

## Gujarat Public Libraries Act: A Critical Study

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### *Abstract:*

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*Gujarat public libraries Act can be observed that in the matters of definition, state, district and taluka library council it has good, but financial position is very poor, because no provision for library cases.*

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**Key World :** *Library - Public Libraries – Legislation - Library Legislation - Act (Library)*

- **Library Act :**

Library Act can be considered as the enactment law favoring the maintenance of public libraries.

National Library Act is such a law or institution enacted are federal or Provincial level which is aimed at searing, developing and sustaining the assets at the Library in avdev that the same may be used by people at large.

- **Objectives of Library Act :**

Advisory committee for Libraries (1958) has stated the objectives of Library Act as below.

1. To collect and presence authentic information and entertainment materials.
2. To arrange and organize Library materials in such a way that the use st the same may be optimized.
3. To Motivate uneducated student to become educated and educated student positive in attitude.
4. To facilitate financial provisions for free Library service.

- **Gujarat Public Libraries Act : Historical perspective :**

Library activities in Gujarat are altogether indebted maharaja Sayajirao Gayakwad. The evedit of sowing the seeds of public library goes to erudite, philanthropies, benevolent and visionary ruler maharaja Sayajirao Gayakwad. The denisens of Gujarat still cherish his golden age.

Maharaja Sayajirao pioneered the library movement in 1910. He gave famous slogan 'Where there is village, there is library.' Not only that but also he realized this slogan in practical terms. Libraries can develop only when there are trained employees and hence he invited W. A. Bovden from America to train the local work force. That the vision and mission of maharaja was commendable and library world will always be obliged to his majesty. He identified the significance of Library in the state albeit no concrete measures were taken.

Prior to 1960 Gujarat was the part of proud Mumbai state. An exertive council was appointed for library activity of Mumbai state (1939) Dr. Rangnathan Furnished public Libraries bill and library development plan and submitted to the government in 1944. But it was not followed up at all.

Dr. Rangnathan came to attend the silver jubilee festival of M. J. Library in 1964. On this occasion, he had a dissension on the importance and necessity of library Act with then chief minister of the state. Paring influenced by the dissension, the CM asked the education minister to appoint the council for formulating the agenda of the act, Govt. of Gujarat appointed one council under the chairmanship of then education minister Shri Indumatiben Shah. This council prepared the agenda with the help of leading library endure and submitted the same to the government which was accepted in principle without any financial endorsement by contemporary CM Dr. Balvanrai Mehta but it saved no purpose without financial provision, Moreover there remained on scope for dissension regarding it on account of sad demise of C M in accident consequently this attempt could not be fully accomplished. After the 13 attempt the Gujarat Public Libraries Act has been pass in 31 August, 2001.

• **Characteristics of the Gujarat Public Libraries Act : -**

1. It is quite appreciable that clarification of maximum number of library related matters are comprised in definition at the beginning of the act.
2. Not only conventional books but also printed and non-printed matters in them are invaded in the definition of books which are core at library. Also computer which is the vehicle of information age today has been rendered priority. This a comment dable effort is made as keep pace with modems technology and simtaneonsly, the intellectual treasure of India Manuscripts are also not forgotten. Hence the sublime traverse of library is from manuscript as e-book which is really exemplary.
3. Gujarat state Library council is an integral factor as entire act. It is the merit of of the act that recognizing the significance of the council the act presents the comprehensive and adequxe information about it in chapter 2 immediately introduction.
4. The invasion of Gujarat Library Academy and Gujarati Literary council and their chairmen in the act as really praiseworthy which shall play a vital role in Gujarati Literary world. The synergy of Gujarati Littérateurs and leaved librarians will prove to be efficacious in furnishing and organising bibliographies of scattered library wealth. It would be pioneering in the field od literature if the government should undertake the project unitedly by appointing the provisional committee confined to different spheres or by establishing separate department for the same. The professional competence of erudite libraries will enshine and they will have self realisation.

