



Information seeking behavior of women community of Manipur: a study of meira paibis (torch bearer) in Manipur.



Information searching



Collecting Information



Presented by: **Ms. Aruna Chanu Oinam,**

PhD Research scholar, Manipur University, Imphal, Manipur,
INDIA.

Guide and Co-author: **Dr. Purnima Thoidingjam,**

Professor, Library and Information Science, Manipur University, Imphal,
Manipur, INDIA



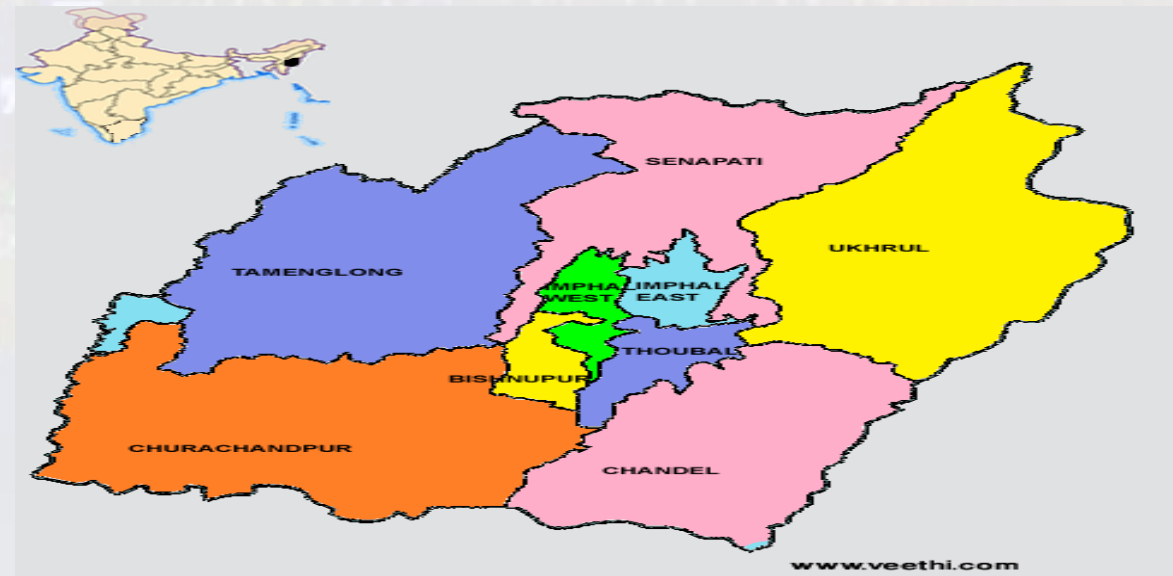
Introduction:

- Literacy is one of the indicators of education development and essential towards betterment of education.
- For centuries, women have played the secondary role to man. But the advent of science and technology has paved a way for the emancipation of women [1].
- Information is essential for every section of society. Each person needs the information to be used for applying or solving a problem.
- The community plays a vital role in the country growth. The women community organizations across the country are doing a tremendous work in terms of addressing various societal issues.



About Manipur- A land of jewels

- Manipur is situated in northeast part of INDIA. North-East India comprised of seven states, namely, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh [2].



Meira paibai

- The Meira Paibai (Also popularly known as Women torch bearers) used torch as a weapon to fight against social injustice of various forms in Manipur.
- Every woman in Manipur becomes meira Paibi during difficult situation which directly affects the communities.
- Initiatives by women play a key role in peace and security development through their participation in conflict resolution and peace building processes.



Meira paibai Conti.....

- Meira Paibai a women organization formed since pre independence in Manipur works for the welfare of people without any external support.
- In 1904 and 1939 elderly women in the age group of 50-70 years came together in forming meira Paibai group and they were also called as “IMAS” meaning mothers in Manipuri.
- Very few researchers studied the problems faced by these organization members in Manipur since their inception. It should be emphasized that these studies were not supported with follow-up course of action for their problems.
- So lack of education in various aspects has allowed their problems unresolved.



