

**PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA: A CASE STUDY OF
DIRECTORATE OF ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES PESHAWAR***Mohammad Ishfaq Ahmed**Dr.Nisar Ahmad Subhpoto**Dr.Ahmed Ali Brohi***ABSTRACT**

This article is the study of public libraries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the light of current resources and policies in the Province. This study identifies the historical development and financial factors which have made the library services available to the public. Public libraries from all over the province including the 14 branch libraries at district level working under Directorate of Archives and Libraries have been covered. The data has been obtained through questionnaires, field trips, government documents and Directories of Archives and Libraries (DAL).

Keywords: Public Library, Library Development, Policies, Legislation

INTRODUCTION

Public libraries are a world-wide phenomenon. They occur in a variety of societies, in differing cultures and at different stages of development. Although they varied contexts in which they operate inevitably result in differences in the services they provide, and the way those services are delivered, they normally have characteristics in common, which can be defined as follows. A public library is an organization established, supported and funded by the community, either through local, regional or national government or through some other form of community organization. It provides access to knowledge, information and works of the imagination through a range of resources and services and is equally available to all members of the community regardless of race, nationality, age, gender, religion, language, disability, economic and employment status and educational attainment.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan came into being on 14th August 1947. At the time of its independence, Pakistan was the largest Islamic country in the Islamic world. After separation of East Pakistan, Bangladesh became a separate independent state in 1971. The West Pakistan retained the name of Pakistan. The administrative areas of Pakistan consist of four provinces, a capital Islamabad, two autonomous areas and the Federal Administred Tribal Areas (FATA). After partition in 1947, Pakistan received the following public libraries:

1. Liaquat Hall Library, Karachi 1851
2. Khaliq Dinna Hall Library, Karachi 1856
3. Municipal Library, Rawalpindi 1873
4. Punjab Public Library, Lahore 1884
5. Fort Sandman Library, Quetta 1884
6. Public Library, Multan 1886
7. Cantonment Board Library, Rawalpindi 1891
8. Iqbal Library, Sialkot 1892
9. Divisional Public Library, Khairpur Sindh 1903
10. Allama Iqbal Library, Faisalabad 1911
11. Dayal Singh Trust Library, Lahore 1928

It is evident that the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has received no single major public library at the time of independence.

If we analyse the prevailing public libraries services in the light of United Nation Educational Scientific and Culture Organization (UNESCO) Manifesto 1994, we will find that in 50 years we have not been able to produce public library system in the country, thus could not achieve public libraries objectives in the real sense.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Public libraries have been established in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under various administrative setups. These include Public libraries of local, Districts and provincial government. Public libraries under the administrative control of Directorate of Archives are also rendering library services to the public in various districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Fourteen Public libraries have been established in various districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

It is evident that fourteen public libraries have been established so far under the Directorate of Archives and Libraries. Only eleven public libraries are operational and three have to take operation. It is important to mention here that all branch public libraries have single professional Librarian in BPS-17 with other non-professional official staff. However, the public library established at DAL at provincial headquarter have eight professional Librarians. Chief Librarian in BPS-18 & 7 Librarians are working in BPS-17.

HISTORY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

The history of this government public library is the same as that of the archives in this province. In 1946, when the Central Record Office (now Department of Archives and Libraries) was established, this library also came into being. Like that of the archives sections, it was not in such a better condition as it is now. As a part of Peshawar Museum, this library had a

collection of hardly 3,000 books. In 1960s, when the department was shifted to Imperial Hall, situated at Shahi Bagh on Charsadda Road, the number of books raised to 20,000. Later on in 1986 due to public pressure and persistent rise in the demand for books, it was opened for the use of common masses and it started its lending services i.e. to allow the members to take books to their homes for a specific period. In need of the growing public demand it was shifted to Benevolent Fund Building in Cantonment area. In this building the number of books reached to 40,000 in figure.

It was in 1990 when the government realized the importance of this department and decided to construct a new building for the library. Firstly, the site was selected for the new building to be easy accessible and convenient to the public. An amount of seven crore was specified and allocated in Annual Developmental Budget of the provincial government. The building was built under the supervision of Peshawar Development Authority (PDA). The building was designed by the architecture in such a manner that lesser noise can enter into the library. It was designed for central air-conditioning system.

