



## LOHIT YOUTH LIBRARY NETWORK

HQ: Bamboosa Library, Tezu -792 001, Lohit District, Arunachal Pradesh  
e-mail: <lohithlibraries@gmail.com> <http://www.lohit-libraries.org> 9436 22 8613 , 8131 8183 88

### ANNUAL REPORT - 2020-21

May 1, 2021

(Covering reading promotion activities From June 2020 to Apr 2021)

*Esteemed Patrons, well-wishers, friends and book-lovers,*

The year just concluded, 2020-21, shall definitely be remembered in the history of mankind for the tragedy it had wreaked on human society. But we were also witness to outstanding sacrifices, contributions and striking innovations that showed us the path forward in a crisis: that the bold utilises the challenge and obstacles as an opportunity to do creative interventions for one's own life, as also for the well-being of others.

As was the case for everyone else, the Corona pandemic did bring severe restrictions on youth library activities and reading promotion programmes for the initial few months. But it also gave us some unexpected boons: the presence of our senior-most youth library activists with us, who had been away last 3 years in distant Tamil Nadu for their university studies. And utilising benefits of the low incidence of corona cases in our region on account of geographical factors, the youth library movement could organise several interesting programmes targetting the youth from November 2020, without in anyway sacrificing the security precautions and fully following the SOP guidelines. We could thus demonstrate that fear of Corona need not force us to stop reading, but can rather give a boost to our reading habits, without resorting to the hardships of online mode! At Roing, Dibang Youth Library held several open air contests, largely attended by students, proving that the library volunteers could come up with strategies to promote the message of joyful reading.

**A happy addition to the Library Network - Medo Youth Library:** The year saw the arrival of a major new thrust in the reading movement, with a new youth library at Medo village in Wakro circle, in the centre of a string of villages, having mini-libraries or vacation mini-libraries. This was possible due to the generous initiative of our esteemed patron Dr Sopai Tawsik, Itanagar. Medo Youth Library was inaugurated by Sri Prince Dhawan, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Lohit, on June 28, 2020.

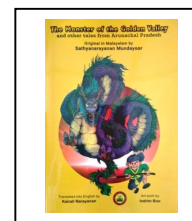
**AIR programmes by library volunteers:** Finding the radio as the most accessible medium to reach out to the youth during the Corona crisis, the senior activists could do a series of 6 Yuva Vani shows during the year on a range of themes, with the encouraging support from AIR Tezu. These well prepared radio broadcasts gave our volunteers valuable experience in radio-script writing, doing radio talks, preparing book reviews in Arunachali languages as well as public speaking, greatly boosting their self-confidence. AIR Yuva Vani has emerged as a most fulfilling activity for the library movement during the year. The Coordinator of the Library Network was also interviewed by a New York Radio, AIR Tezu, Doordarshan, Itanagar and the Club FM Radio, Thrissur, Kerala

**Newspaper articles:** Library volunteers could contribute many articles in Arunachal and national newspapers and monthlies. These have led to several persons emerging as our supporters and patrons.

**As resource-persons on reading promotion activities:** Senior activists have also emerged as effective resource-persons on reading promotion & library activities. At the invitation of Ms Ayushi Sudan, IAS., DC, Anjaw district, they conducted sessions in the Mother School Project of Anjaw district from March 28 to 30, 2021 and a Teachers' Interaction Workshop on the joy of Reading for EAC, Mahadevpur, Namsai District on on March 18, 2021.

**A new book of Arunachal folktales by Lohit Youth Libraries:** A most joyous event was the publication of the second book by Lohit Youth Libraries: an anthology of Arunachal folktales titled, “The Monster of the Golden Valley & other Tales from Arunachal” translated into English by Kairali Narayanan (from the original Malayalam book by S. Mundayoor, Coordinator of the Lohit Youth Libraries).

Its illustrator is Indrim Boo, New Delhi, also a library volunteer. The book carrying a foreword by Mamang Dai, has received warm appreciation from several distinguished personalities during the pre-publication reviews. The book is expected to be formally released in May 2021 at Itanagar.



Our first anthology “Mishmi Land Musings” edited by the renowned author Arup Kumar Dutta has also been received warmly by readers across the country.