5. An attempt is made to remove ambiguity by delineating the scope of “Gujarat State Library Development Council”
6. There is a provision that govt. will facilitate the headquarter of ‘Gujarat State Library Development Council’ in Gandhinagar or anywhere in the state, so it can be perceived that govt. does not give importance at Gandhinagar only but also arouse faith and confidence in citizens other than of capital through regionalizing its foundation. In a way the library act will be helpful in bringing about enormous public awareness.
7. Section 15 envelopes the provision of constituting the advisory committee of district and taluka libraries. Adequate number of sub-sections is allotted for the committee members and as the act is crystal clear regarding the same there remains no question of complication.
8. The titles in themselves district and taluka library advisory committees stand for their nature as advisory.
9. It is a welcome factor that – besides library experts. The representation of primary secondary and higher education is maintained in member of advisory committee of district library.
10. The formation of Taluka library advisory committee will benefit the development of taluka libraries.
11. The provision of females librarian representation in district library advisory committee and taluka library advisory committee exhibits the noble tendency of government as harmonize all segments of society and its commitment at women empowerment.
12. Chapter – 4 of section – 13, has the provision to establish new libraries.
13. The duties and responsibilities of public library director are well defined.
14. There is a provision of government donation for development, management and maintenance of public libraries and a provision of “State Library Development Fund” which is very important on account of which a regular source of income has emerged for public libraries.
15. It is essential that its employees ought to be well equipped with sophisticated technology in order that libraries may keep pace with shifting sands of time. For this purpose, training classes and financial provisions are chalked out.
16. The act also specifies and depicts the blue print of developmental project to be followed by the director so that public money may not be squandered and remain beyond the clutches of director’s nepotism.
17. The director has to use funds after negotiating with govt. as it clearly mentions who and with whose counsel money will be spent.
18. It is the responsibility of library director to give affiliations to unions in Gujarat Library Act. Only two sections of the Act 20-21 precisely clarify. The affiliation of the unions which shows precision and conciseness of the act.
19. Coordination will be sustained in library activities as the director is obliged to formulate taluka and district library advisory committees.
20. There is a provision to appoint two persons having the minimum experience of 10 years in higher education in State Library Council. Which is admirable on the part of government?

• **Limitations of the Gujarat Public Libraries Act :**

1. When will the act be executed? The act has been passed after 54 years of independence but it is still delayed. No specific time milestone is set for the implementation of act. As a result of which it has still not been implemented although its bill was passed in 2001.
2. In statute-2, the different aspects concerning library are defined up to sub sections (a) and (x). Have, book, book distribution center, book service center, council, director, district, education council, distribution service, library, library services, library members, local bodies, municipal school heard municipality, resolved chairman, public library, public library system, public library union, law regarding local triodes, rules, state taluka and year have been defined part no order is observed in the avengement of the same. For instance, district is location specific which stands for area. It is placed under subsection (f) of section 2. whereas state and talika have been defined in last subsections (v) and (w). Realisation seen, the terms state district and taluka must be put in order as per heavenly. Accordingly the section (C) is for director whereas the chairman of the same body is incanted under (P). Which could have been defined in the same sequence of designtories?
3. The definition of public library solely depends on the desertion of the government which exhibits the willfulness of government.
4. Whether “Gujarat state library development council” is a counselor or body is not specified.
5. Among total 19 members of “State Library Development Council”, only & members (C+2) belonged to the world of library are inclined which comprises of the secretary in charge of library and 1 person related with book publication. They occupy 40.10 percent position which is less than 50 percent. It speaks volumes of the intentions of government and it is very unfortunate that libraries and libraries are not given o any given any important position in the council and thus neglected.
6. No representation of higher education is retained as no university of the state has been involved in the council.
7. Likewise district and taluka library counseling committees, Woman representation could have sustained in state library development council.
8. In section 6a ‘The tenure of the council members will be as long as government wishes.’ But governments may offer change in democracy which is detrimental to the stability os council, Moreover no council can work efficiently in the absence of stability of members.
9. There is a provision for establishing new libraries in chapter-4 of sections 13-14 but it has not been mentioned that has much finance will be allotted for the same. The management if such libraries is assigned to the director but no specifications such as the emplaces of different levels and the amount of library materials.
10. No clarification is done that accepting designated members of District Library Counseling committee and taluka counseling committee, how other members will be selected. Nothing is specified whether such members will be appointed by government or will be selected through elections or through any other method.
11. Budgetary specifications such as “How much will be allotted by government in State Library & Development fund”? And how much raise in finance will be endorsed to meet inversing number of expresses of library such as salaries and reading materials are missing from the act.

