

**INFORMATION USE PATTERN OF LEGAL PRACTITIONERS IN MIZORAM**

*A Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment  
of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Philosophy in  
Library and Information Science*

Submitted by

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**2014**

## **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that the dissertation entitled '**INFORMATION USE PATTERN OF LEGAL PRACTITIONERS IN MIZORAM**' submitted by me has not previously formed the basis for the award of any Degree or Diploma or other similar title of this or to any other University or examining body.

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### **C E R T I F I C A T E**

This is to certify that the dissertation entitled **“INFORMATION USE PATTERN OF LEGAL PRACTITIONERS IN MIZORAM”** submitted by Ms.**R.Lalrinpuii** for the award of the degree of **Master of Philosophy in Library and Information Science** is carried out under my guidance and incorporates the student’s bonafide research. This is the candidate’s original work and is worthy of examination.

Aizawl, Mizoram

**(Dr. R N Mishra)**

**Supervisor**

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Date:

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## **DECLARATION**

### **1.1 Introduction**

Information is power, strength which basically functions as components of mind or character, training, instruction, teaching, communication. While, Random House Dictionary for the English Language communicates the meaning of information as a means knowledge communicated or received concerning a particular fact or circumstances, the Webster's Third New International Dictionary for the English Language conveys it as a means of communication or reception of knowledge or intelligence. Information thus, can be defined as a concept, statement, and idea or an association of concepts, statements, and ideas. Further, it also can be well defined as a message conveyed or intended to be transmitted through a systematized body of ideas. According to Shannon and Weaver (Sharma; 2007; pp.341-360), "Information is any stimulus that reduces uncertainty".

Since 1950's information relates to the concept like knowledge, a fact, data, message, signal and a stimulus. Hence, information can be known as the structure of any text which is capable of changing the image structure of recipient.

### **1.2 Information Use Pattern**

Information is a vital resource and has got a pragmatic value for any type of Research & Development (R&D) activities. Proper and adequate information is essential for scientific and economic progress of a nation. A scientist needs information for satisfying his/her desires for which he/she has to seek information. A scientist in the broadest sense refers to any person who is engaged in a systematic activity to acquire knowledge or an individual that is engaged in such practices and tradition that are linked to schools of thought or philosophy. In a more restricted sense, scientists refer to the individuals who use the scientific method in acquiring information and organize, analyze and implement the same in the area of his research or subject.

Information use pattern is the itinerary pursued by the individuals in the attempt to resolve a specific need. The library scientists have defined the use of information in many angles which primarily denote to behaviour. Data collected through any such behaviour relating to the field of study or research through any mode is examined by observing its occurrence or by examining its

artifacts. In other words, information use is the seeking behaviour which leads to the use of information to attain individual requirements.

Need of users is imperative before creation of information and its promotion. Research and Development institution are the place where information is transformed to knowledge. Creating scientific knowledge and its use are the crucial activities of scientists. The effective utilization of the information generated in the field of science and technology due to R&D efforts has been recognized as essential for the socio-economic development and technological progress. The most important factor influencing the scientists is the type of work in which he is engaged. The scientists engaged in R&D activities need information for (i) Perception or definition of the problem, (ii) Formulating the scientific or technical solution, (iii) Placing the contents with the earlier works, (iv) Relate the work with the ongoing project, and (v) Integrate bindings into current state of knowledge in the related area. Likewise, the legal practitioner work in an information rich environment which is in constant flux with ongoing additions to statutes and other sources for legal research, resulting thereby, to keep abreast with the study and practice of law through the current published legal literature concerning to the field of research or practice. This can encompass court rulings and judgments, legislation and regulation as well as secondary materials including research. Essential information skills further is one of the vital components for the legal practitioners to locate primary and secondary materials along with the ability to evaluate and judge its value and relevance for its application.

### **1.3 Significance and Scope of the Study**

Comprehensive practitioner through both the primary and secondary sources of law. Primary sources contain the actual collections in a library cater to the research and information needs of the legal lawSecondary. sources which exclude cases statutes and regulations are materials, which comment, explain and annotate on the primary sources ([http://www.malaysianbar.org.my/bar\\_council\\_library.html](http://www.malaysianbar.org.my/bar_council_library.html)).

The significance of the present study lies with the fact that, it aims at evaluating the flexibility of these libraries in this fluid environment as well as their capabilities in developing a process to integrate these changes into standard library practice in order to meet the current and future needs of the legal professionals comprising of Magistrates, Lawyers etc. Further, rich collections in any library system redress the problems of information requirements of the users and bar council library is no exception to it. It not only facilitate the legal practitioners to quench their information

thirst but also keep update with the legal information as the legal profession is essentially a rule-based discipline where the written law is the primary source. A good law library, therefore, is the lifeline of a legal practitioner as well as his indispensable workshop and this is the significance of the study. Further the study significantly contributes in developing a participatory system of library collection evaluation which is useful in mapping a modality for developing a balanced collection of legal documents, law reports, in a most cost effective way as it has a direct influence on the curricular objectives, culture and vision of the all legal libraries. Even if the study has an impact on various legal libraries, the scope of the present study is limited to the all 8 legal libraries in Mizoram as mentioned below.

- (1) Law Firms, Mizoram
- (2) District & Session Court, Aizawl
- (3) LokAdalat, Aizawl
- (4) MACT- Motor Accident Claim Tribunal, Aizawl
- (5) MBA-Mizoram Bar Association including Consumer Forum, Aizawl
- (6) Mizoram Law College, Aizawl
- (7) Special Court, Aizawl and
- (8) State Legal Services Authority, Aizawl

#### **1.4 Review of Literature**

The scholar made an extensive survey of literature available in the present area of investigation as the review of literature provides the background knowledge or works that have been done concerning the topic under study. Literature review is of prime importance for any type of social research. Literature search infact enables a scholar to know the quantum of literature unfolded in a particular subject, and the extent to which the work in the same and allied fields have already been carried.

Though a large number of works on the different aspects of information seeking behavior and reading habits have been conducted in India and abroad by the LIS Researchers, but no specific work exclusively on the reading habits and information needs of the practicing advocates have been conducted. Thus it is quite evident from the fact that the investigator made rigorous literature search both for the traditional and paper formats as well as the soft copies and contribution in form of web resources.

- ⇒ Pattanaik, Prakash Kumar (2013),“Information Need and Seeking Habits of the Scientists working in different Agricultural research Institutes of Odisha : A user’s Study,*IASLIC Bulletin*, Vol. 58 No.1, 5-14

The study is sought to find out the information seeking habits of agricultural scientists working in different agriculture research institutes of Odisha. The author through a structured questionnaire elicited the need based information in the study which primarily focused on to find out the information needs and seeking behavior of agricultural scientists. The paper discusses sources used to seek information by the agricultural scientists in meeting their information need. Inferences and findings are shown with relevant analysis.

- ⇒ Tunga, Santosh Kr and Dasgupta, Sabuj(2013),“Information use Pattern of researchers in Horticulture: A Citation analysis of Doctoral Dissertations (1991 – 2010)”,*IASLIC Bulletin*, Vol. 58 No. 3, 142-158.

The authors in their study attempted to identify the department wise and crop wise of dissertations, bibliographic forms, ranking of the most used journals, geographical, chronological and obsolescence studies of literature in horticulture. The findings revealed that the researchers primarily are depended on the journals of horticulture for their source of information. The maximum doctoral contribution was in the department of Fruits & Orchard Management. Maximum number of dissertations was submitted on ‘Mango’ crop. The most of the cited journals come from India followed by USA. Indian journal title ‘South Indian Horticulture’ and foreign journal title ‘Hort Science’ are the most used journals. Bradford’s law does not fit well in journals. The half-life of the journal articles is found to be 24 years. Citation study of 10,845 citations appended to 80 doctoral dissertations in the field of horticulture awarded by Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswvidyalay (BCKV) and Uttar Banga Krishi Viswvidyalay (UBKV), West Bengal has been carried out to determine the use pattern of the cited literature by the researchers during 1991-2010.

- ⇒ Thirumagal, A. and Sathyabama, R. (2013). Information Requirements and Gathering Tendency of Jamal Mohamed College, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu – A Study.*SRELS Journal of Information Management*; 50(2); April, 229-238.

The authors adopted 125 random sampling methods for the study and they sought information both through questionnaire and interview methods. Various comparisons and correlation were made between the reading different types of materials, borrowing books, and satisfaction for borrowing books, reason for visiting libraries and seeking information and also information gathering habits

through different formal and informal channels. The conclusions of this research provided recommendations for the library improvement and instructional development programme as suggestions for better use of college library.

⇒ Lee Jootaek.(2012). Gatekeepers of Legal Information: Evaluating and Integrating Free Internet Legal Resources into the Classroom. *Barry Law Review*;17; February,pp.221.

The study provides a new analytical tool for legal researchers and practitioners to evaluate free or low-cost Internet resources. The Author in his report believes that evaluation standards based on authority, accuracy, currency, coverage, and usability are necessary for legal instructors in order to safely introduce these resources into their classrooms. Further, the study made an attempt to introduce and establish evaluation and standards which can be applied to various Internet resources.

⇒ Sharma, Bindu and Gupta, Sangita.(2012). Information Seeking Behaviour of Faculty Members at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Science and Technology, Jammu, India in Internet Era : A Survey. *IASLIC Bulletin*; 57(1); March,23-33.

The authors made an attempt to explore the information seeking behavior of the faculty members of Agriculture sciences and Veterinary sciences at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Science and Technology. Data was collected by using a questionnaire from 83 faculty members in both the faculties. Findings reveal that the BSNL is the major internet service provider with mostly dial-up connection. Internet is used almost on daily basis by most of the faculty members. The problem which is faced by them most of the times is slow speed of internet access. After performing t-test, it was found that there is a significant difference in the time spent by both the universities on the internet.

⇒ Dave,R.K.(2012). Information Seeking Behaviour Models: An Overview. *IASLIC Bulletin*; 57(3); September, 147-155.

The study reported about importance of information and its need. It also deals with various types of Information Seeking Behaviour models developed by the information scientists of the world. Further, it also covers the characteristics of information seeking behaviour of the research community.

⇒ Connor, Lisa G.(2012). The information seeking and use behaviors of retired investors. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*; 45(1); 3-22.



This exploratory study examines the information seeking and use behaviors of a group of US retired or near-retirement investors from everyday life information seeking and serious leisure perspectives. It also collects and analyzes quantitative data to describe retired investors' information preferences and use. Semi-structured interviews and journaling are used to examine the information seeking behaviors of a diverse group of investors and to assess the impact that personal characteristics, such as sex, socio-economic status, and educational attainment have on their behaviors. The male investors studied were more likely to adopt Internet technology than female investors for their investing information seeking regardless of their educational attainment.

⇒ Thanuskodi,S.(2010). Information Needs and Use Pattern of District Court Lawyers of Salem and Erode in Tamilnadu. *DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology*; 30(2); March,59-69.

The findings indicated that practicing lawyers were using a variety of information sources to satisfy their information needs. Respondents preferred to first consult their personal library before resorting to other information providing sources and agencies. This group of district court lawyers often found it difficult to find information they were looking for when using digital law libraries. The studies observed that majority of respondents were not aware of e-resources. On the whole, respondents perceived District Bar library collections, services and facilities as adequate to meet their information needs effectively.

⇒ Sahoo, Sushanta Kumar and Ramesh.D.B.(2011). Information Seeking Behavior of Faculty Members of ICFAI Business School, Hyderabad.*Journal of Library and Information Science*; 19(2); 69-107.

This Study attempted to assess and evaluate the information needs and seeking behavior of information resources of the library by the faculty members of the ICFAI Business School, Hyderabad. Data were collected from 70 faculty members for the analysis. Findings indicate that the library professionals are required to help them for maximum utilization of library resources and create awareness amongst members to access the library resources available to them.

⇒ Mishra Rabinarayan.(2011). Information Use Patterns by Scientists: A Case Study of NEIST, Jorhat, North East India.*Library Philosophy and Practice*; Retrieved from, <http://unllib.unl.edu/LPP/>.(Accessed on 16<sup>th</sup> of April, 2014).

The author has done an in-depth study on information use patterns by the scientists engaged in various research and development programmes at NEIST. The study attempted to find out the

information needs of scientists, whether the library has provided pertinent and genuine information or not. A Structured questionnaire was distributed among the scientists of all the disciplines of NEIST. Data obtained through questionnaire were tabulated sequentially and supplemented with graphs and analyzed. Interview method was also used for primary data collection. The results of analysis shows that the scientists prefer to use electronic form rather than the traditional way. Since there is no departmental library, the Knowledge Resource Centre needs to be fully automated for value added service.

Makri Stephan, Blandford, Cox.L.Anna.(2006). Studying Law Students' Information Seeking Behaviour to Inform the Design of Digital Law Libraries.*Presented at: 10<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Research and Advanced Technology for Digital Libraries.*

Retrieved from, [http:// discovery.ucl.ac.uk/5094/1/5094](http://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/5094/1/5094).(Accessed on 16<sup>th</sup> of April,2014)

Information seeking behaviour of both academic and practicing lawyers were examined with the long-term aim of integrating user-centered legal information seeking support into digital law libraries. The study found that although the academic lawyers often used several electronic resources, they often chose to rely primarily on either the LexisNexis or Westlaw digital law library platform. Academic lawyers found it difficult to find the information that they were looking for when using digital law libraries.

⇒ Sarurmath, Sangayya S. and Koganurmath, Muttayya M. (2004).Information Seeking Behaviors Models Environment in Libraries. *In Seminar papers 50<sup>th</sup> All India Conference of M. S. University of Baroda.* Ed.by AshuShokeen. ILA: New Delhi. Pp. 57-71.

The study points out a methodological approach for studying web information seeking model and use. The paper focuses to investigate academic research oriented web users' needs and their pattern of seeking information.

⇒ Hazarika, Tilak and Barua, SmritiRekha (2003). Consortium Based Subscription to e-journals: A test for the Viability in the city of Jorhat, Assam. *In PLANNER Conference Proceeding.* Ed. by T. A. V. Murthy. INFLIBNET: Ahmedabad. Pp. 317-322.

The authors discussed the viability of forming a library consortium among four-academic and research institution in and around the Jorhat city in Assam. In this paper, viability of forming a consortium for e-journal is established with emphasis on effective implementation.

⇒ Singh, Jitendra Kumar (2003). Library Automation- A Framework.*In PLANNER Conference Proceeding.* Ed.by T. A. V. Murthy. INFLIBNET: Ahmedabad. pp. 53-64.

The aims of the paper provide a comprehensive understanding regarding the process of Library Automation. The paper highlights the core reason for automation. Further it provides basic points to be considered during the process of automation and discusses the issues related with its future maintenance and up-gradation management.

⇒ Padmamma, S., Vijayakumar, M. and Vasudevan (2002). Information seeking behaviour of VISL scientists: a study. *ILA Bulletin*.38(1).pp.23-26.

The authors in their paper have discussed the information seeking behaviour of 84 Vishweshvaraih Iron and Steel Limited scientists at Karnataka. The study revealed that one third of the scientists visit the information centre to satisfy the information needs of research activity.

⇒ Shokeen, Ashu and Kaushik, Sanjay K. (2002).Information seeking Behaviors of Social Scientists of Haryana Universities.*Library herald*.Vol. 40 (1).pp.28-35.

The paper aims to investigate Information Seeking Behaviors of social scientists working in the universities located at Haryana. The result shows that qualification, teaching experience and status do not have any effect on the visit to library by social scientists.

⇒ Barooah, P. K. and Sharma, N. N. (2001). A Bibliometric study of Research papers to evaluate the collection development program of Library. *Annals of Library and Information Studies*.Vol.48 (4).pp.157-165.

This paper has been evaluated the journal collection of the library of Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat through a study of use of journal titles for publication of research by the scientists of the laboratory. It also has shown the ranking of journals on the basis of their use for individual groups and percentage of used journals.

⇒ Thabah, J. J. (2001). Information Needs and Information Seeking Behaviors of Housewives: A Study. *Library Herald*. Vol. 39 (1-2). pp. 65-70.

The author has been conducts a survey of the information needs and information seeking behaviors of housewives in Shillong. This paper concludes that housewives need information to run their household activities particularly in assisting their Children's studies, and supplementing cooking recipes, knowing more about food and nutrition and other health issues as well as updating their knowledge. It also mentions that to satisfy their information needs, some of the housewives visit the library while others depend on informal channels of information only.

⇒ Garg, B.S. (2000). Information seeking pattern of users of Engineering Institutions in Rajasthan. *Library Herald*.37(4).pp.229-239.

The author who determined the information seeking patterns of users of engineering institutions in Rajasthan by employing multi-method approaches took the study on information seeking patterns of users of Engineering Institutions in Rajasthan.

⇒ Mujao-Munchi, Usha and Kant, Manju (1997).Information Seeking in Electronic Environments. *Library Herald*. Vol. 34 (3-4). Pp.100-110.

The paper deals with the information seeking patterns in electronic environments. Analyses reveal that the impact of newest technologies with respect to changing information seeking practices. It also points out that the electronic environments have influenced information seeking by amplifying what is possible in manual environments and requiring new information seeking strategies.

⇒ Reddy, S.H., Karisidappa, C. (1997).Information seeking behaviour of the professionals in the field of disabilities with special reference to mental handicap in India. *Annals of Library science and Documentation*.44 (2).Pp.54-64.

The authors conducted a survey on information seeking behaviour of 160 medical scientists on the use of formal and information channel of communication meant for the disabilities. They highlighted the use of information especially to the mental handicap in India.

⇒ KorahC.Accamma, Devarajan.G.(1991). Information Needs and Use Pattern of Rubber Scientists. *IASLIC Bulletin*;36(3); 89-94.

A study was conducted among the scientists at the Rubber Institute of India. Questionnaire was distributed which covered 78% of the scientists and technologists of the Rubber Board. Use pattern of different types of materials, library collections and services, information strategy and related aspects were examined. The observation indicated that there is a need of expansion of library services like procurement of journals in foreign languages, bridging of gaps in titles, organizing user education programmes, and build up of dissertations/theses and introduction of modern service gadgets .

The scholar after a detailed study found that, there is no study in the present area nor any substantial literature in the present area study are available causing thereby, a major gap on the information need and use pattern especially among the legal practitioners. This is due to the fact that, this stream is very special and away from the general education. Hence, the scholar has made an attempt to bridge the gap through such type of study in the state.

## **1.5 Statement of Problem**

Globalization of information irrespective type of fields added substantial resources and legal profession is not an exception to it. This resulted in contributing mammoth explosion of literature on the needs and use of information which are dramatically increasing day by day. In terms of legal professions “Ignorance of law is not an excuse”. So, every individual need to orient with legal terms including certain knowledge about law. However, this is an exception to the legal professionals as they not only need to know about the legal knowledge but also require keeping abreast with the update and threadbare information in order to take the right decision, with the right information to be produced at the right time to the right person, so that a citizen can enjoy or claim their rights as an individual. Thus, information seeking has become imminent and imperative especially for the practitioners who require keeping abreast with the ongoing changes and or amendments in the legal matters which not only extend shelter to the petitioner but also to the society as a whole.

Availability of resources in print form at Aizawl due to its strategic location has added constraints for the librarians in collection development and this has become a perennial problem for the libraries. Added to this, update information available on Internet in legal sphere also caused serious problem while accessing due to communication problems. Even if the Judicial Branch offers various electronic services, including electronic filing in civil and small claims matters, electronic short calendar markings entry and history, and online attorney registration, the legal practitioners are unable to access due to internet problems in the library. Further, non-accessibility of current information in a given field adversely affects his/her professional competencies.

## **1.6 Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are to,

1. Ascertain the information needs behavior and use pattern of legal practitioners covered under the study.
2. Determine the support of the eight libraries covered under study to meet the information requirements of the legal practitioners.
3. Assess the use & impact of ICT in supplementing the information with the legal practitioners.
4. Examine the initiatives of library planners, decision making authorities to reshape the library to legal information centre.

## **1.7 Research Methodology**

Information need and seeking behaviour requires method which elicit the user prospective rather than that of the system of the traditional methodology used in user studies which has been found inappropriate in the process of information seeking. Even if there are a total number of 250 registered legal practitioners in the Bar council of Mizoram, 150 enrolled members are engaged in practice and hence, the total samples constitute 150. The scholar obtained the data relating to the field of the study through structured questionnaire from 120 out of a total population size of 150 practitioners constituting thereby 80% which were analyzed to draw inference. More over the scholar also adopted interview method to confirm the information stated by the legal practitioners. The data so obtained through the questionnaire were analyzed through MS-Excel to find statistical inferences.

## **1.8 Chapterization**

The present study has been divided into Five Chapters as follows.

While, Chapter-1 of the study deals with the introduction of information in general, the information use pattern, significance and scope of the study, review of literature, research design reflecting the statement of problem, objectives of the study, research methodology etc., Chapter 2 focuses on Information Needs and Usages of Legal practitioners. This chapter also highlights the conceptual meaning of information, information need, identification of information need, information users, types of users, information seeking behavior, the information seeking process, factors affecting the information seeking behavior, sources of information, classification of information sources, types of information, channels of information etc., Threadbare discussions on Information Resources and Services in Legal Studies in Mizoram are done in Chapter-3 including the growth and development of Bar Council of India, Indian Bar Councils Act, 1926, Bar Council of India in Mizoram. The chapter also mentions about the brief history of the Mizoram Bar Association, Mizoram State Legal Services Authority, and number of courts in Mizoram.

Further while, Chapter 4 relates to Data Analysis obtained through the questionnaire and Findings, Chapter 5 reflects about Conclusion & Suggestions followed by a comprehensive list of Bibliography and Appendices.

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## **2.1 Introduction**

Information is a vital resource for social development. It is an indispensable raw material for right decision making from government level to the personal level. It is important in all sectors of the education including legal sector. It is more important in legal education system in India which has been discussed below.

