

Reading Habits and Library Use Among the Students of Pharmacy Colleges in Warangal District, Telangana State: A Study

G. Rajeshwar Kumar

Assistant Professor & Head Dept. Of L.I.Sc
Chaitanya Post Graduate College (Autonomous),
Hanamkonda, Warangal, Telangana India 506001
E-mail: chaitanyalibrary@gmail.com

Abstract - *Reading plays an essential role in the human life. Reading is a basic tool for the education and very important skill in everyday life. It is the practice of understand and acquiring knowledge for personal growth and development. The main goals of the library is to inspire a love for reading and promote reading culture among its members. It is the heart of self education and lifelong learning. The study carried out to assess the reading habits and library use among the students of pharmacy colleges located in warnagal district of Telangana state.*

Keywords: *Reading, Reading Habits, Library Use, Pharmacy College.*

Introduction

Reading is a basic instrument of education; however it is an art of interpreting printed tools and written words. It is an important tool for the development of personalities and mental capacities. This habit is necessary for a healthy intellectual growth and it plays a very crucial role in enabling a person to achieve language proficiency. Reading and reading habit are two aspects that have received increasing attention in recent years. Reading is a way to get better knowledge of one's own experiences and it can be an exciting journey to self-discovery. Reading is a basic tool for the education and very important skills in everyday life. Reading habits are also vital part of lifelong learning concept. Reading transfers experiences to the individual so that the reader may expand one's horizons, identify, extend and intensify his or her interest and gain deeper understanding of the world.

Reading provides experience to the individual so that he may expand his horizons, identify, extend and intensify his interest and gain deeper understanding of himself and other human being and of the world. The ability of reading is the heart of self education and lifelong learning. Reading is a very important issue which is not only about enjoyment but a necessity; the basic tool of education (Mokatsi, 2005).

Review of literature

Acheaw, M.O and Larson, A.G (2014) conducted a study on reading habits among students and its effect on academic performance of Koforidua Polytechnic students. In this study they preferred 62.5 per cent of respondents are reading novel or fiction, 62.0 per cent of students opinion is that they read lecture notes when they visit the library facility, and 25.0% indicated they read textbooks. The majority of the respondents opined that reading habits have consequence on academic performance.

Baladhandayutham,A and Suji, S (2014) analyze the Reading habits of the students of engineering colleges located in Madurai. The majority of the students daily visit library, almost one third of respondents is initiated by librarians for reading habits, 68.92 per cent of the respondents agree to that Library is an appropriate place for reading. Lastly the authors

conclude library is store house of knowledge and the librarians are accountable to motivate the persons to utilize the library sources.

Cabral, AP and Tavares (2002) study concerning the reading habits reflects 97.8 % of students to read for academic purposes and 97.2% of the students use reading as a hobby. Hassell, SH and Rodge, P (2007) analyze that 72% of the students are reading in their leisure time in which 22% read constantly and 50% read when they get a chance. Noorhidawati, A and Forbes, G (2008) stress that printed books are the most preferred library materials among library users.

Thanuskodi, S (2011) noted that reading habits of Library and Information Science Students of Annamalai University, India. In his study majority of the respondents 79.53% are interested in reading course material of LIS frequently. Students spend more time for (77.48 %) reading books and 20 % of the students of LIS never read non-fiction, comic books, poetry and novels. The overall response of the students was that work most often interfered with their reading and studying.

Vandenhoeck, T (2013) examined the screen reading habits among university students with 630 students. The author finds out majority of respondents preferred for paper reading and 74 per cent of respondents preferred paper-based reading. More than 60 % of respondents like print articles and less than 30 % of students read article.

Objectives of the study

The specific objectives of the study are:

1. To find out the reading habits among students of pharmacy colleges in Warangal district.
2. To know the purpose for reading by the students.
3. To study the different types of materials used by the students when they visit the library.
4. To find out the overall satisfaction level on available resources.
5. To find out the problems faced by the students while reading in the library.

