

A STUDY OF THE LIBRARY READING HABITS OF STUDENTS OF SENIOR SECONDARY SECTION IN SOME IN ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS OF MANDLESHWAR CITY

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ABSTRACT

In these times of competition reading is an effective tool to move ahead, ultimately Knowledge is power. It leads a man from ignorance to light. It is necessary that today's children should be in touch with the library. The school and the parents must collectively provide a rich environment, students should be encouraged to read continuously as a learning process to enhance and enrich their personality and their outlook. As it is well said that – "Books are men's best friends" To students the library is the place where they can find ready reference material beyond the class text books, beyond the class rooms to pursue their knowledge.

Keywords: The Library Reading Habits of students, Library Reading Habits.

INTRODUCTION

Life without reading is like a vacuum. In these times of competition reading is an effective tool to move ahead, ultimately knowledge is power. It leads a man from ignorance to light. It is necessary that today's children should be in touch with the library.

"A book is a binding note between the past and the future" Man learns to become self-reliant if he is well read well informed about his community, culture, culture race. The school and the parents must collectively provide a rich environment, student should be encouraged to read continuously as a learning process to enhance and enrich their personality and their outlook. As it is well said that –

Library plays an important role in preserving a society's cultural heritage. It ranks as a universal service institution. Library is today, houses not only books but also have a wide variety of other materials that inform, educate and entertain.

1* A library in the present circumstances serves as a centre for a wide variety of educational media.

2* Libraries form a vital part of the world system of education and information, storage and retrieval. They make available, knowledge that has been accumulated through the ages.*

Libraries include magazines, newspaper, pamphlets, discs and cassette tape recording, films and videos, photographs, computer data, maps.

To students the library is the place where they can find ready reference material beyond the class text books, beyond the class rooms to pursue their knowledge.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

"A study of library reading habits of the students of the senior secondary sections in some English medium schools of Mandelshwar."

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

As more time is spent in watching T.V. programs, students have no extra reading habits or no time-which point out the need for educational research.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To know the student's interest towards studies and extra reading habits.
2. To know what inspires the students at this age.
3. To know what type of reading interests students have.
4. To see the changes in the reading habits of the students watching T.V. and cable network daily.
5. To know the factors which help well-read students and poor readers?
6. To compare the effect on well-read students and poor readers.
7. To find out the reasons for the change in reading habits and get suggestions from parents teachers.

IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

To develop a positive approach towards life and get habituated to optimistic, mature thinking, one must read good books. The school and the parents must collectively provide a rich environment. Students should be encouraged to read more and more.

HYPOTHESIS

For statistical reason the null hypothesis is used, as it is easier to reject a null hypothesis than to retain a research hypothesis one which states what the researcher expects to find.

Review of the Past Researchers

Topic-1

The reading habits if the students have been studied both at M.Ed and Ph.D level.

A study on the effect invasion of satellite T.V. on the reading habits of the students of Std. VIII in some English medium schools of Indore city.

Name : Alka Pathak

Palace and college : Indore, Indore Mahavidalaya College.

Topic -2

A study of the reading interests and intelligence with relation to their social status and educational achievement of students of Std. VII to X in some schools of Indore city.

Name : Varsha Johareya

Palace : Indore

Year and college : D.A.V.V. Indore, Ph.D., 1982

Topic -3

To study the reading habits of the students of the students of F.Y.B. Com, Christian college of D.A.V.V. Indore

Name : Shivam Yadav

Palace and year : D.A.V.V. 1986

Selection of Sample

The researcher has selected the multistage stratified cluster sampling technique select the sample for the study due to the nature of population.

Method of Research

For the purpose of studying the present problem the researcher has selected the “Survey Method” as the appropriate method of study.

Collection of Data

The researcher can use more than one type of tool for this purpose. In the present case, a questionnaire and opinionnaire were used as main tools for collecting data.

Method of Analysis

In the following research 225 students from six different schools were taken as sample from which 200 questionnaires were found to be complete and therefore selected for further study.

