Reading Habits among the Students of Engineering Colleges in Madurai District, Tamilnadu, India: A Study

A. Baladhandayutham
Assistant Professor
Department of Library and Information Science
Madurai Kamaraj University
Madurai - 625 021
Tamil Nadu, India
Email: baladolis@gmail.com

S. Suji
M.Phil Scholar
Department of Library and Information Science
Madurai Kamaraj University
Madurai - 625 021
Tamil Nadu, India

Abstract

Reading is mainly an intellectual activity and reading habit is a sort of attribute of human organisms. Like other habits, the habit of reading on an individual develops during the course of time. Psychologically, habit is a product of learning: however reading is an art of interpreting the printed tools and written words. It is important for the professional staff of a library to know about the reading habits and information needs of the clientele being served. This paper discusses the reading habits among the students of engineering colleges in Madurai district, Tamilnadu, India.

Keywords

Reading habits; Reading Preferences;Reading Choices;Engineering College Students,
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INTRODUCTION

We are living in an age of information. We have to know more about more things. For updating knowledge, we largely depend on the printed words. Every student of the college level has to study minimum three subjects along with compulsory English and one regional language at graduate level. Newspapers are bulkier than electronic media. Time for reading is decreasing day by day. The first law of library science "Books are for use" allows free access to reading materials without any discrimination of sex, creed, caste, age etc. The readers may be attracted towards the available sources of knowledge if we provide such facility as the readers find helpful. Though utilization of library service is purely a voluntary affair, yet some basic requirements need to be fulfilled to attract the readers. Reading is important one for everyone and it makes the all the ordinary persons to extraordinary superman. Hence reading habits is not avoidable one for all the persons especially academicians.

METHODOLOGY

For this study convenient Random sampling method was adopted for collecting Primary data. A sample including undergraduate and postgraduate students of Engineering colleges at Madurai district in Tamilnadu, India. Seventy students are selected for a sample of the research from the selected four Engineering colleges and hence the sample size is 280. A detailed study of four Engineering colleges such as : 1. Fatima Michael college of Engineering and technology 2. Raja Engineering college, 3. SACS.M.A.V.M.M. Engineering College 4. Thiyagaraja Engineering college have been taken up and analyzed.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the study are:

- To analyze the Reading Habit among the students of Engineering colleges in Madurai district.
- To identify their awareness about the Library.
- To study the purpose of reading books by the students.
- To find out the level of satisfaction on the available of reading books in the college library.
- To find out the drawbacks of reading in the library.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1: Gender-wise distribution of Respondents

S. No	Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	172	61.42
2	Female	108	38.57
Total		280	100

Table 1 displays the Gender-wise distribution of respondents. Among them one hundred and seventy two respondents (61.42%) are male whereas hundred and eight respondents (38.57%) are female. Therefore the number of male respondents is more than the numbers of female respondents.

Table 2: Residing Sector -wise distribution of Respondents

Sl.No	Residing Sector	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Rural	127	45.35
2	Urban	153	54.64
Total		280	100

Table 2 Indicates that hundred and twenty seven respondents (45.35%) belong to rural areas. This is followed by, hundred and fifty three respondents (54.64%) who belong to urban areas. This shows that most of the respondents belong to urban areas.

Table 3: **Frequency of visiting library**

S.No	Frequency	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Daily	121	43.21
2	Once in a	69	24.64
3	Twice in a week	21	7.5
4	Rarely	69	24.64
Total		280	100

Table 4: Initiated to reading habit

S.No	Options	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Friends	84	30
2	Parents	32	11.42
3	Teachers	77	27.5
4	Librarians	87	31.07
Total		280	100

Table 3 discusses the frequency of visiting the library. Hundred and twenty one respondents (43.21%) are daily visitors and Sixty nine respondents (24.64%) visit the library once in a week, twenty one respondents (7.5%) visit library twice in a week and sixty nine respondents (24.64%) visit rarely respectively. Hence the majority of the students visit library daily.

Data presented in table 4 shows the initiated to reading habits. In this study, eighty four respondents (30%) are initiated by their friends, thirty two respondents (11.42%) are initiated by their parents, seventy seven respondents (27.5%) are initiated by teachers and eighty seven respondents (31.07%) are initiated by librarians. Hence majority of the students are initiated by librarians for reading habits. This finding proves the role of librarians in motivating the students to improve their reading habits .

Table 5: Chi-square analysis of opinion on Initiated to reading habit by the male and female students

S.No	Gender	Friends	Parents	Teachers	Librarians	Total
1	Male	60(35%)	22(13%)	37(22%)	53(31%)	172
2	Female	24(22.22%)	10(9.25%)	40(37.03)	34(31.48%)	108
Total		84	32	77	87	280

Chi-square Value: 10.09 df: 3 Testing of hypothesis 1, Ho: Null Hypothesis
There is no association between the male and female students and their opinion on Initiated to reading habit.
H_1: Alternative Hypothesis

There is an association between the male and female students and their opinion on Initiated to reading habit.

Chi-Square Summary Result

Chi-Square Calculated Value	Degrees of Freedom	Chi-Square Table Value 5%
10.09	3	7.81

The table value of χ^2 for 3 degrees of freedom at 3% level of significance is 7.81.The calculated value of χ^2 is higher than this table value and hence the Null hypothesis is rejected and hence Alternative hypothesis is accepted. It is concluded that there is an association between the male and female students and their opinion on Initiated to reading habit.

