

Books Industry in Afghanistan

Sabghatullah Ghorzang

Hebei University, School of Journalism and Communication, Hebei Baoding China

ABSTRACT

Around 130 million books have been published in the history of humanity; a heavy reader will at best get through 6,000 in a lifetime. Most of them won't be much fun or very memorable. Successful and prosperous society, modern and comfortable life who have they are studying and reading books. Regretfully Afghanistan is one of the miserable countries and societies that people never like reading and studying. Therefore, the Afghanistan book industry has been decreased. Also, Afghanistan is one of the countries that have been suffering for four decades from war. The percentage of illiterates is more than 60 percent. Instability or insecurity has been discerned as a primary factor of illiteracy.

The main purpose of this study is to discuss the brief history of the book industry in Afghanistan. Although the current situation of book publishing, imports and exports, and the last but not least researcher declare the current book structure, Market and legal system for printing and electronic publishing in Afghanistan, With regard there were some problems to faced authors, and also publishers both of them don't have confidence as their career because there weren't clear copyright Law and also Afghan government does not care about authors and publishing right.

This paper is mainly based on secondary data, and the data was collected from Pashto and Persian language resources. The researcher could not find a single source in the English language.

Keywords: *Book publishing, Copyright law, Electronic publishing, Afghanistan*

Introduction

People across the world have been publishing information for thousands of years. There's no way we could illustrate every innovation in publishing since prehistoric man painted on cave walls, but we wanted to give you a brief timeline to show you how changes in the industry have picked up since ancient times.

The typesetting and publishing industry was invented in China around 1050 AD by a man Bi Sheng who used the movable character of the clay. This technique was in use until woodblock printing became popular, and it created the basis for industrial printing. When the printing industry found its way to Europe years later, it was revolutionized in 1440 by using movable characters of an alloy and a new formulation for color by Johannes Gensfleisch, known as Gutenberg, from Mainz Germany. (Füssel, 2000)

However, this industry was still very expensive for the majority of people, so only the high authority people could afford it. Around 300 years after the invention of Gutenberg's printing technique, in 1789, German known Alios Senefelder invented lithography. This technique was so cheaper than Gutenberg's technique, as well as very easier to use and modern color printing possible. (Herry, 1965)

Afghanistan started to use this printing technology in the period of King Amir Shirali Khan 1863-1880. According to historical documents, in the reign of King Amir Shirali Khan, two other printing houses were using the lithography technique near Shams Al- Nahar (known as a printing house and first newspaper and Afghanistan) in Kabul. But due to political reasons and lack of a powerful central government in Afghanistan, that time did not enough progress. Because the publishing industry in Afghanistan grew slowly and with much delay compared to the neighboring countries and people in the region, although there were these three correlated reasons of Afghan society Poverty, Ignorance, and Tyranny. Because the book industry progress was slow. (Ahmadi, 2005)

This study will explain book industry development from begging to now and also the current condition of the book industry in Afghanistan. The method of this research was an analysis of secondary data from books, academic articles, media reports, academic journals, and interviews with owners of publication houses.

Literature review

The form, content, and provisions for making and distributing books have varied widely during their long history, but in general, it may be said that a book is designed to serve as an instrument of communication. The Babylonian clay tablet, the Egyptian papyrus roll, the medieval vellum codex, the printed paper volume, the microfilm, and various other combinations have served as books. The great variety in form is matched by an equal variety in content. Both Shakespeare's collected plays, first published in 1623, and the most ill-conceived and trivial tract published in that or any other year were designed as instruments of communication. (Tucker, 2018)

The book publishing industry has a history spanning several decades and many great continents. It is arguable that some may even consider books to be the greatest medium to deliver content in the history of mankind. With so many years behind the publishing industry, it would only make sense that some interesting things have happened along the way. (Kado, 8/2017)

The book industry has traditionally been a retail-based industry. Books are mostly bought in bookstores.



The explosive growth of the major chain booksellers in the 1970s and onwards was continually lamented as representing some sort of “death of publishing.” That dire prediction on the future of book publishing proved untrue. The major complaint was that the book chains would force publishers to take a pass on publishing important books in favor of “mindless” bestsellers, but with 350,000 books published in English in 2017, that prediction has also proved false. Furthermore, the numerous book superstores ordinarily feature a far broader inventory than the average independent bookseller.

Online bookselling by Amazon.com and its competitors has had an enormous impact on bookselling. Now anyone can quite easily obtain any of the 300,000+ new books that can't be found in the retail channel. The result is that never have so many different books been so easily, readily, and inexpensively available. (Jerry, 2018) Nowadays, the definition of “book” has become more flexible in the last few years. It used to be that a “book” was defined as a collection of printed sheets of bound paper encased between two covers. But with the advent of the e-book, the definition is changing almost daily. One would have to conclude that a story was written and read on clay tablets is no less a book than one on an iPod.