Achievements of the Women Organization in Manipur:

- Confronting the Indian Security Force (AFSPA)
- Mediating and Resolving Family issues in the society
- Reduced Anti Social Activities
- Banning of Foreign Liquor
- Save Manipur Integrity movements
- Introducing Inner Line Permit in the State
- Removal of Assam Riffle Force from Historic Place of Kangla



Why to study the community information literacy

According to Californian University Information literacy fact sheet [3] community information literacy has lot advantages as individual or community members ; they will be able to do following with their skills,

- Determine the extent of information needed
- Access the needed information effectively and efficiently
- Evaluate information and its sources critically
- Incorporate selected information into one's knowledge base
- Use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- Understand the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information, and access and use information ethically and legally.



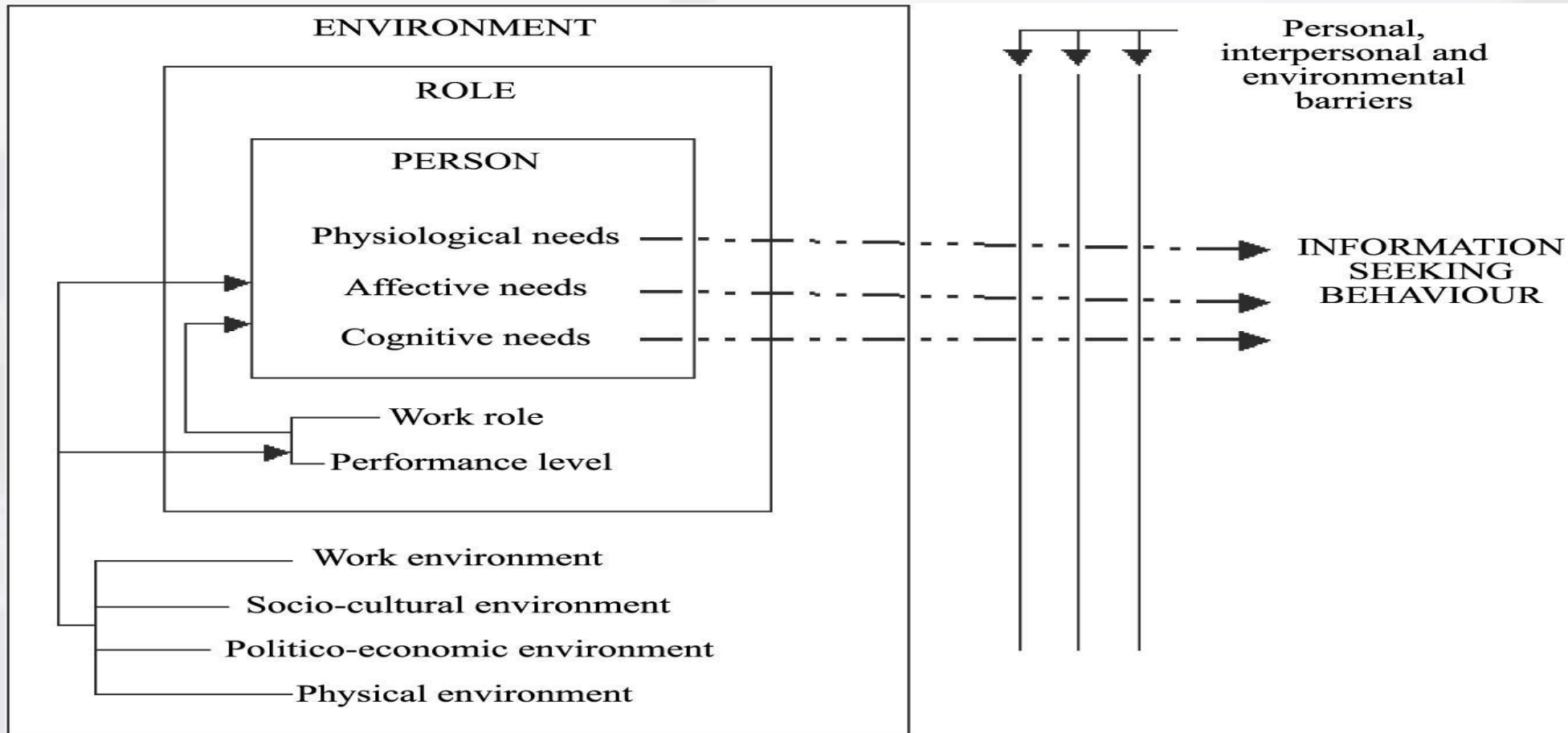
- Community people require information for various issues and community based information centers will strive their requirements in many places.
- According to Giggey [4] community is “a group of people who have something common. This can be their age, education, religion, interest, political affiliation, activities, work, possession or a combination of two or more of these”.
- This is absolutely true with regard to Meira Paibi, an organization formed with different age group of women with a common interest having no political affiliation working for betterment of society in general since 1904. Since the inception it was not clear about their information literacy skills nor anyone tried to provide them with information centers.