Table 6: Location of reading the books by urban and rural respondents

S.No	Residing sector	Home	Library	Hostel	Classroom	Total
1	Urban	90(59%)	31(20%)	6(4%)	26(17%)	153
2	Rural	12(9.44%)	69(54.33)	38(30%)	8(6.29%)	127
Total		159	43	64	14	280

Table 6 location of reading the books by urban and rural respondents. Among the urban respondents, ninety respondents (59%) report that location of reading books is home whereas thirty one respondents (20%) report that Library. Twenty six respondents (17%) report that location of reading books is Hostel whereas six respondents (4%) report that classroom. Among the 127 Rural respondents, sixty nine respondents (54.33%) report that location of reading books is Home, twelve respondents (9.44%) report that library, three respondents (30%) report that Hostel and eight respondents (6.29%) report that classroom respectively. Among the urban respondents, most of them read their home and their second choice is library. Among rural respondents, most of them read in library and their second choice is hostel.

Table 7: Time spent for reading books

S.No	Time	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	1 hours	151	53.92
2	2 hours	69	24.64
3	3 hours	34	12.14
4	More than 3 hours	26	9.28
Total		280	100

Table 7 shows the Time spent in reading books. Hundred and fifty one respondents (53.92%) spent an hour and sixty nine respondents (24.64%) spent two hours for reading, thirty four respondents (12.14%) spent 3 hours for reading and twenty six respondents spent more than 3 hours for reading. Hence the majority of the students spent an hour for reading. It suggests that librarian should encourage the students to spend more hours for reading.

Table 8: Purpose of reading book

S.No	Purpose	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Examination	87	31.07
2	Assignment	21	7.5
3	Seminar	25	8.92
4	Knowledge	111	39.64
5	Entertainment	36	12.85
Total		280	100

Table 8 shows the purpose of reading books. Eighty seven respondents (31.07%) read books for examination and twenty one respondents (7.5%) read for preparation of assignment. Twenty five respondents (8.92%) read for Seminar. Hundred and eleven respondents (39.64%) read for getting knowledge and thirty six respondents(12.85%) read for Entertainment. The majority of the students read the books for getting knowledge.

Table 9: Students' opinion on Library is a proper place for reading

S.No	Opinion	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	193	68.92
2	No	87	31.07
Total		280	100

able 9 shows the students' opinion on Library is a proper place for reading. Hundred and ninety three respondents (68.92%) accept that Library is a proper place for reading whereas 31.07% do not accept. Therefore the majority of the students accept that Library is a proper place for reading.

Table 10: Problem to read in library

S. No	Problems	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Don't have relevant collection	59	21.07
2	Library environment is not good	50	17.85
3	Lack of time	77	27.5
4	Lack of reading materials	34	12.14
5	Lack of library	29	10.35
6	Other if any	31	11.07
Total		280	100

Table 10 Shows the Problem to read in library. In this study, fifty nine respondents (21.07%) report that they don't have relevant collection in college library, fifty respondents (17.85%) report that library environment is not good, Seventy seven respondents (27.5%) report that lack of time and thirty four respondents (12.14%) report that lack of reading materials and twenty nine respondents(10.35%) report that Lack of library assistant respectively. Hence most of the respondents problem is lack of time and their second problem is not having relevant collection.

Table 11: Ways to get reading materials

S. No	Ways	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	By purchased	96	34.28
2	Borrows from library	112	40
3	Borrow from friends	72	25.71
Total		280	100

Table 11 shows the ways to get reading materials . In this study, ninety six respondents (34.28%) get the reading materials by purchasing. Hundred and one two respondents (34.28%) get reading materials through Borrows from library and seventy two respondents (25.71%) get reading materials from their friends. The majority of the students to get the reading material by the way of borrowing from library. This findings proves the importance of the library for improving the reading habits among the students.

Table 12: Newspaper reading

S.No	Option	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	249	88.92
2	No	31	11.07
Total		280	100

Table 12 Expresses the newspaper reading habit .In this study, two hundred and forty nine respondents (88.92 %) have newspaper reading habit. The thirty one respondents (11.07%) do not have news paper reading habit. Hence majority of the students have news paper reading habit.

Table 13: Internet affecting the libraries and information centers in regard of reading

S.No	Options	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	207	73.92
2	No	73	26.07
Total		280	100

Table 13 Shows the Internet affecting the libraries and information centers in regard of reading. In this study, two hundred and seven respondents (73.92%) accept that internet affects the libraries and information centers whereas seventy three respondents (26.07%) do not accept this idea. Hence majority of the students feel internet is affecting the libraries and information centers in regard of reading.

FINDINGS

- More than two fifth of the students visit library daily.
- Nearly one third of students are initiated by librarians for reading habits
- There is an association between the male and female students and their opinion on Initiated to reading habit.
- Majority of the urban respondents read their home and their second choice is library.

- Among rural respondents, most of them read in library and their second choice is hostel.
- More than half of the students spent an hour for reading..
- Two fifth of the students read the books for getting knowledge.
- 68.92 of the students accept that Library is a proper place for reading.
- 27.5% of the respondents' problem is lack of time and their second problem is lack of relevant collection
- Two fourth of the students get the reading materials from library.
- 88.92% of the students have news paper reading habit.
- It suggested that librarian should encourage the students to spend more hours for reading.

CONCLUSION

The library professionals should inculcate the reading habits among the students and encourage them to read something apart from their textbook reading. Library is store house of knowledge and the librarians are responsible to motivate the people to use the library sources. Now a days internet affects the reading habits hence the library professionals should act earnestly to encourage the users to read traditional books for developing reading habits.

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- Nearly three fourth of the students feel, internet affects the library and information centers in regard of reading

SUGGESTIONS

- The librarian should introduce innovative programme that will increase the reading habits of the students.
- The college authority should take necessary steps to enhance the ambience of the library.
- The library working hours should be increased so that the students may feel free to utilize the leisure hour in a useful manner.