The concept of ‘information need’ has been coined by Robert Taylor, an American information scientist, in 1962. He has discussed in his work entitled ‘The process of Asking Questions’. An information need is a factual situation in which there exists an inseparable interconnection with ‘information’ and ‘need’. The information originates or is generated because there exists a need or an interest. The content of information is of primary concern.

According to Britain (1970,p.3) need may refer to the (i) need “expressed” by the user, or (ii) need that the user cannot express, (iii) ‘immediate’ need or (iv) ‘future’ or deferred, or ‘potential’ need. In one context information need means what users require or ask for his work, research or any other educational purpose. An information need is a requirement that drives the legal practitioners towards information seeking. The information need evolves from the awareness of something missing, which necessitates the seeking of information that might contribute to understanding and meaning. Legal practitioners need information on continuing basis and they are considered to be the biggest consumers as well as generators of information. A legal practitioner needs information for three major purposes:

- ☞ To keep-up with new developments in his/her area of work/interest
- ☞ To get acquainted with the state of the art technologies/sciences, and
- ☞ To gather specific pieces of information/data needed at different stages of work.

Keeping up-to-date with the current developments is one of the key objectives and factors for success in the career of a legal practitioner. This activity not only updates his knowledge but also



stimulates his thought process and often generates new ideas and experiments in his/her area of work.

When a need is felt for anything, more often than not, people take action in order to satisfy that need. Different strategies or modes of action are resorted to. The same applies for the satisfaction of information needs. An individual realizes that he needs information, he knows that in all probability the information will not come to him on its own, therefore he has to go about seeking it. What strategies or processes he resorts to, in order to satisfy the need for information, is the focus of study here.

## 2.2 Information

“Information is any stimulus that reduces uncertainty.” Shannon and Weaver (2002,p.2). Ching-Chih Chen and Peter Herson (1982,p.2) defined information as, “all knowledge, ideas, facts, data, and imaginative works of mind which are communicated formally and/or informally in any format.” Information is recorded or communicated knowledge gained by man through experience, observations and experiments. Webster’s Third International Dictionary defined information as:

- ⇒ Facts or figures ready for communication or use as distinguished from those incorporated in a formally organized branch of knowledge.
- ⇒ The process by which the form of an object of knowledge is impressed upon the apprehending mind so as to bring about the state of knowing.

The basic nature of information is clouded by the fact that the word is used in a variety of different contexts as under:

### ➤ **Information as a Commodity**

Information like any other commodity is meant for consumption. When information is used as a commodity, it often assumes economic value.

### ➤ **Information as Energy**

It can be said that the information is transmitted by, or embedded in, ordinary forms of energy.

### ➤ **Information as Communication**

When one person is communicating with another, the person initiating the exchange of data is moving or transferring his or her understanding of the data to the other person. When data are received the person becomes informed. Being informed is the result of communication, or information transfer.

### ➤ **Information as Facts**

A fact may arouse one's interest in exploring the details to satisfy one's curiosity or simply to gain information. The fact may or may not be of immediate concern. Unless the fact is placed in context, it remains just a fact and nothing else.

➤ **Information as Data**

Data are the product of symbols that are organized according to established rules and conventions. A data may have meaning or may not.

➤ **Information as Knowledge**

Knowledge implies a state of understanding beyond awareness and is a transformed process of information which embody immense value for sustainable learning and research. It represents an intellectual capability to extrapolate beyond facts and draw original conclusions. Knowledge must be deduced, not simply sensed. What we 'know' or think is often called 'information'.

### **2.3 Information Need: The Concept**

The concept of information need is embedded in the studies of users, use and uses which form one of the most extensive and amorphous area of research in Library & Information Science since last four decades. Information need has been defined as the state of needing anything that individual perceives as information. Belkin (1978,p.35) defined information need as a condition or situation that exists when the internal sense runs out. In this condition, the individual does not have enough knowledge or conceptual congruity to perform tasks or resolve uncertainty.

Defining the 'information need' requires a definition of the term 'need'. Moreover the dictionary meaning of the closely related terms like requirement, want, demand has to be analyzed in order to have a true perspective of the 'information need'.

The dictionary meaning of the various related terms as under:

⇒ Need

It relates to want of something that one cannot well do without.

⇒ Want

It is concerned with a state or fact of being without or having an insufficient quantity, absence or deficiency of necessities.

⇒ Requirement

It is a need, a thing required in a specific condition.

⇒ Demand

It is primarily associated with requirement and relates to due or asking for something.

Line (1989,p.10) has made an attempt to define the term need as follows.

While need is concerned with an individual which he possesses to accomplish a piece of work whether learning and or research. It further relates to his teaching, recreation etc. In research, the need symbolizes to the information to add value to his idea write up etc. It may an implied value judgment in the way, the term is used. However, a need may or may not be identified as a want. A need is a potential demand.

### 2.3.1 Identification of Information Need

According to Girja Kumar (1990,p.36), the information need may be expressed as input-process-output model. The basic components of the system are: (a) Problem, (b) Problem solving process, and (c) Solution. The problem is analyzed to determine information needs and the indicative of the uncertainty in knowledge. Solution results in resolving of the situation by filling the gap in the knowledge. The model set-forth by him can be illustrated as below;

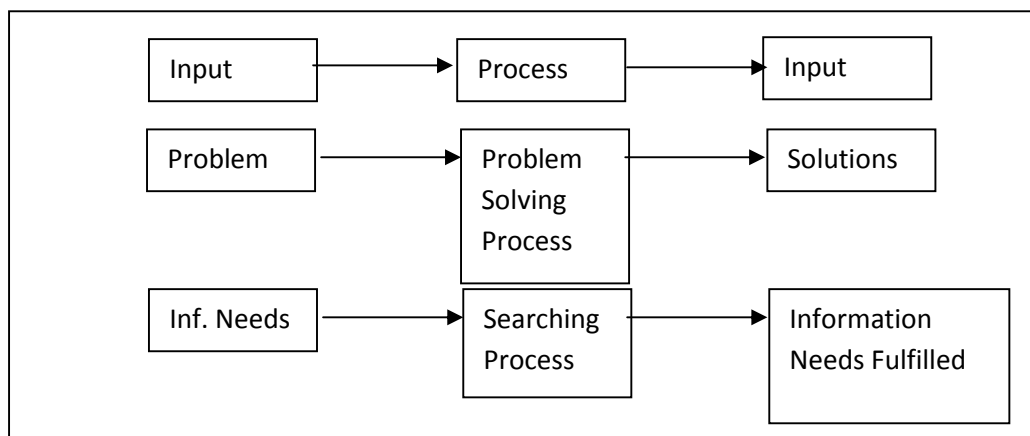


Figure-1: Input-Output Process Model

Information needs identification is a complex process. Some of the factors adding to the complexity are:

- Same information is perceived by different users differently as their information need. Value systems of users differ due to the nature of work and it affects factors such as the information products and services.
- Researchers need original documents whereas planners need digests of point of view/opinions;
- Information is put to different uses (Research & Development)personnel, application developers and technicians all put information to different uses);
- Need is satisfied by having access to the identified information in a particular package and form and at a suitable time;

- The flow of information and channels of communication is complex and add to the complexity;
- Individual preferences and behavioral aspects add a further dimension.

The Information needs can be divided into the following categories:

- ◆ Social or Pragmatic Information Needs.
- ◆ Information required to cope with day to day life.
- ◆ Recreational Information Needs.
- ◆ Information satisfying the recreational and cultural interests of an individual.
- ◆ Professional Information Needs.
- ◆ Information required operating competently within a business or professional environment.
- ◆ Educational Information Needs.
- ◆ Information required satisfying academic requirement at an institution.

Information needs as Paisley (1991,p.11)observed are affected by a variety of factors which are as under:

- Availability of wide range of information services;
- Purpose of information use;
- Background, motivation, professional orientation and other individual characteristics of the user.
- Social, Political and Economic systems surrounding the user.
- Consequences of information use.

According to him information need is not a psychological state of mind rather it is an objective need oriented towards particular tasks, problem etc.

## **2.4 Information Users**

The information function exists at all because there are users whose need must be satisfied. This need must be determined. There are a number of synonymous terms to represent the concept of user such as patron, client, member, customer etc. the user is an important component in any information system. Almost everyone and any one at one or the other time, make use of information and hence they are all users.

Users are the important link in the information communication system. The information system exists to satisfy the information needs of user. There are different categories of users, depending on the extent of use of the information system for satisfying their information need. Another way of categorizing users may be according to the type of work in which they are engaged. A user may be a researcher or a non-researcher. Thus depending on the work environment, government

administrators, planners, researchers, managers, R&D personnel, technologists, engineers, policy makers, legal practitioners, persons in different professions are important category of users.

#### **2.4.1 Types of Users**

The important group of users can be distinguished according to the kind of activity in which they are engaged;

- Researchers in the basic and applied sciences.
- Practitioners and technicians engaged in developmental and/or operational activities in the various field of technology and industry: agriculture, medicine, legal, industrial production, communication etc.
- Managers, planners and other decision makers who are engaged in developmental activities in both private and public sector.

However, identification of the user groups according to many other characteristics like age, professional position, occupation etc. are essential to ascertain the type of information required for them.

#### **2.5 Information Seeking Behaviour**

Information seeking behaviour is defined in many ways. It is a process of construction where, the user progresses from uncertainty (or confusion) to understanding (or clarity). Further, it includes action or strategies undertaken to locate information. It involves use of information for attending the versatile needs of the individual. It is recognition of some need perceived by the user who as a result makes demand upon a library and information system or some other individual in order to meet his information requirement. Information seeking is the process or activity of attempting to obtain information in both human and technological contexts. Information seeking is related to, but yet different from, information retrieval (IR).

When a need is felt for anything, more often than not, people take action in order to satisfy that need. Different strategies or modes of action are resorted to. The same applies for the satisfaction of information needs. An individual realizes that he needs information, he knows that in all probability the information will not come to him on its own, therefore he has to go about seeking it. What strategies or processes he resorts to, in order to satisfy the need for information, is the focus of study here.

ChingChih Chen (1982, p.15) has defined information seeking as Information seeking patterns where the paths are pursued by the individual to resolve a need. According to Girja Kumar (1990, p.15), Information seeking behavior is concerned with needs, type of information, reasons, source of information, evaluation of information and its use. T.D.Wilson (1999, p.15) defined the

information behaviour as the activities of a person who identifies the required information which may be done by searching from a wide range of sources and or transferring the same.

### **2.5.1 The Information Seeking Process**

Many models have been framed in order to explain the information seeking process. A model is a framework for thinking about a problem and may evolve into a statement of the relationships among theoretical propositions – or put more simply, models as statements, often in the form of diagrams, which attempt to describe information – seeking activity, the causes and consequences of that activity, or the relationships among stages in information seeking behavior. Some of the models that have been developed are:-

According to Ellis, (1989,p.16) and Ellis, Cox and Hall (1993,p.16) there are many features or stages for information seeking and it can be explained as follows.

#### **➔ Starting**

It relates to employing mechanism by the users to start that can be attended to conversation or asking to a knowledgeable person or expert in the relevant field.

#### **➔ Chaining**

It is a process to ascertain the availability of information either from the footnotes or citations or in bibliography from an authentic source which may be article, report. However, the authenticity of the author can be ascertained through citation indexes.

#### **➔ Browsing**

It relates to searching of information where the users gets directed to other source leading thereby, multiple options for retrieval of information. This can be done either in the library through OPAC or on Internet using the search engines.

#### **➔ Differentiating**

It is concerned with filterating process of information to get the authentic, usable quantum of information.

#### **➔ Monitoring**

Monitoring is a technique where the users keep himself abreast with the current information in a given field of study or research.

#### **➔ Extracting**

Here the users selects, identifies the information for use. Usability of information is one of the primary components in deducing the information need from the wide array of information resources.

#### **➔ Verifying**

Before using the information, a through checking is required to ascertain the authenticity of information and confirms the use of such information

### ➡ **Ending**

The user after crossing all the stages and by using his skills and competencies finally comes to an end and use the information for the purpose he is looking for.

Kuhlthau (1994,p.16) formulated a model depicting common patterns of tasks, feelings, thoughts and actions in six stages:-

- Initiation i.e, Recognizing information need
- Selection i.e, Identifying general topic
- Exploration i.e, Investigating information on general topic
- Formulation i.e, Formulating the focused perspective
- Collection i.e, Gather information relating to the topic
- Presentation i.e, Completion of searching of information.

GirjaKumar's (1990,p.19) , however, has presented his ideas on information seeking process as follows :

- Identifying objective
- Defining need
- Assessing information systems
- Establishing sources of information
- Information acquisition
- Use of information
- Satisfaction/ Dissatisfaction

### **2.5.2 Factors Affecting the Information Seeking Behaviour**

Multiple factors are associated with information seeking behavior which are due to the change of educational environment, resource searching to meet the multidimensional research work, change of reading habits from traditional to electronic, penetration of information and communication technology in education, changing dimensions of library activities from traditional to electronic, addition of electronic resources to satisfy the present demands of the users etc. This otherwise means that an individual resorts to in order to satisfy information need depend on certain factors as discussed below

- Resources within the approach distance,
- Financial implications,
- Time limitations,

- Resolving the problems,
- Authenticity of information sources.

In addition to the above, other factors also are responsible which include social, political, geographical, educational, etc.

#### ➤ **Social Factors**

Social factors are one of the important components which contribute to the change of information need of the users. Desire for information on topics like, education, fashion, music, (openly available in other societies), may not be looked upon kindly in certain societies as a result of which an individual may have to resort to stealthy means for acquiring the information.

#### ➤ **Political Factors**

The political system (particular those under dictatorship) may define certain types of information such as defense, freedom of speech, of expression, rights, etc as forbidden to particular groups or to the public as a whole, consequently, the non-availability of such information may motivate a person to resort to ‘underground’ means.

#### ➤ **Geographical Factors**

The geographical location of an individual also decides how he goes about seeking information. Geographical isolation may lead a person to resort to uncommon means of seeking information.

#### ➤ **Educational Factors**

The educated and uneducated may have differing methods of seeking information, the educated person resorting to more formal means (information systems) while the uneducated one depending more on informal methods (e.g. other people).

### **2.6 Sources of Information**

Information which is at a growth of faster rate, has given rise to varied outputs in the form of documents. It cudgel the brains to have a piece of information which occupies it’s place in Books, Computers, Memory, Microfiches, Microfilms, Cassettes and elsewhere relevant in an embodied form. These assorted forms of documents are now some of the good sources of information.

Now-a-days users are confused with the numerous sources of information available to them “The Problem that faces the user is, how to select from the sources the information that is of most value to him. A knowledge of the information sources, their scope and limitation their inherent characteristics and the method of consulting them (Easy or difficulty) are most essential” (Kawatra, 2001, P.122)



Information sources include Primary Books, Periodicals and Newspapers. However, the number and forms of such sources are continuously increasing occasions will arise, especially in a special library or an university library when information would be required by a user without pre-condition about the form of documents. In such a situation, it very much matters the locating of information. A document in any form can be a source of information. It can be mentioned that, the printed materials such as books, periodical etc. remained as the most useful and reliable sources of information which, however, has been changed according to the taste of the users. Recently another development have been in the form of documents where the information is available in machine readable form only, for example, punched cards, perforated tapes, magnetic tapes, disks etc. (Guha 1983, P.16)

## 2.7 Classification of Information Sources

Documents can be classified on the basis of several attributes such as their physical form, nature of presentation, publication characteristics, pattern, information contents, purpose, scope of treatment etc. Library science experts also have tried to classify the sources of information in a variety of ways.

Guha (Ibid) mentions that the main schemes of division of documents made by Ranganathan, Hanson & Grogan are stated as under:

**2.7.1** The division of documents has well been stated by many library scientists. According to S.R. Ranganathan, the divisions of documents are conventional, neo-conventional, non-conventional and Meta documents. Table-2.7.1 below clearly visualizes the division of documents.

Figure-2.7.1:Ranganathan's Division of Documents Sources.

Conventional	Neo conventional	Non Conventional	Meta
Books	Standard	Microcopy	Direct
Periodicals	Specification	Audio	Record
Map	Patent	Visual	Unmediated by human mind
Atlas etc.	Data	Audiovisual	

The non documentary sources are again divided into two groups by Dr. S R Ranganathan (Ramesh Babu, 1994, P.91) i.e, Formal and Informal. The detail constituents of both Formal and Informal have been discussed in the following Table-2.7.1-A.

Table-2.7.1.A Ranganathan's Division of Non-documentary sources.

Formal		Informal	
1.	Libraries a. Academic Libraries b. Special Libraries c. Public Libraries	1.	Communication among small groups, they are a. Suggestions from colleagues and friends. b. Contact with Peers c. Off Prints from authors. d. Journal Clubs e. Technological gate keepers and f. Corridor meeting at conferences
2.	Personal Collection of Books a. Self b. Relating to friends		
3.	Information Centers a. National Information Centers b. International Information Centers	2.	Communication among big groups, they are a. Seminar and conferences b. Invisible Colleges

However, C W Hanson in this perspective has exercised and has divided the documents into broadly two groups i.e, Primary and Secondary. Details of the components have been described in the following Table 2.7.1.B C.W. Hanson's Division

Table- 2.7.1.B Division of Documents

Primary		Secondary	
A	Books	A	Abstracting and Indexing Journals
B	Journals	B	Citation Indexes
C	Reports	C	Subject Bibliographies
D	Theses	D	Reviews and Surveys
E	Trade Literature		
F	Standards		

Likewise, Danis Grogan has added substantial value while dividing the documents into three different parts and details of the components of each division has been discussed in the following

Table-2.7.1.C Details of the Components of Division of Documents

Primary		Secondary		Tertiary	
A	Periodicals	A	Indexing and Abstracting	A	Year books

			Services		
B	Research Reports	B	Review of Progress	C	Directories
C	Conference Proceedings	C	Reference Books, Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, Hand Books, Formulation, Treatise, Monographs, Text Books etc	D	Guide to Literature
D	Patents				
E	Standards				
F	Trade Literature				
G	Theses				

Further, Krishna Kumar and J.S. Sharma (1987, P.999) have classified the sources of information into above categories.

Thus, in addition to the above discussed information sources categorized by various experts or library scientists, it can further be classified in the following ways and the same has been shown in Table- 2.7.1.D

Table- 2.7.1.D- Information Sources

Non Documentary Sources	Documentary Sources	Institutional Sources	Human Sources	Informal Sources	Formal Sources
Audio	Primary	Commercial	Invisible	Mass media	Personal collection
Visual	Secondary	Educational Official	College Information	Computerized sources etc.	Library
Audio-Visual	Tertiary	Professional Research	Technical gate keepers		Information centers

However, owing to development of latest technologies, Information has undergone for a metamorphosis. As a result of which, it has become very complicated task to identify the sophisticated forms of information sources. Due to these difficulties, it has obligatory today on the part of the library professionals to classify them properly so as to facilitate easy references.

## 2.8 Types of Information

Shera has categorizes information into the following six types.

### 2.8.1 Conceptual Information-

The conceptual Information is the ideas, theories, hypothesis about the relationship which exists among the variables in the area of problem.

### 2.8.2. Tropical Information

Experience, the data of research may be drawn from one's self or through communication from others. It may be laboratory generated or may be a product of the Lecture Search.

### **2.8.3. Stimulatory Information**

Man must be motivated and there are two sources for such motivation. The man himself and his environment stimulate information that is transmitted by direct communication. In indirect way the information can be sent from one individual to other by using the alternating devices. In such cases, systematization of information is a crucial factor.

### **2.8.4. Policy Information**

This is the rows of decision making process. Collective activities are essential in materializing the policy information where, information flow horizontally and it is essential to take decision for the benefits of the library or the organization. It happens invariably in a decision making process for attending to the organizational objectives. The framing of policy information flows down and reaches to the employee in a vertical row.

### **2.8.5. Directive Information**

Group activity cannot proceed effectively without consideration, and it is through directive information that this consideration is achieved (Prashar ; 1991, P.12-13).

## **2.9 Qualities of Information**

Quality information relates to quality service in a library. Here, before any communication, the information is thoroughly scrutinized, processed and evaluated in order to ascertain whether it suits to the taste of the users. The information should be more qualitative rather than quantitative. The quality of information positively relates to, a. Nascent, b. Authentic, c. Standard, d. Verifiable, e. Accurate (Prasher, 1991, P.38).

## **2.10 Channels of Information**

Information can be represented through different channels. Kawatra has enumerated ten types of channels of information in the field of education.

- Symposium
- Personal
- Library
- Psychological Abstract
- Reference Group
- Department Library
- University Library
- ERIC
- Hand Books
- Reviewing Organs

### **2.10.1 Symposium**

Symposiums on various topics are held annually by the various national and International organizations. The seminar papers presented during the seminar could be used by the scholars to know the dimensions of the problem in the area. The organizations sponsoring symposia bring out the papers in a printed form and these conference reports and proceedings are calculated internally in the organization as well as are available for sale to those who need.

### **2.10.2 Personal**

Problem discussions seem to be the main source of ideas. Ideas and suggestions from single persons, obtained through face to face contact which, in this context, refers to quite active behaviours. This type of personal contact is felt to be the best source of meaningful information on research methods.

### **2.10.3 Library**

The library helps the scholars to the maximum in their search for information. The libraries attached to national institutions such as NIE (NCER), and NASSDOC (ICSSR), British Council Library, American Library could be consulted for obtaining relevant literature.

### **2.10.4 Abstract**

In the field of Education, the important abstracts usually consulted by the scholars are: Psychological Abstract ICSSR abstract and DAI etc.

### **2.10.5 ERIC**

ERIC is a national information system and an important source for obtaining documents on education through a network of decentralized centers. (Kawatra ; 1987 P. 149-150).

