

Public Libraries in Colonial Hoogly, 1858-1947

Bhakti Pada Jana

***Abstract:** East India Company in India neglected mass education and indigenous village schools which imparted elementary education, however limited and crude, to the people. With a view to eradicating illiteracy and to continue the literary power of neo-literates libraries were established in villages, town, and cities in the country. This study has confined its focus on 27 out of 62 Public libraries in Hoogly to reveal their history of evolution, their programmes, and to compare them with the present situation. Libraries were established to spread literacy as freedom fighters and educated person believed education would boost nationalism.*

***Keywords:** Public libraries, Colonial Hooghly, Primary education, Nationalism, Neo- literates*

Introduction

The British government at first took but little interest in the development of education. In matters of education and intellectual progress India was passing through a period of analogous to the Middle Ages of Europe. Colonial rulers concentrated more on consolidation than on 'diffusion' of primary education. So, necessity of mass education for national progress was categorically pointed out by the Indian nationalists. With a view to eradicating illiteracy and to continue the literary power of neo-literates libraries were established in villages, towns and

cities in the country. The study has confined its focus on 27 libraries out of 62 Public Libraries in Hooghly to trace their evolutionary stages of organization as well as objectives and outcomes during 1858-1947. The remaining is not in position to provide information on that period. As the oldest public library of the district established in 1858, so the study has started with the year. Primary sources, like, library records, Book Fair Volumes, Sesquicentennial Volume, Silver Jubilee Volumes, Golden Jubilee Volumes, Platinum Jubilee Volumes of the libraries and DLO office files are consulted for the study. Information is also collected from the aged persons of the locality.

The setting

Hooghly District is known as the holy place of sagacity. The people of the district were intelligent and foresighted to accept English education first. As regards knowledge of English, the ratio in the case of males is the highest in the Province outside Calcutta and Howrah, where conditions are exceptional owing to the numbers to the Europeans resident in that cities.¹ Hooghly had fostered an important role to the Library Movement in rural Bengal. A considerable number of libraries, i.e. 62 Public Libraries were established in the district during this period followed by Howrah (50), South 24 Parganas (35), North 24 Parganas (34), Burdwan (32), Kolkata (22), Midnapore (22), Murshidabad (20) and so on.

Konnagar Public Library was established in 1858 by Derojian Shiva Chandra Das (1811-90) and it is the oldest library of the Hooghly district and third oldest Public Library in West Bengal and other two is Rajnarayan Basu Smriti Pathagar (1851) in Midnapore and Krishnagar Public Library (1856) in Nadia. In 1859 Uttarpara Joy Krishna Public Library was established which had acquired appreciation from the scholar of both India and abroad for its rich collection. After a while Mahesh Public Library (1869) was set up by the patronization of local youth and Shreerampore Public Library (1871) was established by Tulshi Charan Goswami. Gradually, from the middle to the last part of nineteenth century, Chandannagar Pustakagar (1873), Bansberia Public Library (1891), Srirampore Kalyan Samity (1894), Jamgram Nandy Sadharan Pathagar and Mandulai Public Library (1891) were established in the district. Thus 23 libraries were established in the district from 1858-1919. 15 libraries, such as Gondalpara Sammilan Town Library (1923), Haripal Kailash Chandra Pathagar (1925), Ashutosh Smriti Mandir, Jirat (1928), Kaikala Bijoy Library (1935) and others were established from 1920 to 1935. 24 libraries, such as, Kotrang Sadharan Pathagar (1936), Raja Rammohan Pathagar (1943), Khalisani Pathagar (1945) and others were established on the eve of independence.

The district had not only set up libraries, it had performed a leading role to organize library association in the state. On 28th and 29th March 1925, the first

Hooghly library conference was held at Bansberia in Hooghly under the initiation of Bansberia Public Library and it was the first library conference in undivided Bengal. Bengal Library Association was formed as per the proposal of Hooghly Library Association. We have historical records of early library associations in India such as Baroda Library Association (1910), Andhra Desa Library Association (1914). The Indian Library Association was founded in 1933. The Post-independence period has witnessed an increase in the number of library associations.

In 1927, Nripati Kumar Ghosh of Bansberia went as the representative of India at the International Library Conference held in London. In 1935, Munindra Deb Roy, King of Bansberia was the only representative from India in the International Library Conference in Spain. His contribution was not confined to Hooghly alone; he heralded the library movement in Bengal. He raised a private library bill in the then Legislative Assembly. He also prepared a draft library act but did not present it to the legislative assemble due to want of permission of government. While recent research has been done on many aspects of the district but history of public libraries in Colonial period of the district still remains tantalizingly incomplete and subject to conjecture.

Two propositions

Two propositions have been framed during the course of study. First, how far can the libraries of the colonial period in the district be claimed as predecessors of the present library system when UNESCO Library Manifesto or Indian National Policies on Libraries had not been framed? The UNESCO (1949) in its Public Library Manifesto, for the first time spelled out the key missions which relate to information, literacy, education and culture should be at the core of Public Library services. Sinha Committee (1958) followed by D.P. Chattapadhyay Committee (1988) too recommended Libraries at the panchayet, block, district and state levels to be constituted with appropriate functions and span of control and it should interact with other social, education and adult education programmes by preserving and disseminating cultural heritage in its multiple forms. National Knowledge Commission (2006) specially emphasized to bridge the gap between the information poor and the information rich as the key mission of libraries. In this paper, objectives and functions of the libraries of Colonial period have been narrated with a view to comparing them to the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto (1949) and recommendations of the National Policies on libraries.

