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Abstract:

Library Associations play a vital role in the promotion of librarianship all aspects to an informed and knowledgeable society. Beside Pakistan Library Association there are other Library organization in Karachi, like KULSAA (Karachi University Library Science Alumni Association), LPB (Library Promotion Bureau), PLC (Pakistan Library Club and PBWG (Pakistan Bibliographical working Group) are exists. Pakistan Bibliographical Working Group (PBWG), Karachi is one of the oldest organization working since 1950. It has a library school which is recognized and registered by the department of Libraries, Government of Pakistan. Its school of librarianship provides library education to semi professional and non professional library staff learns and give them practical training issue higher school certificate course after successful completion of course. Purpose of this study is to highlights the activities of PBWG, role in compilation of bibliography work of Pakistan and its school through this platform of PLA.

Keywords: Pakistan Bibliographical Working Group (PBWG)
Library Associations--Pakistan

Introduction:

The Pakistan Bibliographical Working Group (PBWG) is a professional and a welfare organization formed by a group of librarians, bibliographers, educationist, writers, journalists and prominent citizens of Pakistan. The group was formed on the recommendation of the International Conference on the importance of Bibliography, called by UNESCO on November 7-10, 1950, held at Paris. Thus the group came into existence in 1950 with the support of UNESCO and encouragement of the Government of Pakistan for the purpose of developing bibliographical resources in the country.¹ Dr. Abdul Moid, Fazle Ellahi, Muhammad Shafi and Khawaja Noor Ellahi supposed to be the founder member of PBWG.² The PBWG is the genesis of the national association of Pakistan Library Association. Group is a registered body with Department of Libraries, Government of Pakistan as well as National Library of Pakistan. Though group was found in late 1950 but three Years (1951-1953) were spent in paper work and limited to correspondences. In 1955 group organized a meeting and constituted a committee for constitution of PBWG including foreign Expert L.C. Key, A.L. Gardner and J.C. Sharp.³

Objectives

Key objective of PBWG are as under:-

- To promote bibliographical development, librarianship, information and documentation services in Pakistan.
- To Promote stimulate research in the field of library science, bibliography, indexing, documentation and information science.
- To promote the facilities of library education and training in Pakistan.
- To advance the cause of the library movement throughout Pakistan.
- To provide technical advice and training in modern techniques in compilation of bibliography and indexes.
- To promote cooperation among the libraries and the library associations.
- To compile and published the reference sources especially bibliographies and indexes.
- To make provision for seminars, conferences and book festivals and exhibitions.
- To promote cooperation among writers, publishers and book sellers.

- To cooperate with national, international bodies and similar organizations concerned with the bibliographical, documentation and information services.
- To promote the group's objects to persons, societies and institutions throughout Pakistan engaged or interested in bibliography, documentation and indexing.

Methodology:

Cross-section case study is followed for this research paper. However, a formal interview conducted with Dr. Rais Ahmed Samdani, (President PBWG and the Director of the School) personal visits of PBWG Office and PBWG School of Librarianship. Personal observations are included in SWOT Analysis.

Literature Review:

Although PBWG is 6 decades old institution but no proper study or research work was conducted on this organization. However, only a thesis was written by Kanwal⁴ "Role of PBWG in the development of Bibliography in Pakistan 2003." Amna Khatoon⁵ wrote *PBWG kitabyati sargarmian*, in Urdu. Besides above work no formal research/publication has been conducted for PBWG. However, some basic information published by Samdani⁶ "Role of Library Associations in the Promotion of Library movement and development of Pakistan Urdu." To support this research paper work web surfing finding related information to topic.

Organizational Structure:

PBWG faced many ups and down since its inception. Many library friends participated in organizing and operating of PBWG. Presently Dr. Rais Ahmed Samdani has long association with PBWG since 1972 till to date and worked in various capacities to keep alive this institution. Following table is the present organizational structure of PBWG.

(Table 1)

S. No.	Name	Designation
1	Dr. Rais Ahmed Samdani	President
2	Mr. Abdul Samad Ansari	Vice President
3	Mr. Ateeb Ahmed	Secretary General
4	Mr. Mumtaz Hussain Malik	Joint Secretary

Venue:

PBWG Office and PBWG School of Librarianship are situated at one of the famous place of Liaquat Memorial Library's ground floor, Near Pakistan Television Center, Stadium Road, Karachi.

