

Government of India
Ministry of Culture
National Mission on Libraries (NML)

Minutes of the Third Meeting of the "Working Group on existing Public Libraries, School, College Libraries & Use of School Libraries as a Community Center" held on January 09, 2013 in New Delhi.

The Third Meeting of the Working Group on existing Public Libraries, School, College Libraries & Use of School Libraries as a Community Center was held on January 09, 2013 at 11:30 AM in DELNET, New Delhi.

Following were present:

1. Shri B S Baswan- IAS (Retd.)	In Chair
2. Dr. H K Kaul	Member
3. Ms. Neeta Verma	Member
4. Shri. S Arunachalam	Member
5. Shri. Palode Ravi	Member
6. Prof. Pandav Nayak	Member
7. Dr. S Majumdar	Member
8. Shri K K Banerjee	Member
9. Ms. Amrita Patwardhan, representing Sir Ratan Tata Trust	Special Invitee

At the outset the Chairman welcomed the Members to the meeting.

Item 1: To Confirm the Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 26th July 2012 in the Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

On being requested by the Members regarding action taken on the recommendation made in the Second Meeting, Shri K.K. Banerjee reported that as per decision taken in the Third Meeting of NML held on December 19, 2012 detailed schemes with Scope, Components, Extent of Assistance and Criteria for Selection of Libraries to be upgraded have to be finalized so as to prepare EFC notes for submission to the Planning Commission before taking any other action on the decision of the Second Meeting. Chairman observed that necessary measures should be expedited so that grant that has already been released by the Government of India for undertaking the activities of NML is not lapsed. Dr. H.K

Kaul emphasized that the Committee should identify the projects to be undertaken under the scheme along with the components and parameters.

The Minutes of the second meeting were then confirmed.

Item 2: To finalize the projects/ schemes for the development of Public Libraries to be implemented by the National Mission on Libraries (NML) as per revised formats of EFC/PIB memorandum for submission to the planning commission.

Director General, RRRLF reported that as decided in the Second Meeting of the Working Group to identify the libraries that are likely to be assisted during the current financial year under the Scheme, States were requested by RRRLF to forward the list of libraries that are willing to receive assistance under the NML. In response to that request, RRRLF received names of libraries from eleven (11) States, the total numbers of which come to 3713. The list was placed before the NML at its Third Meeting held on December 19, 2012. The Committee noted the names of the libraries suggested by eleven (11) States and found that the list did not contain details of existing infrastructure available in the libraries. Accordingly, the Committee decided that before any support is given to the State, it is necessary to obtain recommended list of libraries from the States with necessary information like existing infrastructure, staff and other resources available with the libraries. It was also mentioned that there must be uniformity among the various States while providing assistance under NML Schemes and proper regional balance should also be ensured.

Chairman observed that libraries under the constitutional parameter is a 'State Subject' and the States must be given the autonomy in selection of libraries and instead of controlling the selection process from Delhi, it would be appropriate to trust the State Authorities. Efforts are to be made to identify the libraries by utilizing the state mechanism that is in practice. However, NML must frame broad guidelines and appropriate authorities of the State Governments have to certify that the selected libraries satisfy the required criteria laid down by the NML.

Shri Palode Ravi mentioned that if selection is left completely to the State Authorities then libraries in the Tribal and Coastal areas may not get due attention. Prof. Pandava Nayak also stressed the need for giving special attention to the libraries located in the backward areas.

Chairman emphasized that so far as libraries located in tribal areas are concerned, Government of India guidelines for budget allocation under Tribal Sub-Plan may be strictly adhered to at the time of selecting the libraries. It was also decided that under the proposed scheme thrust should be given to upgrade the public libraries/school libraries (to be developed as public libraries) in the educationally backward districts as identified by the Government of India.

The Committee suggested following points for preparation of the project/scheme for submission to EFC of Planning Commission and requested Shri K.K. Banerjee, Director General, RRRLF to prepare the scheme in accordance with the EFC/PIB format and circulate the same by mail to the Members for their comments. The proposed scheme will be finalized by the Working Group at its next meeting scheduled to be held sometimes in the last week of January 2013.

1. **Title of the Scheme** : Upgradation of libraries providing services to the public.
2. **Definition of the Libraries**: For the purpose of this scheme existing libraries having at least 1000 books and minimal infrastructure.
3. **Types of Libraries that will be covered** : a) Rural Public Libraries; (b) District/Sub-Divisional/Urban Libraries, (c) Libraries to be developed as public libraries (by converting school libraries into community public libraries after school hours) and (d) Reputed NGO run libraries having prudent track record (may be considered in the second phase).

Note : (1) Since the college libraries are receiving funds from UGC, the same will not be covered under the scheme in the first phase.

Note : (2) Libraries that are receiving assistance from RRRLF will not be eligible for assistance under the scheme.

4. **Target beneficiaries:** 2500 libraries every year for the remaining period of 12th Five-Year Plan.
5. **Others :**
 - i) While recommending the names of the libraries, State Governments must ensure that the required manpower will be provided by the States. NML will not bear any cost towards manpower and sustenance of the project.
 - ii) The schemes must give special focus for specially abled groups.
 - iii) While framing the guidelines for book selection, NCERT/NBT/RRRLF guidelines should be kept in view.
6. **Criteria for selection of libraries :** At the time of selection of libraries to be upgraded, criteria like literacy level, population in different age groups, educational institution in the surrounding areas, student population etc. are to be taken into consideration.
7. **Extent of Assistance:** Maximum 15.00 lakhs for libraries located in rural areas and Rs. 25.00 lakhs for libraries located in urban areas.
8. **Utilisation of Grant :**
 - i) 40% of grant for Resource Building (reading resources like books, newspapers, magazines, audio-visual materials, E-Books etc.).

- ii) 40% of grant for Upgradation of Infrastructure – construction of reading hall, renovation of building, upgradation of technological infrastructure, including computer and internet facilities, furniture and equipments, generator set equipment for alternative power generation like solar system.
- iii) 20% for Advocacy and Outreach programmes – associating stakeholders.

9. **Disbursement of Grant :**

Funds will be released in two instalments :

First instalment : 75%

Second instalment : 25% (after receipt of Utilization Certificate of the first instalment)

The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

(B.S. Baswan)
Chairman of the Working Group
National Mission on Libraries