Second, how far does the history comply with the history of subaltern in relation to their agitation to achieve right to education? It is found that common people of all professions were organizer and user of libraries in Colonial period in the district. They fought to achieve and spread education within the oppression of

colonial rulers. They were the 'subaltern' or people from below. Landlords and rich peasants of the district also belonged to the category of 'subaltern' in case of foundation and organization of libraries though they belonged to the dominant class elsewhere. Nationalistic movements in practice seldom went beyond the confines of 'bhadralok' groups. Zamindars and Jotedars donated land and major financial support to set up libraries. But they have also been included in the subaltern group of political domain with specific features and collective mentalities to boost nationalism by means of setting libraries to spread education. It is also assumed that subaltern groups lacked any relatively autonomous culture or mind of their own and only responded mechanically to economic pressures or are mobilized through initiatives from the top.²

Educational statistics

Let us introduce the statistics of literacy of district as perspective to set up libraries. According to the returns compiled by the Educational Department, nearly two-thirds (63.5 per cent) of the boys of school going age attended schools of various kinds in 1893-94, but a decline then set in. In 1900-01 the lowest level was reached with 51.9 per cent, but since then the ratio has risen slowly until in 1908-09 it was 60.2 per cent. The number of educational institutions, exclusive of colleges, also fell from 1,768 in 1893-94 to 1,319 in 1900-01, and then rose slowly to 1,536 in 1908-09. The decrease was due mainly to the Lower Primary schools,

the number of which fell from 1,402 in 1893-94 to 1,001 in 1900-01. After this the decline was arrested, the number rising in 1908-09 to 1,165, including 159 girls' schools in a decade and half, while the attendance fell by 2,368. On the other hand, this loss was partly compensated by the increase of Upper Primary schools from 108 to 126 and of their pupils from 4,000 to 6,110.

On the other hand, progress is noticeable in the education of girls, the ratio of female literates rising from 4 per mile in 1881 to 9 in 1891 and to 14 in 1901. The educational returns also show that the number of girl's school represented 6.2 per cent of the number of girls of school- going age in 1908-09 as against 4.4 per cent in 1893-94. Some progress is further shown by the Muhammadans, the number of such pupils having increased from 7,509 to 8,476 in the same period.³

The libraries

It seems that the district of Hooghly was not significantly involved in the general turmoil of the Rebellion in 1857, or during the Indigo Revolt of 1859-1861. But gradual increase of political consciousness, this time among educated middle classes, was noticeable towards the end of the 19th century, when some developments of far- reaching significance like the foundation of the Indian National Congress and the granting of small modicums of local self-government in 1864, 1872 and 1885, fired the imagination of the people. The policy of

liberalization and repression pursued alternately by the authorities led to political discontent which reached its climax with the partition of Bengal in 1905.⁴

Konnagar Public Library and free reading room were established by Shiva Chandra Deb (1811-90), the follower of Rammohan Roy and Derojio. Earlier it was known as Anglo-Vernacular library. The library was established in 1858 and it is the oldest library of the Hooghly district and third oldest Public Library in West Bengal. Shiva Chandra donated a large part of his collection for the library. People from different sphere of the society donated books to the library. In this connection, foreign donor, Eric Heyward donated large number of valuable and rare books. It is found from the list in 1888 that 33 eminent personalities in the locality actively participated to organize the library. Trailokya Nath Mitra, Monmohan Mitra, Jadugopal Chattopadhyay, Girish Chandra Deb, Satyapriya Deb, Ananda Prasad Bhattacharya, Shyama Charan Deb, Joy Krishna Mukherjee are found as the member of the library during nineteenth century. In 1935, organization of the child section in the library was the notable achievement in that period. At present, library is discharging its services with 36000 books and to 16000 members.⁵

Uttarpara Public Library was established in the middle of 19th century and occupied a prominent place in the cultural history of Bengal. It was renamed as Uttarpara Joykrishna Sadharan Library in remembrance of its founder Joy Krishna

Mukhopadhyay. It is reported in the introduction of Long's Descriptive catalogue in 1855 that most of the Bengali books in the catalogue would be seen in the Uttarpara Library. Eminent guests and scholars were arranged to stay in the first floor of the library. William Hunter compiled Gazetteer with the help of its collection. Many Lords and Governors visited the library. Merry Carpenter in her 'Six month in India' and Sri Aurobindo in his famous 'Uttarpara Lecture' mentioned the glory of the library. Iswar chandra Vidyasagar, Bhudev Mukhopadhyay, Keshab Chandra Sen, Hemchandra Bandopadhyay and many distinguished personalities expressed their pleasure to visit the library. Madhusudan Dutta took guest-ship in the library for two times. Collection of the library was 13, 000 in 1859, when its door was opened to all. Many old books collections were merged in it. Collection of Bengali books was near about 2500. In 1855, William Hunter wrote a letter to his wife stating its rich collection, '[A] unique store of local literature, alike in English and Vernacular tongues...' It has rich collection of books on Bengali Language, published before 1860. It is near about 600. As a whole, there are 1500 books of nineteenth century. Many books of school Book Society are preserved here. Collection of old almanacs was a mentionable holding of the library. Collection of old and rare periodicals in caught to the attention of the researchers. Digdarshan, Somprakash, Kalpadrum, Tattobodhini, Nityadharmanuranjika, Bibidhartha Sangraha are some of them. The

library with its 1,60,000 collections and 12,500 users is preserving and disseminating cultural heritage human society. ⁶

It was only 5th decade of the nineteenth century, wave of renaissance had touched the Mahesh village and people of the village inspired to educational and cultural development of them by establishing school and library in the village. In 1869, Aditya Nath Chattopadhyay, Kshetra Mohan Ghatak, Bhagaban Das Rudra, Madhusudan Rudra, Purna Chandra Chowdhury, Purna Chandra Das, Nakur Chandra Bhattacharya and others were enthusiastic to set up library, 'Mahesh Public Library and Reading Room'. The library had shifted to places time and again and finally closed due to space, finance and administrative problems. It had to wait till 1904 to rejuvenate its activities. Shiva Prasad Gangopadhyay, Bibhuti Gangopadhyay, Kaliprasanna Sengupta, Jatindra Nath Mukhopadhyay, Kshetra Sen, Siva Ram Bandopadhyay, Mani Chattopadhyay and many others had led the work of rejuvenation. The library gradually became popular at that time though it had no building. In the meeting of the Executive Committee in 1919, decision was taken to build new building for the library, Kishori Lal Goswami, Surendra Nath Bandopadhyay, Haridas Adhikari, Gangopadhyay family, Sengupta family, Rudra family, Bandopadhyay family of Mahesh spontaneously helped to build library building. Common men extended their helping hand to build library building. In 1921, own building of the library was constructed by spending Rs. 5427. Since

then, the library had been becoming as centre of education and culture with Collection 13,565 and 376 users.⁷