- Today information is basic need of life without this survival and development of human life is impossible. It has been stated that information accelerates the pace of development of society as well as the development of nation [5].
- The efficient and effective functioning of a community development system calls for the effective utilization of information resources as mandatory support to all the sphere of the life of a community.
- **No studies were conducted to know the information seeking behavior of meira Paibi even being playing major role in the development of society in Manipur.**

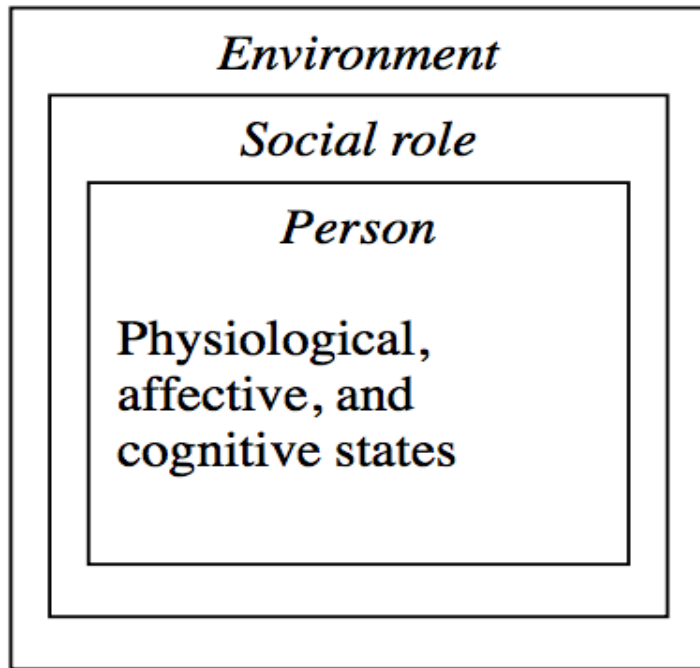


What is the importance of information seeking and needs

