



MEASURING READING PATTERNS AND LIBRARY ENGAGEMENT: A STUDY OF SHRI R.R. LAHOTI SCIENCE COLLEGE STUDENTS IN MORSHI, DIST. AMRAVATI

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Abstract -

Reading is crucial in human life, serving as a fundamental instrument for education and a vital skill in daily activities. It involves comprehending and gaining knowledge for personal advancement and growth. The primary objectives of a library are to foster a passion for reading and encourage a reading culture among its patrons. It stands at the core of self-education and lifelong learning. A study was conducted to evaluate the reading habits and utilization of the library by students at R.R. Lahoti Science College in Morshi, Dist. Amravati.

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

Introduction:

Reading serves as a foundational tool for education and is an art of interpreting printed materials and written words. It plays a significant role in the development of personality and mental capabilities. Cultivating a reading habit is essential for healthy intellectual growth and is crucial for achieving language proficiency. Both reading and the habit of reading have garnered increasing attention in recent years. Reading offers a pathway to gain deeper insights into one's own experiences, serving as an exhilarating journey towards self-discovery. It is an indispensable skill for education and daily life, and reading habits are integral to the concept of lifelong learning. Through reading, individuals can broaden their horizons, identify, extend, and intensify their interests, and gain a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Review of Literature:

The research topic focuses on the reading habits and library use among various demographics, including university students, teachers, children, and the general public. The studies explore factors influencing these habits and the relationship between library utilization and academic success.

University students exhibit high library usage and strong reading habits, with a preference for books over newspapers, and academic success correlates with frequent library use (Celik, 2019). Reading habits among students are influenced by time constraints, lack of printed media, and publishing in their country (Celik, 2019). Teachers and students in primary and secondary schools show varying reading habits and library use, with parental interest, teacher encouragement, and reading programs by NGOs contributing positively (Oyelude, 2013). Student teachers demonstrate a need for improved reading and library use habits, with studies indicating a lack of positive attitudes towards these activities (Erdamar & Demirel, 2009). Undergraduate students acknowledge the importance of reading for academic success, with a majority reading primarily for examination purposes and preferring print over electronic versions (kulatunga, 2016). Public libraries play a crucial role in developing reading habits, especially among children, with librarians being pivotal in promoting these habits (Rao, 2011). The digital era has seen stable reading habits among public library users, with a comfortable shift towards reading electronic documents (Halder, 2021). The utilization of school libraries significantly influences the reading habits of senior secondary school students (Cletus Azubuike Jaja & Ifeyinwa Josephine Udumukwu, 2023). Public library users, including adults and students, use libraries for various purposes such as exam preparation, knowledge updating, and leisure, with a noted difference in usage between men and women (Barot & Dodiya, 2022). Early teenagers from different types of schools exhibit library habits, which is a positive indicator for the quality of reading and research in a developing nation (Partha Sarathi Mandal & Amit Kumar Bandyopadhyay, 2012).

Objectives of the study

The study aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. To assess the reading habits of students enrolled college Shri R.R. Lahoti Science College, Morshi, Dist. Amravati.
2. To determine the reasons or motivations behind students' reading habits.
3. To examine the various types of materials students utilize when accessing the library.
4. To evaluate the overall satisfaction level regarding the library's resources.
5. To identify the challenges encountered by students while reading in the library.

Methodology:

Respondents were selected through a simple random sampling method as per the survey research methodology. A structured questionnaire served as the main tool for collecting data. For this study, questionnaires were designed and distributed to library users at Shri R.R. Lahoti Science College, Morshi, focusing exclusively on the reading habits of college library patrons. Online questionnaires via Google Forms

were randomly distributed to students who frequent the college library, resulting in 184 completed responses. The findings of this study are based entirely on the information provided in the completed questionnaires by the participants.

Data Analysis and Interpretation:

Distribution of Respondents Gender-wise

Table -1 show that 57.61% of the respondents are from female respondents and the remaining 42.39 % are male respondents. The above table-1 represents the number of female respondents is more than the number of male respondents.

