



## Reading habits among the youths: A case of Dharwad district

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### Abstract

Reading has been the passion of the greatest personalities of all times. Words of knowledge have been passed on through generation and reading habit influences in the promotion of one's personal development in particular and social progress in general. The present study highlights that the effect of demographic factors on reading habits among youths with particular reference to Dharwad district and how the demographic factors effects on youths. The main intention of the research investigator is to find out the problems of reading habits of the students. Reading habit is an essential and important aspect for creating the literate society and shapes the personality of the individual. The research investigator has adopted the descriptive survey method. Purposive sampling techniques are also used. The study revealed about the descriptive survey method. Purposive sampling techniques are also used. The study revealed about the Gender, Family size, family type, marital status, occupation, education, social class etc of the respondents. The study takes a cursory look at how demographic factors are determinant of reading habits.

**Keywords:** reading, reading habits, books, demographic factors, gender, family size

### 1. Introduction

"Reading is a man's bulwark against loneliness- his window on life, his unending delight. It brings yesterday and tomorrow into now". Books are still very much part of people's lives in present scenario and in spite of the invention of the digital materials, the book in its ordinary form is still the most important means of communication ever invented. It's a key to a wealth of experience which connects people in a way far beyond distance/time. Reading is important for everyone in general in order to cope with new trends in changing world. Reading occupies a pivotal role in the life of a man; it opens the doors of the treasures of knowledge. It is very foundation on which the edifice of the child is to be built. In order to face the present challenges, education has to prepare these learners to adopt social and technological changes that are taking place at an unprecedented rate.

Aristotle says the whole end and object of education is the wise use of leisure adolescence is the period when the preparation of wise use of leisure time. Reading provides recreation but also broadens the interest of readers, satisfies curiosity stimulates good thinks and preserves a balance and flexibility of mind. Thus, it is not the only a source of pleasure but also a source of profit. In this context, reading especially is a resource for continued education, for the acquisition of new knowledge and skills, for gaining information through media, especially newspaper, books, radio, television, and the computers. Reading primarily and intellectual activity of learning new things, developing new ideas and it provides senses of completeness.

### 2. Background of the Problem

The main intention of the research investigator is to find out the problems of reading habits of the students. Reading habit is an essential and important aspect for creating the literate society and shapes the personality of the individual. The

research investigator has adopted the descriptive survey method. Purposive sampling techniques are also used. The study revealed about the descriptive survey method. Purposive sampling techniques are also used. The study revealed about the Gender, Family size, family type, marital status, occupation, education, and social class etc. of the respondents. The study takes a cursory look at how demographic factors are determinant of reading habits.

### 3. Review of Literature

The literature review helps to know and understand a concept of Book reading habits in relation to the phenomenon interest. The present study aims to conduct a review of the literature to investigating book reading habits among youths. The study makes to ascertain the book reading of youths, the influence of demographic factors on their reading habits.

Reading can be defined as a complex cognitive process of decoding symbols in order to construct or derive meaning. It is a complex interaction between the text and the reader which is shaped by the reader's prior knowledge, experience, altitude, and language community which is culturally and socially situated. (Wikipedia) Reading habit is having a strong desire to read everything readable every time and everywhere. In this world, hardly anyone denies the significance attached to reading as the most generally needed skill in EAP (English for Academic Purpose) worldwide and as one of the best ways to remain up-to-date and well informed. The understanding of reading that includes both decoding and comprehending. If a reader can both decode and comprehend the printed world, she/he has attained a skill in reading that offers the most personal fulfilment and future succuees.

To fisher (2001) reading is an intellectual action which is possible only if a child has formed the habit of reading and practicing it since child hood. Tella and akande (2006)

asserted that the ability to read is at the heart of self education and life long leaning and that it is an art capable of transforming life and society. Nkiko and Yusuf (2007) asserted that reading is one of the life's greatest pleasures that open the door to culture, knowledge and independence. The role that reading plays in the learning situation, Deavers (2000) is of the view that once a child has been taught how to read and develop the love for books, he can explore for himself the wealth of human experience and knowledge.

Also Maduekwe (2008) posits that once students gets accustomed to reading they become better students, they will be able to learn fast, understand better, and acquire new knowledge and skills more rapidly and are better equipped for their chosen careers. Thanuskodi (2011) when explaining the benefit of reading says that a reader can learn new skills, become more knowledgeable about the world and can be stimulated to both thoughts and emotions.

To Potter (2012) reading fires children's imagination and encourages quick learning as well as widens their views, expands their horizons and helps readers learn about present times. He further stressed that reading encourages imaginations, curiosity and the ability to handle complex ideas.

