

## Chapter 3

### SECRET SOCIETIES AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN COLONIAL BENGAL

Bengali youths had resorted schools of physical training under the influence of revolutionary nationalism. They rapidly united themselves into political societies attached with libraries accessible to public whose activities were partly secret and partly open. Outwardly they performed with schools of physical culture where training in gymnastics, riding, boxing, playing with lathis and swords and so on were given to youth together with instilling an intense patriotic spirit by perusing patriotic literatures. Secretly they used to preserve and circulate confiscated literatures and perform terrorist activities with fire-arms and bombs, emulating the example of the secret revolutionary societies of the west, particularly those of Russia, Italy and Ireland. They were relentless to win the heart of people by discharging social welfare activities in addition to collecting and disseminating library documents.

In the early part of the nineteenth century libraries were started attached to the societies where public access was not confined. Revolutionary literatures were disseminated and discussed among activists and to the common people to boost patriotism. Rammohun Roy preferred to apply his revolutionary ideas to reform Indian society to keep aloof from contemporary politics. But it was found that spirit of national movement and eagerness of freedom was great where ‘Parthana Samaj’, ‘Brahma Samaj’ and ‘Arya Samaj’ had created new sensation. All the ‘Samaj’s had libraries where admittance of people of other faiths had been allowed.

Jyotirindra Nath Tagore began revolutionary activities by establishing ‘Sanjibani Sabha’, a secret society where Nabagopal Mitra, organizer of Hindu Mela and Rabindra Nath Tagore were the members. Shiv Nath Shastri established a revolutionary secret society with the help of young members of Brahma Samaj with a view to create anti- British attitude among youths and inspired them to engage to service of the country. Surendra Nath Bandopadhyay first established ‘Chastra

Samity' with the help of Shiv Nath Shastry where he first acquainted revolutionary leader of Italy Mazzini in India.

Bankim Chandra Chattapadhyay, Hemchandra Bandopadhyay, Bhudev Mukhopadhyay, Jogendra Vidyabhusan had not only desisted to create revolutionary literature but they insisted Tinkari Chattapadhyay to set up 'Akhras' (Secret Societies), where revolutionary literatures used to teach and discuss side by side physical exercises like playing sword and stick, boxing etc. Swami Vivekananda was enthusiastic to set up public libraries. We have found at least one account where he advised to organize public libraries. Famous revolutionary leader of later period Hemchandra Ghosh and his companion sought advice from Swami Vivekananda while he was visiting Dacca in 1901. Swamiji advised them on social and political duties which manifest his ideas on the topic roughly. According to Ghosh, Swamiji gave them four directions, such as, to go to mass, remove untouchability, establish gymnasium and public library.

It is said that Sister Nivedita was member of the executive committee of the Anushilan Samity. Japanese lady Wa- Ka- Kura was also in the revolutionary groups of Bengals. Nivedita had biography of Mazzini in six volumes. She donated first volume to the library of the samity. Type copy of the chapter containing Gurila War distributed to the members of the samity secretly.<sup>1</sup>

In addition to Maharastra, the revolutionary movement was strong in Bengal. The revolutionaries of Bengal came from the educated classes. The work done by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Ramkrishna Paramanhansa, Swami Vivekananda, Rajnarayan Basu and Nabagopal Mitra severely affected the movement. Unemployment among educated classes in Bengal made the situation intolerable. Things were made worse by the anti-Bengalese attitude of the English officials who refused to recruit Bengalese in government service. This was bound to have repercussion. In order to reduce the influence of Bengalese, Lord Curzon divided Bengal in 1905. The people of Bengal who had fought against the European Indigo planters with their fish pears and bamboo clubs, were not going to be cowed down and they accepted the challenge.<sup>2</sup>

Militant nationalism originated among the Bengali youths. The militant youths organized a good number of societies and associations in different parts of Bengal

to spread their ideology to achieve their ends. These associations had library wings for public to teach and preach message of nationalism. In addition to the public library of the society, small, subscription public libraries were come into existence by the enthusiastic youths of the locality. Many proscribed and revolutionary literature were preserved in these public libraries which were circulated secretly among the people.

Peoples would get membership in these public libraries by paying very nominal fees. But it is fact that these tiny subscription libraries played significant role in the socio-cultural and political life of Bengal. In the rural areas where literacy was lower, the practice was to read books by one who knew how to read while others listened. In such libraries actual adult education programme were taken up, free night schools were started.<sup>3</sup>

Most of the public libraries both subscription and attached to societies were used to infuse 'Swadeshi' message in the mind of people. Organisers of the libraries were generally political agitators and they performed anti-government programmes by performing physical exercise, social services, organizing meetings and conferences, collecting and disseminating swadeshi literatures etc. These libraries were familiar to the government as rendezvous of extremist politicians, local centres of sedition and the training grounds of political activities.

The repression that followed, the police took the main role. The night classes, the gymnasiums and the small public libraries had to be closed down or stop their activities. Many of the public libraries established during the time were frequently raided by police force of the British government, their organizers were arrested and reading materials were taken away by the police.<sup>4</sup>

Even the printing presses could not escape from the wrath. Some of them were closed down and some of the publications were proscribed. These public libraries had very precarious existence but many of them continued for long. The constant pressure of police was an important reason for the decay of these public libraries and the trend continued till independence.

At present, account of some familiar samities which had library branch accessible to public to fulfil their mission would be provided in this chapter and later account

of public libraries would be given in these chapter which were also influenced by the mission of secret societies.

## **SAMITIES AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

In the last part of the nineteenth century and early part of the twentieth century, so many societies including public libraries are also found established in Bengal. In 1897, 'Atmannati Samiti' organized in Wellington Square. In Mymensingh 'Suhrid Samiti' formed in 1900 to 1901. 'Bandhav Samillani' established at Gondalpara in Chandan agar in 1902. 'Swastha kendra' opened at chinripota, 24 parganas in 1904. Both 'Mukti Sangha' and 'Swadesh Bandhab Samiti' established in Dhaka and Barishal respectively in 1905. In 1906, 'Brati Samity' established in 1906, 'Swadesh Sevak Samity' and 'Shakti Samity' established in Ahiritola Lane and Ranaghat respectively in 1907. In 1908, 'Yubak Samity' established in Calcutta. Muslim Suhrid Sammilani, Raj Shahi Sabha, Mymensingh Sahitya Sabha and Siksha Parichar Sabha, Raj Shahi are found to spread library awareness to public also with their attached public libraries. Special attention could be done on 'Samaj Sevak Sangha', Raj Shahi, 'Calcutta Anushilan Samity' and 'Mymensingh Suhrid Samity', Galia Hitasadhni Samity, Barisal,

### **Samaj Sevak Sangha**

Samaj Sevak Sangha founded in a small room in Raj Shahi town following ideals of Swami Vivekananda in 1326 BS (1919). Its activities included organisation of night schools, foundation of library and organisation of charitable dispensary and treatment of patient, celebration of memory of superman, campaign against narcotic habit and untouchability, arrangement of food and clothing to poor and physical and mental development of the volunteers of the association. The association would successfully perform its functions through its public library branch.

The library had 1200 books in 1335, 550 in English and 650 in Bengali. Mainly books on biographies, history, politics, and sociology had been given priority in collection building than novel and short stories. Members had accessed in the library without any fees. Apart from books 15 journals were collected in the library. Vivekananda Birth Day would have observed in the library in each year. Free meal was served to poor in the occasion.

Volunteers of the association would stand to any natural disaster in association with common people. Volunteers and students of night schools would provide news of inland and abroad with the help of magic- lantern and first aid to the injured. Girls would have been provided training on craft in addition to book learning. In each year, essay and craft competition would also have been held to create interest among them.

Sarojini Naidu, former president of All India Congress had put up comment during her visit to the Samaj Sevak Sangha that, the small institution was part of her heart. According to her, that was true activities of the Congress which was performing its young volunteers and that would firm nationality.<sup>5</sup>

### **Calcutta Anushilan Samiti and Mymensingh Suhrid Samiti**

These patriotic societies-maintained libraries with good collections of books to increase members' interest in radical movements and revolutions. Some of the books in their collections were already banned by the Government. The Calcutta Anushilan Samiti had a library of 4000 books.<sup>6</sup> Mymensingh Suhrid Samiti had a good library collection, out of which a list of 230 titles was preserved in the home political files of the colonial government.<sup>7</sup> The Imperial Library of Calcutta was a good source of literature on socialism, and despite the librarian's discouragement, Bhupendranath Dutta could get a book by Hyndman from there. The library of the Mymensingh Suhrid Samiti had raided in November 1908 which included lives of Cromwell, Washington and Napoleon and several books on Ramkrishna and Vivekananda.<sup>8</sup>

### **Workingmen's Club**

The late 19th Century Bengal renaissance also witnessed the establishment of many factories and mills near Calcutta. This increased migration of factory labourers from neighbouring states and their settlement at different districts around Calcutta. Swadeshi leaders took this opportunity to spread awareness amongst factory workers of exploitation by the British factory owners. Attempts made by Swadeshi leaders and social reformers to improve the material and moral conditions of Indian workers. The Brahmo social reformer Shibnath Shastri started night schools for labours and a Workingmen's Club in 1870. In addition to that Shivnath Shastri established a public library for factory workers in 1906.

This was the beginning of inculcating reading culture and adult education for industrial workers in Bengal. Many of these Swadeshi efforts influenced educated communities in Bengal to participate in neo liberal movements as well as to sympathize with freedom struggles against the colonial rulers in India. Community libraries obviously helped in spreading literacy and encouraging socio- political awareness among the youth and working class.<sup>9</sup>

Women were also moving forward to set up societies to establish their rights. These societies used to perform mass mobilisation work secretly. All these societies had libraries accessible to public and they would relentlessly engage in empowerment of women. Dipali Sangha, Nari Siksha Mandir, Sreesangha, Dipali Chatri Sangha, Chatri Bhawan, Nari Karma Mandir, Dacca Mahila Satyagraha Samiti, Seva Samity, Mahila Rashtriya Sangha, Raj Shahi Mahila Samity and others were familiar for female welfare and child development programme.<sup>10</sup>

During twenties to thirties in twentieth century, Samities and associations, like, Social service league, Shree sangha, Santi sangha, Dhruba sangha, Benu group, Bengal volunteers stressed on the importance of constructive work, social reform and philanthropic work. They were relentless to the physical and mental development volunteers as well as common people by their organized public libraries.<sup>11</sup>

In this way, there were many societies were established in different corners of Calcutta and every district in Bengal. Objectives of this institutions was to create health awareness, to discuss literary topics, to discuss issues related to ethical and social parameters, to spread mass education, to discharge social welfare, to build physically fit young generation with their attached public libraries.

## **LIBRARIES AND SOCIETIES**

Apart from Samitis with libraries in Bengal, Public libraries were also relentless to achieve missions of secret societies.