## **2.11 Conclusion**

Use is a major component in the library and the users are the beneficiaries. Therefore, it is essential to know the information need of the users so as to make the use of resources more fruitful. Further, as information is keenly related to the users, the user study is also pragmatic and it is one of the dynamic activities of the library to ascertain the information need of the user. The efficient and effective operation of a given library and information system, therefore depends on the extent to which the system characteristics correspond with the users and how much the potential users are willing to accept the system also have to properly consider the role of human factors and their

effect on acceptance and utilization of information. The system or product/service must address to the perceived needs of these for whom it is intended as well as to guide the operation of the system. A systematic study reveals some unanticipated data about the dynamic component the user and his information need. Information seeking behaviour of the users, however, are changing according to the need of the hour and due to the changing situations in the library. Accordingly, the library needs developing its collections to satisfy the varied interest of the users and making extensive use of library resources.

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### **s3.1 Growth and Development of Bar Council of India(BCI) in India**

The history of the legal profession in India can be traced back to the establishment of the First British Court in Bombay in 1672 by Governor Aungier. The admission of attorneys was placed in the hands of the Governor-in-Council and not with the Court. Prior to the establishment of the Mayor's Courts in 1726 in Madras and Calcutta, there were no legal practitioners.

The Mayor's Courts, established in the three presidency towns, were Crown Courts with the right of appeal first to the Governor-in-Council and a right of second appeal to the Privy Council. In 1791, Judges felt the need of experience, and thus the role of an attorney to protect the rights of his client was upheld in each of the Mayor's Courts. This was done in spite of opposition from Council members or the Governor. A second principle was also established during the period of the Mayor's Courts.

The Supreme Court of Judicature was established by a Royal Charter in 1774. The Supreme Court was established as there was dissatisfaction with the weaknesses of the Court of the Mayor. Similar Supreme Courts were established in Madras in 1801 and Bombay in 1823. The first barristers appeared in India after the opening of the Supreme Court in Calcutta in 1774. As barristers began to come into the courts on work as advocates, the attorneys gave up pleading and worked as solicitors. The two grades of legal practice gradually became distinct and separate as they were in England. Madras gained its first barristers in 1778 with Mr.Benjamin Sullivan. Thus, the establishment of the Supreme Court brought recognition, wealth and prestige to the legal

profession. The charters of the Court stipulated that the Chief Justice and the three puisne Judges be English barristers of at least 5 years standing.

The Charters empowered the Court to approve, admit and enroll advocates and attorneys to plead and act on behalf of suitors. They also gave the Court the authority to remove lawyers from the roll of the Court on reasonable cause and to prohibit practitioners not properly admitted and enrolled from practicing in the Court. The Court maintained the right to submit, discipline and dismiss attorneys and barristers. Attorneys were not admitted without recommendation from a high official in England or a Judge in India. Permission to practice in Court could be refused even to a barrister. In 1862, the High Courts started by the Crown were established at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. the High Court Bench was designed to combine Supreme Court and Sudder Court traditions. This was done to unite the legal learning and judicial experience of the English barristers with the intimate experience of civil servants in matters of Indian Customs, usages and laws possessed by the civil servants. Each of the High courts was given the power to make rules for the qualifications of proper persons, advocates, vakils and attorneys at Bar. The admission of vakils to practice before the High Courts ended the monopoly that the barristers had enjoyed in the Supreme Courts. It greatly extended the practice and prestige of the Indian laws by giving them opportunities and privileges equal to those enjoyed for many years by the English lawyers.

Additional High Courts were established in Allahabad (1886), Patna (1916), and Lahore (1919). There were six grades of legal practice in India after the founding of the High Courts –

- a) Advocates
- b) Attorneys (Solicitors)
- c) Vakils of High Courts
- d) Pleaders
- e) Mukhtars
- f) Revenue Agents.

The Legal Practitioners Act of 1879 in fact brought all the six grades of the profession into one system under the jurisdiction of the High Courts. The legal Practitioners Act and the Letters Patent of the High Courts formed the chief legislative governance of legal practitioners in the subordinate Courts in the country until the Advocates Act, 1961 was enacted. In order to be a vakil, the candidate had to study at a college or university, master the use of English and pass a vakil's examination. By 1940, a vakil was required to be a graduate with a LL.B. from a university in India in addition to three other certified requirements. The certificate is a proof to the effect that

- a) He should have passed in the examination and
- b) Read in the chamber of a qualified lawyer and was of a good character.



### **3.1.1 Indian Bar Councils Act, 1926**

The Indian Bar Councils Act, 1926 was passed to unify the various grades of legal practice and to provide self-government to the Bars attached to various Courts. The Act required that each High Court must constitute a Bar Council made up of the Advocate General, four men nominated by the High Court of whom two should be Judges and ten elected from among the advocates of the Bar. The duties of the Bar Council were to decide all matters concerning legal education, qualification for enrolment, discipline and control of the profession. It was favourable to the advocates as it gave them authority previously held by the judiciary to regulate the membership and discipline of their profession.

Advocates Act, 1961 was a step to further this very initiative. As a result of the Advocates Act, admission, practice, ethics, privileges, regulations, discipline and improvement of the profession as well as law reform are now significantly in the hands of the profession itself.

## **3.2 Bar Council of India (BCI) in Mizoram**

### **3.2.1 Brief History of the Mizoram Bar Association**

- The Mizoram Bar Association (MBA) was formed in the year 1984. The Mizoram Bar Association has been a participant and witness to the tremendous change that has occurred in giving Judiciary its due place in the State of Mizoram as a guardian of the Rule of Law. The MBA which started with approximately 7-8 lawyers in 1984 has now gone to an approximately strength of 150 members. There being no other Association of lawyers in the State of Mizoram except the MBA, the MBA has played and will always play an important role to safeguard the constitutional rights of the people of the State. There were two instances in which the MBA was at the forefront of the Judiciary being given its rightful importance in the State of Mizoram. The first was with regard to the separation of Judiciary from the Executive. In 2001, the Government of Mizoram had issued a notification for separating the Judiciary from Executive. However, a month or so later, the notification separating the Judiciary from the Executive was kept abeyance by another notification issued by the Government of Mizoram. The MBA filed a PIL in the Guwahati High Court praying for separation of Judiciary from the Executive vide W.P (C) No. 34/2002.
- That Guwahati High Court directed the separation of Judiciary in the State of Meghalaya on 6.3.2002 in W.P (C) No. 4592/2001. Thereafter, the question of separation of Judiciary from

the Executive was taken up by the Supreme Court of India and it was on the direction of the Supreme Court of India that the Judiciary was separated from the Executive in the State of Mizoram. The case filed by the MBA i.e W P (C) No. 34 of 2002, was withdrawn due to the fact that the Supreme Court was seized of the matter regarding the separation of Judiciary from the Executive in States which did not have a separate Judiciary. The first positive step in the separation of Judiciary from the Executive in the State of Mizoram was taken with the promulgation of the Mizoram Civil Courts Act, 2005, which came into force on 26.4.2006.

- The other major role that the MBA has played is in the Government decision to have the High Court building at New Capital Complex, Khatla. As the present location of the High Court in the Government Complex, Luangmual was not suitable for the litigants, lawyers and for the administration of justice in general, the MBA requested the Government of Mizoram to allot a suitable alternative site for housing the High Court. In this regard, the MBA had filed WP ( C ) No.41/2006 in the Guwahati High Court ( Aizawl Bench) also. The Government of Mizoram under has approved the shifting of the High Court from Government Complex, Luangmual to the land at new Capital Complex, Khatla, originally meant for Raj Bhavan. The MBA is grateful to the Government for the allotment of the land for the new High Court.
- Apart from the many notable achievements of the MBA, due to the sincere efforts of the MBA, the Hon'ble High Court issued an advertisement on 2.09.2010 inviting applications from the Bar for filling up of 3 vacant posts of District Judge Cadre.
- Mr.T.Vaiphei was elevated as a Judge of the Guwahati High Court on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2003.
- The MBA is also taking steps for the establishment of a separate High Court in Mizoram and hopefully in the near future Mizoram State will have its own separate High Court. The MBA, though small has despite its deficiencies tried to the best of its efforts to being the basic infrastructure needed for the functioning of independent Judiciary for the functioning of the Bar and the Bench to make a strong Judiciary and to refine the best of old and new skills to cope with the changing world and use and apply the law for the interest of justice.
- The MBA having completed 25 years, the Silver Jubilee celebration was organized on 8.12.2009.

### **3.2.2 Mizoram State Legal Services Authority: An Overview**

Mizoram State Legal Services Authority was established based on The Legal Services Act 1987.

The basic Aims and Objectives are:

- to provide free and competent legal service to the weaker sections of the society to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities.
- to organize LokAdalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity.
- Creating Legal awareness, Legal Aid and Settlement of disputes through amicable settlement are the main functions of the Authority.
- Legal awareness programmes are taken up for empowerment of legal knowledge to all the citizens in general and to the weaker sections of the society in particular.
- Various activities are taken up to reach the vulnerable sections of the society such as SC/ST, Women, Industrial Laborers etc..
- The Authority provides legal aid by way of providing the services of able and efficient services of Lawyers. Any person, who fulfills the criteria, is entitled for the legal Aid.
- The LokAdalats organized by the Authorities and the Taluk Committees help the disputing parties to come to settlement through conciliation and such settlement reached before a LokAdalat becomes a record having equal status to that of a judgment of the Court.

### **3.3 Genesis of Advocacy in India**

The Institution of trained lawyers who might be engaged by the litigants to appear on their behalf in the law courts is of ancient origin in Europe as well as in the East. Though advocacy in this form was unknown in Greece, practice was allowed to a person to appear, gratuitously in court for the litigant and speak on his behalf, if the litigant was a relative or a friend and was prevented by illness or other inability from conducting his own case. There also extent an institution of persons who, for fees, composer speeches for their clients to be delivered by the latter in their own causes.

In Rome, advocacy took its earliest form in the relationship between the patron and his client. It was one of the duties of the patron to appear for his client in court and to expound the law for him when his liberty or property was threatened. In course or time when transaction became more complicated, there arose two new classes or persons, conversant with law, who were known as Jurists consults and Agents. The former gave legal advice out of court to persons who sought for it. The later were permitted to appear for the parties in the courts.

In England, the profession dates from 1181 when, in the reign of Henry II, certain persons of clerical training appointed attorneys but whose functions were not exactly defined. Some years later, in the reign of Edward I was created the order of sergeants who could appear in courts to

represents litigants. For several centuries this privilege of being represented by counsel did not extend to prisoners charged with Felony and it was not till 1836 that all restrictions in this respect were removed. The order of sergeants finally came to an end in 1857.

For centuries in England, Legal knowledge was a Monopoly of Priests and they alone had the privilege of appearing in cases on behalf of the clients. In the reign of Edward I. Inns of courts were established in proximity to courts for the training of apprentices in Law. These were incorporated societies and though subject to visitorial Jurisdiction of Judges, were in all other aspects antonymous societies. The governing body of each Inn called the Benchers, were conferred the power of calling persons to the Bar and of disbaring or Inflicting any other punishment on them for breaches of Rules of Professionals etiquette. Benchers were not elected but formed a corporate body. They held office for life and when a vacancy occurred, they it by selection from among the senior and distinguish members of the Inn. A barrister in matters of discipline could appeal from the decision of the Bench to the Judges but such appeals were rare and interference took place very seldom.

Till 1883, there was no organization of the entire body of the English Bar. In 1883 a representative Bar committee was set up and this was superseded by the General Council of the Bar in 1994. The chief duty of the council was to lay down rules relating to professional etiquette.

There are two kinds of legal practitioner in England, viz., barristers and solicitors. Barristers derive their authority to practice from the Inns of Court, while the role of solicitors is kept by the incorporated Law Society. This division of practitioner is according to the nature of the works they do.

The institution of men, learned in the law who as private agents, plead for others in court is also of ancient origin in India. Mention is made of such Lawyers by Narada, Virihaspati, Katayana, Manu and Shukra. It appears however for their writings that before a person could plead and argue for another in court, he had to establish either that he was relative or the appointed agent of the party. For Instance Naradasays, “He deserves punishment who speaks on behalf of another, without being either the brother, the father, the son or the appointed agent and so does he who contradicts himself at the trial.”

It was considered dishonorable for a person learned in law and to charge fee for tendering legal advice on defending the course of litigant in court. (Anand ; 1987; P. 20-21)

### **3.4 Number of Courts in Mizoram**

### **3.4.1 Constitution of civil courts in Mizoram, 2008**

In exercise of power conferred by sections 3-6 read with all other enabling provisions of the Mizoram Civil Courts Act, 2005 as amended, and in prior consultation with the Hon'ble Guwahati High Court, the Governor of Mizoram is pleased to constitute following two Judicial Districts in the State of Mizoram, namely-

3.4.1.1 Aizawl Judicial District comprised of the areas covered by the existing administrative and revenue districts of Aizawl, Champhai, Kolasib, mamit and Serchhip.

3.4.1.2 Lunglei Judicial District comprised of the areas covered by the existing administrative and revenue district of Lunglei for the time being.

The Governor of Mizoram is further pleased to set up following Civil Courts in the above mentioned Judicial Districts, namely-

3.4.1.3 In Aizawl judicial District-

- a. One Court of District Judge
- b. Three Courts of Additional District Judges
- c. Three Courts of Senior Civil Judges
- d. Seven Courts of Civil Judges at Aizawl to sit in the District Court building at Aizawl.

3.4.1.4 One Court of Senior Civil Judge

Three Courts of Civil Judges at Champhai to sit in the Additional Sub-District Council Court building, Champhai.

3.4.1.5 One Court of Senior Civil Judge

Three Courts of Civil judges at Kolasib to sit in the District Court building at Kolasib.

3.4.1.6 One Court of Senior Civil Judge

One Court of Civil Judge at Mamit to sit in the building to be specified by the Government

3.4.1.7 One Court of Senior Civil Judge

One Court of Civil Judge at Serchhip to sit at the building to be specified by the Government.

3.4.1.8 InLunglei Judicial District

One Court of District Judge

One Court of Additional District Judge

Two Courts of Senior Civil Judges

Five Courts of Civil Judges at Lunglei to sit in the District Court building at Lunglei.

The jurisdiction of the said courts has been outlined by the Hon'ble Guwahati High Court in their communication dt.12.12.2007 as below

- (a) The District Judge/Additional District Judge at Aizawl shall have territorial jurisdiction over the undivided Aizawl administrative district viz. Aizawl, Kolasib, Champhai, Serchhip and Mamit.
- (b) Senior Civil Judge /Civil Judge shall exercise territorial jurisdiction within the area of their respective administrative districts.
- (c) Civil Courts of Lunglei District may exercise jurisdiction over the entire Lunglei District including Saiha and Lawngtlai districts.

### **3.4.2 Constitution of Criminal Courts in Mizoram, 2008**

In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 6,7,9,11 and 12 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Act No. 2 of 1974), the Governor of Mizoram, after consultation with the Hon'ble Guwahati High Court, is pleased to constitute the following sessions Division in the state of Mizoram, namely :-

3.4.2.1 Aizawl Sessions Division comprised of the areas covered by the existing administrative and revenue districts of Aizawl, Champhai, Kolasib, Mamit and Serchhip.

3.4.1.2 Lunglei Sessions division comprised of the areas covered by the existing administrative and revenue district of Lunglei, Lawngtlai and Saiha.

The Governor of Mizoram, after consultation with the Guwahati High Court and in exercise of the aforesaid powers, is further pleased to set up the following Criminal Courts in addition to the existing Special Courts viz. the court of Special Judge under the Prevention of Corruption Act, the Special Court under ND & PS Act and the Special Court under the commodities Act, which shall also function as the courts of Additional Sessions Judges, in the above mentioned Sessions Divisions, namely:-

3.4.1.3 In Aizawl Sessions Division-

One Court of Session Judge

Three Courts of Additional Sessions Judges

One Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate

Seven Courts of Judicial Magistrate of the First Class at Aizawl and at other places as per the details given in Schedules I & II.

3.4.1.4 One Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate

Three Courts of Judicial Magistrates of the First Class at Champhai and at other places as per the details given in Schedules I & II.

3.4.1.5 One Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate

Three Courts of Judicial Magistrates of the First Class at Kolasib

3.4.1.6 One Court of Judicial magistrate of the First Class at Mamit.

3.4.1.7 One Court of Judicial Magistrate of the First Class at Serchhip

3.4.1.8 In Lunglei Sessions Division

One Court of Sessions Judge

Two Courts of Additional Sessions Judge

One Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate

Five Courts of Judicial Magistrate of the First Class at Lunglei and at other places as per the details given in Schedules I & II.

3.4.1.9 One Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate at Lawngtlai

Three other Courts of Judicial Magistrate of the First Class at Lawngtlai and at other places as per the details given in Schedules I & II.

3.4.1.10 One Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate at Saiha

Three other Courts of Judicial Magistrate of the First Class at Saiha and at other places as per the details given in Schedules I & II.

### **3.5 Evolution of the Indian Bar: A Glance**

#### **3.5.1 The Regulating Act, 1773**

The regulating Act, 1773 passed by the British Parliament, which empowered the king by charter or letters patent to establish a Supreme Court at Fort William in Bengal also by clause II, authorized and attorneys-at-law as the Supreme Courts considered proper to appear and plead for suitors in the Supreme Court. The expression 'advocates' signified only English and Irish barristers and members of the faculty of Advocates in Scotland, and 'attorneys' Meant British Solicitors. Similar Powers were conferred on the two other Supreme Courts subsequently established at Bombay and Madras.

#### **3.5.2 The Bengal Regulation, 1793**

Law as a public profession organized and controlled by the government originated in India with the Bengal Regulation vii of 1793. The object of this regulation was to control both recruitment & conduct of Legal Practitioners in the company's courts by prescribing qualifications in the first case and rules of dealings in the second. By this regulation' the appointment and dismissal of vakils was vested in the Saddar Dewani Adalat ; a candidate for appointment had to be either a Hindu a Moslem; before getting his sunnad he was to take an oath of faithful, discharge of professional responsibilities and in the case of a Muslim this oath had to be renewed every six

months; there was a separate bar appointed for each court; daily and regular attendance of vakils in their respective courts was obligatory except for indisposition when a written application for leave had to be made; the scale of fee in different kinds of cases was prescribed by law; on his first engagement the vakil was entitled to a retainer of annas four for which he was to give a receipt; and the litigant was required to furnish security for payment of the vakil's dues. Some of the curious provisions of regulation vii of 1793, e.g. that Moselmvakils will take oath of their office once in every six months; prescribing a retainer of annas four on the first engagement ; and requiring a pleader not to absent himself from the court with out leave were repealed by regulation XXVII of 1814. This new regulation however, made another novel provision. It provided that no pleader or vakil shall appear in a criminal court with out sanction of the Saddar Dewani Adalat.

### **3.5.3 The Legal Practitioners Act, 1846**

The next great step taken in the evolution of the Indian Bar was the legal practitioners Act I of 1846 which regulated the position not only of vakils but also of barristers. This Act made three noteworthy changes in the law relating to legal practitioners;

- ☞ The Barristers who were hitherto not entitled to practice in any court of India except the Supreme Court were permitted to plead in any of the company's courts subject to the rules applicable to pleaders including the restrictions imposed regarding language of the court.
- ☞ The office of vakil was thrown open to persons all religions and nationalities provided that no person was to be admitted as pleader unless he was 'of good character and duly qualified for the office.'

Full liberty was given to pleaders and their clients to settle the fees payable to the former by private agreement and the agreement could be enforced by a regular suit. Whenever a pleader conducted himself in such a manner which was not worthy of his office, the court was competent to fine him.

### **3.5.4 The Legal Practitioners Act, 1853**

The next important statute was the Legal Practitioner Act, XX of 1853. Hitherto Regulations required pleaders to attend courts whether they had work or not. This Act laid down that no pleader shall be bound to attend court except at hearing of cause in which he was employed.

At the termination of the rule of the East India Company in 1858, there existed two categories of legal practitioners, namely (a) English barristers and solicitors who had the monopoly of practice in the Supreme Courts and who could also practice in the company courts, and (b) Pleadors enrolled



under the Indian regulation who could practice only in the company's courts. In 1862 was passed the Indian High Courts Act under which High Courts were established at Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and at Allahbad. Their letters patent authorized them to enroll advocates, vakils and attorneys to appear, plead & act for the suitors in the High Courts. A Chief Court was established for Punjab in 1866.

### **3.5.5 The Legal Practitioners Act, 1879**

In 1879 was passed another legal practitioners Act (XVIII of 1879) which consolidated and amended the law relating to legal practitioner in certain provinces and empowered the government of every other province to extend thereto such provisions of the Act as it considered it. The act extended, in the first instance to West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Assam and Orissa. It regulated the functions of Legal Practitioners and Made Provision regarding their discipline and control. The Act however was not a complete code of law on subject of profession as conduct. Eventually in 1923 the Govt. of India appointed an Indian Bar Committee popularly known as the chamier committee.

### **3.5.6 The Bar Council Act, 1926**

In 1926 was passed the Bar Council's Act (XXXVIII of 1926) to meet partially the two fold desire of the legal practitioners to have a unified Bar, abolishing the distinction of Vakalatnama, etc., and to give the legal profession some measure of autonomy in the management of its own affairs. The Act however was a half-hearted measure. It excluded attorneys from the scope of its provisions. Pleaders and Mukhtars practicing in the Mofussil Courts and revenue agents to revenue office were also left out of consideration. It did not establish an All-India Bar Council, because the Indian Bar Committee report considered such a proposal as impracticable. Nevertheless the Act took important steps towards unification of the Bar by removing some of the distinctions in the privileges of vakils and barristers. It was however not applicable to the whole of British India. It was made available in the first instance, to the High Courts of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Allahabad and Patna.

There was also passed in 1926 another important statute relating to rights and liabilities of legal practitioners, namely the Legal Practitioner Fees Act (XXI of 1926)

The Bar Council Act, 1926 and other minor amendments in the law did not satisfy the legal profession. During the next twenty five years, before the constitution of Republic of Indian came into force in 1950, several attempts were made by means of private bills in the legislature to promote reform but these remained unsuccessful. Political Independence gave fresh stimulus to the

demand and eventually the government of India appointed a fresh committee to examine and report on the subject with a view to undertake the necessary reforms and binding about comprehensive legislation.

