

Raja Rammohan Roy Library foundation, India: A Study

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The year 1972 is a significant year in the history of library movement in India. It was bicentenary year of birth of Raja Rammohan Roy as well as silver jubilee of independence. It was also an international book year. Department of culture, Government of India established Raja Rammohan Roy Library foundation on May 1972 to spread library services all over the country in cooperation with the governments, union territory administrations and other agencies and organizations working in this field. RRRLF promotes public library movement in India.

RRRLF is central autonomous organization established and fully financed by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. RRRLF is registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961. It is the nodal agency of the Government of India to support public library services and systems and promote public library movement in the country commensurate with the objectives as embodied in its Memorandum of Association.

The supreme policy-making body of RRRLF is called the Foundation. It consists of 22 members nominated by the Government of India from amongst eminent educationists, librarians, administrators and senior officials. The administrative and financial affairs are looked after by the administrative committee. The Minister of the Department of Culture, Government of India or his nominee is the Chairman of RRRLF. Professor Brij Kishore Sharma is the present Chairman of RRRLF and Director General is the executive head and ex-officio Member-Secretary of the Foundation.

The Foundation functions in each State/Union Territory through a machinery called State Library Committee (SLC). The Foundation works in close association and active cooperation with different State Govts. and Union Territory

Administrations through a machinery called State Library Planning Committee (SLPC/SLC) set up in each State at the instance of the Foundation. To participate in Foundation's programmes, a State Government/U.T. is required to contribute a certain amount fixed by the Foundation.

Since 2005-06 the Foundation has also taken up the initiative to develop the District Youth Resource Centre (DYRC) in collaboration with Nehru Yuvak Kendra Sangathana, an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs.

RRRLF renders assistance to public libraries in different states and Union Territories under its various schemes. It is also a grant giving activity. It supports research projects and surveys. It organizes special seminars, workshops and special lectures. It provides consultancy services in initiating a publication program and in developing specialized library. The most important initiative taken by RRRLF relate to the drafting of the National Policy on Library and Information System i. e. NAPLIS.

The memorandum of the foundation has listed 29 objectives out of which the most significant 10 are given below:

1. To promote the library movement in the country.
2. To enunciate a library policy and to work towards it.
3. To help build up a national library system integrating the services of national, state and central libraries, also the district libraries, other types of libraries and specially through interlibrary lending system.
4. To propagate the adoption of the library legislation in the country.
5. To provide financial and technical assistance to libraries.

6. To extend financial and technical assistance to library associations and other organizations engaged in promotion of library development in country.
7. To support compilation and publication of a directory of libraries, Union catalogue, subject bibliographies and documentation lists.
8. To establish regional Library service centre.
9. To act as a clearing house of ideas and information for library development in India and abroad.
10. To advise the Government of India on all matters pertaining to library development in the country.

The foundation is fully financed by the Government of India, which gives it annual grants based on the estimated expenditure and the program of activities planned for the year. Following activities are carried out by RRRLF for the development of libraries in the country.

1 Book Assistance Program

In the book assistance program the foundation has been operating book assistance to the libraries since earlier. The assistance rendered under certain schemes like assistance towards building up adequate stock of books and reading and visual materials to develop the rural book deposit centers and the mobile library services. Secondly, assistance towards centrally sponsored libraries and assistance to the state central libraries and district libraries directed by the foundation.

2 Assistance toward building up adequate stock of books and reading and audio-visual materials.

This program has been subdivided into two parts depending upon organizational pattern as well as the level of readership they serve

- 1 Assistance to state and the district libraries.
- 2 Assistance to town and rural libraries.

The SLPCs are responsible to make list of libraries and books to provide assistance. Foundation provides guideline to the committee for the selection of books. These guidelines emphasize selections of books on India, reference books, children's books, creative literature, popular science and the literature for neo-literates.

3 Assistance towards development of rural books deposit centres and mobile library services.

The foundation is giving grants in the form of cycles, rickshaws, trucks, etc to all the established libraries and libraries involved in social services. This facility is given to circulate books to all readers in cheaper way. Where the library service has no villages, door to door service is to be organized in cooperation with voluntary or paid workers implementing adult education program.

4 Assistance to centrally sponsored libraries

The central department of social welfare under its youth service program has established Nehru yuvak kendras at various district headquarters of the country for welfare of non student youths between 15 to 35 years. Nehru Yuvak Kendra supports recreational activities, adult education program and to run circulating library services through rural youth clubs. Bal bhavan kendras in big cities for the education in slum areas.

The headquarter of RRRLF is at :

Block-DD - 34 , Sector - I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700 064.

Phone Nos. (033)2337-3463 & 64 / 2359-2583, Fax 91(033)2337-3465

E-mail Address : rrlf-wb@nic.in

RRRLF has four zonal offices .These are located as following:

North Eastern zonal office is situated at :

District Library Guwahati Annexe Building

Dighilipukhuri, Ambari

Kamrup (M), Assam

Guwahati - 781001

Western zonal office is situated at:

State Central Library Town Hall

5, Bhagat Singh Marg

Mumbai 400 023

Phone : (022)2261 2360

Northern zonal office is situated at:

H-1461 (Second Floor),

Chittaranjan Park,

New Delhi 110 019

Phone : (011) 26271766

Southern zonal office is situated at:

Devaneya Pavaaner

District Central Library Building

(LLL Building)
735 Anna Salai (Ground Floor)
Chennai 600 002
Phone: (044)2841 1843

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