### **Rangpur Public Library**

Rangpur had the distinction of having set up the first National School, in November 1905, after the local boys had been fined up by the district magistrate for attending swadeshi meeting.<sup>12</sup> The school soon became the focus of the revolutionary

movement in the district.<sup>13</sup> Rangpur Public Library and Rangpur Sahitya Parishad were also organizer of the National School. Rangpur public library and Rangpur Sahitya Parishad are also found to follow missions of secret societies with Rangpur Zilla School by attending and organising ‘Swadeshi’ meetings, picketing and boycotting foreign goods. Swadeshi dramas used to perform from Rangpur Sahitya Parishad. Members of the library were able to increase users’ strength by their voluntary social service.<sup>14</sup>

### **Kishore Ganj Public Library**

Apart from Anushilan, Suhrid and Sadhana Samaj greatly influenced Kishore Ganj Public Library. Kishore Ganj played host to the second Mymensingh District Conference in April, 1908, in which the extremists clearly predominated with Kaliprasanna Dasgupta in charge of volunteers and Aurobinda as principal speaker.<sup>15</sup> Kishore Ganj Public Library was also progressive to oppose several imperialistic orders in association with Government School.<sup>16</sup>

### **Dacca Rammohun Library**

Rammohun Library in Dacca had influenced much by the activities of Anushilan Samity as Dacca was its central committee in East Bengal. Pulin Das was pioneer among volunteers. He was an expert in lathi, sword and dagger playing who had been trained by Murtaja at Sarala Devi’s ‘Akhra’ in Calcutta.<sup>17</sup> The library inherited the iron discipline and effective working procedure of the Anushilan Samity. Volunteers would have been appeared as sympathetic- kind hearted men. They begged handful of rice from door to door to serve distress poor. They would serve patients, able to win heart of people by voluntary works during religious festivals; organize opera shows, exhibit gymnastic performances to remove ill reputation of Bengalese timid character.<sup>18</sup>

### **Jessore public library**

Oppression of Indigo planters bound the people of Jessore and its adjunct areas become militant. Indigo disturbance was first started Jessore in 1860. Town Hall, New Arya Theatre and Public Library in Jessore were centre of revolutionary activities of Jessore. Political personalities used to deliver lectures on contemporary political issues in Town Hall. Patriotic dramas used to stage on the stage of the

Arya Theatre and Public Library would collect and disseminate patriotic literature and perform social service and gymnastic works to boost nationalism among common people.<sup>19</sup>

### **Barisal public library**

Both party branches of Anushilan and Jugantar were in Barisal. Revolutionary movement was started in Barisal Town in 1908. Jugantar Dal of Barishal was familiar as Barisal Party. The Government prohibited Barisal Party in 1908. Many branches of Jugantar and Anushilan were in Bakherganj district, such as, Galia, Uttar Sahabajpur, Bhola, Nalchiti, Jhalkathi, Patuakhali, Banaripara, Ramatpur and Ujirpur. Aswini Kumar Dutta would deliver lecture from village to village to form public opinion. Barisal Public Library too unified with the activities of both Anushilan and Jugantar Dal. Main organisers of Barisal Anushilan Dal were Debendra Nath Ghosh, Gopal Krihsna Mukhopadhyay and Jotindra Nath Roy. They kindled the fire of revolt among the youth of Barishal.<sup>20</sup>

### **Noakhali Public Library**

Secret societies were set up in Barisal, Noakhali, Coomilya and Chatty gram by the assiduity of mainly Satish Chandra and Narendra Mohan Ghosh. Inspired by the missions of the secret societies, Noakhali Public Library is found engaged in variety of activities, such as, physical and moral training, social work during famine, epidemics or religious festivals, preaching of swadeshi messages, organization of Indigenous craft, national school, arbitration of court etc. People of the district actively participated Khilafat and Non- cooperation movement with great Zeal. Many leaders and workers arrested and spontaneous hartal was also observed. Noakhali Public Library assisted to set up the national school and activities of the Anti- Circular Society rendered from the library.

Sometime Public libraries would busy to social welfare work and gymnastic events to attract common people to the library rather than only to collect and disseminate proscribed documents. Both Kumud Basini Pathagar and Hitaisini Sabha in Bagerhat Sub- division were founded by Nikunja Behari Roy with a view to discharging social welfare activities as a branch of secret society.



Raj Shahi Sadharan Pathagar, Natore Public Library and other libraries were also not outside of the influence of the Anushilan Dal and Jugantar Dal as many branches of these two societies were established in these districts. Political agitators would frequently attend meetings and conferences in library premises. In addition to discharge social welfare activities, proscribed literatures would secretly circulate to the common people to inspire them in militant nationalism.<sup>21</sup> Noakhali too had its national school and volunteer body of thirty- seven, as well as branch of the Calcutta Ant- Circular Society.<sup>22</sup> Bogra had a Sevak Samity which in 1908 adopted an ambitious programme, including picketing, setting up ‘akharas’, sankirtan parties to preach swadeshi as well as the establishment of night schools for spreading education among the labouring classes.<sup>23</sup> Unified with the missions of Sevak Samity, Woodburn Public Library also took initiative to render these works.

### **Libraries in 24 parganas**

The national movement attained greater strength in the four districts of the old province on the left bank of the Hooghly, adjoining Bakarganj and Faridpur- though there is no development of strong independent samitis. The numerous volunteer organisations of these districts seem to have been either purely local bodies, or branches of Calcutta societies (most often them Anushilan Samities).

Some twenty volunteer groups are reported from the 24- Parganas, including a number of palli samitis near Diamond Harbour,<sup>24</sup> the main centres were Sonarpur and Mozilpur to the south of Calcutta and Taki-Arbalia area in the north-east of the district-terrorist groups were to become active in these regions.<sup>25</sup>

The political scene in India changed radically with the arrival of Gandhi. According to the decisions of the Congress, district and sub divisional Congress Committees began to be established everywhere to give organizational format to an impending long- drawn mass movement. According to this decision, the first 24-Parganas District Congress Committee came into existence in 1921, with Maulana Muhammad Akram Khan as the President, Subhas Chandra Bose, Sarat Chandra Bose and Tulsi Charan Goswami, among others, were some of the members of the first District Congress Committee. Incidentally, it may be noted that Subhas Chandra and Sarat Chandra’s ancestral home was in 24-Parganas district. The Bose

family hailed from the village of Kotalia, within the jurisdiction of Sonarpur police station.

Kotalia Haranath Binapani Library in South 24 Parganas district bears a nostalgic history. A band of enthusiastic youth comprising Jyannendra Nath Ghosh, Bipin Behari Roychowdhury, Surendranath Shil, Ramapati Das, Tarapasanna Basu and Jogendra Nath Chowdhury had decided to set up a library to spread education and culture among the common people of the locality. It was the year 1912, a small library with 30 books and 25 members had started in the drawing room of Jogendra Nath Chowdhury as Kotalia Binapani Library. Members used to collect old books from the locality and preserved it to the library. Nishikanta Sarkar, Amulya Nandi, Krishnapada Nandy, Surendra Nath Roychowdhury had co-operated in the initial stage of the library. In 1917, Janaki Nath Basu father of Subhas Chandra visited Kotalia and pleased to see the earnest effort of the youth to build library. He donated a plot to his ancestral house premise and had constructed one stored building for library. Henceforth, the library had popularized as Kotalia Haranath Binapani Library to memorize his father's name Haranath Basu. The library was regular subscriber of 'Bandemataram', 'Jugantar', 'Bharatbarsha' etc. 'Anandamath', 'Patherdabi', 'Chandragupta', 'Mirkashim', 'Siraj-ud-daula', 'Maharaja Nandakumar', 'Bisher Banshi', 'Jugabani', 'Pralay Sikha' etc. were preserved secretly in the library. It is also found that Subhas Chandra had visited the village including library in 1924, 1937 and 1933.<sup>26</sup>

Like other village in Bengal, Ariadaha was not lagging in contributing Indian Freedom Struggle. Dignified sons of Ghosal, Tapaswi and Mitra family of the village had devoted their lives to free India. Byomkesh Chattapadhyay, son of Satya Charan Chattapadhyay was too freedom fighter and devoted himself to the service of nation. The family had a leading role to preserve cultural heritage of the village and to spread education to the common people. To preserve memory of their mother and grandmother, Sukhada Debi, Satyacharan Chattapadhyay and Byomkesh Chattapadhyay respectively donated five katha lands to the library on the bank of the Ganga in Ariadaha and had constructed a building on the land within two years. The library expressed its debt to the personalities, like, Mujaffar Ahmed, Bhabani Sen, Somnath Lahiri, Binoy Kumar Mukhopadhyay, Subodh Kumar Roy, and Smritish Banerjee for their frequent visit to the library. They often visited Ariadaha

Association Library and Literary Club secretly with Marxist literature and pursued them to the common men to organize them against imperialistic oppression. In this connection, the library also recollected name of Shanti Ranjan Ghatak who spent many years in concealment for his anti- imperialistic stand to discharge service to the library. Comments of Reverend Krishna Mohan Bandopadhyay, Harinath De, Mr. T. MacFarlane, Surendra Nath Banerjee in 18-9-1923, Bidhan Chandra Roy, Jyoti Basu and others in visitor's book of the library had witnessed that the library was Centre of light and knowledge for the people of Ariadaha.<sup>27</sup>

In 1898, villagers of Panihati established Panihati Friends' Library in the drawing room of Tarun Nag Chowdhury with some text books and general books under the leadership of Taranath Bandopadhyay. Most of the books collected in the library had written on nationalism. 'Sandhya', 'Jugantar' and 'Bandemataram' subscribed to boost nationalism. Milan Mela and Anushilan Samity were established in keeping library in centre. Panihati Bandhab Pathagar and Sabuj Pathagar used to organize adult education programme, religious gathering, and study circle regularly. Suddenly malaria and beriberi had broken out in the locality. Youths of the library had served the patients. Adolescent wing was opened in 1946. In 1947, English name of the library had been changed to Bengali name and Friend's Club and Tarun Sangha had been unified and emerged as Panihati Bandhab Pathagar and Sabuj Pathagar.<sup>28</sup>

In 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1904, under the chairmanship and vice chairmanship of Bhusan Chandra Bandopadhyay and Girindra Nath Roychowdhury, common men of the locality comprising Siddheswar Dutta, Prasad Roychowdhury, Satish Chandra Motilal, Haricharan Roychowdhury, Binod Behari Roychowdhury, Gurucharan Roy Chowdhury were established Barisha Star Library in a small room of Sabarna Roy Chowdhury with 56 volumes. There was a Suburban Reading Club in Barisha. Same time in 1908-09, educated youths of the locality had attracted towards the activities of the library and they joined in it to perform secret national activities.<sup>29</sup>

In 1905, Lord Curzon divided Bengal. People of Bengal had expressed their anger and participated anti- partition movement. Khidirpur in Calcutta was no longer lagging from this movement. They too had organized different programmers in support of Swadeshi Movement. Hemchandra Pathagar was established within in

excited situation at kabitirtha in Khidirpur to spread education and culture. It was started in an unknown house at Manasatala in Khidirpur by the initiation of the activists of Anushilan Samity of Khidirpur Branch in early part of 1907 with small collection. Subhas Chandra Bose had attached in it as a vice President.<sup>30</sup>

Halishahar kumarhatta had played leading role during anti- partition movement. A magnificent meeting was held at Siddheswaritala in presence of Surendra Nath Bandopadhyay, Krishna Kumar Mitra, Panchkari Bandopadhyay and others in 1905. Gymnasium, club and a library were organized to insist youths in physical exercises and to learn nationalism by reading history of freedom movement of different countries and documents on recent political incidents secretly.<sup>31</sup>

Sarsuna in South 24 Parganas was not recoil to the anti-partition movement. Youths of the locality had continued their nationalistic activities under the branch of Anushilan Samity. In 1906, Prativa Library was inaugurated in a room of local Middle English School at Sarsuna to develop the mental horizon of the local people.

The library and Sarsuna Association (a branch of Anushilan Samity) was shifted to the house of Atul Krishna Mitra due to his personal problem and none was willing to give shelter library and association due to police oppression. Activities of the association and library were totally stop during the year 1909. In that hard time, assistant secretary of the association had sheltered the library at his house for fourteen years and delivered 300 books of a library which established in 1870. After 10 years, the library had shifted to the house of Radhika Nath Chowdhury and Prafulla Mukhopadhyay in 1921 and later in the drawing room of Suresh Nath Pal. Sarsuna Prativa Library used to perform literacy programme, literacy circle, debate, library orientation and extension programme in addition to the normal book lending.<sup>32</sup>

Gopal Basu, the member of Anushilan Samity had come to Naihati in North 24 Parganas in 1929. He organized a club in a house of Siddeswar Chakraborty in Mahakalitola. He started a library in the house of Shanti Mukhopadhyay too. Activities of Anushilan Samity performed from the library. Libraries and Clubs were started in the Bhatpara, Shyamnagar, Narayanpur and Kanchrapara area by the joint effort of the public, especially after the arrival of Gopal Basu. These libraries and Clubs had unified with the club and library of Palbagan and

Mahakalitala and had emerged a club and library, Naihati Tarun Sangha Club and Tarun Sangha Pathagar. At the initial stage 40 youths were attached as member to the library. Bhupati Bhattacharya, Shanti Mukhopadhyay, Avay Bhattacharya, Asit Chattapadhyay, Nityanandra Roy, Gourhari Patra, Saroj Gupta and others were some of them. In 1337 BS, the library shifted to the house of Ramkrishna Sadhusadan in Bankim Chandra Road and Gymnasium had established in the house of a widow in Palbagan. Photograph of D. Valera, Lenin, Trotsky, Jatin Das, and Khudiram etc. was put up in the library room. Activities of the library were not only confined in lending of books, but members used to engage several welfare and constructive activities.