It is an honor for the provincial government that initiated a step towards culture of public library in the real sense. All credit goes to the predecessors who made some sincere efforts and created department for public libraries. Initially, this department established Public Library at Peshawar near Peshawar Museum, the library since then imparting informal education to all kinds of public. The library has made a considerable collection of books and almost increased to 1,50,000 books on various subjects. This directorate offer library services to all kind of visitors without any discrimination. A good number visitors including students, research scholars, woman, children, general pubic visit the library daily and quench their thirst for their desired study. For the convenience of the readers, the library has been divided into various sections. They are: (1) Oriental Section, (2) Science and Technology Section, (3) Social Science Section, (4) Reference Section, (5) Donation Section, (6) Digital Library, and (7) Establishment Section.

As we stated earlier that the Directorate of Archives and Libraries have 14 branch public libraries, however, the public library Peshawar is a role model for all these libraries in the province. Being a parent library, it extends its full support to branch library in the areas: (1) Collections Building, (2) Technical Services, (3) Library Automation, (4) Financial Matters, (5) Trainings, and (6) Human Resource.

The services, fasciitis and library building location of the public library at Peshawar and its branch libraries vary to great extent. Therefore, the number of visitors is not the same as compared to the head office public library at Peshawar.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN DAL

As stated earlier, that the Directorate of Archives and Libraries has started functioning in its new building in 1992. Public libraries was become its integral part of this directorate. However, the joining of the public libraries with archives department was made on temporary basis due to financial constraints at that time. Since, then, this Directorate is functioning having dual functions “Archives and Libraries”. The DAL has been transferred on regular basis from one administrative department to another due to changes in government Rules of Business, 1985 in the past. Presently, it is functioning under the Ministry of Higher Education, Archives and Libraries Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The main aim of this study was to collect detailed description of the state of affairs of the public libraries under Directorate of Archives and Libraries Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This study will help in depicting a detailed profile of public libraries.

The study shows that in the absence of modern public library system, a sound public library network could not be established in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. As a result the public libraries came under tremendous stress due to lack of financial, human resources, deteriorating physical facilities, aging and out dated learning resources. The following questions also need answers:

1. Public libraries receive inadequate resources in the absence of public library system
2. The resources and services of public libraries vary library to library which directly affects the needs of the users of public libraries

A quantitative research technique was adopted to achieve the objective of the study. Public libraries from all over the province including the four branch libraries in various districts have been covered. The data have been obtained through questionnaires, government documents, legislative proceedings, web analysis and directories of libraries. This study is limited to the public libraries of working under DAL of various districts of the province. Provincial Administrated Tribal Areas (PATA) under the direct administrative control of Provincial Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), have not been covered as these areas have not got the status of separate settled districts.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY LEGISLATION FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA SINCE 1947

In order to highlight how the lack of library legislation and how it has affected the development of public libraries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It is

important to highlight various public library legislation promulgated for the province after independent. Various attempts have been made at formulating public library Acts, Ordinances and Draft Legislations. It is important to mention here all these attempts.

ACTS, ORDINANCES AND DRAFT LEGISLATIONS

NWFP (North West Frontier Province, Now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) Municipal Act, 1950: This Act is the first ever legislation in local government setup after the independence. This act makes provisions for construction of, establishment and maintenance of schools, dispensaries and other institutions for the promotion of education under Chapter-IV Municipal Fund and Property under Section-2(c). Though this ordinance has not specifically named the library, however, under the meaning of other institutions to promote education, public library at municipality level is justified.

North West Frontier Province, People's Local Government Ordinance, 1972: Section: 25 Functions of People's Municipal Committee in the third schedule Part-XI Culture Entry-63, a municipality has been authorized to establish and maintain a public library, reading rooms and circulate libraries for the use of the public. By Section-26(1), Under fourth schedule Part-II (A-1) Provisions have been made for the establishment and maintenance of schools, libraries and reading rooms. Similarly in the seventh schedule at entry-43 rules have also been framed for these libraries.

