Research Paper

A Study on the Impact of Library and Information System on Reading Habit of Youth in Ukhrul District Manipur

Yamkhami M Risom[1*] iD

[1]Library Faculty, St. Joseph College, Ukhrul City, India

Corresponding Author: sochipem12345@gmail.com

Abstract—Library and Information System (LIS) serves as the foundation for various domains, but developing effective reading habits pose challenges and complexities. Despite this, no analysis has been conducted to examine the impact of the library and information system on the reading habits of youth in the Ukhrul district. To address this gap, this study aims to identify factors influencing the accessibility of the library and information system, as well as raise awareness among youth and local officials, bureaucrats, and institutes about their roles and responsibilities in establishing a competent information system. Primary data was collected through questionnaire distribution, and the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) was used to analyze the data and draw constructive conclusions. The study gathered responses from 183 participants, and the results provide valuable insights to achieve the objectives. The data was analyzed using descriptive analysis techniques, as well as the formulation and testing of hypotheses for significance (P-value). The findings of the study underscore the significance of Library and Information System (LIS) in fostering reading habits among young people and encouraging their visits to libraries. The study proposes that the state should provide comprehensive support, including necessary resources and facilities, to LIS and public libraries. Furthermore, it emphasizes the importance of LIS in preserving traditional forms of education, such as folk songs, tales, and drawings, which hold valuable and often forgotten information. Creating spaces within LIS to practice and uphold these traditional educational practices is crucial.

Keywords— Reading Habit, Library and Information System, E-reading, & Longshim

1. Introduction

For centuries, the library has been regarded as a storehouse where books are preserved [5] [32] [46]. The concept of the library as a platform for distributing information, rather than the traditional notion of collecting and preserving data and information, emerged during the transition phase in human civilization [4]. Credit is due to the advancement of technology and infrastructure development, which has made books more accessible and encouraged exploration of the open access system. With the passage of time, the present-day library has undergone a complete transformation in its organization, planning, working, and services [47]. Today, the library is not only a repository of knowledge, but also a social institution, a universe of knowledge, and a treasure house of information [17]. As a result, there has been a tremendous increase in every aspect of literature in library collections. The library plays an essential role in the progress and development of society, serving as a resource for research, education, culture, religion, recreation, and the dissemination of knowledge [7] [33] [38] [44] [59]. Currently, the library is considered a social agency that plays a vital role in personality development, knowledge enhancement, and creating awareness of the importance of libraries [13] [41]. Reading enables individuals to understand their role in society as citizens. The library is open not only to the literate, but also to the illiterate, facilitating the acquisition of knowledge through interaction [12].

1.1 Significance of the Study
The aim of the study is to emphasize the impact of LIS on reading habits and explore the factors that contribute to the development of reading habits among young people. While the primary purpose of an organized LIS is to provide information to readers, it also has the potential to go beyond that by influencing readers to become more competent. Unfortunately, the significance of LIS is often overlooked and it does not receive the central attention it deserves within institutions. With this in mind, this study intends to obtain meaningful findings by analyzing and closely examining the opinions of young individuals regarding the performance and requirements of LIS.
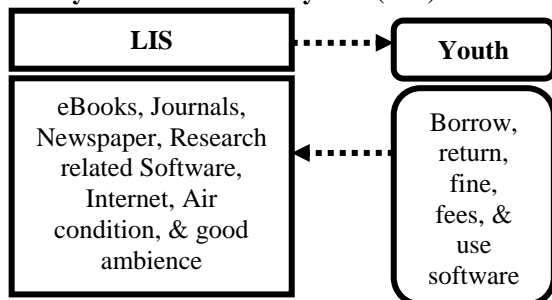
1.2 Library and Information System (LIS)

Figure 1: Working process of LIS

In common parlance, LIS refers to a platform where students or knowledge seekers encounter an extensive database. Although the definition of a conventional library and LIS remains the same, the latter is more focused on providing informative resources through digitalization, enabling youth to access a wider range of information facilities. Similar to any operational department, a robust staff is essential to maintain information, manage the supply chain of books, knowledge resources, and student data within the database. The youth primarily visit the LIS for borrowing, returning, or renewing materials.

