

Development of Tribal Libraries Role of Kerala State Library Council (KSLC)

Anish I¹; Dr. Abdul Majeed K.C.²

Research Scholar, (Library and Information Science) School of Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala¹; Head and Associate Professor, Department of Library & Information Science Kannur University, Thavakkara P.O. Kannur, Kerala²

anishknlr@gmail.com, kcamajeedfc@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

In the present study the investigator attempted to identify the role of KSLC for the development and promotion of tribal libraries in Kerala. Data were collected from the annual report of the Kerala State Library Council published during 2014-2020 financial years. The findings of the study found that KSLC played an important role in the development and promotion of tribal libraries in Kerala. The highest amount is received as grant by tribal libraries from Kerala State Library Council during 2018-2019 financial year and the tribal libraries in Idukki district received the highest grant during 2014-2020 financial year.

KEYWORDS: Tribal Libraries, Kerala State Library Council, Grants.

INTRODUCTION

Public Library is an agency working for rural development in the state. It undertakes an important role and responsibility for uplifting the backward community especially in tribal areas. Kerala State Library Council give different grants for libraries in tribal areas. The main motto of tribal libraries is to provide informal education, awareness about preventing drug abuse for tribal communities, etc. Tribal Library Grant, Edamalakudy Tribal Panchayath-Special Project, Munnettam-Tribal Library, Niravu Kalamela etc., are the different heads under which grants are provided by Kerala State Library Council to the public libraries located at tribal area. A study was conducted to know about the assistance given by the KSLC to public libraries functioning in tribal areas of Kerala during the financial years of 2014-2020.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Anish & Abdul Majeed (2021) made an attempted to identify the role of Kerala State Library Council for the development and promotion of public libraries in Kerala. Data were collected from the annual report of the Kerala State Library Council published during 2015-2020 financial years. The findings of the study shows that Kerala State Library Council played an important role in the development and promotion of public libraries in Kerala State.

Development of Tribal Libraries Role of Kerala State Library Council (KSLC)

Choudhari (2017) examined the information needs and seeking behaviour of research students in the Vidarbha Region. The main objective of the study was to identify information needs and the purpose of information seeking of the schedule tribe students. Questionnaire was administered to gather data from the respondents. The results indicated that major information needs of research students at the various faculties were considered for academic purpose and their primary purpose of seeking for information is for their reading activities.

Seth and Parida (2006) focused on the information need and seeking behaviour of the SC/ST students, researchers, and faculty, with specific reference to higher education in Orissa. A structured questionnaire was used for data collection information. The study reveals that the progress of people from scheduled caste and scheduled tribe in higher education is unsatisfactory.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the present study are:

1. To identify the role of KSLC for the development of tribal libraries in Kerala.
2. To find out various grants given by KSLC for the development of tribal libraries in Kerala.

METHODOLOGY USED FOR STUDY

In the present study the investigator had attempted to identify the role of KSLC for the development and promotion of tribal libraries in Kerala. Data was collected from the annual report of KSLC published during 2014-2020 financial year. Data were analyzed and presented in tables.

DATA ANALYSIS

Budget Estimation

The budget of Kerala State Library Council had allotted fund for Tribal Libraries, Idamalakudy Tribal Panchayath Special Project, Munnettam-Tribal Library and Niravu Kalamela Programme during the period of the study. The table given below shows the KSLC budget estimation during 2014-2020 financial year.

Table – 1 KSLC Budget Estimation

Financial Year	Tribal Library Grant	Edamalakudy Tribal Panchayath	Munnettam-Tribal Library	Niravu Kalamela	Amount
2014-2015	2,00,000	-	-	-	2,00,000
2015-2016	5,00,000	-	-	-	5,00,000
2016-2017	5,00,000	5,00,000	5,00,000	-	15,00,000
2017-2018	6,00,000	2,00,000	5,00,000	-	13,00,000
2018-2019	5,00,000	2,00,000	-	3,00,000	10,00,000
2019-2020	7,00,000	2,00,000	-	5,00,000	14,00,000
Total	30,00,000	11,00,000	10,00,000	8,00,000	59,00,000

The table 1 shows that the highest amount was estimated in 2016-2017 financial year followed by 2019-2020 and the smallest amount in 2014-2015 financial year. The table also show that the highest amount estimated was under

the head for tribal library. Compared to the actual requirements, the annual fund are inadequate to meet the basic necessities.

