Spring 4-27-2021

A Study of Reading Habits among the Senior Secondary Students of Kendriya Vidyalaya in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

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A STUDY OF READING HABITS AMONG THE SENIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS OF KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA IN VARANASI, UTTAR PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to report the finding of the study of reading habits among the senior secondary student of three Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) school of Varanasi district run by the Ministry of Education, Government of India. The study adopts the questionnaire tool & 300 questionnaires are distributed to collect the data from the student to examine the choice of reading material, preferred place, language & source of getting reading materials. Collected data indicates that the English language is the most preferred language for reading; textbook, newspaper magazines are the most preferred reading material. School is the most preferred place of reading; the Internet is a major source of getting reading material followed by the library & home. School assignments are a major reason for reading. This study has practical implications for library professionals to identify factors hindering the reading habits of students finding indicates that however the internet is a major source of getting reading materials but the majority of students prefer printed materials over electronic reading Material.

KEYWORDS

Reading, Reading Habit, Senior secondary students, Varanasi.

INTRODUCTION

Two words would derive from the Reading Habit. They can be defined separately as Reading means the action which is performed by an individual and habit means the product of the action. "Reading" is the process of looking at symbols, characters, codes etc. and getting the meaning out of it (*Cambridge English Dictionary*, n.d.)whereas "Habit" means the product of some actions which are performed regularly. G. Devarajan defines reading as an "art of interpreting the printed and written words"(Devarajan, 1989). In the modern era, the common allegation has been raised by the people that we are decreasing our reading habit. As we went to any library, we found the books and the seats are covered by dust which is a matter of concern so I decided to study the Reading Habits of students of Senior Secondary School for that I started to think about the patterns. It is a precise process that involves exact reading, exploring words, spelling pattern, pronunciation and understanding the meaning in between the lines. We are living in the society of the information age where most of the information is being created and used in the digital form in which the students can easily be distracted by the use of gadgets. Since the pandemic covid-19 has been continuously a matter of concern for reading books in library and school. The government confronted the Covid-19 as to learning at home by online classes. It is an activity-oriented skill that needs mechanics of the brain which takes on comprehensiveness before reading. It also gives birth to cultural benefits in the betterment of society. Maya Angelou says "any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his needs, is good for him".

Reading as a Potential skill

Reading as a potential skill means the skill which makes the person abreast with the dynamic spheres of the world so that one can easily make yourself aware. When a person engages in the practise of reading on a regular basis, it is considered a reading habit(Chettri & Rout, 2013). Reading skill develop through socialization process from early stage of recognizing letter & symbols to later phase of interpreting & understanding the meaning & feeling of those characters & sentences .

LITERATURE REVIEW

(Sivasubramanian & Gomathi, 2019) study confined to reading habits of higher secondary students of Tamil Nadu uses structure questionnaire to collect need data explore than 39 per cent of respondent read every day but up to only one hour. the majority of them read-only during the time of examination because of their parent & teacher tell them to do so.

(Kumar, 2019) in his study of the reading habits of students of Nagaur District, Rajasthan found that the majority of readers prefer reading printed books over E-book. They spent more time reading at home than in the library due to outdated library facilities & Collection.

(Babarinde, Babarinde, & Dike, 2018) in his examination of reading habits of Nigeria students found that 2/3 of respondent enjoy reading very much majority of them read to pass their examinations. Availability of electronic media such as radio, TV, mobile phone, computer, internet act as a hindrance to read the book because electronic media are easy to use & understand in comparison to static uninteresting limited printed Books.

(Tanjung, Ridwan, & Gultom, 2017) discuss how the advent of technology alters people's interest from reading conventional resources to digital resources. Students of Borneo university use textbooks & internet daily as it is a convenient & cheaper source of current information. The researcher found Parent's guidance; teacher motivation & visiting libraries is a technique to develop reading habits.

(Erdem, 2015) examines the reading habits pattern of students of Ankara & Erciyes university. 326 students were surveyed through questionnaire collected data indicated that students enjoy reading books, but due to the structure of courses, a busy social life, exam preparation, and time spent on the internet, not much time is set aside for reading books.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Main objective

The main objective of this paper is to ascertain the reading habit patterns of the senior secondary school students of Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) Varanasi.

Sub-objective

- To identify the major source of getting reading Material.
- To identify the student's preferred languages of reading material.
- To identify the students most preferred place of reading.
- To find out the purpose of reading.
- To identify the student's author preference for reading materials.
- To find the most preferred reading resources by the student.