In 1953 the total of legal practitioners in India besides revenue agents and Income tax Practitioners was 67, 608, divided into the following categories :

	<b>Descriptions</b>	<b>Number</b>
1	Senior Advocates of the Supreme Court	316
2	Other Advocates of the Supreme Court	1019
3	Agents enrolled in the Supreme Court	146
4	Advocates on the rolls of High Courts	26495
5	Vakils (In West Bengal, Saurashtra and Bhopal)	1173
6	Pleaders	38459
7	Mukhtars (In Bihar, Assam, Madras, Orissa, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Madhya Bharat)	6330

The Indian Bar Committee was directed by the Government of India to Examine and Report on the following:

- The desirability and feasibility of a completely unified Bar for the whole of India ;
- The continuance or abolition of the dual system of counsel and solicitor (or agent) which obtained in the Supreme Court and in the High Courts at Bombay and Calcutta;
- The continuance or abolition of different classes of legal practitioners, like advocates of the Supreme Court, advocates of the various High Court, District Court Pleaders, Mukhtars.
- The desirability and feasibility of establishing a single Bar Council.
- The establishment of a separate Bar Council for the Supreme Court ;
- The consolidation and revision of the various enactments relating to legal practitioners ; and
- All other connected matters.

The Committee examined the demands in the context of new situation resulting from Indian Independence and observed

“There can however, be no doubt or question that the establishment of an autonomous and unified All-India Bar is an ideal which must be attained. In the context of our newly won independence the urge for having a Unified National Bar must necessarily have an irresistible attraction. Unless therefore, there is any cogent and compelling reason against it, the establishment of a unified national Bar can, in the opinion of the Committee, be no longer put off and such consummation the

committee thinks, may now undertaken subject to proper and adequate save guards.” Anand (C.L) ; 1987; P.1-21

### **3.6 Mizoram Bar Association: A Glimpse**

The Mizoram Bar Association was established in the year 1984 and was duly registered with the Registrar of Firms & Societies, Gov’t of Mizoram under Registration No.19/1984.

The Constitution of the Mizoram Bar Association first came into force w.e.f 31.8.1984, when it was adopted by the General Body Meeting on 31.8.1984. With the passage of time, the Mizoram Bar Association felt it necessary to amend its Constitution in order to make it more workable and to serve the interest and welfare of the members of the Bar in a better way. With the above objectives in view, the Executive Committee of the Mizoram Bar Association for the year 2005-2006 had drafted the proposed amendment which was put up in the General Body meeting held on 10.11.2005 for approval. The said draft amendment, being approved by the General Body Meeting has become a part of the constitution and the same has been incorporated in this Constitution.

Apart from the amendment of the Constitution, the Mizoram Bar Association has also made its Welfare Fund & Monthly Fee Rules for the first time in the name of ‘The Mizoram Bar Association Welfare Fund & Monthly Fund Rules,2006’ which has come into force w.e.f 17.3.2006. The Association has its Headquarters at Aizawl and extend to the whole of Mizoram.

The following are the Office Bearers of the Association:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Treasurer
- Finance Secretary

#### **3.6.1 Objective of the Association**

The following are the objectives of the Association to:

Safeguard and promote the interest of the legal profession;

Watch and assist the progress of legislation;

Make representation when necessary to the Bar Council, the Supreme Court/ High Court, Central Government and State Government;

Maintain and develop a high professional standard and to prevent unprofessional practices;

Help, provide free legal aids to really deserving cases under the Rules that may be made in this behalf;

Maintain a library for the use of the members of the Association;

Watch the state of law, and the administration of justice and to take such steps as may be necessary for their reforms;

Take all necessary steps to prevent and remedy the abuse of law or the administration of justice and to do all such things and to perform all such acts as may be necessary for and conducive to achievement of all such above objects;

Do any other thing or things as may be found fit and proper in the interest of general public.

Without prejudice to the generality of the above objects, and for effective carrying out of the same, the Association shall have the power to acquire, receive and hold property of any kind including securities and negotiable instruments, to construct and maintain buildings including the right to alter or improve them and equip them suitably, to manage, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of or deal with property of any kind belonging to the Association, to raise monies and funds in such manner as may be deemed fit for the benefit of the Association.

### **3.7 District Bar Library: A Glimpse**

Mizoram District Bar Library was established in the year 1984 taken care by the Mizoram Bar Association. Due to financial constrain and yearly election of Office Bearers of the Association who are responsible in the development of the library, proper care was not given to the library. At the same time most of the legal practitioners, practicing under a senior and advocates of different Law Firms have their own library which provide the basic requirements of their information needs. Most of the legal practitioners can handle computers and access the information through internet which really help them in their information seeking. The library does not provide any kind of services except lending and borrowing. There is no systematic arrangement and it does not function as a library, no proper staff to look after the library. The library does not have a separate building. The library is housed in the Bar itself. Earlier there was an attempt to have a good library but the spirit of having such kind of library is dying. As most of the practitioners can provide themselves their own needs of information, they are neglecting furnishing the library. Since there is no permanent staff to look after the library and the collections of the library are getting lost also. In reality the condition of Mizoram Bar Library is quite unsatisfactory.

### 3.8 Conclusion

From the aforesaid discussions, it is clear that the judicial fraternity comprised of the cream of the society. 'Integrity is the hallmark of judicial discipline, apart from others. It is high time the judiciary took utmost care to see that the temple of justice does not crack from inside, which will lead to a catastrophe in the judicial-delivery system resulting in the failure of public confidence in the system. If a judge is too ambitious to achieve something materially, he becomes timid. When he becomes timid there will be a tendency to make a compromise between his divine duty and his personal interest. There will be a conflict between interest and duty. So, it is important to equip oneself in order to perform in a meaningful way, one needs to have a good education and resources which can help him to achieve his goals. In terms of library services, it is advisable that all the legal libraries need to be given priority and importance in order to provide a better service.

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#### **4.1 Introduction**

The process of evaluating data using analytical and logical reasoning to examine each component of the data is known as Data Analysis. This form of analysis is just one of the many steps that must be completed while conducting a research. Data from various sources are gathered, reviewed, and then analyzed for finding. There are varieties of data analysis methods, which include data mining, text analytics, business intelligence, and data visualizations.

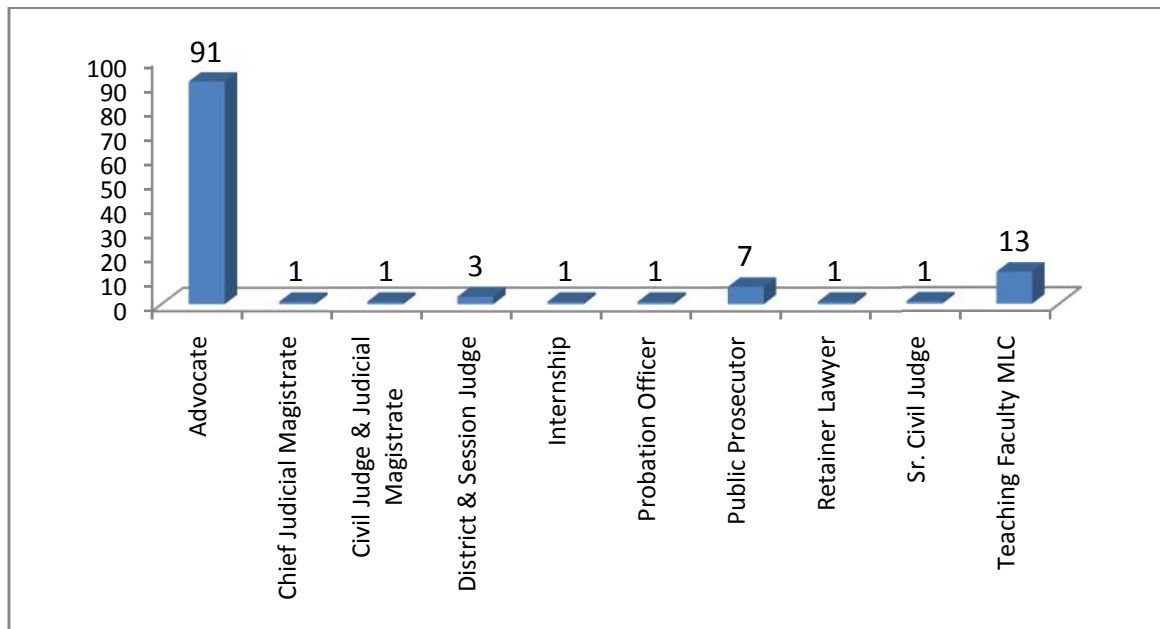
To evaluate the information use pattern of legal practitioners in Mizoram, structured questionnaires is prepared for collecting the required data. The following analyses are done on the basis of the data obtained through the Questionnaires.

#### **4.2 Analysis by Category of Respondent**

Respondents are the legal practitioners which include advocates, public prosecutor, govt. advocates, judicial magistrate, judges, teaching faculty and others, practicing in different courts. However, the scholar took initiatives to serve the questionnaire belonging to different categories such as advocates, magistrate, judges and faculties. Questionnaire received from ten categories from different legal practitioners in Mizoram has been placed below in Table –4.2 for analysis. The table is supplemented with Graph – 4.2 for clear understanding.

**Table –4.2** Category of Respondents

Sl.No.	Category	Respondents	%
1	Advocate	91	76
2	Chief Judicial Magistrate	1	1
3	Civil Judge & Judicial Magistrate	1	1
4	District & Session Judge	3	2
5	Internship	1	1
6	Probation Officer	1	1
7	Public Prosecutor	7	6
8	Retainer Lawyer	1	1
9	Sr. Civil Judge	1	1
10	Teaching Faculty MLC	13	11
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>



Graph-4.2: Category of Respondents

Analysis of the Table-4.2 shows that, the scholar distributed 150 questionnaires to all the categories of legal practitioners under study out of which 120 filled in questionnaire were received which constitute 80%. Out of the 10 categories as spelled out in the table, the Advocates 91 (76%) out of 120 have responded to the questionnaire followed by 13 Teaching Faculty which constitute 11% and Public Prosecutor 7 which constitute 6%. The other categories of respondents constitute 3 (2%) District & Session Judge and the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Probation Officer, Sr. Civil Judge, Civil Judge & Judicial Magistrate, Retainer Lawyer, Internship one each (1%). It is

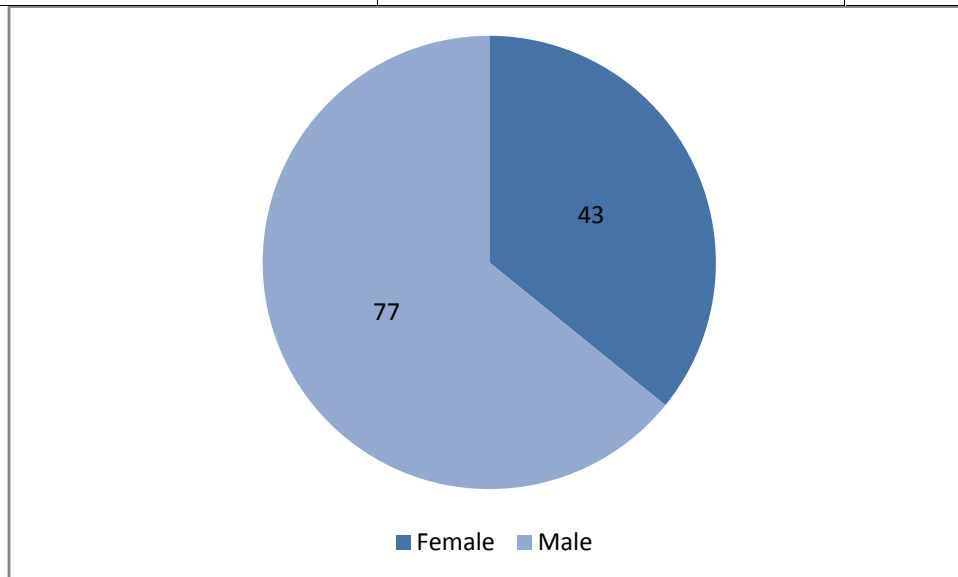
observed that as a whole the response rates are good and the advocates are more concerned to respond to the questionnaire as they require instant information.

### 4.3 Analysis by Gender

Gender constitutes an important component in the questionnaire as to determine the attraction of the legal profession. Data relating to this component obtained from the legal practitioners in Mizoram under study has been placed below in Table- 4.3 for analysis supplemented with Graph – 4.3 for clear vision.

**Table – 4.3:** Analysis by Gender

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
Female	43	36
Male	77	64
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>



**Graph – 4.3:** Analysis by Gender

Analysis shows that male constitute higher number i.e, 77 (64%) while female constitute 43 (36%). The Standard Deviation, however, comes to 24.04163. This reflects the interest of the male advocates who are quite large in number followed by females. Analysis reveals that, the male are more interested in the legal profession.

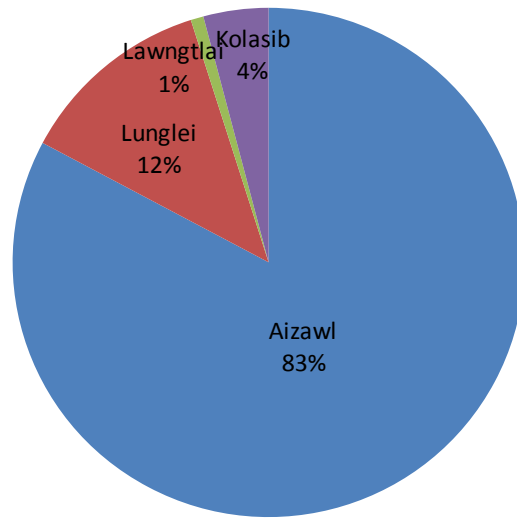
### 4.4 Analysis by Location in Mizoram

Analysis by location constitutes an important factor as the study covers the whole of Mizoram. Table-4.4 shows the number of legal practitioners practicing in different districts which is supplemented with Graph-4.4 for clear understanding. Location further matters in the legal professionals as it depends on number of cases.



**Table-4.4 :Analysis by Location in Mizoram**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
Aizawl	101	84
Lunglei	15	13
Lawngtlai	1	1
Kolasib	5	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>



**Graph – 4.4: Analysis by Location in Mizoram**

In the above table, it is found that out of 120 respondents, 101 respondents (84%) who are practicing in Aizawl constitute the highest, followed by 15 respondents (13%) practicing in Lunglei, 5 respondents (4%) are practicing in Kolasib and only 1 respondent (1%) practicing in Lawngtlai. There are more practitioners in Aizawl and most of the advocates wanted to practice under a senior in the State capital as they can train-up themselves and practicing in Aizawl is more profitable compare to other districts as they get more Cases to deal with. It shows that legal professional in the state capital are more alarming compared to other places in the state.

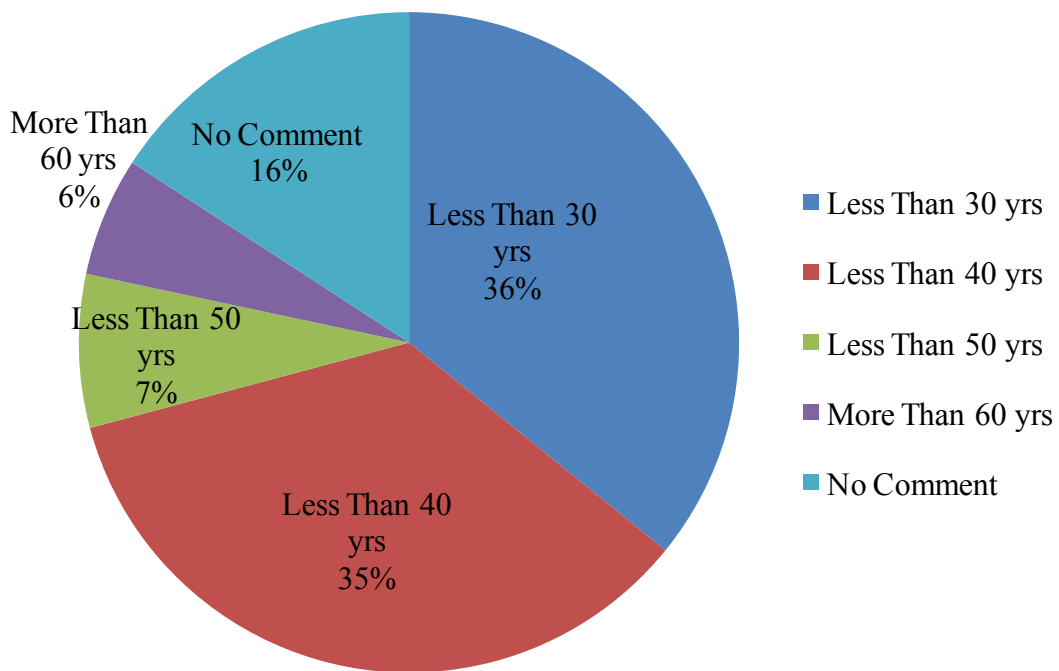
#### **4.5 Analysis by Age**

Analysis by age group constitute an important factor as to determine the enthusiasm of a person in Legal profession as it requires more time and energy. Data relating to this component obtained from the legal practitioners under study is shown in Table – 4.5 for analysis and supplemented with Graph – 4.5 for clear understanding.

**Table –4.5: Analysis by Age**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
<30 yrs	43	36

< 40 yrs	42	35
<50 yrs	9	7
> 60 yrs	7	6
No Comment	19	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>



Graph -4.5 : Analysis by Age

The above table shows that the maximum number of practitioners lies in between the age of 30 to 40 i.e,85 (71%) followed by 40 to 50 years that constitute 9 (7%) where as 7(6%) of the respondents lies in between the age of more than 60 years. 19(16%) respondents did not reveal their age. Hence, it shows that there is a alarming and enthusiastic spirit among the youngster in the legal profession than the oldaged advocates. However, it is a commendable step to provide justice to the society.

#### 4.6 Analysis by Place of Practice

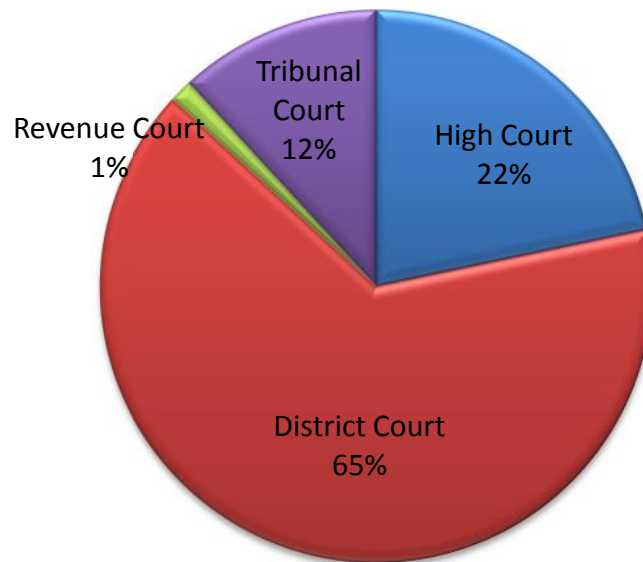
According to their post held and experience, the place of practice can vary to one another. The senior practitioners take up the case in the high court with confidence but the junior advocates deal with a small paper works in the chamber. So, analysis by place of practice is an important factor to

reveal the case that they are dealing with, experience, confidence and seniority of a practitioner. Data relating to this component obtained from the respondents under study is shown in Table-4.6 for analysis and supplemented with Graph-4.6 for understanding.

**Table-4.6:** Analysis by Place of Practice

<b>Place</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
High Court	33	22
District Court	99	65
Revenue Court	2	1
Tribunal Court	18	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>100</b>

n>120,i.e,152



**Graph -4.6 :** Analysis by Place of Practice

The population size increased from 120 to 152 in view of the fact that, the advocates practice in more than one courts. Four place of practice were given to the respondents, majority of respondents

practice in District Court i.e, 99 (65%), 33 (22%) of the respondents practice in High Court, and in Tribunal Court 18 (12%) respondents practice, only 2 (1%) practice in Revenue court. Some of the respondents practice in more than one or two courts. There is no boundary among the advocates as they go on practicing in multiple courts at the same time.

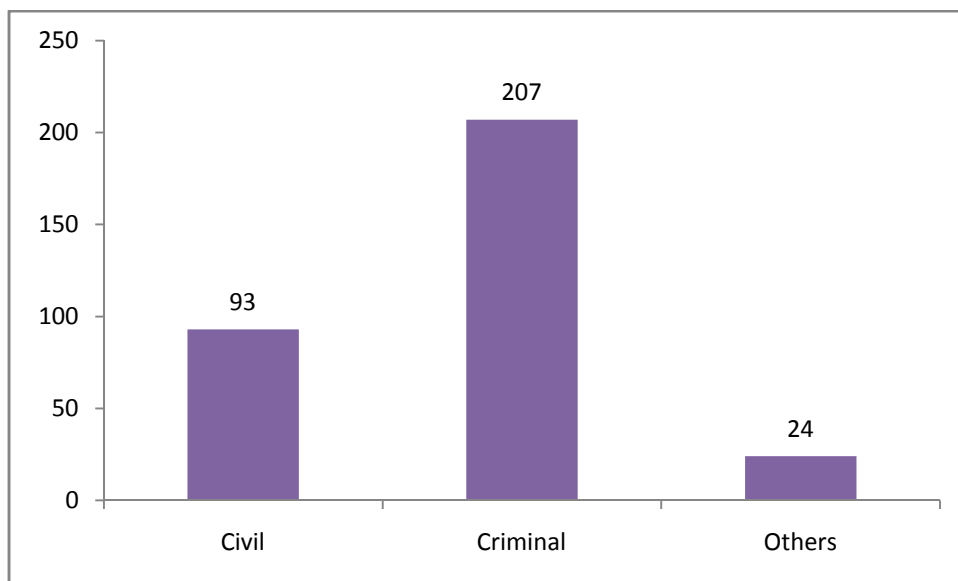
#### 4.7 Analysis by Practice Field

The practice field can be either Civil or Criminal and others. Analysis by practice field constitutes a good component in which the legal practitioners are engaged in what kind of Cases. Data relating to this component obtained from the respondents under study is shown in Table- 4.7 for analysis and supplemented with Graph-4.7 for clear vision.

