

Reading Habits of Users of Sardar Patel University: A Study

Dr. Shishir H. Mandalia^{1*}

ABSTRACT

Reading plays a vital role in life of a human. Reading provides experience through which the individual may expand his horizons of knowledge, identify, extend and intensify his interest and gains deeper understanding of himself, of other human beings and of the world. The study carried out to assess the reading habits of user of Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Anand, Gujarat. As a research tool; questionnaire was used for the data collection. Collected data were analyzed and tables were used to present the results of findings. Reading especially is a resource for continued education, for the acquisition of new knowledge and skills, for gaining information through media, especially newspapers, books, radio, television, and the computers. In this article investigator attempts to investigate the reading habits of users of the university.

Keywords: Reading habits, Bhaikaka library, Sardar Patel University

Today is age of information and education. In the age printed word is essential. Documents furnish keys to understanding one's self and they provide opportunity for improving the art of human relationships. Reading is a basic tool of information and education and it is also one of the powerful and lasting influence in the promotion of one's personal development of life in particular and social progress in general. David H. Russel and Henry Feadefined reading as "the act of identifying the symbol and obtaining meaning from the identified symbol". A good reading habit is an important tool for the development and growth of personalities and mental capacities. Library is a centre of knowledge and it is a temple of learning established to meet the information needs of its users and readers. The users and readers are the key person in any information system. In a library and information centre, the essential components are reading materials, readers / users and librarians. It is a common complaint that the information users often neglect the general readers and their information needs. It is the responsibility of the Librarians to make available the relevant information to the reader.

Objective of the study

The objectives of the study are follows:

¹ University Librarian (I/c.), Bhaikaka Library, Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Anand, Gujarat, India

*Responding Author

Received: June 7, 2017; Revision Received: September 16, 2017; Accepted: September 25, 2017

Reading Habits of Users of Sardar Patel University: A Study

1. To study the reading habits of users of SPU Library (Bhaikaka Library), Vallabh Vidyanagar.
2. To study the purposes, which materials use and how much time spends for reading when visit to bhaikaka library.
3. To assess the influence of the Internet and electronic devices and media on the reading habits of users of bhaikaka library.
4. To know user's preferred place for reading

Bhaikaka library

The pioneer of Bhaikaka library was Shri Bhailalbai Patel (Bhaikaka), who established this library in Vitthalbhai Patel Science College in 1955. The opening ceremony of building of Bhaikaka Library was performed by Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri in 31st October 1964. Bhaikaka library is the prime resource centre for the students, researcher and all the faculties of post graduate departments of S.P. University and its affiliated colleges. 20 Post Graduate departmental libraries are under the central library of the Sardar Patel University named Bhaikaka library. Bhaikaka library spread over 10720 sq.ft. With two(02) reading rooms having seating capacity of 400+ readers, which includes separate reading room facility for female readers. Bhaikaka library having 4 stack containing over 2.40+ lacks of collection which includes Books, Bound volumes of journals/periodical, Theses, Dissertations, Maps and non-book materials. Library has subscribe 244 journals (National=176 and International=68). Special collection of this library was American Collection, Gandhian Collection, Sardar Patel Collection and Charotar Sarvasangrah. Bhaikaka Library began to use computers in the early 1998 with the library automation software SOUL 2.0 which was developed by INFLIBNET. Presently Catalogue, Circulation and OPAC module used for library administration and in near future in library, all section can be computerized. Bhaikaka library has own web portal. Bhaikaka Library is looking after all the activities related to Publication since the inception of university. There are 166+ books and One Encyclopedia "GnanGangotri" have been published so far by the Publication section, Bhaikaka library.

METHODOLOGY

Primary data was collected from the users who are coming in library for reading and other library services. Researcher use questionnaire for data collection. In this study the samples are taken from various departments of the same university these users are P.G. Students of various P.G. Departments of the same university. After collecting primary data the findings are made on the base of analysis.

Limitation of the study

The study is entirely based on the respondents drawn from the users of bhaikaka library, Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar. Since the units of study were selected at stratified random and do not include factors like academic achievements and intelligence. Hence the outcome of the study cannot be generalized.

Data analysis and Interpretation

For this study investigator collect, a sample of 150 students has been selected on the basis of stratified random sampling method.

No. of questionnaire given to the users: 200
 No. of filled questionnaire return from users: 170
 Percentages: 85%

1. Gender

Table:1 Gender wise distribution of questioner

Sr. No	Gender	Respondent	Percentages
1.	Male	95	55.88
2.	Female	75	44.11

Table-1 Shows gender wise distribution of respondents. Among them 95 (55.88%) respondents are male and 75 (%) respondents are female. This table represents the number of female respondents are more than the numbers of male respondents.