1.3 Statement of the problem
The promotion of reading habit is directly impacted by the existing library system, as evidenced by research [10] [30] [53] Understanding the functioning and services provided by the existing library system is essential in assessing its influence on reading habits. Ukhrul, a backward district in Manipur, requires systematic development of infrastructure, including the library system. This study aims to assess the existing library system and its impact on the reading habits of youth in Ukhrul district. The problem statement for this study is formulated as: "The impact of the library and information system on the reading habit of youth: A case study of Ukhrul district, Manipur," in order to investigate this Issue.".

1.4 Scope of the Study
The present study has been limited to the Ukhrul district in northeast India, with a main focus on the youth who are engaged in the education profession. The youth who are enrolled in schools, colleges, NGOs, churches, organizations, government agencies, and those who are availing library services are targeted. The main focus of the study is to cultivate a reading habit in the region, and to understand the transformation of the youth reading trend and the role played by technology and information advancement.

2. Reading Habit

A deep love or enthusiasm for reading that lasts a lifetime fosters the reading habit [1] [13]. This love typically begins in childhood [8] [20] [31], and it encompasses the amount of materials read, reading frequency, and average time spent reading. The ability to think critically and enhance knowledge is developed through this empirical process. In addition to personal gain, reading habit provides access to public, commercial, and civic life [3]. The choice of books or materials to study depends on the reader's age and current trends. Reading habit is especially beneficial for children as it shapes their minds and guides their lives [28]. Developing this habit at an early age has a positive impact on language skills, reading skills, knowledge broadening, healthy intellectual growth, and practical efficiency. Books are considered to be the best friends because they influence what a person wishes to become and guide them on their life journey. Parents play an important role in teaching children the basics, and reading books enables youth to develop communication skills, comprehension, knowledge impartation, healthy sleep, personality, trouble avoidance, and peaceful treatment to their minds [45]. Updating book knowledge regularly is necessary because it is limited. In a country like India, books are a primary source of information. However, the youth of the country are well-exposed to the internet and are increasingly using it as a source of information. Despite the large gap in perspectives between youth and adults, the advent of the internet and electronic media is the primary reason for the declining trend in reading, and younger generations have a stronger reading habit than adults [55]. Girls read for pleasure more per day than boys [48]. A strong reading habit is beneficial for mental, emotional, and intellectual development. It enhances cognitive abilities, expands vocabulary, improves comprehension skills, and boosts memory, and it can provide relaxation and reduce stress. Ironically, some research work have stated that parental income greatly influences children's education levels [22]. This can be attributed to the quality of service provided, along with the interest and investment in children's education, posing a significant question on the accessibility of information and knowledge to low-income parents. The role and responsibility of policymakers and state intervention are thus implicated.

A reading habit can be developed by starting with setting aside a specific time each day to read, creating a comfortable reading space, selecting reading materials that interest you, and gradually increasing the reading time. Regular and consistent reading is essential to cultivate a reading habit.

2.1 E-reading
It has been observed that online learning has become more widely accepted and is the latest trend in reading. Apart from the conventional modes of reading in rooms and libraries, e-reading offers flexibility, personalized learning, the ability to move at the pace of the reader, and the opportunity to pursue passions outside of the classroom [15]. More information can be gathered rapidly through e-reading in easily digestible forms that cannot be explained by books. The convenience of having access to a wide variety of reading materials on a single device, the ability to adjust font sizes and brightness, and the portability of electronic devices make e-reading increasingly popular [28]. Furthermore, e-reading can refer to the use of electronic tools, such as e-readers or reading software, which can aid people with visual impairments or learning disabilities in reading more easily.

In the contemporary era, e-reading allows young people to access a wide range of books and other reading materials

from their digital devices, which they often carry with them wherever they go [21] [27] [56]. This convenience makes it easier for them to find time to read and to read more frequently. One of the main advantages of e-reading is its cost-effectiveness, which gives it an advantage over printed books and makes it more accessible to young people from low-income families [6] [9] [23] [37]. This can help to close the reading gap between different socioeconomic groups. E-reading can also improve the literacy skills of young people as they are exposed to a wider range of vocabulary and sentence structures [11] [25] [37] [58]. E-books can also include interactive features such as dictionaries and note-taking tools, which can further enhance the reading experience [19] [24] [49] [57]. Many e-books for young people include multimedia features such as animations, videos, and interactive quizzes, which can help to keep them, engaged and motivated to read [14] [34] [36]. E-reading is a more sustainable option than traditional book printing as it reduces the need for paper and ink and is the best alternative during and post-pandemic [43]. The significant features of e-reading are the interventions of modern technology to bring innovation to learning [40] [42]. E-reading is a modern trend and habit that every age group needs to cope up with. The dynamic taste or choice of various readers has implicated the need to make technology a means for comprehending and cultivating competence in reading habits.