**Table-4.7:** Analysis by Practice Field

<b>Field</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
Civil	93	29
Criminal	207	64
Others	24	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>100</b>

n>120 i.e, 324, Standard Deviation is 80.61017



Graph-4.7 : Analysis by Practice Field

From the above table, it is clear that majority of the advocates are practicing in Criminal i.e, 207 (64%) followed by 93 (29%) advocates who are practicing in Civil and 24 (7%) of the advocates are practicing in other fields. This is a prevailing practice throughout the state and most of the advocates do practice in the criminal sector. The Standard Deviation comes to 80.61017.

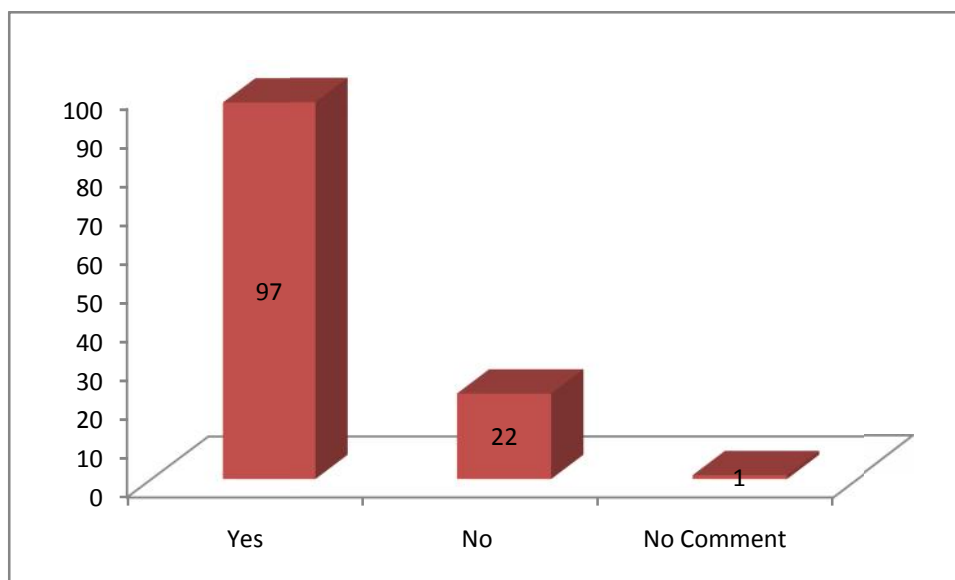
#### 4.8 Analysis by Library Visit

Library no doubt is a place where the legal practitioner in general and advocates in particular keep them abreast with latest information concerning to their need by consulting varieties of literature, case studies, law digest etc. The scholar through the questionnaire wanted to ascertain the visit to the library among the advocates of Mizoram under study. Data relating to this component obtained through the questionnaire were placed in Table 4.8 coupled with Graph 4.8 for clear understanding.

**Table-4.8** : Analysis by Frequency of Library Visit

Description	Respondent	%	Frequency	Respondents n=97	%
Yes	97	81	Regular	25	26
No	22	18	Occasionally	65	67
No Comment	1	1	No Comment	7	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>		<b>97</b>	<b>100</b>

Standard Deviation= 6.363961



Graph-4.8: Analysis by Frequency of Library Visit

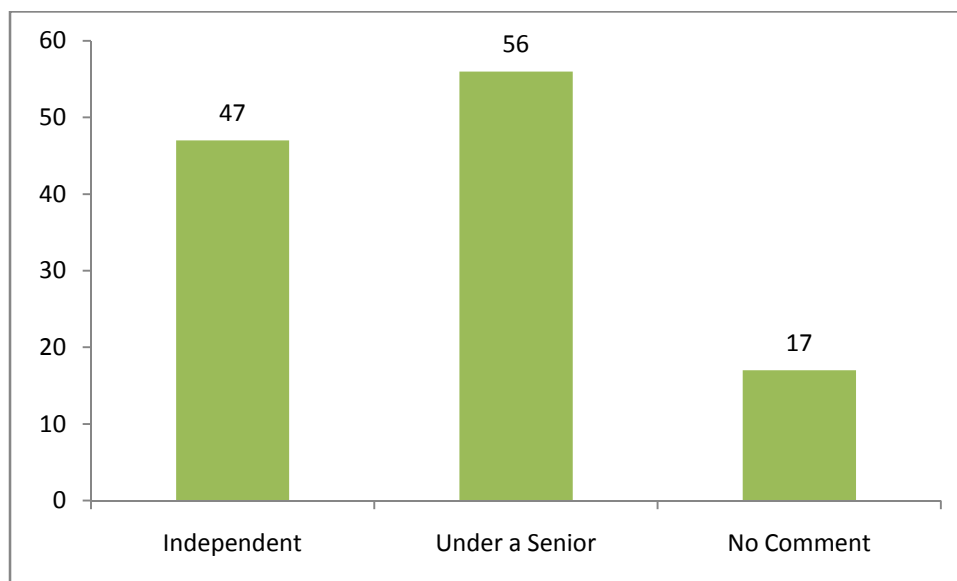
It is found that out of 120 respondents, 97 (81%) visit the library while, 22 (18%) do not prefer to visit the library leaving behind 1 respondent who did not reveal any opinion. Further, the table shows the frequency of visit for 97 respondents out of which, 25 (26%) visit the library regularly followed by 65 respondents which constitute 67% who visit the library occasionally, 7 which is 7% did not comment about their visit to the library. The frequency of visit to the library is diminishing due to the fact that, most of the practitioners have their personal collection according to their needs and requirements. They keep them update through computer and internet along with traditional publications. Further they cannot afford any time during their practice in the court. It further implies that, they are interested to visit the library but due to paucity of time, pre-engagements they are unable to visit the library but they are rare conscious about the library.

**4.9 Analysis by Manner of Practice**

Manner of Practice very much relates to the confidence for an advocate. This shows the awareness, acquaintance, grasping capacity of an advocate in the field of his interest. The scholar tried to ascertain this component through the questionnaire among the respondents and data relating to this facet is placed below in Table 4.9 supplemented with Graph- 4.9 for clear understanding.

**Table-4.9:** Analysis by Manner of Practice

<b>Manner of Practice</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
Independent	47	39
Under a Senior	56	47
No Comment	17	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>



Graph-4.9: Analysis by Manner of Practice

As discussed, manner of practice is very important in the legal profession. Analysis of the Table-4.9 shows that, the 56 respondents out of 120 constituting 47% prefer to practice under a senior followed by 47 (39%) who are independent in their profession and 17 (14%) did not comment. It shows that, major chunk of practitioner prefer to be perfect in their field of interest under a senior. However, independent practice in the court is also a welcome step as they are quite well versed with rules and regulations and are capable to extend justice to the people.

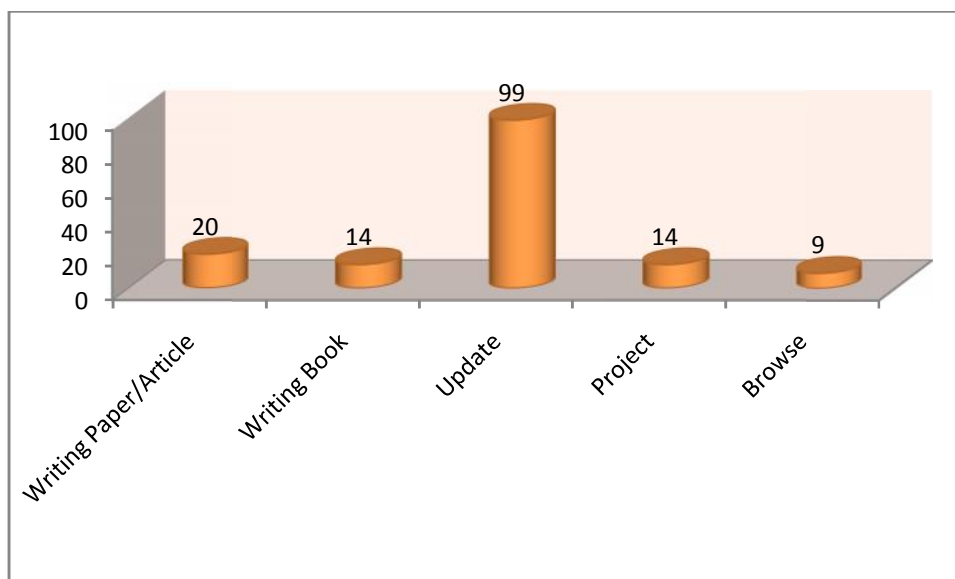
#### 4.10 Analysis by Purpose of Library Visit

There may be different purposes of visiting the library for the legal practitioners depending on the work they have to carry out. The purpose of visiting the library also signify to the fact that, the advocates are interested for some academic work apart from their profession and want to contribute literary thought. Therefore, the scholar tried to find out their intention of visiting the library and data related to this component is shown in Table- 4.10 for analysis and supplemented with Graph-4.10 for clear vision.

Table-4.10: Analysis by Purpose of Library Visit

Purpose	Respondents	%
Writing Paper/Article	20	13
Writing Book	14	9
Update	99	63
Project	14	9
Browse	9	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>100</b>

n>120i.e, 156



Graph-4.10: Analysis by Purpose of Library Visit

As the respondents were given multiple options to choose their interest in the purpose of visiting the library, the total respondents came to 156 instead of 120. Analysis of the Table-4.10 shows that, out of 156 respondents, 99 respondents (63%) constitute the highest who visits the library to update knowledge followed by 20 (13%) who visit for writing paper/ articles, 14 (9%) constitute for writing a paper and starting a project and 9 (6%) of the respondents visit the library to browse internet. This is an encouraging step among the advocates who in spite of their tight schedule also prefer to contribute for literary works including developing new ideas. It does not matter whether they visit the library regularly but still they find some time to get the use of the library.

#### 4.11 Analysis by Type of Information Need

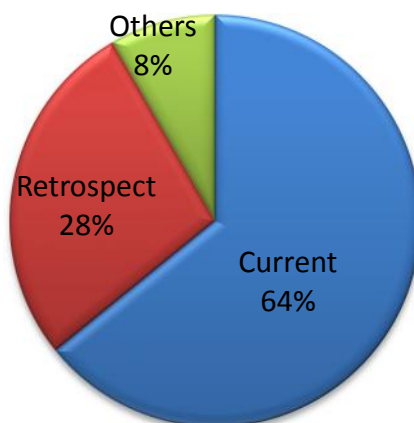
The information needs of the legal practitioners can be of two types such as (i) Current information which is the latest news, up to date etc and (ii) Retrospective that includes Manual, Report, Year book, Service rulings, etc. The data collected on this component obtained through the questionnaire is shown in Table- 4.11 for analysis supplemented with Graph-4.11 for understanding.

Table-4.11: Analysis by Type of Information Need.

Type of Information Need	Respondents	%
Current	77	64
Retrospect	33	28
Others	10	8



<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>
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Graph-4.11: Analysis by Type of Information Need.

On analysis of the Table-4.11 it is revealed that, 77 respondents which is 64% need information on Current while, 33 which is 28% need information on retrospective and 10 (8%) need information on others. This otherwise means that the legal practitioners require current information more compared to the retrospective type of information. This is also required to extend justice to the accused victims as they are unaware of the law. Current information is supposed to be transformed ideas/judgment prevailing in other courts in the country and it becomes the responsibility of the advocates to put forth the same before the court for judgment.

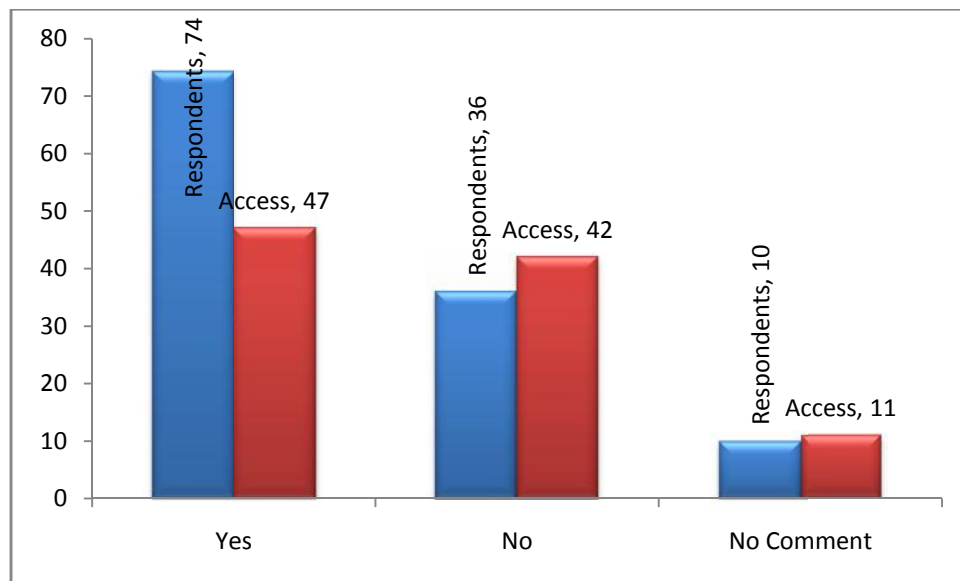
#### 4.12 Analysis by Departmental Library and its Access

Department library equally plays an important role in getting the knowledge and the magistrates including the advocates get a chance for immediate consultation in practice. The data relating to this facet is placed below in Table- 4.12 supplemented with Graph-4.12 for analysis. Further, departmental library enables the legal practitioners more effective in their endeavour.

**Table- 4.12:** Analysis by Departmental Library and its access.

Description	Respondents	%	Access	%
Yes	74	62	57	47
No	36	30	50	42
No Comment	10	8	13	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

Standard Deviation is 26.87006



Graph-4.12: Analysis by Departmental Library and its Access

Analysis shows that out of 120 respondents, 74 respondents that constitute 62% prefer the department library and they possess also while, 36 respondents i.e, 30% don't have department library and 10 respondents i.e, 8% did not opine. This shows the awareness of the advocates practicing in the court and they feel the need of such department library which they possess over and above the library at the individual capacity. This further show the literacy among the practicing advocates and they want to keep abreast with the current information in the field of their interest. Moreover, while analyzing the access to the Departmental Library it was revealed that, out of the total population of 120, 57 (47%) access the Departmental library while, 50 (42%) do not access it. It shows that the rate of accessing the department library is quite good. It further shows that, even if 74 respondents have Department Library, only 57 (47%) access while, 36 respondents do not have it still more than this i.e, 50 (42%) access. This is, however, not surprising as those who possess it may consult during their free time. This shows the necessity of having such library.

#### 4.13 Analysis by Type of Documents Search

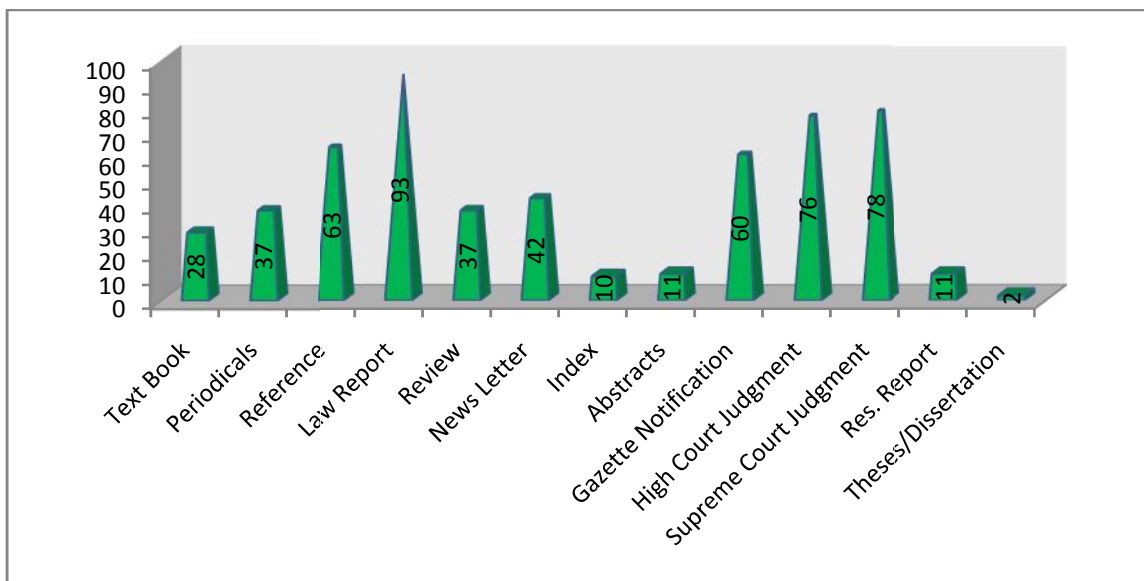
The different types of materials/resources enrich the library and bring a healthy environment in library use. Various collections of sources in the library serve its users in a different ways. Depending on their nature of work the legal practitioners will need different types of documents as and when required. The respondents through questionnaire were presented with various questions to reveal regarding the type of information search and required by them and the data so obtained

are placed in the Table- 4.13 for analysis which is also supported with Graph- 4.13 for understanding.

**Table- 4.13:** Analysis by Type of Documents Search

	<b>Documents</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
1	Text Book	28	5
2	Periodicals	37	7
3	Reference	63	11
4	Law Report	93	17
5	Review	37	7
6	News Letter	42	7
7	Index	10	2
8	Abstracts	11	2
9	Gazette Notification	60	11
10	High Court Judgment	76	14
11	Supreme Court Judgment	78	14
12	Research Report	11	2
13	Theses/Dissertation	2	0.3
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>100</b>

n>120 i.e, 548, Standard Deviation 29.73451, Mean value =42.15385



**Graph-4.13:** Analysis by Type of Documents Search

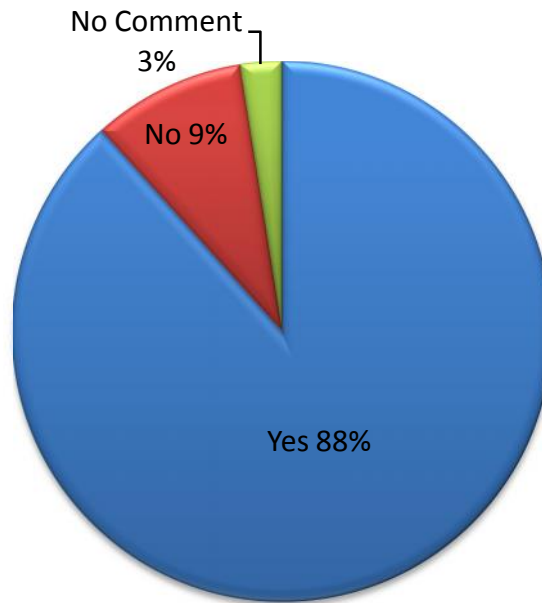
The total population size has increased from 120 to 548 as the respondents used multiple options regarding searching of various information sources which has been split into 13 categories. While analyzing the Table 4.13 it reflected that, out of 548, a total number of 93(17%) respondents prefer law report followed by 78 (14%) who opt for supreme court judgment and 76 (14%) search high court judgment. This shows the inclination of the advocates consulting information available in different documents and implementation in the field. The standard deviation of this component comes to 29.73451. The mean value of the source of information comes to 42.15385

#### 4.14 Analysis by Internet Access

Internet or the World Wide Web is now-a-day becoming an indispensable way of accessing millions of information. The World is becoming a global village due to networking technology. Information searching and retrieval is very fast and many people are now relying on this internet. Many people don't visit the library due to internet connectivity at home as they can access their information needs and they can connect different parts of the world. Internet access is one of the indispensable components in legal field also so as to keep abreast with current and instant information for its application in the pleading and judgment. This also shows the literacy among the advocates who are keen to this technology and implement in the real field. Data relating to this component is shown in Table- 4.14 for analysis and it is supplemented with Graph-4.14 for clear vision.

**Table-4.14:** Analysis by Internet Access

<b>Description</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	106	88
No	11	9
No Comment	3	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>



Graph- 4.14: Analysis by Internet Access

Analysis of the Table- 4.14 shows that out of 120 respondents, a major chunk of 106(88%) respondents access internet while, 11(9%) respondents of them do not access the internet and 3(3%) respondents gave no comment. This also visualizes that, the youngsters who have just entered to the profession do get current information in the relevant field of interest and apply the same in the work field. This also signifies the literacy rate among the advocates in the technology. Otherwise, this can be told that, technology is being implemented for instant relief to the victims as the advocates cite various judgments pronounced in different courts especially, high courts and Supreme Court. Thus, the legal practitioners cope up with the developing technology and make use of it in their field of practice.

#### 4.15 Analysis by Purpose of Internet Access

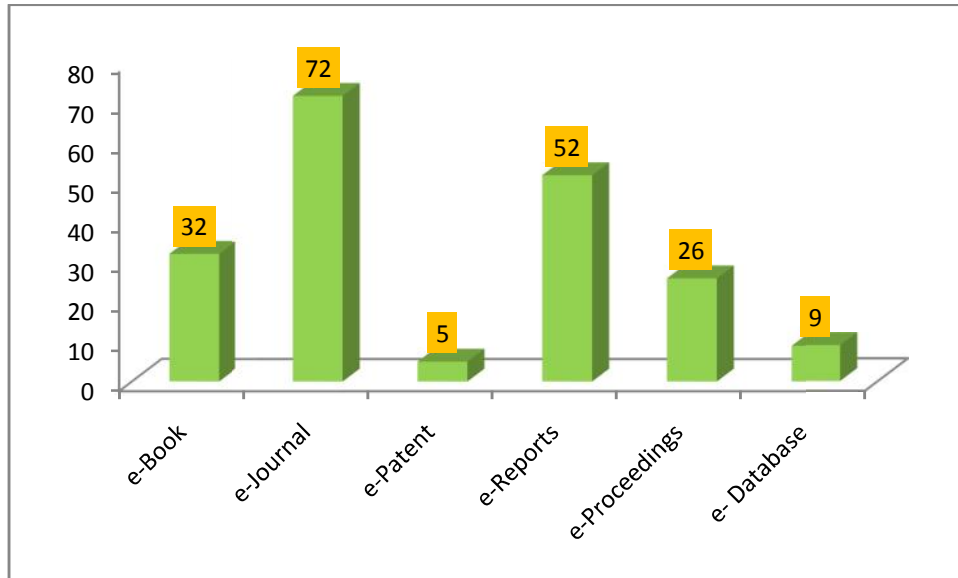
Due to globalization and networking, resource sharing can be done through internet, it makes accessing different types of information faster and multiple users can access the same information at the same time from different corners of the world. As there are different types of information, the legal practitioners may access internet for different reasons and such data relating to purpose of internet access obtained through the questionnaire is shown in Table- 4.15 for analysis supplemented with Graph- 4.15 for clear understanding.

