

NEWSPAPER READING HABITS AMONG THE STUDENTS OF THIAGARAJAR COLLEGE OF PRECEPTORS, MADURAI: A STUDY

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Abstract

Reading is the mental action (or) process of acquiring knowledge and understanding thought, experience and the senses. It is a form of language processing refers to the way humans use words to communicate ideas and feelings. In otherwise reading is a means of language acquisition, communication and sharing information and ideas. The reading process requires continuous practice, development, and refinement. Reading requires creativity and critical analysis. This paper discusses about the newspaper reading habits among the Thiagarajar College of Preceptors student teachers in Madurai

Keywords: *Reading Habits, User Study, Student Teacher, Thiagarajar College of preceptors*

Introduction

Reading is the art of learning something. Effective reading is the result of acquisition of set of skills and habit. According to Oxford English Dictionary "Reading means the action of pursuing written or printed matter (OED, 2003, P, 1201)¹. Meaning of the "Habit" is given by the same dictionary as "a selected deposition or tendency to act in a certain way" (OED, 2003 P.631). Newspaper is the store house of knowledge and provides knowledge of different kinds of segments of the society. Libraries play a vital role in the development of education and disseminating facts and ideas in the community. Libraries are regarded as means of universal and perpetual self-education by an individual. Reading habit provide some important criteria of maintaining concentration, improving speed, managing vocabulary, selecting what to focus on in texts, understanding new, theoretical or detailed information, identifying main points and arguments evaluating evidence, identifying similarities and differences between texts reading texts that assume background knowledge and experience Reading different types of text case studies, reports, literature reviews etc.²

Thiagarajar College of Preceptors - Profile

Thiagarajar College of Preceptors, Madurai is affiliated to the Tamilnadu Teachers Education University, Chennai for the B.Ed., degree course. The sanctioned strength at present is 100 in aided section and 100 as additional intake in self-financing section. **Thiru. Karumuttu Thiagarajar chettiar** is the founder of the college and run by **Manickavasagam charitable foundation**. It is situated in the eastern part of Madurai and on the western side of Mariamman Teppakkulam. Inter-related activities

are facilitated with the proximity of Thiagarajar Model Higher Secondary School, Thiagarajar Arts College, Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar Girl's Higher Secondary School and Sourashtra Girl's Higher Secondary School are the other Educational Institutions situated in the neighbour hood. The college was declared open on 29th June 1956. The college is recognized by NCTE, UGC and re accredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC 2012 and it is an ISO quality management system 9001:2015 certified institution. Thiagarajar College of Preceptors has the vision of generating preceptors with cognition, values and skills towards nation building.³

Review of Literature

Murugan K. (2015)⁴ evaluated a study on reading habits in VOC College of Engineering Anna University Thoothukudi Campus Library users. Most of the respondents are time spent for reading habits in engineering students in 85 (51.20%) up to 1 hour, 65(39.16%) of the engineering students reported that they are using library to get the up to date information, 41(24.70%) are using the Text books and 41 (24.70%) use printing materials.

Tewari P (2015)⁵ investigated a study on the habits of online newspaper readers in India and conducted online survey among 3,183 online news consumers of India. The aim of the survey was to know the reading habits of online readers. More than half of the respondents (62.6%) have the subscription of online newspapers as 71% respondents reported that they will not subscribe paid online news. As many as 56% respondents share the news with others, 67.7% say they don't write comments and 58% respondents like the 24x7 news updates. The Times of India is the most readable (43.5%) online news source among the respondents followed by Social Media (41%).

Ameyaw, S. K, and Anto, S. K. (2018)⁶ examined reading habit among students and its effect on academic performance: using Eastbank Senior High School in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. This study revealed that 45.19% of the respondents recognized the importance of reading in their studies and indicated that reading helps them to broaden their knowledge. The majority of the respondents admitted that they spent 2-3 (47.12%) hours on reading than any other activities.