An overview:

Pakistan has made some imperative development in the field of Bibliography with limited resources in "Men, Money and Material 3M. Although it made late beginning in the field of Bibliography, but National documentation and information systems for science and technology and its certain branches have been developed on modern lines for this task. The first serious attempt was made as early as in 1949 by some private and semi-government organization to establish bibliographical services for specific field of study and research mostly related to science and technology. Before this bibliographical Information center was set up jointly by the Fazle Omar Research Center and Pakistan Association

of Advancement of Science. The Association produced some bibliographical works, most notable comprehensive bibliography on Pakistan entitled "Pakistan: selected Bibliography." The bibliography contains 9,000 references of books, reports, government publications and periodical articles⁷ with the help of PBWG.

Retrospective National Bibliography of Pakistan:

One of the major and unique unmatched achievements of PBWG is the compilation of Retrospective National Bibliography of Pakistan. This difficult task was completed by the dedicated PBW group members and highly committed and self motivated professionals.

The Retrospective Pakistan National Bibliography covering the publications produced in Pakistan from August 14, 1947 to December 31, 1961 compiled by the PBWG with the financial support of UNESCO Regional Center for reading. PBWG constituted an Editorial Board with Mr. A. R. Ghani, Fazal Elahi, Akhtar H. Siddiqui and other eminent Bibliographers of Pakistan.⁸ The editorial board must be credited for the completing the huge task in spite of several barriers and specially in absence of Copy right Law, Delivery of Books and Newspaper Act or similar legislation, under which each and every publisher of the country is required to deliver one or more copies of their publications to designated library or to any other government nominated institution.

The National bibliography compilation task was taken by the National Bibliographical Unit, established in the Department of Libraries, Govt. of Pakistan. The National Book Centre of Pakistan (Now the National Book Council of Pakistan) realizing the necessity and importance of the Retrospective National Bibliography compiled by the PBWG and considering amount of hard labor undertaken in compilation of, should bear first, offer to public it in two or three separate fascicules. Fascicules I⁹, covering General work, Philosophy and Religion (000-297) and Fascicules II¹⁰ Social Science to Language (300 -492) were published by National Book Center in 1972 & 1975.

To complete the bibliographical record of books published in the country, it was strappingly felt that the information on books related to subjects Natural Science, Technology, Arts, Literature, History and Geography (about 9700 entries) needs to be published. The project was planned to edit, compile and publish Fascicules-III¹¹ for which the Government of Pakistan provided necessary funds. Once again the task was assigned to the Pakistan Bibliographical Working Group as the bibliographical entries were available. A great deal of labor has gone in the editing and collection of record this Fascicule for the member of the Editorial Committee of the PBWG. Group has done a remarkable job in bridging the gap of bibliographical records of Pakistani Nation. And behind the screen National Bibliographical Unit of the Department of Libraries also provided assistance to PBWG. The latest volume of PNB 1996 appeared in 1999.

PBWG Publications:

Periodicals and Newspapers Directory of Pakistan:

PBWG compiled Periodicals and Newspaper of Pakistan¹² in 1953 with the help of Indian Library Association (ILA) and UNESCO. This alphabetical directory contained entries of all periodicals and newspapers, in local and regional language, which were published from East and West Pakistan.

Library Directories/Scientific Organization/Museums Art Galleries:

In 1956, a reference source (Directories) was compiled about the Pakistan libraries, Scientific Organization Educational institution, museum and Art Galleries.¹³ In 1960, PBWG again Compiled Library Directory and also included biographies of Librarian.¹⁴

Union Catalogue:

In 1961 PBWG compiled Union Catalogue of Periodical of Social Sciences with the collaboration of UNESCO.¹⁵ This Union Catalogue has 1007 magazines and periodicals in 55 different libraries of Pakistan. This union catalogue with no index arranged entries alphabetically with different symbols and signs of different libraries. It is remarkable effort of PBWG in the area of social science.

Cumulative Index of Pakistan Library Review:

This is very good work and related to indexing. Periodical index was to revive a professional journal of Pakistan librarianship and bring to light the work contributed by eminent scholars of library and information science.¹⁶

Periodical Literature in LIS: an Index 50 Year works on Pakistan (1947-1997):

On the eve of Golden Jubilee of Pakistan, A marvelous work done by Dr. Khalid Mehmood and Dr. Rais Ahmed Samdani. They compiled periodical literature¹⁷ from 1947 to 1997. This is the first full text book which is available on web. However, this work was published in 1998. This periodical literature is very fruitful for library scholars/researchers.

PBWG met the challenge in the publication of useful publications of national cause and few for the professional needs/commitments of the profession but PBWG never mottoes to earn/commercialized its publications.

