ROLE OF RACHOL SEMINARY LIBRARY TOWARDS COMMUNITY SERVICES : AN OVERVIEW

Maria Ana Paiva
Librarian Gr. I,
Goa State Central Library.
marianitadias@yahoo.com

Sneha S. P. Malkarnekar,
Librarian Gr. I,
Goa State Central Library.
snehamalkarnekar@yahoo.com

Abstract

Seminary Library caters to clerics and layman. The Rachol Seminary Library which was established in the year 1868 has rendered valuable service to its clientle. The present paper highlights the services and other facilities provided by library since its inception. The focus on development of konkani literature by this library is also highlighted.

Keywords : *Seminary, Clerics, layman, Konkani, Theology, Vocabularies.*

1. Introduction of Seminaries

A Seminary, is a school of theology. Also called as Divinity School imparting education in the field of theology. It can also be a part topursue academics. The word 'seminary' is derived from the Latin word 'seminarium'.

In general use a seminary can be a secular institution, or a part of institution designated for specialised training. The seminary of Rachol was also established in keeping in mind to produce eminent personalities including clergies.

2. History of Rachol Seminary

Rachol pronounced as 'Rashol' is a tiny village in SalceteTaluka. The seminary was established in the year 1580. Originally known as the 'College of All Saints'. The Racholcomplex also includes Theological college, Hospital, Primary school, Early printing press. For successive generation seminary has been the most prestigious centre of education in Goa, producing some of the Goa's secular as well as religious leaders to accept the challenges of society.

The College was a multipurpose institution: a hospital, an orphanage, a catechetical school for catechumens, a primary school (in Portuguese), a Konkani school for European missionaries, moral theology school, and a printing press. The press, which was the third in Goa, functioned for almost sixty years in the College. It printed/published sixteen books, the chief ones among them being the *KhristaPurana* (in Marathi), Doutrina*Christam* (in Konkani) and *Arte da LingoaCanarim* (Konkani Grammar).

The Seminary of Rachol has indeed contributed marvellously to the Society over the years. Its development in the various fields and also its own heritage has generated the growth of the Society. Among the many vital developments, its promotion of Konkani, the paintings, the structure and music stand out as most important.

3. Rachol Seminary Library

The library is housed in a hall constructed in 1885 over the *"Camarata"* (dormitory). It is a treasure house of old and new books on various topics religious as well as others in different languages. Archbishop-Primate JoãoCrisóstomo de Amorim Pessoa, founder of the library, by his Portaria No. 634, dated 28th November 1868 issued rules consisting twenty five articles, for the good functioning of the library (Regulamentopara o Biblioteca do Real Seminário de Rachol, ImprensaNacional, Nova Goa,

1868). Swami Vivekananda, visited the Library for three continuous days (27th -30th October 1892), acquainting himself with tenets of the Christian religion by reading books and holding discussions with the Professors. His portrait is since lately adorning the Library Hall.

Although the library is meant for the students of Philosophy and Theology, the students from Goa University also visit for reference work for their papers on History and Philosophy and study of religion. As the library has a number of Portuguese books and periodicals researchers also visit to do their reference work.

4. Library Collection Statistics

Patriarchal Seminary of Rachol Library Catalogue

01. ENGLISH SECTION

DESCRIPTION	COUNT
Abortion/Euthanasia/Suicide	29
Ancient Near East Texts Literature	13
Anthropology	52
Astronomy	3
Biblical Books	265
Bio-Ethics/Medical Ethics	18
Biology	36
Canon Law	58
Cathechetics	102
Chemistry	31
Church Documents	125
Church History	84
Church Social Teaching	28
Classical Spiritual Works	6
Computer Science	30

Consecrated/Religious Life	30
Contemporary Indian Thoughts	83
Cosmology	8
Ecclesiology	70
Economics	13
Ecumenism	100
Encyclopedia	417
Epistemology	20
Eschatology	47
Faith & Revelation	97
Feminist Studies	23
General Commentary Series	162
Geography	32
Goa Special	69
Hermeneutics	19
History	188
Homiletics	67
Inculturation	9
Indian Christian Spirituality	8
Indian Music	6
Indology	4
Inter-Religious Dialogical Spirituality	11
Justice	17
Law	5
Library Science	14
Literature	84
Liturgy	109
Lives Of Saints	107
Management And Accountancy	29
Mariology	57

Mathematics	21
Patrology	62
Peace Study	2
Philosophy	783
Physics	36
Pneumatology	32
Politics	65
Priestly Formation	4
Psychology	173
Rachol&Pilar Seminary	4
Rajneesh	1
Religion	756
Research Methodology	15
Sacred Art & Architecture	37
Schools	79
Science And Religion	33
Sects & Other New Religious Movements	8
Sexual Ethics	44
Sociology	66
Study Of Development	33
Theology/Themes	960
Tools - Concordance, Dictionaries, Bible Versions	229
Tools, Dictionaries, Encyclopedia	42
Tourism	20
Trinity	11
Western Music	64
Writings Of Saints And Swamis	11
Yoga	15

Further Rachol Seminary hasits credit the development of vocabularies or the list of Portuguese Konkani words compiled by the Jesuits author of 16th and 17th century at Rachol is an important step in the eventual development of dictionaries.

The Vocabularies which were developed are: (1)*Vocabulario daLingoa Canary Vertidado Portuguese Pelo*(1626) of DiogoRibeiro, (Vocabulary of Konkani Language); (2)*Vocabulario da lingoaCanarimFeitoPellos Padres DaCompamhia De Jesus QueResidem, Na Provincia De Salcete E NovamenteAcrescentado com VariosModos De FallarPelo(*Canarim Language Vocabulary By The Fathers Of The Company Of Jesus who residein the Province Of Salceteand again added with various ways to speak)of DiogoRibeiro (1626), in the "Portuguez& Canary', (Portuguese &Konkani) Language.

*(3) Vocabulario Da Lingoa Canari Feito Pelos Padres da Companhia De Jesus Que Residiam na Provincia de Salcete in Canary & Portuguez.(*Konkani Language Vocabulary by the' Fathers of the Companion of Society of Jesus who resided in the Province of Salcete.)

(4) *Vocabulario Da LingoaCanariFeitoPelo,Padres Da Companhia De Jesus QueResidam Na Provincia de Salcete (*Konkani Language Vocabulary by the Fathers of the Companion of the Society of Jesus who resided in the Province of Salcete)which is also found in the Central Library at Panaji.

Among the manuscripts of the above vocabularies it is argued that the third and the fourth in the order given above were developed by the Franciscans of St. Bonaventure College of Old Goa.

There is still another Vocabulary preserved by the State Historical Archives. It is called the Lyceum vocabulary because it was discovered in the library of the Liceu National Afonso de Albuquerque, in Panaji in 1982. Some of these Vocabularies are preserved in microfilms and photocopies at the Thomas Stephen Konkani Kendra in Porvorim-Goa.

The Konkani school of Rachol produced a number of Christian books in Konkani and even in Marathi for the benefit of the new converts. The Jesuit scholars like Thomas Stephens, Eteinne de la Croix, Antonio Saldanha, Miguel Almeida, DiogoRibeiro, IgnazioArchamone produced highly edifying Christian religious literature.

6. Conclusion :

The Library is a real asset for the community specially the clerics and largely for layman. The records of the library shows that hundreds of scholars have visited this library for their academic persuit. The contribution of Rachol Seminary Library in creating eminent academicians, developers of dictionaries etc. will remain in historyfor the years to come. The efforts should be made to preservethis collection for national posterity. The collection is rare and will be of highest importance for Researchers in future.

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