Methodology

The data was collected using the questionnaire method. The questionnaire was created on the Google Forms, a link of questionnaire posted on social media and mailed to student teachers. A total of 130 questionnaires were distributed among Google form document to the students and 84 filled in questionnaire were obtained from the respondents. Sufficient time has given to the respondents to furnish the information. The collected data through questionnaire was analyzed with simple percentage and average.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the present study are to find out the following:

- To know the gender wise using reading habits among students
- To identify that the Frequency of visit to library
- To investigate that time spent by the students in reading newspapers
- To know the preference of language in reading news papers
- To assess the purpose of using newspapers in reading Habits
- To study that using various types of newspapers among student and
- To find out the reason for reading newspapers preference of students.

Analysis of Data

Table 1: Distribution of Gender Wise Respondents

S. No	Gender	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	17	20
2	Female	67	80
Total		84	100

Table 1 reveals that the distribution of gender wise respondents. Out of 84 respondents top most level are female 67 (80 %) and 17 respondents are male (17%).

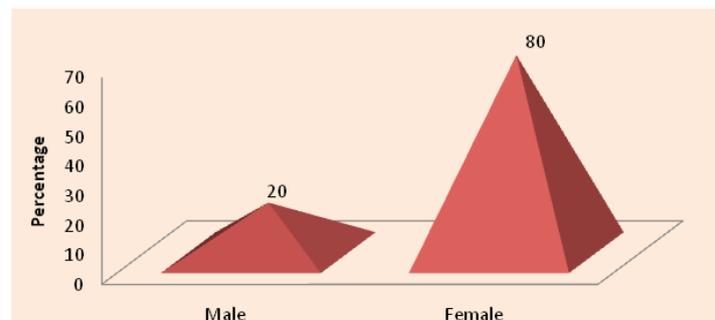


Fig 1: Distribution of Gender Wise Respondents

Table 2: Distribution of Frequency of visit to Library

S. No	Frequency of visit	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Daily	42	50
2	Weekly	21	25
3	Fortnightly	13	15.48
4	Once in a Month	6	7.14
5	Rarely	2	2.38
Total		84	100

The Table 2 shows that distribution of frequency of visit the library, majority of respondents 42 (50%) using library daily, followed by 21 respondents (25%) visiting library weekly and only 2 respondents (2.38%) visiting library least value of once in month.

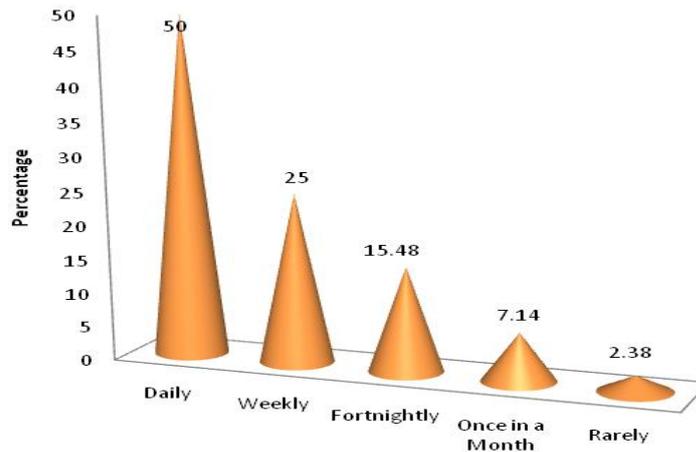


Fig 2: Distribution of Frequency of Visit to Library

Table 3: Distribution of Time Spent by the Students in Reading Newspapers

S. No	Time spent	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	10 minutes	49	58.34
2	20 minutes	31	36.9
3	30 minutes	4	4.76
	Total	84	100

The Table 3 shows that distribution of time spent by the students in reading newspapers, majority of respondents 49 (58.34%) spent time of reading newspaper in ten minutes, followed by 31 respondents (36.9%) spent time of reading newspaper in twenty minutes and only 4 respondents (4.76%) spent time of reading newspaper in long duration of thirty minutes.