Jugantar Dal had played an important role in freedom movement. Library organizers were belonging to this group. So, police were suspicious to the activities of the library. Most of the organizers had to gone into hiding. Soul responsibility of library was bestowed on Balai Chand Mallick. Businessman of Naihati, Aurobindo Road was included as member of the library. In the meantime, the library had shifted to the old home near Husking Mill, Avoy Ghosh Road. Bipin Behari Gangually and Satyanarayan Chattapadhyay used to come to the library and discussed on different issues on freedom movement. They had inspired to develop library. Satyendra Majumdar, Mohit Maitra, Nagendra Bala Debi and others had inspired to the activities of the library. To retain the memory of Brahmananda Keshav Chandra Sen and to relieve from the harassment of police, the library renamed as Keshav Pathagar and transferred to Garifa in 1940.<sup>33</sup>

Mukherjee family, the Zamindar of Champadani set up 'Kumud Smriti Sangha' to continue body building exercise and meet up sports needs of the locality. In 1938, Sudhir Chandra Ghosh, and his brother Bamapada Ghosh and some enthusiastic youth of Champadani set up a library in the drawing room of Anath Bandhab Mukherjee, the son of Pulin Bandhab Mukherjee. Gradually, a section named 'Kumud Smriti Pathagar' was opened to keep memory of late Kumud Bandhab Mukherjee. Now the library is well known to all.<sup>34</sup>

Madarat Bandhab Pathagar was established in 9<sup>th</sup> May, 1913 by a band of educated and energetic youth to spread literacy and to develop mental horizon of the common people of the locality by means of organizing mass mobilizing activities. Lalit

Mohan Nandy, Abani Bhusan Nag, Ramendra Nath Marik, Narayan Chandra Mishra, Subhas Chandra Mukhopadhyay, Pashupati Pal, Siddheswari Mukhopadhyay, Kanailal Das, Sudin Chandra Pal and others inaugurated the library in the house of Jogendra Nath Nag with 296 books as Madarat Bandhab Pustakalaya.<sup>35</sup>

During Second World War, two libraries were established in Bhatpara. Bani Mandir was set up in Ghoshpara Road in 1939 and Evergreen library was set up in 1940. Rabindra Library and Kishore Pathagar were also reported to establish in Bhatpara. These libraries were united in one name Bhatpara Sahitya Mandir. It is reported that the library was the Centre to spread education and culture in Bhatpara during thirties four ties of the twentieth century.<sup>36</sup>

It was the year 1944; peoples of the Sundarban in South 24 Parganas were excited with nationalism and eagerly waited for independence. Clubs, Libraries and Gymnasiums were started from village to village. Extremist leader and organizer Sachin Banerjee of Joynagar had advised and initiated the youths of this village to set up Kishore Sangha. Library was a unit of that association. In that adverse situation, Dakshinacharan Bandopadhyay, Bimal Chattapadhyay, Biswanath Ghosh, Nilam Chattapadhyay, Pulin Mukhopadhyay had actively engaged to set up the library with firm mental strength. The name Kishore Sangha had been changed to Ganasangha. In 1971, a resolution adopted in a general meeting to rename the library as Durgapur Sadharan Pathagar.<sup>37</sup>

### **Libraries in Calcutta**

It was early part of Twentieth Century; Dakshin Kolkata Sevak Samity had earned a key role in history political consciousness and social welfare of the southern part of South Calcutta. With the help of some local volunteers in 1923, Subas Chandra Basu established it under the chairmanship of C.R. Das. Eminent personalities, like, Sarat Chandra Basu, Sunil Basu, B.C. Ghosh, N.C. Chatterjee, Bidhan Chandra Roy, Dilip Kumar Roy, Urmila Debi, Rama Prasad Mukhopadhyay, Prabhudayal Himmat Singha, Basanta Kumar Basu, Dharendra Nath Ghosh and many others actively participated its social culture and educational programmes.

Subhas Chandra, founder of Sevak Samity organized a library in the house of Sevak Samity with a view to spreading education among common people. Abiding by the

direction of Subhas Chandra, Chandicharan Bandopadhyay and Anil Biswas laid foundation of Motilal Ghosh library. Whole collections of Urmila Debi, sister of C.R. Das included in collections of Motilal Ghosh library. Netaji too donated many books from his own collection. Eminent personalities also donated many books at the instance of Subhas Chandra. The great national hero Jatin Das had done much for the development of the library.

Contribution of Sevak Samity in freedom movement was not insignificant. It was panic stricken as many revolutionists and political workers had attached inseparably with it. Proscribed literatures were preserved, circulated and perused in the library secretly. During Swadeshi movement, the samity set up weaver's workshop in South Calcutta to Boycott foreign goods and to build swadeshi industry. Gandhiji himself received the collected aids of the samity impending in the house of samity.<sup>38</sup>

Dakshin Kolkata Tarun Samity Jatiya Granthagar was founded by Subhas Chandra Bose in 1925. Martyr Jatin Das its first secretary. Other organizers were Gourhari Chattapadhyay, Bhabani Prasad Dutta, Birin Guha, Pratap Mitra, Tarak Roy Chowdhury, Asit Kumar Basu, Sachin Roy, Kamalhari Chattapadhyay etc. The library is famous as meeting of the secret society used to hold here regularly. At least two times, the library had raided by police to search objectionable documents. Once Subhas Chandra escaped by its back door to avoid apprehension. The library started with 260 collections and 65 members which augmented to 380 collections and 111 members in 1947.<sup>39</sup>

In 1926, Subhas Chandra Bose was established Deshbandhu Pathagar in Kolkata to enlighten ideal of Chittaranjan Das. The hero wanted to create national consciousness against British Imperialism among the people of south Calcutta as education boost nationalism. Later, his successors have been running this institution successfully. Famous litterateur Sarat Basu and Former speaker of state assembly, Bijoy Bandopadhyay, Madan Chakraborty were also engaged in the library. Madan Chakraborty actively participated in Quit India movement and sentenced to imprisonment. Gymnastic programmes regularly performed in the library. The library preserved banned documents secretly and perused to boost nationalism.<sup>40</sup>

Inspired by anti-imperialist revolutionary attitude, some youths of South Calcutta established Kalighat Tarun Sangha in 1926. Binoy Roy, Rabi Roy, Makhan Mukherjee, Chunilal Mukhopadhyay, Matilal Mukherjee, Nalinikanta Dasgupta and many others played leading role in initial stage. It is reported in 1947, 150 members were attached to the Sangha. Its library section started with 21 books which increased 650 in 1947. Poor Welfare, Night School, Gymnasium and Sports were other sections of the Sangha. Phani Bandhopadhyay was the first secretary of the Sangha. The main aim of the Sangha was to organize an anti- British revolutionary organization in hiding the socio-cultural institution. In the beginning of the 1928, young revolutionist Jatin Das was acquainted with the organizers of Tarun Sangha. Later Jatin Das and Binoy Roy were main organizer of Kalighat Tarun Sangha. They had long relationship with Subhas Basu.<sup>41</sup>

### **Libraries in Hooghly**

In Hooghly there were some branches of the Calcutta Sakti Samiti<sup>42</sup> and the movement was reportedly very strong in Arambagh as local zamindars giving orders that people selling foreign goods were to be taken to the zamindari cutcherry for trial.<sup>43</sup>

During the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the wide spread agitation in Bengal in the wake of the partition of the province has not left the district. The torch-bearers of patriotism so eloquently preached in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by such eminent intellectuals and writers as Bankimchandra, Bhudevchandra, Hemchandra, Nabinchandra and Jogendra Vidyabhusan, organized themselves in 1903 into a revolutionary band known as the 'Hooghly Group' under the inspiring leadership and guidance of Satish Mukherjee and Brahmabandhab Upadhyaya. Simultaneously, a secret society was formed at Hooghly with the object of linking up the movement within the district with that launched by Aurobindo Ghosh in Bengal and Maharashtra.

In Chinsura, a student' organization was established which, during the heat of the anti- partition agitation in 1905, started a night school including library for labourers and established a 'National High Court'. Both this organization and the night school survived for many years. The activities of other such organizations in the district were mainly confined to imparting physical and quasi-military training



to young men of the respective localities but in later years, i.e. at the close of the first decade of this century and also during the second, sporadic attempts at plotting and executing revolutionary and terrorist programme were made. The district was also involved in the twin movements of Swadeshi and the boycott of foreign goods for which a group was formed at Baidyabati in 1903.<sup>44</sup>

‘Shreerampur Hitakarini Sabha’ a welfare committee basically a secret society organized when Danish left India in 1845. It was transferred to the house of Shiv Chandra Palit Lane and later in the house of Ganger Saheb. The organization had played the role of library by preserving and disseminating patriotic literatures and performing social welfare activities.<sup>45</sup>

Sripur student library, the earlier name of Sripur Kalyan Samity established in 1891. The library with its six departments actively engaged to the all-round development of the village. Name of library was changed to ‘Sripur Benevolent Association’. The library holds hundreds year old rare periodicals, as such as, Bharatbarsha, Pravasi, Basumati, Krishilakshmi, Janmabhumi, Aryadarpan, Kusum, Sanibarar Chithi, Abahaman etc.<sup>46</sup>

In 1914, Radharaman Sammilan Samity at Dumurdaha in Hooghly was established by the earnest effort of Swami Dhruvanandagiri Maharaj. Once Rabindranath came to Dumurdaha library. His autograph has been preserved in the library. Library then situated in ‘Akhrabari’. Gymnastic and physical exercises used to hold in the library as mass mobilizing programme. The library shifted its place to the house of Jagabandhu Mukhopadhyay and later in the present place. Eminent members were Swami Uttamananda Deb, Rajendra Nath Roy Bandopadhyay, Gaur Gopal Mukhopadhyay, Banabehari Roy, Bankim Chandra Chattapadhyay, Shyam Sundar Roy, Dhruvananda Giri Maharaj and Prabodh Chandra Chattapadhyay.<sup>47</sup>

Sisir Bani Mandir Pathagar attached with the origin and development of the Guptipara Village Improvement Society in Hooghly. Eminent political leader and social worker Sisir Kumar Bandopadhyay was the founder of the society and library. A good number of books were collected in between 1915 to 1917. Sisir Kumar donated many English books to the library. He collected many rare books and manuscripts by roaming door to door with his followers. In 1933, after the

departure of Sisir Kumar, 'Guptipara Sadharan Pathagar' was renamed as 'Sisir Bani Mandir Pathagar' in memory of Sisir Kumar.<sup>48</sup>

It was the year 1918 an exercise club was set up in the Hooghly by the active participation of Madhusudan Seal, Sambhupada Sen, Narendra Nath De, Shibchandra Roy Chowdhury and Pankajlal Guin. In course of time, people of the locality felt the need of mental development. The new reading club, a library was established in the house of Shibram Dutta. Shibram Dutta, Muktinath Manna, Rabindra Nath Singha, Prabodh Chandra Manna and Hara Prasad Bandopadhyay were the founder members of the library, 80 books were collected as a gift to the library and 18 youths were interested to attach as a member of the library which were increased up to 42 and 120 both in respect of member and collection accordingly in 1947. Later, the library shifted to the house of Ration shop and in the house of Kartik De. In 1930, Kartik De was appointed as a full-time librarian. In Bengali 1355, New Reading club renamed as 'Hooghly Sahitya Mandir'. Local youths had donated money earned from renting light-system to the opera charity show.

Present library buildings were constructed on the donated land of the then chairman of Hooghly Chinsura Municipality Chairman. It is found that revolutionary activities were performed under the shelter of the library. Foreign rulers in this case too were suspicious on the activities of the library.<sup>49</sup> Gondalpara Sammilan Town Library was established by the nationalist people of the locality in protest to the British imperialism in Hooghly. In 1923, when people ready to sacrifice their life to achieve freedom, they also set up Club, Library to create national consciousness by means of creating cultural as well as educational awareness. Regular physical exercise used to perform in the library. Children and youths attended in 'Ananda Asar' to learn about great educators, patriots and inventions. Gondalpara Sammilan Town Library was managed by the voluntary service of the students.<sup>50</sup>

Baidyabati Club is familiar to Hooghly district in its welfare activities, established in 1944. It was registered in 1860. Authority of the club realized the need to spread education. So, they opened a library adjunct to the Club. There was a library at Hatishala Ghat in few years ago. That was also merged within it.<sup>51</sup> Khalisani Pathagar in Hooghly had started in the drawing room of the local land lord Anil

Mallick in 1945. Revolutionaries Biren Dutta, Amarnath Banerjee, Shanti Ganguly, Achintya Kumar Dutta, Jibanananda Bhattacharya were actively participated to organize library. 'Jagrata', a monthly magazine was published from the library.<sup>52</sup> It was Independence Day, Arandi Netaji Granthagar in Hooghly was established in a mud-house by the active initiation of Sunil Roy, Kamala Kanta Hazra, Panchanan Ghosh, Birendra Nath Sarkar and many others. They collected 150 books from the villagers as gift and arranged them in bamboo racks. The library shifted to the Durga Dalan within very short time and last of all in pucca building in within decade of the last century.<sup>53</sup>

### **Libraries in Burdwan**

Kalna subdivision was the main stronghold of swadeshi in Burdwan district, allegedly due to the influence of the local Brahmins.<sup>54</sup> Ramakanta Roy started a Swadeshi Bhandar (stores) in the industrial town of Raniganj in March 1906,<sup>55</sup> and the local Swadeshi Sabha here deserves to be remembered for having brought out a six-page pamphlet entitled Dharmaghat (Strike) during the movement of the EIR employees.<sup>56</sup> Raniganj also had a branch of Joydev Sevak Samproday, which had been started at Kenduli (the site of the annual Joydev mela) in Birbhum district by a local mohunt (religious leader) named Damodar Brajobasi.<sup>57</sup> One part of Swadeshi movement was to boycott British goods, effort to build Swadeshi materials and revolutionary activities. Another part was to boycott British schools and to establish national educational institution. Rashbehari Ghosh donated huge amount to money for that purpose. Arabinda Prakash Ghosh, Pramathanath Mukhopadhyay, Swami Pratagananda, Rabindra Nath Ghosh and historian Radha Kumud Mukhopadhyay were the freedom fighters of Kalna area. They taught in the National College. Later, Nagendra Nath Rakshit, Ramapati Roy and Balai Chand Gangopadhyay joined in the National College. Four National Colleges were established in Kalna, Upalati, Burdwan and Baikunthapur.