12. It cannot be understood why the library tax is not included in the act. Prior to enactment, the mentors of the act much have studied the contemporary acts. It lacks of library tax which is convened with the library. In given Library stances, if the government policy proves weaken in allotting finance it is doubtless that the act will be ineffective.
13. The structure of libraries include only state central library. District Libraries and Taluka Libraries. Whereas village Libraries, branch Libraries, Mobile Libraries and financed Libraries are neglected and not mentioned anywhere.
14. The act sceuls to be gripped by government as only Director and government only diminishing it. It raises a question whether it can be called democratic.
15. Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation is the organization which financially aids public libraries in India but ironizally no member of this foundation is included have.
16. Finance department, Cultural department etc. are related with public library. Inspire of this state library development council lakes of the presence cultural secretary.
17. The director is designated to the highest position in the act but the act does not specify any professional eligibility criteria for the same.
18. It would have been quite befitting if the director of state library development council. Had been historical treatises or any archeological co-ordinator or the similar candidates had been made members of the council. Such provision can be found in section 4 (2f) of Gloa Act.
19. Members of legislative assembly have been given position in the council. But the Member of Parliament also needs to be included in state library development council. So that appropriate representation of public libraries can be done in parliament and optionary financial aid can be sought for its development.
20. The act also lacks of city Library counselor.

• **Suggestions for sound Gujarat Public Libraries Act :**

**(A) Membership and Library Act :**

In the provision of allocation membership to the members in various governing bodies of library at any level (State, District, Taluka, Village) the membership should be allocated under the strict observance of all the three ways as, membership by designation, membership by election and membership by direct appointment by government.

Membership by designation delivers stability, expertise in government procedures and simplicity process. Election system is the backbone of democracy which sustains the representation of people at large. At the same time the learned lobby always try to keep away from the will entered in election. However, when they do not passes the designation which is stipulated for membership, it is essential that public libraries of the state dedicated to learning and knowledge should automatable missionaries of the sphere of education I appointed try the government.

**(B) Library Professionals :**

1. Maharaja Sayajirao established public libraries in hamlets falling under the reign of gaikwad which are seen halt closed today on account of lock of employees. As government appoints village servant and village accountant, the librarian having the

equivalent pay seven of primary teacher should be appointed in these libraries. (Eligibility : Bachelor of Library and Information Science) Likewise the government appoints teachers in enormous strength, the appointment of Librarians as the integral part of education is quite necessary.

Most of the public libraries, dormant in prevailing times have been hat in the custody of school and school teacher of the respective village consequently such libraries are scantily utilized. Hence the appointment of independent librarian becomes indispensable for realizing the objectives of library in true sense. It is undeniable fact that such librarian proves to be much superior to a teacher.

2. Besides village libraries the employees of different calves and levels should be time to tome recruited in taluka, district, city and state central libraries.
3. In appointment of director of state public library convention, the highest credentials of professional eligibility ought to be insisted upon.

**(C) Library Services :**

1. There ought to be a provision to send for minimum two wples of a given book from the printers under press and registration of books Act. out of which one should be kept as a reference book to be read in the library hall so that the cultural heritage of the state can be preserved at one place. This reference section should be separate one exclusive and accompanied with bibliography and cataloguing. For this purpose government should also appoint expert bibliographers.
2. Bibliography presents the graph of state library heritage. Bibliography is the only yardstick at measure who is prosperous and who is pauper in comparison with the intellectual and literary wealth of distinct states of India and abroad. However translation is the only way to prove that our literary heritage is not only capable of standing par once with that at world but also the best. It is necessary to translate our great works in the language that world can understand instance Saraswati Chandra novel by Govardhanvam Tripathi is powerful enough at stand with any best literature of the world. But it is possible to prefect ‘Saraswati Chandra’ in the international arena only if it is librated from the constraints of language though translation such plenty at literature has been deprived of the privilege at enter international frontier due to lack of translation. To mealier this vision, the state central library should facilitate translation department and translation experts have as in appointed.