2.2 The Evolution of Education in Ukhrul District: Longshim's Historical Significance and Its Parallels to a Library

Until the 1990s, the Longshim culture thrived alongside the introduction of an emerging education system. According to our elders, Longshim played a vital role for the youth, serving as the epicenter of village activities. During that era, education was primarily conveyed orally, and Longshim stood as a repository of knowledge, akin to today's expansive libraries. It functioned not only as a school for life's lessons but also as a hub for entertainment and enjoyment. However, with the arrival of modern education and Christianity in the 20th century, Longshim gradually transformed into a mere folktale for the current generation. Over time, it lost its significance and suffered from neglect, both from the state and the community, in terms of preservation efforts. The role of the state and the community in safeguarding the Longshim culture has diminished significantly.

To ensure the preservation of this valuable heritage, it is highly recommended to initiate the restoration of the culture through audio and video documentation, capturing the wealth of information stored in the form of folklore. Additionally, international recognition is a pressing concern that needs to be addressed in order to safeguard this beautiful practice for future generations.

3. Related Work

A serious study was carried to analyze the reading habit, time taken, and enjoyment experience by the reader, adopting a descriptive methodology, and it was found out that most of the study was carried out for the quest of knowledge hunting and lack of information availability respectively [41]. Similarly, the development of the library in the northeast part of India was analyzed using descriptive analysis with secondary data, and it was found out that no support was provided from the state and central support in drafting a special provision for development of the library [54]. These can be portrayed as major Issue.s that should be tackled in a larger context rather than merely noting the difficulties. Furthermore, it was discovered that the state used an appealing technique to foster and stimulate the cultivation of a national reading habit through collaboration [52]. Such a strategic effort, as well as identifying the challenges and making appropriate recommendations, should be a top priority, and may be considered a key content of the work provided in the sector. Another intriguing addition included in the scope of the study is the materials, reading habits, and logical alignment of academic performance, and it was discovered with the general drawing of conclusion that most of the reading habits are entirely based on information seeking [35]. A comprehensive study was conducted using primary data analysis to examine the frequency of library visits, utilization of library services, and the perspective of library visitors. The findings of this study provide compelling evidence that the student community is highly motivated by the initiatives and support provided by the field of Library and Information system [51]. Some remarkable research on the use of WhatsApp as Library and Information System was conducted, with the astounding result that WhatsApp can bring value to the performance as additional features of Library and Information System in northeast India [39]. To make the argument more intriguing, a thorough study of reading habits and attitudes was conducted, and it was discovered that knowledge, vocabulary, fluency, and academic performance remained the primary goals of university students [2]. More analysis on the complexity and challenges associated and correlating with the success achieved using a simple regression and Pearson correlations is possible to make the argument more resounding [26]. Developing a reading routine encompassing novels and articles is crucial for enhancing vocabulary. However, it is ironic that students tend to prioritize academic advancement over cultivating this habit, which raises questions about their reading habits [18]. Based on the intriguing findings regarding reader psychology habits, it has been discovered that a majority of students exhibit a preference for engaging with books material during exams, resulting in a notable improvement in both spoken and written English vocabulary [16]. In the light of time management, it was found out that most of the academic students are unable to find proper time to devote to reading, mainly due to tight academic engagement, using survey and questionnaire distribution methodology [29]. It can be summarized that, in view of the study aims and scope, no research work has been contributed to analyzing the reading habit of youth on a community basis. This highlights a research gap that needs special attention in the context of community development and comprehension of the trend change in the reading habits of the Tangkhul youth. Therefore, a serious research work in this domain is justified.