METHODOLOGY

Participants

The population of the present study is the senior secondary students of three Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) schools of Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh, i.e., KV BHU, KV DLW & KV CANTT for the session 2020-21. KV AAYER & KV NO. 4 KANDAWA schools ran classes up to Class 10th("KVS Directory) only so these two KV schools are not taken into consideration for this study. Questionnaires were distributed among 300 students. However, the response of only 248 respondents is received, 143 of whom were boys and 105 of whom were girls.

Data Collection Instrument

The Data Collection tool used for the present study is the Questionnaire. The tool is developed by the researcher after consulting the various primary & secondary sources on the related topic. The pilot study is also conducted on 9th November 2020 to check the clarity & itemization of questions. After a preliminary test has been performed, typographical error & needed alteration has been made on the data collection instrument that resulted in the final draft of the survey questionnaire.

Data Analysis & Finding

The data collected through questionnaires has been encoded into the statistical package for social science (SPSS 26) for descriptive analysis. The finding is represented in the form of graphs & tables:

Table 1 Questionnaire Response Rate

Name of KV	Total Students Strength	Survey Questionnaire Send (n)	Filled Survey Questionnaire Received (n)	Percentage (%)
KV BHU	343	100	84	33.87
KV CANTT	296	100	86	34.68
KV DLW	342	100	78	31.45
Total	981	300	248	100

Table 1 shows that a total of 300 questionnaires were distributed out of which 248 is received. Hence the response rate for the questionnaire is 82.67 Percent.

Table 2 Gender wise number of respondent students

Gender	Respondent (n)	Percentage (%)
Female	105	42.34
Male	143	57.66
Total	248	100

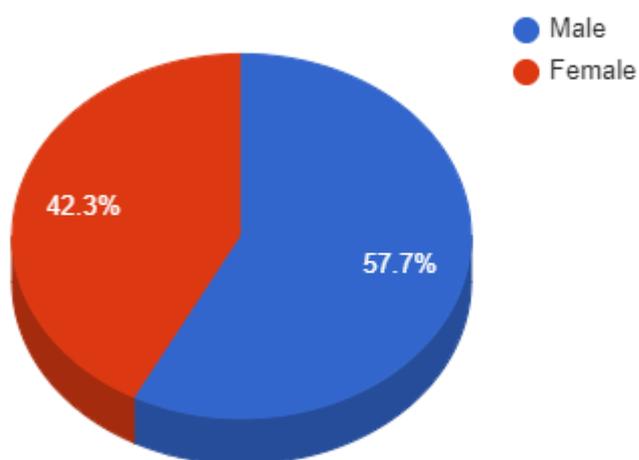Figure 1 Gender wise Distribution of Respondents

Table 2 & Figure 1 Show that out of a total of 248 respondents, 143 were male students & 105 were female students.

Table 3 Class wise Distribution of Respondents

Class	Students (n)	Percentage (%)
11th Class	116	46.77
12th Class	132	53.23
Total	248	100

Table 3 shows the class standard of respondents in which they study. 132(53.23%) students' study in class 12th & 116(46.77%) students' studies in class 11th.

Table 4 Subject stream wise distribution of respondent

Subject Group	Students (n)	Percentage (%)
Science	95	38.31
Commerce	69	27.82
Humanities	84	33.87
Total	248	100