Table- 4.15: Analysis by Purpose of Internet Access

Types	Respondents	%
e-Book	32	16

e-Journal	72	37
e-Patent	5	3
e-Reports	52	27
e-Proceedings	26	13
e- Database	9	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>100</b>

n>120, i.e, 196



Graph-4.15: Analysis by Reason of Internet Access

The total population increased to 196 instead of 120 as the respondents exercised multiple option for the purpose of internet access. The options were however grouped into six types. Analysis of the Table 4.15 revealed that, many practitioners are now relying on this internet to get their information. This is visualized from the table that, the e-journals are the most preferred source of information which are accessed by 72 (37%) respondents to support their information need followed by 52(27%) who favour e-reports and 32 (16%) who prefer e-Book as their choice of retrieval on Internet. This is a very encouraging step for the practitioners who are competent enough to find their information from e-resources for various purposes. This also highlights their intuitiveness to get resources for their practical use.

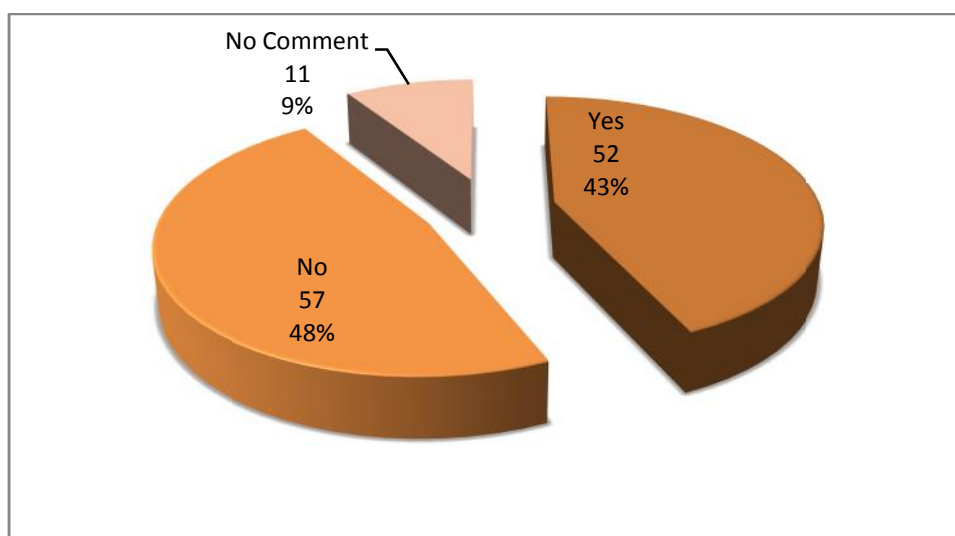
#### 4.16 Analysis by Level of Satisfaction with Library Services

Achieving maximum user satisfaction by catering to their information needs is the objective of any library. The legal library has to serve the need off different categories of practitioners such as advocates, prosecutor, magistrate, judges etc making a collection regarding the reports, proceedings, gazettes, references and so on. If a library fails to meet the potential and future demand of the user's community, the very purpose of the library would be defeated. Table- 4.16

shows the satisfaction level of the population under study, supplemented by Graph-4.16 for clear understanding.

**Table-4.16:** Analysis of User Satisfaction with Library Services

<b>Satisfaction</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	52	43
No	57	48
No Comment	11	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>



**Graph-4.16:** Analysis of User Satisfaction with Library Services

The analysis of the Table 4.16 shows that out of 120 respondents, 52 (43%) respondents expressed their satisfaction with the library services while, 57 (48%) respondents were dissatisfied with the library services leaving behind 11 (9%) respondents who gave no comment. As the dissatisfaction rate is higher compared to satisfaction level, the library requires imparting new services using information and technology including getting the latest editions of books and journals. Still it shows the efforts of the library to keep abreast with the advocates in getting their information.

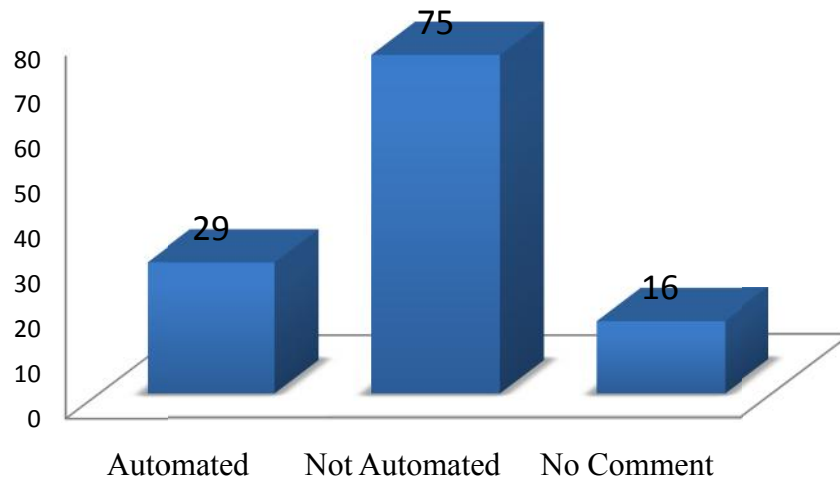
#### **4.17 Analysis by Automation of Library**

Automation of the library makes the library services easier, faster and easy to organize. It helps in resource sharing and really upgrades the value of the library. Data regarding the automation of the library is presented in Table- 4.17 for analysis and supplemented with Graph- 4.17 for clear vision.

**Table-4.17:** Analysis by Automation of Library

<b>Description</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
Automated	29	24

Not Automated	75	63
No Comment	16	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>



Graph- 4.17: Analysis by Automation of Library

Analysis of the Table- 4.17 shows that, 29 (24%) out of 120 of the respondents mentioned that the library is automated while, 75 (63%) mentioned that the library is not automated and 16 (13%) gave no comment. It otherwise means that, the advocates who use the library and browse internet to get their information feel that it is automated. But automation in true sense of the term relates to housekeeping operations like charging, discharging, availability of OPAC, providing document delivery services, networking, e-resource services etc. The libraries covered under the study do certain operations through ICT and manage the documents using of software but not to the fullest extent. However, even if it in infant stage, it is growing. Therefore, majority of the respondents expressed their views that the libraries are not automated.

#### 4.18 Analysis by Type of Internet Connection

It is one of the primary requirements for both the library and the users. Primarily this segment is divided into three groups as shown the table. The respondents make use of the same to retrieve information fast and speedy. Data relating to this facet has been shown in Table-4.18 supplemented with Graph-4.18for clear understanding.

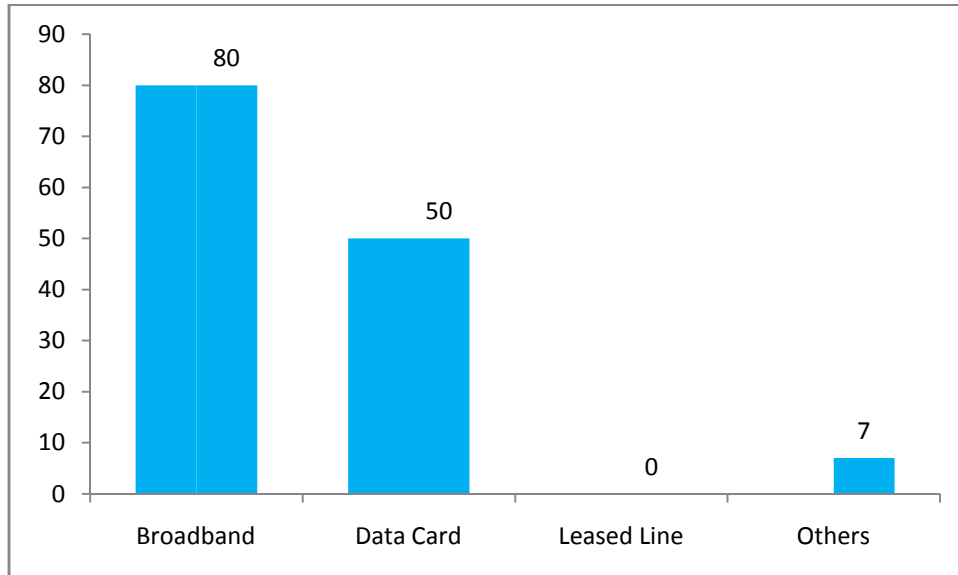
Table-4.18: Analysis by Type of Internet Connection

Type	Respondents	%
Broadband	80	58



Data Card	50	36
Leased Line	0	0
Other	7	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>100</b>

n>120i.e, 137



Graph-4.18: Analysis by Type of Internet Connection

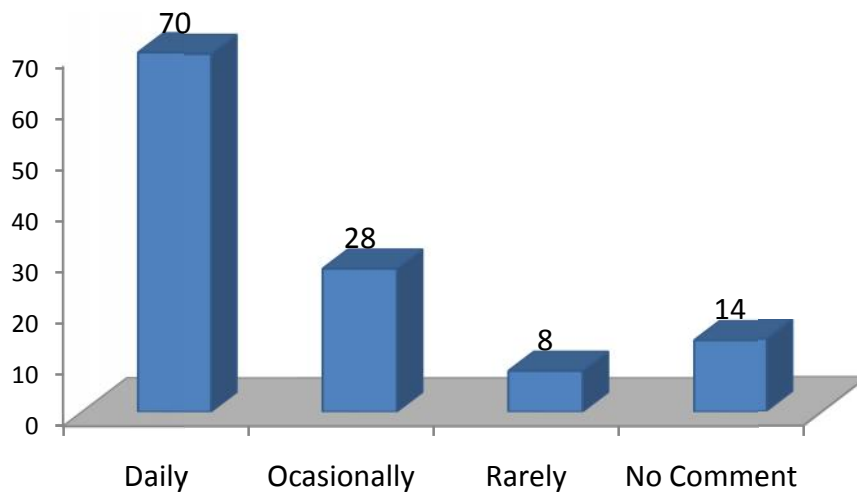
To get speedy information, the respondents use many technologies like broadband, data card etc. Further, due to multiple choice of internet access through different devices, the population size increased to 137 instead of 120. Analysis of the Table-4.18 shows that, 80 (58%) respondents use broadband internet connection and 50 respondents (36%) use data card while 7 respondents (6%) opt for others. This shows the need and use and the respondents widely take the option using multiple devices to download the information and keep abreast with the current affairs in their field of interest.

#### 4.19 Analysis by Frequency of Internet Use

Internet or the World Wide Web is nowadays becoming an indispensable way of accessing millions of information. We are living in an information society and the world becomes a global village due to networking technology. Information searching and retrieval is very fast and many of the legal practitioners rely on the internet to get their information. The respondents were asked to state the frequency of using the Internet out of the four options which they have to select one. Data relating to this component obtained through the questionnaire are placed in Table-4.19 for analysis and supplemented with Graph-4.19 for clear understanding.

**Table-4.19:** Analysis by Frequency of Internet Use

<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
Daily	70	58
Occasionally	28	23
Rarely	8	7
No Comment	14	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>



Graph-4.19: Analysis by Frequency of Internet Use

Analysis of the above Table 4.19 shows that 70 respondents (58%) out of 120 respondents use internet daily while, 28 respondents (23%) use occasionally and 8 respondents (7%) use rarely. As a whole most of the respondents under study are competent enough to find their information from internet, this is quite encouraging though the frequencies differ.

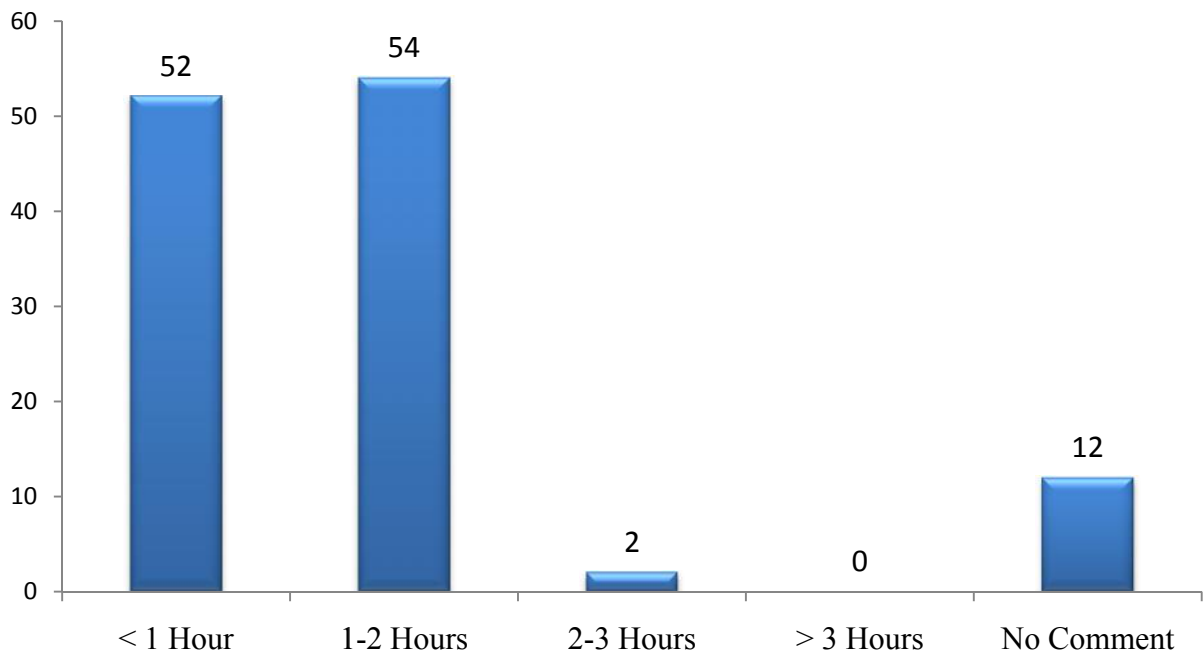
#### 4.20 Analysis by Time Spent in Library

Analysis by time spent in library constitute an important factor which shows the awareness level of the population under study about the services and the utilization of the resources collected from time to time for curriculum needs as well as for leisure reading to some extent. Table-4.20 presented below shows the time spent in the library covered under study by the legal practitioners and the table is supplemented with Graph- 4.20.

Table-4.20: Analysis by Time Spent in Library

<b>Time Spent</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
<1 Hour	52	43
1-2 Hours	54	45

2-3 Hours	2	2
> 3 Hours	0	0
No Comment	12	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>



Graph-4.20: Analysis by Time Spent in Library

Analysis of the above Table-4.20 shows that out of 120 respondents, 54 respondents (45%) which constitute the highest spent 1-2 hours in the library followed by 52 (43%) who spent less than 1 hour in the library and only 2 (2%) spent 2-3 hours and none of them spent more than 3 hours in the library and 12 (10%) gave no comment. Retrieval of information through technology and internet facilitates and makes things easier for the legal practitioners from different sources and at the same time it is the technologies that stop them visiting the library due to interruption of Internet. However, the respondents still find during their working hour to visit the library and get access to internet and for consultation of other literature which is an encouraging step.

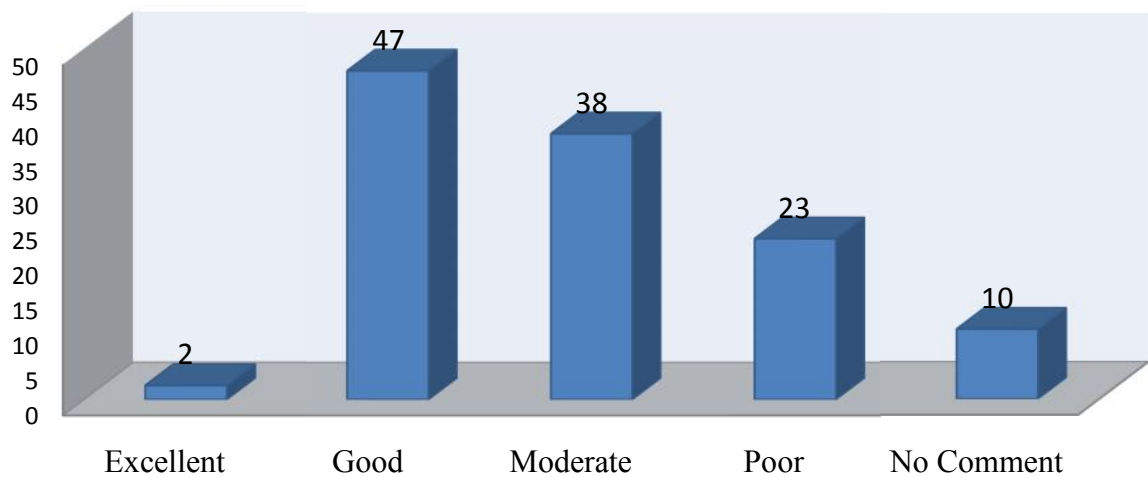
#### 4.21 Analysis by Collection of the Library

Collection strength of a library signifies to the initiatives by the librarian and the readers get optimum benefits. The collections may include both print and e-resources. Invariably, the libraries under study developed its collections which include books, report, proceedings, journals, e-resources etc. The primary focus of the library is to meet the user needs in the best possible way. In order to provide user-oriented services, library collection has to be done according to the type of users, nature of work, type of information they are seeking. This component of the questionnaire

was asked to ascertain the views of the respondents regarding collections of the library and their views has been shown in Table-4.21 for analysis and supplemented with Graph-4.21 for clear vision.

**Table-4.21:** Analysis by Collection of the Library

Description	Respondents	%
Excellent	2	2
Good	47	39
Moderate	38	32
Poor	23	19
No Comment	10	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>



Graph-4.21: Analysis by collection of the library collection

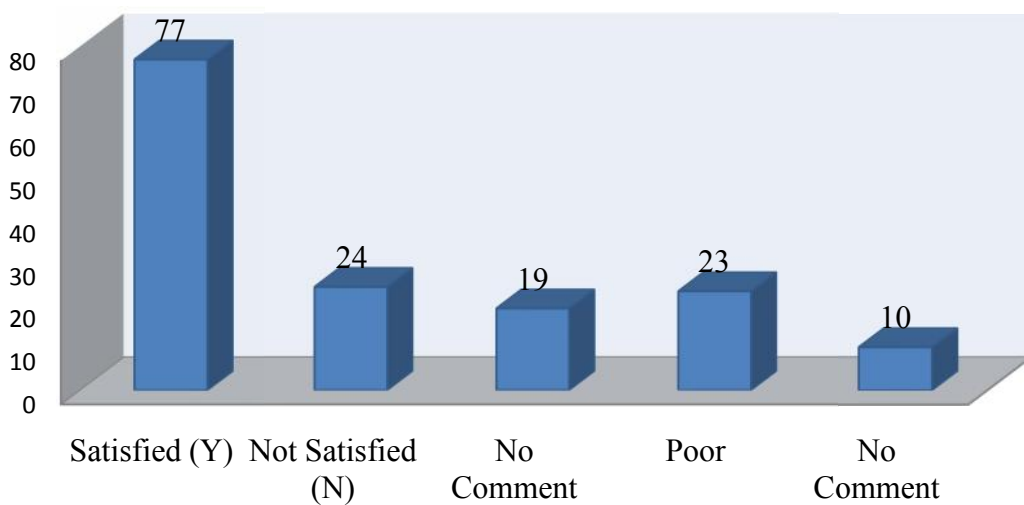
On analysis of the Table- 4.21 it could be found that, out of 120 questionnaires distributed among the legal practitioners a major group of 47 respondents which is 39% finds the collection of the library is good while, 38 respondents which constitute 32% ranked the collection moderate followed by only 2 i.e. 2% respondents gave excellent. 23(19%) of the respondents graded the collection poor and 10(8%) respondents gave no comment. The analysis further showed that the collection of the library is neither too good nor too bad. Somehow it provides certain amount of information to its users. The library could not able to develop its strength due to paucity of fund.

#### **4.22 Analysis by Satisfaction with the Rules and Regulation of the Library**

This analysis shows the level of satisfaction with the rules and regulation of the library. Data related to this component is shown in Table-4.22 for analysis and supplemented with Graph-4.22for clear vision.

