



Students' reading habits in digital age : A survey of Shri Pundlik Maharaj College Nandura

Dr. Pratibha N. Atram

Shri Pundlik Maharaj Mahavidyalaya, Nandura, Rly

Dist. Buldana

Abstract

We become better, more conscious, and our personalities grow as a result of reading. Books only impart knowledge; they never make demands. The advantages and significance of reading have been recognized since ancient times. Data and knowledge can be accessed in a variety of ways thanks to science and technology. We have seen students in our society adopt new ICT tools and technologies. It is the habit of reading that allows us to think about the world. People learn in schools and colleges.

Since their status as students shapes their reading needs, college students may read differently than other adults. Many of their classes require significant reading, either through assigned reading or library research. Additionally, students may read for enjoyment, employment, education, or social connection—especially if the Internet facilitates social interaction. This article presents the research conducted by UG and PG students at Shri Pundlik Maharaj Mahavidyalaya in Nandura. Using a Google Form, survey methodology is utilized to determine students' interests.

Keywords :- UG, PG, Reading habits

Introduction :

As we listen a good book can be the best friend more than hundred friends. Which do not demand anything, it only improve our knowledge. Reading habit is one of the best habit for the person. Reading and learning makes the man learned and knowledgeable. Our prime minister Shri Narendra Modi has also taken initiative for increase the literacy ratio by drive Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, launched in 2001, aims to ensure that every child in India can access free and compulsory elementary education. This central government initiative fosters an inclusive and equitable educational environment for children aged 6 to 14. But now present age Information and communication technology impact on society. From child to senior citizens are affected by the internet and social media. Nowadays, internet and social media is popular in youngster. They become friendly to access the information and knowledge . Reading habit is that habit which open our mind and brain to think about the world. Schools and Colleges makes people learn.

College students may read differently than other adults since their reading needs are somewhat shaped by their status as students. Significant reading is required for many of their classes, whether through library research or specially assigned reading. In addition, students may read for pleasure, work, education, or social interaction—particularly if social interaction is facilitated by the Internet.

Why is reading considered essential for students?

Reading habits is one of the therapy which enhances mental agility, sharpens focus, and improves analytical thinking. Reading is crucial for students as it enriches their knowledge base, sharpens cognitive skills, and improves academic performance. By exposing students to diverse ideas and perspectives, reading fosters creativity and critical thinking. It also builds language proficiency, including vocabulary and grammar, which enhances communication. Furthermore, reading cultivates discipline, focus, and analytical abilities. Whether it's textbooks, novels, or articles, regular reading develops a habit of continuous learning, broadening a student's intellectual horizon and helping them excel in studies and life. It prepares students to better understand and navigate the complexities of the world around them.

Literature Review:

According to St Clair-Thompson, Graham, and Marsham (2018), students at a UK university read textbooks and journal articles for their required reading for an average of 14.1 hours every week. Furthermore, they noted that very few pupils really read the recommended readings. Less than an hour was spent by students on their course readings, according to another US study conducted by Nadelson et al. (2013). According to research by Owusu-Acheaw (2016), 81.92% of Ghanaian students reported not reading any fiction or novels in the previous 12 months.

He verified that students' poor reading habits were linked to how much time they spent on social media. Similarly, Huang, Orellana, and Capps (2016) found that American students spend an average of 16.40 hours a week on Facebook, 4.94 hours a week on college reading, and 4.17 hours a week on extracurricular reading. According to Okolo and Ivwighrehweta (2020), most pupils don't read every day unless they have to.

Benefits of Reading habits

It enhances your language skills, strengthens comprehension, increases empathy, challenges social mores and stereotypes, lowers stress and anxiety, aids in vocabulary development, boosts confidence, lowers heart rate, relaxes muscles, and keeps older people from experiencing cognitive decline. It enhances your sleeping patterns.

Method

Descriptive survey research was used in this study. The researchers used both a quantitative and a qualitative method because the goal of this study was to provide thorough descriptions of educational processes. Concerning the research goals, the researchers created a Google Forms questionnaire. A Google Form was used to create a survey-based questionnaire that was distributed by WhatsApp and QR code to SPM College's undergraduate and graduate faculty members in order to investigate their reading habits. It took the kids ten to fifteen minutes to respond to the questions.

Data gathered via Google Sheets and Microsoft Excel replies were computed, and the pie chart below displayed the results. The next section includes a tabulation of the specific outcomes.

Results and Findings

The center of any institution is its library. The library offers a wide variety of reading materials, including hard copy books, journals, magazines, manuscripts, and digital reading materials. These materials all provide society with knowledge and information. Students' reading habits keep their minds sharp and healthy. The library is an institution's heart, and students are its primary constituent. Students can develop their personalities through a variety of services offered by libraries. Students' habits and current reading choices will determine their future. There are currently a lot of resources available to pupils. Additionally, the library is working to improve the habit of reading. Students were given Google Forms to complete in order to learn more about their reading preferences and areas of interest.