Table No. 1 : Gender wise distribution

Sr. No.	Gender	Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	78	42.39%
2	Female	106	57.61%
Total		184	100%

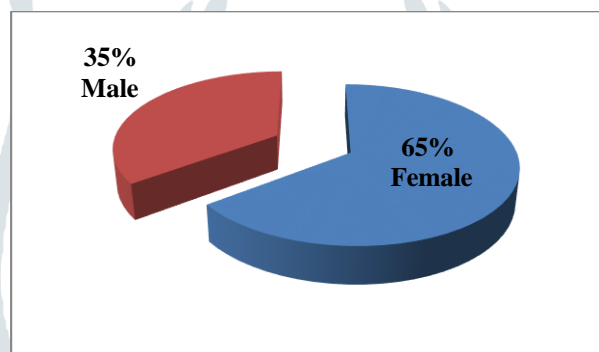


Figure No.1: Gender wise Distribution of Respondents

Frequency of Reading

From the Table -2, 11.41 % of respondents spends less than one hour for reading, 34.24 % spent 1-2 hours for reading, 23.37% spent 2-4 hours, 15.76% spent 5-6 hours and 15.22% of respondents spent more than 6 hours per day for reading in library. Compare to gender wise 65% female students and 35 % male spent less than one hour for reading.

Table No. 2 : Frequency of Reading

Sr. No.	Frequency of Reading	Male	Female	Total
1	Less than one hour	9	12	21 (11.41%)
2	1-2 Hours	20	43	63 (34.24%)
3	2-4 Hours	29	14	43 (23.37%)
4	5-6 Hours	13	16	29 (15.76%)
5	Above 6 Hours	7	21	28 (15.22%)
	Total	78	106	184 (100%)

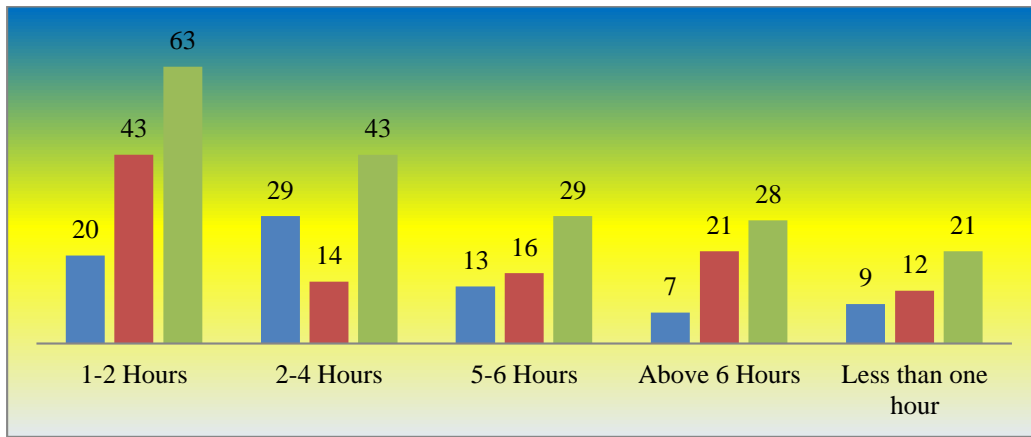


Figure No. 2: Frequency of Reading

Purpose of Reading by the Respondents

From the Table- 3, majority of the students 92.93% interested in reading is to pass the examinations, 56.52% interested reading is to get a job and 44.57% gain new knowledge and information. Some of the students i.e, 42.93% to prepare assignments and seminars & 28.80% students are expressed reading are a hobby.

Table No 3 : Purposes of Reading

Sr. No.	Purpose	Respondents n=184	Percentage
1	To pass the examination	171	92.93
2	To gain new knowledge	82	44.57
3	to get a Job	104	56.52
4	to Prepare assignments/ Seminars	79	42.93
5	Hobby	53	28.80

