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Reading Habits of Chemistry Students of Savitribai Phule Pune University

Mahesh B. Dushing

Librarian
Kamala Education Society's
Pratibha College of Education
Chinchwad Pune-19.
ORCID- orcid.org/0009-0004-3716-7821

Abstract:
The purpose of the study is to find out reading habits of particularly chemistry post graduate students in Savitribai Phule University. A survey method was used for the present study. Questionnaires were distributed for 90 students. It was found that 96.90 % of students prefer the English language for reading. Whereas 65.60% percent of students read subject related books. And all students face a lack of time for reading. The paper suggests that to increase reading habits among chemistry students, libraries should provide books other than educational books. There should be a separate period for reading in the time table.

Keywords: Keywords: Reading Habit, Reading, Chemistry post graduates, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Language for Reading.

INTRODUCTION

Reading is a vital phenomenon. Reading makes us smart. Reading shapes human life. "Reading is thinking within the text, about the text, beyond the text." **(Fountas & Pinnell, 2006).** Reading is an essential aspect of human life. Robinson Dick correctly said, "You are what you read". Reading is vast. At present the proverb says 'Today's Readers are tomorrow's Leader' Reading is considered necessary for the overall improvement of a human being. A large amount of reading is necessary for the purpose of education, for the improvement of general knowledge and also for recreation. Reading habits establish the academic successes of students to an enormous scope. Both reading and academic success are consistent and dependent relative to each other **(Bashir &Mattoo, 2012).**

NEED OF THE STUDY:

The need of the present study is to find out Reading habits of particularly chemistry students in the Savitribai Phule Pune University. "Students need enormous qualities of successful reading to become independent proficient readers" (Atwell, 2007; Worth & Roser, 2010; Gallghar, 2009; Kittle, 2013; Miller, 2009). As science students are having busy schedules of lectures and practical's, they get less time for other activities. Thus, to know how science students manage and spend the time on reading is an important step of present study. Decrease of reading among the students is one of the big problems in today's era.

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STATEMENT OF PROBLEMS:

The problem is most of the students contributes to their poor performance in tests and examinations is due to lack of proper reading habits. For an excellent performance, there is the need for the student to form good reading and study habits. At present, due to the influence of the mass media, people do not show much interest in reading books; magazines and journals, among others (Palani, 2012). Even the cankerworm of examination malpractices may be traceable to the prevalent poor reading interests and habits among the wide spectrum of students.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

The present study is confined to chemistry 1st year M.Sc. Students. The Second Year Students, research Scholars, faculties and non-teaching staff of the department have been excluded from the study. Post graduate students of the chemistry department were the targeted population of the study. The survey method was employed and a structured questionnaire tool was used to collect data supplemented with the interview.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Structured online questionnaire was developed to know the reading habits of science students and the same was administered to students as shown below: -

Table No. 1: Questionnaire Administration Table

Questionnaire Administered	Responses	Responses in Percentage
Received	64	71.11%
Not Received	26	28.88%
Total	90	100%

From the above table no. 1. It can be analysed that a total of 90 questionnaires were distributed to a population that consisted of 90 students, out of 90 questionnaires 64 were received consisting of 35 male respondents and 29 female respondents. The response rate is 71.11%.

FREQUENCY OF READING

Frequency of reading states how much time and how many times students read to fulfil and develop their reading habit. It denotes how habitual students are. Reading frequency differs from person to person.

Table No. 2 Frequency of Reading

Frequency	Responses	Responses in Percentage
Everyday	39	61%
Sometimes	21	33%
Rarely	2	3%

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Not clear	**2**	**3%**

From the above Table No. 2, it can be interpreted that 39(61%) students read every day. while 21(33%) students read sometimes. Whereas 2(3%) students read rarely and the same are not clear. It is clear that 39(61%) students read every day. 39 students out of 64 is a big ratio and a good percentage. It means 39(61%) students have good reading habits. 21(33%) students read sometimes here, we have to develop reading habits among students. Rarely and Not clear ratio is the same i.e. 2(3%).

PREFERRED LANGUAGE FOR READING:

We all have at least one language that we understand and communicate best in, although some of us may have more! People use different labels for this language like "mother tongue" or "home language" but it is the language we learnt first. It's the language we think and feel in, the one in which it is easiest for us to express ourselves and communicate with others. Understanding is at the heart of reading; students need to read in their home language. They can then concentrate completely on the flow of the story instead of struggling to understand a language they don't know well yet. Language preferred for reading is differ person to person. Reading in home language is really an essential and powerful part of learning language and developing reading habits.

Table No. 3 Preferred language for reading

Language preferred	Responses	Responses in Percentage
English	**62**	**96.90%**
Hindi	**48**	**75%**
Marathi	**25**	**39.10%**
Other	**1**	**1.60%**

From the above Table No. 3 it can be interpreted that 62(96.90%) students preferred the English language to read. While 48(75.00%) students prefer the Marathi language to read. whereas 25(39.10%) students read in Hindi language and 1(1.60%) students use other languages to read. It is clear that 62(96.90%) means almost all students are using the English language because they are science students who like to read in English. 48(75.00%) students use Marathi language, they may be from rural backgrounds. Another 25(39.10%) use Hindi language to read and 1 (1.60%) use other languages. This data shows that the most preferred language among chemistry students in Savitribai Phule Pune University is English. It approves the hypothesis no. 1, i.e. **"For reading, English is the most preferred language by science students."**

DISCUSSION:

University teachers and librarians must sensitize students about the importance of reading and cultivate reading skills in the students to increase their reading habit. Study indicates that students mostly rely on books. Librarians must orient students more than once for the library's collection and holdings and must try to clear differences between library portal, Bibliography, OPAC and databases subscribed by the

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library to find required books for reading. There is a scope for Activities that may be organized for the purpose of promoting books advised by students

CONCLUSION:

Reading is a precious tool for everyone. Reading is the most important process of acquiring information, knowledge, experience and learning. Reading habits are the most important happenings in the development of learning. In the progress of human culture, it has been specified that better consequence and attractiveness is one of the most important aspects of the operation of human beings. The library is a knowledge centre and the library professionals should encourage the students to utilize the library sources. The Jaykar library professionals should encourage the reading habits of the chemistry students in S.P.P.U. and support them to read. Reading includes the person's contribution to the growth literate society. Thus, reading habit outlines good qualities, information, exact ideas and attitude change. Hence students who are concerned with reading habits to build a knowledgeable society in our country and reading habits can change the developed country. By the end, it could be stated that there is a strong need for the development of reading habits among chemistry students and library professionals should lead this development.

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