

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

---

Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)

Libraries at University of Nebraska-Lincoln

---

Winter 1-2-2022

## A SURVEY ON READING HABIT OF LAW STUDENTS IN TAMIL NADU DURING COVID-19: A CASE STUDY

SURESH N

Government Law College, Trichy, iamnsuresh@gmail.com

S Thanuskodi

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac>

---

N, SURESH and Thanuskodi, S, "A SURVEY ON READING HABIT OF LAW STUDENTS IN TAMIL NADU DURING COVID-19: A CASE STUDY" (2022). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 6819. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/6819>

# A SURVEY ON READING HABIT OF LAW STUDENTS IN TAMIL NADU DURING COVID-19: A CASE STUDY

**Dr. N. Suresh**

Librarian, Government Law College,  
Trichy-620 023,India

Corresponding Author: [iamnsuresh@gmail.com](mailto:iamnsuresh@gmail.com)

ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0096-8313>

**Dr.S. Thanuskodi**

Professor and Head, Department of Library and Information Science,  
Alagappa University, India

[thanuskodi\\_s@yahoo.com](mailto:thanuskodi_s@yahoo.com)

ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8471-5799>

## **Abstract**

The COVID-19 pandemic in India is a part of a worldwide pandemic, on 24 March 2020, the Government of India has announced a nationwide lockdown. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the day-to-day activities particularly has created the largest disruption of education systems in India. This study has examined the impact of COVID-19 lockdown on the reading habit of Law Students in Tamil Nadu. A descriptive survey method was adopted and an online web-based questionnaire was used to collect data for the study. The total response collected for the study is 464 and 65.52% of respondents are female. It was found that there was a significant development in the reading habit of Law Students in Tamilnadu during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. It was revealed that most Law Students in Tamandu used a mobile phone (96.8%) to read during the lockdown. It was shown the challenges in reading during the lockdown, which include Heavy use of social media, Laziness, Work/home burden, lack of motivation, and non-availability of resources. It was concluded that COVID-19 lockdown has a positive influence on the reading habits of most Law Students in Tamainladu and the findings of this study will provide understanding into the reading habits of these law students and necessary recommendations will be made.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, lockdown, Reading habit, Law students, Tamilnadu, India.

## **1. Introduction**

Every country survives through the education and illumination of its citizens. The significance of education is to develop the mind and enable man to deal with the reality of life. This could be accomplished through acquiring good reading habits. Reading habits are more important for law students than any other student because the law is constantly changing day by day. Continuing reading is essential to becoming a successful lawyer. Legal information resources books, Journals, law reports, and online resources are the important sources of all legal knowledge; therein any budding lawyers who would obtain the mastery of law must rely on these vital sources for professional development. Therefore, it is through reading that law students can have mastery of the law, develop a good writing style, have a good proficiency of legal jargon, and be an excellent speller which will consistently improve the language proficiency and make the student be a good speaker.

COVID-19 is a pandemic that largely got the world unprepared. The COVID-19 pandemic in India is a part of a worldwide pandemic, on 24 March 2020, the Government of India has announced a nationwide lockdown. The COVID-19 pandemic and had affected the various spheres of life particularly has created the largest disruption of education systems in India. Staying at home for a significant time alters a lot of practices and activities for many. It was noted that reading is the foundation of enjoyment in life and is closely related to vocational efficiency. More importantly, reading was essential in keeping abreast of the latest information or development concerning the pandemic disease or the lockdown. For this study, reading habit is the practice and activities that are exhibited during the process of reading.

This study has examined the impact of COVID-19 lockdown on the reading habit of Law Students in Tamil Nadu and the findings of this study will provide understanding into the reading habits of these law students and necessary recommendations will be made.

## **2. Statement of the problem**

COVID-19 has a movement restriction, as caused by the lockdown, which may impact the reading habits of Law students in Tamil Nadu. Hence, it remains the unexamined problem on the influence of COVID-19 lockdown on the reading habits of Law students in Tamilnadu. It is against this background that this study examines the influence of COVID-19 lockdown on the reading habits of Law students in Tamil Nadu.