**Free online study services at Bamboosa Library Tezu from Oct 2020:** Considering the acute hardships of rural students for steady internet facilities to attend online classes, Bamboosa library Tezu, from Oct 2020, has been offering students free access to its premises from morning 9 am- 5 pm, 7 days a week . Two students preparing for UPSC exams have also utilised the facilities during the year.

**VISITORS:** March 14, 2021 became a most memorable day in the story of youth libraries, as it marked the joyous return of our founder-patron Sri Prashant Lokhande, IAS., former DC Lohit, to Bamboosa Library, after 14 years. The volunteers were thrilled to meet Sri Lokhande and his adolescent daughter Mishmi, as they joyously went through the Visitors’ Book entry dt. May 25, 2007 to see their names recorded in it! He was accompanied by DC Lohit, Sri Marge Sora. At Roing, DC Lower Dibang Valley Sri K. N. Damo, was the Chief Guest at the World Forestry Day Celebrations at Dibang Youth Library, on March 21, 2021. Senior volunteers also had the privilege of a warm interaction session with DC Anjaw, Ms Ayushi Sudan, IAS.

**Solar lights cheer library readers!** Our libraries, which follow evening timings, have been facing the challenge of poor lighting, esp in winter. In March 2021, Dibang Youth Library and Bamboosa Library got a big boost when the District Admns, graciously provided solar street lights, lighting up their premises: thus enabling readers to effectively utilise their surroundings for reading activities. A patron from Bangalore has added another solar flood-light for to Dibang Library, bringing cheers to the readers on wintry evenings!

**LOOKING FORWARD:** As we enter the 15<sup>th</sup> year, we gratefully remember and salute our hundreds of patrons, volunteers & well-wishers who stood and marched with us, for the cause of the joy of reading. Our heartfelt thanks also to the organisations, the District Admn/s., the Govt of Arunachal Pradesh & the print & audio-visual media, for their wholehearted support to the youth library movement.

It is a happy development that a few ‘People’s Libraries’ have emerged across our state. But they can succeed and help build a Reading Arunachal, only if many more from their neighbourhoods volunteer to provide “Adult Time” for needy readers. Hence our appeal for ‘**Reading-Mentors**’ still remains relevant.

We are glad to present below the ‘Library Activities at a Glance’ of the year 2020-21. Also attached is our Joy of Reading Annual Newsletter 2020-21.

**S. Mundayoor**  
Coordinator  
For Managing Committee,  
Lohit Youth Library Network.

## Activities at a glance 2020-21

Activities	Districts covered	venues	Target audience
1. Reading campaign events	1	9 (Anjaw district)	Around 1000 students
2. Teachers' Training Programmes by Coordinator & Library team	1	Mahadevpur, Namsai district	50 teachers & Head Masters
3. Students' training by volunteers	3	9 (Roing, Tezu, Medo, Wakro)	Around 300
4. Interactions by experts & guests	3	5 sessions@ Roing, Dimwe, Tezu, Anjaw, Medo	80 volunteers
5. Book Exhibitions	3	3 venues@ Roing, Dimwe, Namsai	Around 500
6. Joy of reading Mela, Dimwe	1	1 Dimwe (Lohit dist.)	Around 300 guests
7. Literary contests for students	2	4 events (Roing, Medo, Wakro)	Around 500 students
8. Radio & TV broadcasts	12	6 AIR Yuva Vani & others	20 volunteers
9. Articles published in print media	12	Itanagar, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kottayam	6 volunteers
10. book publication	1	Arunachal folktales – "Monster of the Golden Valley" - 2020	To be released
11. Online information-sharing free services through WhatsApp & email	All over India	Topics: education, social activism, language development, inspiring achievers, new books, environment, agriculture, organic farming, forestry, culture, history etc. maintained all through the year.	shared regularly with over 100: students, teachers, activists, officers, administrators, parents & patrons.
12. services for class XII students, readers of libraries & volunteers	Arunachal & elsewhere	<b>Free online information sharing services</b> for career counselling ; admissions to various courses at colleges/universities; scholarships; & writing articles, academic guidance etc.  <b>Free Library &amp; Reading Room services@ Bamboosa Library, Tezu</b> during the Corona pandemic from Oct 2020 .	Readers in libraries & readers elsewhere