2. Frequency of visit to library

Table-2 Frequency of visiting to the library

Sr. No.	Frequency of visiting	Respondent	Percentages
1	Daily	68	40.00
2	2 – 3 times in a week	42	24.70
3	Once in a week	31	18.23
4	Once in a month	18	10.58
5	Rarely	11	06.47

Table-2 show the frequency of visiting to the library. 68(40.00%) respondents are visiting library every day, 42 (24.70%) respondents visit to the library 2-3 times in a week, 31 (18.23%) visit library once in a week, 18 (10.58%) visit library once in a month and 11 (06.47%) respondents visit library rarely. Hence the majority of the students visit library daily for reading.

3. Purposes of visit to library

Table-3 Purposes of visiting library

Sr. No	Purposes of visiting library	Respondent	Percentages
1	To study particular subject books	142	83.52
2	To borrow library materials	122	71.76
3	To photo copy reading materials	56	32.94
4	To use the internet	69	40.58

Table-3 describe the reason for which the students visit the Library. 142 (83.52%) users visiting library for to study particular subject books, 122 (71.76%) user visiting library for to borrow library materials, 56(32.94%) for to photo copy reading materials and 69 (40.58%) visiting library for to use of internet.

4. Frequency of reading

Table-4 Frequency of reading

Sr. No.	Frequency of reading	Respondent	Percentages
1	Less than an hour	95	55.88
2	2 – 4 hour	22	12.94
3	4 – 6 hour	13	07.64
4	6 – 8 hour	07	04.11
5	More than 8 hour	03	01.76

Table 4 Shown that 95 (55.88%) users spent less than an hour for reading, 22 (12.94%) spent 2 – 4 hour for reading, 13(07.64%) spent 4 – 6 hours, 07(04.11%) spent 6-8 hours and 03(01.76%) spent more than 8hours per day for reading in library.

5. Purposes of Reading

Table-5 Purposes of Reading

Sr. No.	Purpose of Reading	Respondent	Percentages
1	To pass the examination	170	100
2	To get the knowledge and information	132	77.64
3	To be well informed	101	59.41
4	To increase life style	66	38.82
5	To get a job	146	85.88
6	To time pass	22	12.94
7	To prepare Assignments	116	68.23
8	To prepare Seminar	108	63.52

Table 5 explains that all users(100%) says that they are reading for to pass examination, 132 (77.64%) shown their reading purpose to get the knowledge and information, 101 (59.41%) for to be well informed, 66(38.82%) for to increase life style, 146 (85.88%) for to get a job, 22 (12.94%) for to time pass, 116 (68.23%) for to prepare Assignments and 108 (63.52%) users read for to prepare Seminar.

6. Favorite place for reading

Table-6 Preferred favorite place for reading

Sr. No.	Favorite Place	Respondent	Percentages
1	Central Library	145	85.29
2	Class Room	23	13.52
3.	Dept. Library	86	50.58
4	Home	152	89.41
5	Garden	46	27.05
6	In the bus	15	08.82

Table 6 presents that 145(85.29%) users mention that central library and 152(89.41%) user mention home is theirs favorite place for reading.23 (13.52%) users preferred their favorite place for reading is class room also, 86 (50.58%) users dept. library, 46 (27.05%) users garden and 15 (08.82%) users in the bus are also preferred their favorite place for reading.

7. Preferred time for reading

Table-7 Frequency of preferred time for reading

Sr. No	Frequency of preferred time	Respondent	Percentages
1	Morning	149	87.64
2	Evening	112	65.88
3	Afternoon	49	28.82
4	Late Night	101	59.41

Table 7 describes that the 149 (87.64%) users are prefer to read in the morning, 112 (65.88%) users are prefer to read in the evening, 49(28.82%) at afternoon and 101 (59.41) users are prefer to read at late night.

8. Preferred language for reading

Table-8 Preferred language for reading

Sr. No.	Preferred language for reading	Respondent	Percentages
1	Gujarati	138	81.17
2	Hindi	42	24.70
3	English	78	45.88
4	Other	23	13.52

Table 8 presents that 138(81.17%) users preferred to read reading material published in Gujarati language, 42 (24.70%) preferred Hindi language, 78 (45.88%) preferred English language and 23(13.52%) users are interested read to other languages materials.

9. Preferred items for reading

Table-9 Preferred items for reading

Sr. No.	Preferred items for reading	Respondent	Percentages
1	New paper	98	57.64
2	Magazines	67	39.41
3	Text books	101	59.41
4	Stories and novels	26	15.29
5	Journal articles	98	57.64
6	Reference books	54	31.76
7	Competitive books	127	74.70
8	Others	25	14.70

Table 9 interprets that 98 (57.64%) respondent preferred Newspaper for reading, 67 (39.41%) preferred Magazine, 101 (59.41%) preferred Textbooks, 26(15.29%) preferred Stories and novels, 98(57.64%) preferred Journal articles, 54(31.76%) preferred Reference books, 127 (74.70%) preferred Competitive books and 25(14.70%) users preferred to read other reading materials.