3.1 Objectives
- To analyzed the impact of Library and Information System (LIS) on reading habit of youth in Ukhrul district Manipur
- To examined the reading habit the youth in Ukhrul district Manipur

4. Methodology

The study utilized survey methods, questionnaires, and simple statistical tools. A total of 183 respondents participated, and the questionnaire was designed based on the study's objectives, scope, aim, and keywords. To gather data from different age groups and for convenience, a non-probability sampling technique was adopted. The questionnaire was distributed in both hard copy and through Google Forms, which proved to be a more practical choice considering factors such as time, convenience, lockdown measures during the pandemic, and cost. The collected data were analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS). In addition to journals and books, various sources were used to gather information and data. To enhance the accuracy of the findings, random personal interviews were conducted with elders and experts to understand the transformation of Longshim. Relevant and rational questions, aligned with the study's keywords and objectives, were circulated through Google Forms and hard copies. The interaction with elders in the society provided insights into the trends of the education system.

5. Results and Discussion

The study has two main objectives, as highlighted in the objectives. Tabulation 1 showcases the analysis of the impact of LIS among the youth. This analysis vividly projects various parameters from the perspective of the youth, such as hours spent on reading, visit frequency, required facilities, and preferences. By understanding youth psychology, the study aims to shed light on the future efforts of the community to preserve old traditional education systems that have never been considered as courses. Unfortunately, Longshim remains secluded from recognition and lacks a proper platform for social and official acceptance.

Table 1: Analysis of factor related to reading Habits

Particular	Mean	Std. Dev.
Visit	3.59	1.012
Hour	1.79	.727
Social Media	3.14	1.237
Library	1.49	.553
Free Wi-Fi	1.10	.299
Online Mode	2.68	.629
Prefer	2.38	1.046
Average	2.31	0.786

An average mean of 2.31 is shown in the above tabulation, indicating that reading habits are perceived positively by the youth overall. It suggests that the majority of young people are literate and face no significant challenges in reading and writing. However, despite their keen interest in reading, there is an imbalance in their writing skills, particularly in the professional domain. This deficiency hampers their ability to fully utilize their potential and benefit from their education. Furthermore, it was found that the online mode of study (including free books, internet facilities, and visual education) has a greater influence on the adoption of reading habits, while free Wi-Fi and hours spent in the library are considered the least influential factors. This suggests that most readers spend an average of one to two hours reading.

This hints at a serious problem, particularly for the youth, as their reading hours are minimal. Information plays a significant role in shaping psychology and intuition. Spending fewer hours on reading hinders the mind's ability to ignite and explore. Access to information truly shapes personality, enhances creativity and opportunities, and improves thinking capabilities. These differences clearly highlight the distinction between Western civilizations. However, due to geographical terrain, the regions face challenges in accessing information, transportation, and electricity. Manipur state, in particular, experiences prolonged internet blackouts due to frequent communal riots and, more importantly, poor infrastructure conditions. Additionally, the youth expressed interest in availing of free Wi-Fi facilities to enhance their reading habit.

Despite the initial impression of impossibility, the state can implement various initiatives to provide essential facilities. For instance, it can offer free websites, television and radio broadcasts, as well as newspaper or magazine subscriptions. Implementing these measures would yield similar benefits as the proposed free Wi-Fi initiative, thereby enhancing reading habits. Without such platforms and opportunities, the youth are left without the means to express their desire for technical support and internet access, or even a public library where they can visit for reading purposes. Lastly, the limited availability of books in the library was noted, and a mean value of 2.38 indicated that most of the youth prefer to read periodicals (magazines, newspapers, etc.) as their preferred choice of reading material, over academic books, novels, and competitive exam materials.

Remarkably, the British deserve credit for introducing western education and establishing educational institutes, yet the region struggles to meet the demands of modern education and the expectations of its youth. This raises serious concerns about the availability of books and library facilities. Insufficient digitalization is another prominent Issue., particularly in developing and underdeveloped areas. Additionally, it is crucial for libraries to include magazines and other relevant documents in their collections. In summary, the analysis highlights the need for the library to update its book collection and incorporate audio and video facilities. The library system (LIS) should also actively encourage young people to spend more time reading and enhance their competencies. Furthermore, providing internet access and Wi-Fi while implementing appropriate filters to restrict access to unwanted websites would be beneficial.