Swadeshi Movement transferred into revolutionary activities within very short time. Extremists of the National Congress were gradually trusty of revolutionary activities. From 1906, Burdwan was the centre of revolutionary activities. Jatindra Bandopadhyay and Pulin Behari Bandopadhyay were the pioneers among the revolutionaries in Burdwan.

Jatindra Nath Bandopadhyay born at Channa in Burdwan. He taught war technique in Gwalior by joining military with Brahmabandhab Upadhyay. He determined to achieve freedom by armed revolution. He was later become disciple of Sahang Swami and was famous as Nirralama Swami. Some secret societies including libraries were organized in Kalna, Purbasthali, Manteswar area the name of Bandhab Samity, Mahamaya Samity, Anushilan Samity, Jugantar Samity etc. Birendra Kumar Mallick and Kartick Dutta were leader of Jugantar Samity. Swami Vidyananda, Abinash Chandra Chakraborty and many others also attached to the revolutionary activities. They also participated in Swadeshi robbery. Rasbehari Basu and Batukeshwar Dutta played prominent role among revolutionists. Their activities were spread outside of Bengal.

Jitendra Mitra, Gunendra Mukhopadhyay and Binod Behari Mukhopadhyay leaded Swadeshi Movement in Katowa area. Jitendra Nath Mitra, good organizer and orator organised Congress organization in Kalna, Katowa and Asansol subdivision. In 1906, Rail workers of Burdwan joined in Rail strike. In 1913, activities of the Jugantar Party had increased. Saroj Mukherjee and Binoy Krishna Chowdhury had attached with revolutionary movement. Famous revolutionary Bipin Behari Ganguly had formed secret society in Searsole. Later, Balai Debsharma, Jadabendra Nath Panja and Jitendra Nath Mitra had attached completely with Gandhian movement. Balai Deb Sharma and Sukumar Mitra had attached with the Hindu Mahasabha.

Another pioneer was Aurobinda Prakash Ghosh in the Swadeshi movement in Burdwan. He had engaged in the freedom movement from the student life by the influence of Satish Chandra Mukhopadhyay and Sashibhusan Roychudhury. He joined National Educational Council leaving tutorship in Hindu school. Swadeshi Bhandar was established in Kalna, Balurhat, Panchraki, Akal Paus, Baidyapur, Baghnapura, Dhatrigram etc. To strengthen movement to boycott British goods, Upendra Nath Sen and Debendra Nath Sen of Kalna arranged a large public meeting in Kalna inviting leaders, like, Surendra Nath Banerjee, Kaliprasanna Kabya Bisarad. Swami Pratyagatmananda sentenced to imprisonment by editing 'servant'.

Raykrishna Dikshit, landlord of Mankar was first in Durgapur sub division sentenced to imprisonment by announcing revolt against British administration. His worthy son, Radhakanta D Fikshit was the prominent leader of Burdwan Zella Congress. Bholanath Roy, manager of Durgapur Tali Company was another pioneer of Swadeshi movement in Durgapur. Swadeshi movement was formed by centring Kali temple established by his leadership. Gobinda Lal Bandopadhyay was the pioneer of freedom movement in village Gobindapur. He was rusticated from school writing revolutionary poem. Later, He encouraged public and students to national consciousness during his teacher ship in Gobindapur School.<sup>58</sup>

Revolutionary activities used to perform from the Raniganj Public library. Nibaran Chandra Ghatok of Siharshole and Bhimacharan Roy of Raniganj who became famous as ‘Gandhi of Raniganj’ attached themselves in national activities. Aunt of Bhimacharan was familiar as aunt of revolutionaries. She sentenced to three years (1915-18) rigorous imprisonment due to her attachment in revolutionary activities. No women before her awarded punishment for revolutionary activities in Bengal. Apart from them, Durgadas Haldar, Amulya Ratan Ghosh, Banoarilal Valotia, Sk Kalu from Raniganj, Ramnath Patra, Kalachand Bandopadhyay from Asansol, Joynarayan Sharma, Kaluram Agarwal from Barakar and Sachinandan Adhikary from Durgapur regularly attached to the library.<sup>59</sup>

Chanduli in Burdwan district is an advance village in Katwa sub-division. Peoples from different strata used to live happily in this village. In that period, Pramatha Nath Mukhopadhyay sentenced to prison first to Katwa due to his participation in the Swadeshi Movement. Kshitipada Dutta, Shevapada Maitra, Panchanan Dutta, Chandi Charan Mitra too arrested to their nationalistic activities. Both Zamindar and common men of the village realized the need of library to spread education as education will boost nationalism. In 1915, Rash Behari Mitra, Bagala Charan Chowdhury, Gurupada Bandopadhyay, Hareram De, Kashitipada Dutta, Shevapada Mitra, Panchanan Dutta and other youths of the village established library in the residence of Rashbehari Mitra to discharge nationalistic activities from the library.<sup>60</sup>

Saraswati Karma Mandir in Burdwan was a voluntary organization established in 1922. It used to discharge welfare activities in Raniganj area. A library was also

attached with it. A first-class gymnasium, a service centre for destitute and a dramatic performance stage were also attached with the Saraswati Karma Mandir. Revolutionary activities were performed secretly by the library. Apart from book-lending, football match, service to patients, cremation and dramatic performances were regularly performed. Peon books pass books and letters of the organization in that period confirm such activities. Collection of arms and dynamites, techniques to prepare bombs and to use weapons to run revolutionary activities were secretly organized from here. This institution was not only secretly organized revolutionary activities in Raniganj area, but it was also the secret shelter of the revolutionists of Bengal, Bihar and another place. Bepin Behari Ganguly concealed as private tutor in the Place of Siharsole.

Joy Prakash Narayan, a socialist revolutionary of Bihar took shelter in this organization escaping from the nearby area Mocama. In fourth decade of the twentieth century, Books almirahs were shifted to the Press of Sk. Kalu fearing police raid. It was impossible to shift all properties of the library so soon. Police got objectionable papers and hiding bombs in the library. As a result, they rupture the library house. Police too was angry to the institution in the incident of snatching the gun in Raniganj.<sup>61</sup>

In 1921, Burdwan Zilla Congress Committee had formed formally. Maulavi Mahammad Iasin was the first president of Congress committee. It is found that, Mahammedans of Burdwan leaded the movement attached with Congress. Later, Abul Kasem joined swaraj party of Chittaranjan Das. Abul Kasem and Muhammad Isamil were memorable forever in freedom movement. Kachi Miya leaded Civil Dis obedience movement in Raniganj. Good orator and efficient organizer, Abdus Sattar of village ghola was the leader of district congress. Later, He was the minister of west Bengal under the chief ministership of Bidhan Chandra Roy. Gunindra Nath Mitra, Binod Behari Mukhopadhyay, Fakir Chandra Roy, Jadevendra Nath Panja, Annada Prasad Mondal of Katowa sentenced to imprisonment time and again for their participation in freedom movement.

In 1921 and 1922, Chitta Ranjan Das had come Burdwan to collect money for Tilak Swaraj Fund. Leadership of Deshbandhu was acknowledged by Mahammad Iasmin, Abul Kasem, Anil Baran Roy etc. Jabendra Panja and another leader of

Burdwan had organized the movement following philosophy of Gandhi. Bijoy Bhattacharya established Shikshaniketan with public library in Kalna, Nabagram following the constructive work programme of Gandhi.

In 1925, Gandhiji came to Burdwan and accepted hospitality of Maharaj Bijoy Chandra who was a sympathizer of revolutionary movement. Manilal Singha, landlord of chaldighi was also a patriot. Bhamini Ranjan Sen, eminent lawyer of Burdwan delivered the welcome address in felicitation programme of Gandhi in Burdwan Town Hall. Santosh Kumar Basu, lawyer of British government sat at Gandhi's feet wearing khadi cloth. Maulavi Muhammad Iasin Golam Muhammad, chairman of Burdwan Municipality, Kachi Miyan etc. had honoured Gandhi to wear Gandhi cap. At that time, Jadabendra Panja, Annada Prasad Saha of Katowa, Gunendra Nath Mukhopadhyay, Hareram Mondal, Gopen Kundu of Kalna, Bhima Charan Roy of Raniganj, Kaluram Marawari, Kaji Najrul Islam, rebel poet of Churulia had leded freedom movement.<sup>62</sup>

Srikhanda in Burdwan is famous for culture of Baishnavism. In 1927, Chittaranjan Patha Mandir was started in the mud-house of the famous manuscript expert Rakhil Das Bhattacharya. Later, the public library established on the donated land of Satya Kinkar Bhattacharya. Amalendu Sekhar Roy, Sitananda Thakur and Brindaban Chandra Das were the founder member of the library and it is reported that the library building was inaugurated by poet Kumud Ranjan Mallick. It is also found that activities of the Anushilan Samity, such as Stick playing and other Physical exercises were used to perform in the library under the training of Kesto Thakur and Brindaban Charan Das.<sup>63</sup>

In 1<sup>st</sup> April 1869, municipality was established in Burdwan. In 1938, Subhas Chandra Bose came to Burdwan on occasion of election of the municipality. He delivered lecture at Iswaritala to support of Congress candidates. He also hoisted national flag at Burdwan municipality. Next year, he also came to form Forward Block. In 1921 and 1922; Chitta Ranjan Das had come Burdwan to collect money for Tilak Swaraj Fund. Leadership of Deshbandhu was acknowledged by Mahammad Iasmin, Abul Kasem, Anil Baran Roy etc. In 1925, Gandhiji came to Burdwan and accepted hospitality of Maharaj Bijoy Chandra who was a sympathizer of revolutionary movement.

Asansol Subhas Library in Burdwan had established in 1947. It was a wing of the Subhas Samity. Other wings were Subhas Jymnasium and Subhas High School. Gurupada Roy, Jiten Roy, Ramdas Dutta, Ramananda Roy, Phanibhusan Roy, Manikeswar Roy and other common men of the locality actively participated to set up library. It is reported that the library discharges its services to boost nationalism by means of spreading education.<sup>64</sup>

The name Kandra Jnadas Pallimangal Library in Burdwan was added to Pallimangal Samity in the 5th decade of the Twentieth century. Pallimangal Samity established in 1939 at Tahakurpara inside the Kandra village. Founder member of the club was Sri Mohan Thakur, a freedom fighter of the locality. The club had Zymnasium and library sections. Youths had trained boxing, stick playing etc as a part of physical exercise and library started with 20 books and 9members. Radhashyam Mondal, trainer of exercises and Murali Mohan Thakur arrested in the offence of boosting nationalism among youths in pretention of exercises.<sup>65</sup>

Mankar an education and culturally rich village in Bardhaman. According to the self-rule act in Bengal 1885, Six Union Communities were formed in Bardhaman. Mankar is one of them. Wave of Indian Freedom Movement fell on Mankar too. Radhakanta Dikshit of Mankar attached with the famous revolutionary of Benaras, Sachindra Nath Sanyal when he set up branch of Anushilan Samity in Bardhaman in 1913. Before that, Rajkrishna Dikshit arrested due to burning of foreign clothes in Mankar market. In 6th June 1947, Mankar Pallimangal Library was established in the drawing room of Radharaman Dutta by the initiation of five student and youths.<sup>66</sup>

### **Libraries in Howrah**

The agitation in the other districts of West Bengal was relatively weak, and seems to have existed as a continuous force only in more or less isolated pockets. Thus, in Howrah district there was an Anushilan branch of Fuleshwar (near Ulberia)<sup>67</sup> a few 'akharas' started by the Bhowanipur Sevak Samproday<sup>68</sup> and a centre of activity in the Bagnan area thanks to the efforts of Gispati Raychowdhuri.<sup>69</sup>