### **3. Objectives of the study**

The main objective of this study is to examine the influence of COVID-19 lockdown on the reading habits of law students in Tamilnadu. The specific objectives are to:

1. To find the devices used to read during COVID-19 lockdown by Law students in Tamilnadu.
2. To examine the purpose of reading during COVID-19 lockdown by Law students in Tamilnadu
3. To investigate the time spent reading by Law students in Tamilnadu before lockdown
4. To investigate the time spent reading by Law students in Tamilnadu during the lockdown
5. To find the most used reading materials during the lockdown by Law students in Tamilnadu
6. To determine factors that affected reading during COVID-19 lockdown.

### **4. Scope and limitation of the study**

This study examines the influence of COVID-19 on the reading habit of law students in Government Law Colleges in Tamilnadu, India. It may not be enough to generalize the findings with the other States of India.

### **5. Review of literature**

Adeyemi, (2021) had examined the reading habit of Nigerians during the COVID-19 pandemic. A structured online questionnaire was used for collecting data and a total of 416 responses were received. The study found that there was a significant improvement in the reading habit of Nigerians during the lockdown.

Gmiterek,(2021) had surveyed eighteen Polish university libraries during the 2020 COVID-19 lockdown. The study shows how libraries compared in their approach to using social media, and the level of commitment and collaboration with library users during a time when the library was closed.

Nageswari & Thanuskodi, (2021) had surveyed the usage of 12 public libraries in Long Beach city, California, USA for analyzed the awareness of public library services during the covid-19 Pandemic in main and its neighborhood libraries. A survey method was adopted with the questionnaire for the data collecting tool. A total of 36 respondents participated in and concluded that all the patrons are aware of the public libraries' alternative services; they utilize them effectively.

Nv, Neetha Devan, (2021) had examined the shift from traditional methods to blended learning in academic libraries due to the Covid-19 outbreak a year and a half ago. It explores the various significant roles libraries can play to support the current trends in online education and the various best practices

libraries can follow by providing responsive library website services, supporting blended librarianship models, and appropriate use of social media platforms to popularize its services.

Pokhrel & Chhetri, (2021) had reviewed the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Teaching. The study found that Internet bandwidth is relatively low with lesser access points, and data packages are costly in comparison to the income of the people in many developing countries, thus making accessibility and affordability inadequate. The need for developing tools for authentic assessments and timely feedback is found to be another area of study. The lesson learned from the COVID-19 pandemic is that teachers and students/learners should be oriented on the use of different online educational tools. After the COVID-19 pandemic when the normal classes resume, teachers and learners and Learning

Oriogu et al., (2018) had investigated the reading habit of law students at Afe Babalola University. A survey research method was adopted for the study and a structured questionnaire was used to collect data and 62 responses were received. The study found that the majority of response usually find the book they want to read from the library and that the library is their favorite reading place. Also, they preferred reading electronic materials then print materials. The study suggests that the university library should be equipped with relevant and up-to-date information resources that are tailored towards building legal education and developing law students to become independent learners.

## **6. Methodology**

This study emphasizes the impact of lockdown on the reading habit of law students in Government Law Colleges in Tamilnadu, India. A descriptive survey design was adopted. The respondents in this study are law students from 14 Government law Colleges in Tamilnadu, India. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Tamilnadu was lockdown during the period of this study, That is why a web-based questionnaire (Google Forms) was used to collect data for the study and the total response collected for the study is 464.

## **7. Data analysis and interpretation**

### **7.1 Demographic information of respondents**

Table 1 shows that there were more female respondents (65.5%) than male respondents (34.5%). It is shown in Table 1 that more than half of the respondents were BA LLB studying students (63.8%) with other students are LLB (15.5%) and LLM (20.7%). Table 1 shows that half of the respondents were between the ages of 22–30 years, (53.5%) followed by age of 17-21 (37.9%) and age groups are 31-40

(6.9%) and >41 (1.7%), It means female and young majority may influence the overall findings of the study.

**Table 1. Demographic information of respondents**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	160	34.48
Female	304	65.52
<b>Total</b>	464	100
<b>Course of Study</b>		
BA LLB	296	63.79
LLB	72	15.52
LLM	96	20.69
<b>Total</b>	464	100
<b>Age</b>		
17-21	176	37.93
22-30	248	53.45
31-40	32	6.90
>41	8	1.72
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

## 7.2 Device/gadget used for reading

Table 2 illustrated that device /gadget used for reading in the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown by the law students and the majority of law students used mobile phones (76.7%) for a reading followed by laptops (14%), Personal Computers (5.6%), I-Pad (3.2%), and Kindle (0.4%) respectively.