North West Frontier Province Local Government Ordinance, 1979: Under this ordinance provisions for public library have been made at three levels in the local setup. Firstly, under Chapter-VIII, functions of Union Councils Sections 52-B-(32) provision of a library and reading rooms at union council level have been made. Secondly, under chapter-IX functions of District Councils Section-53, Sub Section-L(61) provision and maintenance for libraries and reading have been enumerated. Thirdly, Under Chapter-XI optional functions of Municipal Committees under Part-H Culture Section-117, provision for public library, reading rooms and circulating libraries at Municipalities level in the province North West Frontier Province have been made.

Model Public Library Act for Provinces, 1984 (Draft Public Library Legislation): TWG in 1984 recommended draft public library legislation in its report. This draft legislation has made comprehensive provision for integrated public library system at provincial, district and tehsil levels of Pakistan. The purpose of this Model Act is to promote spread of knowledge, education, culture and to provide books, reading material free of charge to all citizens of society without any distinction. This Model Draft Act has the following part beside preamble and preliminary sections:

- 1- Provincial Library Authority
- 2- Local Library Authority
- 3- Finance and Accounting
- 4- Rules
- 5- Miscellaneous

THE N.W.F.P. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORDINANCE 2001

This Ordinance has been promulgated at the simultaneously in the four provinces of Pakistan for the introduction of the Local Government at District and Tehsil levels. Under Schedule 6th read with Section-195 at sr.42 of the above ordinance, it empowered the concerned local government to establish and maintain such libraries, reading rooms and circulation libraries as may be necessary for the use of the public at district level.

Under the Local Government Ordinance (LGO) 2001, the District Coordination Officer (DCO) is the administrative head of the District Administration. They have wide-ranging responsibility for overseeing, improving and directing the approved plans of the District Government apart from library affairs and development of reading habit in the district.

But provisions of the Local Government Ordinance 2001 could not be implemented in letter and spirit due to less importance than other priorities before the elected representatives and therefore, did not create the expected results.

NATIONAL LIBRARY ACT 2010 AND NATIONAL LIBRARY FOUNDATION ACT 2010

The Senate Standing Committee on Education under the Chairmanship of Senator, Mr.S.M.Zafar discussed National Library Foundation Act 2010 and unanimously endorsed to recommend to the Ministry of Education to initiate and promulgate the National Library Act 2010 on March 9, 2010, in Islamabad. It is regretted that no action had been taken in this regard to date.

It is evident from the stipulations made in various acts, ordinances and draft legislations since 1947-2012 for public libraries in Pakistan, similarity in the provisions of various legislations to the highest degree can be witnessed without even minor alterations with respect to modalities concerning establishment and promotion of public libraries. It seems quite clear that the contents of various legislations of one province about public libraries have been reproduced in similar legislations of other provinces. This approach goes quite contrary to ground realities like terrain, cultural diversity, tradition, requirements and other demographic factors and financial implications.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

In order to explore the current situation of public libraries in the absence of uniform public libraries system, it was necessary to collect data

from the public libraries about the existing library services and resources through primary, secondary, and tertiary sources.

By using primary sources, data was collected through questionnaire from various public libraries under Directorate of Archives and Libraries Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and have been evaluated and interpreted.. The analysis of data based on the response received from questionnaires and other sources have been organized and presented. Data was also collected, organized, and presented from the secondary and tertiary sources by using online sources, directories and government publications.

The analyses of data interpretation are presented in two main areas with subsections as under:

1. General information about public libraries establishments,
2. Resources and Services offer to the readers of public libraries.

PROFILE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

General information: The main aim of this section is to give an overall view of public libraries and public library legislation. This section includes information about public library legislation decade-wise since partition. These sections also include information on the followings:

- 1.Total number of public libraries in the government sector decade-wise since partition to date.
- 2.No of public libraries facilities and its resources

Establishment and Growth of Public Libraries Decade-wise

TABLE-1

PUBLIC LIBRARY LEGISLATION DEVELOPMENT (PLLD) AFTER PARTITION TO DATE (DECADE- WISE)*

Legislation Zone		194 7 - 57	195 7 - 67	196 7 - 77	197 7 - 87	198 7 - 97	199 7 - 07	200 7 - 14	Tot al	Imple mentation
Khyber Pakhtun khwa	Act	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Full
	Draft Act	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	5	Nil
	Ordinance	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	Partially
	Other	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	Partially
Total		1	3	3	1	1	0	1	10	

Source: Sheikh, I. H. (2005)

The Table-1 reveals that total number of Public Library Legislations recorded in KPK, till 2013 are 10.

