries had always been poor. This factor had a bitter effect on library funding in these countries. In his report on *Human Development in South Asia*, Haq (1997) summarizes the poor economic conditions in Pakistan. The following report shows that, in the presence of more severe problems, how libraries can be on the priority of the government.

Over two-thirds of Pakistan's adult population is illiterate. 17 million children were out of primary school in 1995. 60 million people do not have access to health facilities. 67 million people are without safe drinking water. 89 million people are deprived of basic sanitation facilities. There are 740,000 child deaths a year, half of them linked to malnutrition. 36 million people live in absolute poverty (p. 39).

Zaidi (1999, p. 9) also considers these indicators as causes of the failure of Pakistan's economy.

Inflation is considered as a major problem for Pakistan economy. Stating the history of inflation in Pakistan, Zaidi (1999) writes that:

It has historically been rather low. A mere 3.3 per cent across the 1960s, it rose 11.9 per cent on average in the 1970s, and fell again to an average of only 7.5 per cent in the 1980s. Only since the early 1990s inflation has become a matter of concern (p. 283).

P. Hasan (1998) reports that from 1960 to 1995 there has been inflation on an average of 7.8 percent per annum. This situation went worst in 1990s, as he says:

As GDP growth slowed down, inflation accelerated in the 1990s. Between mid-1990 and mid-1996 prices as measured by the GDP deflator nearly doubled, indicating an average annual increase of over 11 per cent. Since mid-1993, prices have increased over 12 per cent per annum. The 1990s have been the worst period of inflation in Pakistan's history with the exception of 1972-7 when prices grew by 15 per cent per annum (pp. 26-27).

Haider (1985) identified the causes of financial stringency in Pakistani libraries in these words:

Expenditures on the acquisition of library materials no doubt show an upward trend, but it is also true that this increase has not kept pace with the rise in cost and escalating inflation. Further, the delinking of the Pakistan Rupee from the U.S. dollar has aggravated the situation even more. This step on the part of the Government ultimately resulted in the devaluation of the local currency against the U.S. dollar. In Pakistan, where the library materials, for the most part, are imported from the U.S.A., this has meant as clear-cut curtailment in the budget allocation (p. 52).

Due to other social problems education is not a priority area for governments in developing countries. Libraries as a part of the educational budget are also being neglected. Education, in general, has always been neglected in Pakistan. Presenting a half-century review of the economics of education, Kardar (1998) says:

The primary reason for the sad way in which education has been disregarded is that the government barely spends \$3 per capita on activities important for human care, compared with \$130 spent by South Korea and Malaysia. One of the

reasons underlying the poor allocations for the social sectors has been the diversion of a huge chunk of budgetary resources to defence. ... The poor outcome, owing to the low priority accorded to education in the government's budgetary allocation, is compounded by weak delivery systems and highly inefficient implementation mechanisms. ... The institutions providing higher education are heavily under-financed compared to institutions in neighboring countries. Colleges spend almost 90 percent to 95 percent of their budgets on staff salaries, leaving meager amounts to pay for operational and infrastructural costs. In the case of universities, 80 percent of the budget is allocated to salaries. ... Universities have hardly any funding for research to even support direct teaching. ... In universities, an average 3 percent to 4 percent of the budget is allocated to research, libraries, and equipment (\$40-45 per student); in fact, the budgetary allocation for libraries is barely enough to buy two new books per student per year. (pp. 46-54).

Haq (1997) feels that the military budget badly affect the financing of development activities. He reports that there are nine soldiers for every one doctor and three soldiers for every two teachers. Commenting the Pakistan government policy about librarianship, Ilyas (1998) says that:

The five year plans are the key documents representing the government's policy for various sectors. Librarianship seems to be almost neglected in these plans, as the libraries are mentioned as a sub-sector of education and the development of librarianship as a profession has been under-emphasized. In most cases the allocations made for the development of librarianship are not given under a separate head. It seems that the potentialities of libraries and librarianship were not recognized in these plans in terms of allocation and utilization of funds (p. 127).

The price increase of library materials has been the most significant reason for sad state of affairs. Pakistani libraries are dependent on import from the U.S. and Great Britain for nearly 90% of their material requirements. Thus price rise of books and journals at a much faster speed has forced these libraries to limit their acquisitions, particularly through the 1980s (Haider, 1996a).