INTERPRETATION OF DATA – CONCLUSIONS MADE

Table 1.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1	Male	95	0.48%
2	Female	105	0.52%

1. Out of the random samples collected for data analysis 48% of the students were boys and 52% of the students were girls.

Table 2.

	<i>Working women</i>		<i>Housewife</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	
Girls	30	29%	75	71%	105
Boys	35	33%	60	67%	95

2. Among the girls 29% of them had working mothers, 71% of them were housewife's. In the case of boys 33% of them were working and the remaining 67% were housewife's. The status of the mother did have an impact on the reading habits of the students.

Table 3.

	<i>Businessmen</i>		<i>Government Employee</i>		<i>Private Employee</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	
Girls	35	35%	30	29%	40	38%	105
Boys	63	63%	25	26%	10	11%	95

3. *The status of the father* whether they were businessman (33%) or government employees (29%) or they worked in private concerns (38%) in the case of boys it was found to be ineffective. Similarly, in the case of the girls the father's being business 63% government employees, 26% or private employees *showed little difference*.

Table 4.

	<i>Schedule caste</i>	<i>Schedule Tribe</i>	<i>Others</i>	<i>Total</i>
Girls	10	5	90	105
Boys	15	5	75	95

4. *If the case was studied in the light of the castes* to which the students belonged, whether SC, ST or the other *there was not any remarkable variation in the reading habits even if the caste differed*.

Table 5.

	<i>Sports</i>		<i>Music</i>		<i>Drawing</i>		<i>Dance</i>		<i>T.V.</i>		<i>Extra Reading</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	
Girls	20	19%	28	27%	8	7%	22	21%	17	16%	10	10%	105
Boys	23	24%	22	23%	12	13%	7	7%	18	19%	13	14%	95

5. Having classified students into different categories depending upon their hobbies it was found that girls preferred listening to music 27% then pursuing their extra reading habits 10%.
6. Boys were found to be more interested in sports activities 24% than in extra reading 14%, some of the boys also showed interest in music.

Table 6.

	<i>Working days</i>		<i>Holidays</i>		<i>Leisure Time</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	
Girls	8	27%	47	144%	55	189%	105
Boys	4	15%	37	140%	54	205%	95

7. A pie chart was drawn to show that girls pursue their hobbies mostly (189⁰) during their leisure time, (144⁰) during holidays and (27⁰) found time even during working days.
8. In the case of boys majority (205⁰) enjoyed pursuing hobbies in their leisure time, while (140⁰) were absorbed on holidays and about (15⁰) on working days.

Table 7.

	<i>To rush to the playground</i>		<i>To take rest in the class</i>		<i>To Gossip with friends</i>		<i>To visit the school library</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	
Girls	5	5%	16	15%	44	42%	40	38%	105
Boys	46	48%	6	6%	14	15%	29	31%	95

9. A comparative chart showing the activities of student in the leisure time at school show that majority 42% of the girls like to gossip with friends while 38% visit the school library. In case of boys 48% rush to the playground and 31% visits the school library.

Table 8.

	<i>To Read Magic Books</i>		<i>To Read comic Books</i>		<i>To Read Story Books</i>		<i>To Read Epics</i>		<i>To Read Book of Jokes</i>		<i>To Read Magazines</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	
Girls	4	14%	18	62%	43	147%	27	92%	7	24%	6	21%	105
Boys	7	27%	20	76%	12	145%	10	38%	25	95%	21	79%	95

10. The choice of reading habits in the library also shows wide differences. In the case of girls 147⁰ preferred reading story books whereas boys showed about 95⁰ keen interests in reading jokes, boys 76% also showed interest in reading comic stories.

Table 9.

	<i>About film or T.V.</i>	<i>About other Friends</i>	<i>About Books</i>	<i>Total</i>
Girls	47	33	25	105
Boys	30	23	42	95

11. Due to the impact of T.V. and other scientific inventions, girls (161⁰) find it convenient to discuss about films or T.V. on the other hand boys (1590) liked discussing about books.

Table 10.

