

LIBRARY WEEK IN THE MYSORE STATE

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0 INTRODUCTION

The Mysore Public Libraries Act became a fact early in 1965. The Act recognised the Mysore Library Association and provided for its representation in the State, District, and City Library Authorities. As a result, it has to function as an active liaison between the public and the libraries. On the one hand, it has to promote library habit among people, and on the other, it has to improve the library service in the State. In partial fulfilment of this responsibility, the Association organised a Library Week and Book Exhibition in the State Banquet Hall of Vidhana Soudha, to give a picture of the forthcoming Library Grid and the benefits of such a grid in all walks of life.

The Documentation Research and Training Centre, the Government Library School, the Library School of the Polytechnic for Women, and many leading booksellers of Bangalore participated in the Exhibition.

1 INAUGURATION DAY

11 Governor's Speech

Inaugurating the Library Week, the Governor of Mysore, Dr. V. V. Giri, began with a reference to Dr. Ranganathan's services to the library cause in our country. He attributed the student agitation and unrest in the country, to the failure of parents and teachers to make the youth realise the advantages of spending their free time

in reading in the library and thus enriching their minds. Dr. Giri said that the publishing industry in the country was still in its infancy.

The Governor released a book "Library Service For All" edited by Dr. Ranganathan and Professor A. Neelameghan, as a Souvenir for the Library Week.

12 *Dr. Ranganathan's Speech*

Dr. Ranganathan, the Chief Speaker, outlined the ethics and functions of a Reference Librarian. Quoting from the *Upanishads*, he said that for a librarian, the reader was the supreme guest. Service should be given to him in full sincerity, in abundant measure, and in all humility. The reference librarian should have good knowledge of the books and should be beware of the curse of the Five Laws of Library Science, if his service went below the standard. He also emphasised the need for the Government to take advantage of the devaluation of the rupee which had made imported books too costly. The enterprising Indian publishers should spot out the able but shy authors in the country. The Government should give special facilities in respect of printing and paper, to the Indian publishers instead of foreign publishers. This opportunity to bring about indigenous book production in abundance should not be lost.

13 *Chief Minister's Speech*

Presiding over the function, the Chief Minister Shri S. Nijalingappa, expressed great debt of gratitude of the Mysore Government to Dr. Ranganathan for the help being given by him in developing the Library System of the State. He said that special books which interested children should be published. He referred to the improved printing facilities available in the Mysore State and said that shortly good printing paper was also expected to be produced in the State. He hoped that the publishers would take advantage of this.

2 AUTHORS' DAY

On the second day, five eminent Kannada authors welcomed the formation of the Library Grid in the State as it would increase the audience of authors considerably. Dr. Ranganathan, the Chairman, said that the Kannada writers should write on a variety of subjects—in the natural sciences, humanities, and the social sciences

—to meet the demands of the Kannada speaking people, and not merely on the old subjects of Religion, Philosophy, and Poetry.

3 INFORMATION DAY

Presiding over the "Information Day", Shri B. V. Baliga said that every person is interested to know what happened to every other person. There was an innate hunger among the people to be informed. He exhorted that the people of the Mysore State should become information-conscious and thereby productivity-conscious, if we are to march ahead in every walk of life. Shri Baliga called for an intimate collaboration among the Information Department, Film Department, and the Library Grid.

4 COOPERATION DAY

Presiding over the "Cooperation Day", Shri K. Puttaswamy, Minister for Cooperation, said that the establishment of a vast network of libraries all over the Mysore State would be a harbinger of prosperity. He said that the rapid increase in the rate of literacy among people would whip up the book-hunger and demand for intensive and productive use of libraries. He paid glowing tributes to Dr. Ranganathan, Shri Baliga, Shri M. R. Narasimha Iyengar, and Shri S. R. Kanthi, the Education Minister, for bringing about the Mysore Public Libraries Act. He agreed to consider the suggestion of Dr. Ranganathan for utilising the common good fund of cooperative societies to maintain textbook libraries in colleges.

5 COLLEGE DAY

Smt. Jayalakshammanni, Director of Collegiate Education, was the Chief Speaker of the "College Day". She made a pointed reference to the changing over from the present Examination-Centred and Notes-Centred method of education, to Library-Centred and Student-Centred method of education, thereby cultivating reading habit among students. She said that the library should form the hub of the college. For this purpose, the library should be manned by trained librarians. She called for the training of a greater number of librarians. She said that the Bangalore University was planning to open a Department of Library Science.

Dr. N. P. Patil, Director of Agricultural Research, the Chairman, said that the open access system should be widely practised in our college libraries. He also called for conserving the research poten-

tial of the community by intensive use of library service and added that the teachers should engage themselves in research and keep up-to-date with the latest developments in their own subjects.

In response to the request of the Director of Collegiate Education, Dr. Ranganathan outlined a Five Year Plan for the development of college libraries and agreed to furnish details later on to the Director.

6 SCHOOL DAY

Presiding over the "School Day," Shri A. C. Deve Gowda, former Director of Public Instruction, called for a comprehensive school library system for the Mysore State as early as possible. Pointing to the inadequate facilities for housing libraries in schools in India, he made a plea for making the library, the heart of a school. Library Habit is very important in the education of a child. He referred to the efforts of the National Council for Educational Research in persuading the schools to improve their library facilities to school children. He also mentioned the sample survey of school libraries made by the Council.

Shri S. V. Jevoor, Director of Public Instruction, who spoke on the occasion, called for a dynamic role of the library in school education and recommended open access system for school libraries.

7 LIBRARIANS' DAY

Presiding over the "Librarians' Day", Shri S. R. Kanthi, the Education Minister, called upon all the local authorities in Mysore State to take advantage of the Mysore Public Libraries Act in establishing a Public Library System. He acknowledged the work of Dr. Ranganathan as a beneficial and far-sighted one in ensuring speedier progress towards the welfare state. He also commended the work of the Mysore Library Association and wished success to every one of its endeavours. Professor A. Neelameghan, the Chief Speaker, said that Library Science offered as great a challenge as any other subject, and it was one of the fast developing disciplines.

A summary of Dr. Ranganathan's speech, presented by Shri M. A. Gopinath, called for a better quality of teaching in the B. Lib. Sc. course and gave a scheme for training of more librarians in the Mysore State.

8 FELICITATIONS TO THE SECRETARY

Shri M. R. Narasimha Iyengar, the Secretary of the Association, had just completed seventy years. An Address presented to him was read by Shri B. V. Baliga, the President of the Association. Representatives of the Andhra Pradesh, Bengal, Bombay, Madras, and Maharashtra Library Associations, the Documentation Research and Training Centre, the cooperative and social welfare societies of Bangalore, and publishers offered felicitations to the guest. Shri M. R. Narasimha Iyengar said that he always followed the advice of his father that one should do public service without expecting any personal advantage.