In 1806 Dr. William Carry and his assistant Dr. Joshua Marsh Man established 'Shreerampur Hitakarini Sabha' which had played the role of library. In 1845, Danish left India and the name of the Hitakarini Sabha changed its name into Shreerampur Public Library by a resolution of 1871 under the President ship of sub-divisional officer Traven Plauen. It is notable that contribution of Gopi krishna Goswami and Heramba Goswami were memorable to establish the library. Sub-divisional officer T.G.Richi played important role in the first phase (1815) of its organization. In later part, Raja Kishori Lal Goswami, king of Burdwan and Tulsi Chandra Goswami donated many books to the library. In 1801, some local enthusiastic youths had organized a 'Mutual Improvement Association' to exchange their opinion and discussion. Brahma Mohan Mallick, Bhudev Mukhopadhyay, Dinabandhu Mitra and other learned persons were the patron of this association. In 1885, the association merged with the Shreerampur Public Library and emerged as a rich library, Shreerampur Public Library and Mutual Improvement Association. Very soon, the need of own building for the library was felt due to increase of book and members. King Kishori Lal Goswami had promised to build the library. Later, his son Tulsi Chandra Goswami, a good orator and parliamentarian had constructed a large beautiful building by expanding more

than half core of rupees and named it as 'Raja Kishori Lal Goswami Memorial Hall'. He provided one part of this building to the library and another part to the municipality. In 1928, the library shifted to the building permanently. In this connection, a brief elaboration is needed about Tulsi Chandra Goswami. Indian National Congress had felt the importance of library in national freedom movement. In 1924, All India Library Conference was held under the president ship of Chittya Ranjan Das at the same place in Belgaon (Karnatak) immediately after All India Congress Session. Young leader Tulshi Chandra Goswami chaired the conference in temporary absence of the C. R. Das. In 1924, he was the representative of the library conference in the Belgium and held a meeting in this library to form a committee by organizing libraries in the district. The library had earned membership of Bengal Library Association and Indian Library Association in 1929 and 1931 respectively. In 1933, session of the Asian Library Conference was held in this library. Kumar Munindra Deb Roy, Newton Mohan Dutta, Heramba Nath Maitra, Dinesh Chandra Sen, Ramananda Chattopadhyay, Khodabox and many other learned persons had attended its different functions at different time. In 1924, Car Michael inspected the library and donated a set of 'Imperial Gazette' by Hunter as a sign of his pleasure. Shreerampur Public Library was the one famous library among 22 of same in undivided Bengal in the

nineteenth century. At present it has been bearing its glory by collecting 31,647 volumes and 4249 users.⁸

Jadunath Palit, Harimohan Sur, Mahendra Nath Nandi, Pramatha nath Mitra, Pramatha nath Biswas, Motilal Seth and others organized Chandannagar Pustakagar in a rented house in Chandannagar in 1873 to spread mass education. Books of the library were purchased from the sold assets of the closed dramatic organization of Jadunath Palit. Jadunath Palit too donated his own collection and collected some books from his friends. Due to ailment Jadunath Palit resigned from the post of the secretary of library after ten years at a stretch service and Pramatha Nath Mitra was the next secretary of the library. In 1889, Harimohan Sur engaged to its development and transferred the library to the first floor of Adyait Press in Nichu Palli and later in a second floor house of Kansari Palli. At that time, library was under lock and key for four to five months. In 1899, Charu Chandra Roy tried heart and soul to save library as a secretary. At first, he shifted the library to the office of the 'Prajabandhu' and arranged to subscribe the foreign periodicals. The library had to return to that old house of Urdi Bazar within a very short span. In 1901, Pramatha Nath Mitra and Jogendra Kumar Chattapadhyay were selected as secretary and assistant secretary respectively. They collected books free of cost from the eminent litterateur Bhudeb Mukhopadhyay, Sarala Debi, Nagendra Nath Basu, Swarna Kumari Debi, Hemendra Prasad Ghosh and others to fill up the

collection of the library. A library circle was initiated from 1912 every Sunday in the library by the joint effort of Narayan Chandra Deb, Krishna Lal Das, Surendra Nath Mukhopadhyay, Surendra Nath Pal and Jogendra Nath Dur. After the departure of Pramatha Nath Mitra in 1916 and cashier Tin Kari Nath Basu in 1917, Hari Har Seth was nominated as the secretary of the library.

By his charity Chandannagar library acquired its own house in the newly built Nrityagopal Smriti Mandir in 1920. Harihar Seth was not only rich men but also a intellectual as well as research worker. He donated seventeen thousand rupees to buy land of the library and sixty thousand to build house of the some. He was the secretary of the library for fifteen years in two phases (1917-24) and (1930-38). Book strength and user strength of library were increasing very fast. The book strength was 11,000, 17,000, 22,000 and 26,500 in 1922, 1930, 1940 and 1949 respectively. In 1937, Twentieth Bengal Literary Conference was held in the library and Rabindranath Tagore was the inaugurator of the conference. At present, it has 2,100 users with 64,000 volumes and 60,000 periodicals. It has been performing several welfare activities, like, felicitation of position holder in Chandannagar area, donation of fees to needy school students and to provide different memorial prizes to the proficient of them. The library has numerous rare collections of periodicals and books on different subjects.⁹

Sripur Student library, the earlier name of Sripur Kalyan Samity was established in 1891. Narendra Nath Mitra, Harotosh Mustafi, Manmatha Bijoy Mustafi, Annada Charan Mustafi, Ramdas Mustafi started library in a house of Mustafi by collecting few books from their own house. Few years later, the library shifted to the drawing room of Rama Nath Mustafi by the initiation of Rakhal Das Sarkar, Phanibhusan Mustafi, Nandalal Mustafi, Joytish Chandra Sarkar, Bhabanath Mitra, Ananta Bijoy Mustafi and others. Last of all, Haridas Mustafi, Pravas Chandra Mustafi, Sahyacharan Mustafi, Sripada Mukhopadhyay, Bholanath Das, Ram Chandra Mitra took the charge of the society and shifted it to the drawing room of Purna Chandra Mustafi. At that time the collection increased to 350 (1891) to 397 in 1910 and membership increased 18 in 1891 to 30 in 1910. Real development of the library had started from that time. The library with its 6 departments actively engaged to the all round development of the village. Name of the library was changed to 'Sripur Benevolent Association'. As a result, very soon it became popular and its member strength had increased in a good number. Comments of Mr. J.Lang (1911), District Magistrate, Hooghly, C.W.D. Prentice (1913), Mr. Bibradale (1916) authenticated the real development of the library in that time. After the departure of Purnachandra Mustafi, the library shifted to house of Bangla Vidyalaya, dispensary room of Ram Chandra Mitra, drawing room of Ek Kari Pal and last of all a house of Ram Chandra Modak in Sripur Bazar. In

