



Libraries and Financial Literacy Awareness

Shri. Vaijinath Mallikarjun

Librarian,

Kaviratna Kalidas First Grade College, Bidar

Corresponding Author - Shri. Vaijinath Mallikarjun

DOI - 10.5281/zenodo.21337777

Abstract:

This article deals with how the libraries help to foster the awareness of Financial literacy among people of India. Libraries are important hubs for financial literacy. They offer free access to books, e-journals, and interactive e-learning tools. This helps people of all ages understand budgeting, saving, and investing. Libraries also host expert workshops and build community programs to make money management easy to learn. Libraries stock trusted books and digital magazines. These cover basic money skills like creating a monthly budget, paying off debt, and planning for the future. Financial literacy is the knowledge and skills needed to make smart, informed money decisions. Think of it like a roadmap for your life. Just as a map helps you find the right turns on a trip, financial literacy helps you choose the best paths for earning, saving, and spending your money.

Keywords: *Financial Literacy, e-learning tools, e-journals, Money Management, Budgeting, Saving, Investing, Financial Crises etc.*

Introduction:

Financial literacy is the ability to understand and manage one's personal finances effectively. However, many people lack the necessary knowledge and skills to manage their money and make informed financial decisions. Though several challenges can interfere with a library's ability to deliver personal finance education, public libraries can be known as a primary resource for helping individuals achieve and maintain financial security and independence. Libraries are important hubs for financial literacy. They offer free access to books, e-journals, and interactive e-learning tools. This helps people of all ages understand budgeting, saving, and

investing. Libraries also host expert workshops and build community programs to make money management easy to learn.

The recent financial crises and the economic problems caused by the pandemic highlight the importance of financial literacy (FL). Libraries have an essential role in developing informational literacy and promoting access to information. In this study the authors seek to identify, based on the published literature, in which areas and in what roles libraries engage in the development of FL, and what options are available for those who intend to set out in this direction in the near future. Design/methodology/approach. Financial

literacy is the knowledge and skills you need to make smart money choices. It helps you earn, budget, save, and invest. Here is how libraries support it:

Curated Collections: Libraries stock books and magazines on Kiplinger's Personal Finance, budgeting basics, and debt management.

Digital Access: You can use library computers to access secure Digital Libraries as A Catalyst for Financial Literacy in E-Commerce to practice online banking safely.

Workshops: Libraries often invite guest speakers to teach about Bridging the Financial Literacy Gap topics like saving for college or retirement

Trusted Sources: Librarians can guide you to reliable American Library Association (ALA) resources instead of scams

Personal Finance Collections: Libraries stock trusted books and digital magazines. These cover basic money skills like creating a monthly budget, paying off debt, and planning for the future.

Interactive Tools: Many libraries offer free access to digital learning platforms like Financial Fit. These sites provide short videos and easy-to-understand lessons.

Community Workshops: Libraries team up with local banks and financial experts to offer free classes for students, adults, and seniors.

Thus, Libraries promote money skills by hosting classes, offering personal finance books, and teaching digital tools. The 2021 campaigns focused heavily on basic principles: **earning, budgeting,**

saving, and protecting assets. Libraries in India are transforming into vital financial education hubs. They partner with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE) to fight financial illiteracy. By hosting workshops and distributing free learning materials, they teach everyday money skills.

In the present digital age, digital financial literacy is likely to become an increasingly main aspect of education. Ability to understand and effectively use various financial skills, like budgeting, investing and personal financial management through online. Every library and information science professionals should know naturally that there is a handy relationship between digital literacy and information literacy. The study investigated the digital financial literacy skills among library and information science professionals in northeast India. Specifically, to investigate the awareness and support to the user community regarding financial literacy, digital payment experience, advantage and disadvantage in digital payment, safety methods, online fraud experience and a preferred device for the digital online payment transaction. Survey based research designed for this study and online questionnaire schedule was used to collect the data from 94 library and information science professionals from the selected region. The result shows that respondents organized digital finance literacy awareness programs (33%) to the library users, cent percent respondents (94) had

digital payment experience with banking cards, regarding advantages of digital payment system 100% (94) of the respondents believed that instant payment, 96% (90) respondents were stated most disadvantage of digital payment system is service fees and also found that 66% (62) respondents have received online fraud phone calls/emails/texts but carefully avoided them.