**Table 2. Device/gadget used for reading**

<b>Device /gadgets</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Mobile Phones	356	76.72
Laptops	65	14.01
Personal Computers	26	5.60
I-Pad	15	3.23
Kindle	2	0.43
<b>Toal</b>	464	100.00

### 7.3 The purpose for reading during COVID-19

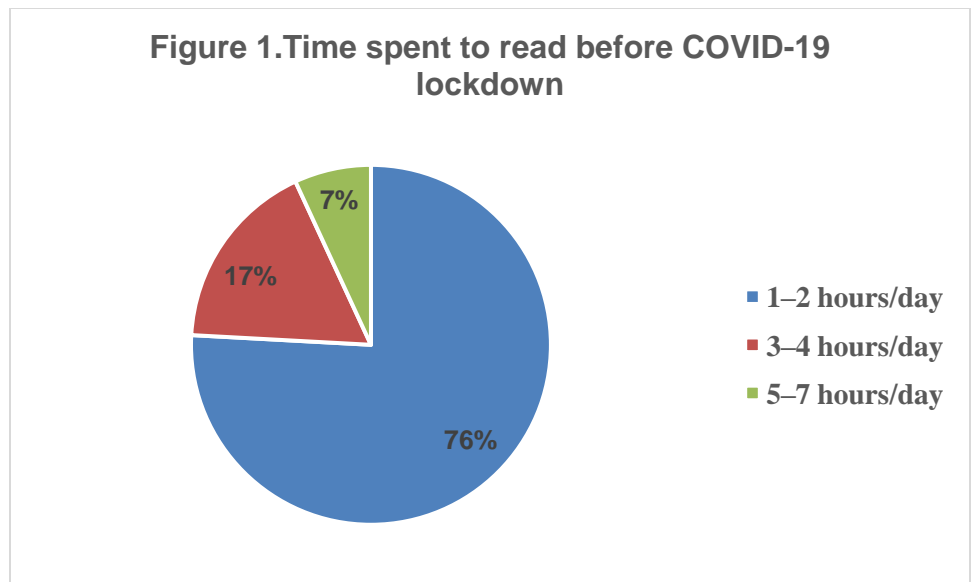
It can be seen in Table 3 that half of the respondents read to get legal information /knowledge (51.7%), Leisure reading (8.6%), Information on Covid 19 (5.1%), Examination Preparation (24.4%) and for Research (10.3%) This reflects that reading is usually done based on the education and career information need. Meanwhile, only minimum numbers of the respondents read to gather information on COVID-19.

**Table 3. Purpose for reading during COVID-19**

Purpose	Frequency	Percentage
Legal Information /Knowledge	240	51.72
Leisure reading	40	8.62
Information on Covid 19	24	5.17
Examination Perpation	112	24.14
Research	48	10.34
<b>Total</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>100.00</b>

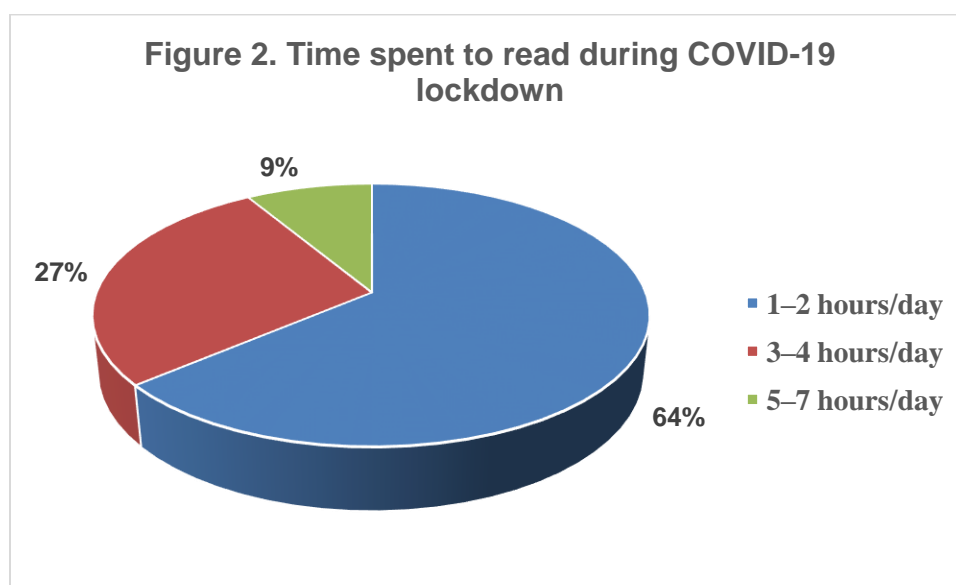
### 7.4 Time spent reading before COVID-19 lockdown

