

From the Editor's Desk



If you can't sleep, then get up and do something instead of lying there and worrying. It's the worry that gets you, not the loss of sleep. – DALE CARNEGIE

You are always your own best guru, your own best teacher, the answers are always inside you. – BHAGWAN SATHYA SAI BABA

Think beyond any doubt everything and bring in your own light. A path to virtue. – SAI VENKATA KRISHNAN

Every door is another passage, towards another boundary. We have to march ahead in progress and prosperity, to go beyond. – Dr. CHANDRAN PEECHULLI

Some confusion, arising from different interpretations, what should be considered as a true "Public library" while 'not a single response' from authorities concerned neglecting, valued suggestions of common interest. Difficulties in establishing what Policies were in effect at different times, of the public libraries functioning, adds to the confusion. Learned Readers using the libraries are very much aware that a Public library is accessible by the general public, funded from public sources (such as tax money) and managed by civil-servants trusted Bureaucrats, for commitment and responsibility towards public services administration, though directly governed by a Library- Committee, supposedly to serve the public's general-interest; hence expected to be fair and just. Hence, open to transparency more particularly after RTI 2005 Act. Every library-user can access the collection and suggest for improving the public library services; though service provided free, to serve the real needy common people. Public libraries exist in many countries across the world and considered 'an essential part of having an educated and literate population'. Public libraries are distinct from Research/College libraries, school libraries, and other special libraries, which is to serve the general public's information needs (rather than the needs of a particular school, institution, or research population), avoiding superfluous information. It has non-circulating Reference collections and for keeping to the times, modern libraries provide computer and Internet access in addition to printed books and periodicals. Public Libraries these days have a wide array of other media, including audiobooks, e-books, CDs, cassettes, videotapes, DVDs, and video games, as well as facilities to access the Internet. Public libraries could also provide other services, such as community meeting rooms, copying Xerox facilities. In person and on-line programs for reader -development, language learning, other community service programs that could improve library services. Services may be provided for other groups, such as large print or Braille materials, Books on tape, young adult literature and other materials for teenagers, or materials in other than the national language (in foreign languages). Main Public libraries provide reference and research support help as well to the general public, at a reference desk. As online discussion and social networking allows remote access, reference is becoming available virtually through the use of the Internet and e-mail. Depending on the size of the library, optimal space utilisation and resources, large urban public libraries may employ subject-specialist librarians with the ability to staff multiple reference or information desks to answer queries about particular topics at any time during regular operating hours.

As more Commercial and Governmental services are being provided online (e-commerce and e-government), public libraries increasingly need to provide Internet access for users otherwise, would not be able to connect to these services. This role of libraries as part of "access to information and "equity of access"; part of the profession's ethical commitment that "no one should be denied information, because he or she cannot afford the cost of a book or periodical, have access to the internet or information in any of its various formats. In addition to access, many public libraries offer training and support to computer users. For many communities, the public library is the only agency offering free computer classes and information technology learning. A significant service provided by public libraries elsewhere is assisting people with e-government access and use of federal, state and local government information, forms and services. Internationally, public libraries offer information and communication technology (ICT) services, giving "access to information and knowledge" the "highest priority." While different countries and areas of the world have their own requirements, general services offered include free connection to the Internet, training in using the Internet, and relevant content in appropriate languages. In addition to typical public library financing, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and business fund services that assist public libraries in combating the digital divide.

An ever growing middle class, increased commercial activity, new radical ideas, massive population growth and higher literacy rates voices to forge the public library into reforms, meeting genuine demands of the users of time to time. Public libraries are common all over the world and not a new idea. With the ongoing thoughts, confusion arises from differing interpretations of what should be considered a true "public library" in public interest. Difficulties in establishing what policies were in effect, at different times in the history of particular libraries. At the outset, we can now self-assess ourselves, as to where we stand in performance rating-efficiency? TN State Public Library services, lacking in a website showing library-network with contacts. Hence, it is high time, our government services wherever feasible are outsourced, for increased performance efficiency. Dis-interested in-competent staff who only wished to while-away the time, cannot make the services good to the public. Service-oriented competent personnel manned with good policies and procedures make "The Public-Library, an excellent model of the ruling government, at its best. Big question-mark as to whether competent Information/Library Science Officers with aptitude are ever employed, to give their best in Public Library services?