Figure 2 Subject Group Wise Distribution of Respondents

Humanities: 33.87
Science: 38.31
Commerce: 27.82

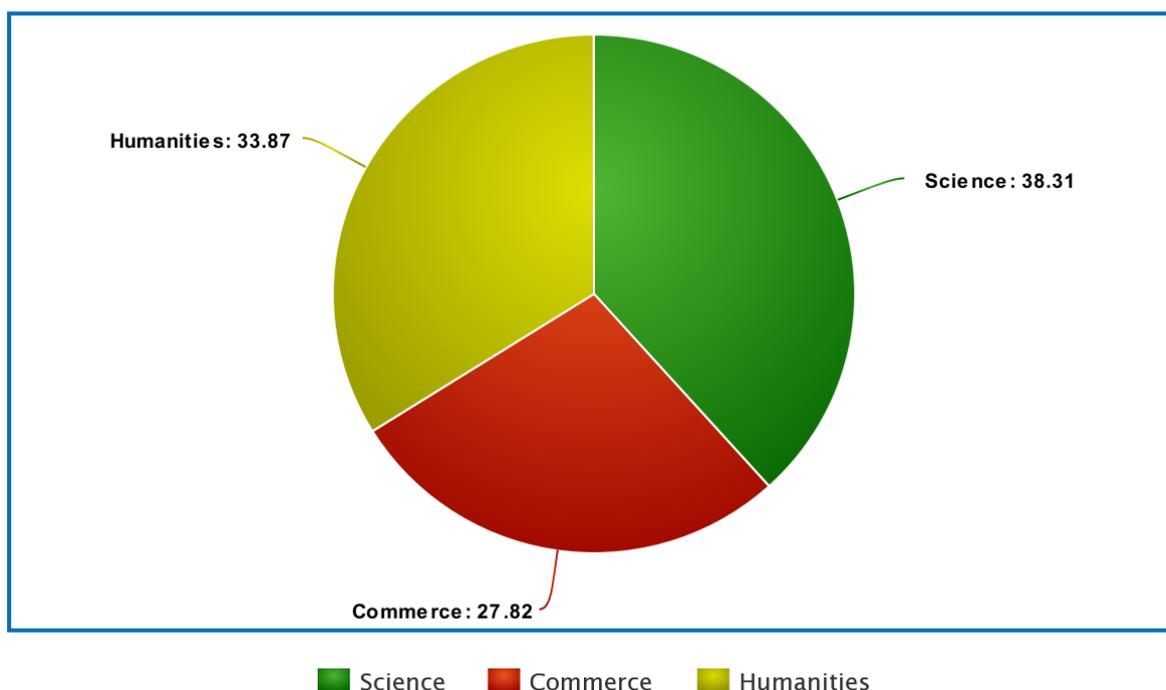■ Science   ■ Commerce   ■ Humanities

Table 4 & Figure 2 represents the subject stream in which respondent's pursuit study. 95(38.32%), 69(27.82%) & 84(33.87%) students' study in Science, Commerce & Humanities stream respectively

Table 5.1 Choice of Author (Nationality)

Author Nationality	Students (n)	Percentage (%)
Indian	202	81.45
Foreign	46	18.54
Total	248	100

As Table 5.1 is examined, it can be observed that students of KV prefer Indian authors i.e.,202(81.45%) over foreign authors 46(18.54%).

Table 5.2 Preference of Author (Gender)

Author's Gender	Students (n)	Percentage (%)
Male	27	10.89
Female	34	13.71
Both	187	75.40
Total	248	100

As Table 5.2 is examined, it can be observed that there is no significant impact of gender on the author on the choice of reading material among the students of KV Varanasi. 27(10.89%) prefer male author, 34 (13.71%) prefer female author & for the rest of students 187 (75.40 %) they equally prefer male & female author.

Table 6 Source of Reading Materials

Author Nationality	Students (n)	Percentage (%)
Library	76	30.64
Home	55	22.18
Friends	25	10.08
Internet	92	37.10
Total	248	100

Figure 3 Sources of Obtaining Reading Resources
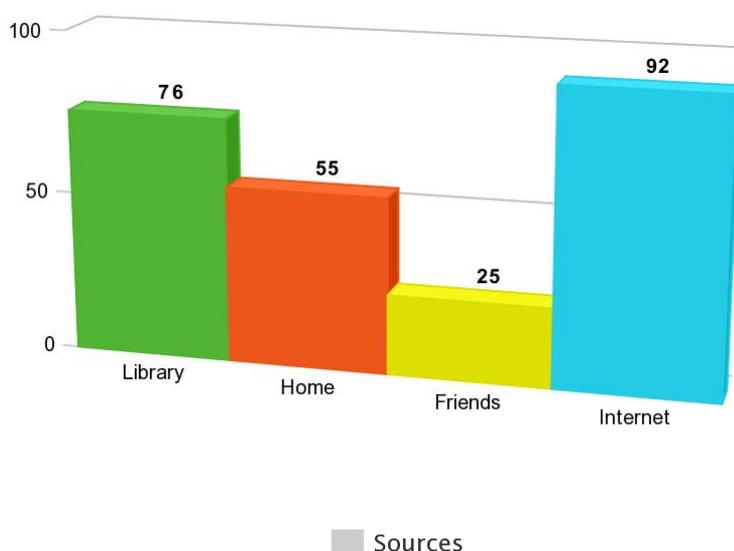
When the data in Table 6 is examined, it can be observed that the Internet is the major source of Getting reading material followed by Library, Home & Friends as shown in the figure 3.

Table 7 Students Time Spent on Reading

Reading Time (Minutes)/Day	Students (n)	Percentage (%)
Less than 60 Minutes	60	24.19
60 - 120 Minutes	118	47.58
More than 120 Minutes	70	28.23
Total	248	100

Table 7 indicated the daily time spent by students of KV on reading information sources. 70 (28.23%) respondents spent more than 120 Minute (>2 hours) daily for reading, similarly 118(47.58 %) students read daily for 60-120 Minutes (1-2 Hours) & 60 (24.19%) students use less than 60 Minute (<1 hour) for reading daily.