1933, the library shifted to the drawing room of Santosh Kumar Mustafi and Nirod Baran Mukhopadhyay. In 1941, the golden jubilee celebration of the society celebrated here. Child section of the society started in 1934 to develop reading habit. In 1947, the library had collected 560 volumes and enrolled 60 users which increased to 12,000, 1200 both in collection and users respectively at present.¹⁰

Growth and development of library movement in Bengal was started from Bansberia Public Library in Hooghly in 1891. The library has earned prominent place by collecting 32689 volumes and enrolling 2861 users at present time too. It had been started in the house of Brahmasamaj by the active effort of Kshitindra Debroy, King of Bansberia Hanseswari and some local youths. Main patronage was Bhudev Mukhopadhyay, Satyacharan Mukhopadhyay and Lalit Mohan Singh. At that time, number of subscribers were 12 and collected books were 129 and an almirah also collected as asset of the library. In 1901, the library had to shift to the Garbati Vidyalaya, nearer to the palace of Hansewari. In 1911, the library had to return to the house of 'Brahma Samaj'. At that time, Dr. Tinkari Adhya and Harihar Ghosh were the president and secretary of the library respectively. In 1916, the library was reopened in the Vidyasagar Bhaban of Madhya Engraji Vidyalaya. At that time, Manindra Nath Rudra, Amulyadhan Mukhopadhyay, Tinkari Dutta, Ratan Chandra Kundu, Hari Narayan Sarkar, Bipin Behari De, Akshay Kumar Singha and others were devoted themselves to the development

of library. The library registered in 8th December, 1923 and received land for construction of its building from Municipality. The library turned in a reputed institution by attaching eminent personalities, like, Kumar Munindra Deb Roy, Tin Kari Dutta, Amulyadhan Mukhopadhyay, Manindra Rudra in it. In 1925, first library conference was held in this library. In 1932, first child section opened in the library. The year 1934 was also a historically significant for the library. In undivided Bengal, first librarianship training centre had started in this library. In 1935, another historical achievement was that, Kumar Munindra Dev, President of the library joined in the International Library Conference in Spain as only representative from India.¹¹

During the first decade of the 20th century, the widespread agitation in Bengal in the wake of the partition of the province did not leave the district untouched.¹² The torch-bearers of patriotism so eloquently preached in the 19th 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 Maharastra. In Chinsura, a student' organization was established

which, during the height of the anti- partition agitation in 1905, started a night school for labourers and established a 'National High Court'. Both this organization and the night school survived for a number of years. The activities of other such organizations in the district were mainly confined to imparting physical and quasimilitary 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 programmes were made.¹³ 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 1903.¹⁴

Boinchee Kashipati Smriti Sadharan Pathagar was established in 1907. It was opened in the house of Dulal Sen and later, the library was established by the inspiration of freedom fighter Nakul Chandra De. Abdul Fajul Karim Mandal donated 1.50 acre land and money to construct building of the library. Other organizer members were Keshav Chowdhury, Narayan Chandra Dutta, Srikanta Bhattacharya, Shiv Prasad Banerjee, Debi Prasad Bhattacharya, Kashi Nath Banerjee etc. In 1907, there were 300 books and 21 members which augmented to 1500 books and 124 members in 1947 which too increased to 10382 volumes and 1001 users at present.¹⁵

Baidyabati municipality was formed with two villages, Baidyabati and Shewrafuli in Hoghly. Baidyabati was an advanced village in respect of education and culture. So, the village was not lagging in nationalism in British India. Hrishikesh Kanjilal, a high school teacher in this area was arrested during class hour in suspect of the Alipur Bomb case. 37 youths of the locality established a library and society to eradicate illiteracy, to create health awareness and to boost nationalism in 1908. Not only Nirmal Chandra Ghosh, from king family of Shewrafuli, Kumud Bandhab Mukherjee from zamindar family of Champadani, Munindra Nath Mukherjee from zamindar family of Shewrafuli , youths from different professions, like, doctors, engineers, businessman, teacher, government employee were also attached themselves to organize the library in the locality. Haridas Gangully played leading role and the library started in the drawing room of Sarada Prasad Gangopadhyay with 120 volumes which increased to 2,052 in 1911. At present, the library has collected 32, 854 volumes and 4,804 users.¹⁶

It was the year 1909, the founders of Uttarpara Saraswat Sammilan were all student at that time. They were eager to read books on different topics but no capacity to buy these. So they prepared to set up a small library not only for them but to create reading habit among common people. They begged books from neighbors and familiar persons. It is found that 50 books were collected and 10 members were enrolled in the library at initial stage. At first Books of the library

were stored in a wooden box and that kept in a house of girls' school of 'Hitakari Sabha'. Later it was shifted to the room adjunct to the temple of God Ramchandra Jew, outside room of Kamakshya Charan Bandopadhyay and later in the house of the founder Lakshminarayan Pal. In 1911, the library settled in that place on rental basis. Several changes in name had been occurred before its present name. At first, it was named as 'Friend's Union' and later as 'Bandhab Sangha Sammilan' and finally as 'Saraswat Sammilan'. It is also found that Kalipada Bandopadhyay, Nirapada Bandopadhyay, Lakshminarayan Pal, Knailal Mukhopadhyay, Asutosh Dutta, Lalit Mohan Mukhopadhyay were the founder of the library. Durgabrata Roychowdhury, Parimal Chattopadhyay, Arun Chattopadhyay, Basanta Chattopadhyay, Amulya Bhusan Chakraborty, Radha Kmal Thakur, Tushar Bandopadhyay, Panchanan Dutta, Ganapati Mukhopadhyay and many others were member of the library. Revolutionary activities in Chandannagar were performed by freedom fighter Amarendra Chattopadhyay. He was in exile in that period. Police was suspicious on the activities of library. They also interrogated Lalit Mohan Mukhopadhyay, one of the founders of the library. The library is running successfully with Present Collection 14,500 and 250 users.¹⁷

Tarakeshwar Yuba Sangha Town Library first organized in the local Congress Office in 1910. Later it shifted to Union Club. Organisers were Haradhan Purakait, Robin Sanyal, Samar Mukherjee, Rabi Kanta Goswami, Sukhadeb Purakait.

