

## A Study on Habits and Interests of Reading Periodicals among College Students during Leisure Time

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### Abstract:

*This is an exploratory study of the leisure reading habits and interests for Periodicals among college students. Using simple random sampling, 627 male and female students were selected from four Engineering colleges and five Arts and Science colleges in Dindigul district, Tamilnadu, India. The survey instrument was designed in the form of a structured questionnaire comprising a series of sequenced questions. The findings highlighted some of the factors related to reading habits and interests for periodicals. There is a hope that this study will stimulate further in depth studies which may help to improve the reading habits and interests, to increase the value of college library and reading periodicals in general to students at college library in Dindigul. The findings showed that the students read regularly leisure hours, but their reading appears to be confined mainly to periodicals. Reading, therefore, was undertaken mainly for acquiring knowledge or for study purpose. Consequently they used the college library mainly to study rather than read for leisure.*

**Key words:** Introduction, Reading habit, Interest to read Periodicals, Analysis and Conclusion

## INTRODUCTION

Dr. S R Ranganathan has made a distinction between a periodical and a serial. According to him “a periodical is the one that is brought out periodically with a changed volume and issue number but with contents changed by different contributors and subjects for each. A serial is defined as a periodical publication with definite periodicity but its contents would remain the same even in successive volumes with only enlarged and updated materials like a yearbook, directory etc. However, serial is commonly used to denote both the serials publications and periodicals. Based on the above definitions, periodical is known as a publication, which is published at regular interval on special title. Periodicals are also synonymously known as journals, bulletins, transactions, proceedings or similar works, which appear regularly and continuously in numbered sequences. The majority of primary source literature appears in the form of periodicals. Many periodicals devote to reporting original research. The periodical article is the main means of communication for the exchange of scientific information. Information contained in periodical is considered to be more up-to date and is meant for reporting the results of recent researches more quickly than books. The periodicals are distinguished on the basis of their periodicity or period of publication. They can be classified as follows: Daily = published in every day ( 365 Issues ), Weekly = published in every week ( 51 or 52 issues ), Fortnightly =Published in every two weeks ( 24 issues ), Monthly =published in every month (12 issues), Bi-Monthly = published in every two months (6 issues), Quarterly = published in every three months (4 issues), Trimesterly = published in every four months (3 issues ), Semi-Annual = S-A published in every six months (2 issues ), Annual = A. published in every year ( 1 issue ). Periodicals by Types of institutions namely: Learned Societies, Institutional Research, Government Bodies, Professional Bodies, Commercial

Publishers, House journals, Independent journals, Communication journals.

Reading is an attempt to absorb the thought of an author and to know what the author conveys. It is principally through reading that people obtain knowledge. People who can either read or write are described as literate, and such people are often limited to the knowledge gained from oral communication chances. Many activities of ordinary life require the ability to read. Moreover reading enriches one's understanding of how language is used; thereby improving one's spoken and written language. Additionally, in-depth reading helps to develop the mind and personality of a person; it enriches intellectual abilities; provides insights into human problems and influences attitudes and behaviour. In other words reading helps to mould a person's character. This, of course, depends in reading the right type of books; that is, books that entertains but, at the same time, educate. There are a variety of instructional practices and strategies that have recently been adopted in efforts to improve students' reading skills and expand student's reading habits. For example, the Accelerated Reader Program is popular among many schools. This computerized reading management system uses a reward system to motivate students to read beyond their required classroom texts. Students who participate in the Accelerated Reader Program choose from a variety of books on the program's list to read independently either during class or outside of school/ college. Once the students have completed their books, they take a computerized multiple choice reading comprehension quiz that awards points for passing scores. Students are awarded points based on the length and difficulty of the books and the percentage of correct answers on quizzes.

## REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Leu (2000) pinpointed that "Literacy is rapidly and continuously changing as new technologies for information and communication repeatedly appear and new environments for exploring these technologies are continuously crafted by users." Does computer technology affect college students' reading habits? Lyons (2009) claimed that the computer revolution is unlikely to significantly affect reading habits in the perspective of history and current literacy trends. However, other researcher believed that computers and the Internet are changing the way people read (Lamb, 2005). Additionally, "this new media and online literacy belong to and affect people of all ages" (Hagwood, 2003). Naik, S.N. (1981) studied the reading interest and abilities of adolescents and adults. 1.The aim of the study was to understand the general nature of reading interest and habit of people above the age of fifteen. 2.To study the development process of these interests. Data were collected through questionnaire, and the data were analysed in respect of the reading of newspapers, magazines and books. Social psychology of readers and interests of various age-groups were analysed separately. A supplementary investing on the reading development of VII to XII class students was done. The following were the important findings of the study: 1.Newspapers were read more than any other material, 2.Women in every age group read less newspaper, 3.Magazine reading increased with age, 4.Men read more than women, 5.Sports magazines were very popular up to the age of 40, 6.Development factors of reading related to psychological growth and socio-cultural advancement were different at different age level, 7.At the primary stage only the story books were read.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The following are the important objectives of the study:

1. To study the purpose to visit library.
2. To find out the frequency of reading periodicals among the college students.
3. To find out gender wise interest to read periodicals.
4. To find out type of college wise interest to read periodicals.

## **DATA COLLECTION**

Primary data were collected through a structured questionnaire, which was distributed among the library user (respondent) in four Engineering colleges and five Arts and Science colleges in Dindigul district, Tamilnadu, India. The questionnaire contained open-ended questions and it also incorporated various parameters that were identified for analysing those parameters.

## **SAMPLE SIZE**

The sample size consists of 627 respondents who had visit college library. Convenience sampling technique was used for a period of 2 months (May–June 2015).

## **RESEARCH DESIGN**

Question-wise analysis was carried out with the help of Microsoft Excel Workbook and SPSS version 20.0. The questionnaire was based on difference variables, which were considered to be significant while reading habit and interest to read periodical. Some analytical techniques like tables, percentage, chi-square test and co-efficient of correlation were used to analyse the collected data.

## ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

**Table 1 - Demographic information**

	No. of Respondents	Percentage
<b>Gender Wise Respondents</b>		
Male	291	46.41
Female	336	53.59
<b>Age wise Respondents</b>		
Less than 18 Years	184	29.35%
19 Years	136	21.69%
20 Years	193	30.78%
21years and above	114	18.18%
<b>Type of College wise Respondents</b>		
Arts and Science College	296	47.21%
Engineering College	331	52.79%

Source: Primary data

Table 1 displays the categories of gender among the respondents covered under the study. It is found that, of the total respondents, 291(46.41%) of the respondents belong to male category while the remaining 336 (53.59%) are females. It is inferred that female respondents are higher than male respondents. The age-wise distribution frequency of the respondents, It is found from the table that 193 (30.78%) respondents belong to the age group of 20 years followed by,184 (29.35%) in the age group of less than 18 years. Further it is found that 136 (21.69%) of the respondents belong to the category 19 years and the remaining 114 (18.18%) respondents belong to the category of 21 years and above. Majority of the respondents of the present survey belong to the age group category of 20 years. The above table reveals the distribution of respondents' type of colleges, It is found that 296 (47.21%) respondents belonged to the Arts and Science colleges while the remaining 331 (52.79%) respondents belonged to Engineering College.

**Table 2 - Frequency of Visiting in Library**

Frequency	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Total
Daily	150	23.92%
Thrice in A Week	200	31.90%
Twice in A Week	78	12.44%
Once in A Week	95	15.15%
Rarely	104	16.59%
Total	627	100.00%

Source: Primary data

The table 2 states the distribution of faculty and students according to frequency of visiting library. Out of 627 respondents, most of them (31.90%) visit thrice in a week, and they are followed by other respondents (23.92%) who visit daily, some of them (16.59%) visit rarely and some (15.15%) visit once in a week, and very few of them (12.44%) visiting Twice in a week. Majority of respondents visit library thrice in a week.

## HOW LONG READING PERIODICALS

The table 3 denotes the distribution of arts, science and engineering students reading periodicals. Among the total respondents, majority of them (30.30%) are reading less than a year followed by some of them (28.39%) who are reading 1- 2 years, some of them (15.15%) are reading two – three years and some of them (15.31%) are reading three – four years and very few of them (10.85%) are reading more than four year for ICT resource. Majority of the respondents read periodicals less than a year.