Karim and Hasan (2012) found that reading contributes significantly to job success, career development and ability respondent to change. Demographic influence on reading preferences and habits is always distinct and distinguished. Changing age and occupational demands also determine what we prefer to read: among different demographic and environmental variables, the role of parents, the library and the school can also not be ruled out in determining the reading preferences of teenagers.

Kolawole (2013) Reading comprehension is an important goal of the Reading process and comprehension is influenced by several factors. It is a simple truth also that one cannot write without Reading. Reading is an inherent part of the writing process and it is the basis of our system for monitoring the meaning we construct when we write. The ability to read is one determiner of youth's success or failure. They must form the Habit of Reading to perform well in all subjects. A good reader has a better opportunity for greater achievement Kolawole (2013) since Reading is the student's most important tool for learning; they need to use this tool with precision and at a rate appropriate to the task of learning and coping with the rigor of academic activities on their various campuses.

Fosudo (2013) while trying to explain the negative effect of poor reading skill said that it can make a child develop a poor attitude toward school and can create self-esteem problems later in life. However, some problems attached to the poor reading habits includes; mass failure, poverty, loss of self esteem, and above all illiteracy.

Nsein (2013) highlighted some of the factors leading to low reading habit as; slow comprehensive rate, slow reading rate. Difficulty in distinguishing main ideas from relevant details, inadequate vocabulary, inadequate reading interests, on availability of reading materials, distractions from Television, and other viewing gadgets. Sanacore (2014) emphasized that the reader interest and habit is determined by a number of factors such as social values of the society, school, family and environment, each factor has its own function and promotes the development of reader personality. Therefore, extensive reading has be found to be the most effective way of developing reading skill and habit among

youth in the sense that each reader will have a choice of what to read and they have more scope following their own interest: this will definitely reduce the teachers control and encourages learning to occur outside the class.

#### **4. Need for the study**

The vision of our country lies in the hands of our youth at and they have tremendous potential as more than 63% of youths filled with fabulous and high ambitions. The mother earth needs these youths in order for our soil to become a brighter one. The primary role of young people is to get a good education in order to become better citizens of tomorrow. They need to learn skills to do the job that their country's economic needs and one's own personal development.

#### **5. The scope of the Study**

The present study is confined to Reading habits among youths in Dharwad District belongs to talukas (Dharwad, Hubli, Khalghatagi, Kumdagol, and Navalgund) and to study thoroughly the reading habits with the aim to identify their attitudes, purposes, preference and tastes of the reading. extensive reading has be found to be the most effective way of developing reading skill and habit among youth in the sense that each reader will have a choice of what to read and they have more scope following their own interest. This will definitely reduce the teachers control and encourages learning to occur outside the class.

#### **6. Objectives of the Study**

1. To examine the role of books and its influence on reading habits
2. To study the reading habits and their attitude towards reading preferred language material
3. To know the motivating factors for reading preference fo reading
4. To explore the general awareness and perception of youth towards book reading
5. To encounter the problems encounter while reading
6. To study the effect of demographic variables (age, gender, place,status) such as book reading habits among youths.

#### **7. Methodology**

The study is basically to study the effect of a Demographic variable on reading habits among youths where in Survey method of research is adopted as Survey is the most appropriate methods of gathering and measuring data relating to demographics, attitude, opinion, and perception. The target population was of the study is the youths of Dharwad District and which comprised of five talukas namely, Dharwad, Hulbi, Khalghatagi, Navalgund, Kundagolthe study utilized multi-choice, a close-ended questionnaire with a few open-ended items as data gathering instrument. The main facet of the research has been identified and further divided into sub facets they identified and dependent variables. The students who are studying at UG and PG level programmes in Dharwad district considered as the study population.

#### **8. Research Design**

The questionnaire has been designed and divided into four sections namely:

1. The demographic profile of the respondent
2. Basics of reading skills
3. Types of reading materials
4. Programme for promoting reading habits

The stratified sampling method and random sampling advocated to draw the sample from the population. A total of 1200 questionnaires were distributed among the students out of which 800 completely filled questionnaires have been received with a response rate of 66.66% which is considered as a good response rate. The collected data has been analyzed and tabulated with the help of Excel and SPSS software.

### **9. Chapter Plan**

In any research work data collection, classification, tabulation, analysis and interpretation is the most important and turning point. Because of this stage where the objectives framed for research will be studied and hypotheses will be proved or disproved. All these are possible only when data so collected is put into statistical tests for deriving a proper conclusion. The present chapter reports the analysis of data gathered through the questionnaire designed for the youths of the Dharwad district. The data analysis is based on questionnaire responses of 800 respondents constitute the population for this study. The required information was collected through a well-designed questionnaire and also through interview technique. The information thus collected is tabulated and presented in appropriate tables.

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