

**INFORMATION LITERACY AS A CATALYST FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND  
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL COMMUNITIES IN A GLOBALLY  
DEPRESSED ECONOMY**

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**ABSTRACT**

Information literacy (IL) enhances the people's standards of living by empowering them to make informed decisions that could play a role in socio-economic development. Deprivation of information literacy can result in being sidelined because of lack of information, being reliant on others for one's knowledge and information needs and even severe deficits in the socio-economic status. An individual requires access to meaningful information daily, as it is a fundamental aspect for problem-solving, reliable decision making and fulfillment of one's developmental needs. Often, people from rural backgrounds bear the brunt of this unpleasant situation. The rural areas lack a strong economy and effective information systems; therefore, most of the people from these regions are not information literate. This paper focuses on the argument that rural communities can be empowered by endowing them with the appropriate information literacy. People from rural backgrounds need to develop their crucial and efficient information skills so that they can actively interact with global participants in the knowledge-based economy. Keeping this aspect in mind, this paper inspects the role of information literacy in the escalation of the socio-economic status and political advancement of the rural communities in the backdrop of a globally depressed economy. In addition, this paper features the importance of information literacy in fulfilling the evolving requirements of the rural masses, ascertains some of the basic hurdles faced while delivering information literacy to the rural population and endeavors to design methods to overcome the challenges.

**KEYWORDS:** Individual Requires, Knowledge and Information, Challenges