Roshpur in the Howrah district is famous for Sris Mitra and his assistance to loot arms from the go down of the Rhoda Company. Roy family of the Roshpur was familiar for welfare activities. Prasanna Kumar Roy, Jatin Roy, Bhupati Das etc.



organized the villagers to establish library in the village to perform revolutionary activities.<sup>70</sup> Libraries attached with ‘Sadharani sabha’ ‘Student Association’, ‘Reading Club’, ‘Friends Reading Room’, ‘Friends Union Library’ and some more small libraries were established in Bali during 1900. These were merged with Bali Sadharan Granthagar’ which had played significant role of secret society of Bali.<sup>71</sup>

During Swadeshi movement in 1930 Amta Public Library became the holy place to create national consciousness among youths. Everyday youths used to assemble in the library to discuss and plan on movement. It was caught attention of British government. Library was shut down for eight years and inquiry started on the activities of the library. It was the year 1907; ‘Amta Literary Club’ in the Howrah district was formed by the active effort of some college students. Jogendra Nath Mitra, Atish Chandra Mitra and others were the founder of the club. In 1910, Pravasa Chandra Mallick, Pravakar Mukhopadhyay and some enthusiastic youth took the charge of the Club and placed it in the small room in Amta Bazar. Due to financial constraints, the Club shifted to teachers’ common room of Pitambar High School in 1918. In 1925, the Club changed its name as ‘Prince Club’ and shifted to the one storied building at Rathtala. In 1927, Jasodanandan Mulhopadhyay and Jyan Chandra Ghosh renamed it as ‘Amta Public Library’.<sup>72</sup>

There was ‘Friend’s Association’, a secret society at Bainan in Howrah district in 1910. The association actively engaged to the educational and cultural development of the villagers centring its public library branch. Dinabandhu Biswas, Bagala Charan Niyogi, Asi Ranjan Chattapadhyay, Arabinda Chattapadhyay were founded Bainan Public Library in 1916 with 374 books and only 12 members including female. Hiramati Debi, Bhagabati Roy, Kalyani Roy, Ashalata Debi etc were the female users of the library. Once Sarat Chandra Chattapadhyay was present in the library and took chair in its annual function. Freedom fighter Golok Behari Roy attached himself to the library.<sup>73</sup>

Santragachi Public Library in Howrah district was first started in ‘Bandhab Samity’. In 1906, ‘Bandhab Samity’ was closed due to political turmoil. Police was suspicious to the youths who used to come here for reading. It was in the 2nd Floor of Kedar nath Bhattacharya, close aid of Surendra nath Banerjee. In the meantime, ten years had already passed. In 1916, Santragachi Public Library was started

bearing the name 'Bani Niketan' where books and furnitures of 'Bandhab Samiti' were transferred. In 1918, another three branches were created in it. They were Santragachi Public Library, Santragachi Sahitya Sammilan and Bani Sangitayan. In 1920, Santragachi sports club included in it. Library preserves many old books including old newspapers, like, Bharatbarsha, Prabasi, Sanibarar Chithi, Modern Review etc.<sup>74</sup>

Bajeshibpur in Howrah is famous due to the attachment of Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay. During his settlement in the village, a society is formed under his inspiration. Villagers under the leadership of Prasanta Gopal Sarkar established a 'Pathsala' and library on behalf of the society in 1918. In due course, the library of 'Pathsala' transformed into Saraswat Sangha library.<sup>75</sup>

It was twentieth decade of last century, the decade famous for national movement in Indian history. Bengal was also one of main centre for revolutionary activities. Bator in Howrah was famous for Bholanath Das, the man who spent in British prison or in hide due to nationalist activities. To spread national consciousness among people, villagers of Betor founded a library, 'Tarun Pratisthan' in the drawing room of Surendranath Palla. It was caught attention of foreign rulers by its name. Police searched the drawing room in accuse of anti-government activities. Later the library shifted to a part of stable of Basanta Nandi and kachha house of Baroyaritola.

As the name was suspicious to the Government, so the organizers thought to change its name and to construct a building for the library. Naren Ganguly bore the entire cost of the building and named it as 'Adhyan Sammilani' in 1925. Narendra nath Ganguly, Surendra Kar, Bhujendra Nath Kar, Narayan Chandra Basu and many others are found as organizers of the library. Later, Prafulla Kumar Mukhopadhyay, Shib Chandra Chattopadhyay, Haranath Basu, Anukul Chandra Ghosh, Jogindra Nath Basu etc. attached themselves to develop library.<sup>76</sup>

South Jhapardah in Howrah was famous for revolutionary activities in British India. Sital Bandopadhyay of this village, teacher of Duke Scholl was actively participated anti partition of Bengal movement. Najiruddin Daptari leaved study in Presidency College in support of non-Co-operation movement. Radha Raman Dutta was arrested due to the rejection of foreign goods. Tarapada Chatterjee,

Hirendra Nath Roy was arrested due to the allegation of Picketing in the shop of 'Ganja' and 'Wine'. Shailen Mukherjee was arrested due to the offence of hosting national flag on High Court. The library was set up in the house of Shailen Mukherjee in 1928. Musical class on patriotic songs were performed in the library.<sup>77</sup>

'Bandhab Samity' in Puras had acquired fame for their welfare activities. In 1942, 'Bandhab Samity' transformed into Atul Pathagar in Howrah and set up in the donated land of Jitendra Nath Pal. Both literacy and health awareness program were performed by the library.<sup>78</sup> Revolutionary activities of Udaynarayapur in Howrah were performed under the banner of 'Bandhab Samity'. When the British was suspicious on the activities of 'Bandhab Samity', then members were established 'Tarun Sangha' in 1944 to boost nationalism by spreading education among common people.<sup>79</sup>

### **Libraries in Bankura**

Anushilan Samity established few libraries in Bankura. Nirad Baran Dutta and Motiprava Debi were the charge of Sahitya Mandir Library and a library established in the Zymnasium at Nutanganj. Three libraries, five clubs and many libraries were established by the Co-operation of revolutionists of the district. Ramsatya Mukhopadhyay, Birendra Nath Singhdev, Sasthidas Sarkar, Bireswar Ghosh, Ram Krishna Das had actively engaged in this work among the revolutionists of Bankura.<sup>80</sup>

In 1909, a library was established at Kalitala in Bankura town under the initiation of Jugantar Party and financial assistance Harihar Mukhopadhyay. In 1910, Pramatha Nath Chattapadhyay established Pathagar, a library at Bishinda in Gangajalghati under the inspiration of famous journalist Ramananda Chattapadhyay. Sanbanda Arunaday Granthagar was established in that year too. Edward Thomson established a library at Nutanchati in Bankura town to spread education and Christianity among people of the locality in 1915. In that year too Ramkrishna Mission established a library school and a charitable Homeopathy dispensery in Bankura town at the bank of river Gandheswari. Young patriot Manmatha Mallick established a library at Ramjibanpur under Kotulpur which was

said to famous for its close relationship of Sakharam Ganesh Deuskar, a famous revolutionist of Maharashtra.<sup>81</sup>

Hitasadhan Samity Pathagar of Kotulpur in Bankura was a prominent organizer of the Swadeshi movement. To boost up the people into nationalism, Hitasadhan Pathagar was established on the donated land of freedom fighter Rakhil Chandra Nag in 1920. In initial period, 15 members comprising Banabehari Pal, Banabehari De, Felaram De, Krishna Chandra Das Karmakar, and Manmatha Nath Mallick had attached to the library and 45 books on different subjects had collected to the library. Mass literacy campaign was an important activity of Hitasadhan Samity Pathagar of Kotulpur in Bankura. To fulfil the object, it used to organize several educational cultural and physical fitness activities.<sup>82</sup>

In 1924-25 Krishna Chandra had organized Sonamukhi town Club Library in favour of Avay Ashram but it has no relation with present Sonamukhi Town Library. It is said that, in 1929, Bebhuti Kumar Ghatak organized a library at Schooldanga Congress office in Bankura town with full co-operation of the Basumati Patrika. Few viewed that, in the same year, Bibhuti Kumar Ghatak was set up a library at Mirzapur under Joypur police station area as a chief sale counter of Basumati Sahitya Mandir.<sup>83</sup>

### **Libraries in Nadia**

Across the river from Kalna, the influence of the Brahmins of Shantipur and Nabadwip helped to make Nadia district a happy hunting ground for political agitators.<sup>84</sup> Volunteers of Santipur town earned notoriety by their assault on two European missionaries at the railway station in 30 June 1906.<sup>85</sup> Samitis were active also at Krishnagar, Nabadwip, Kustia, Ranaghat and Kumarkhali.<sup>86</sup> There were three swadeshi dacoities in Nadia during 1908-09, allegedly committed by the 'Krishnanagar gang' of revolutionaries with centres at Krishnagar, Shantipur and Kusthia. Jatindranath Mukherji – the great 'Bagha Jatin' - himself came from Koya (in Kushtia subdivision) where he is said to have started a revolutionary society as early as 1901.<sup>87</sup>

Shantipur Public Library in Nadia was established in 1912 by the active initiation of Narayan Goswami, Moti Roy, Landlord and Kalachand Chattopadhyay. Initially it was attached with 'Bandhusabha', a philanthropical society which used to act

mass mobilization secretly. Kanailal Pal, freedom fighter of this area was regularly attended to this society.<sup>88</sup> Kustia Public Library is found actively engaged to mass-mobilizing works by means of performing physical and gymnastic performances, discharging social welfare activities to destitute, organizing lectures and meetings to preach patriotic messages.<sup>89</sup>

Bihar and Orissa lagged to some extent behind in political development. There were ten Hindi, nine Oriya and eighty Bengali, a single Assamese newspaper, in 1906.<sup>90</sup> Public Libraries in Purulia successfully attached with militant nationalism though the district was lagging behind in political activities in comparison to Bengal as it was belonging to Bihar at that time. Ramchandrapur Netaji Granthagar in Purulia was established by Asmanandji Saraswati in 1947. He was follower of Sri Aurobinda and friend of Subhas Chandra Bose. Narayan Shanti Kari, Kashinath Sahanti Kari, Jnanamay Chakraborty, Madhusudan Chakraborty were also organizer of the library. The library had attached its name to the glory of nationalism by virtue of the attachment of revolutionist Asima Nanda Saraswati who had imprisoned for his revolutionary activities.<sup>91</sup>

### **Libraries in Jalpaiguri**

There was little revolutionary activity in Jalpaiguri, except for occasional visits by Calcutta leaders<sup>92</sup> in March 1907 the movement there was reported to be 'dormant' and in need of a visit by some swadeshi preacher.<sup>93</sup> The national school and forty volunteers<sup>94</sup> of Jalpaiguri town apparently had little impact on the political situation, yet it is found that Arya Natya Samaj Bhaban, Jalpaiguri reading room. Jalpaiguri Club had performed the functions of both society and library in Colonial period. In 1906, a library was established in the Jalpaiguri district with the activities of anti-partition movement in the house of Kali Mohan Neogi at Raikat Para and that was also closed after two years. In 1907, during Swadeshi movement, a national school and a library were established in the Arya Natya Samaj Bhaban. After the closing of national school, the library was amalgamated to the Arya Natya Samaj and that was still continuing successfully. In 1914, college and ex- student Association library was established. The association used to stage drama in a year. They set up Sashi Kumar Neogi Memorial from the fund of the collected Drama Charity show.

Jalpaiguri reading room library was established in 1918. Bhaba Kinkar Bandopadhyay, Kalipada Mukutmani and Suresh Chandra Pal were its main initiator. Manindra Nath Roy also its librarian for some time. Indian Tea Planters Association is its managing authority. Jalpaiguri Institute, a library was set up in 1918 which is under the management of JMYA at present. Jalpaiguri Club had a prosperous library and European tea company and government employees were its management -in- Charge. It was closed after independence. It had books including four almirahs were transferred to the district library. It is said that Pragati Pathagar, Subhas Pathagar, Gandhi Pathagar, Tarun Pathagar were established in Alipurduar before Edward Memorial Library. In the middle of the 1944, new town library was established in Alipurduar.<sup>95</sup>

In 1945, Netaji Pathagar was established in Lataguri and Subhas Pathagar was established in Falakata with great excitement of independence. People of the localities were boosted towards nationalism by the mass mobilization activities of libraries. At present libraries are successfully discharging their services.<sup>96</sup>

In 1946, 26<sup>th</sup> January, famous Azad Hind Pathagar was established in Jalpaiguri. Satish Chandra Lahiri was its founder president. Sachindra Mohan Lahiri and Surajit Sanyal were its first secretary and librarian and secretary respectively. Contribution of Bhupal Basu, Sisir Maitra and common energetic persons of the locality to organize the library were memorable.<sup>97</sup>

### **Libraries in Murshidabad**

A volunteer society was set up in 1908 at Nimtita, in Murshidabad district.<sup>98</sup> The number of 19 Akhras were set up to render physical and gymnastic activities. Volunteers were busy to arrange lectures through magic- lantern before un- educated mass, assiduous in village construction works including social welfare on behalf of not only the secluded public libraries but also from society - libraries in the district. In 1920, Aswini Kumar Chattapadhyay and Bankim Chattapadhyay, two educated, energetic and enthusiastic brothers of Beldanga under Murshidabad district have established the library, Prasanna Kumar Memorial library in memory of their father to spread literacy among people of the locality.