Freedom fighters, like, Kanai Lal Ta, Nityagopal Pal, Kalipada Mukherjee, Dighapati Bhattacharya had actively participated to organize the library. It is found that, 320 books were collected by gift in 1910 in which increased up to 550 in 1947 and 85 users of the initial year had augmented to 220 in 1947.¹⁸

Garal gacha public library was established in 1913. With a view to eradicating illiteracy and spread cultural awareness among people, energetic youths of the locality, Jitendra Nath Mukhopadhyay, Sitapati Bandopadhyay, Susthir Bnadopadhyay Nanimohan Gangopadhyay, Ramkali Lala, Phanibhusan Bidya Bidyabinod and others actively participated to organize the library. First it was opened in the drawing room of Pasupati Bandopadhyay. Dr. Sashibhusan Mukhopadhyay was president of the library at that time. He used to organize seminar on literature and popular science to educate common man of the locality. In 1917, F.B. Bradley Bart, the district magistrate of Hooghly visited the library and commented favourably on the library:

I visited the garalgacha public library and was met by the president, Babu Sashibhusan Mukherjee and many others interested in it. Khan Bahadur Haji Kasimuddin Mollah also meet with me. I am very glad to find so much interest taken in it. There are 95 subscribers and the number of books is 1087. It is housed in a good pucca building and I trust it will continue to prosper and exert a good influence on the locality. I wish it all success''. In 1945, grandson of Asutosh

Mukhopadhyay donated his ancestral home including 14 decimal lands to library to solve housing problem of the library. The library is collecting and disseminating information by its Collection 15515 and 533 from its inception.¹⁹

In 1914, Radharaman Sammilan Samity in Dumurdaha was established by the earnest effort of Swami Dhruvanandagiri Maharaj. Once Rabindranath came to Dumurdaha library. His autograph have been preserved in the library. Library then situated in 'Akhrabari'. The library shifted its place to the house of Jagabandhu Mukhopadhyay and later in the present place. It is found that 68 members were attached to the library and 230 volumes were collected for the library in 1914. Eminent members were Swami Uttamananda Deb, Rajendra Nath Roy Bandopadhyay, Gaur Gopal Mukhopadhyay, Banabehari Roy, Bankim Chandra Chattapadhyay, Shyam Sundar Roy, Dhruvananda Giri Maharaj, Prabodh Chandra Chattapadhyay. In 1947, both collections and strength of members augmented to 320 and 87 respectively and at Present, Collection increased to 7014 and Users to 750.²⁰

During First World War, in 1915, 'Merry Friends' Library' or 'Sadananda Bandhab Pathagar' was established in Hooghly by Nagendra Nath Mukhopadhyay, Gourhari Som and Bhupati Majumder to boost nationalism and to create educational as well as cultural awareness among the people. Terms, like, 'Merry' or 'Sadananda' omitted from the title of the library within very short time as

authorities of the library found no joy in the society in that war period. Hence, it was only termed as 'The Friends Library', Hooghly from that period. Early years of the library had spent in the house of Ambika Charan Mitra and later in the rented Tin shed house of Jogindra Charan Mondal. Present library buildings was set up on the donated land of Sarat Chandra Pal at Raybahadur Satish Mukherjee Road under Hooghly Chinsura Municipality. It is found that, 430 books and 25 members were the asset of library and those increased up to 2300 in books and 150 in users up to 1947. At present, it has collected 25,961 and 1,048 in both document and users respectively. In pre- independence period, police confiscated 'Patherdabi' of Sarat Chandra Chattapadhyay and 'My Struggle for independence' of Subhas Chandra Bose from the library.²¹

Sisir Bani Mandir Pathagar attached with the origin and development of the Guptipara Village Improvement Society. 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. 'Guptipara Sadharan Pathagar' was started in a barren room of the Shiv Mandir near school under the governance of the society in 1917. It is reported that the library was started with 30 to 40 old Sanskrit manuscripts, more than 500 books and 40 members. Sishir

Kumar and his followers had begged fund to construct building for the library. In 1922, foundation stone of the library was laid down by Prasanta Chandra Mahalanabis. In 1933, after the departure of Sisir Kumar, 'Guptipara Sadharan Pathagar' was renamed as 'Sisir Bani Mandir Pathagar' in memory of Sisir Kumar. In addition to normal activities of the library, library staff extended their activities towards mass literacy campaign; to spread female education, exhibition on health awareness, program me to prevent Malaria and Kalazar etc. In 1947, both collection and user strength increased up to 1500 and 90 respectively which continually augmented to 10000 and 1200 both in volumes and users respectively.²²

It was the year 1918; a gymnastic 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, Mukti nath Manna, Rabindra Nath Singha, Prabodh Chandra Manna and Hara Prasad Bandopadhyay were the founder members of the library, 100 books were collected as a gift to the library and 18 youths were interested to attach as a members of the library which were increased up to 100 and 150 both in respect of member and collection accordingly in 1947 and at present it has 26602 volumes and 1009 users. 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. Present Collection 26,602, Users- 1009.²³

The national movement and libraries

After the First World War, political ideologies, so far influenced by secret societies and their vision of a violent overthrow of the Government, took a different turn. A general disillusionment had set in with the refusal on the part of the authorities to recognize the demand for self-government. Revolutionary and terrorist leaders, freed from jail, were undecided about their future course of action. The Rowlatt Bill and the massacre of Jalianwallabag plunged the whole nation into a feeling of great bitterness. The programme of the new movement included the boycott of British courts and educational institutions by lawyers, teachers and students; a nationwide re-construction drive through the media of *charka* and *khadi* and 'national' educational institutions; the boycott of intoxicants and fostering of

communal harmony. Very soon this new tide of national resurgence began to course through the district of Hooghly.