Table 8 Preferred Reading Location

Location	Students (n)	Percentage (%)
Home	55	22.18
Library	46	18.55
School	134	54.03
In Bus	13	5.24
Total	248	100

When the data in Table 8 is examined, it can be observed that School is the most preferred location of reading among the students followed by Home, Library & in Bus Respectively.

Table 9 Choice of Language

Language	Students (n)	Percentage (%)
English	123	49.60
Hindi	93	37.50
Other language	32	12.90
Total	248	100

Table 9 shows the language wise choice for reading material. Of 123 (49.60%) respondents used the English language for reading material, 93 (37.50 %) respondents used the Hindi language for reading & 32 (12.90%) respondents used other languages reading Materials.

Table 10 Format Preference for Reading Material

Format	Students (n)	Percentage (%)
Printed	162	65.32
Electronic	86	34.68
Total	100	100

Figure 4 Format preference of Reading Material
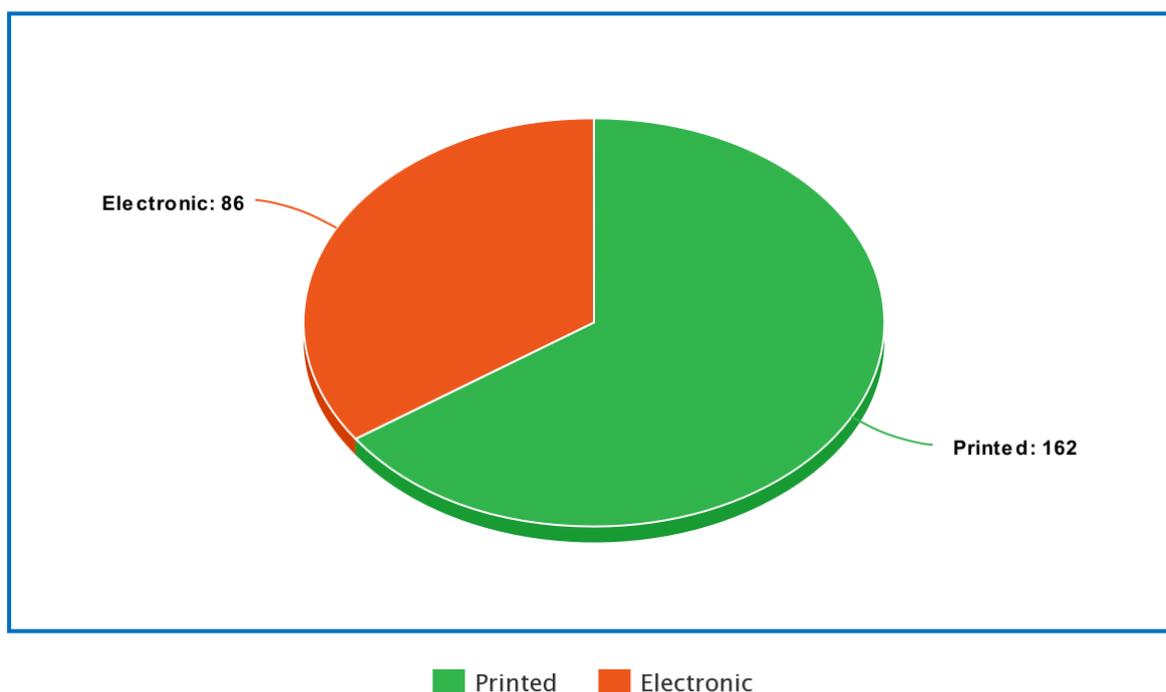

Printed   Electronic

Table 10 data & Figure 4 displays that 162 (65.32%) respondents prefer Printed reading resources over the 86 (34.68%) respondents preferring Electronic Reading Materials.

Table 11 Priority of Reading Material

Reading Material	Students (n)	Percentage (%)	Priority
Textbooks	162	65.32	1
Newspaper	142	57.26	2
Magazines	140	56.45	3
Poetry	135	54.43	4
Comics	129	52.02	5
Fiction Novel	71	28.63	6
Non-Fiction Novel	68	27.41	7
Biographies	44	17.74	8
Encyclopaedia	34	13.71	9
Other	19	7.66	10

When Table 11 is analysed can be observed that Textbook with 162 (65.32%) is the most popular reading material. This shows students read mainly for academic needs.

