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Reading Habits Among The Undergraduate Students Of Government First Grade College Bidar (Karnataka, India): A Case Study

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Abstract: Reading is nothing but interpreting the printed words. The present study is carried on reading habits of the undergraduate students based on user survey at Government First Grade College Bidar (Karnataka). Factors affecting the reading habits of the students, purpose of reading, most preferred material for reading, opinion about the library services and the reason for not using the library frequently were studied.

Keywords: Reading habits, Undergraduate students, User survey

I. INTRODUCTION

The extent of knowledge in any field consists of information given in the books on the subject plus the periodical articles that have been published since the latest book was written. In this dynamic society, information explosion has become a common phenomenon. Information has its value only when it is used in right time and loses its significant while in delay of time. Knowledge is acquired through reading either the print or electronic media.

Even though Information Communication Technology (ICT) is burning topic of the days, traditional print media still occupies prominent place among the people to increase their knowledge. K. Isaac has expressed the same view that reading is the chief means for acquiring knowledge, values, ideas and everything else that contributes to all round development and professional skills and competence of people[1].

Reading is the art of interpreting printed or written words. S H Kabir stressed the importance of reading as regular and systematic reading sharpens once own intellect, refines his/her emotions, elevates taste and provide perspective thereby prepares his/her for an effective participation in the social and political life [2].

II. UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AND THEIR READING HABITS

Students at undergraduate level may read their curriculum, co – curriculum and extra curriculum. Curriculum reading is confined to the reading of the textbooks prescribed for the various courses. Co-curricular reading goes beyond textbooks which are related or slant to their subjects and extracurricular reading involves reading of general books like fiction, biographies and other general books. Reading habit is best formed at earlier education, but it will become goal oriented and purposeful only when they reach degree level or adolescent stage.

III. SIGNIFICANT OF THE STUDY

Learning is like a circle one cannot find where it starts and where it ends. Reading is one of the sources for learning. It is very important for the library professional to know about the reading habits and information needs of the users to connect right reader to the right books at the right time and to provide value added service to the user. Reading habit is a active habit among the librarians and information scientists. The authentic information searcher will depend on formal system like libraries, information centers in order to get satisfied.

In higher education, academic libraries and librarians play key role in realizing the objectives of higher education. Maximum studies were conducted on reading habits of students. But a closer analysis of available studies shows that the reading habits among undergraduate students are scanty.

IV. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The present study intends to study reading habits of undergraduate students and hence the study entitled as “READING HABITS AMONG THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS OF GOVERNMENT FIRST GRADE COLLEGE BIDAR (KARNATAKA): A CASE STUDY”

V. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following were the objectives of the study specific to undergraduate students.

1. To study the frequency and extent of the use of the college library.
2. To study the purpose of visiting the college library.
3. To identify the kind of literature used by the students for general reading.
4. To study the purpose of reading as perceived.
5. To identify the most preferred news dailies used.
6. To find out whether the manpower is well equipped to provide various services to the users.
7. To identify the barriers, which keep away the students from reading and using the library resources.

VI. HYPOTHESIS

The followings may define as hypotheses for the present study.

1. Undergraduate students are using the college library very rarely.
2. Manpower requirements are only minimum to provide various services.
3. External barriers, which keep away the students from using the library.

VII. LIMITATIONS

1. This study is based on a sample of 250 respondents who visit the library.
2. Study is confined only to Government First Grade College. Bidar (Karnataka).
3. Sample for the study consists of undergraduate students of various disciplines.

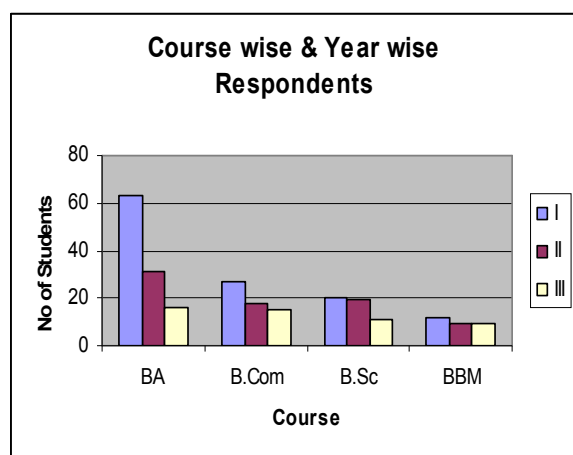
VIII. METHEDODOLOGY

The present study intends to study the general reading habits of undergraduate students. Hence, survey method was adopted to collect data from the students. A questionnaire was designed and administered among the 250 students who visit the college library. Enough care was taken to include the respondents from the various disciplines covering from the first, second, and third year.