The library first started in a house at 'Chutarpara' with old stacks comprising some old books. Suhrid Nath Bandopadhyay was its preserver-cum-disseminator. In

course of time, the library had closed and its books including furniture's were placed Chatterjee's second floor room at kamarpara. After long interval, the library had regained its life by the patronage Swasthasree Byamsamiti and started mass mobilizing activities of society. During Swadeshi Movement, many Zymnastic societies were established in different part of Bengal to conduct mass mobilization activities. Beldanga was not desisted from it.

Famous gymnastic Bishnucharan Ghosh and Manotosh Roy had set up Gymnasium to train physical exercises to the local youth under the name of Swasthasree Byamsamiti. Social welfare activities would also perform from the society. At that time some local youths had organized two libraries, Bani Library and Hindustan Pathagar. Those two libraries had incorporated to the gymnastic society and books and furnitures of the Prasanna Kumar Smriti Granthagar incorporated to the Swasthsree Byamsamiti. Patronage of Byamsamiti was continued till government's affiliation. Community Information services have been discharged with the help of computer networking. The library is attracting common people of the locality by its different extension and orientation activities.<sup>99</sup>

Baluhati Sadharan Granthagar started during Non-Coperation movement in 1921. Sushil Bhattacharya and Rajendra Nath Dey preached to reject foreign goods. Nirmal Das, Jitendra Nath Kumar, Jugal Kishore Ghosh, Indu Bhusan Banerjee, Amulya Chattapadhyay were picketing on the wine shop of the village. To create national consciousness and organize revolutionary activities secretly, the library was established in the house of Haradhan Bandhopadhyay. Bholanath Mukherjee, Shital Chakraborty were too enthusiastic to organise library. Bipin Ganguly visited this library in 1930 and recorded good comments on the services of the library.<sup>100</sup>

### **Libraries in Midnapore**

Midnapore presents at first sight the rather puzzling case of a district where the agitation was officially stated to be remarkably mild in January 1906<sup>101</sup> and even 'dying out' except in Tamluk in January 1907<sup>102</sup> but which had become an extremist strong hold by the end of the later year (as the district conference of December 1907 showed), and which in 1908 was to produce in Kshudiram and Satyendranath two out of Bengal's first four revolutionary martyrs. The explanation seems to be that though there was in Midnapore town the usual coterie of not very

active moderate lawyer politicians<sup>103</sup> the initiative had been taken from the beginning by a revolutionary secret society, formed way back in 1902 under the inspiration of Jnanendranath Basu, and later coming under the general leadership of Aurobindo.<sup>104</sup>

Working quietly but very effectively, men like Satyendranath Basu and Hemchandra Kanungo built up a strong organization in the district after 1905, with a chain of 'akhras' (four of them in Midnapore town itself)<sup>105</sup> and weaving centres and Chhattra Bhandar branches which served as cover for revolutionary activity.<sup>106</sup> Samitis were active also in Tamruk and Mahishadal<sup>107</sup> and the movement was greatly helped by the influence of two prominent Zamindars, Raja Narendralal Khan of Narajole and Digambar Nanda of Mugberia (near Contai).<sup>108</sup>

Efforts were made to draw in the villagers through magic-lantern lectures<sup>109</sup> though the real breakthrough to the peasantry- which was to make Midnapore the strongest base of nationalism in West Bengal for more than a generation- had to wait for the 1920s.

In order to attract common people to library public libraries in Midnapore district were relentless to embody activities of secret society. It was the year 1905, British was conspiring to divide the Bengal. It was unanimously resolved in a meeting to establish 'The Contai Club' with three-fold objects, as like as, to arrange for gymnasiums and sports to perform duties of secret society, arrange for a circulating library, to promote social intercourse among local gentlemen. Sri B.P. Chatterjee, Sri J.N. Shasmal younger brother of Birendra Nath Shasmal were elected as secretary and assistant secretary respectively from the meeting.<sup>110</sup>

Rajnarayan Basu Smriti Patagar is also found to engaged in mass- mobilizing activities during Swadesi period and afterwards. A good number of meeting was held in its hall, which ones familiar as Belly Hall and its courtyard to preach swadeshi message following programme of Calcutta Town Hall. Including district leaders, Satyendranath Basu, Hemchandra Kanungo, Birendra Nath Shasmal, Raja Narendralal Khan, Digambar Nanda, many prominent state level leaders were also delivering their speeches in library premise to attract common people.<sup>111</sup>

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose delivered lecture in a meeting in the village Jararnagar by the initiation of the educated villagers and active effort of the National teacher



Iswar Chandra Pramanik in 12th April, 1938 in modern Midnapore. To retain this holy arrival of Netaji Mr. Pramanik founded a voluntary organization in Jararnagar under Contai sub-division which is still acknowledged as 'Subhas Shilpa Bharati'. Subhas Smriti Pathagar is one division of this voluntary organization established in 1947. In the very beginning, there were 18 users including five females of them and 25 volumes including two daily newspapers collected in the library. Library orientation programme, such as debate, seminar, study circle and lending of books door to door used to executed in library in addition to physical and gymnastic activities through 'Akras'.<sup>112</sup>

People of the 'Mahishya' community in Ghatal and Daspur in the district of Paschim Medinipur had participated in large numbers in the freedom movement. Branches of 'Bharatsabha' established in Ghatal, Ramjibanpur etc. Ghatal, Ramjibanpur, Kharar, Chandrakona were famous for cottage industries, like bell-metal and brass utensils but the literacy rate was low in those places. Jagriti Public Rural Library was established at village Sayla under Ghatal sub-division in 1945 to perform revolutionary activities. Literacy programme such as book and newspaper reading, seminar and cultural competition were regularly performed in the through the year.<sup>113</sup>

Kharar Sitaram Memorial Public Library in Midnapore was established in 1945 by the effort of the two benevolent persons, Dr. Byomkesh Chakraborty of the village Gopinathpur and Mr. Bibhuti Bhusan Bardhan of the village Udaygang. Sunil Kumar Bardhan son of Bibhuti Bhusan donated land to the library. Revolutionary activities used to perform from the library. Library also subscribed Bharatabarsha, Basumati etc.<sup>114</sup>

Radhaballavpur Public Library in Midnapore had established by the earnest effort of local peoples in Tamluk sub-divisional area in 1945. With a view to eradicate illiteracy, to spread education to common people and to draw future political plan secretly, peoples of the locality organized the library 'Boys sporting club' by name, later the library renamed as its present name.<sup>115</sup>

### **Observation**

Revolutionary movement though initiated in Maharashtra, Bengal was its centre of animator. With a view to free motherland, Bengali youths played significant role to

the revolutionary movements inspired by the ideals of Vivekananda and Bankimchandra. Revolutionary movement was started in Bengal after 1860 though it was firmly settled in during Swadeshi movement. Preparation of revolutionary activities was started with Gymnastic and physical activities under the domination of Samitis. Samities were established in Midnapore, Howrah, Salkia, Bali, Shibpur, Uttarpara, Shreerampur, Burdwan, Dacca, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Jalipaigury, Raj Shahi, Mymensingh, Barisal, Chatty gram, Coomillya, Faridpur and different places in Calcutta. These patriotic societies-maintained libraries with good collections of books to increase members' interest in radical movements and 'revolutions. Some of the books in their collections were already banned by the Government.

Apart from the familiar Samities, Public Libraries were also performed duties of Samities. Reader's used to study history of national as well as abroad and religious books for their mental and spiritual development similar to Samities. Libraries have to rendered social welfare activities and organized physical exercises following directives of Samities. Rabindra Nath Tagore, Gurudas Bandopadhyay, Bipin Chandra Pal, Rash Behari Ghosh, Chitta Ranjan Das, Sister Nivedita and many other nationalists were found as organizer and patron of both Samities as well as Libraries.

It is also found from the analysis of the present topic that a good number of public library and society were established in Bengal during accelerating period of 'Swadeshi' movement. Most of the samities were in the East Bengal, present Bangladesh. Samities had their own libraries. Both samities and libraries were inspired by the missions of the secret society. Both samities and libraries were in existential crisis. Most of them closed due to weakening of the 'Swadeshi' movement and constant pressure of police. Few of them continued for long time even is running today. Apart from lending of books or other documents, gymnastic activities, defendable duties of the secret society strictly followed in the libraries. Libraries usually opened with 15-20 books.

Organisers were popular political personalities or patron of militant nationalism. Same type of patriotic books was collected in these libraries. Mainly periodicals, newspapers, posters, pamphlets and manifestoes were collected in these libraries

rather than books. Secretly educated members were pursue patriotic literature in front of the illiterate or low illiterate common people to boost up militant nationalism among them. Frequently, volunteers delivered patriotic literatures door to door secretly, the system become familiar now a day as mobile library. Female societies are found engaged in work of women empowerment programme and service to poor and destitute child and women. They also participated different programme from libraries attached to societies as well as seclude public libraries. Celebrity women have been found devoted their life in revolutionary movement. Numbers of Muslim community were progressive to remove backwardness of their own community by setting up societies. They are also found participated programmes of public libraries in that period. Social welfare activities of public libraries were meant to attract common people to the revolutionary movement to collect volunteers among common people. Public Libraries were also able to fulfil their missions in this work. Simultaneously, inclination to reading books and orientation to the libraries were increased than former period. As a whole, public libraries of the period turned as social force by the inspiration of the secret society.

### **Notes and References**

1. Dutta, Bhupendranath. Bharater Ditiya Sadhinata Sangram, pp.96.
2. Mahajan, V D. Modern Indian History, From 1707 to the Present Day, S Chand, New Delhi, 2017, pp.440.
3. Mukherjee, Subodh Kumar. Development of Libraries and Library Science in India, Calcutta, The World Press, 1969, pp. 28.
4. Roychowdhury, Prabir. Public Library Development in West Bengal: a review in Souvenir, West Bengal Book Fair 1985-86, Calcutta, 1986, pp.7.
5. 'Samaj Sevak Samity', Sri Satyendramohan Maitra and Sri Nakulesher Chowdhury, 'Hindu Ranjika'(Bisheh Sankhya), Asard 1335(B S), pp.40-41 *quoted in* Haque, *op.cit.*pp.903-904.

6. Haldar, Jibantara. Anushilan Samitir Sankipta Itihas, 1950, 1965. pp.14 *quoted in* Sumit Sarkar, *The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal 1903-1908*, Permanent Black, 2016, pp.410.
7. The list includes titles like *Condemned as a Nihilist*, *Self-Help*, *Free Trade and Protection*, *Lives of Cromwell*, *Washington and Napoleon*, *Life of Teachings of Vivekananda* and two books by him, a book on Ramkrishna, *Nabya Japan*, *Palashir Yuddha*, and *Maharaj Nandakumar Charit*. D.O.No. 936, J.R. Blackwood to R. Nathan, 28 January 1909- Home Political Depot, April 1909, n.2.
8. D.O No. 936, Mymensingh, 28 January 1909, from J.R. Blackwood to R. Nathan. Paper No. 7- Report on Samitis in Dacca Division, Part III. Home Political Progs Deposit, April 1909, n.2.
9. Das, Anup Kumar. *Legacy of the Bengal Renaissance in Public Library Development in India*, Sage Publication, 2015, pp.375.
10. Nisith, R. Roy. *Hundred Years of freedom Struggle: 1847-1947*, Biplabi Niketan, Calcutta, pp.197.
11. Nisith, *Ibid.*, pp.198.
12. Amrita Bazar Patrika, 6<sup>th</sup> November, 9<sup>th</sup> November 1905.
13. IB File No. 739/15 – HFM (B), No. 63.
14. Manirujjaman, Dr. Md. *History of Rangpur Public Library in Rangpurer Itihas (1687-1947)* , Gatidhara, Bangladesh Bazar, Dhaka, 2012, pp. 392-398.
15. Bengalee, 9 April 1908.
16. *Kishoreganj Itihas*, *Kishoreganj Zella Itihas Pranayan Committee*, 1993, pp.294-97; Dr. Md. Sherezzaman, *British Amale Rajshahi Saharer Katipay Public Library: Ekti Parjalochana*, *op.cit.*, pp.876-888.
17. H.A. Salkeld's Report on the Anushilan Samiti, Dacca, 10 December 1908- para 5. Home Political Progs Deposit, April, 1909 n.2- Part I.
18. Rabi, Ranabir Pal. *History of Rammohan Roy Library in Banka Behari* (edt.) *Purba Bangla Brahmasamajer Itibitya*, Bangladesh Brahma Samaj, Patuatuli, Dhaka, 2014, pp.139-146.

