



READING HABITS OF MEDICAL STUDENTS IN KARNATAKA

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ABSTRACT

Learning is a continuous process which one starts consciously/ unconsciously right from the day of birth. Man has to gain knowledge and get updated for his survival either personal or professional. There are different ways in capturing knowledge, one of the most important and an invaluable source of knowledge and intellectual competence is reading books. Reading contributes to the development of critical thinking which is an important for every individual. Reading can be considered as the corner stone for success not just academically but throughout the adult hood of one's life. The paper focuses on the attitude of the medical students towards reading, their area of interest in reading and the motivation/ inspiration in developing reading habit.

KEYWORDS: Medical students, Reading habits, Motivational factors.

INTRODUCTION :

Learning to read proficiently in the primary grades is one of the cornerstones of academic achievement and the foundation for student's success in their further career. Reading is such an activity in which man explores knowledge hidden in him and this knowledge has been passing from generation through reading and writing in which library always stood as a back bone in serving them. Today in this knowledge world, the role and the importance of the library has to be increased by making youngsters to actively involve in the reading process and library should be a strong predictor of later reading skills.

The student population is the major portion of the academic community and reading enhances social and communication skill of this community. Improvement of student's achievements should be the main goals of education authorities, not only concentrating on the academic performances but also for the overall development of the patrons. Many factors influences in well development of the patrons and reading is one of such factor. Although reading habits and interest/ thirst for reading depend on the internal motivation of the individual as he grows up, it also depends on the environment around him. Motivation and inspiration should be given for him to move better towards reading and it's the responsibility of the teachers, parents and others to make him move towards good reading habit for the betterment of himself and the society.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1.To find out the habitual readers.
- 2.To find influence of good reading habits on academic performance.
- 3.To know the persons who influenced in developing reading habits.
- 4.o examine the factors that motivates the reading habits.

5.To determine the purpose of reading.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Choudhury, B K; Padhee, B K (1993) [1] Reports a questionnaire survey of the reading habits and interests of 200 undergraduate students in Rourkela College, India. The objective of the study was to find out the reading interests of the students. The study assesses the relative priority of the interests that makes students to read and the study ascertain the role played by the college library in promoting and improving reading habits of the students.

Geller, I S; Kholina, L I (1983) [2] conducts survey on forming students' reading culture in a technical institute of higher Education and authors illustrated that Since 1969 the library of the Novosibirsk Institute of Electrical Engineering has been carrying out a survey regarding the reading habits of students of technical colleges, students reading speed in relation to their understanding level, capability of the students to get the most out of library services with minimal time losses.

Krishna K M; Neeta Adwani (2010) [3] in their study explain the digital information access and its impact on reading habit of users of MITs. For their study they used the questionnaire method to know the users response about different aspects of reading habits. Purpose of their study is to know the various approaches for reading habits. Frequency of use of library, types of reading material used by users, awareness of E-resources among users, limitations of reading habits in print/ digital media access.

Kyselova Lydia; Gajdosova V (1985) [4] presents an interview with journalist Viera Gajdosova about the influence of family on the development of reading habits of children. Family members have numerous opportunities to make children aware of the world of books. Parents should not discourage children from browsing through books which may be beyond their intellectual ability. Author suggests that Parents should help children select reading material but at the same time children should be allowed a certain degree of independence in developing their reading habits.

Matlina S G; Dvorkina, M Y (1985) [5] Examines the methods used to influence reading habits of library users. The study suggests that the methods adopted to indulge the reading habits among users change with the development of society and culture. The selection of a particular method should depend on the desired goal, e.g. a discussion and meeting is suitable for influencing the attitude of readers towards a book while the sole purpose of a poster is to draw the readers' attention to a certain book.

Schwartz Diane G (1987) [6] studied on new roles for the medical librarian in an information management environment. Author mentioned that over the course of the next 20 years libraries will be undergoing significant retooling so that they can move beyond their traditional roles and become the manager of the medical centre's information network.

METHODOLOGY AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

Survey method was adopted to conduct the study and data has been obtained through the structured questionnaires which were randomly distributed among the students. Using appropriate statistical techniques data were analysed and is presented in the table.

SCOPE AND LIMITATION:

Scope of the study was primarily limited to know reading interest and reading habits among Allopathy medical students. Hence the study may not be extendable to other category of medical students like Ayurvedic, Homeopathy, Dental etc. Geographically the study limits to medical colleges in Karnataka state. The institutions selected for the study is chosen randomly covering all parts of Karnataka.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table-1: Habitual Readers

Habitual Reader	f	%
Yes	489	50.36
No	482	49.63
TOTAL	971	100

Table-1 represents the data related to habitual reader among respondents covered under present study. The table shows that out of a total 971 responses, 489 (50.36%) of them are habitual readers, remaining 482 (49.63%) are readers.

Table-2: Influence of Good Reading Habit on Academic Performance

Academic performance	f	%
Yes	585	60.25
Uncertain	386	39.75
Total	971	100

Table-2 elicits information for the query "Is there any impact on academic performance by good reading habit?" The table shows that 585 (60.25%) of the respondents say that their academic performance has been influenced by good reading habit, besides 386 (39.75%) of them opine 'uncertain' for the same.