It can be seen in figure 1 that an enormous number of the respondents 76% read between 1 -2 hours daily before the COVID-19 lockdown, 17% read between 3 -4 hours daily, and 7% read between 5 -7 hours daily. This highlights that 93% of the respondents only read for less than 4 hours daily before lockdown.



### 7.5 Time spent reading before COVID-19 lockdown

Figure 2 displays that 64% of the respondents read between 1- 2 hours/day during COVID-19 lockdown, 27% read for 3 -4 hours/day, and 9% read for 5 - 7 hours/day. This shows that the number of respondents increased by 10% read for 3-4 hours and a 2% increase in 5-7 hours/day during the COVID-19 lockdown. It is also notable that there is a significant development in the number of reading hours during the lockdown



### 7.6 Reading Materials used during COVID-19

It can be seen in Table 4 that the most popular reading material among the law students during the COVID-19 lockdown. The Mean value of Text Books, Newspapers/Magazines, online legal databases, and social networking sites is 4 .0 It indicates that these reading materials were used “very often” in the COVID-19 pandemic were as Law Reports Mean value is 3 it shows that was used “Sometimes” by the law students in Tamilnadu during COVID-19 pandemic.



**Table 4. Reading Materials used during COVID-19**

Materials	Always	Very Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Mean Value
Text Books /Teaching materials	184	120	100	52	8	4
Law Reports	56	96	245	35	32	3
Newspaper/ Magazines	200	104	99	37	24	4
Online Legal databases	136	96	135	65	32	4
Social Networking sites	208	80	55	65	56	4

### 7.7 Challenges of reading during COVID-19 lockdown

Table 5 shows that 384 (82.7) of the law, students agreed that heavy usage of social media is a reason that obstructs them from reading during COVID-19 lockdown, 24(5.1%) and 56 (12%) disagreed. This means that most of the respondents agreed that heavy usage of social media is the factor that obstructs them from reading during the lockdown and 328 (70.6%) of the respondents agreed that lack of motivation is another factor that obstructs them from reading during COVID-19 lockdown, 72(15.5%) and 64 (13.7%) disagreed. Whereas the mean value is 4, It indicates that all the respondents are “Agreed” that all the factors were equally hindered them from reading during the COVID-19 lockdown.

**Table 5. Challenges of reading during COVID-19 lockdown**

Challenges	Strongly Agreed		Agreed		Neutral		Disagreed		Strongly Disagreed		Total	Mean Value
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Non-availability of resources	80	17.2	184	39.6	13.6	29.3	24	5.1	40	8.6	464	4
Heavy use of social media	216	46.5	168	36.2	24	5.1	32	6.9	24	5.1	464	4
Lack of motivation	152	32.7	176	37.9	72	15.5	48	10.3	16	3.4	464	4
Work/home burden	192	41.3	120	25.8	112	24.1	32	6.9	8	1.7	464	4
Laziness	200	43.1	112	24.1	96	20.6	48	10.3	8	1.7	464	4

## 8. Discussion of findings

Results of this study show that mobile phone is the primary mode for reading for 76% of law students in Tamilnadu, while only 14% have access to laptops and 4% to tablets for reading purposes on COVID-19 lockdown. As Per the NCERT report mobile phones are used maximum for online classes, this is the important reason the law students using mobile phones for reading.