19. Khan, Amirul Alam. Jessore Institute Public Library Journal, *op.cit.* pp.25-80.
20. Dasgupta, Hiralal. Sadhinata Sangrame Barishal, *op.cit.*, pp. 11-12, 27-28.
21. Sherezzaman, Dr. Md. British Amale Rajshahi Saharer Katipay Public Library: Ekti Parjalochana, *op.cit.*, pp.877-883.
22. Home Political Progs Deposit, August 1909, n. 26 – Appendix I and II.
23. HFM (B) , No.63- IB Note, 2 May 1908.
24. IB File No. IV/185 of 1907 – An Account of Samitis and Volunteer Organisations in Bengal. HEM (B), No 63.
25. Cf. Home Political Progs A, March 1910, n. 33-40, for information about Jatindranat Roychaudhuri (Zamindar of Taki), the Mozilpur Branch, and the Sonarpur Branch.
26. Kodalia Haranath Binapani Library Catalogue; Interview with Debidas Chowdhury, Committee Member of the Library, Ex Officer of RBI, aged 81, Office Diary, pp.5 and Gouridas Gupta, Librarian of the Library on 6.10.15.
27. Ariadaha Asssocation Library and Literary Club, Mukhopadhyay, Arun Kumar. Kaler Jatray, *op.cit.*
28. Mukhopadhyay, Arun. Ei Banglar Satayu Granthagar, Punascha, Calcutta, 2003, pp.171-173.
29. Barisha Pathagar Catalogue, Debsharma, Sudir Chandra. Satabarsher Alor Saranite Barisha Pathagar in Cetenary Celebration Souvenir, 2003, pp. 5-7; Interview with Ranjan Raychowdhury aged 72 , Secretary of the Library, Jiban Mukhopadhyay aged 67, Committee Member of the Library, Dipak Biswas aged 66, Committee Member of the Library, Kalidas Chakraborty aged 73, Ex Committee Member of the Library, Mita Munsik, Librarian of the Library dated-22.09.2015.
30. Hemchandra Pathagar; Das, Madhuri. Satabarsher Gauravmoy Aloy Hemchandra Pathagar, *op.cit.* pp.8-25.

31. Halishahar Ramprasad Town Library Catalogue, Sushil Kumar Ghosh, Sadhinata Sangrame Halisaharer Abadan, Kumarhattya Halisahar Ucha Vidyalaya Centenary Souvenir, 1954, pp.148-152, Interview with Madhusudan Das aged 68, Secretary of the Library, Pijush Ghosal aged 64, Retired School Teacher, Committee Member of the Library, Dilip Rakhit aged 70, Ex Secretary of the Library, Nina Pal Chowdhury, Assistant Librarian of the Library dated- 15.09.2015.
32. Binoy Bhusan Mukhopadhyay founder secretary of Board Director, Sarsuna Association, Sarsuna Association Parichiti Reprinted in Centenary Souvenir, Sarsuna Association and Prativa Library, 1905-2005. Interview with Anindita Roy, Librarian on 30.9.15.
33. Keshab Pathagar Catalogue, Basu, Gopal. Keshab Pathagar Sankhipta Itibritiyain in Golden Jubilee Volume, 1983, pp.33-38 ; Interview with Prof, Arup Ratan Mitra aged 74, Secretary of the Library, Retired Professor, Bankim Chandra College, Naihati, Pravash Sengupta aged 86, President of the Library, Retired School Teacher, Ajoy Adhikari aged 70, Member of the Library, Prof. Dilip Bandopadhyay aged 68, Ex Secretary of the Library, Professor, Kalyani University, Pradyut Dutta Banik, Librarian, dated- 08.06.2015.
34. Kumud Smriti Pathagar Catalogue, Hazra, Kalidas. Granthagar Andolone Baidyabati Anchaler Opsita Granthagar, Centenary Vol. 2008, pp.33-35.
35. Madarat Madarat Bandhab Pathagar Catalogue; Mukhopadhyay, Gopalananda. Madarat Bandhab Pathagar Panchasaptatitama Barshapurti, Platinum Jubilee Souvenir, 1988, pp.9-14; Interview with Kalikrishna Banerjee aged 85, General Member of the Library, Basudev Das aged 68, Retired B.A. Laro Office Employee, Life Member of the Library, Raghunath Nandi aged 74, Businessman and Life Member of the Library, Sukhendu Mondal, Library Attendant, Anupam Pal, Secretary of the Library, dated- 29.9.15.
36. Bhatpara Sahitya Mandir Catalogue, Sarkar, Amarendra. Bhatpara Sahitya Mandir Satabarshe Utsab Committee Souvenir, 2005, pp.21-23 ; Interview with Amitava Mukhopadhyay dated- 12.06.2015.

37. Durgapur Sadharan Pathagar Catalogue, Naiya, Dilip. Pathagarer Katha, Durgapur Sadharan Pathagar, Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 1995, pp.2-4 ; Interview with Dilip Kumar Naiya, Secretary of the Library, Balai Raychowdhury aged 70, President of the Library, Amarnath Das aged 81, Committee Member, Retired School Teacher, Suchanda Das, Librarian, dated- 29.09.2015.
38. Dakshin Kolkata Sevak Samity, Matilal Ghosh Library Catalogue; Interview with Sandip Dutta aged 65, Businessman and Social Worker, Secretary of the Library, Dr. Mantu Kumar Mitra aged 75, Retired School Teacher, President of the Library, Ramendra Nag aged 76, Member of the Library, Basupati Mukherjee aged 82, Member of the Library, Shankar Mukherjee, Library Assistant dated 13.10.2015.
39. Daksin Kolkata Tarun Samity Catalogue; Interview with Debnath Banerjee aged 67, Library Committee Member, Gouravhari Chattapadhyay aged 79, Library Committee Member and Pankaj Kumar Dey, Librarian of the Library dated- 13.10.2015.
40. Deshbandhu Pathagar Catalogue; Secretarial Report, Binod Behari Das, Sadharan Granthagare Tathya Prajukti o Deshbandhu Pathagar, 83rd Foundation Dey Souvenir, 2007, pp.13.15; Interview with Ajoy Kumar Ghosh aged 72, Secretary of the Library, Pratap Kumar Maitra, Committee Member of the Library and Amalesh Dutta, Librarian of the Library dated-14.10.2015.
41. Comments on Kalighat Tarun Sangha (Jatin Das Smriti Pathagar) by Suniti Kumar Chattapadhyay 08.01.1956, Ahindra Chowdhury 06.01.1957, Ashutosh Bhattacharya 06.01.1957, Narayan Gangopadhyay 08.01.1956, Mahashewta Bhattacharya 25.08.1957, Swami Pragananda 11.01.1958 and Information also collected from Sudhanshu Dasgupta. Subhaschandra Sammandhe Kichu Katha in Nagarik Katha, ed. Ashok Chowdhury, January, 2010, introductory note of Jyoti Basu in MasterDa Surya Sen o Banglar Yuba Samaj ed. Md. Selim and Interview with Indrani Ghosh, Librarian of the Library dated- 05.10.2015; Kalighat Tarun Sangha (Jatin Das Smriti Pathagar) Catalogue; Barun Gangopadhyay. Kalighat Tarun Sangha, Jatin Das Smriti Pathagar: a brief history, Library Souvenir, 2013, pp. 2-3.

42. Home Political Progs Deposit, October 1907, n.19 -Appendix B. Cf. also Howrah District Gazetteer (1909), pp.146.
43. Fortnightly Report from Bengal, 9 January 1907 - Home Political Progs A, February 1907, n. 152.
44. The following account of the freedom struggle in the district follows an article by Ratanmani Chattopadhyay in Smaranee, a publicity brochure brought out by the District Congress Committee in 1961, pp.153.
45. Abdul Gaffar, Librarian, share information on past account of the Shreerampur Public Library & Mutual Improvement dated 19.03.2015, Shreerampur Public Library & Mutual Improvement Catalogue, Debiprasad Dasgupta: Amader Granthagar Atit o Bartaman, 125th Souvenir Volume, 1997, pp.4-8.
46. Bhadreswar Barik, aged 56, Telephone Ex Change Officer, Dhanapati Seth, aged 65, Ex Serviceman, Hind Motor, Satya Kinkar Ghosh, aged 62, Common People, Prabir Saha, D.C.B. (Librarian) shared an excellent account of Sripur Kalyan Samity library dated 16.04.2015, Sripur Kalyan Samity Catalogue, Secretarial Report, Sripur Kalyan Samiti, Centenary Volume.1990, pp.19-21.
47. Radharaman Sammilan Samity Library Catalogue; Modak, Kamala Kanta. Satabarsher Dipaloke Dumurdaha Radharaman Sammilan Samity, Centenary Volume, 2011, pp.8, Interview with Jhantu Sarkar, Librarian, and Radharaman Sammilan Samity Library dated- 16.04.2015.
48. Sisir Bani Mandir Pathagar Catalogue; Bhattacharya, Nrisingha Prasad. Sisir Bani Mandir Pathagar Purbakatha. Diamond Jubilee Souvenir, 1992, pp.2-6; Kamalesh Bhattejee (edt.) Banga Sanskritir Ek Parba : Rajnaitik Andolane Guptipara,pp.587; Rajnaitik Andolane Sisir Kumar Bandopadhyay,pp.601, Interview with Aswini Kumar Garh, J.L.A., Sisir Bani Mandir Pathagar dated- 14.05.2015.
49. Dutta, Amit Kr. Librarian and Joint Secretary, provided library records, dated- 06.05.15, Written on the re-collection of memory of organizer member, Prabodh Chandra Manna by Satyendra Nath Mitra in Diamond Jubille Volume, Hooghly Sahitya Mandir, 1997, pp.4-5.



50. Gondalpara Sammilan Town Library Catalogue; Mukhopadhyay, Hemandranath. Goldalpara Sammelan, BikasherAdiparba, pp.67-71; Bimalendu Bandopadhyay: Goldalpara Sankhipta Itihas, Platinum Jubilee Volume Souvenir, 1998, pp.13-20, Interview with Sachindranath Mukherjee, aged 92, Secretary, Ex Bank Officer, Amalendu Bandopadhyay, aged 90, Ex Library Committee Member, Molay Mukherjee, aged 65, Ex Secretary, Ex Central Government Gazetted Officer and Pijush Sinha, Librarian dated- 22.04.2015.
51. Baidyabati Club Granthagar; Kalidas Hazra. *op.cit.*.pp.41-42.
52. Khalisani Pathagar Catalogue, Swarup Ganguly, Library Assistant and Gautam Nath, Library-in-Charge reported past account of library with the help of administrative records, dated- 29.04.2015.
53. Arandi Netaji Granthagar Catalogue, Prabhat Kumar Bhattejee aged 59, Head Clerk, ADI office, Tarapada Bag, Ex Arandi Samabay Krishi Unnayan Samity Manager and Present member of Hooghly Zilla Parishad, Anup Sarkar, aged 64, Ex Arambag Hospital Clerk, Haradhan Nayek, aged 62, Former Librarian shared accounts of library, dated- 26.04.15.
54. Report on the Anti- Prtition and Swadeshi Movement in Bengal (7 September 1906), para 12- Home Political Progs B, October 1906, n. 13, Cf. also pp.311.
55. Bengalee, 31 March 1906. It sold cloth supplied by the Anti- Circular Society.
56. The Bengal Library Catalogue 1906, Volume IV, contains the following entry- 827. Sarma Bholanath, Dharmaghat, p.6. Girish Ch. Mandal, Swadeshi Sabha, Ranigunj 25.10.06. As. 1,1000 copies. Unfortunately, no copy of this pamphalet- unique for its age- seems to be survived.
57. IB File No. IV/185 of 1907 – An Account of Samitis and Volunteer Organisations in Bengal. HEM (B), No 63.
58. Peterson, Bengal District Gazetters, Burdwan, *op.cit.*, pp.177.
59. Pal, Sibananda. Karma Mandir Theke Library, Ekshata Panchis Bacharer Dirgha Ek Path in 125th Jubilee Volume, 2002, pp.20-25, Interview with Asit

Kumar Nath, D.C.B.B of the Raniganj Public Library dated- 27.05.2015, Raniganj Public Library Catalogue, Raniganj Public Library Peon Book, 1914, Library Pass Book, 1941, Raniganj Post Office.