	<i>Herry porter</i>		<i>Marchant of venice</i>		<i>Nasruddin</i>		<i>Adventure of Robinson Crusoe</i>		<i>Arabian Nights</i>		<i>A Tail of Two cities</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	
Girls	45	43	13	12	10	10	20	19	12	30	5	5	105

12. When a list of story books was put before the sample group Arabian nights were read by 10% girls and 10% boys, Harry Porter was read by 45% girls and 40% boys. The

play Merchant of Venice was read by 13% girls and 10% boys. The book titled Nasruddin was more commonly read by boys 10% whereas the girls were 14%.

Table 11.

	<i>John Milton</i>		<i>M.K. Gandhi</i>		<i>Shakespeare</i>		<i>Enid Blyton</i>		<i>Mills & Booms</i>		<i>Kalidas</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	
Girls	29	27	4	4	27	26	2	1	42	40	1	1	105
Boys	8	8	3	3	36	36	37	39	8	2	3	3	95

13. Among the authors which are favorite for girls 27% have read John Milton, 40% have read Mills and Booms, 26% read Shakespeare, 1% have read Enid Blyton, 4% M.K. Gandhi, and 1% have read Kalidas whereas boys showed more inclination towards Enid Blyton (39%) and Shakespeare (36%).

Table 12.

	<i>Readers Digest</i>		<i>Film Fare</i>		<i>Other Magazines</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	
Girls	41	140	32	110	32	110	105
Boys	27	102	28	106	40	152	95

14. A table showing magazines popularly read indicates that among girls (140⁰) Readers Digest was popular. Among boys other magazines (152⁰) was common.

Table 13.

	<i>The Times of India</i>		<i>Indian Express</i>		<i>Dainik Bhaskar</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	
Girls	38	180	52	178	15	52	105
Boys	30	133	35	133	30	113	95

15. To find out the popularity of newspapers three standard dailies were selected. 178⁰ girls read Indian Express, 133⁰ boys also preferred Indian Express.

Table 14.

	<i>Historical Characters</i>		<i>Comical Characters</i>		<i>Serial Stories</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	
Girls	37	35	21	20	47	45	105
Boys	30	32	45	47	20	21	95

16. Just for information, comparative study was made on characters based on books seen on the T.V. screen. The characters from serial stories among girls 45% were memorable whereas the boys 47% enjoyed watching comical characters.

Table 16.

	<i>Chacha choudhari</i>		<i>Reader's Digest</i>		<i>Science Magazines</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Degree</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Degree</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Degree</i>	
Girls	45	155	38	130	22	75	105
Boys	39	148	26	98	30	114	95

17. A table showing books read in the school library shows that both girls 155⁰ and boys 148⁰ were fond of reading light magazines like chacha chaudhari.

Table 17.

	<i>Short story Books</i>		<i>Books of inspiration</i>		<i>Books with Pictures</i>		<i>General Knowledge</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	
Girls	43	41	36	34	12	12	14	13	105
Boys	31	22	12	13	22	23	40	42	95

18. If given choice on reading books depending upon particular features girls 41% liked story books whereas boys preferred general knowledge books. Books of Inspiration were liked by 34% girls but only 13% boys.

Table 18.

	<i>No Home work</i>		<i>To kill Time</i>		<i>To Read stories</i>		<i>To Prepare Lesson</i>		<i>Comfortable chairs</i>		<i>T.V. disturbs at Home</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	
Girls	25	86	18	62	20	69	13	45	16	20	23	78	105
Boys	3	121	6	23	18	68	15	57	11	42	13	49	95

19. The researcher with the aim of wishing to find out, why children visited the library gave several suggestions. The girls 86 said that library reading was preferred because no home work was given. The boys 121 also enjoyed reading because no homework was given. The girls 47% visited the library to prepare lessons. The boys 49% and girls 78% complained that T.V. disturbs at home that is why library is a preferred place.

Table 15.

	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Boys</i>
Headlines	17	7
Political	13	9
International	20	18
Sports	6	34
Business	9	16
Special supplement	40	13

20. The newspaper was a common reading material found in every home. The girls 38% found the special supplement interesting. Girls 6% showed less interest in sport and business fields. The boys 38% showed more liking for the sports column and only 7% like to devour the headlines. Boys 14% showed interest in special supplements.