Methodology:

Survey method based on questionnaire is used for data collection. For this purpose Random sampling method is adopted for collecting the data. Sample includes undergraduate (B.Pharmacy) and postgraduate (M.Pharmacy) students of pharmacy colleges affiliated to kakatiya university, Warangal. Out of 18 colleges under Kakatiya University, I have selected only five pharmacy colleges. 40 students are selected for a sample of the research from the selected five pharmacy colleges; hence the sample size is 200. The following colleges have selected for the study.

1. Balaji Institute of Pharmacy, Laknepally (V), Narsampet (M). Warangal
2. Care College of Pharmacy, Oglapur (V), Athmakur (M), Warangal.
3. Chaitanya College of Pharmacy Education & Research, Hanamkonda, Warangal.
4. Sri Shivani College of Pharmacy, Mulugu Road, Warangal.
5. St. Peter's Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Vidyanagar, Hanamkonda, Warangal

Data Analysis and Interpretation:

Distribution of Respondents Gender-wise

Table-1 shows that 54 % of the respondents are from male respondents and the remaining 46 % are female respondents. The above table-1 represents the number of male respondents is more than the number of female respondents.

Table-1: Gender wise Distribution of Respondents

Sl. No	Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	108	54
2	Female	92	46
	Total:	200	100

Frequency of Reading

From the Table-2, 43 % of respondents spends less than one hour for reading, 22 % spent 1-2 hours for reading, 19.5% spent 2-4 hours, 10% spent 5-6 hours and 5.5% of respondents spent more than 6hours per day for reading in library. Compare to gender wise 45% male students and 41 % female spent less than one hour for reading.

Table-2: Frequency of Reading by the Respondents

Purpose	No. of Respondents % n=200	Gender-Wise Respondents %	
		Male n=108	Female n=92
Less than One Hour	43	45	41
1-2 Hours	22	26	18
2-4 Hours	19.5	22	17
5-6 Hours	10	9	11
Above 6 hours	5.5	6	5

Purpose of Reading by the Respondents

From the Table-3, majority of the pharmacy students 95% interested in reading is to pass the examinations, 81 % are gain new knowledge and information and 62.5% interested reading is to get a job. Some of the students i.e, 42% are expressed reading is a hobby and 47.5% students are expressed the main purpose of reading is to prepare assignments and seminars.

Table-3: Purposes of Reading

Purpose	Respondents n=200	Percentage
To pass the examination	190	95
To gain new knowledge / information	162	81
To get a job	125	62.5
To prepare assignments/ seminars	95	47.5
Hobby	84	42

Favorite place for reading

From the above Table-4 interprets that 76% of respondents mention that Home is a favorite place for reading and 70.5% mention that library is their favorite place for reading. Only 30.5% respondents are mentioned garden and 20.5% respondents preferred traveling is the favorite place for reading.

Table-4: Preferred place for reading

Favorite place for Reading	No .of Respondents n=200	Percentage
Library	141	70.5
Home	152	76
Garden	61	30.5
By Traveling	41	20.5

Students' opinion on Library is a proper place for reading

From the Table-5 shows the results of students' opinion on Library is a proper place for reading. It shows that 66 % of respondents opined that Library is a proper place for reading, remaining 34 % opined that library is not a proper place for reading. So, majority of the students accept that Library is a proper place for reading.

Table-5: Students opinion on Library is a place for Reading

Opinion	No .of Respondents	Percentage
YES	132	66
NO	68	34
	200	100

Preferred time for reading

From the Table 7, it is describes that the 151 (75.5%) respondents are prefer to read in the morning, 112 (56%) respondents are prefer to read in the late night, 74(37%) at evening and 62 (31%) are prefer to read at afternoon.

Table-7: Frequency of preferred time for reading

Preferred Time	No .of Respondents	Percentage
Morning	151	75.5
Afternoon	62	31
Evening	74	37
Late Night	112	56

Preferred items for reading

From the above Table-8 interprets that 169 (84.5%) respondents preferred Newspaper for reading, followed by 142 (71%) preferred Text books, 140 (70%) proffered E-resources, 101 (50.5%) preferred Reference books and 92 (46%) preferred periodicals for reading. Only 68 (34%) respondents preferred novels and 57 (28.5%) preferred Competitive books for reading. It is clearly shows that both text books (71%) and e-resources (70%) are given equal preference by the students of selected pharmacy colleges.