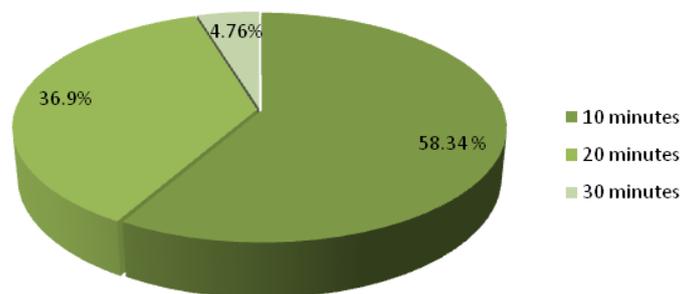


Fig 3: Distribution of Time Spent by the Students in Reading Newspapers

Table 4: Distribution of Preference of Language in Reading News Papers

S. No	Language	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Tamil	57	67.86
2	English	8	9.52
3	Both	19	22.62
	Total	84	100

The Table 4 shows that distribution of preference of language in reading newspapers, majority of respondents 57 (67.86%) of preference of language in Tamil,

followed by 8 respondents (9.52%) of preference of language in English and 19 respondents (22.62%) of preference of language in both Tamil and English.

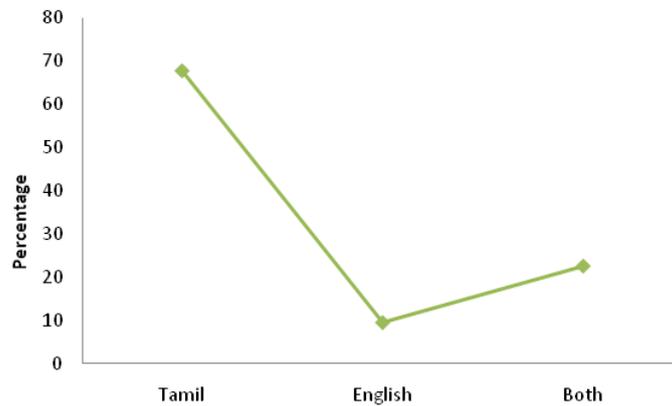


Fig 4: Distribution of Preference of Language in Reading News Papers

Table 5: Distribution of Purpose of Using Newspapers in Reading Habits

S. No	Purpose	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Regional	21	25
2	Education	23	27.38
3	Employment	17	20.24
4	Sports	14	16.66
5	Political	6	7.14
6	Recreation	3	3.58
	Total	84	100

The Table 5 shows that distribution of purpose of using Newspapers in reading habits, majority of respondents 23 (27.38%) of purpose of using Newspapers in education, followed by 21 respondents (25%) of purpose of using Newspapers in regional news and 17 respondents (20.24%) of purpose of using Newspapers in employment related respectively.

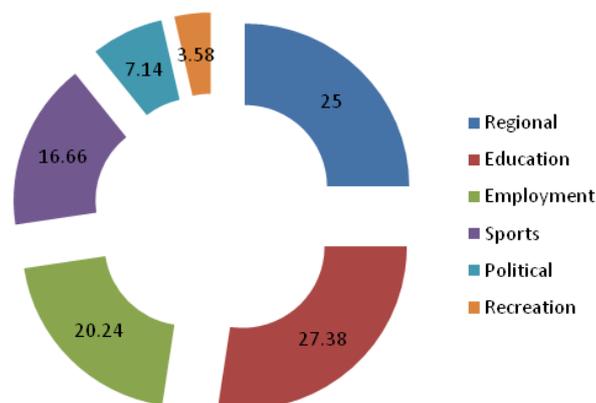
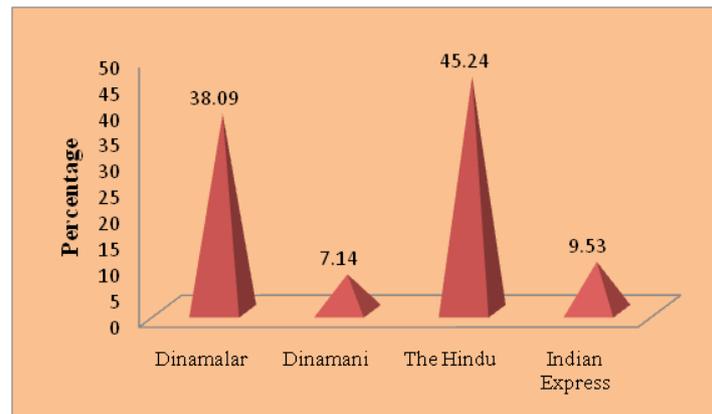