IX. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Year-wise and Course-wise distributions of respondents are given in the following table. Out of 250 respondents, 110 from BA, 60 from B.Com, 50 from B.Sc and 30 from BBM.

Table 1: Year-wise and Course - wise distributions of respondents



| # | Courses | I | II | III | Total |
|---|--------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | BA | 63 | 31 | 16 | 110 |
| 2 | B.Com | 27 | 18 | 15 | 60 |
| 3 | B.Sc | 20 | 19 | 11 | 50 |
| 4 | BBM | 12 | 09 | 09 | 30 |
| | Total | 122 | 77 | 51 | 250 |

Table 2: Frequency of Library visit

| Sl No | Frequency | I year | II Year | III Year | Total | Percentage |
|-------|-------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| 1 | More than once in a day | 15 | 11 | 02 | 28 | 11.2 |
| 2 | Almost Daily | 33 | 23 | 15 | 71 | 28.4 |
| 3 | Weekly once | 57 | 22 | 22 | 101 | 40.4 |
| 4 | Fortnightly | 10 | 12 | 08 | 30 | 12.0 |
| 5 | Rarely | 07 | 09 | 04 | 20 | 08.0 |
| | Total | 122 | 77 | 51 | 250 | 100.0 |

Only 11.2% of the undergraduate students used to visit the college library for more than once in a day. However, 28.4% and 40.4 % of students visit the college library respectively in almost daily and weekly once. Furthermore, 12% of the students were visiting the library in fortnightly and only 8% visit the library rarely.

Table 3: Purpose of visiting the Library

| Sl No | Purpose of visiting | I year | II Year | III Year | Total | Percentage |
|-------|---------------------|--------|---------|----------|-------|------------|
| 1 | For General Reading | 31 | 39 | 18 | 88 | 35.2 |
| 2 | Supplement the | 11 | 12 | 06 | 29 | 11.6 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| | classroom | | | | | |
| 3 | For time engagement | 13 | 04 | 07 | 24 | 09.6 |
| 4 | For book transactions | 54 | 14 | 09 | 77 | 30.8 |
| 5 | Preparation for competitive exams | 13 | 08 | 11 | 32 | 12.8 |
| | Total | 122 | 77 | 51 | 250 | 100.0 |

Table 3 reveals that majority (35.2%) of the students were using the college library for general reading. Further, 30.8% of the students were using the library only for books transactions. Very less students that is only 12.8% are using the library for preparation of competitive exams.

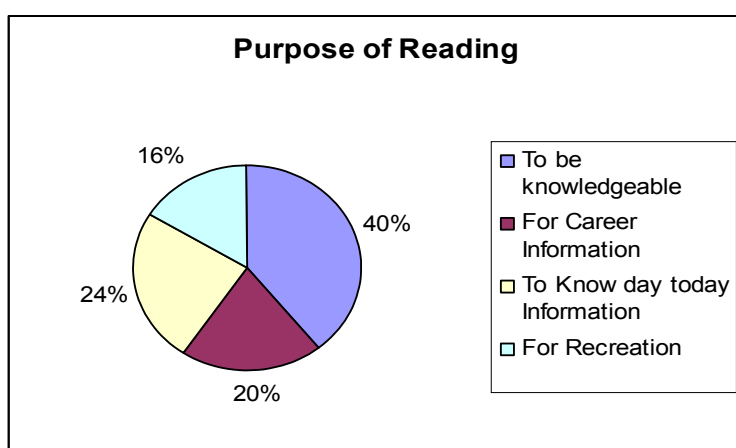


Figure1: While majority of the students were visiting the college library for general reading. Hence, it is necessary to study the purpose of their reading, thus the same is shown in figure 1. The 40% of students purpose in to get knowledge and least percentage that is 16% of

the students reads for recreation.