Table 1. Demography of respondents

Aspect of Demography	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	79	43.9
Female	101	56.1
Total	180	100

What is your gender?

180 responses

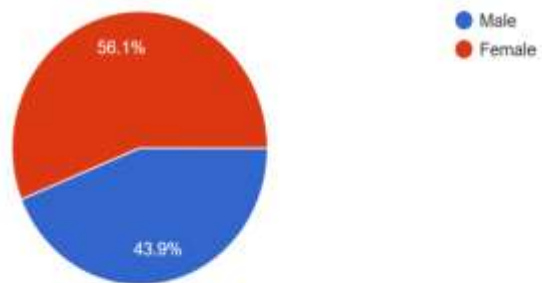


Figure No. 1. Demography of respondents

The respondents' gender is displayed in Figure 1(a). The findings indicate that women made up the majority of responders, accounting for 56.1% of the total, while men made up the remaining 40%. As a result, it may be concluded that more female students than male students are interested in reading.

Table 2. Age of Respondent

Age	Frequency	Percentage
Under 20 years old	45	16.7
20-21 years old	92	51.1
21-22	22	12.2
22-23	10	14
23-24	3	1.7
24-25	8	4.3

What is your age?

180 responses

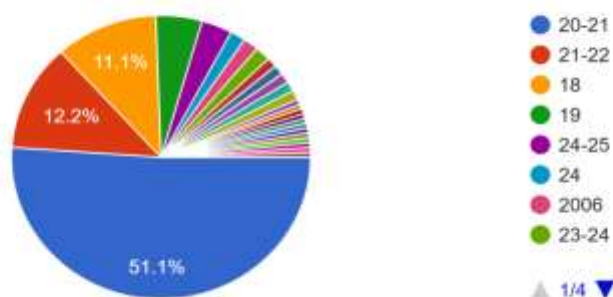


Figure No. 2. Age of Respondent

Fig. 2 displays the respondents' age group. The majority of respondents (51.1%) are between the ages of 20 and 21. In contrast, 16.7% of students were younger than 20, 12.2% were between the ages of 21 and 22, 14% were between the ages of 23 and 23, 4.3% were between the ages of 24 and 25, and 1.7% were between the ages of 23 and 24. Overall, it can be concluded that 51.1% of SPM College students who responded to the online survey were between the ages of 20 and 21. The group's lowest responder age was 23–24.

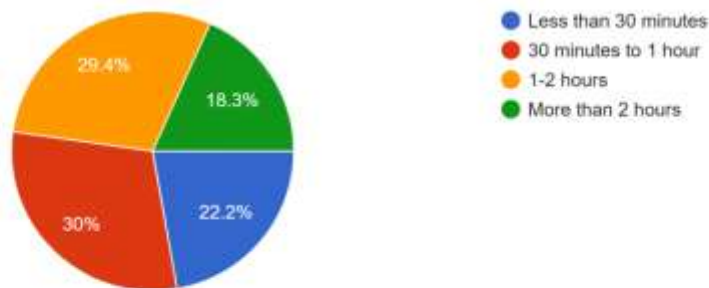
Time spent on Accessing

Table 3. Time spent on accessing Internet daily

Hours	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 30 min.	40	22.2
30min. --- 1Hours	54	30
1—2 Hours	53	29.4
More than 2 hours	33	18.3
Total	180	99.9

How much time do you spend reading?

180 responses

**Figure No. 3 Time spent on accessing Internet daily**

According to this statistic, 29.4% of students use the internet every day for one to two hours in order to obtain online books and information. 22.2% of respondents used the internet for less than half an hour. Thirty percent of students use the internet for 30 minutes to an hour to access knowledge, and 18.3% of users use it for more than two hours. According to the observation, 29.4% of people use the internet for more than one to two hours every day.

Table 4. Frequency of read in a year

Often reading	Frequency	Precentage
Daily	116	64.4
Weekly	36	20
Monthly	13	7.2
Rarely	11	6.1
Never	4	2.2
Total	180	99.9

How often do you read?