Effects

As each service provided in a library demands proper funding, the financial crisis has affected all spheres of library world. A good library service can only be provided with a comprehensive and up to date collection. Poor funding of libraries and high prices of library materials have severely affected library collections. Now libraries are not able to build and maintain a good collection to properly fulfill the information needs of their users. Rate of new additions is decreasing day by day. Libraries are also forced to buy cheap material which is of less use for their clients. Haider (1983) presents the dismal picture of college library collections during 1970s as follows:

The resources of college libraries are neither adequate nor up-to-date. Their collection consists of largely gifts of organizations and many individuals, and hence of miscellaneous character. Presentation of scientific resources is poor. The ratio of annual addition is just a few titles (p. 215).

The situation is still not improved. In another article, Haider (1996c) repeats the same views about college libraries in Pakistan. In an article on university libraries, Khurshid (1987) says, "because of ever shrinking budgetary allocation, on the one hand, and ever rising inflation on the other, the rate of growth of university libraries is insignificant. They are only making a modest addition in the range of 2000 to 5000 titles per annum" (p. 78)

Reviewing the half-century development of public libraries in Pakistan, Haider (1998) presents the gloomy picture of library collection as follows:

Almost without exception, the existing stock is dated and static as a consequence of chronic budgetary constraints over the years. Some town committee libraries have not purchased even a single title for years from their regular budgetary provision, since it is hardly sufficient to subscribe to one newspaper for six months. Ever-increasing inflation and rising costs of books have exacerbated the situation. Under such unfavourable circumstances an acquisition of 150 to 250 titles per annum is considered an ideal figure by the majority of public libraries (p. 52).

There are also examples of the poor acquisition budget in some individual libraries in Pakistan. The picture of a small public library in Jacobabad, Sindh is painted by Butt & Soomro (1997). During the old good days the library was financed by the subscribers and private donations. After the birth of Pakistan, it is being managed and financed by the local government. "At present no financial budget allocation is made by the Municipality for the purchase of books. Not a single book has been purchased during the last ten years" (p. 58). Inadequacy of resources due to the lack of funds in agricultural libraries in Pakistan is mentioned by Haider (1985, p. 51).

Among various types of library collections periodicals have been the worst victims of financial crisis in libraries. The main reason is the rising cost of periodicals at a rate faster than books and other library materials. Consequently, libraries have to cut their periodical subscriptions. One example of the cuts in periodical subscription in Pakistan is the Quaid-e-Azam University Library at Islamabad. The library was subscribing to 850 journals in 1970 as compared to 318 journals in 1990-91 and 146 in 1991-92 (Hanif & Khan, 1993).

Poor funding has affected the overall quality of library services due to which users suffer a lot. In his doctoral research Ramzan (2002) found that lack of budget is the number one problem in implementing information technology in Pakistani libraries.

Responses

Funding crisis is not new in libraries. Authors who have discussed the issue often suggested to libraries ways to survive in this sad state of affairs. Some responses to the funding dilemma which have been repeatedly discussed in the professional literature are given here.

Various authors recommend that publicly funded libraries should continue to seek for public money. They have suggested the methods of lobbying for getting more money from the public purse. Pakistan Library Association has had always been struggling for the enhancement of library funding in the country. At each annual conference, the Association passed one or more resolutions requesting the government to increase library budgets (Resolutions of the 1st to 8th conferences are reproduced in Khurshid, 1973, pp. 39-66).

After recognizing the poor economic conditions of Pakistan and other pressing national priorities, Haider (1998b) suggests that, "if libraries are viewed as part of the problem and of the solution, and they should lobby effectively for such recognition, then they may receive a more just proportion of the nation's limited development resources" (p. 55).

Cooperation among libraries is also mostly recommended by authors discussing the ways to cope with the funding problem. Suggesting the methods for improvement of medical libraries in Pakistan, Haider (1981) says:

There is no hope of a miracle, at least in the near future, if one keeps into consideration the developmental constraints, particularly insufficient funding, ever increasing inflation

and rising costs of materials. What could be done under the present circumstances? The most obvious solution to the problem lies in welding the existing resources and services into a complete system, popularly known as network (p. 128).

Haider (1985, p. 57) suggests that the only solution of the funding problems in Pakistani libraries is cooperation among them.