**Table-4.22:** Analysis by Satisfaction with the Rules and Regulation of the Library

Description	Respondents	%
Satisfied (Y)	77	64
Not Satisfied (N)	24	20
No Comment	19	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>



**Graph-4.22:** Analysis by satisfaction with the rules and regulation of the Library

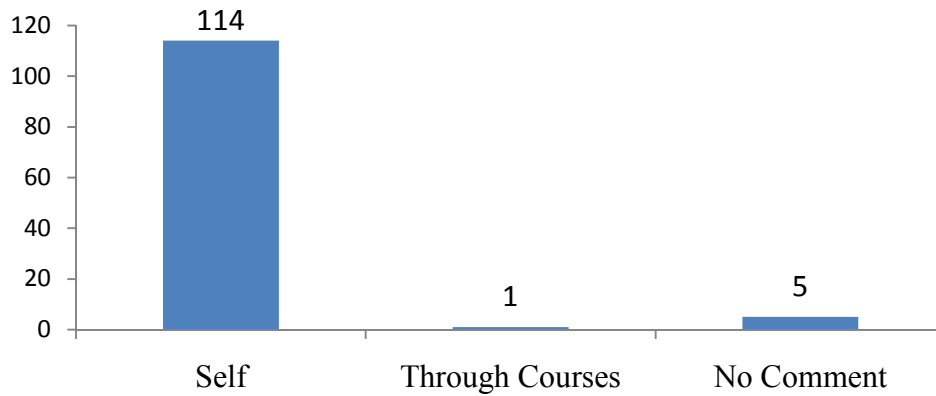
The respondents were given 2 options i.e, satisfied and not satisfied. Regarding satisfaction with the rules and regulation of the Library, 77 respondents which constitute 64% are satisfied while, 24 respondents (20%) are not satisfied. 19 respondents which constitute 16% viewed not to comment. Most of the users are satisfied with the rules and regulations laid down by the library. This is a healthy sign for the library.

#### **4.23 Analysis by Learning Internet Knowledge**

Analysis by learning internet knowledge show the number of respondents who learnt computer either by self or attending computer classes. Data relating to this component obtained from the legal practitioners under study is shown in Table-4.23 for analysis and supplemented with Graph – 4.23 for clear understanding.

**Table-4.23:** Analysis by Learning Internet Knowledge

<b>Learning</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
Self	114	95
Through Courses	1	1
No Comment	5	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>



**Graph –4.23:** Analysis by Learning Internet Knowledge

The above table shows that 114 respondents which constitute 95% have learnt the computer by themselves while 1 respondent (1%) has learnt computer by attending computer class. 5 respondent (4%) gave no comment. This shows the interest and literacy among the professional in the legal sector. It otherwise means that they are tuned to various types of literacy which help them keeping alert of new information especially in their interest fields.

#### **4.24 Analysis by Problems Faced during Surfing**

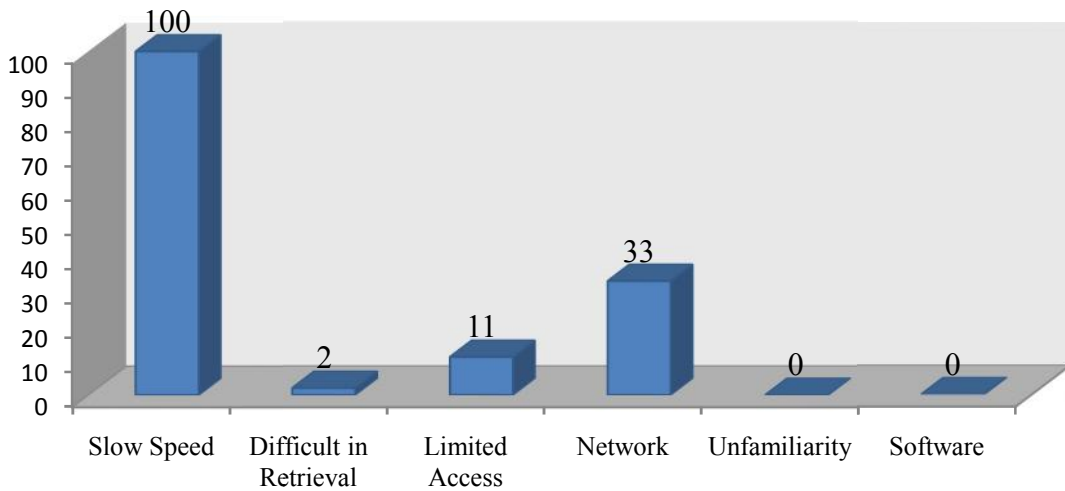
Analysis by problems faced during surfing is important as it shows the problem. In remote states/areas this is common problem. Even if there is Internet connection there could be problems in surfing, these problems have been analyzed with the help of data and graph. Data relating to this component obtained from the legal practitioners under study is shown in Table –4.24 for analysis and supplemented with Graph –4.24 for clear understanding.

**Table –4.24:** Analysis by Problems Faced during Surfing

<b>Problems</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
Slow Speed	100	68
Difficult in Retrieval	2	1
Limited Access	11	8

Network	33	23
Unfamiliarity	0	0
Software	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>100</b>

n> 120i.e, 146



Graph -4.24 : Analysis by Problems Faced during Surfing

The respondents encounters many problems while surfing on internet and multiple problems increased the population size from 120 to 146 as the respondents opted more than one problem. Analysis of the above Table- 4.24 shows that 100 respondents which constitute 68% have problems of slow speed while surfing, 32 respondents (23%) have network problem. 11 (8%) respondent have problems from limited access and 2 (1%) respondents have difficult in retrieval. It is due to the strategic location of the place where the respondents encounters problem in surfing on internet.

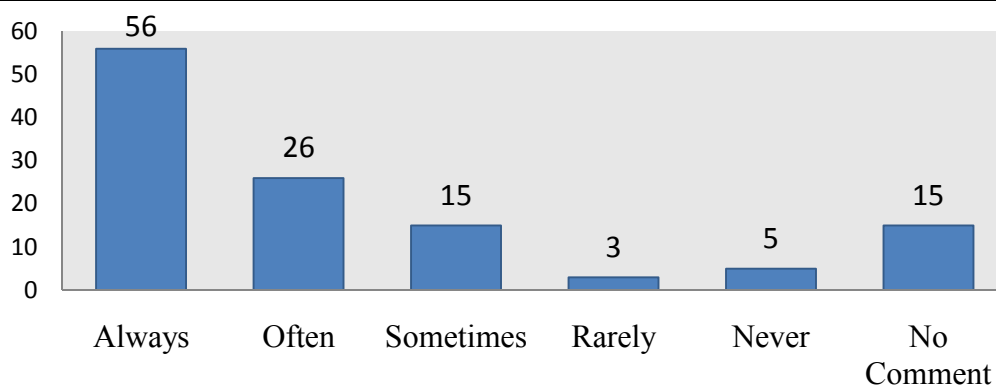
#### 4.25 Analysis by Helpfulness of Library Staffs

Analysis by helpfulness of Library Staff shows the efficiency and services rendered by the Librarian in meeting the user needs. The primary aim of the library is to fulfill the information needs of the users. Data related to this component obtained through questionnaire is shown in Table-4.25 and which is supplemented with Graph-4.25 for clear understanding.

**Table-4.25:** Analysis by Helpfulness of Library Staffs

Description	Respondents	%
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Always	56	47
Often	26	22
Sometimes	15	12
Rarely	3	3
Never	5	4
No Comment	15	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>



Graph-4.25: Analysis by Helpfulness of Library Staff

Analysis of the Table 4.25 revealed that, 56 respondents which constitute 47% find the library staffs always helpful in finding their needs while, 26 respondents which is 22% find the library staffs often helpful, 15 respondents which constitute 12% find staffs sometimes helpful and 3 of them i.e, only 3% find them rarely helpful. Over all the library staffs are helpful which could be deduced from the analysis. However, extending help to all types of users is one of the important function of the library.

#### 4.26 Analysis by Gathering Information in Internet Browsing

Analysis by gathering information internet browsing shows the manner by which information has been gather while internet browsing. It is important analysis as it describes the way the professional gather information. Data relating to this component obtained from the legal practitioners under study is shown in Table-4.26 and Graph-4.26 for analysis by gathering information in internet browsing for clear understanding.

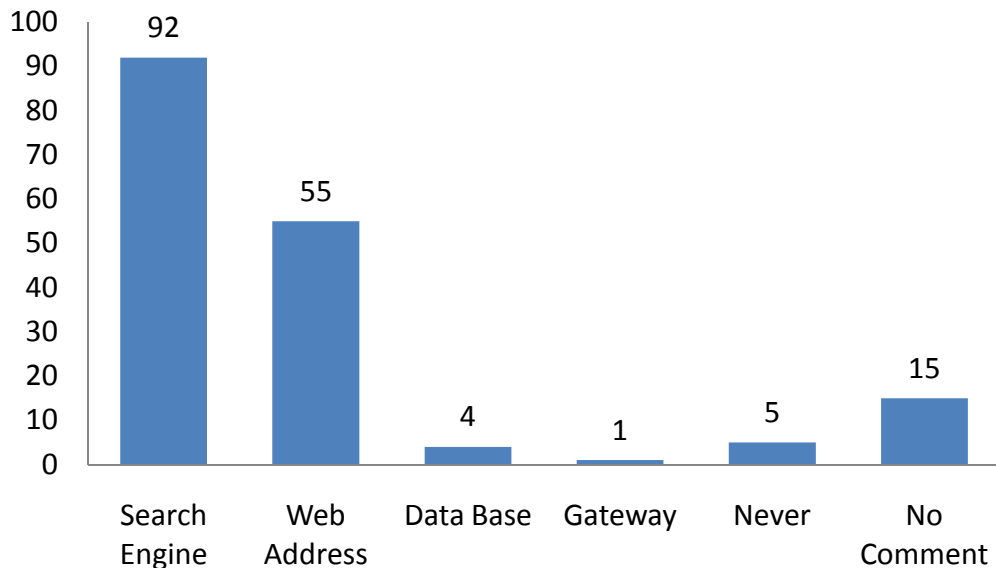
Table –4.26: Analysis by Gathering Information in Internet Browsing

Description	Respondents	%
Search Engine	92	60



Web Address	55	36
Data Base	4	3
Gateway	1	1
Portal	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>100</b>

n> 120 i.e, 152



Graph -4.26 : Analysis by Gathering Information in Internet Browsing

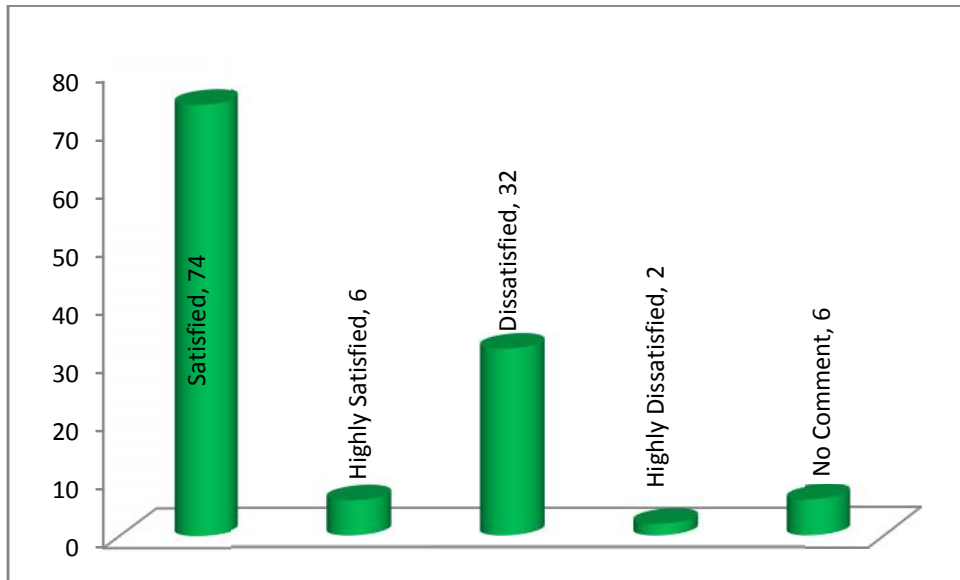
Due to the multiple options, the population size has increased to 152 instead of 120. Table- 4.26 on analysis revealed that, 92 respondents which constitute 60% use search engine as a means of gathering information while internet browsing, 55 respondents (36%) opt web address, 4 respondent i.e, 3% use data base and 1 respondent i.e, 1% use gateway. This shows the awareness of the source of information which facilitates the respondents to download authentic information in their concerned field.

#### 4.27 Analysis by Level of Satisfaction of Accessing Internet Resources

As internet is one of the main sources of information among the legal practitioners and study has been carried out by analyzing their level of satisfaction of accessing internet resource. Analysis by level of satisfaction of accessing internet resource is important analysis shows the level of satisfaction by the respondent with regards to internet access. Data relating to the levels obtained from the legal practitioners under study is shown in Table-4.27 and Graph-4.27 for analysis by level of satisfaction of accessing internet resource for clear understanding.

Table -4.27: Analysis by Level of Satisfaction of Accessing Internet Resource

Level	Respondents	%
Satisfied	74	62
Highly Satisfied	6	5
Dissatisfied	32	27
Highly Dissatisfied	2	1
No Comment	6	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>



Graph –4.27: Analysis by Level of Satisfaction of Accessing Internet Resource

Satisfaction or dissatisfaction level on internet depends upon the real time retrieval of information and on bandwidth. Further, the type of technology one uses is also important for such level of option. While analyzing the data placed in the Table- 4.27 it revealed that, 74 respondents which constitute 62% are satisfied while accessing internet resource, 6 respondents (5%) are highly satisfied while, 32 respondent (27%) are not satisfied followed by the highly dissatisfied by 2 respondent i.e, 1%. As a whole, the respondents are quite satisfied while browsing on internet to find their resources.

#### 4.28 Findings

After due analysis of the above tables from the questionnaires, interacting with the legal practitioners as well as going through the other sources of related information for the study, the scholar has deduced the following findings,

- Analysis by respondents shows that the total respondents of legal practitioners were 120. Respondents are of different categories like advocate, public prosecutor, judicial magistrate, judges

practicing in different courts and teaching faculty. A total of 150 questionnaires were distributed among the legal practitioners and 120 filled in questionnaires were received which constitute 80%. This shows that the response through questionnaire is quite satisfactory.

- Out of 120 respondents, 91 (76%) respondents are Advocates and 101 (84%) of the respondents are practicing in Aizawl, 15 (13%) respondents are from Lunglei followed by 5 (4%) are from Kolasib and it is very surprising to learn that there is only one permanent advocate practicing in Lawngtlai. Most of the advocates from different districts prefer to practice in Aizawl.
- Analysis by Gender reveals that males are more interested in the legal profession.
- It is deduced from the frequency of visiting the library that the out of 120 legal practitioners 97 (81%) visit the library and 22 (18%) do not visit the library, as most of the legal practitioners have their own library and collection of materials related to their works. Most of them refer the references quickly and traced the particular needs of information.
- Regarding the information needs, the legal practitioners require current information rather than retrospective type of information. Analysis shows that the five most common documents search are Law Report by 93 respondents, Supreme Court Judgment by 78 respondents, High Court Judgment by 76 respondents, Reference by 63 respondents, and Gazette Notification by 60 respondents.
- It is found that out of 120 respondents, 106 (88%) respondents access internet and 11(9%) respondents do not access internet. That shows that the awareness of the information technology among the legal practitioners is quite satisfactory. It is very encouraging that most of the legal practitioners can cope up with the developing technology and make use of it in their field of practice. More than 50% of the respondents are satisfied with the resources accessed from the internet and those information were mainly searched through Search Engine and Web Address.
- Slow speed and network problem are the main problems faced while surfing the internet.
- Only 29 (24%) respondents mentioned that they have started the library automation, and again out of which 25 (86%) partially done the library automation, 3 of the respondents i.e.10% reported that the library is fully automated and only one respondent mentioned that the automation of the library is under process. The analysis indicated that it is very much necessary and high time to give importance and priority on automation and up-gradation of the library to cope up with the changing environment. Though some of the respondents have mentioned that the library is fully automated but as of an eye witness to the scholar non-of the library has fully automated. It can be assumed that the respondents may not clearly understand the meaning of automation.
- The two main reasons of accessing internet are e-journals and e-reports.

- It is found that 95% of the respondents have learnt the computer by themselves while only 1 respondent have learnt through courses and almost 60% of the respondents access to internet daily.

## **5.1 Suggestions**

In the given chapter the scholar is making a suggestion after due analysis of the data obtained through the questionnaire, interacting with the legal practitioners, some of the office bearers of the Mizoram Bar Association and Government officers in the field of legal authority.

- Initiative should be taken for proper set up and provide better information infrastructure including ICT infrastructure for promotion of legal libraries in Mizoram.
- Placement of qualified Librarian and supporting staff in different legal libraries is badly required to render better services to the users and for effective use of the library resources.
- Efforts should be given on User's Awareness regarding the importance and role of a library in the society so that not only the legal services will be improved, in stead, as a whole we can make our society a better society by providing the right information to the right person.
- The society we are living in is an information society, where all the economics, political, judiciary of the country dependson the information of a country. Information rich country will always perform better than the information poor country as people can be empowered with information. In order to survive as a country and society we need to have a good information centre such as Good Library with the application of technology and it is suggested that pressure should be given to the Government to take necessary actions in providing such type of facilities to cop-up with the advance technology.
- Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) should be fully protected in collection and use of library resources.
- The Library should introduce best practices likeoutsourcing, resource sharing, innovative services, PPP (Public Private Partnership) collaboration with corporate sector, facilitate and promote and encourage private collections.
- Training should be organized for the librarian for capacity building, skills and competencies.
- More research should be carried out in order to promote the library services.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

Advocacy is one of the oldest professions in the world, we need law because without law there cannot be order and without order there cannot be security, and without law, order and security there cannot be pursuit of happiness which is the highest goal of a human being and civilized society. Advocates are officers of the Court and naturally certain duties and responsibilities are cast upon them towards the Court and their clients. It is therefore very important for an Advocate to be presentable, particularly while at work. It is said that no Lawyer, however experienced he may be in the field of his choice, can claim to be an expert, unless he continues to learn the law as long as he is in the profession.

The information seeking behavior of legal practitioners have become IT based due to the advance technology of information. The users started searching information through internet, website and by different search engines. Due to time constrains and some other engagement the legal practitioners are friendlier with the electronic resources instead of traditional one. That is why it is very important to up-date the collection of the library resources in order to meet and fulfill the expectations of its users. The present condition of the legal libraries in Mizoram are not so satisfactory, however, the legal practitioners are able to get their information needs by accessing internet and also from other electronic materials. It is quite encouraging that in spite of the bad condition of the legal libraries that the legal practitioners are still able to perform in such away that they satisfied their clients and customers, how much more effective it will be if there is a good library.

The study investigated the information needs and use pattern of Legal practitioners in Mizoram. It was found that the respondents used a variety of information sources. Electronic resources have become the vital part of human life in the present day. It has rapidly changed the way of seeking and disseminating information. The legal profession requires a lifelong learning as there are new Acts & Rules, Cases, Judgments etc. and it will always be increasing. So, the legal practitioners need to equip themselves in order to survive, otherwise they cannot success in their fields of practice. To meet the needs of different users the library also should give emphasis on Information Technology base services. It is advisable that, in addition to the traditional system, Information Technology must be introduced in the library to keep the library more effective, user friendly and it was also found that therespondents use a variety of legal information sources for academic and research purposes. Legalt textbooks, general books, and references sources were considered most important. The majority of thelaw faculty members prefer information in print format and English language. Most of them do theirinformation seeking activities at home. They use computer and internet in their search for information, retrieval and email communication. Major legal professionals were not satisfied withcollection sources, resources and IT facilities in their libraries.

The unavailability of adequate materials, insufficient computers and internet services in the libraries caused dismay among them. As globalization has encouraged the adoption of legal research tools and its application have made the professionals more literate in pleading and arguments. The legal resources and online databases made the information more easily accessible to the law professionals. Electronic resources also contributed immensely for the professionals to keep abreast with latest and update.

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Appendix-I  
**QUESTIONNAIRE**

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am pursuing M.Phil in Library and Information Science at Mizoram University and my M.Phil research topic is on '**Information Use Pattern of Legal Practitioners in Mizoram**' under the guidance of **Dr.R.N.Mishra**, Associate Professor, Dept. of Library & Information Science, Mizoram University. You are kindly requested to fill-up the questionnaire for research purpose. The information given by you will be kept strictly confidential and will be used exclusively for research work.

Thanking you,

Sincerely Yours,

Date:

Encls: As above

**(R.LALRINPUII)**

M.Phil Research Scholar,

E-Mail: [lalrinpuiiralte@yahoo.in](mailto:lalrinpuiiralte@yahoo.in) ,

[rinpuiiralte26@gmail.com](mailto:rinpuiiralte26@gmail.com)

**Questionnaire**  
**on**  
**Information Use Pattern of Legal Practitioners in Mizoram**

The respondent is requested to put tick ( ✓ ) mark in the space provided against each question or provide information wherever necessary in the space provided against the question. The respondent is requested to use separate sheet wherever necessary.