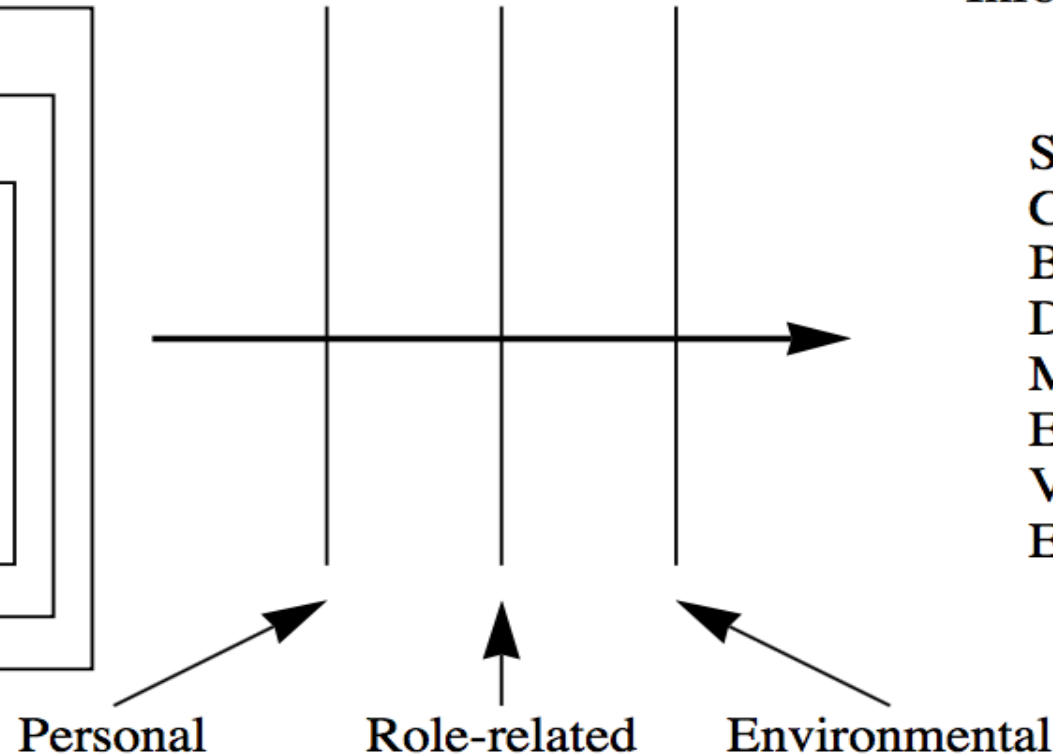


Wilson's model of information-seeking behaviour

Context of information need



Barriers



Information-seeking

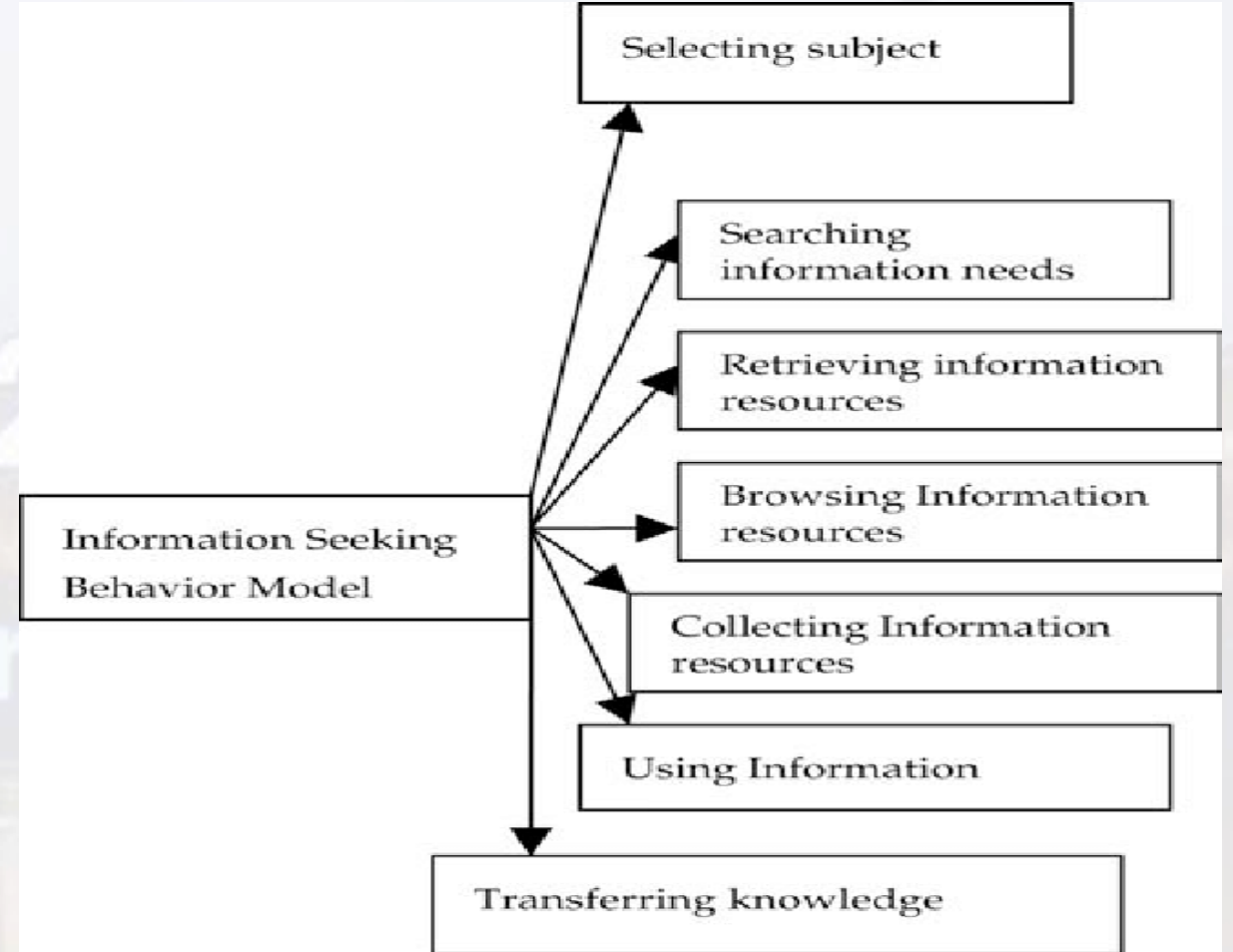
behaviour

Starting
Chaining
Browsing
Differentiating
Monitoring
Extracting
Verifying
Ending

(Ellis)



Any person need of information will follow a particular pattern to achieve this and the basis of our study is to find out how women community find their information, is the information search was correct, use of this information to solve the issues at hand and how this process helped them to create a new knowledge if any and transfer of knowledge in new generation.



