



A study on reading habits of higher secondary school students

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Abstract

Reading is an essential tool for learning exchange and the habit of reading in a person is an academic activity that builds abilities in reading methodologies. Through reading, information can be obtained through reading printed and non-printed type of materials. For instance, books, magazines, electronic journals etc. Walia & Sinha (2014) assert that reading is regarded as a process, a mode of thinking and a kind of real experience, and it involves many complex skills: the ability to perceive printed words, to skim for information and then perhaps to read intensively. According to Kutay (2014), reading improves the thinking ability by giving new concepts and ideas and enhances vocabulary and language which is essential in verbal communication. A child should be taught how to read at a young age because at the early stages of life is a pinnacle point in developing habits. If instilled at such an early age and nurtured properly as the child grows, they are more likely to retain and further improve their habit of reading. It is proven from one of the articles that reading habits improves students' academic performance. Perhaps, if they lack in reading habits in their daily life, they might not excel in their academic performance and might not get good grades in school. In conclusion, reading is an essential part of everyday life. Without reading, information and knowledge from long ago would not have been passed on accurately as it is today. Civilizations developed on the knowledge passed down from generations all through the simple act of reading. As such it is important for our generation and the coming generations to maintain an eager mind and thirst for knowledge; for it cannot be attained without reading.

Keywords: reading habits, school students, higher secondary schools

Introduction

Reading is an essential tool for learning exchange and the habit of reading in a person is an academic activity that builds abilities in reading methodologies. Through reading, information can be obtained through reading printed and non-printed type of materials. For instance, books, magazines, electronic journals etc. Walia & Sinha (2014) ^[7] assert that reading is regarded as a process, a mode of thinking and a kind of real experience, and it involves many complex skills: the ability to perceive printed words, to skim for information and then perhaps to read intensively. According to Kutay (2014) ^[5], reading improves the thinking ability by giving new concepts and ideas and enhances vocabulary and language which is essential in verbal communication. Meanwhile, reading and academic achievement are essential for research workers and educationists to know that every child whether he or she is gifted, average, normal or backward etc, should be educated in his or her own way but if he or she possesses good study habits, he or she can perform well in academics and in every situation (Owusu-Acheaw & Larson, 2014) ^[6]. To fulfill numerous types of knowledge process, it is crucial to start reading at an early age to seek knowledge more effectually. Wan Dollah *et al.* (2017) ^[3] specified that reading habits play important role in enhancing students' academic performance in schools. In order to achieve successful academic performance among students, parents must give more attention to monitor their children's education progress at home. It is the reading habits that helped students in getting meaningful and desirable knowledge.

Reading habits are what it needs to create a literate society. Owusu-Acheaw & Larson (2014) ^[6] study found that reading habits determine the academic achievements of students to a great extent. Both reading and academic achievements are interrelated and dependent on each other. Students often come from different environments and localities with different levels of academic achievement. Therefore, they differ in the pattern of reading habits.

Statement of the problem

"A study on Reading habits of higher secondary school students"

Objectives of the study

The following objective was formed to get answers raised in the statement of the study.

- To study the reading habits of higher secondary school students in terms of place of the reading, position used while reading, hours of reading, repetition of content, extra reading habits, references used for reading, use of library and motivation from parents.

Methodology

The present study was conducted using survey method.

Population

All the higher secondary school students of Gandevi Taluka of Navsari District constituted population for the present study.

Sampling

The stratified random sampling method was used. The sample for the present study includes 477 students of the Ambika high school, Desai k sarvajanic high school, H D S M high school, Aspi kanya vidyalaya and Sir C J new high school of Gandevi Taluka of Navsari District.

Tools

1. Questionnaire for students

The questionnaire was prepared on the topic such as the place of the reading, position used while reading, hours of reading, repetition of content, extra reading habits, references used for reading, use of library and motivation from parents.

Data collection

Data was collected from five higher secondary school of Gandevi taluka personally. The prior permission was taken from the school principal personally and on pre decided time questionnaire was implemented on students.

Data Analysis

For the data analysis of questionnaire for close ended questions percentage was calculated and for open ended questions logical inductive method was used.

Major findings of the study

With regard to the reading habits of the students 99.37% of students had told that they like the reading. Out of the total, 62.68% of students like the reading in library while 95.60% of students like to read in their school classroom. With regard to the way of their reading 71.07% prefer to read silently, 83.44% students use table and chair for reading and 63.52% students like reading when sitting on the ground while 83.65% does not like reading by sleeping position, 84.70% students does not like reading with walking, 72.54% of students does not like reading in school ground. The most of the students (97.06%) like the reading in the room having quiet environment. With regard to the reading while watching television, 89.52% students do not like the both activities together. The students told that 77.99% of them get enough time to read in school and 94.97% of students get enough time for reading at the home. The students also told that 88.89% of them do the revision after reading. With regard to the revision done after reading, 87.21% students do revision by writing and 78.62% students do revision orally. With regard to the library, 92.20% students use school library for reading and 86.36% students like to read in the library. The students revealed that 63.73% of them like extra reading and 92.20% students use school library for extra reading. The most of the students (98.58%) had revealed that exam motivate them for reading and all the students had told that parents motivate them for reading.

Conclusion

A child should be taught how to read at a young age because at the early stages of life is a pinnacle point in developing habits. If instilled at such an early age and nurtured properly as the child grows, they are more likely to retain and further improve their habit of reading. It is proven from one of the articles that reading habits improves students' academic performance. Perhaps, if they lack in reading habits in their daily life, they might not excel in their academic performance and might not get good grades in school. In

conclusion, reading is an essential part of everyday life. Without reading, information and knowledge from long ago would not have been passed on accurately as it is today. Civilizations developed on the knowledge passed down from generations all through the simple act of reading. As such it is important for our generation and the coming generations to maintain an eager mind and thirst for knowledge; for it cannot be attained without reading.

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