INFORMATIVE ABSTRACT
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We are living in the information society. Libraries have been offering its services on the strength of their collection, providing access facilities in anticipation of users need. Due to information explosion, libraries are going to be shifted from traditional to digital. But we should not discard the traditional activities. In spite of their unavoidable role and importance, libraries are non-profit making organisations attached to institutions. However without proper resources (finance and skilled hands) no library can be developed and managed.

By library economy we mean the practical application of library science to the funding, organising and administration of libraries. Finance is the motive power. Up to the last few decades the economic situation was complex in Manipur. Irrespective of its resources the library should be organized nicely and clearly, so that the library becomes a functional one through its internal organisation.

All the libraries of Manipur have been facing problems of financial resources. Day by day libraries are growing in terms of staff, readers, documents and infrastructures. So the study of the library economics in Manipur has become essential.

Library forms a component of the history of human civilisation. Libraries are related to the intellectual history as well as the organisational
structure of society. Libraries must play their role for the welfare and progress of the society. The fundamental role of the library is to be seen as educational and its mode of operation is dynamic. Library is the heart of education and public library is the pivot of continuing self-education.

In consistence with the changes in society the role of the public library has also to change today. The library helps in the contemporary development of knowledge and conserves the precious research tune of humanity separately.

Library economics is a study of library economy in the strict framework of library science. Library economics employs certain micro economic tools of analysis and attempts to arrive at economic conclusions which are important both from micro as well as macro points of view. It is the study of economic issues relating to libraries. Therefore, efforts have been made since the very beginning to constitute various committees and commissions from time to time for the betterment of libraries. The importance of library in education can be appreciated precisely and properly if we try to understand the changing concepts of education. A well-equipped and well-managed library is the foundation of modern educational structure.

It is the right time to look back and review library economics. Frequent monitoring may help to identify the problems, shortcomings and achievements of the work and to take appropriate action. Keeping this in view the proposed areas of investigation has been determined by the
aforesaid objective. With this objective, the libraries of Manipur have been examined during the 9th five years plan period (1997-2002) and analysed to identify the weak areas of the system. So that final goal of the system could be achieved. It has also been found that librarians from all categories of library have given emphasis on financial matter and suggested the provision of separate budget for libraries. The preliminary investigation has directed to draw a hypothesis that libraries in Manipur need to review their financial matters to provide effective services. The work has been carried out using different methods and techniques, say literature reviews, questionnaires, discussions, interactions etc. Different statistical techniques have been used for analysis of the collected data.

Based on the responses of a sizeable number of librarians from different type of libraries, an analysis has been made using different statistical techniques. Disappointments and dissatisfactions of the librarians from the economic point of view are also discussed.

Valuable suggestions of the librarians for improvement of the library system in Manipur would be the guideline to the users. On the basis of the analysis, some points have been focused and strategic plans have been drawn in connection with budgeting, manpower development, physical infrastructure, education and training of library professionals and workers. The analysis of the collected data provides a clear picture of the scenario of library systems in Manipur.
Finally the whole strategy needs to be drawn in the form of a written statement to *meet the objectives*. It is evident from systematic data observation, feedback analysis, users’ record and personal experiences. Certain plans in the spirit of recommendations made by great personalities and hypothetic studies are, therefore, proposed therein to achieve the desired objectives.

Financial management should be strictly maintained for limiting expenditure and progress in library services should be watched by the authority and the recipients. Finance is a motive power and an essential factor for the management of a library. It is right time to begin "Revolution" for the *development and improvement of libraries in Manipur*. Financial controls over the library without grasping the implication of the plans and budget of the library departments and its different branches would be *meaningless*. Our aim is to plan for the *growth and development of library profession* not only for hundred years but also for all ages to come; we should carefully plan and educate our children and future generations.

Library Economics deal with economic matters / issues for improving library administration. Almost all the libraries in Manipur suffer from financial irregularities and lack of economic resources. The library institutions in Manipur are financially poor and this topographically isolated. They only invite and await the implementation of the proposed plans on library economics for their improvement in the years to come. The future of
libraries in the state should be very bright with the implementation of the provisions of Acts and Rules. Under no circumstances should their enforcement be delayed and an overall thrust should be given for the promotion and advancement of library economics from all quarters.

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