It is found that no Draft Act had actually been enacted as lawful/legal authority, nor had taken the form of an act.

No legislation had been fully implemented except for Pakistan Copyright Ordinance 1962 at the Provincial level.

It is observed that the maximum number of public library legislations 3, 3 took place in the decades of 50s, 60s and 70s respectively: However, it is also seen from the above Table that the status of legislation in other decades are minimal.

TABLE-2
PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF DAL UNDER DIFFERENT MODE

Khyber Pakhtun Khwa	Executive Order	Through an Act	Through an Ordinance	Other	Non reporting	Total
Cultural Ministries	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
DAL	13.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.00
District	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
Local	0.00	6.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	7.00
Total	15.00	7.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	23.00
DPL: Directorate of Public Libraries						

Source: Sheikh, I. H. (2005)

- It is observed from the Table-2 that 15 public libraries have been established through an Executive Order.
- It is seen from the above that 7 public libraries have been established through an Act.
- One public library has been established through an Ordinance 23.

Establishment and Growth of Public Libraries

TABLE-3
ESTABLISHMENT & GROWTH OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES DECADE-WISE

Decade	Total in Pakistan	KP Public Libraries	Growth in KP
Before 1947	18	6	14%
1948 - 57	14	2	5%
1958 - 67	34	2	5%
1968- 77	58	8	19%
1978 - 87	52	5	12%
1988 - 97	35	5	12%
1998 - 07	19	5	12%
2008-2014	23	2	5%
Not reported	83	7	17%
Total	336	42(12.50%)	100%

Source: Sheikh, I. H. (2005)

- It is found from the Table 3 that there are a total of 42 major public libraries in the Province of KPK.
- It is observed that the province of has the maximum growth of 8 of public libraries took place in the decade of 1968-77 in the province 19%.
- The situation of public libraries establishment in the Province is not encouraging in years from 2008 to 2013.
- It is found that the maximum number of public libraries have been established in the decade of 1968-1977 having of total public libraries in the country 58 due to the reason that in this decade some legislation have been framed for establishment of public libraries at district and local level.
- It is observed that the growth of public libraries in the province is not regular due to the reason that there is no system for public libraries.

Physical Resources of the Public Libraries

TABLE-4
LIBRARIAN PERCEPTIONS ABOUT PHYSICAL RESOURCE
IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES

	Description of Query	Yes	No	Yes (%)
1	Seating arrangement	12	2	85.71
2	Library Furniture	12	2	85.71
3	Air conditioning	10	4	71.43
4	Library Auditorium	3	9	21.43
5	Chowkidar Room	1	13	7.14
6	Washroom for Public	8	6	57.14
7	Ladies and children room	4	10	28.57
8	Lightening/Ventilation	13	1	92.86
9	Car/Bike parking	14	0	100.00
10	Staff Offices	14	0	100.00
11	Reading room	3	11	21.43

Source: Sheikh, I. H. (2005)

The above table shows librarians' response, that seating arrangements 58.71% o in public libraries exist which is satisfactory.

The respondents agreed at 92.1% with lighting /ventilation provision in their libraries.

They also agreed at 3% that public libraries have enough space for reading room in their library premises.

The above table also points out that 85.71 % of public libraries have availability of furniture facility in their libraries.

They are also uncertain at 4% about the availability of ladies and children rooms in their libraries.

100% public libraries have separate staff offices facilities in the public libraries.

The respondents also gave their view at 71% about air-conditioning provisions which reveals that such facilities.

The librarians gave their views at 100% about parking provisions within public libraries.

7.14% responds that the library has separate room for Watchman/Chowkidar.