Mozhdeh Slaljegheh, Zouhayr Hayati. Modelling Information-Seeking Behaviour Patterns of Iranian Medical School Academic Staff December 2009 Libri 59(4):290-307



Objectives of the present study:

- To identify the information needs of women community.
- To assess the information literacy status in Meira Paibi members.
- To elucidate the information needs of community.
- To record the existing information services in the five valley districts of Manipur.
- To propose various corrective measures if needed.
- To bring out monitoring task group to facilitate their activities in future.
- To examine the effectiveness of various government programs for the development of women community.



Hypothesis of present study:

1. Most of Meira paibai members don't have enough information literacy skills to be a good information user.
2. There will be a statistical significant difference in IL skills among different age groups.
3. Their knowledge on use of information centers will be minimal.
4. IL programs have not reached them due to failure of proper implementation.
5. They need information expert to support and educate on IL skills



Methodology:

- The study will be performed with simple random sampling.
- The study population will be from 5 valley districts of Manipur.
- The study sample included will be 400 participants with study population of 100000 (1 Lakh) and confidence level of 95% and margin of error of 5%.
- The instrument for study:
 - A. Is a standardized questionnaire using 5 point Likert scale and few questions will be open ended.
 - B. A set of interview questions and answers will be recorded.



Methodology Conti.....

- The questionnaire collects various aspects of Meira Paibi organization which includes,
 1. General information,
 2. Knowledge about information importance,
 3. Information literacy skills,
 4. Information literacy status,
 5. Personal information about Meira Paibi organization,
 6. Organization role in their view,
 7. Organization structure.



Statistical analysis:

- The data will be collected and entered into excel sheet for further analysis. The data will be analyzed using SPSS version 15 statistical software.
- The analysis included descriptive statistics, student t test and chi square test.
- A P value <0.05 will be considered as statistically significant.



Current stage of research:

- The researcher has completed the literature review, submitted synopsis to the university.
- We have prepared the questionnaire for subjects and interview questions.
- The website creation for the organization has been initiated to implement the corrective measures needed if any.
- **Due to COVID19 situation we were unable to start the field work as it involves personal meetings with study subjects.**

C  **VID-19**



Future directions and advice needed:

- The research is in infant state and we are sure there will be lot of challenges ahead.
- We hope the consortium will provide us some valuable suggestions, sharing similar experiences, inputs for improvements, identifying the limitations and other insights.
- This definitely will have major impact on our study progress.



Information Literacy is one of those meta-skills that lurk behind the ability to master any subject

David Gooblar

Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.

Kofi Annan

Quotes for our study inspiration

Literacy is the most basic currency of the knowledge economy.

Barack Obama

“Literacy is...the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realize his or her full potential.”

- Kofi Annan



- Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.
-- [Nelson Mandela](#)

- **As stated by Nelson Mandela, finally through our study we will educate the women community and make them compete to accept the changes in the world.**

Lyon, France

August 25-28, 2020



Acknowledgements:

- We thank the Manipur University and Department of Library and Information science for their support and cooperation.



References:

1. Aggarwal. (2001). Women's education in India (1995-98). V. 3. New Delhi: Concept Publishing Company.
2. Kabui, Gangumei, History of Manipur, New Delhi: National Publishing House, 1991.
3. California State University, Commission on Learning Resources and Instructional Technology, Work Group on Information Competence. Information 13 Competence in the CSU: A Report. CSUN, 1995 California State University <http://library.csun.edu/susan.curzon/factsheet.html>.
4. Giggey, S. (1988). *Rural community resources: A guide for developing countries*. MacMillan: London, 11-12.
5. Krishnapada Majumder. Community Information Services through Public Libraries and Information Centres: an experience in West Bengal, India. *Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries (QQML)* 5: 797-804, 2016.
6. Google. images



Questions

AND

your valuable feedback to Improve thesis.





Thank
You

TPDL 2020

Lyon, France

August 25-28, 2020

For the opportunity