Tribal Library Grant

Kerala State Library Council provide grant for tribal libraries in every financial year. This fund is meant for developing the library to meet the affiliation requirements of KSLC. Therefore, it is used for purchasing books, furniture's etc. The table 2 given below shows the financial year wise distribution of the fund under the head tribal library during 2014-2020 financial years.

Table – 2 Tribal Library Grant

Financial Year	Amount
2014-2015	1,50,000
2015-2016	2,00,000
2016-2017	3,50,000
2017-2018	4,00,000
2018-2019	12,50,000
2019-2020	6,00,000
Total	29,50,000

During 2018-2019 financial year Rs. 5,00,000/- (Five Lakh Rupees Only) was earmarked in the budget for tribal libraries. But 25 tribal libraries applied for KSLC grant during this financial year. As a result, the KSLC approved all the application for tribal libraries and Rs. 7,50,000/- (Seven Lakh Fifty Thousand Rupees Only) was additionally granted by transferring amount from book binding camp head to tribal library head. It shows that KSLC is ready to assist public libraries even when the fund is not separately given in the budget for an important purpose.

The table 2 shows that the highest grant was received by the tribal libraries in 2018-2019 financial year followed by 2019-2020 financial year. Only small amount was received by tribal libraries in 2014-2015 financial year. The table given below shows the beneficiary libraries of tribal library grant during 2014-2020 financial years.

Table – 3 Beneficiaries of Tribal Library Grant

Name of the District	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	Total
	No. of Libraries	No. of Libraries	No. of Libraries	No. of Libraries	No. of Libraries	No. of Libraries	No. of Libraries
Kasaragod	-	-	1	1	-	1	3
Kannur	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Wayanad	-	2	-	1	1	1	5
Kozhikode	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Malappuram	-	-	1	2	8	-	11
Palakkad	1	-	1	-	1	1	4
Thrissur	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Ernakulam	-	2	-	-	1	-	3
Idukki	1	-	3	2	14	1	21

Development of Tribal Libraries Role of Kerala State Library Council (KSLC)

Kottayam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alappuzha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pathanamthitta	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kollam	-	-	-	-	-	7	7
Thiruvananthapuram.	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Grand Total	3	4	7	8	25	12	59

The above table shows that highest number of tribal libraries in Idukki district received the grant during 2014-2020 financial years followed by Malappuram district. The above table also shows that highest number of tribal libraries received the grant during 2018-2019 financial year followed by 2019-2020 financial year. The table given below shows the district wise distribution of tribal library grant during 2014-2020 financial years.

Table – 4 District Wise Distribution of Tribal Library Grant

Name of the District	2014- 2015	2015- 2016	2016- 2017	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020	Total
	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount
Kasaragod	-	-	50,000	50,000	-	50,000	1,50,000
Kannur	-	-	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
Wayanad	-	1,00,000	-	50,000	50,000	50,000	2,50,000
Kozhikode	-	-	-	50,000	-	-	50,000
Malappuram	-	-	50,000	1,00,000	4,00,000	-	5,50,000
Palakkad	50,000	-	50,000	-	50,000	50,000	2,00,000
Thrissur	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000	1,00,000
Ernakulam	-	1,00,000	-	-	50,000	-	1,50,000
Idukki	50,000	-	1,50,000	1,00,000	7,00,000	50,000	10,50,000
Kottayam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alappuzha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pathanamthitta	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kollam	-	-	-	-	-	3,50,000	3,50,000
Thiruvananthapuram.	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	50,000
Grand Total	1,50,000	2,00,000	3,50,000	4,00,000	12,50,000	6,00,000	29,50,000

Kerala State Library Council provide Rs. 50,000/- for each tribal library in every financial year. The above table shows that Idukki district received highest amount during 2014-2020 financial years followed by Malappuram district.