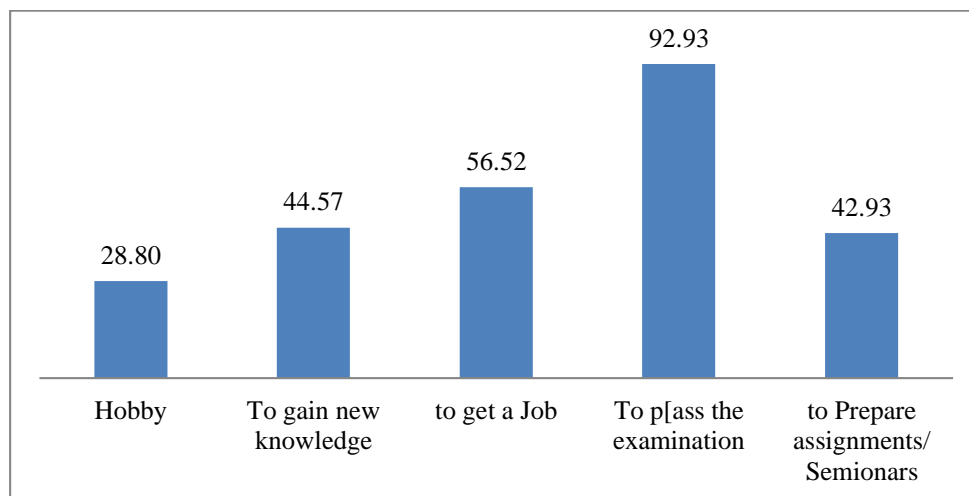


Figure No. 3: Purposes of Reading

Favorite place for reading

From the above Table - 4 interprets that 74.46 % of respondents mention that Home is a favorite place for reading and 67.39 % mention that library is their favorite place for reading. Only 36.41 % respondents are mentioned garden and 23.37 % respondents preferred traveling is the favorite place for reading.

Table No. 4 : Favorite place for reading

Sr. No.	Favorite Place for Reading	No. Respondents n=184	Percentage
1	Library	124	67.39
2	Home	137	74.46
3	Garden	67	36.41
4	By Traveling	43	23.37

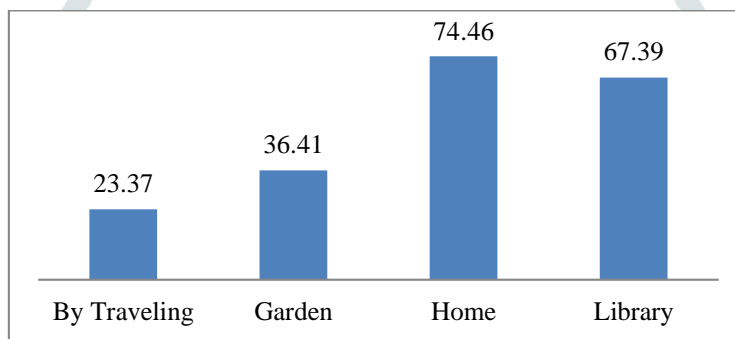


Figure No. 4: Purposes of Reading

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 75 % of respondents opined that Library is a proper place for reading; remaining 25 % 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 No. 5 : Students' opinion on Library is a proper place for reading

Opinion	No. of respondents	Percentage
Yes	138	75%
No	46	25%
Total	184	100

Preferred items for reading

From the above Table - 6 interprets that presents data on reading preferences among 184 respondents. Fiction tops the list with 45.65%, followed by magazines/newspapers at 54.89%. Graphic novels/comics and other categories closely follow at 46.20% and 36.41%, respectively. Online articles/blogs and Poetry are less preferred, with 26.63% and 39.13%, respectively.

Table No. 6 : Preferred items for reading

Sr. No.	Proffered Item for reading	No. of Respondents n=184	Percentage
1	Fiction	84	45.65
2	Non-fiction	67	36.41
3	Magazines or newspapers	101	54.89
4	Online articles or blogs	49	26.63
5	Poetry	72	39.13
6	Graphic novels or comics	85	46.20
7	Other	67	36.41