Table 12 Purpose of Reading

Purpose	Students (n)	Percentage (%)
School Assignments	125	50.40
Current Information	24	9.68
Recommendation of friends	49	19.76
Parents Force them to read	32	12.90
Relaxation Activity	18	7.26
Total	100	100

Figure 5 Purpose of Reading

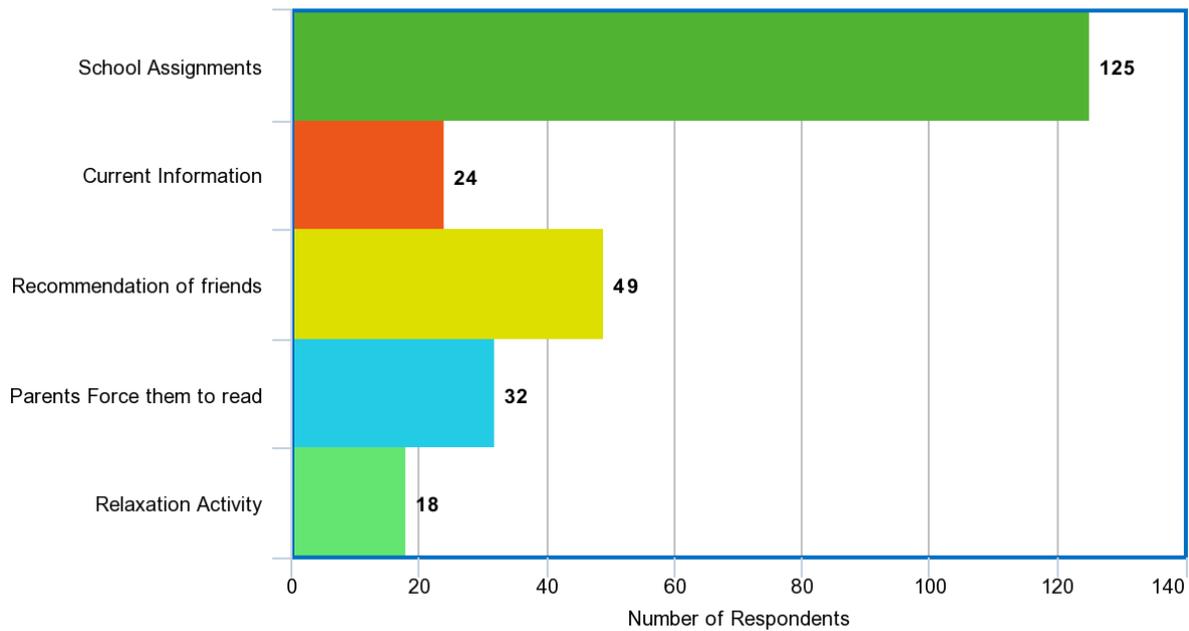

Table 12 & Figure 5 represents the student's purpose for reading.125 (50.40%) respondents read for a school assignment,24 (9.68%) Respondents reads to get current information,49 (19.76 %) respondents read when their friend recommends a reading material,32 (12.90%) respondents reads when parents force them to read & only 18 (7.26%) respondents considered reading as a relaxation activity.

CONCLUSION

This study aimed at illuminating the nature of reading habits among the senior secondary students of KV Varanasi & finding reveals the purpose directs the choice of reading material rather than the language or format of reading material. "Today a reader-tomorrow a leader" is a famous saying of W. Fusselman expresses the importance of reading in the overall growth of personality. Just like any other habits, Reading Habit cannot be developed by force in young learners. It has to be self-acquired like hobbies similarly librarians cannot change the nature of a student but he by his various efforts such as offering popular library services & sources to the potential users such as regularly disseminating quality reading materials & organizing students' seminars can increase the tendency of young students to read new materials and gradually develop good reading habits.

Recommendation & Suggestions

To inculcate & promote the reading habits among the member of society researcher based on the finding of the current & previous studies recommend the following suggestions:

- Everyone should read daily.
- There should be a dedicated Library period in the class schedule of every school
- Library administration should organize book exhibitions, quiz contests, library orientation programs & extend the library working hours so students can visit according to his /her preferred timing utilizing their leisure time.
- To have current & academic-oriented library collections along with a good retrieval mechanism to appeal to the students to get materials issued & read documents.
- Along with academic reading sources, some collections of non-academic reading material such as comics, storybooks, and popular magazines should be acquired by parents at home to motivate students to read at home.
- Parents, Teacher etc should act as a role model read in front of their children's & regularly visit the local libraries.

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