In 1921, responding to the call of Gandhiji, many young men gave up their studies to devote themselves to the non-cooperation movement and were joined by lawyers and others who left their professions at Hooghly, Serampore and other places. The Hooghly Vidyamandir and the Hooghly District Congress Committee were established in Hooghly town (Katgarh Lane) and large public meetings were held all over the district to spread the new ideology and to collect funds for the 'Tilak Swaraj Fund'. Local branches of the Congress were established at numerous places. The teachers also joined in and started a 'national' school. In May and June 1921 the movement spread to Arambagh and aroused a keen response.

An important event of the year was the starting of the Sakti Press in Calcutta by a band of leading political workers of Hooghly and this institution has ever since been closely associated with the Congress movement in the district. The following year, 1923, witnessed the extension of the *charka* and *khadi* programme (in which the Hooghly Vidyamandir played an important role) and of relief operations in the interior areas.

In 1924 Congress activities in the district took an interesting turn when an agitation was launched to end long-standing evils associated with the management

of the famous Sivaite centre at Tarakeswar. Deshabandhu Chittaranjan Das took a leading part in it and some of the Congress leaders of Serampore and other places joined the *satyagraha* movement. As a result, the *mohanta* (chief priest) was replaced by a 'Receiver' to supervise the temple properties. In 1925 Mahatma Gandhi visited the Hooghly Vidyamandir and the *khadi* centre at Serampore. In 1928 there were numerous processions and meetings throughout the district advocating the boycott of the Simon Commission. Next year a big political conference was organized at Hooghly, which was presided over by Deshpriya Jatindra Mohan Sengupta.²⁴

Debanandapur is one of the villages (Gram) of Saptagram, the capital of ancient Bengal. In comparison to other advance villages in Hooghly district, Debanandapur is a remote village. Though, it holds historical glory to attach Bharat Chandra Roy Gunakar, a Bengali poet of the eighteenth century and Sarat Chandra Chattapadhyay, famous novelist of Bengali literature. Sarat Chandra Smriti Pathagar established in 1920 at this village on the donated land of Pramatha Chatterjee. In the initial year, it had able to collect 45 members and 220 books which increased up to 250 in members and 1530 in books respectively in 1947 and both collection and user have augmented to 12113 and 850 at present. It was started as 'Sarat Chandra Pathagar' in a mud house and renamed as Sarat Chandra Smriti Mandir in 1956. Alok Basu Roy, Ashok Basu Roy, Dinabandhu Ghosh,

Mritunjoy Ghosh, Tarak Chandra Das, Tara Sankar Haldar, Dilip Ghosh, Kasiswar Nandi, Snehalata Datta Munim were the active member in the initial stage.²⁵

Gondalpara Sammilan Town Library was established by the nationalist people of the locality in protest to the British imperialism. 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. Library was managed by the voluntary service of the students. Well featured, well decorated high standard had written magazines, 'Pancha Pandit', 'Pancha Pradip', 'Sammilan', 'Arun' etc used to publish regularly. Tarapada Mukhopadhyay, Joygopal Mukhopadhyay, Bhabatosh Mukhopadhyay, Sailen Roy, Madhu Das, Ushanath Chattapadhyay, Narendra Nath Bandopadhyay, Nilmani Mukhopadhyay, Bhupati Sarkar were the member of executive committee of the library. Books and furniture of the 'Darpan Sahitya Parishad' was donated to the Sammilan Library as that was closed due to want of staff. At present, the library is running with a collection of 15661 and 1271 users.²⁶

Haripal Kailash Chandra Sadharan Pathagar established in 1925 on the donated land of Haripada Bhar, a rich and cultured person of the locality. Bechulal Bandopadhyay, Kalipada Sil, Kartik Chandra De, Baidya Nath De, Shibu Ghosh,

Dharanath Bhattacharya, a freedom fighter were energetic to organize library with the help and participation of the villagers to eradicate illiteracy among common men of the locality. It is reported that 170 books were collected and 25 readers were enrolled in the initial stage which increased up to 455 books and 120 readers in 1947. It has 30,000 rich collection and 1150 users at present.²⁷

Although the intensity of the civil disobedience movement was abated to some extent with the signing of the 'Gandhi-Irwin Pact', a new development within the district kept the political scene tense. About 1,500 active workers were thrown into prison. Between 1930-31 and 1933-34, many Congressmen, especially from the Serampore area, came and joined the Arambagh movement. Social welfare work also progressed during this period and the services rendered at the time of the extensive floods of the Damodar in 1935 deserve special mention.

In 1935 Congress candidates from the district were returned with huge majorities to the Bengal Legislative Assembly and in 1937-38 to the different Union Boards and municipalities. After the outbreak of the Second World War, a campaign was started in the district against all war efforts culminating in the 'Quit India' movement of 1942. The Government took into custody all active sponsors of the movement and closed down the Sakti Press at Calcutta. But the struggle continued till the end of the war. On the eve of Independence, a resolution was carried at the *Jatiya Banga Sammelan* (Bengal National Conference) held at

Serampore proposing that a new State of West Bengal be formed as an integral part of the Union of India.²⁸

Kotrang Sadharan Pathagar started with 183 books and 18 members at the drawing room of Satish Charan Ghosh in 5th January, 1936 which has increased to 14511 volumes and 883 users at present. After few years, the library shifted to the big room of Baidyanath Pal. Last of all, the library settled at Dharma Mandir in Kotrang Dharmatala Lane in the month of June 1966. There were three small almira, one book rack, one table and chair in each, fourteen members and 1218 books in 1966. It is noted that the library was established by the active effort of some educated and progressive people and common men of the locality rather the initiation of the land lord or rich people of the locality. It is found that Samar Pal, Shankar Mukherjee, Shankar Ghosh, Tapan Banerjee, Santanu Pal, Biswanath Adak, Bilas Chowrangee, Mahadev Pal, Dilip Kundu, Joydev Bera, Asit Barman Das, Mrinal Kanti Dhara, Biswanath Sasmal, Ajit Kumar Bag, Prasanta Kumar Sasmal, Subodh Kumar Mandal, Hemanta Kumar Mondal and many others were enthusiastic to establish the library.²⁹

