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***Reading needs, facilities and problems of visually impaired people.* Unpublished M.Phil. thesis, University of the Punjab, Lahore, 2012. [Abstract]**

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Reading is necessary for the whole mankind, same is true for visually impaired people (VIPs) who need information to live in society and spend their life like normal people. The present study aimed to investigate reading needs, facilities and problems of visually impaired people. The sample consisted of 30 visually impaired persons from Lahore and Faisalabad. The participants were selected through snow-ball sampling. Survey method based on a structured interview schedule was used for data collection. The instrument was developed with the help of previously published literature. Face to face interviews were conducted and recorded with the help of audio MP3 recorder. Various methods of analysis were used. Descriptive statistics (i.e., frequency and percent) was applied to calculate quantitative data. For analysis of qualitative data, a thematic analysis of the contents of interviews was done. Findings of the study revealed that the visually impaired people had similar information and reading needs as normal people. The reading materials available to them were not adequate to fulfill their reading needs. They were not satisfied with the available reading facilities. There was a lack of Braille books, talking books, audio visuals aids, and assistive technologies. Reading materials were needed to be transcribed into alternative formats. The role of libraries was found significant in providing reading facilities to visually impaired people. In reading, VIPs faced the problems of communication accessibility, lack of training and lack of awareness about available reading sources. The findings of the study will be helpful in planning and development of a suitable information infrastructure for visually impaired people.