Table 2: Qualification of the reader and hour spend in reading analysis Test

Particular	Qualification-Hour Spend
Mean	11.033
Std. Error	0.085
Degree of Freedom	182
t	130.023
P-Value	0.000

P<0.05=0.000

The second parts of the objectives can be partially examined by the formulations of hypothesis as follows:

H_1= Qualification of the reader has a great influence on the hours spent on reading by the youth of Ukhrul district

H_0= Qualification of the reader does not have any influence on the hours spent on reading by the youth of Ukhrul district

To thoroughly investigate the reading habits of the youth, a well-designed reading habit question is prepared and considered for the test in SPSS. From the Table 2, the p-value for students' reading habits was found to be lower than 0.05 (P=0.000). This result suggests that the coefficient for students' reading habits is significant, and therefore, the hypothesis (H_1) which assumes that the qualification of the reader has a great influence on the hours spent on reading by the youth of Ukhrul district, is accepted. This implies that education needs to be given more important in the region to cultivate the habits of reading. The outcome demonstrates the importance of education and the responsibility of policymakers in supporting school sectors by enhancing facilities and LIS.

Table 3 Qualification of the readers & its influence by the existence of Library

Particular	Library
Sum of Squares	4.267
df	5
Mean Square	0.853
F	2.936
P Value	0.014

P<0.05=0.014

To examine whether LIS truly influence the youth with respect to the qualification are carried out with the help of formulation of research hypothesis as the preceding examination.

H_1^1= Qualification of the reader has a great influence by the existence of Library

H_0^1= Qualification of the reader does not have any influence by the existence of Library

Similar test were carried out with the help of SPSS and are the result associated are presented in the table 3. The p-value for students' reading habits is lower than 0.05 (P=0.014). It is suggested by this outcome that the coefficient for students' reading habits is significant, and thus the hypothesis, which assumes that the qualification of the reader is greatly influenced by the existence and functioning of the library

system in Ukhrul district, is accepted. This clearly shows the evident that LIS influence the youth to have the habit of reading on the regular.

6. Conclusion

It is understood that reading habits have been a focal point since the inception of library and information System. Studies on public library usage habits have been conducted worldwide, including in the Ukhrul district of Manipur, which promote reading, user engagement, e-reading habits, library system usage, and reading interests. These factors directly impact the development of library and information System. The preservation of ancient cultural books and stories, as well as the conversion of traditional bookstores called "Longshim" to written and verbal formats, require attention due to the lack of documentation.

The central focus of the study is to analyze how the Library and Information System (LIS) significantly influences the youth in cultivating a reading habit. While LIS implementation is not fully established in the regions, the study highlights its potential positive impact. It emphasizes the importance of LIS in equipping the youth with the necessary skills and adaptability to thrive in today's fast-paced and competitive world. Introducing LIS in the region aims to integrate the concept of "Longshim" through both audio and written documentation. Achieving social acceptance and international recognition requires diligent effort and dedicated work. The study examines the changing trends and impacts of modern infrastructure, emphasizing the need for various institutions, state-run offices, and social organizations in the district to prioritize readers' convenience and comfort through well-organized LIS and modern technology. Furthermore, the study recognizes the correlation between higher levels of education and a greater tendency for reading habits, as well as frequent visits to the library. It investigates the reasons behind the lack of professional writing and authorship among the youth in the region, stressing the need for research and development in cultivating reading habits. The study's results indicate that the reader's qualifications significantly influence the existence of a library, with a P-value of 0.014. Additionally, the reader's qualifications have a substantial impact on the amount of time the youth spend on reading, as indicated by a P-value of 0.000. These test results underscore the need for increased investment and the potential justification for introducing LIS in the region. Despite being often overlooked and undervalued in institutions, the study aims to highlight the significance of LIS from the perspective of students and youth, emphasizing its potential influence on fostering a reading habit among the younger generation.

The study's main takeaway is that policymakers, education institutes, and communities must collaborate with other organizations to promote youth reading habits by implementing policies, investments, and providing good environmental and infrastructure facilities.

Conflict of Interest

The author whose names are listed certify that there are NO affiliations with any entity financially in the subject matter or materials discussed in this manuscript.

Funding Source

No fund were receive

Authors' Contributions

Author seek to examined the trend and preference of reading habit that adapt to a new reading trend and how bureaucrat need to comprehend the change in the reading trend to motivate and uplift the society.

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AUTHOR PROFILE

Yamkhami M Risom Earned her Master of Library and Information System from Manipur University, and presently working as a librarian in St. Joseph College Ukhrul. My interest of research is for the contribution to our society with the Impact of Library and Information System: Reading Habit of Youths and children; and also on awakening the Past culture through Preservation and Conservation, Library management, and Library Automation. Beyond academia, I have a deep passion for music and enjoy interacting with children.

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