Just as consolidation was transforming the book industry in the 1990s, the World Wide Web and new electronic publishing technology were rewriting the rules for book publishers and sellers. Online booksellers, such as Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com, have had a profound effect on the way publishers market and sell books. These online bookstores offer the selection, availability, and price discounts that had been the marketing strengths of the book clubs and mail-order booksellers that now struggle to compete with the online retailers. (Jason, 2001)

We know that the book industry in Afghanistan started very late and with a big gap compared to its neighbors, although the beginning of the book industry in Afghanistan, Raheen has written his book “History of Press in Afghanistan” lithography was launched for the first time in Afghanistan the period of King Shirali Khan. He has written books and papers that were copied with great difficulty or were published in India's publishing houses were suddenly printed easily in Kabul. (Raheen, 1985)

The book industry in Afghanistan

There are many certain sources to explain and focus on books published in Afghanistan; the first printing was launched during the period of King Amir Shirali Khan in 1863-1880. As well as before all books and papers that were copied with very difficult or were published in India's printing houses, but the launch of lithography in Afghanistan was suddenly printed easily in Kabul (capital of Afghanistan).

In this period of King Amir Shirali Khan, more than 50 title books were published. However, at that time, at least three printing houses called “Mortazavi Printing House,” “Shams-Al Nahar Printing House,” and “Mostafavi Printing House” were established. The first treatise was

published in Mostafavi Printing house, which was called “A Lightning Bolt in Rejection of Mendacious Wahhabs,” which means this was a religious treatise for Islam in 1865. (Ghadai, 1943)

During the modern era, a term when considering of modernity gave rise and the region, the most serious completely bright field of book publishing were undoubtedly conducted at the term of King Amir Habibullah Khan in 1901-1919, who was innovative King, this term can be considered as one of publishing most prosper term for the book industry in Afghanistan than other. In addition, he has established another huge Printing house called “Enayat Printing House” under the responsibility of King Habibullah Khan brother's, his name was Enayatullah as well as with encouragement and partnership of Mahmoud Tarzi (Father of Afghan journalism), one of the most extraordinary tasks of this printing house was the publication of the three-volume books called “Seraj Al Tavarikh” between 1913 and 1915 by Faiz Mohammad Kateb Hazara, overall the publication of this book as the largest and most meaningful book on the history of Afghanistan publishing. (Sadiqi, 1971) In this useful term, another great manner published was the book called “Russia and Japan at War” by two Turkish military officers translated by Mahmoud Tarzi, as well as who translated some stories of Jules Verne. These translations were based on the ideas of modernization and were significant and great in publishing during modernization movements.

Except for the period of King Habibullah Khan, the other three terms were darkness and hardships for the book industry in Afghanistan. The term of King Amanullah Khan in 1923-1928, King Nadir Shah in 1929-1932, and merely thirty years of King Zaher Shah in 1932-1963 these terms didn't have much success. As well as the era of constitution or democracy decade 1963-1973, book publishing started to grow up than before. (Haleem, 1999) Writing of Egyptian Islamists, particularly Sayed Qatb, was also translated and in this term to meet the ideological needs of the Islamist groups.

The book “Islam and Social Justice” by Sayed Qatb and “Sharia Politics” by Ibn Tamima both books published, and they showed the ideological familiarity of books publishing in this decade of democracy. The publisher of these books was an association called “the Education and Awareness society.” However, after this constitution and prospers decade until 2001 of the term of the Taliban, the books industry has been down. Even the term of the Taliban, they destroyed libraries across Afghanistan, including the National Library in Kabul. (Kambakhsh, 2005)

Current Book industry structure and Market in Afghanistan

Books industry in Afghanistan has one of the big problems is the lack of a suitable structure, if this situation prolongs as future Afghanistan book industry and society will never successful, as book publishing was the government's exclusive right and thus official ideology evermore dominated printing and publishing work. In the

new era, publishing commonly lacks overall manufacture, despite the fact that there are juridical grounds for freedom of publication, which is guaranteed in the Afghan constitution.

On the one hand, the government has not made the necessary investment in publishing, and indeed government doesn't care about the book industry because three decades have been suffering war until now, unless the private segment has not given true attention to writing and publishing, too. Because there has never been a great distribution manner and system that could include the different stages of book production from beginning to publish and supply. (Zaheen, 2018) Although educational publications are all limited to the government, there are no originally, or formats were ruling the publishing market, nor there any enforceable laws that can actually protect the right of the author or collector.