Seeking for alternative funding sources is one of the responses which is advocated by a large number of authors. Practice of all types of libraries also shows that this has always been considered as one of the successful methods to cope with financial crisis. Alternative funding includes all funds received from any sources other than the main funding source. For publicly funded libraries the main source of funds is the government which provides money in the form of regular or special grants. Although, as library history shows, libraries have had always been receiving funding from alternative sources but this practice was expanded during and after 1970s when libraries found themselves hard to survive with the meager public funding. Professional literature reports various activities that libraries, throughout the world, carry out to seek alternative funding. The literature also unveils various alternative sources that provide funds for libraries. Major alternative sources include donations, endowments, fines, fees, rentals, and sales.

All the draft acts for public libraries in Pakistan recommend, among other sources of funding, the contributions, gifts and income from endowment; including fines and other amounts collected from readers (Anwar, 1996). Discussing the better use of the resources of agricultural libraries of Pakistan, Majid (1993) says, "Libraries may charge a reasonable fee for their services, to discourage abuse of facilities and also to generate funds to meet running costs of equipment." A survey of Pakistani university libraries, conducted by Khalid (1997), reveals that the role of additional funding sources is small. Ten percent libraries

charge fines, 30% receive grants and 60% libraries receive income from other sources.

Various sources of alternative funding found in literature can be divided into two categories: fees for library service and fundraising. In Pakistan, most of the libraries are part of the education system. Usually, there is no trend for cost recovery in education. Public sector education is provided free or at a nominal charge. Kardar (1998) states that:

Tuition fees range from Rs.0.50 per month for primary education to a maximum of Rs.240 per month for those enrolled in institutions producing doctors. In Punjab, monthly tuition fees is a mere Rs.90 for a post-graduate student, Rs.240 per students enrolled in a medical college and just Rs.50 payable by a student attending an engineering course; which translate to a potential cost recovery rate of less than 1 per cent. These user charges are even lower in the NWFP and Balochistan. ... The amount of subsidy is the highest for the tertiary levels of education. ... These subsidies have also risen over time because cost recovery in the education sector has fallen from 12.7 percent in 1972-3 to 2.9 percent in 1992-3 (pp. 54-55).

Various Pakistani authors recommend cost recovery in education. P. Hasan (1998) says that the quality of higher education has dropped due to low cost recovery. "A much higher rate of cost recovery may help to improve the efficiency of both public and private sector institutions by increasing effective competition between the two which is sadly lacking at present" (p. 66). Kazi (1998) seconds this view by stating that:

One argument made to overcome the funding deficiency is that fees should be increased; and, of course part of the financial requirements should be met through fees. ... In a country like Pakistan, a case can be made for participation of parents and students (p. 265).

With respect to fee-based services in Pakistani libraries no comprehensive survey has been carried out. Only indications of such services are found in some professional writings. The study conducted by Koenig & Goforth (1993) disclosed that 77% libraries in the US, 43% in the Netherlands and 33% in Pakistan were engaged in some kind of cost recovery for library services.

Khokhar, et al (1987) state that university libraries in Pakistan collect fines on return of overdue books. The draft public libraries act proposed by the Technical Working Group in 1984 imposed restrictions on charging for library services except for book reservation, fine for overdue, inter-library loan and making reproduction (photocopy, etc.). This draft was also submitted to the Punjab Secretary Education by the Director General Public Libraries in 1994 (Anwar, 1996).

There is no report of library fundraising activity in the literature. However, mention of donations and gifts are found in general literature of librarianship published in Pakistan. The Pakistan Library Association, on the eve of its 3rd Annual Conference, Dacca, 1960, passed a resolution recommending the organization of friends of libraries in important cities. The objectives of these groups were to be “to organize popular campaigns for creating awareness of and support for libraries and also for collecting funds, books and equipment for improvement and expansion of existing libraries” (Khurshid, 1973, p 42). Whether these groups were organized or not? There is no indication found in literature.

In 1964, the participants of a seminar emphasized the need of seeking donations and gifts from individual philanthropists in the country (*Role of the library*, 1965, p.83). In 1968, the first Director Libraries of the West Pakistan Government sent to the Education Department a draft charter of duties for approval. One of the clauses in this charter was, “to help interested educational institutions in obtaining free donations of books for their libraries from national and foreign sources” (R. J. A. Khan, 1981). Due to unknown reasons this clause was not approved by the government.