Edamalakudy Tribal Panchayath - Special Project

Edamalakudy Panchayath is the first tribal panchayath of Kerala State. Kerala State Library Council established a library at Edamalakudy Panchayat for tribal communities. This is a good step towards the upliftment of tribal community in this area. It works as an informal education centre. KSLC provided books, shelves, reading tables,

chairs, office table, Laptop, L.C.D. projector, public addressing system etc. to this library. Addition to that, KSLC gives annual grant to the library for collection development and programmes.

Table – 5 Edamalakudy Tribal Panchayath

Financial Years	Amount
2014-2015	-
2015-2016	-
2016-2017	5,00,000
2017-2018	2,00,000
2018-2019	1,40,000
2019-2020	-
Total	8, 40,000

This grant is utilized by tribal libraries for better performance, purchasing books and periodicals, traveling, electrification, conducting various programmes etc. The table 5 shows that highest amount was given during 2016-2017 financial year followed by 2017-2018 financial year.

Munnettam-Tribal Library

Munnettam Project of Kerala State Library Council is one in which 10 tribal libraries are selected for developing them as model informal education centre. This centre provides informal education programmes and conduct awareness programmes about drug abuse. The table given below shows the utilization of grant during the financial years of 2014-2020.

Table – 6 Munnettam-Tribal Library

Financial Years	Amount
2014-2015	-
2015-2016	-
2016-2017	2,00,000
2017-2018	4,00,000
2018-2019	-
2019-2020	-
Total	6,00,000

The table 6 shows that highest amount was given to tribal libraries during 2017-2018 financial year followed by 2016-2017.

Niravu Kalamela

Kerala State Library Council conducted cultural programmes and seminars related to tribal communities during the financial years of 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. During 2019-20200 financial year KSLC conducted this programme with the assistance of Kerala State Youth Commission. Participants from representatives of tribal libraries and artists from tribal communities attended the programme. The table given below shows the grant utilization of Niravu Kalamela.

Table – 7 Niravu Kalamela

Financial Years	Amount
2014-2015	-
2015-2016	-
2016-2017	-
2017-2018	-
2018-2019	2,58,660
2019-2020	6,50,000
Total	9,08, 660

Kerala State Youth Commission allotted Rs.2,79,000/- (Two Lakh Seventy-Nine Thousand Only) for conducting Niravu Kalamela during 2019-2020 financial year, but the above table shows that an amount of Rs. 6,50,000.00 was utilized for purpose. This shows the importance given by KSLC to tribal libraries and programmes for empowering the tribal community.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

In the present study the investigator had attempted to identify the role of KSLC for the development and promotion of tribal libraries in Kerala. The findings of the study show that during 2018-2019 financial year is an important year to tribal libraries and majority of tribal libraries in Idukki district received the highest grant during 2014-2020 financial year. KSLC has to develop more libraries in all tribal areas in the state and appoint a development officer for the purpose. It has to earmark more fund in its budget exclusively for establishing new tribal libraries, constructing new or extension of existing library buildings, purchasing library books, furniture, computers, provision of internet facilities etc. KSLC is already doing its best for uplifting the tribal communities in Kerala State through public library services, this has to be increased to the maximum.

REFERENCES

- [1] Anish, I., & Abdul Majeed, K.C. (2021). Public library development in Kerala role of Kerala State Library Council (KSLC). *Journal of Interdisciplinary Cycle Research*,13 (5), 1385-1397. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/15bbuSx78UU8U5jv4ZPSAgk8dMbop1cnP/view>
- [2] Choudhari, S.G. (2017). Information needs of schedule tribe students: A study. *Knowledge Librarian*, 4(4), 48-53. <http://www.klibjlis.com/4.4.6.pdf>
- [3] Kerala State Library Council. (2016). 2015-2016 annual report.
- [4] Kerala State Library Council. (2017). 2016-2017 annual report.
- [5] Kerala State Library Council. (2018). 2017-2018 annual report.
- [6] Kerala State Library Council. (2019). 2018-2019 annual report.
- [7] Kerala State Library Council. (2020). 2019-2020 annual report.
- [8] Seth, M. K., & Parida, B. (2006). Information needs and use pattern of disadvantages communities: A case study. *Library Philosophy and Practice*, 9 (1), 1-8. <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/188044746.pdf>