Table 19.

	<i>Hari Prasad Chaurasia</i>	<i>L.K. Advani</i>	<i>Sachin Tendulkar</i>	<i>Sania Mirza</i>
Girls	7	38	40	20
Boys	10	30	30	30

21. In order to test knowledge, famous personalities well known in their own fields were introduced, 20% girls said Sanya Mirza was well read. L.K. Advani was found to be a popular figure both among boys 35% and girls 38% Hari Prasad Chourasia a popular Bansuri player was known among 7% girls and 11% boys.
22. Collecting data from teachers of different schools it was found that school libraries remained open both in the recess and during the entire day.
23. In general teachers 53% said that less than 10, 34% teachers felt that more than 10 and 13% felt that less than half the class approach them to get extra information after class.
24. To find out the method of giving information about new books 48% were informed from the bulletin board. Teacher 22% said that information was given with the help of announcements during prayers. 30% of the teachers felt that students found out about the new arrival of books out of their own interest.
25. The teachers 65% judged descriptive answers which were self made from reference book, best teachers 25% felt that textual answers were better. Only 10% liked to read digest answers.
26. In order to improve the reading habits 60% teachers also suggested that they should be encouraged more to home. 40% of the teachers felt that they must have at least two library periods every week in the school.
27. For revision purpose many of the teachers 80% felt that besides reading text books and question answers students should read extra books on similar topics.

28. An opinionnaire was circulated among the parents and it was found that 58% parents are regular subscribers of Times of India, 42% parents get the Indian Express daily at home.
29. Maximum 78% method reported that English news papers were more popular than 22% Hindi newspapers.
30. Revealing the reading habits developed at home 44% parents said that their children read the newspaper daily, 37% parents said students read the newspapers sometimes. Only 19% parents admitted that their sons never read the paper.
31. Parents 48% often liked to discuss the headlines, 12% discussed the sport column, 40% parents discussed T.V. programmes.
32. During a journey by train, parents would like to encourage the reading habits of children by providing magazines, story books or general knowledge books.
33. In comparison of time spent watching T.V. 54% spend time watching T.V., 22% spent time playing games, only 24% spent time in reading.
34. Only 30% students felt that each child spends sufficient time in reading 55% parents agreed that their children spend less time in reading whereas 15% parents opined that their children spent more time in reading.
35. Suggestions were made to improve the reading habits of children:
 - a. 40% parents felt that the family should provide chances.
 - b. 16% parents express that elders should inspire them.
 - c. 12% felt that guardian himself should be a good reader.
 - d. 14% felt that the school should provide chances.
 - e. 18% parents suggested review system of book should be-followed for the senior students.

VERIFICATION OF HYPOTHESIS

The hypothesis was—There is no significant difference in the library reading habits of students of senior secondary section particularly in English medium school of Mandleshwar.

The information was then tabulated to make graphs, conclusion were arrived interpreting the data.

1. The main conclusion arrived at is with the change in times there is decrease in the extra reading habits of students at senior secondary levels.
2. Students are satisfied with the school textbooks and digests. They take little or no interest in reading other books having similar contents.
3. The researcher found that students visiting the library are decreasing in number day by day.
4. Parents always encouraged promoting and increasing the reading habits of students.
5. Students enjoying watching T.V., or operating computer to reading.
6. Students have little time for extra reading as compared to other activities like sports, music, drawing and watching T.V.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS RESEARCH

- 1 The conclusion shows that firm steps can be taken both at school and home to improve the reading habits of students.
- 2 Not only parents, but the school teachers, librarian can help and encourage students to read good books to increase their knowledge.
- 3 Good reading material can be provided both at home, during journeys and at school according to their age, considering their likes and dislikes to make them more interested in reading.
- 4 Educated parents should try to inculcate values in their children by reading, good story books, moral stories to help them develop good reasoning power and at the same time keep them abreast with the latest information.
5. Students enjoying watching T.V., or operating computer to reading.
6. Students have little time for extra reading as compared to other activities like sports, music, drawing and watching T.V.

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