10. Reading enjoyment

Table-10 Reading enjoyment of the respondents

Sr. No.	Reading enjoyment	Respondent	Percentages
1	Very much	62	36.47
2	Enjoyable	53	31.17
3	Just okay	41	24.11
4	Not at all	13	07.64

Reading Habits of Users of Sardar Patel University: A Study

Table 10 reveals that majority of users 62 (36.47%) enjoy reading very much, 53 (31.17%) respondents enjoying reading enjoyable, 41 (24.11%) respondents enjoying reading just okay and 13 (07.64%) not enjoying their reading

Findings

1. 68(40.00%) users are visit to library for daily reading.
2. 142(83.52%) users are visit a library to read particular subject book.
3. 95(55.48%) users are reading less than one hour in library.
4. All the users (100%) purpose to reading in library for pass in examination.
5. 145(85.29%) users favorite place for reading is central library (Bhaikaka library) of university.
6. 149(87.64%) users are prefer to reading in morning.
7. 138((81.17%) users are prefer to reading materials in guajarati language.
8. 98(57.64%) users are prefer to read newspaper other than reading item like magazine, textbook etc.
9. 62(36.47%) users are enjoyment of reading very much.

Suggestion

1. To mention in time table at least library hours in week for every department.
2. To organize library orientation programme for users.
3. Infrastructure facilities are improve in library.
4. To aware facilities available in central library like free wifi, R.O.water ,Generator, Audio-Video room etc.
5. To organize programme like display of books on special days, reading circle, vanchanshibir etc.
6. Welcome to users suggestion.

CONCLUSION

Reading skill is essential for every human to make batter life style. Reading provides new ideas and thinking of life to enrich and enjoyable. Reading plays a is a most important role as a age of student level. Which direction of their career and skill development is depending upon student age. Now a days knowledge gain through reading and rich source of reading materials are available in library so encourage the students to develop reading habits through use of library. Today library is also known as “Knowledge Resource Centre”. Reading develop a creativity of new ideas and help to build a knowledge society which can help to develop a country.

Acknowledgments

The author appreciates all those who participated in the study and helped to facilitate the research process.

Conflict of Interests: The author declared no conflict of interests.

REFERENCES

- Acheaw. M. O., & Larson, A. G. (2014) Reading Habits Among Students and its Effect on Academic Performance: A Study of Students of Koforidua Polytechnic. *Library Philosophy and Practice* (e-journal). Paper 1130.
- Akanda, A. K. M., E. A., Hoq, K. M. G., & N. Hasan. (2013). Reading habit of students in social sciences and arts: A case study of Rajshahi University. *Chinese Librarianship: an International Electronic Journal*, 35. URL: <http://www.iclc.us/cliej/cl35AHH.pdf>
- Annamalai, S & Muniandy. B. (2013) Reading habit and attitude among Malaysian polytechnic students. *International Online Journal of Educational Sciences*, 5 (1), 32-41.
- Baladhandayutham, A & Suji. S. (2014) Reading habits among the students of engineering colleges in Madurai District, Tamilnadu, India: A study. *Journal of Advances in Library and Information Science*, 3(3), 244-248.
- Bashir, I. & Mattoo, N. H. (2012) A Study on Study Habits and Academic Performance Among Adolescents (14-19) years. *International Journal of Social Science Tomorrow*. 1(5), 1-5.
- Irvin, J. L. (1998). Reading and Middle School students. Strategies to enhance literacy. *Needham heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon*. Pp. 37.
- Nnadozie, O. C. & Egwin, O. F. (2008). Analysis of reading habits of pupils in public and private primary schools in owerri, Nigeria. *Nigerian School Library Journal* 7: 23-31
- Palani, K. K. (2012) Promising Reading Habits and Creating Literate Social. *International Reference Research Journal*, 3 (2/1), 91.
- Thanuskodi. S. (2011) Reading habits among library and information science students of Annamalai University: A survey. *International Journal Education Science*, 3(2), 79-83.
- Vandenhoeck, T. (2013) Screen reading habits among university students. *International Journal of Education and Development using Information and Communication Technology*, 9 (2), 37-47.

How to cite this article: Mandalia S H (2017). Reading Habits of Users of Sardar Patel University: A Study. *International Journal of Indian Psychology*, Vol. 4, (4), DIP:18.01.120/20170404, DOI:10.25215/0404.120