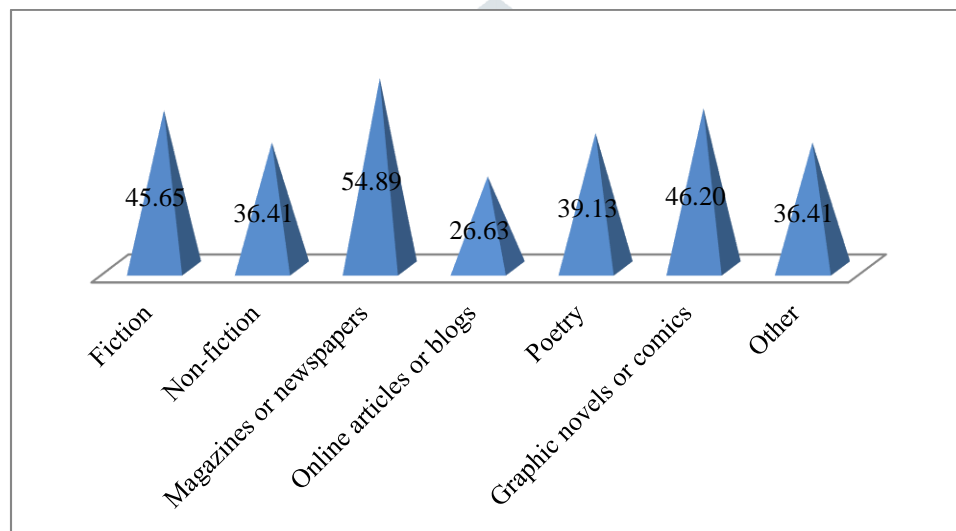
**Figure No. 5 : Preferred items for reading****Problems encountered while reading**

Table no.6 illustrates challenges faced by 184 respondents while reading. Lack of User Education is the most prevalent issue, affecting 67.39% of respondents. Other significant problems include Low speed of internet bandwidth at 45.65%, Lack of Information Resources at 39.13%, and Library not well illuminated at 41.30%. Additionally, 36.41% reported Inadequate Reading Tables as a concern.

Table No. 6 : Problems encountered while reading

Sr. No.	Problems encountered while reading	No. of Respondents n=184	Percentage
1	Lack of Information Resources	72	39.13
2	Lack of User Education	124	67.39
3	Inadequate Reading Tables	67	36.41
4	Library not well illuminated	76	41.30
5	Low speed of internet bandwidth	84	45.65

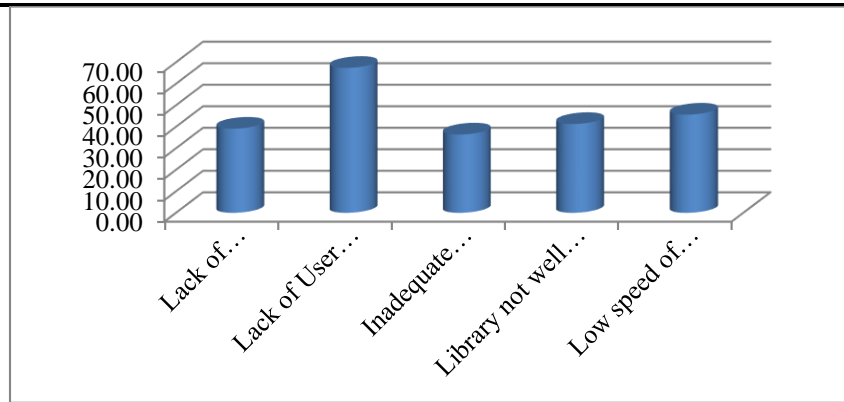


Figure No.6 : Problems encountered while reading

Suggestions

Implement creative initiatives in the library to boost students' reading habits. The college administration should ensure ample reading materials, quality furniture, and high-speed Internet to facilitate easy information access. Regular user orientation programs should be conducted to enhance resource utilization among students.

Conclusion:

Reading serves as a fundamental skill for students, significantly influencing their educational journey and career development. The cultivation of strong reading habits is essential for lifelong learning. To enhance user satisfaction, libraries should ensure adequate facilities such as proper lighting and comfortable furniture. Library professionals play a crucial role in promoting reading habits and should actively encourage students to utilize library resources. Given the influence of the internet on reading habits, it is imperative for libraries to provide high-speed internet and offer robust support for accessing online information. Thus, library professionals have a pivotal role in fostering and sustaining reading habits among their users.

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