**Table 3 - Reading Periodicals**

Time	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Total
Less Than A Year	190	30.30
1-2 Years	178	28.39
2-3 Years	95	15.15
3-4 Years	96	15.31
More Than 4 Years	68	10.85
Total	627	100.00

Source: Primary data

## SPENDING TIME FOR READING PERIODICAL PER WEEK

The table 4 denotes the distribution of arts, science and engineering students spending in reading Periodicals per week. Among the total respondents, majority of them (58.85%) spend less than four hours per week and they are followed by some of them (13.72%) who spend four to seven hours, some of them (12.12%) spend eight to eleven hours, some of them (8.93%) spend more than 15 hours in week and very few of them (6.38%) spend two to fifteen hours in week. Majority of the respondents spend reading periodicals less than four hour per week.

**Table 4 - Spending Time**

Spending Time (per week )	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Total
More Than 15 Hours	56	8.93
2-15 Hours	40	6.38
8-11 Hours	76	12.12
4-7 Hours	86	13.72
Less Than 4 Hours	369	58.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Primary data

## PURPOSE OF VISITING TO THE LIBRARY

The table 5 denotes the distribution of gender wise purpose of visiting the library, **Reading Newspapers:** 260 male and 230 female respondents opinion is 'Yes' for visiting library on the basis of reading newspapers and 31 male and 106 female respondents had given the opinion of 'No'. The correlation analysis reveals that the co-efficient of correlation is significant therefore there is no significant relationship between the gender wise visiting libraries on the basis of reading newspapers. So the null hypothesis is accepted. **Reading Magazines:** 226 male and 236 female respondents opinion is 'Yes' for visiting library on the basis of reading magazines and 65 male and 100 female respondents had given the opinion of

‘No’. The correlation analysis reveals that the co-efficient of correlation is significant therefore there is no significant relationship between the gender wise and to visiting libraries on the basis of reading magazines. So the null hypothesis is accepted. **Borrowing Books:** 145 male and 153 female respondents opinion is ‘Yes’ for visiting library on the basis of borrowing books and 146 male and 183 female respondents had given the opinion of ‘No’. The correlation analysis reveals that the co-efficient of correlation is significant therefore there is no significant relationship between the gender wise visiting libraries on the basis of borrowing books. So the null hypothesis is accepted. **Referring Subject Journals:** 132 male and 164 female respondents opinion is ‘Yes’ for visiting library on the basis of journals reference and 159 male and 172 female respondents had given the opinion of ‘No’. The correlation analysis reveals that the co-efficient of correlation is significant therefore there is no significant relationship between the gender wise and to visiting libraries on the basis of journals reference. So the null hypothesis is accepted. **Using Online Services:** 206 male and 228 female respondents opinion is ‘Yes’ for visiting library on the basis of online services and 85 male and 108 female respondents had given the opinion of ‘No’. The correlation analysis reveals that the co-efficient of correlation is significant therefore there is no significant relationship between the gender wise and to visiting libraries on the basis of online services. So the null hypothesis is accepted.

**Table 5 - Purpose of visiting to the Library**

Purpose of Visiting	Gender						Co-efficient of Correlation result	
	Male		Female		Total		Y=	Result
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
<b>Reading Newspapers</b>								
Yes	260	41.5%	230	36.7%	490	78.1%	1	Significant
No	31	4.9%	106	16.9%	137	21.9%		
<b>Reading Magazines</b>								
Yes	226	36.0%	236	37.6%	462	73.7%	1	Significant
No	65	10.4%	100	15.9%	165	26.3%		
<b>Borrowing Books</b>								

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Yes	145	23.1%	153	24.4%	298	47.5%	1	Significant
No	146	23.3%	183	29.2%	329	52.5%		
<b>Referring Books</b>								
Yes	136	21.7%	132	21.1%	268	42.7%	1	Significant
No	155	24.7%	204	32.5%	359	57.3%		
<b>Referring Subject Journals</b>								
Yes	132	21.1%	164	26.2%	296	47.2%	1	Significant
No	159	25.4%	172	27.4%	331	52.8%		
<b>Using Online Services</b>								
Yes	206	32.9%	228	36.4%	434	69.2%	1	Significant
No	85	13.6%	108	17.2%	193	30.8%		
<b>Literature Search</b>								
Yes	145	23.1%	167	26.6%	312	49.8%	1	Significant
No	146	23.3%	169	27.0%	315	50.2%		