**A. GENERAL**

- 1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Gender: Male  Female
- 3 Age: \_\_\_\_\_ years
- 4 Status: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Year of joining in the profession: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Department: \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Bar Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Address with e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 9 Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Name of the Library \_\_\_\_\_
11. Place of Practice  
High court  District court  Revenue court  Tribunal court
12. Practice Field  
Civil  Criminal  Others
13. Manner of practice  
Independent  Under a senior
14. Do you visit the library? Yes  No   
If yes, whether you visit the Library Regularly  Ocasionally
15. Purpose of visit to the library: Writing an article/ paper  writing a book   
To update knowledge  Starting a project

To browse Internet

Others (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

16. Type of information you need? Current  Retrospective

Others (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

17. Do you have a Department Library? Yes  No

18. Do you access the library from the Dept.? Yes  No

19. Type of documents you search

Text book  Periodicals  Reference

Law Report  Review  News letter

Index  Abstracts  Gazette Notification

Judgement of High court  Judgement of Supreme Court

Res. Reports  Theses/ Dissertations

Any other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

20. Do you access Internet? Yes  No

If yes, the reason for access Internet

e-book  e-journal  e-patent  e-reports

e-proceedings  e-databases

Any other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

21. Does the library provide any special services? Yes  No

If yes, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

22. Is the library providing the required document/ information? Yes  No

23. Are you satisfied with the library services? Yes  No

24. How do you rate your satisfaction? Excellent  Good

Moderate  No comment

25. Is the library automated? Yes  No

26. How do you get the internet?

Broadband  Data card  Leased Line  Any other

27. Frequency of using the internet

Daily  Occasionally  Rarely

28. How much time do you spend in the library?

- Less than 1 hour  1- 2 hours  2-3 hours  More than 3 hours
29. Are you satisfied with the number of books issued at a time Yes  No
30. How do you find the collection of the library?  
Excellent  Good  Moderate  Poor
31. Are you satisfied with the rules and regulations of the library? Yes  No
32. How helpful are the Library Staffs in finding answer to your queries?  
Always  Often  Sometime  Rarely  Never
33. Do you have computer with Internet connection at home? Yes  No
34. How did you learn to use Internet? Self  Through Courses
35. What kind of problems do you face while surfing the Net?  
Slow speed  Difficult in retrieval  Limited access   
Network  Unfamiliarity  Software   
Any other \_\_\_\_\_
36. How do you Browse information on internet?  
Using the search engine  Directly from the web address   
Subscribed data bases  Gateway  Portal   
Other methods \_\_\_\_\_
37. What is your level of satisfaction of accessing Internet resources?  
Satisfied  Highly satisfied  Dissatisfied  Highly dissatisfied
38. Suggestions for improvement of the Library \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Appendix-II

Table-1: Name of the Court, Place of sitting, local areas of jurisdiction

SCHEDULE - I

Sl No	Name of the Court	Place of Sitting	Local area of Jurisdiction
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Aizawl.	Aizawl	(i)AizawlSadar Sub –Division (ii)Sakawrdai Sub-Division (iii)Saitual Sub-Division (iv)SerchhipSadar Sub-Division (v)Thenzawl Sub-Division (vi)North Vanlaiphai Sub-Division (vii)MamitSadar Sub-Division (viii)West Phaileng Sub-Division (ix)Kawrthah Sub-Division
2	Court of Chief judicial Magistrate : Champhai	Champhai	(i)ChamphaiSadar Sub-Division (ii)Khawzawl Sub-Division (iii)Ngopa Sub-Division
3	Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate:Kolasib	Kolasib	(i)KolasibSadar Sub-Division (ii)Kawnpui Sub-Division (iii)Vairengte Sub-Division
4	Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate:Lunglei	Lunglei	(i)LungleiSadar Sub-Division (ii)Hnahthial Sub-Division (iii)Tlabung Sub-Division
5	Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate:Lawngtlai	Lawngtlai	(i) LungleiSadar Sub-Division. (ii) Chawngte Sub-Division (iii) )Sangau Sub-Division
6	Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate:Saiha	Saiha	(i)SaihaSadar Sub-Division. (ii) Tuipang Sub-Division

Table-2: Name of the Court, Place of sitting, local areas of jurisdiction

SCHEDULE-II

Sl.No	Name of the Court	Place of Sitting	Local area of Jurisdiction	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	Court of Sub-Divisional JudicialMagistrate:Aizawl.	Aizawl	AizawlSadar Sub-Division	
2	1 <sup>st</sup> Court of Judicial Magistrate1 <sup>st</sup> Class:Aizawl	Aizawl	As may be defined by the chief Judicial Magistrate, Aizawl under section 14 of the Cr PC	
3	2 <sup>nd</sup> Court of Judicial Magistrate1 <sup>st</sup> Class:Aizawl	Aizawl		
4	3 <sup>rd</sup> Court of Judicial Magistrate1 <sup>st</sup> Class:Aizawl	Aizawl		
5	4 <sup>th</sup> Court of Judicial Magistrate1 <sup>st</sup> Class:Aizawl	Aizawl		
6	Court of Judicial Magistrate 1 <sup>st</sup> Class: Sakawrdai	Sakawrdai	Sakawrdai Sub-Division	
7	Court of Judicial Magistrate 1 <sup>st</sup> Class: Saitual	Saitual	Saitual Sub-Division	
8	Court of Sub-Dvisional Judicial Magistrate : Serchhip	Serchhip	SerchhipSadar Sub-Division	
9	Court of Sub-Dvisional Judicial Magistrate : Champhai	Champhai	ChamphaiSadar Sub-Division	
10	Court of Judicial Magistrate : 1 <sup>st</sup> Class : Khawzawl	Khawzawl	As may be defined by the chief Judicial Magistrate, Champhai under section 14 of the Cr PC	
11	Court of Judicial Magistrate 1 <sup>st</sup> Class : Ngopa	Ngopa		
12	Court of Sub-Dvisional Judicial Magistrate : Mamit	Mamit	MamitSadar Sub-Division	
13	Court of Sub-Dvisional Judicial Magistrate : Kolasib	Kolasib	KolasibSadar Sub-Division	
14	Court of Judicial Magistrate 1 <sup>st</sup> Class: Kawnpui	Kawnpui	As may be defined by the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Kolasib under section 14 of the Cr PC	
15	Court of Judicial Magistrate 1 <sup>st</sup> Class: Vairengte	Vairengte		
16	Court of Sub-Dvisional Judicial Magistrate : Lunglei	Lunglei	LungleiSadar Sub-Division	
17	1 <sup>st</sup> Court of Judicial Magistrate 1 <sup>st</sup> Class: Lunglei	Lunglei	As may be defined by the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Lunglei under section 14 of the Cr PC	
18	2nd Court of Judicial Magistrate 1 <sup>st</sup> Class: Lunglei	Lunglei		
19	Court of Judicial Magistrate 1 <sup>st</sup> Class: Hnahthial	Hnahthial		
20	Court of Judicial Magistrate 1 <sup>st</sup> Class: Tlabung	Tlabung		
21	Court of Sub-Dvisional Judicial	Lawngtlai	LawngtlaiSadar Sub-Division	

	Magistrate : Lawngtlai			
22	Court of Judicial Magistrate of the First Class at Chawngte	Chawngte	As may be defined by the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Lawngtlai under section 14 of the Cr PC	
23	Court of Judicial Magistrate of the First Class at Sangau	Sangau		
24	Court of Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate ,Saiha	Saiha	SaihaSadar Sub-Division	
25	Court of Judicial Magistrate of the First Class at Saiha	Saiha	As may be defined by the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Saiha under section 14 of the Cr PC	
26	Court of Judicial Magistrate of the First Class at Saiha	Tuipang	Tuipang Sub-Division	

# **CHAPTER-1**

## **INTRODUCTION**



## **CHAPTER – 2**

# **INFORMATION NEEDS AND USAGES LEGAL PRACTITIONERS**

## **CHAPTER- 3**

# **INFORMATION RESOURCES AND SERVICES IN LEGAL STUDIES IN MIZORAM**

## **CHAPTER – 4**

### **DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS**

## **CHAPTER – 5**

### **SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION**

# **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

# **APPENDICES**

**ABSTRACT**

on

**INFORMATION USE PATTERN OF LEGAL PRACTITIONERS IN MIZORAM**

*A Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment  
of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Philosophy in  
Library and Information Science*

Submitted by

**R.Lalrinpuii**

Examination Roll No. MPLIS-M.Phil/Lib.sc/13/13

MZU Registration No. 62 of 2014

M.Phil. Registration No. MZU/M.Phil./177 of 20.05.2014

**MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY**

in

**Library and Information Science**  
(School of Economics, Management and Information Science)

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2014

## **1 Introduction**

Information is power, strength which basically functions as components of mind or character, training, instruction, teaching, communication. While, Random House Dictionary for the English Language communicates the meaning of information as a means knowledge communicated or received concerning a particular fact or circumstances, the Webster's Third New International Dictionary for the English Language conveys it as a means of communication or reception of knowledge or intelligence. Information thus, can be defined as a concept, statement, and idea or an association of concepts, statements, and ideas. Further, it also can be well defined as a message conveyed or intended to be transmitted through a systematized body of ideas. According to Shannon and Weaver (Sharma; 2007; pp.341-360), "Information is any stimulus that reduces uncertainty".

Since 1950's information relates to the concept like knowledge, a fact, data, message, signal and a stimulus. Hence, information can be known as the structure of any text which is capable of changing the image structure of recipient.

## **2 Information Use Pattern**

Information is a vital resource and has got a pragmatic value for any type of Research & Development (R&D) activities. Proper and adequate information is essential for scientific and economic progress of a nation. A scientist needs information for satisfying his/her desires for which he/she has to seek information. A scientist in the broadest sense refers to any person who is engaged in a systematic activity to acquire knowledge or an individual that is engaged in such practices and tradition that are linked to schools of thought or philosophy. In a more restricted sense, scientists refer to the individuals who use the scientific method in acquiring information and organize, analyze and implement the same in the area of his research or subject.

Information use pattern is the itinerary pursued by the individuals in the attempt to resolve a specific need. The library scientists have defined the use of information in many angles which primarily denote to behaviour. Data collected through any such behaviour relating to the field of study or research through any mode is examined by observing its occurrence or by examining its artifacts. In other words, information use is the seeking behaviour which leads to the use of information to attain individual requirements.



Need of users is imperative before creation of information and its promotion. Research and Development institution are the place where information is transformed to knowledge. Creating scientific knowledge and its use are the crucial activities of scientists. The effective utilization of the information generated in the field of science and technology due to R&D efforts has been recognized as essential for the socio-economic development and technological progress. The most important factor influencing the scientists is the type of work in which he is engaged. The scientists engaged in R&D activities need information for (i) Perception or definition of the problem, (ii) Formulating the scientific or technical solution, (iii) Placing the contents with the earlier works, (iv) Relate the work with the ongoing project, and (v) Integrate bindings into current state of knowledge in the related area. Likewise, the legal practitioner work in an information rich environment which is in constant flux with ongoing additions to statutes and other sources for legal research, resulting thereby, to keep abreast with the study and practice of law through the current published legal literature concerning to the field of research or practice. This can encompass court rulings and judgments, legislation and regulation as well as secondary materials including research. Essential information skills further is one of the vital components for the legal practitioners to locate primary and secondary materials along with the ability to evaluate and judge its value and relevance for its application.

### **3 Significance and Scope of the Study**

The significance of the present study lies with the fact that, it aims at evaluating the flexibility of these libraries in this fluid environment as well as their capabilities in developing a process to integrate these changes into standard library practice in order to meet the current and future needs of the legal professionals comprising of Magistrates, Lawyers etc. Further, rich collections in any library system redress the problems of information requirements of the users and bar council library is no exception to it. It not only facilitate the legal practitioners to quench their information thirst but also keep update with the legal information as the legal profession is essentially a rule-based discipline where the written law is the primary source. A good law library, therefore, is the lifeline of a legal practitioner as well as his indispensable workshop and this is the significance of the study. Further the study significantly contributes in developing a participatory system of library collection evaluation which is useful in mapping a modality for developing a balanced collection of legal documents, law reports, in a most cost effective way as

it has a direct influence on the curricular objectives, culture and vision of the all legal libraries. Even if the study has an impact on various legal libraries, the scope of the present study is limited to the all 8 legal libraries in Mizoram as mentioned below.

- (1) Law Firms, Mizoram
- (2) District & Session Court, Aizawl
- (3) Lok Adalat, Aizawl
- (4) MACT- Motor Accident Claim Tribunal, Aizawl
- (5) MBA-Mizoram Bar Association including Consumer Forum, Aizawl
- (6) Mizoram Law College, Aizawl
- (7) Special Court, Aizawl and
- (8) State Legal Services Authority, Aizawl

#### **4 Review of Literature**

The scholar made an extensive survey of literature available in the present area of investigation as the review of literature provides the background knowledge or works that have been done concerning the topic under study. Literature review is of prime importance for any type of social research. Literature search infect enables a scholar to know the quantum of literature unfolded in a particular subject, and the extent to which the work in the same and allied fields have already been carried. The scholar has browsed 20 number of journals both national and international, books, conference proceedings in the field of study.

The scholar after a detailed study found that, there is no study in the present area nor any substantial literature in the present area study are available causing thereby, a major gap on the information need and use pattern especially among the legal practitioners. This is due to the fact that, this stream is very special and away from the general education. Hence, the scholar has made an attempt to bridge the gap through such type of study in the state.

#### **5 Statement of Problem**

Globalization of information irrespective type of fields added substantial resources and legal profession is not an exception to it. This resulted in contributing mammoth explosion of literature on the needs and use of information which are dramatically increasing day by day. In terms of legal professions “Ignorance of law is not an excuse”. So, every individual need to orient with legal terms including certain knowledge about law. However, this is an exception to

the legal professionals as they not only need to know about the legal knowledge but also require keeping abreast with the update and threadbare information in order to take the right decision, with the right information to be produced at the right time to the right person, so that a citizen can enjoy or claim their rights as an individual. Thus, information seeking has become imminent and imperative especially for the practitioners who require keeping abreast with the ongoing changes and or amendments in the legal matters which not only extend shelter to the petitioner but also to the society as a whole.

Availability of resources in print form at Aizawl due to its strategic location has added constraints for the librarians in collection development and this has become a perennial problem for the libraries. Added to this, update information available on Internet in legal sphere also caused serious problem while accessing due to communication problems. Even if the Judicial Branch offers various electronic services, including electronic filing in civil and small claims matters, electronic short calendar markings entry and history, and online attorney registration, the legal practitioners are unable to access due to internet problems in the library. Further, non-accessibility of current information in a given field adversely affects his/her professional competencies.

## **6 Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are to,

1. Ascertain the information needs behavior and use pattern of legal practitioners covered under the study.
2. Determine the support of the eight libraries covered under study to meet the information requirements of the legal practitioners.
3. Assess the use & impact of ICT in supplementing the information with the legal practitioners.
4. Examine the initiatives of library planners, decision making authorities to reshape the library to legal information centre.

## **7 Research Methodology**

Information need and seeking behaviour requires method which elicit the user prospective rather than that of the system of the traditional methodology used in user studies which has been found inappropriate in the process of information seeking. Even if there are a total number of 250 registered legal practitioners in the Bar council of Mizoram, 150 enrolled members are engaged

in practice and hence, the total samples constitute 150. The scholar obtained the data relating to the field of the study through structured questionnaire from 120 out of a total population size of 150 practitioners constituting thereby 80% which were analyzed to draw inference. More over the scholar also adopted interview method to confirm the information stated by the legal practitioners. The data so obtained through the questionnaire were analyzed through MS-Excel to find statistical inferences.

## **8 Chapterization**

The present study has been divided into Five Chapters as follows.

While, Chapter-1 of the study deals with the introduction of information in general, the information use pattern, significance and scope of the study, review of literature, research design reflecting the statement of problem, objectives of the study, research methodology etc., Chapter 2 focuses on Information Needs and Usages of Legal practitioners & Genesis of Advocacy in India. This chapter also highlights the conceptual meaning of information, information need, identification of information need, information users, types of users, information seeking behavior, the information seeking process, factors affecting the information seeking behavior etc., Threadbare discussions on Information Resources and Services in Legal Studies in Mizoram are done in Chapter-3 including the growth and development of Bar Council of India, Indian Bar Councils Act, 1926, Bar Council of India in Mizoram. The chapter also mentions about the brief history of the Mizoram Bar Association, Mizoram State Legal Services Authority, and number of courts in Mizoram. Further while, Chapter 4 relates to Data Analysis obtained through the questionnaire and Findings, Chapter 5 reflects about Conclusion & Suggestions followed by a comprehensive list of Bibliography and Appendices.

## **9. Analysis**

The process of evaluating data using analytical and logical reasoning to examine each component of the data is known as Data Analysis. This form of analysis is just one of the many steps that must be completed while conducting a research. Data from various sources are gathered, reviewed, and then analyzed for finding. There are varieties of data analysis methods, which include data mining, text analytics, business intelligence, and data visualizations.

To evaluate the information use pattern of legal practitioners in Mizoram, structured questionnaires is prepared for collecting the required data. The following analyses are done on

the basis of the data obtained through the Questionnaires. A total number of 26 tables supported with graphs with analysis including statistical analysis have been depicted in the study.

## **10 Findings**

After due analysis of the above tables from the questionnaires, interacting with the legal practitioners as well as going through the other sources of related information for the study, the scholar has deduced the following findings,

- Analysis by respondents show that the total respondents of legal practitioners were 120. Respondents are of different categories like advocate, public prosecutor, judicial magistrate, judges practicing in different courts and teaching faculty. A total of 150 questionnaires were distributed among the legal practitioners and 120 filled in questionnaires were received which constitute 80%. This shows that the response through questionnaire is quite satisfactory.
- Out of 120 respondents, 91 (76%) respondents are Advocates and 101 (84%) of the respondents are practicing in Aizawl, 15 (13%) respondents are from Lunglei followed by 5 (4%) are from Kolasib and it is very surprising to learn that there is only one permanent advocate practicing in Lawngtlai. Most of the advocates from different districts prefer to practice in Aizawl.
- Analysis by Gender reveals that male are more interested in the legal profession.
- It is deduced from the frequency of visiting the library that the out of 120 legal practitioners 97 (81%) visit the library and 22 (18%) do not visit the library, as most of the legal practitioners have their own library and collection of materials related to their works. Most of them refer the references quickly and traced the particular needs of information.
- Regarding the information needs, the legal practitioners requires current information rather than retrospective type of information. Analysis shows that the five most common documents search are Law Report by 93 respondents, Supreme Court Judgment by 78 respondents, High Court Judgment by 76 respondents, Reference by 63 respondents, Gazette Notification by 60 respondents.
- It is found that out of 120 respondents, 106 (88%) respondents access internet and 11(9%) respondents do not access internet. That shows that the awareness of the information technology among the legal practitioners is quite satisfactory. It is very encouraging that most of the legal practitioners can cope up with the developing technology and make use of it in their field of

practice. More than 50% of the respondents are satisfied with the resources accessed from the internet and those information were mainly searched through Search Engine and Web Address.

- Slow speed and network problem are the main problems faced while surfing the internet.
- Only 29 (24%) respondents mentioned that they have started the library automation, and again out of which 25 (86%) partially done the library automation, 3 of the respondents i.e.10% reported that the library is fully automated and only one respondent mentioned that the automation of the library is under process. The analysis indicated that it is very much necessary and high time to give importance and priority on automation and up-gradation of the library to cope up with the changing environment. Though some of the respondents have mentioned that the library is fully automated but as of an eye witness to the scholar non-of the library has fully automated. It can be assumed that the respondents may not be clearly understand the meaning of automation.
- The two main reasons of accessing internet are e-journals and e-reports.
- It is found that 95% of the respondents have learnt the computer by themselves while only 1 respondent have learnt through courses and almost 60% of the respondents access to internet daily.

## **11. Suggestions**

In the given chapter the scholar is making a suggestion after due analysis of the data obtained through the questionnaire, interacting with the legal practitioners, some of the office bearers of the Mizoram Bar Association and Government officers in the field of legal authority.

- Initiative should be taken for proper set up and provide better information infrastructure including ICT infrastructure for promotion of legal libraries in Mizoram.
- Placement of qualified Librarian and supporting staff in different legal libraries is badly required to render better services to the users and for effective use of the library resources.
- Efforts should be given on User's Awareness regarding the importance and role of a library in the society so that not only the legal services will be improved, in stead, as a whole we can make our society a better society by providing the right information to the right person.
- The society we are living in is an information society, where all the economics, political, judiciary of the country depends on the information of a country. Information rich country will always perform better than the information poor country as people can be empowered

with information. In order to survive as a country and society we need to have a good information centre such as Good Library with the application of technology and it is suggested that pressure should be given to the Government to take necessary actions in providing such type of facilities to cop-up with the advance technology.

- Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) should be fully protected in collection and use of library resources.
- The Library should introduce best practices like outsourcing ,resource sharing, innovative services, PPP (Public Private Partnership) collaboration with corporate sector, facilitate and promote and encourage private collections.
- Training should be organized for the librarian for capacity building, skills and competencies.
- More research should be carried out in order to promote the library services.

## **12 Conclusion**

Advocacy is one of the oldest professions in the world, we need law because without law there cannot be order and without order there cannot be security, and without law, order and security there cannot be pursuit of happiness which is the highest goal of a human being and civilized society. Advocates are officers of the Court and naturally certain duties and responsibilities are cast upon them towards the Court and their clients. It is therefore very important for an Advocate to be presentable, particularly while at work. It is said that no Lawyer, however experienced he may be in the field of his choice, can claim to be an expert, unless he continues to learn the law as long as he is in the profession.

The information seeking behavior of legal practitioners have become IT based due to the advance technology of information. The users started searching information through internet, website and by different search engines. Due to time constrains and some other engagement the legal practitioners are friendlier with the electronic resources instead of traditional one. That is why it is very important to up-date the collection of the library resources in order to meet and fulfill the expectations of its users. The present condition of the legal libraries in Mizoram are not so satisfactory, however, the legal practitioners are able to get their information needs by accessing internet and also from other electronic materials. It is quite encouraging that in spite of the bad condition of the legal libraries that the legal practitioners are still able to perform in such away that they satisfied their clients and customers, how much more effective it will be if there is a good library.

The study investigated the information needs and use pattern of Legal practitioners in Mizoram. It was found that the respondents used a variety of information sources. Electronic resources have become the vital part of human life in the present day. It has rapidly changed the way of seeking and disseminating information. The legal profession requires a lifelong learning as there are new Acts & Rules, Cases, Judgments etc. and it will always be increasing. So, the legal practitioners need to equip themselves in order to survive, otherwise they cannot success in their fields of practice. To meet the needs of different users the library also should give emphasis on Information Technology base services. It is advisable that, in addition to the traditional system, Information Technology must be introduced in the library to keep the library more effective, user friendly and it was also found that the respondents use a variety of legal information sources for academic and research purposes. Legal textbooks, general books, and references sources were considered most important. The majority of the law faculty members prefer information in print format and English language. Most of them do their information seeking activities at home. They use computer and internet in their search for information, retrieval and email communication. Major legal professionals were not satisfied with collection sources, resources and IT facilities in their libraries. The unavailability of adequate materials, insufficient computers and internet services in the libraries caused dismay among them. As globalization has encouraged the adoption of legal research tools and its application have made the professionals more literate in pleading and arguments. The legal resources and online databases made the information more easily accessible to the law professionals. Electronic resources also contributed immensely for the professionals to keep abreast with latest and update.



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