Table-3: Influence in Developing Reading Habit

	To a great extent		To a moderate extent		To a little extent		Not at all		Can't say	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Parents	566	58.30	276	28.42	75	7.72	23	2.36	31	3.20
Teacher	406	41.80	389	40.10	118	12.15	45	4.63	13	1.32
Friends	185	19.05	361	37.17	263	27.10	128	13.18	34	3.50
Siblings	210	21.62	218	22.45	227	23.37	228	23.50	88	9.06
Librarian	36	3.70	89	9.16	169	17.40	492	50.70	185	19.04
On your own	468	48.19	330	34.00	107	11.01	33	3.40	33	3.40
Great personalities	57	5.88	189	19.46	267	27.50	121	12.46	337	34.70

Table illustrates information regarding the person who influences to develop reading habits. Table shows that parents 58.30% influence the respondents 'to a great extent' in developing reading habits, followed by 48.19% of the respondents develop reading habits 'on their own', 389 (40.10%) and 361 (37.17%) respondents opine 'to a moderate extent' that they develop reading habits by the influence of teachers and friends respectively in developing reading habits. The table also shows that 27.5% of the respondents are influenced 'to a little extent' by reading books of great personalities whereas 50.70% of the respondents were not influenced by librarian and 19.06% of them opine 'can't say' for the same.

Table-4: Motivational factor for reading

Motivational factor	To a great extent		To a moderate extent		To a little extent		Can't say	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
	Encouragement	326	33.57	428	44.07	132	13.59	85
Visiting library	502	51.69	312	32.13	59	6.07	98	10.09
Surfing Digital library	298	30.69	368	37.89	173	17.81	132	13.59
To reach your goal	598	61.58	211	21.73	45	4.63	117	12.04
Motivation inside you	453	46.65	293	30.17	162	16.68	63	6.48
Great Personalities	204	21.01	280	28.83	361	37.18	126	12.98

Table-4 shows details regarding the motivation for reading. It is seen in the table that 598 (61.58%) of respondents says 'to a great extent' that reaching their goal is the inspiration for reading followed by 502 (51.69%) says visiting library inspires them for reading and 453 (46.65%) says motivation within them makes to read. It is observed in the table that 428 (44.07%) and 368 (37.89%) of respondents opine 'to a moderate extent' that encouragement given to them and surfing Digital library inspires for reading respectively. It is noticeable in the table that 361 (37.18%) of respondents opine knowing about the great personalities motivates to a little extent for reading.

Table-5: Purpose of reading

Reading purposes			can't say	Less often	Few times a month	Few times a Week	Daily	Total	Chi-square test	
									CC	P
Pleasure	Total	f	73	151	217	331	199	971	0.056	0.548
		%	7.5	15.6	22.3	34.1	20.5	100.0		
Read for exams	Total	f	7	44	122	397	401	971	0.114	0.013
		%	0.7	4.5	12.6	40.9	41.3	100.0		
To do research/ Project	Total	f	118	302	238	228	85	971	0.088	0.108
		%	12.2	31.1	24.5	23.5	8.8	100.0		
To know current events	Total	f	42	95	153	310	371	971	0.101	0.041
		%	4.3	9.8	15.8	31.9	38.2	100.0		
To widen knowledge	Total	f	15	82	188	371	315	971	0.040	0.814
		%	1.5	8.4	19.4	38.2	32.4	100.0		

Table shows the analysis of how often students use library for the purpose of reading books of their choice. The table shows that out of the total 971 respondents, 331 (34.1%) of them read few times a week for pleasure purpose. The opinion related to reading for pleasure among medical students are not significantly associated (CC=0.056 P=0.548)

As for as reading for exam purpose is considered the table shows that out of the total 971 respondents 401 (41.3%) of them read daily for exams and the opinion related to reading for exams among medical students

are significantly associated (CC=0.114 P=0.013).

It is noticed in the table that out of the total 971 respondents 302 (31.1%) of them read less often for the research purpose. The response are further supported by non significant contingency co-efficient (CC=0.088 P=0.108) value.

It can be seen from the table that 371 (38.2%) of the total 971 respondents read daily to know the current events. Response related to reading for the purpose of knowing the current issues are significantly associated (CC=.101 P=.041).

As far as widening the knowledge is concerned the table shows that out of overall 971 responses 371 (38.2%) of the respondents agrees they read few times a week for the purpose of widening their knowledge and the responses are further supported by non significant contingency co efficient (CC=.040 P=.814)

FINDINGS:

1. The study discovers that almost half of the population covered under study are not habitual readers.
2. Study comes up with the result that reading habit has its impact on the academic performance of the students.
3. Parents are the most influential person in developing reading habit of the respondents.
4. Reaching the goal and visiting libraries are the main motivating factors for reading among medical students.
5. Students read daily for examination purpose and to know the current events rather than research and for pleasure.

RECOMMENDATIONS :

1. As students considers visiting library as the main motivating factor for reading, role of library and responsibility of librarian increases for developing the reading habits among patrons. Library should acquire the relevant book and non book materials to meet the requirement of users need.
2. As library is powerful entity to build a habitual reader, the study recommends that library should support teaching programme, guide students on the choice of relevant material for reading, provide resources to enhance reading development, assist the users to develop skills in the use of library and its resources.
3. Study recommends that research mind and its importance should be built in the mind of the students at early study period itself and educational authorities should take responsibility to strengthen the research activities at the respective Institutions.
4. Library should procure general books in addition to academic books to make patrons to know the pleasure of reading.
5. Librarian should play a role of pathway in building reading habits and also should be equipped with well knowledge by upgrading his/her knowledge by reading many good books, so that he/she will inspires or guide/ stimulate the users to read books and develop reading habits of user.

CONCLUSION:

Medical field is one of the service seeking and lifetime learning profession. Doctors could never stop their reading and learning process. Having a good reading habit will helps to keep the mind calmly, understand the emotions of the other in better way which are the essential qualities for a doctor required to maintain a good relation with patients. Reading habits in turn also has its positive effect on the academic performances which helps individual to build a good professional life. Academic institution / medical colleges/society should take into consideration and provide the essentials for the necessary growth of the students. Even students should have the time management skill where he can give space for both the academic and general reading.

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