The results of this study revealed that, during the lockdown, 75% of law students in Tamilnadu read to Legal Information /Examination Preparation and 10% of students have research information on COVID-19 lockdown. which shows that Tamilnadu Law students read to pass examinations and professional or legal updates only. The findings of this study reflect that a minimum number (6%) of respondents have read information about COVID-19 probably to keep themselves safe from the disease and be up-to-date with information about it. it was found that respondents are not shown much more interest in leisure reading i.e fiction only 9% of the respondents read for leisure reading during the lockdown.

The findings of this study revealed that the majority of the law students in Tamilnadu read-only between 1 -2 hours per day. However, during the lockdown, there was a significant increase to 10% of new law students reading for 2-3 hours per day. Significantly, it was shown that only around 6.9 % read for 5-7 hours per day before the lockdown; however, that increased to 8.62 % during the lockdown. This shows that the COVID-19 lockdown helped to improve the reading hours of the law students in Tamilnadu.

Results of this study show that the law students in Tamilnadu used the combination of both print and non-print resources during the COVID-19 lockdown. The respondents were very often” used the Text Books, Newspapers/Magazines, online legal databases, and social networking and the Law Reports used “Sometimes” by the law students in Tamilnadu during COVID-19 pandemic. The findings reflect that law students read only the materials which are useful to their academic and professional development.

The findings of this study show that heavy usage of social media is a reason that obstructs them from reading during COVID-19 lockdown. The use of social media presents both advantages, as well as disadvantages, mostly its advantage is seen in terms of accessing course contents, video clips, transfer of the notes, etc. The major disadvantage of using social media it can distract students from the study. The respondents agreed that lack of motivation is another factor effect that reading habits during COVID-19 lockdown, It was revealed that Work/home burden was a factor that hindered them from reading during

the lockdown. laziness is one of the factors that affect reading habits. The non-availability of information resources is a factor that hindered the law students from reading during the lockdown. Whereas calculating the mean value, indicates that all the respondents are “Agreed” that all the factors were equally hindered them from reading during the COVID-19 lockdown.

## **9. Recommendations**

1. Law students in Tamilnadu should make the reading habit a pleasurable activity.
2. it is recommended that the law libraries in Tamilnadu should make available relevant information resources for law students.
3. The law libraries managements in Tamilnadu should ensure that digital libraries are fully operational in a period of pandemics.
4. The law libraries in Tamilnadu involve the provision of electronic resources like e-books, E-journal, ETD, etc.
5. The law libraries librarians in Tamilnadu should be actively involved in online services during the lockdown.

## **10. Conclusion**

This study identified that the COVID-19 lockdown positively influenced the reading habits of Law students in Tamilnadu. It was shown that most of the law students in Tamilnadu only read for 1-2 hours a day before the lockdown. However, there was a significant increase with many of them improving their reading hours significantly to 3-4 hours during the lockdown. It was identified in the study that the purpose of reading is usually educational purpose and professional development. Furthermore, it was identified that most law students in Tamilnadu used their phones to read during the COVID-19 lockdown. The findings of this study established that the law students in Tamilnadu did not read for entertainment during the COVID-19 lockdown.

## Reference

- Adeyemi, I. O. (2021). Influence of Covid-19 Lockdown on Reading Habit of Nigerians: A Case Study of Lagos State Inhabitants. *Reading and Writing Quarterly*, 37(2), 157–168.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10573569.2020.1857891>
- Gmiterek, G. (2021). Polish university libraries social networking services during the COVID19 pandemic spring term lockdown. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 47(3).
- Nageswari, N., & Thanuskodi, S. (2021). Usage of Public Library Services in Long Beach City, California-USA during Covid-19 Pandemic: An Analysis. *International Journal of Information Science and Management*, 19(2), 49–64.
- Nv, Neetha Devan, A. K. T. D. (2021). Rethinking Academic Library Services during Covid-19 pandemic : A case study on Father Moses Library , Rajagiri College of Social. *Library Philosophy and Practice*, 7–10.
- Oriogu, C. D., State, B., & Odiaka, N. (2018). ASSESSMENT OF READING HABIT AMONG LAW STUDENTS IN AFE BABALOLA. *NIALS JOURNAL OF LIBRARIANSHIP AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (NJOLLIT)*, 1(1).
- Pokhrel, S., & Chhetri, R. (2021). A Literature Review on Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Teaching and Learning. *Higher Education for the Future*, 8(1), 133–141.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/2347631120983481>