The calculated data in the Table 3 shows that over all provision of physical faculties in public libraries are satisfactory; however, still these libraries have problems. Some public libraries have physical facility but could not maintain it in proper manner. The office of DAL has complete remain dark in cloudy weather. Also it is very hot during electricity failure and due to non-availability of feasible ventilation system.

Learning Resources of the Public Libraries

TABLE-5
LEARNING RESOURCES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

	Description of Query	Yes	No	Yes (%)
1	Books	14	0	100.00
2	Journals/Periodicals	11	3	78.57
3	Newspapers	12	4	85.71
4	Non Books Material(NBM)	1	13	7.14
5	Manuscripts	1	13	7.14
6	Digital Resources	1	13	7.14
7	Government Publications	1	13	7.14
8	Archival Records	1	13	7.14

Source: Sheikh, I. H. (2005)

Table-5 shows that 100% libraries have public libraries. However, the collections vary from one to another.

78% of public libraries have journals/periodicals in libraries 3 public libraries still have to be made in operation. However, the number of journals/periodicals varies from library to library. The DAL public library has most number of Journals/Periodicals.

The situation with regard to NBM, Manuscripts, Digital Resources, Government publications and archival records is not encouraging in branch libraries. Only the Head Office at DAL at Peshawar holds these collections.

Technological Base Resources of the Public Libraries

TABLE-6
TECHNOLOGY BASED RESOURCES/HARDWARE OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

	Description of Query	Yes	No	Yes (%)
1	Computers	11	3	78.57
2	Printers	11	3	78.57
3	Scanners	10	4	71.43
4	Photocopier	10	4	71.43
5	UPS	1	13	7.14
6	Electric Generators	3	11	21.43
7	HEC Digital Library	9	5	64.29
8	Security Camera	1	13	7.14
8	Bar code reader	0	14	0.00
9	Library Automation	0	14	0.00

Source: Sheikh, I. H. (2005)

78.57% libraries have computers in public libraries.

78.57% out of 14 public libraries have printers in their libraries

71.43% out of 14 public libraries have scanners with their computers.

However, (4%) libraries do not have scanners with their computers.

71.43 out of 14 public libraries have photocopier machine in public libraries. While, the rest of 4 libraries have no photocopier machine.

Only one public library has UPS facility in its library in Peshawar at DAL. However, rest of 13 public libraries have no UPS power backup.

71.4% libraries out of 14 in Directorate of Public Libraries have photo copier machines. However the rest of 4 public libraries have no photocopier machines.

The respondents recorded that one (7.14%) libraries have installed security cameras in the libraries for security purposes; however, four libraries out of fourteen libraries have no such cameras.

Similarly, no single library has carried automation of his library services, 78.57% libraries of DAL have been granted necessary equipment's like computers. Still automation process have not have been initiated.

CONCLUSION

The findings of the study show that in the absence of modern library system, public library system has not been established in the province. Due to lack of financial, human resources and deteriorating physical facilities, the public libraries have remained under developed. Findings also reflect due to lack of modern ICTs provisions; public libraries cannot disseminate information to the public in effective manner.

A network of public libraries for equal provisions of public library services in the Province should be established. A number of recommendations have already been made for the development of public libraries. This paper has given following recommendations for the development of resources in the libraries.

FINDINGS SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

History presents an uneven pattern of planning and development of library services in DAL. The findings from the literature and tables show that development of the public libraries was not planned according to the need of the province. The following suggestion and recommendations are given:

- System of public libraries back by library legislation is suggested to streamline the services and development of public libraries uniformly at all level.
- Public libraries should render services as required by their user. Therefore, it is recommended that the use of library services be reviewed periodically to satisfy the users of public library.
- There should be a central authority for public libraries at all levels of government. This agency will advise the government for devising library policies, plans and programmes.
- Public library should be established in all districts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- Existing public libraries need resources. It is suggested that all branch public libraries should be granted equal financial resources according to their needs.
- Every public library should be equipped with modern ICT facilities.
- Head of the department of DAL should be appointed a professional in the field of library science having PhD degree in LIS.
- To introduce the culture of public libraries a separate directorate of public libraries may be established under the portfolio of separate minister of public libraries.

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