Discussing the financial problems of public libraries in Pakistan, Hossain (1972) recommends that fundraising efforts should be started. He says:

We have very little financial contribution by our wealthy people, foundation, etc. Public philanthropy can made a dramatic change in the public library service. We desperately need a Pakistani Carnegie. May be some of our fortunate brother is prepared to contribute a small portion of his surplus wealth for this noble cause but he has never been approached or he has any idea of the services rendered by the public libraries. Let us send a team of librarians for this expedition! If we are not successful in our attempt let us not be disheartened. The mission should be carried all through (pp. 281-282).

Hanif (1972) recommends that public libraries should seek funding, on one hand from the central, provincial and local governments and donations from the people on the other hand. Donovan (1984) found that many of the libraries of Pakistan receive donations. He recommends that “the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development should explore and encourage efforts to have the tax laws amended to give tax credits for donations to public libraries and to libraries of educational institutions” (p. 23).

Recognizing the importance of library fundraising the Government of Pakistan has added it, for the first time in the history of Pakistan, in the policy provisions given in the *National Education Policy 1998-2010*. The policy provides that, “Endowment fund for the development of libraries in collaboration with donor agencies will be created” (Pakistan, 1998, p. 119).

Pakistan Library Association recently has decided to set up an endowment fund suggested in the education policy (*Pakistan Library Association: Introduction, Objectives & Policy Provisions*, n.d.) and launched a campaign. Through a brochure PLA has requested each Pakistani family to donate Rs.10 to this fund. “In

this way an amount of Rs.1,350 million can be raised. Provision of quality books and furniture to the school and rural public libraries will be on priority” (*Pakistan Library Association: Ta’aruf*, n.d.). According to news report, the Punjab Public Library, Lahore has planned to hold a library day to help generate funds (“News Fronts International,” 2000, p.32).

Literature shows that there have not been any concerted efforts for fundraising in Pakistani libraries. Discussing the gifts and exchange activities in university libraries in Pakistan, Haider (1993) comments that:

Acquisition of gifts and process of exchange are the responsibility of acquisition departments in the present administrative structure of university libraries in Pakistan, but there is not much work done in this connection. Excluding casual gifts of single titles by their authors, there are neither gifts fund, as found in Western countries, requiring accounting and book-keeping, nor does the prevailing environment offer many chances for solicitation, particularly in the scientific and technical fields (p. 171).

Majid (1993) gives details of a USAID project in Pakistan which provided 17 agricultural libraries with computer equipment, software, CD-ROM databases, and training. A grant of one million US dollars was approved for this project. Khokhar, et al (1987) mention that:

There are instances of donations in university libraries in Pakistan, but they are not regular. In some cases donations in the form of materials such as books and equipment are received. A good example of this is the British Book Presentation Programme sponsored by the UK Overseas Development Administration through the British Council in Pakistan (p. 30).

The statistics of library collection of the Allama Iqbal Open University, given by M. Hasan (1982), shows that between 1974

and 1982 the library acquired 59.56% of its collections through donations, and only 40.44% books were purchased. The Sind University Library also got material through gifts/donations. Butt (1986) mentions that:

During the year 1980-81 nearly 267 books/publications were received under this head. Most notable among donors was Imam Muhammad bin Saud University, Riyadh, who presented a sizeable gift of 93 Arabic books ... The gift of Urdu books from Delhi University is also worth mentioning. Various learned bodies and research organizations in private and public sector in and outside the country also keep on sending their publications/reports to the library (p. 26).

The library of the University of Peshawar, according to the statistics given by A. U. Khan (1986), received more than 43,000 books through gifts and exchanges from 1951 to 1982. In Anwar's (1983) survey of urban public libraries of Pakistan, it was found that 30 out of 68 libraries received books through donations. Eleven libraries received book gifts from the Asia Foundation. Some other libraries got books from organizations like M. Ibrahim Trust, Karachi, U.S.I.S., Franklin Publications, Rifa't Sultana Memorial, UNESCO, individual philanthropists and general public (pp. 72-73). The General Library at Sukkur received every year a cash donation of Rs.10,000 from Hakeem Saeed of the Hamdard Foundation. This donation was stopped later. "The 1992-93 annual report of the library contains more than one hundred names of institutions, newspapers, and individual lovers of this library who supported the library with the donations in shape of cash or books" (Butt, Soomro, & Gangani, 1996, pp. 56-57).