Fig 5: Distribution of Purpose of Using Newspapers in Reading Habits

Table 6: Distribution of Using Various Types of Newspaper among Students

S. No	Name of the Newspaper	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Dinamalar	32	38.09
2	Dinamani	6	7.14
3	The Hindu	38	45.24
4	Indian Express	8	9.53
	Total	84	100

The Table 6 shows that distribution of using various types of Newspaper among students, majority of respondents 38 (45.24%) of using Newspaper in The Hindu, followed by 32 respondents (38.09%) of using Newspaper in Dinamalar.

**Fig 6: Distribution of Using Various Types of Newspaper among Students****Table 7: Distribution of Reason for Reading Newspapers**

S. No	Reason	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Time Passing	6	7.14
2	Improve communication skill	5	5.95
3	To get update information	34	40.48
4	Improve General knowledge	39	46.43
	Total	84	100

The Table 7 shows that distribution of reason for reading Newspapers, Majority of respondents 39 (46.43%) of using reason for Improve general knowledge, followed by 34 respondents (40.48%) of using reason for to get update information and least value of respondents 6 (7.14%) and 5 (5.95%) are using reason for time passing and improve communication skill respectively.

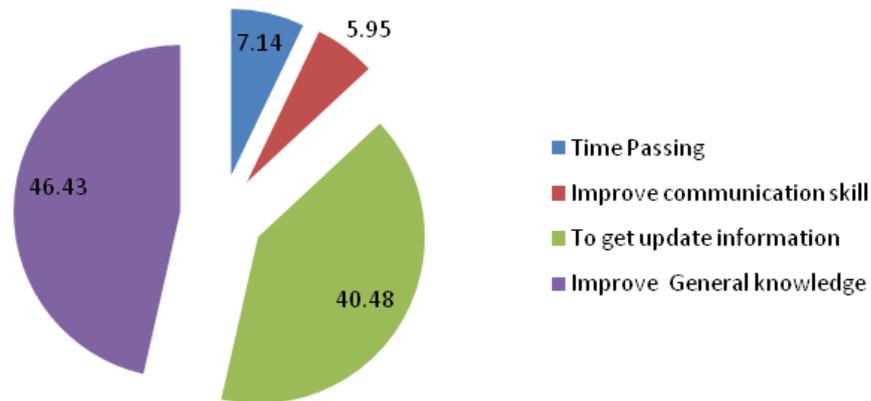


Fig 7: Distribution of Reason for Reading Newspapers

Findings of the Study

1. The out of 84 respondents top most level are female 67 (80 %) participated in the research.
2. Majority of respondents 42 (50 %) are using Frequency of visit to library daily.
3. Among 84 respondents 49 (58.34%) are spent ten minutes to read the newspapers.
4. Majority of the respondents are using Tamil language newspapers are most preferred 57 (67.86%) when comparing English Newspapers.
5. Majority of the respondents is purpose of using to reading Newspapers for Education 23 (27.38%)
6. Majority of the respondents are using various types of newspaper are The Hindu 38 (45.24%) occupied in first rank and
7. Majority of the respondents are 39 (46.43%) reading newspapers to improve their general knowledge.

Conclusion

Newspaper reading is an important process of acquiring information by receiving a message from print in a meaningful way. Library users read newspapers to get the information about what is happening around. The study discovered that 46.43% of the respondents recognized the importance of reading and indicated that reading helps them to improve their knowledge. The majority of the respondents 42 (50%) are using daily visit to library. The study also reported that majority of the respondents did indicate that reading habits have an effect on them and stressed out that reading has supported their studies.

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