Source: Primary data

## LEVEL OF OPINION OF INTEREST TO READING PERIODICALS

The above table 6 shows the level of opinion with interest to reading periodicals by the sample respondents. Out of 291 male respondents 149(23.76%) have given the opinion of fully satisfied and 94(14.99%) respondents say partially and 30(4.78%) have the opinion of least whereas 18(2.87%) respondents reserve their opinion as No Comments. 141(22.49%) of female sample respondents have the opinion of fully, whereas 100(15.95%) respondents opine partially, 62 (9.89%) have the opinion of least and 33(5.26%) respondents given the opinion of 'No Comments'. Through the information provided by the above table it is clearly revealed that a Majority of 290(46.25%) respondents have the opinion of fully satisfied. This evidently indicates the level of satisfaction of different gender wise respondent's interest to reading periodicals. It is inferred that the calculated chi-square value is more than the theoretical value at 0.05 levels, so it's insignificant. Thus the hypothesis has been rejected.

**Table 6 - Gender**

Gender	Level of Opinion				Total
	Fully	Partially	Least	No Comments	
Male	149	94	30	18	291
	23.76%	14.99%	4.78%	2.87%	46.41%
Student	141	100	62	33	336
	22.49%	15.95%	9.89%	5.26%	53.59%
Total	290	194	92	51	627
	46.25%	30.94%	14.67%	8.13%	100.00%
Factor	Calculated $\chi^2$ Value	Table Value (0.05)	D.F	Remarks	
Gender	12.78	07.8147	3	Insignificant	

Source: Primary data

**Table 7 - Type of College**

Type of College	Level of Overall Satisfaction				Total
	Fully	Partially	Least	No Comments	
Arts and Science College	129	95	41	31	296
	20.57%	15.15%	6.54%	4.94%	47.21%
Engineering College	161	99	51	20	331
	25.68%	15.79%	8.13%	3.19%	52.79%
Total	290	194	92	51	627
	46.25%	30.94%	14.67%	8.13%	100.00%
Factor	Calculated $\chi^2$ Value	Table Value (0.05)	D.F	Remarks	
Type of College	5.14	07.8147	3	Significant	

Source: Primary data

It is inferred from the table 7 that types of colleges taken for sample study to know the level of opinion with interest to reading periodicals. The types of colleges taken for study are Arts and Science College and Engineering College. Out of 296 (47.21%) Arts and Science colleges 129 (20.57%) of colleges have the opinion of fully and 95 (15.15%) give their opinion of partially, whereas 41(6.54%) have the opinion of least and 31(4.94%) have the opinion of 'No Comments'. Out of 296 (47.21%) Engineering Colleges 161 (25.68%) of colleges have the opinion of fully and 99 (15.79%) give their opinion of partially, whereas 51(8.13%) have the opinion of least and 20(3.19%) have the opinion of 'No Comments'. Through the information provided by the above table it is understood that a Majority of the colleges have given the opinion of fullest. This evidently

indicates the level of satisfaction of different type of college wise respondent's interest to reading periodicals. It is inferred that the calculated chi-square value is less than the theoretical value at 0.05 levels, so it's significant. Thus the hypothesis has been accepted.

## **FINDINGS**

Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations are made:

- It is inferred that female respondents are using library than male respondents.
- Majority of the respondents of the present survey belong to the age group category of 20 years.
- Majority of respondents visit library thrice in a week
- Majority of the respondents read periodicals less than a year.
- Majority of the respondents spend reading periodicals less than four hour per week
- Majority of the respondents read newspapers and magazines in library
- Most of the respondents given their opinion of interesting to read.

## **CONCLUSION**

Reading abilities widely vary among children, adults and people. Giving appropriate training at college level can easily develop reading abilities. Language teacher play a major role in developing these skills. Teachers of other subjects can create interest and motivate students to learn and they can also inculcate attitudes and aspirations that shape them into serious readers. At college level, if teachers can instill and create in children's minds the values of reading, then there is a possibility that students would continue reading for the rest of

their life, with confidence. The following are some of the general techniques to develop the reading abilities: Parental guidance and encouragement, Motivation by teachers, Inculcation of desirable hobbies and interests, Constant use of dictionary, Daily newspaper reading, Book reading, Visiting Libraries, Well constructed reading material, Study improving vocabulary and language. Periodical Reading involves the Teacher's participation growth student's community. So, reading shapes good personality, ideas, right thinking and attitude change. So, teacher's who are involved in periodical reading have to crate the habit to reading among student community in our country.

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