The role of digital libraries as catalysts for financial literacy in the e-commerce landscape has gained increasing importance, bridging knowledge gaps and empowering users to participate securely and responsibly in the digital economy. This paper examines how digital libraries provide accessible resources that support financial skills development, particularly in online transaction management, budgeting, and secure payment practices. Through curated content, interactive tools, and personalized learning pathways, digital libraries enhance users' understanding of fundamental financial concepts crucial for e-commerce. This accessibility is vital not only for consumers but also for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs, who rely on digital libraries for financial planning and management insights. The study further explores potential collaborative models between digital libraries and e-commerce platforms to deliver integrated financial literacy tools directly to users, fostering responsible consumer behavior. By analyzing the transformative role of digital libraries, this paper underscores their significance in

promoting financially inclusive e-commerce participation and their potential to drive sustainable economic development through enhanced financial literacy.

Public libraries play a vital role in boosting financial literacy by offering free personal finance education, inclusive programs, and scalable tools to empower communities and close the financial literacy gap.

Public libraries have always been pillars of lifelong learning. With more than 16,600 branches nationwide, public libraries offer free internet access, trusted resources, and equitable learning opportunities. For underserved populations — including immigrants, low-income families and first-generation students — the library may be the only source of unbiased personal finance education.

Financial literacy in libraries goes beyond teaching patrons how to budget. It helps families build the foundation for generational wealth, ensuring that today's knowledge creates greater opportunities for children and grandchildren. By helping patrons learn how to manage credit, pay down debt and grow savings, libraries empower communities to move from surviving to thriving.

Best Practices for Running a Financial Literacy Library Program:

Many libraries across the country are already delivering impactful financial literacy education. We've created a **best practices guide** with programming tips, but here are a few to get you started:

- Partner with local experts such as credit unions, nonprofit educators, and financial planners.
- Provide a mix of in-person events, webinars, and self-directed resources.
- Design inclusive programs that reflect varied financial experiences.
- Engage the community by aligning programs with key life events such as tax season or back-to-school.
- By adopting these strategies, libraries can position themselves as community hubs for personal finance education and empowerment.

Local Library Programmes in India:

Kerala State Library Network: The RBI partnered with the Kerala State Library Council to distribute financial education booklets to 7,300 local libraries. These books use simple stories to teach budgeting and digital safety.

NCFE E-Library: The NCFE offers free financial education books and guides on their website

National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE): A government plan to create a financially aware India. This plan encourages libraries to host adult literacy programs.

In 2022, India expanded the role of **libraries** to boost **financial literacy**. Libraries shifted from just holding books to community hubs. They began hosting digital **financial education programs**, offering regional-language resources, and preventing scams. This helped citizens learn **budgeting** and **safe digital banking**.

In 2022, India's library and financial sectors worked to boost financial literacy. The goal was to teach people about money. This helps people manage money better and avoid online scams. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) led these efforts. They created a plan called the **National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE)** for 2020–2025. This plan focused on five ideas: **Content, Capacity, Community, Communication, and Collaboration**.

1. **Content:** The RBI made free books and booklets in 13 languages. Libraries shared these materials.
 2. **Community:** Libraries acted as safe spaces where people could learn about money.
 3. **Communication:** Digital tools helped spread the word.
- Many rural areas in India do not have banks nearby. But, they often have local libraries. In 2022, public libraries were used as learning centers. They taught users how to:
1. Use digital wallets (like BHIM or UPI) safely.
 2. Spot fake messages and scams.
 3. Save money and plan for retirement.

Conclusion:

Financial illiteracy is a national challenge, but libraries can help bridge the gap. By offering trusted, inclusive financial literacy programs, public libraries empower individuals to take control of their finances and build stronger, more resilient communities. Libraries can make financial literacy education accessible to

everyone by curating varied resources, offering flexible formats like workshops and self-paced e-learning, and ensuring content is relevant to a wide range of financial realities.

References:

1. Prasad, Hanuman., Meghwal, Devendra., Dayama, Vijay. (2018). Digital Financial Literacy: A Study of households of Udaipur. The Journal of Business and Management.
2. Priyanka Agarwal, Suman Yadav & Radhika Kureel (2015). A study on financial literacy among working women in educational sector of Jhansi district: With special reference to investment avenue. International Journal of Advance Research in Science and Engineering.
3. Public Libraries and Financial Literacy Education: Challenges and Opportunities White paper | 17 September 2025
4. G. Stephen: Digital Financial Literacy Skills among Library and Information Science Professionals in Northeast India. A Study