

A REVIEW OF INDIA'S PUBLIC LIBRARY LEGISLATION'S INCLUSION OF A LIBRARY CESS

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Abstract: Libraries don't get paid for the services they provide. As a result, they depend on ongoing financial assistance from the government to run the programmes efficiently. Regular financial support helps the library system to operate more effectively. The levying of a library cess is required for the methodical and deliberate expansion of public libraries using trustworthy and proven financial resources. The current study focuses on a review of public libraries Acts in Indian states that includes a library cess provisions for running public libraries in their respective states.

Keywords: Library cess, Legislation, Public library, fund, state, local government.

1.0 Introduction

Library as we know it today serves a variety of informational, educational, and cultural purposes, but it is first and foremost a communication agency. It serves to facilitate the free movement of information, which is seen as a crucial tool for economic development. To secure the financial future of the public library movement is one of the main goals of the library legislation. One of the major obstacles to the construction of a sound library is frequently money. Therefore, a library Act must include provisions for the collection of sufficient funds to be used for library purposes.

2.0 States In India With Public Library Laws

Only 19 states in India have passed laws governing public libraries since the country's independence. The following states have laws governing public libraries:

Table 1: States in India with public library laws

Sr.No.	State	Public libraries Acts
I	Tamilnadu	Public Libraries Act, 1948
II	Andhra Pradesh	Public Libraries Act, 1960
III	Karnataka	Public Libraries Act, 1965
IV	Maharashtra	Public Libraries Act, 1967
V	West Bengal	Public Libraries Act, 1979
VI	Manipur	Public Libraries Act, 1988
VII	Kerala	Public Libraries Act, 1988
VIII	Haryana	Public Libraries Act, 1989
IX	Mizoram	Public Libraries Act, 1993
X	Goa	Public Libraries Act, 1993
XI	Gujarat	Public Libraries Act, 2001
XII	Orissa	Public Libraries Act, 2001
XIII	Uttaranchal	Public Library Act, 2005

XIV	Rajasthan	Public Libraries Act, 2006
XV	Uttar Pradesh	Public Libraries Act, 2006
XVI	Bihar	Public Library and Information Centre Act, 2008
XVII	Chhattisgarh	Public Libraries Act, 2008
XVIII	Arunachal Pradesh	Public Libraries Act, 2009
XIX	Telangana	Public Libraries Act, 2015

3.0 Library Cess And Its Importance

A cess for the public library is a tax on tax. The local government imposes it on the tax duty, along with the surcharge, and uses the money for the efficient operation of public libraries. A statutory state library law in India requires local (State) governments to collect the library cess as a revenue tax in order to fund and operate public libraries.

It gives the states the authority to use all of the tax revenue raised for improvement of libraries, which is intended to pay for the construction cost of library buildings, assets, and ongoing costs of buying library resources. It is crucial for the government to maintain the libraries and make sure their performance is up to the satisfaction of the users because the provision for library cess is linked to a democratic right to use and contribute to the growth of public libraries.

Some Indian states with library legislation provide for the collection of a library cess in addition to other taxes levied on the people of the state. This library cess also goes towards funding public libraries. The relevant portions of the library cess as specified in various state public library acts are reproduced below:

3.1 Tamilnadu : According to Section 12(1) (a) of the Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Act, every local authority shall collect a library cess of 3 paise per rupee as a surcharge for taxable property or house tax from its jurisdiction.

3.2 Andhra Pradesh : According to Section 20(1) (a) of the Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act, each Zilla Grandhalaya samstha shall levy a library cess in its area at the rate of four paise as a surcharge for taxable property or house tax.

3.3 Karnataka: According to section 30(1) the Karnataka Library Act, a library cess in the form of a surcharge on tax on lands and buildings, tax on goods, tax on vehicles, tax on professions, trades, callings, and employments shall be levied in the area within the jurisdiction of every City Library Authority under the relevant local authority laws providing for the levy of such taxes, at the rate of three paise for every rupee of the taxes so levied.

3.4 Kerala: Section 48 (1) of the Act states that the state library council has the authority to levy a library cess on building or property taxes at a rate of 5 (five) paise per rupee in building or property taxes.

3.5 Haryana: According to Section 20 of the Act, all local bodies in a district may impose a library cess on property tax and house tax in their area at a rate determined by the government from time to time.

3.6 Goa: The Government shall levy a library cess, at such rate as may be specified therein, in the form of a surcharge on the excise duty or other duties or any fees payable on Indian made foreign liquor, foreign liquor, beer and/or wine pursuant to the Goa Excise Duty Act, 1964, by notification in the Official Gazette, as provided in section 18 (1) of the act.

3.7 Telangana: According to section 20(1) of the act, every Zilla Grandhalaya Samstha is required to levy a Library Cess in its area at a rate of eight paise for every rupee in the property tax or house tax so levied; this surcharge is applied to the property tax or house tax that is levied in the area in accordance with the applicable laws providing for the levy of such property tax or house tax.

4.0 Library Cess As Described In Several Indian Public Library Acts

Table 2: Library Cess As Described In Several Indian Public Library Acts

Sr.No.	State	Public libraries Acts	Library Cess
I	Tamilnadu	Public Libraries Act, 1948	Three (3) paise per rupee library cess on property tax or house tax.
II	Andhra Pradesh	Public Libraries Act, 1960	Four (4) naye paise per rupee library cess on table property or house tax.
III	Karnataka	Public Libraries Act, 1965	Three (3) paise per rupee library cess on land, house, vehicles, professions, trades, callings, and profession tax.
IV	Kerala	Public Libraries Act, 1989	5(Five) paise library cess on building or property taxes.
V	Haryana	Public Libraries Act, 1989	Library cess on house tax as decided by the government time to time.
VI	Goa	Public Libraries Act, 1993	1.50 paise library cess on the excise duty or other duties or any fees payable on Indian made foreign liquor, foreign liquor, beer and/or wine pursuant to the Goa Excise Duty Act, 1964.
VII	Telangana	Public Libraries Act, 2015	8 (eight) paise per rupee library cess on house or property tax.

Only seven states have a provision for library cess in their public libraries Acts: Tamilnadu state, Andhra Pradesh state, Karnataka state, Kerala state, Haryana state, and state of Goa. The remaining states do not have a provision for library cess but they opted for government grants rather than library cess.

5.0 Conclusion

Public library Acts provide for the formation of the directorate of public libraries to administer the public libraries in the State; to provide funds through library cess or grants from local (state) government and to establish, maintain a network of public libraries in the State like the State, District central library, Taluk, Branch, village libraries, and so on, and to make these libraries more user-friendly for the common people.

Public libraries rely primarily on funding from the municipality and local government. The general public has sufficient but repressed support for additional funding for libraries. As a result, financial support for public libraries, which have long been provided by various government agencies, has been declining. Receiving sufficient financing is also essential for maintaining a vibrant and thriving public library.

6.0 References

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