Current authors in Afghan society are mostly active in the field of poetry and novel unless not many publishers could responsible for all cycles of book production from writing to the supply of books. Instead, there are some small publishers who are publishing books illegally with lower quality and lower cost, even sometimes reduce the book's number of pages to lower the costs. In addition, these books published in Iran, especially in the city of Mashhad, and Pakistan in the city of Peshawar according to market needs by the offset system and are then distributed in high volumes but with lower costs and lower quality than the original and then these useless books enter to Afghanistan for sale. (Aksoos, 2018)

Successful and prosperous society, modern and comfortable life who have, they are studying and reading books. Regretfully Afghanistan is one of the miserable countries and society that people never really like reading and studying because the Afghanistan book industry has been decreased. Afghanistan has been a limited purchaser of books and has never had a position of producing supplying a large number of books. Furthermore, with the circumstances mentioned before, Afghanistan didn't get a position to export books to other countries. But Afghani booksellers have an agreement with some neighboring counties to import books.

Such as India, by the English language, Iran by the Persian language, and Pakistan by two languages English and Pashto, as well as before the beginning and during of printing industry in Afghanistan, books we're publishing in India. Also, Iran has been the third important country that has had an impact on Afghanistan's book market until now. As the domain of influence of the two important countries were gradually decreased, Iran commenced into the book publishing market in Afghanistan. (Culture, 2016)

The legal system and Electronic book publishing in Afghanistan

E-book technology allows readers to download books onto a variety of personal computing systems. Still, in its infancy, this technology had the potential to restructure the entire publishing industry. In September 2001, Random House, Penguin Putnam, Harper Collins,

and Simon and Schuster, all rival publishing houses, entered into an agreement to bypass established online booksellers and sell e-books directly on the Yahoo! Web site. Many industry experts took this arrangement, which allows publishers to sell books directly to customers, to be a harbinger of the future online technology will create for book publishing. (Albert, 1997)

Electronic publication and Internet access have grown in the last decade unless this growth is not enough to consider electronic publication as a reality in Afghanistan's book publishing market. The Internet era is still slow in Afghanistan, and the user system to use online publishing doesn't exist. As well as some foreign skillful have been helping to succeed and developing electronic publications, and government agencies have slowly taken primary steps towards digitizing.

There are some other reasons for electronic publishing; most publishers have not shown good attention in using the internet and electronic publishing because publishers don't see a necessity for them in their works, or don't know how to use it, or don't see it as cost-effective. Least publishers have an official website to share information about their books, and some publishers are using Facebook for book advertising. Electronic use in the part of books is currently bounded to minor digital libraries and websites for governmental data. But there were some books illegally electronic published, such as Dr. Rangin Datfar Spanta book called "Afghan Politics: The Inside Story" (Aazem, 2018)

Afghanistan has a Law to support the right of authors, composers, artists, and researchers known as the Copy Right Law 2008, but major copyright violations continue to undermine the potential of this industry. Last year's incident of copyright violation surface in 2017s, the Aazem Publication house boycotted the sales of a book by Dr. Rangin Spanta, former national security adviser, about his memoirs when a scanned PDF version of the book was being circulated among social media users illegally. (Saif, 2018)

Research Methodology

The main scope of this study is to identify a brief history of the book industry in Afghanistan, although the current condition of authors and publishers. The method of this research was an analysis of secondary data from books, academic articles, media reports, academic journals, and interviews with owns of publication houses. The data was collected from Pashto and Persian language resources. The researcher could not find a single source in the English language. This research focused on these parts of the Afghan book industry: Brief history of the book industry in Afghanistan, Investigating current publishing structure and electronic copyright Laws in Afghanistan, Current condition of the book market, and importing or exporting books manner in Afghanistan.

Conclusions

Along time growing and reduction book publishing suffered in Afghanistan, the last 15 years the beginning presidential of Hamid Karzai has been evolution

period. As well Machines manufactured by Heidelberg and other popular manufacturers are being imported from Pakistan to meet the printing and packaging needs of the country. There are now more than 250 printing presses in Afghanistan, but the least of them achieve advantage from their business because there is a lack of reader's interests and a lack of clear copyright laws.

From 2001 to 2010, the printing and publishing industry in Afghanistan was publishing 3,500 titles of books during this time. Such as journalism, medical, science, languages, literature, and poetry are being produced. In academic subjects, like medicine and science, the books produced are primarily textbooks, which give students a basic understanding and then lead them to references of more established textbooks produced abroad and imported. Books are published in Dari, Pashto, Uzbek and English languages.

In this research find some unseen problems facing publishing are poverty, illiteracy, and a general lack of scientific knowledge within Afghan society that limits the production of scientific and literary business in the community. These problems are linked to readers, and their least interest in high-quality books and also publishers are illegally printing and publishing. This article reviewed had some limitations. First, most of the studies had focused on other types of publishing in Afghanistan, such as newspapers, magazine rather than purely on the book industry.

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