**(D) Financial Aspects :**

The major obstruction on the way of realizing the fun fledged development of state libraries is constantly fell financial scarcity to overcome this scaveity the multi faceted efforts can be made as under.

1. To make provision for levying as library tax and keep raising its amount.
2. In addition to library tax 5% amount of total education budget or 1% amount of total budget of the state must be allotted to libraries.

ENM at 5 % amount of the state education budget cannot be allotted every state of India need to follow the instance of karala and Goa which besides library tax allots

1% amount of the state amount education budget to libraries (Nat move than 1% in Kerala and 1 % in Goa) of course instead of blindly following the same constant vaise should be done in it with the rise in inflation rate.

3. It ought to be declared by the government that specific sum of money should be deposited in library fund from the grant endorsed to members of legislative assembly and members of parliament.
4. The condition to deposit stipulated sum of money in library fund should be indispensably included in terms and conditions of MOU of newly established industrial projects in the state by Reliance, Adani, Essar, Tata New Project.
5. A provision should be made as compulsorily aquifer some fixed amount from the reserved education fund of co-operative banlas and other co-operative projects / societies to library fund.
6. Government is privatising varied segments to bring about quality in work and increase production. The sale of any public sector as private sector should be fulfilled only on condition that the purchased will have to deposit some specific sum of money as library fund of state or centre. For instance, A leading chemical enterprise IPL at Vadodara way purchased by Reliance So, it should be the prerequisite that Reliance deposit the amount stipulated by govt. to library fund for five years.
7. A system should be set to send the amount stipulated by govt. form the reserved funds of profiteering units in the state such as GNFC and GSFC to library fund.
8. India is land of saints and hermits.

Which can be paraphrased as saints dedicate their entire life to philanthropy? Benevolence and empathy are natural with saints. Saints and hermits of this soil have conducted a number enormous discoursed and delivered the fiscal outcome to the poor. Its most authentic example is renowned lions Hospital of Mehsana. Hourabu saint mas Indiraji founded this hospital as the part of her philanthropic mission. Today the same hospital is known as “Hospital of Indiratrtji.” Later it was named as ‘Lions’ pious and honoree Late. Dongaraji Maharaj also organized discoursed for the of philanthropy.

Likewise local bodies also should organize discoursed of saints and harmit for the benefit of “State Library Movement”

9. There should be a provision as transfer some fixed part of income of government undertaken religious phaces and shrines, may be Hindu or Muslim to Stet Library fund.

For instance some fixed amount of money may be provisioned to transfer from Ambaji Temple in Gujarat, the shrine or Ajmer, Tirupati Balaji Temple in Andrapradesh and Golden Temple in Amritsar of course Library Act is not passed in Punjab but whenever such provision can be made.

10. Local prodies should attempt to motivate philanthropic organisations such as Rotary to become keen to support Libraries. For instance Rotary Patan City donated Rs. 1100000/- (Eleven Lacs) to HNGU Library at Patan its paraphernalia.

11. The local library bodies should also make efforts to inspire and persuade local Businessmen Industrialists and landlords to contribute as the cause of foundation of libraries.
12. Motherland is superior to Heaven. A person may inhabit any corner of the world but one's motherland always pulls. The love for one's soil always inspires him/her to do something for her. The honorable CM has been successful in orienting NRIS towards Gujarat. Through organising vibrant Gujarat programme as such as Navratri, Kite Festival and Desert Festival.

Libraries also had better think in this regard. Local Library bodies should invite local NRI as respective library and make him/her actively collaborate with the library movement.