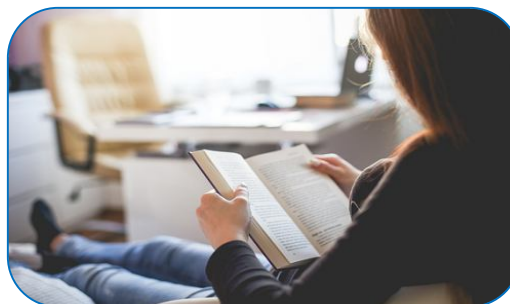




“A STUDY OF STUDENT’S READING HABITS IN VASANT DADA PATIL COLLEGE PATODA”

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ABSTRACT :

The Present Study on reading habits of students is based on a user survey carried out at Vasant Dada Patil Collge, Patoda. Factors affecting the reading habits, average time spent in library, sources used in library; etc were studied, in this study.

KEYWORDS : *Psychologically, Library, Reading, Habits, Information scientists.*

INTRODUCTION

Reading is primarily and intellectual activity and reading habit is a sort of attribute of human being. Like other habits the habit of reading in an individual develops during the course of time. Psychologically, habit is 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 habit and information needs of the clientele being served.

Reading habit has been an area of active interest among the librarians and information scientists. It results from the reorganization of some need perceived by the user, who as a consequence makes demand upon formal system such as libraries, information centers of other persons in order to satisfy the perceived need.

BENEFIT OF READING

The impact of reading in people’s lives is extraordinary wide spread. A reader can learn new skills can be introduced to new facts he can gain more knowledge about the whole world and can be stimulated to both thought and emotion. Reading has the unique power of transforming readers. It is sometimes said, “We are what we read “ Abraham Lincon said, “ the things I want to know are in bikes; My friend is the man who will get a book read” Francis bacon therefore, rightly said, “ Reading makes a full man”.

OBJECTIVES

The following were the specific objectives of the study;

1. To identify the kind of literature read by the students,
2. To study the influence of subject background on the reading habit of students,
3. To study the frequency and extend of the use of the library by the student,
4. To find out the adequacy of otherwise of the library collection,
5. To find out whether the manpower is well equipped to provide the services to the students and
6. To identify the barriers which keep away the members from reading and using the information.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Smith and Robinson defined reading as, " an active attempt on the part of reader to understand a writer's message." Reading is primarily an intellectual activity and its practice is influenced by many factors like home environment, subject, background, age, status etc. Reading helps in the resolution or personal need and in the attainment of mental maturity and independence of thought. Devarajan defines reading as an art of interpreting printed and written word. It is a tool of education and one of the most important skills in everyday life.

Gray S. indicates that reading influences the extent and accuracy of information as well as attitude, moral belief, judgment and action of the reader. The reading habit has one of the most powerful lasting influences in the promotions of one's personal. Bryan relates the reading habits in relation to the library and mentions that the librarian's task is to find the *right book for the right reader at the right time*. A librarian must know his books, he must know his reader and he must know that effect will be produced by bringing the two together

The present article is a questionnaire based study of the reading habits of students in Vasant Dada Patil College, Patoda. In order to carry out the study, a questionnaire was designed for the students of Vasant Dada Patil College, Patoda. The reading habit of student with respect to their requirements, psychological needs etc. have been studied.

METHODOLOGY

For the purpose of the study a questionnaire was designed and distributed among the respondents. The study was limited to find the reading habit of students in Vasant Dada Patil College, Patoda affiliated to BAMU Aurangabad. The data analysis and interpretation is based on a sample of 90 randomly selected respondents out of three categories viz. junior student, Senior Student and Post Graduate students. The branches in Vasant Dada Patil College include Arts, Science and Commerce.

Data analysis and interpretation

Table: 1 Branch wise distribution of students

Class	Junior	Senior	P. G	Total	%
Arts	5	7	7	19	32.76 %
Science	9	11	9	29	50.00 %
Commerce	2	5	3	10	17.24 %
Total	16	23	19	58	100 %

Out of sample population of 90, only 58 [64.44 %] members responded. Largest number [50 %] responded from the science branch and smallest number of [17.24 %] responded was commerce branch.

Table: 2 Libraries meeting the general and technical need of students

Source library meeting technical & general information needs	Art Students	Science Students	Commerce Students	Total	%
College library	13	17	13	43	74.14 %
Outside library	1	2	2	5	8.62 %
Departmental library	2	4	4	10	17.24 %
Total	16	23	19	58	100 %

In [74.14 %] cases the college library is able to fulfill the information requirement of students the department of the student [17.24 %] are also having a good collection of information sources in their discipline

Table: 3 frequency of the library visit

Frequency of library visit	Arts Students	Science Students	Commerce Students	Total	%
Fortnightly	2	5	4	11	18.96 %
Weekly	9	15	13	37	63.80 %
Almost daily	5	3	2	10	17.24 %
Total	16	23	19	58	100 %

Majority of the students [63.80 %] visit the library once a week, [18.96 %] students were able to visit the library fortnightly and [17.24 %] students almost daily visit library

Table: 4 Reason's for not using the library frequently

Reason for not consulting the library very frequently	Arts Students	Science Students	Commerce Students	Total	%
Shortage of time	7	9	13	29	61.70 %
Poor services	1	1	1	3	6.39 %
Any other reason	4	7	4	15	31.91 %
Total	12	17	18	47	100 %

In majority of the cases [61.70 %] of the students are not able to visit the library frequently due to their periods and practical's work. However [31.91 %] cases any other reason and small population [6.39 %] of students blamed the poor services of library for their infrequent visit.

Table: 5 Purpose of reading

Purpose of reading	Arts Students	Science Students	Commerce Students	Total	%
To meet syllabus	5	12	17	34	54.84 %
For recreation	2	7	5	14	22.58 %
To be knowledge	4	5	5	14	22.58 %
Total	11	24	27	62	100 %

Maximum number of students [54.84%] read for their syllabus and examination and [22.58 %] students are reading for recreations and knowledge.

Table; 6 Material for general reading

General reading material	Arts Students	Science Students	Commerce Students	Total	%
Text book	12	15	11	38	62.30 %
Fiction / Non fiction	9	4	-	13	21.31 %
Newspaper & Other	5	3	2	10	16.39 %
Total	26	22	13	61	100 %

Text book are the most [62.30 %] preferred general reading materials of students. General reading is a clear indication of reading as a habit and it is not being done out of the compulsion.

Table: 7 Opinion about the library services and collection

Opinion about the library services and collection	Arts Students	Science Students	Commerce Students	Total	%
Excellent	2	4	7	13	18.30 %
Good	9	15	15	39	54.93 %
Average	3	7	9	19	26.77 %
Total	14	26	31	71	100 %

Majority of the students graded the services and collection of library as good [54.93 %], and [26.77 %] rated the services as average, only [18.30 %] rated the services as excellent.

CONCLUSION

The present study on the reading habit of the students at the Vasant Dada Patil College Patoda shows that the college library and department library are the major sources of information. It is also seen that majority of students visit the library almost weekly. The study also shows that the most important purpose of reading by the students is to meet the syllabus and examination material requirement.

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