180 responses

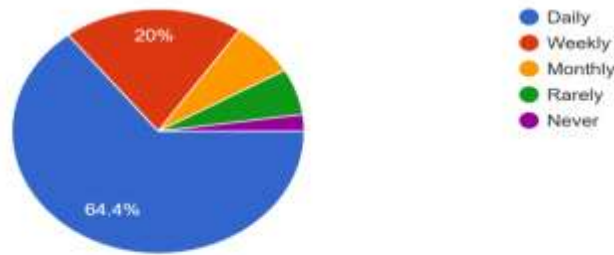


Figure No. 4 Frequency of read in a year

The frequency of reading is displayed in Figure No. 4. 64.4% of students used to read newspapers, books, or other related materials at the library on a daily basis. 20% of pupils read once a week. 6.1% of students read infrequently, while 7.2% read monthly.

Table No. 5 Subject which like reading most

Subjects	Frequency	Percentage
History	85	47.2
Politics	10	5.6
Science	33	18.3
Technology	9	5
Philosophy	2	1.1
Psychology	8	4.4
Literature	11	6.1
Art	22	12.2

What topics interest you the most when reading?

180 responses

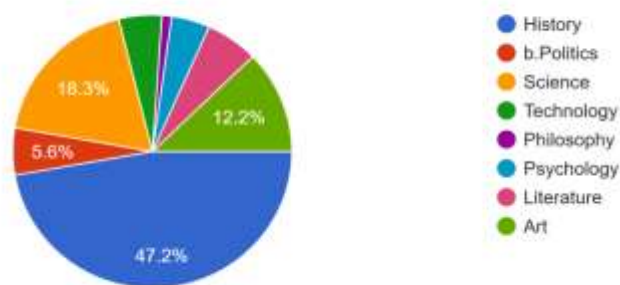


Figure No. 5 Subject which like reading most

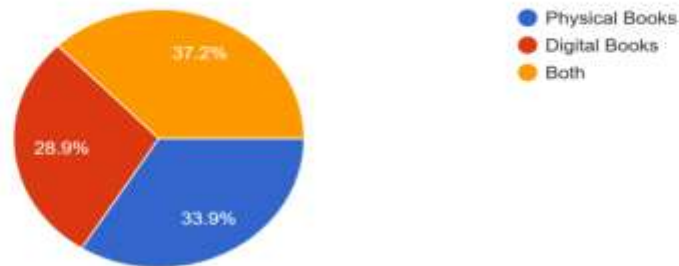
Figure 5 indicates that 47.5% of students read mostly history, 18.3% enjoy science, and 12.2% enjoy art. 6.1% of students enjoy reading literature-related content. Philosophy was used by just 1.1% of students. Politics interests 5.6% of students.

Table No. 6 Classification of respondent based on reading format

Type of Reading	Frequency	Percentage
Physical	61	33.9
Digital	52	28.9
Both	67	37.2

Do you prefer physical or digital books?

180 responses



The digital revolution is what sets apart the modern era, in which people's lives are inextricably linked to technology. We've noticed that people start their days with WhatsApp and e-newspapers. People also show a preference for e-books, e-magazines, and e-newspapers because knowledge and information have also changed in format. Audio and video books are now easily available at one's fingertips because to digitization.

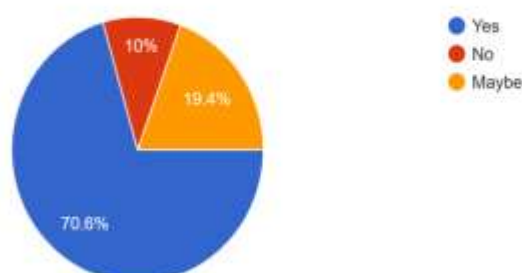
Table 6 reveals that while 28.9% of students prefer digital books, only 33.9% of students prefer conventional books. Additionally, 37.2% of students used both resources. The figure above illustrates that, in comparison to digital books, physical books are still more widely utilized.

Table No. 7 Perception of Reading Impact on Intelligence

Perception of Reading	Frequency	Percentage
Reading has made smarter	127	70.6
Reading has not made smarter	18	10
Maybe	35	19.4

Do you think reading has made you smarter?

180 responses

**Figure No. 7. Perception of Reading Impact on Intelligence**

The idea that reading might stimulate intellectual growth is still a hotly debated topic. Its capacity to mold minds and broaden perspectives emphasizes how crucial it is to promote a reading culture, which will ultimately lead to a more educated society.

The table above illustrates the extent to which students' reading comprehension has improved. While 10% do not consider it, 70.6% of respondents believe that reading improves intelligence and makes people wiser.

Conclusion

This study demonstrates that different faculty members have varying interests. While some students express a preference for social media and the internet, others express a preference for books, newspapers, and other reading materials. Effective learning requires reading. Reading and learning would be the two sides of a coin representing education. Reading is the most effective technique for someone to learn. It helps him learn to think critically, generate new and different perspectives, understand the world and himself, and evaluate the things that will happen to him. Teachers and librarians should take the initiative to help students develop a love of reading for their future.

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