One of the major achievements of PBWB is the publication of Retrospective National Bibliography of Pakistan in various phases. Beside this contribution PBWG Published 14-Books related to Library and its allied fields. In all respect though the quantity of publications is very small in numbers but the quality of work is superb.

Financial Support:

Initially, PBWG got grant from UNESCO for various projects and technical training as well as from Government of Pakistan grant which was stopped in 1961.¹⁸ The Directorate of Libraries, Government of Pakistan provided funds for Retrospectives National Bibliography. Now students Fee of School of Librarianship is the only source of Income of PBWG. Due to lack of financial support the research/publication work is stopped since 2004. Student fees hardly bear the expense of School of Librarianship.

School of Librarianship, PBWG:

The PBWG established School of Librarianship¹⁹ in 1959 and introduced a Diploma Course in "Special Librarianship and Bibliography." In 1972 the Pakistan Library Association recommended the Group to change its name in order to avoid a misunderstanding and clash with a similar program at university level. Hence the Group changed the nomenclature of the then Diploma Course and started conducting Higher Certificate Course in Library Science from 1973. Since then the School is functioning regularly and the Higher Certificate Course in Library Science is offered.

In 1986 the Ministry of Education, Department of Libraries, Govt. of Pakistan has very kindly recognized and registered the Group vide Gazette Notification No. F-23/86-Par, dated 22.12.1986. The credit for recognition of the Certificate Course goes to then Director General, Department of Libraries, Islamabad who took keen interest and extended full cooperation to the institutions conducting the certificate course in Karachi and Lahore. The Karachi regional office has also provided space for class room and an office to this School at Liaquat Memorial Library Building Karachi. Currently, Ms Amna Khatoon is the principal of this school.

PBWG Alumni:

School of Librarianship is working in since 1959. As per Dr. Samdani brief near about 1700 enrolled since 1959 and 1587 students successfully passed this certificate course.²⁰

Advantage:

Students get awareness about the library and as well as develop his/her interest in the field of LIS. Main advantage of this certificate course is that it is recognized by government. The qualified students of this course get paraprofessional jobs easily in BPS-8 to Library Assistant BPS-14 as well as other middle Position jobs in private sector.

SOWT Analysis:

SWOT analysis provided a clear picture for PBWG about it (Internal and External Factor and Positive and Negative aspect of PBWG.

Strong Base of Existence:

This institution provided strong base of existence due to its past services and outstanding achievements especially in the awareness of Library movement in Pakistan. It provided new horizon which grew in shape of PLA.

Conducted Library Education:

Higher Certificate course in librarianship provides awareness about the library and information science to students aspiring for higher education. It inspires many youngsters desirous to join librarianship to move for admission in University of Karachi, Allama Iqbal Open University and other universities for B. LIS and M.A. LIS degrees.

Publications :

PBWG publications provided basic resource material for researchers in LIS and all other allied fields of research.

Weakness:

Dormant Condition:

No active participation of PBWG like other Library organization of country (PLC, Paklag etc.). Alumni of PBWG should actively participate in professional activities from their own base.

Certificate Course Modification:

Higher Certificate course needs modification/updating and inclusion of library automation and library software teaching.

Publications:

Research, and other work is being in status quo since last 10-year.

Financial support and funding:

PBWG did not sought and exerted to acquire financial aid/support from government and private agencies.

Opportunity:

New project and National services:

PBWG should initiate and begin new projects and other national services like re-organization of Pre independence record at KMC library.

Non professional:

There is better chance for low education persons to learn about the library and basic library education

Publication:

PBWG alumni and LIS Scholar may publish their researches through this platform.

Threat:

Extinction

Constant inactive/negative attitude may ultimately lose its existence.

LIS Research:

Lack of interest in LIS Research and other library activities may cause negative impact specially in Karachi and overall in country

Deficiency:

If the Certificate course does not correspond with the latest developments in the subject there is great risk of job placement in libraries for the learner of the course.

Conclusion:

PBWG has been a very dynamic organization in respect of its unique services in the field of Librarianship such as Bibliography, Indexing, Research, etc. PBWG performed excellent job in compilation of Retrogressive National Bibliography of Pakistan. It played important role in imparting Library Science education to the less educated youth by conducting Certificate course. It helped in fulfilling the need of paraprofessional jobs in the libraries of the country. There is dire need that PBWG revive its role of professional activities and take lead again like its glorious past.

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Abbreviation:

PBWG Pakistan Bibliographical Working Group

PLA Pakistan Library Association

UNESCO United Nations Education Science Culture Organization

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