Inspiration and initiation to organise Keshabpur Public Library mainly depended on Keshabpur Binapani Library, a small library organized by the Nagendra Nath Ghosh, School teacher of the Keshabpur Madhya Engraji Vidyalaya. In 1938, the library started with active initiation of late Satish Chandra

Basu and full co-operation of villagers. The library first started in a house of Keshabpur Mahendra Institution. Villagers donated books for the library. Shail Dhar bought two almirahs and few books and Jiban Krishna Sarkar too brought some books for the library of the time of its initiation. It is reported that 255 books were collected as gift in 1938 and 60 villagers attached as a member in the library which increased to 150 and 556 both in members and collections respectively in 1947 and at Present at 6808 volumes and 733 users.³⁰

The Mukherjee family, the Zamindar of Champadani set up 'Kumud Smriti Sangha' to continue body building excise and set 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. According to the estimate of 2004, 1200 English Books, 9,983, Bengali Books have been collected in the library and at present it has been able to collect 15000 volumes.³¹

Raja Rammohan Roy Library in Arambag was established in 1943 on the donated land of the eminent lawyer Fakir Chandra Pal. The library is famous due to the attachment of the Gandhi followers as a member. Prafulla Sen, Atulya Ghosh, B.K.Roy, Manik Pulodhi and many others were the member of the library

during its organizing period. Earlier it was popular as the name, Raja Rammohan Roy memorial Hall. It is reported that police of British India was suspicious to the activities the members of the library. Library collected 400 books and 120 members in 1947. Present book and user strength of the library is 16,430 and 1,391 respectively.³²

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. According to the report of the 2007-08, 102 members are attached to the library and 10000 volumes collected in the library.³³

Khalisani Pathagar started in the drawing room of the local land lord Anil Mallick in 1945. It is found that, initially the library had able to collect 55 books and enrolled 65 readers which augmented to 225 books and 120 readers in 1947. Revolutionaries Biren Dutta, Amarnath Banerjee, Shanti Ganguly, Achintya Kumar Dutta, Jibanananda Bhattacharya were actively participate to organize library. 'Jagrata' , a monthly magazine was published from the library. Present library building was founded on the donated land of educationist Lakshmikanta Mukherjee. Now, it have collected 32000 books and enrolled 1692 members.³⁴

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, and Sunil Roy, 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. There were 75 reader members in 1947 and at present 600 members and 5070 volumes have been collected in this library.³⁵

Ramkrishna Tarun Sangha Public Library in Kamarpukur, Hooghly established in 1947 with 170 books and 30 users in a mud house too which transferred to the pucca building during nine- decade of the last century. Sankar Chanda, Shyamsunda De, Bholanath Kundu, Niranjana Mardane, Bijoy Krishna Laha, Hanseswar Sen, Tushar Kanti Sen, Lakshmi Narayan Sen, Kashi Nath Mukherjee, Kanailal Mardana, Radhashyam Nandi and many others were the organizer of the library. Manuscripts, general books were collected in the library. Specially, books on Ramkrishna and Sarada were the rare collection of the library. At present, 664 users and 9160 volumes were collected in the library.³⁶

Conclusion

A brief account of the study will be presented in this section. It is found that 23 libraries were established in Hooghly at the time of the establishment of the Indian National Congress, Partition of Bengal, Rowlatt Satyagraha, Montague-Chelmsford Reforms etc. (1858-1919). 15 Libraries were established during period of famous Non Co-operation movement and Civil Disobedience movement (1921-35). 24 Libraries were established during the time of Provincial Autonomy in 1937, the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 and Quit India Movement and the subsequent developments. Evolution of libraries had appeared mainly in five fields, i.e. name, place, organizer, collection and user and several changes happened to their present name, location and organisers in most cases. Strength of collections and users are found increased gradually though not so rapidly. Zemindars, Landlords, Freedom fighters were not only enthusiastic to establish libraries; common men had also actively participated to set up these institutions. Libraries were established to spread literacy as freedom fighters and educated persons believed education will boost nationalism. Naturally, British Government was inquisitive on the activities of libraries. Shreerampur Public Library, Uttarpara Saraswat Sammilan, Tarakeswar Yuba Sangha Town Library, The Friends Library, Hoogly Sahitya Mandir and Raja Rammohan Roy Pathagar were affected by Police interference. Other libraries would also prevail same fate if their holdings and activities were thoroughly searched. Females were participated as users in the

libraries though their rate of participation is not so high. Text books, novels, local histories, classical literatures, manuscripts, news papers are found as holdings of libraries. To 'conserve cultural heritage' is a role of National Mission on Libraries. Konnagar Public Library, Uttarpara Joykrishna Public Library, Shreerampur Public Library, Chandannagar Pustakagar, Bansberia Public Library, Uttarpara Saraswat Sammilan, Haripal Kailash Chandra Pathagar, Khalisani Pathagar - libraries were praised for their rare rich collection of cultural heritage. Services of library usually delivered in both lending and in the form of reference service. News Paper reading, Book reading, Exhibitions, Cultural functions, Dramatic performances, Sports were regularly organized in the libraries to continue literacy and to aware cultural heritages among people. To conform with the proposition 'all history is contemporary history', the paper has pointed that libraries in that period had tried 'to bridge the gap between information poor and information rich'.³⁷ as well as served as local gateway to knowledge by providing basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development of the individual and social groups.³⁸ Even when there were no recommendations on libraries, like, Post Independent India and in that sense, recommendations of National Knowledge Commission are the successor of the missions of libraries in the colonial period as it was also proposed, 'History acquires meaning and objectivity only when it establishes a coherent relation between past and future'.³⁹

Today, we observe new technological developments in the form of computers, telecommunications, electronics, DTPs, reprography and micrography, Internet, have been adopted in libraries bringing new concept to library systems. They have been incorporating all new techniques which are suitable and useful for them in improving library services effectively to the users. The rapid and exponential growth of information and demand for the same has necessitated the application of modern technologies in libraries to hurdle and cope with the massive proliferation of literature in all fields. Nevertheless, role of libraries in Colonial period will not be compared to the present Public library system as they fostered significant role within several obstacles of that time.