Service-oriented personnel, with a will to work, be retained in government and those name-sake for statistical reasons be chucked-off, under 'no work no pay' principle, while Indian seafarers welfare neglected, when they bring in substantial foreign-exchange to the country and making no tall claims. Similarly, It is high time third party academic-audit is conducted in the mush-roomed maritime institutions in the country, performing in the most mis-managed state of affairs, not valuing the exorbitant fees collected from parents for pre-sea courses and from active mariners for Post-sea courses and MMD services. For DG approved professional colleges / academies / institutions, seats remaining unfilled is not making economic sense, students should not be burdened, which Policy Maker DGS should seriously consider in the present set-up and hence, institutes run commercially want a revision in the manner in which fees are set, Critical issues are still being over-looked. Ref:RSA160/2011. "A TRUTHFUL CRITICISM OF PUBLIC SERVANTS IN PUBLIC GOOD WAS SO VITAL, FOR THE FUNCTIONING OF DEMOCRACY and THE TRUTH WAS THE DEFENCE IN THIS CASE."

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The first and most basic right according to International Labor Organization states that all women seafarers hold right to equality in job and education

All female seafarers, like their male counterparts, are entitled to minimum wages and working conditions which has been set at \$465.

Women seafarers shall be allowed same working hours as their male counterparts, with maximum limit being 14 hours in a 24 hour period.

Women seafarers will be entitled to be paid for overtime above the stipulated hours of work as set by the International Marine Organization (IMO) for all seafarers.

IMO states that no lady mariner can be denied any maritime post on a vessel in lieu of her gender.

Women have right to be guaranteed against any form of discrimination between men and women for any maritime job, in terms of equipment, working conditions or facilities.

In case of maternity, women seafarers are entitled to same rights as in any other profession.

For Flag of convenience vessels, the rights for maternity leaves for a lady mariner are as mentioned by the flag state. In certain cases, there may be no specified rights for such a situation at all. However, ITF secures their position with minimum rights that those women would still be entitled to.

Women seafarers have the right to form or join any trade unions to represent themselves.

ITF's agreements with seafaring vessels ensure that in case of pregnancy, women seafarers will be allowed to repatriate with no deductions in salary.

The time for repatriation is influenced by the state of legislation and the conditions on board. Depending on the country under whose legislation the vessel is sailing or the availability of a medical practitioner on the vessel, the time

of repatriation can vary.

ITF states that a pregnant lady mariner cannot be exposed to hazardous conditions while aboard.

Under rights of women seafarers, ITF guarantees re-employment of the seafarer after the maternity leave.

A lady mariner shall be given two months of salary as part of the maternity payment.

ITF has developed a policy for women seafarers against bullying and harassment aboard. This policy applies to both men and women and indicates that no form of bullying or harassment would be tolerated against seafarers.

Under the policy to improve the current rights for women, ITF proposed to include the following:

1. The vast gap between percentage of women and men holding important maritime jobs like officers should be bridged. At present, only 7% females are appointed in ranks of officers as opposed to 51% males. 93% female mariners are involved in ratings while only 41% of marine men are employed for this job.
2. Better representation for women through trade unions
3. Access to better facilities which include sanitary facilities, contraception, access to medical assistance onboard and onshore
4. Seek combined assistance of international organizations and ship owners' organization to lower the extent of discrimination between men and women for important seafaring positions
5. Dealing with cases of sexual harassment, along with strengthening their safety aboard

Issues that jeopardize women's safety and rights aboard vessels are constantly raised so that improvements can be made. ITF along with other organizations is constantly working towards making the marine industry fairer in offering opportunities to both genders of the society.

W o r l d I n f o D e s k

Rights of Seafarers According to Maritime Labor Convention: Considering the international nature of marine industry, in 2001, need for standard set of rights and regulations for mariners, all over the globe, was felt. It was then that international seafarers' and ship owner organizations decided to come with something similar.

The International Labor Organization came up with a convention dealing specifically with rights and responsibilities of marine workforce. The Maritime Labor Convention was thus introduced in 2006. The aim of this convention is to provide a set of basic rights that all seafarers must be provided, no conditions applied. The convention has yet not been brought into action as it awaits ratification from at least 30 of the member countries.

What does MLC Aims to Achieve?

Maritime Labor Convention was proposed with a view to make marine trade, globally fair and standardized for all the seafaring workmen without discrepancies due to regions. It was set

with specific aims such as:

1. To set minimum standards for seafarers
2. Ensure fair working conditions all over the world
3. To modernize global standards for marine requirements
4. Address minimum requirements for conditions relating to employment, accommodation, recreational facilities, food and catering, health protection, medical care, welfare and social security

The rights of seafarers as mentioned in this convention are given below:

According to maritime labor convention, every seafarer has the right to a safe and secure workplace that complies with international safety standards

Seafarers must be provided with decent working and living conditions aboard

Seafarers hold the right to claim health protection, medical care, welfare measures and other forms of social protection