Table-8: Preferred items for reading

Proffered Items for Reading	No .of Respondents n=200	Percentage
News Papers	169	84.5
Periodicals (Journals/Magazines)	92	46
Text Books	142	71
Reference Books	101	50.5
Novels	68	34
E-Resources	140	70
Competitive Books	57	28.5

Problems encountered by the students while reading in the library

Table-9 shows that Major problems encountered by the students while reading in the library premises included low speed of internet bandwidth (50.5%), Inadequate reading tables (44.5%), lack of information resources (36%) and poor lighting in the library (35.5%).

Table-9: Problems encountered while reading in the library

Problems encountered while reading	No .of Respondents n=200	Percentage
Lack of Information Resources	72	36
Lack of User Education	45	22.5
Inadequate Reading Tables	89	44.5
Library not well illuminated	71	35.5
Low speed of internet bandwidth	101	50.5

Major Findings of the Study:

- Majority of the respondents (43%) are visit to the library daily for reading.
- All most all the pharmacy students (95%) the main purpose of reading in library is to pass the examinations.
- Majority of the Students read their home and their second choice is library.
- 66% of students opined that library is a proper place for reading.
- 75.5% students are preferred to read in the morning only.
- 84.5% of the students are preferred newspaper and 71% Text books and 70% e-resources are the better reading items in the library compare to periodicals, Novels and other materials.

- 50.5% of the student's problems faced while reading is lack of internet bandwidth, followed by inadequate reading tables and poor lighting in the library.

Suggestions

- Introduce innovative programmes in the library, that will increase the reading habits of the students.
- The college authority should provide sufficient reading material, furniture and provide High-speed internet facility for easy access of information.
- Conduct user orientation programs regularly to better utilization of resources.

Conclusion:

Reading is a basic tool for the students in education. It is important skills in everyday life. It directs their career and skill development depending upon student's age. Reading habits are also plays a vital role for lifelong learning concept. Provide adequate facilities i.e, lighting, furniture, etc., in the library for the satisfaction of the users. The library professionals should encourage the students to develop reading habits through use of library. Now a day's internet affects the reading habits hence the library professionals should provide high speed internet and also offer more support in online information. Library Professionals can play a significant role in developing reading habits among its users.

References

1. Acheaw. M. O., & Larson, A. G. (2014) Reading Habits Among Students and its Effect on Academic Performance: A Study of Students of Koforidua Polytechnic. *Library Philosophy and Practice* (e-journal). Paper1130.
2. Baladhandayutham, A & Suji. S. (2014) Reading habits among the students of engineering colleges in Madurai District, Tamilnadu, India: A study. *Journal of Advances in Library and Information Science*, 3(3), 244-248.
3. Cabral, A. P.,and Tavares, J. (2002). Practising college reading strategies. *The Reading Matrix* 2(3), 1-16.
4. Green P.(2002). Teachers intervention in children's reading, *Journal of Child Hood Education*, 46(3), 147-149.
5. Hassell, S.H. and Rodge, P. (2007). The leisure reading habits of urban adolescents. *Journal of adolescent and Adult Literacy*, 51(1), 22-33.
6. Mokatsi, R. (2005). *Sharing resources - how library networks can help reach education goals*. East African Book Development Association. A research paper looking at libraries in the developing world. Commission by Book Aid International.
7. Noorhidawati, A. & Forbes, G. (2008). How students use e-books: reading or referring?
8. *Malaysia Journal of Library & Information Science*, 13(2), 1-14.
9. Thanuskodi S. (2011). Reading Habits among Library and Information Science Students of Annamalai University: A Survey, *International Journal of Science Education*, 3(2), 79-83.
10. Vandenhoeck, T. (2013) Screen reading habits among university students. *International Journal of Education and Development using Information and Communication Technology*, 9 (2), 37-47.