60. Chanduli Library Catalogue; Interview with Harimohan Chakraborty aged 80, Retired Primary School Teacher, President of the Library, Dolgobinda Das aged 64, Retired Society Employee, Secretary of the Library, Dasarathi Dafadar aged 80, Retired S.B.I. Manager, Ex Secretary of the Library, Shib Shankar Pal aged 85, Former Committee Member of the Library, Basudev Mandal aged 85, Committee Member of the Library and Jatin Mondal dated – 06.07.2015.

61. Saraswati Karma Mandir Pathagar Catalogue; Pal, Sibananda. Karmamandir Theke Library, *op.cit.*, pp.23-25, Interview with Shibananda Pal, Librarian, Saraswati Karma Mandir Pathagar dated- 27.05.2015.

62. Bhattacharya, Hansanarayan. Bardhisnu Bardhaman, *op.cit.*, pp.201-202.

63. Srikhanda Chittaranjan Pathagar Catalogue; Interview with Uttam Kumar Sengupta, Former Librarian and Committee Member of the Library dated- 09.07.2015.

64. Asansol Subhas Library Catalogue; Interview with Bharat Chandra Roy aged 65, Former Librarian and Library Committee Member, Shampa Majumdar, Library-in-Charge dated- 26.05.2015.

65. Kandara Jnnadas Pallimangal Library Catalogue; Interview with Nihar Kanti Das aged 70, Retired Head Master of School, Member of the Library, Puspendu Singha aged 65, Retired Bank Employee and Committee Member of the Library, Ishani Das aged 65, Retired School Mistress and Member of the Library, Biraj Das Thakur, Librarian of the Library dated 20.05.2015.

66. Konar, Arabinda. Udyagir Udoysge Safal Pratisthan. *op.cit.*, pp.2-3.

67. Home Political Progs Deposit, October 1907, n.19 – Appendix B. Cf. also Howrah District Gazetteer (1909), pp.146.

68. IB File No. IV/185 of 1907 – An Account of Samitis and Volunteer Organisations in Bengal. HEM (B), No 63.

69. Report on the Anti- Partition and Swadeshi Movement in Bengal (7 September 1906), para 12- Home Public Progs B, October 1906, n.13.
70. Rashpur Peoples Library Catalogue, Interview with Anup Mondal, Library-in –Charge, dated- 14.02.2015.
71. Bali Sadharan Granthagar Catalogue, Prabasi, Magh Volume, 1943; Eksha Panchis: Bali Sadharan Granthagar- 1885-2009; Mukhopadhyay, Arun. Ei Banglar Shatau Granthagar, Kolkata, pp.108-109.
72. Interview with Swaig Majumdar, Retired School Teacher and President of the Amta Public Library, Sukanta Pal aged 40, Social Worker, Secretary of the Library and Raghunath Sen, Library Assistant dated- 28.02.2015, Amta Public Library Catalogue; Bidyut Kumar Chattapadhyay, Amta Public Librarian Aitijya Sandhane, 2014, pp.6-7.
73. Bainan Public Library, *op.cit.*
74. Santragachi Public Library Catalogue: Secretarial Report. pp. 1-2, Interview with Sumit Banerjee, Librarian of Santragachi Public Library dated- 08.02.2015.
75. Bajeshibpur Saraswat Sangha Library Catalogue; Interview with Umaprasad Singha Mahapatra aged 64, Retired Bank Officer, President of the Library, Aninda De, Secretary of the Library, Income Tax Officer, Pravakar Pal aged 66, Businessman, Committee Member of the Library, Samir Kumar Ghosh, Librarian of the Library dated- 13.02.2015.
76. Adhayan Sammilani Pathagar Catalogue; Chattapadhyay, Gopal Chandra. Itihaser Prekhapate- Adhayan Sammilani, Platinum Jubilee Souvenir, 2000, pp.7-13, Interview with Banshibadan De, Librarian of the Adhayan Sammilani Pathagar dated- 17.02.2015.
77. South Jhapardah Public Library Catalogue, Secretarial Report; Interview with Anirban Basu, Social Worker and Member of the Library, Ramkrishna Banerjee, Social Worker and President of the Library, Amalendu Roy, Secretary of the Library dated- 19.02.2015.

78. Atul Pathagar Catalogue, Interview with Tapas Chatterjee, Puras Mahavidyalaya Non-Teaching Staff and Secretary of the Library, Rabindra Nath Chatterjee aged 77, Ex Library Employee and Member of the Library, Rabindra Nath Seth aged 82, Life Member of the Library, Dr. Atish Ratan Nandi aged 73, Doctor and Life Member of the Library, Shyamsudha Tarafdar, Member of the Library, Chandan Kumar Basu, dated- 25.02.2015.
79. Udaynarayapur T S Rural Library Catalogue, Sarkhel, Bhudeb Chandra. Report, Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 2008, pp.21-22, Interview with Ananta Chatterjee, Librarian of Udaynarayapur T S Rural Library dated- 17.02.2015.
80. Mohanchowdhury, Rathindra. Bankurar Gupta Samity o Biplabi Andolan, pp.390-91.
81. Ghosh, Swapan. Bankura Jelar Granthagar Andolan: Atit o Bartaman, Bankura Zella Sankhya, Tathya o Sankriti Bibhag, Government of West Bengal, 1409 (Bengali era) ,pp. 390-91.
82. Kotulpur Hitasadhan Samity Pathagar Catalogue, Interview with Jhulan Pal, Librarian of the Library dated – 10.12.2014.
83. Ghosh, Swapan. *op.cit.*
84. Fortnightly Report from Bengal, 17 September 1906, pars 3. Report on the Anti- Partition and Swadeshi Movement in Bengal (7 September 1906), para 12. Home Public Progs B, October 1906, n.13.
85. The volunteers suspected that the Indian woman accompanying the missionaries was being forcibly taken by them. Abstract of Reports from Bengal, July 1906, para 4- Home Public Progs Deposit, September 1906, n.5.
86. Note of 14 March 1908 – An Account of Samitis and Volunteer Organisations in Bengal, HFM (B) No.63.
87. Home Political Progs A, March 1910, n.33-40.
88. Shantipur Public Library Catalogue, Interview with Debabrata Bandopadhyay aged 65, Secretary of the library, Ranjit Nath, 72, President of the library, Swapan Kumar Math aged 68, Committee Member of the Library, Prabir Dey, and Librarian of the Library dated- 14.12.2015.

89. Ali, Rajiuddin Musa. Kusthia Public Library Smriti in Kusthia Public Library, Platinum Jubilee Smarak Grantha (1910-1985) edited by Professor Abul Ahsan Chowdhury, Kusthia Public Library, Kusthia, 1985, pp. 41-45.
90. Report on Vernacular and Anglo-Vernacular Newspapers published in the Lower Provinces and in Assam in 1906- Annual Report on Indian Papers, Volume IV, pp.87.
91. Ramchandrapur Netaji Granthagar Catalogue; Interview with Chanchal Shanti Kari, Librarian of the Library dated- 19.06.2016.
92. Thus, four Calcutta agitators visited Jalpaiguri on 6-7 January 1906. D.O. No. 145 Public, 12 July 1906, from H.H. Risley to Sir A. Godley – Home Public Progs A, July 1906, n.124.
93. Bande Mataram, 5 March 1907.
94. Home Political Progs Deposit, August 1909, n.26 – Appendix I.
95. Kumar, Arun. Zellar Granthagar Andolaner Dhara (edt.) Ajitesh Bhattacharya, Jalpaiguri Zella Sankha, in ‘Madhuparni’, 1987, pp.352-357.
96. Netaji Pathagar Catalogue, Lataguri, Jalpaiguri; Secretarial Report, pp.1-4.
97. Azad Hind Pathagar Catalogue, Kumar, Arun. Jelar Granthagar Andolaner Dhara, eds. Dr. C.C.Sanyal, K.K.Chakraborty, Pritinidhan Roy, Dr. R.M.Lahiri in Jalpaiguri Zela Saptabarshiki Smark Grantha : 1869-1968, 1970., pp.352-357 ; Interview with Kamal Krishna Banerjee aged 70 , Secretary of the Library, Jibendrajit Singha aged 89, founder Member of the library, Alok Mukherjee aged 84, President of the Library, Manas Kumar Bhattacharya, Librarian of the Library ,dated- 01.02.2016.
98. An Account of Samitis and Volunteer Organisations in Bengal – HEM (B), No 63.
99. Beldanga Prasanna Kumar Memorial Town Library Catalogue, Chattapadhyay, Hiranmoy. Prasanna Kumar Memorial Town Libraries Utsab o Bibartan in Anirban: a cultural and literary organ, 1421 (BS), pp.13, Interview with Satya Ranjan Chatterjee, 82, Retired School Teacher, Member of the Library,

Amarnath Nath Mukhopadhyay, 72, Secretary of the Library and Ex Library Stuff, Md. Nabisuddin, Librarian dated- 26.04.2016.

100. Baluhati Sadharan Pathagar Catalogue; Interview with Amar Mukherjee aged 75, Library Committee Member, Shailendra Nath Mondal, librarian of the Library dated- 28.02.2015.

101. Home Public Progs A, June 1906, n.175, para 57.

102. Fortnightly Report from Bengal, 9 January 1907 – Home Public Progs A, February 1907, n. 152.

103. The most prominent of these were Kshirodbihari Dutt and Pyarilal Ghosh, who started a Bilati- Barjan Samiti (Society for the Exclusion of Foreign Goods) in October 1905. Ishacandra Mahapatra, Saheed Kshudiram (1948), p.42.

104. For more details about this very interesting group, cf. below, Chapter IX.

105. An Account of Samitis and Volunteer Organisations in Bengal – HEM(B), No.63.

106. Hemchandra Kanungo, *op.cit.*, Chapter VI. Binoyjiban Ghosh, Agniyuger astraguru hemchandra (1952), pp.51.

107. An Account of Samitis and Volunteer Organisations in Bengal – HEM (B), No 63.

108. Ghosh, Binoyjiban. Agniyuger astraguru Hemchandra (1952), pp. 54-57. For Digambar Nanda and his protégé Khirodenarayan Bhuyia – both of whom the Bengal government wanted to deport in 1910- see also Home Political Progs A, March 1910, n. 33-40.

109. Hemcandra Kanungo, *op.cit.*, Chapter VI. Binoyjiban Ghosh, Agniyuger astraguru hemchandra (1952), p.51.

110. Pal, Trailokya Nath. Medinipurer Itihash, 3rd Vol. pp.40.

111. Raj Narayan Basu Smriti Pathagar Secretarial Report, *op.cit.*, pp.18-19.

112. Jararnagar Subhas Smriti Pathagar Catalogue; Mandal, Arunava. ‘Jararnagar Subhas Smriti Pathagarer Itibrittya’, Bidyabhaban Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 2013, pp. 139-42; Interview with Gouri Shankar Manna, Administrator

of the Library, Kalachand Mondal aged 75, General Member of the Library, Panchanan Sahu aged 78, Retired School Teacher and General Member of the Library, Niranjana Pramanik aged 75, Carpenter and General Member of the Library, Arunava Mondal, Librarian of the Library dated- 22.09.2014.

113. Sayla Jagriti Public Rural Library Catalogue, Secretarial Report; Interview with Nirmal Pal, Library-in- Charge dated- 28.10.2014.

114. Kharar Sitaram Memorial Public Library Catalogue, Secretarial Report, Kharar Sitaram Memorial Library Golden Jubilee Volume, 1995, pp. 3-24; Interview with Dr. Pithi Raj Mukherjee, Secretary of the Library, Sanat Roy, President of the Library, Subrata Bardhan aged 64, Social Worker, Committee Member of the Library, Shib Sattya Hari Samanta aged 65, Committee Member of the Library, Asit Kumar Patra, Librarian of the Library, Dulal Kumar Dinda, Library Assistant dated- 29.10.2014.

115. Radhaballavpur Public Library Catalogue, Khatua, Gostha Behari. 'Radhaballavpur Public library Samparke Kichu Katha', Library Souvenir, 1992, pp.15; Interview with Narayan Chandra Bera aged 62, Retired School Teacher and Secretary of the Library, Dilip Kumar Das aged 84, Retired Govt. Employee and President of the Library, Mahima Ranjan Khatua aged 72, Ex Armyman and General Member of the Library, Bomkesh Ghosh, Ex Librarian of the Library, Moley Das, Junior Library Assistant dated- 09.09.2014.