Appendix-A

A tabular presentation of aforesaid libraries to illustrate their growth and development

Name of Libraries with their year of establishment	Year -wise Collection development mainly on books	Year- wise growth of users
Konnagar Public Library (1858)	Books- NF (1858), 36000(2008)	Users- 33 (1918), NF (1947),1600(2008)
Uttarpara Joykrishna Public Library (1859)	Books-13000 (1859), NF (1947),1,60,000(2015)	Users-NF (1947), 12500(2015)
Mahesh Public Library (1869)	Books -NF (1869), 13565 (2015)	Users-NF (1947), 376(2015)
Shreerampur Public Library(1871)	Books -NF (1871), 31647(2015)	Users-NF (1947), 4249(2015)
Chandannagar Pustakagar(1873)	Books-NF (1873), 11000 (1922),17000 (1930), 22000 (1940), 26000 (1947),64000 Books (2015)	Users- NF (1947), 2100 (2015)
Sripur Kalyan Samity (1891)	Books-350 (1891), 397(1910), 560 (1947),12000(2015)	Users-18 (1891),30 (1910), 60 (1947), 1200(2015)
Bansberia Public Library (1891)	Books- 129 (1891), NF- (1947),	Users-12(1891), NF (1947),

	32689(2015)	2861(2015)
Bionchee Kashipati Smriti Pathagar (1907)	Books- 300 (1907), 1500 (1947), 10382(2015)	Users- 21(1907), 124 (1947), 1001(2015)
The Youngman's Association (1908)	Books-120(1908),2052(1911), NF-(1947), 32854(2015)	Users-37(1908), NF (1947), 4804(2015)
Uttarpara Saraswat Sammilan (1909)	Books-50 (1909), NF (1947), 14500(2015)	Users-10(1909), NF (1947), 250(2015)
Tarakeshwar Yuba Sangha Town Library (1910)	Books-320 (1910), 550 (1947),	Users-85 (1910), 220 (1947)
Garalgacha Public Library (1913)	Books-NF (1913), 1087 (1917), 15515(2015)	Users- 95 (1917), NF(1947), 533(2015)
Radharaman Sammmilan Samity Rural Library (1914)	Books- 230 (1914), 320 (1947), 7014(2015)	Users- 68 (1914), 87 (1947), 750(2015)
The Friend's Library (1915)	Books-430 (1915), 2300 (1947), 25961(2015)	Users- 25 (1915), 150 (1947), 1048(2015)
Sisir Bani Mandir Pathagar (1917)	Books- 500 (1917), 1500 (1947), 10000(2015)	Users- 40 (1917), 90 (1947), 1200(2015)
Hooghly Sahitya Mandir (1918)	Books- 100 (1918), 150 (1947), 26602 (2015)	Users- 18 (1918), 1000 (1947), 1009 (2015)
Sarat Chandra Smriti Pathagar(1920)	Books- 220 (1920), 1530 (1947)	Users- 45 (1920), 250 (1947)
Gondalpara Sammilan Town Library (1923)	Books- NF (1923), NF (1947)	Users- 11(1923), NF (1947)
Haripal Kailash Chandra Pathagar (1925)	Books- 170 (1925), 455 (1947),30000(2015)	Users- 25 (1925), 120 (1947),1150(2015)
Kotrang Sadharan Pathagar (1936)	Books- 183 (1936), NF (1947), 14511(2015)	Users- 18 (1936), NF (1947), 883(2015)
Keshabpur Public Library (1938)	Books- 255 (1938), 556 (1947), 6806(2015)	Users- 60 (1938), 150 (1947), 733(2015)
Kumud Smriti Pathagar (1938)	Books- NF (1938), NF (1947), 11,183 (2004), 15000(2008)	Users- NF (1938), NF (1947)
Raja Rammohan Roy Pathagar (1943)	Books- NF (1943), 400 (1947), 16430(2015)	Users- NF (1943),120 (1947), 1391(2015)
Baidyabati Culb Granthagar (1944)	Books- NF (1944), NF (1947), 10000(2008)	Users- NF (1944), NF (1947), 102(2008)
Khalisani Pathagar (1945)	Books- 55 (1945), 225 (1947),	Users- 65 (1945), 120 (1947),

	32000(2015)	1692(2015)
Arandi Netaji Granthagar (1947)	Books- 150 (1947), 5070(2015)	Users- 75 (1947), 600(2015)
Ramkrishna Tarun Sangha Public Library (1947)	Books- 170 (1947), 9160(2015)	Users- 30 (1947), 664(2015)

Endnotes:

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29. Shankar Ghosh : *Purano Smriti Theke Dui Char Katha*, Building Inauguration Souvenir Vol. 1982.p.5-7; Interview with Asit Baran Pal, aged 61, Retired Librarian dated- 02.04.15
30. Bishnupada Singha : *Amader Granthagar Ebang Prasangik Kichu Katha*, Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 1989.p.4-5 ; Haradhan Mukhopadhyay, aged 62, Secretary of the Library, Retired School Teacher, Partha Sarathi Majumdar, aged 56, Keshabpur School Library, Susanta Banerjee, aged 66, Retired Employee, Irrigation Dept., Dr. Avoy Pada Das, aged 65, Ex Medical Officer, Arambag Hospital Super-in-Tendent participated an excellent interviewed to provide accounts of the library, dated- 26.04.15.
31. Kalidas Hazra, *Granthagar Andolone Baidyabati Anchaler Opsita Granthagar*, Centenary Vol. 2008.p.33-35.
32. Tapan Kumar Roy, aged 58, Librarian participated an excellent interview with rare photograph of history of library and contribution of Arambag in Indian Freedom Movement dated- 26.04.15.
33. Kalidas Hazra. Ibid.p.40-42.
34. Swarup Ganguly, aged 50, Library Assistant and Gautam Nath, aged 50, Library-in-Charge reported past account of library with the help of administrative records, dated- 29.04.15.
35. 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.
36. Mohan Chandra Laha, Secretary of the Library and Pampa Das, Librarian reported history of library and Kamapukur, dated-26.04.15.
37. Report of the *National Knowledge Commission on Libraries*, 2006 which was amended in 2011.
38. UNESCO Public Library Manifesto, 1949 which was revised in 1972 and again in 1994.
39. E.H.Carr : *What is History?* 1986. p.124.