Table 4: Materials for General Reading

| SI No | Materials | No of Students | Percentage |
|-------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 | News Papers | 103 | 41.2 |
| 2 | Magazines | 68 | 27.2 |
| 3 | Story or Novels | 51 | 20.4 |
| 4 | Others | 28 | 11.2 |
| | Total | 250 | 100.0 |

Various materials used by the students for general reading are given in table 4. Most of the undergraduate students (41.2%) were using newspapers for general reading, it is followed by Magazines. 20.4 % of students were referring for Short Stories and the remaining 11.2 % for other sources.

Based on the choices expressed by the undergraduate students towards news papers, preference were give in table 5.

Table 5: Most Preferred News Dailies

| SI No | News Papers | No of Students | Percentage |
|-------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 | The Hindu | 16 | 6.4 |
| 2 | New Indian Express | 12 | 4.8 |
| 3 | Times of India | 08 | 3.2 |
| 4 | Kannada Prabha | 61 | 24.4 |
| 5 | Prajavani | 58 | 23.2 |
| 6 | Vijay Karnataka | 59 | 23.6 |
| 7 | Hindi News Papers | 36 | 14.4 |
| | Total | 250 | 100.0 |

Table 5 discloses that 24.4 %, 23.2 % and 23.6 % of the students use Kannada news dailies like Kannada Prabha, Prajavani and Vijay Karnataka respectively. Unfortunately, English news papers such as The Hindu and Indian Express and Times of India and other Hindi language papers were used rarely.

Table 6: Reasons for not using English News Papers

| SI No | News Papers | No of Students | Percentage |
|-------|------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 | Difficulty to Understand | 129 | 51.6 |
| 2 | English is a Second Language | 72 | 28.8 |
| 3 | No one to Motivate | 49 | 19.6 |
| | Total | 250 | 100.0 |

Majority (51.6 %) of the students expressed that difficult to understand is the major reason for not using English newspaper.

Table 7: Opinion about Library Services and Collection

| SI No | News Papers | No of Students | Percentage |
|-------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 | Excellent | 32 | 12.8 |
| 2 | Good | 88 | 35.2 |
| 3 | Average | 92 | 36.8 |
| 4 | Not Satisfied | 38 | 15.2 |
| | Total | 250 | 100.0 |

Majority of the students (36.8 %) graded the services and collection as average and 35.2 % rated the services are good. Only 12% rated as excellent and the remaining 14.1 % rated as not satisfactory.

Table 8: Reasons for not using the Library very frequently

| SI No | News Papers | No of Students | Percentage |
|-------|------------------|----------------|------------|
| 1 | Shortage of Time | 81 | 32.4 |

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| 2 | Non Availability of materials | 32 | 12.8 |
| 3 | Poor Library Services | 26 | 10.4 |
| 4 | Lack of Infrastructural Facilities | 63 | 25.2 |
| 5 | Others | 48 | 19.2 |
| | Total | 250 | 100.0 |

Most of the students (32.4%) are not able to visit the library frequently due to lack of time. 25.2 students argued regarding the lack of infrastructural facilities in library. 12.8 % of students mentioned that non-availability of material and 10.4 % of the opinion was of poor library services.

X. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

Major findings of the study are:

1. Only 28.4 % of the students visit the college library daily.
2. Majority of the students (35.2%) visit the college library only for general reading.
3. Most important purpose of reading by the undergraduate students is to be knowledgeable and for career seeking information.
4. Majority of the students are using newspapers as the source materials for general reading.
5. Most preferred newspaper is of kannada language like Kannada Prabha, Prajavani and Vijay Karnataka.
6. Reasons for not using English newspaper are their difficulty in understanding.
7. Perception of majority of the students towards library services and collection is average (36.8 %).
8. Reasons for not visiting the library very frequently is shortage of time (32.4 %) and Lack of Infrastructural Facilities (25.2%).

The present college which comes under Hyderabad – Karnataka region which is said to be backward region and truly needs rapid development mainly in the field of education. On an average only 50% of the students were getting the use of Library, so there is a need of orientation and awareness of library uses and similarly need for development in English language and communication skills also.

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