Moreland (1961) introduces the Asia Foundation's program known as Books for Asian Students. Under this program, during just one year, 75,000 books and 15,000 journals were donated to libraries in Pakistan. The 1998 annual report of the Asia Foundation shows that its Books for Asia program distributed

503,000 books to 4,242 libraries in 13 Asian countries (The Asia Foundation, 1998, p. 21).

The British Council opened its first library in Pakistan in 1950 in Karachi. Branch libraries were also opened afterwards. According to Evans (1961), "In addition to the books in its own libraries, a large number of books and periodical subscriptions have been presented to many institutions, university libraries and schools throughout the country."

Various international organizations have been granting money for the development of libraries. Haider (1993) names some of them:

Some organizations like Food and Agriculture Organization and World Health Organization, have helped the Agricultural University at Faisalabad, and the Faculty of Health Science at the Aga Khan University respectively, to enrich their collections by providing their own publications. The British Council has also helped several libraries to procure British periodicals by paying subscriptions on their behalf and by donating books and periodicals. Ford Foundation too, is assisting Pakistan Institute of Development Economics and Applied Economics Research Centre, University of Karachi, in this regard (p. 171).

Anwar (1972) mentions the role of various foreign organizations and projects that contributed a large in the development of libraries and librarianship in Pakistan. These include the Colombo Plan, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Asia Foundation, and the USAID.

Ahmad (1984) notes below some of the donations given to the Pakistani university libraries.

In 1978, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, received an allocation of 900,000 rupees under the Hungarian Barter and 600,000 rupees under the West German Loan. Out of this special aid, the vice-chancellor of the university

granted 500,000 rupees for the purchase of library materials. ... The University of Karachi, on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee, was not only granted cash gifts from a number of commercial organizations, but Kruddson Ltd gave a complete set of the McGraw-Hill *Encyclopedia of Science and Technology* to be placed in the library (p. 114).

In 1975, the Netherlands Government initiated the Netherlands Scientific Literature Project (NSLP) with the aim of providing scientific literature support to university libraries in Pakistan. From 1975 to 1990, some 3.5 million Netherlands Guilders of the Dutch bilateral allocation for Pakistan was committed to this project. In 1991, this project was converted into the Netherlands Library Development Project (NLDP) with the broader scope of activities. Till 1996 NLDP was active in the development of various areas of librarianship in Pakistan particularly in the development of information technology in the form of providing hardware, software, and assisting in expansions of training facilities to libraries (Mahmood, 1996).

Mughal (1985) summarizes the role of UNESCO in the development of librarianship in Pakistan. UNESCO had been instrumental in the establishment of many important agencies and organizations in Pakistan such as Pakistan Bibliographical Working Group (PBWG), National Book Centre of Pakistan (NBC)/ National Book Council of Pakistan (NBCP), Pakistan Scientific and Technological Information Centre, (PASTIC), Regional Office of Cultural and Book Development in Asia (ROCBA), and UNESCO Regional Centre for Reading Material in Asia. UNESCO also organized some training courses from time to time for Pakistani librarians. On the request of the Pakistan Government UNESCO invited experts to formulate plans for library development in Pakistan.

In 1989, a network of business and economics libraries of Lahore (LABELNET) was set up with the joint sponsorship of International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada and

the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). Under this project bibliographic databases were established, union list of serials was published, an inter-library loan system was set up, and training to the staff of participating libraries in information technology was imparted (Riaz, 1990).

To provide assistance to libraries in the Punjab province, the Punjab Library Foundation was established in 1985 with a capital of Rs.100 million. In the shape of books, furniture and equipment the Foundation has allocated, between the years 1986 and 1991, Rs.56.4 million to 237 public libraries of the province. Other projects of the Foundation include training, workshops, prize competition for research articles on librarianship, publication of books, computerization, free textbook service, award of foreign scholarships, and a mobile library service (Taj, 1991).

Conclusion

Literature on funding problems of Pakistani libraries reveals that poor economy of the country, inflation, low priority to education and price increase of library material are the main causes of this dilemma. The effects of poor funding include inadequate collection, cuts in periodical subscriptions and poor quality of library services. Various responses to the funding dilemma include continuation for seeking public money, cooperation among libraries and seeking for alternative funding sources.

Fee-based library services and fundraising are the forms of alternative funding in libraries. Literature shows that there is some awareness about this method of funding in the country and some examples are found but no concerted effort was made in this regard. Pakistani libraries have a great potential for alternative funding. This method can lessen the funding problems of libraries if decision makers give priority to it and carefully plan for this.

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