

## College Library Scenario and the problems of College Libraries in Mizoram

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### 1.1. Abstract

This paper deals with the scenario of college libraries in Mizoram. Majority of the college libraries do not have proper facilities and information technology infrastructures to meet the needs of their users. Library collections are not up-to-date, funds for library are very inadequate and limited, and most of them run their libraries in traditional way. The present paper also studied different problems faced by college libraries in its day-to-day delivery of different services. Most of the problems had been aroused due to the inadequate fund. Hence financial resources are very much important for development of college library, as a result most of the problems would also be solved if College library received adequate financial assistance.

**Keywords :** financial resources , college libraries, resource mobilization , higher education

**s.Introduction :** The College libraries in Mizoram have also a significant role to play in higher education, at present, 24 degree colleges under the state government has their own library. Majority of the college libraries do not have proper facilities and information technology infrastructures to meet the needs of their users. Library collections are not up-to-date, funds for library are very inadequate and limited, and most of them run their libraries in traditional way. In many colleges, there is neither a separate library stack rooms nor a sufficient big room, nor a separate building for the library. And in most college libraries, there is no good and enough spaces, library occupies a very congested rooms with no proper setting, besides there are no proper security arrangement .Therefore, the condition of the college libraries in Mizoram are very backward and not satisfactory.

**The College Library Scenario:** The first college in Mizoram was established in Aizawl on 15th August 1958 as a private institution, and the second college was established at Lunglei in 1964. At present, there are twenty-four colleges under the state government, out of which, 22 colleges are offering arts subjects, 2 colleges are offering both science and arts, one college is offering science, whereas 2 college offers commerce and arts subject. The teaching of science stream in the colleges of Mizoram started only in 1973 – 74 sessions at

Pachhunga University College. One and the only women college, Zirtiri Residential Science College of Aizawl, were established in 1980. The student teacher ratio in most of the colleges is below 1:20 in those colleges that are in rural areas. Many colleges in Mizoram are yet to develop adequate infrastructure facilities and the state has no professional colleges like, Medical College, Engineering College, Veterinary and Agricultural colleges.

College Libraries in Mizoram were under the administration of Higher and Technical Education and most of the colleges started its functioning without proper library. The state government does not have a separate budget for college libraries and therefore, the primary source of finance is library fees and fines collected from the students and financial assistance received from UGC or other organization. Unfortunately, the state government do not accorded the required number of professional posts in the college libraries of Mizoram.

The Government of Mizoram adopted UGC Pay scales for college teachers and other measures with effect from 1986 and thereafter, college librarians were also enjoying the same scale of pay. At present 14 (fourteen) college librarians are getting their pay as per UGC scale of pay.

**College Library Staff :** With regard to library staff, many colleges do not have qualified librarian or professional staff and other supporting staffs. So, the present status of library staff in the 24 colleges of Mizoram is not satisfactory and far below the standard of the staff composition. Out of the 24 colleges, 14 (fourteen) colleges have professionally qualified College Librarians, and 4 (four) colleges are managed by Deputy Librarians, 1 (one) college is being run by an Assistant Librarian and 5 (five) colleges are run by non professional staff as Library Assistant or a clerk. In some college, librarians / deputy librarians / assistant librarian are supported by only 1 (one) staff. In 9 (nine) colleges, library assistants are qualified in Library and Information science, whereas 10 (ten) Library Assistants are not having a background knowledge of Library Science and 6 (six) college libraries are without any semi-professional staff. There are 23(twenty three) non-professional staff, including clerks, peons and chowkidars etc in different colleges who support the librarians and semi-professionals in services of the college libraries (Lalnunpuia, S. 2011).

In Mizoram, library computerization and automation activities have been started only after 2005 and its process is very slow due to lack of qualified staff, geographical location, and lack adequate fund allocation for the development of library. At present, 14 Colleges have started computerization of library with the help of SOUL Software. College libraries in Mizoram are facing many problems in their development processes, like inadequate number

of library staff, poor collection, inadequate finance, lack building and lack of sufficient space. The state government considers the problems of college libraries seriously and an attempt is being made for development of college libraries.

College libraries in Mizoram are facing financial problem and the state government do not provide grants for library development, libraries are depending upon the fees collected at the time of student's admission and a small fees and fines collected from internal. Many of the college libraries had received financial assistance from UGC for books and journals that are not adequate, fund for other library resources are needed.

### **Different problem face by College Library in Mizoram**

Due to the following reason College Library face the following problems :

**1. Inadequate staff :** Most of their college library do not have supporting staff. College Librarian are working alone without supporting staff in the library. Many colleges do not have college Librarian, the library was run by non-technical staff or those who do not have library sense knowledge.

**2. Library Space :** Most of the college library are being housed in a congested room and it was not design to be library. This create a problem in day to day management and deliver of library services and it resulted many inconvenient in library shelf arrangement, provision for reading room as well as technical section. More over the congest and small which is a stumbling block for the growth and development of library.

**3. Technical Equipment :** In this IT driving Library services, it is necessary to have technical equipment and other machine for management of library for eg. Library request to have photo copy, printer, cctv, RFID, interconnection, laminating machine, printer and projector etc. To have all these, library may not have enough fund. So technical equipment it problem to have efficient library services.

**4. Inadequate fund :** To develop and upgrade library functioning in term of book purchase and upgradation of library furniture and equipment it is required to have adequate financial resources. Most of the library do not have regular financial sanction. In such situation, College library totally depends on library fee collected from the students at the time of admission. College library never receive such the financial grant from the government. A small financial sanction from UGC and RUSA. So, college library are facing a problem of inadequate fund are received occasionally.

**5. Information Literacy :** The knowledge about information technology is very much important many of the library staff do not have knowledge about it and its application to library services. They do not know how to handle a new library software and other equipment to satisfy and to provide user need. It is necessary to know how to search an information from e-resources. Therefore, information literacy is very much require for library staff.

### **Conclusion :**

In Mizoram, college library development is hurdles by certain inherent difficulties, such as lack of human resources, financial resources, inadequate infrastructure, adverse climatic conditions and geographical isolation. These human resources and financial resources need to be mobilized for progress of higher education and development of library services in Mizoram .

As the times goes by, many new colleges are established in Mizoram. But, those colleges are poor in resource allocation of fund for library, infrastructure, educational facilities and administration that resulted slow progress of library services in higher education. On the other hand, political situations and administration also have impact negatively upon the growth of college library system as well as higher education in Mizoram

The college libraries in this region are backward and most of the libraries are still running in traditional way due to inadequate grants or financial assistance that hinders improvement in library and institutional infrastructure. Most of the higher educational institutions in the state are suffering from limited funds and other resources for libraries. As a consequence they are unable to spend more on improvement in library infrastructure and information technology based activities in college libraries.

In order to improve the college library scenario,, it is require to getting more support from UGC as well as from governments, further, generation and mobilization of financial resources both from internal and external is the need of the hour for those libraries who suffers from limited funds. Even for the state governments, it is necessary to take a plan or particular strategy to solve the problem of college library backwardness in Mizortam .

Therefore, the condition in college library services need to be improved and it is very much required to generate and mobilize funds or additional financial sources Thus, resource generation and mobilization from government, private donor, public private partnership or any other sources are the necessary for college library development, and these will be an

important solution of the financial problems faced by college libraries in the state of Mizoram