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Reading Habits of the students in College libraries of Kalgachia Area: A case study

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Abstract:

This paper is basically highlights Reading Habits of the students in college libraries especially kalgachia area. This paper is basically focused on students reading habits. The word 'Reading' and 'students' is closely related. One cannot be student if he/she has no habit of reading. And one cannot read if he/she was/is not a student. It starts from the very beginning of the childhood. So to develop reading habit care must be taken from childhood, Guidance, Advice, Environment and facilities are responsible in forming a good or bad habit; it may be reading or any other habits.

Everything is possible to get from reading. There are so many facilities for enjoyment and amusement excluding books. But in books including enjoyment and amusement one can get inspiration, information, recreation and knowledge.

Today's youth will be the tomorrow's citizen. Future of the country depends upon the activity of the today's youth. Reading habits will reflect in the future life style of the country.

Keywords: Habit, Reading Books, Enjoyment, Amusement, Youth.

Introduction: Reading habit is one of the essential habits for human being in the modern era. It should be started from childhood. The reading habits of students are dealing day by day. There are various reasons for such dealing. The education system is itself defective. The examination oriented education system is not congenial for developing reading habit. The television and mobile has made an inroad to our families. For the reason television and mobile has further deteriorated the reading habits of a people. The word reading means "To ask a study of" also "To obtain knowledge of" and the word study means "To apply the mind in acquiring knowledge of". Both the words shall be used in this study to assess and describe reading habits.

A well-equipped and well-manage library is the foundation of modern educational structure. The importance of library in education can be appreciated properly and precisely only if we try to understand the changing concepts of education of today. Education and library are twin Sisters and one cannot live apart from the others. Library is the most important aspect for developing reading habits of students. For developing proper service to

all readers a librarian is the person who creates in treat amongst all readers by his subtle methods. He will be able to put the books of his library to better use only if he creates more and more readers who would use the library .Reading of books will enlighten the readers who have to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Objectives of the study: Some of the main objectives can be listed as under:

1. To know the purpose of reading.
2. To find out the language of preference for reading.
3. To find how much time student spend on reading.
4. To know the kind of literature they often read.
5. To determine the frequency of students visiting the library.
6. To find out the regularity of reading newspaper.

Study Area: The study covers only some selected college libraries in Kalgachia area. Kalgachia is a sub-urban town in Barpeta district, Assam, India. It is 33 kilometers (21 mi) west of district headquarters Barpeta. Kalgachia sub division has been formally declared as Kalgachia civil Sub division of Barpeta District.

Population: The total population of kalgachia area is 29,000 where 17,000 are male and 12,000 are female. Literacy percentage is 42.83 percent, out of these 24.15 percent is male literates and 18.68 percent is female literates. Total Workers percentage is 29.18 percent, out of these 25.40 percent.

Education: Nabajyoti College is the higher educational institution and G.K Arabic college higher educational institution in Kalgachia, Aatur Rahman College of Education and B.B. College are another two institutions of closer to this town. Lokpriya Girls College is the one girl's college of this town. Epitome Computer Institute is the oldest and only certified computer education establishment and K.K.Pathak high school is one of the oldest school of this town. Some private sectors schools of this town are Radiance Academy, Royal Global English School, Fakaruddin Ali Ahmed junior college, Eden Academy etc. For this study 5 institutions covered in this area. This are given below-

1. Nabajyoti College (Est-1971)
2. G.K Arabic College (Est-1969)
3. B.B College (Est-1992)
4. Aatur Rahman College of Education (Est-2006)
5. Lokpriya Girls College (Est-1996)

Benefits of Reading:

1. **Exercise our mind:** Reading bends loosens and supple the mind. It helps in keeping the muscles of the brain in good shape.

2. **Gives satisfaction:** Reading gives immense satisfaction to a person. Nothing can be more satisfying than to sit with your child and read him a story book, or to see him grow with the fairy tales.
3. **Expands the imagination:** Reading expands the imagination of a person. One becomes more confident, self-assured of his ability to understand and appreciate the various aspects of life. The mind is channelized to think about the different aspects and then questions and derives conclusions about them.
4. **Enhances the ability to focus:** The mind of a reader is more concentrated and focused about various aspects of life. When the mind is focused, it has the capability to be more attentive in practical situations of life. As a result the body and mind of such people remain calm; they look at the problem objectively and are better decision makers.

Survey and Data Analysis:-

Survey: In this survey I have choose the questionnaire method for collection of data from students and from librarians of the College which is the subject matter of the Article. One of the objectives of this study was to find out how College library facilities had contributed to encourage the growth and development of reading interest of the college students. In this report data about to colleges of Kalgachia area have been collected. In this survey shown that in all these colleges have used classification system, while cataloguing system is not used in this colleges. Except Nabajyoti College, here OPAC system is used. In this area all the colleges are used closed access system. The investigation about number of Books issued at a time to a student reveals that in most of the college libraries “two/three” books are issued at a time students Book Bank facilities are available in 4 colleges. In this colleges only one college are not provided reading room facilities but other four colleges are provided reading room facilities. In most of the colleges Newspaper, Journal, Magazine etc. are displayed in the reading room. In this survey I show that only 1 College library provided computer and internet service but other 4 college libraries are not provided computer service. From the above discussion it may be observed that extremely unsatisfactory conditions of library facilities arising out of poor management due to lack of fund, inadequate space, poor staff strength, and under qualified staff. College libraries fail to contribute towards growth and development of the reading habits of students for their benefits.

Data analysis: “Reading habits of the Students in college libraries of Kalgachia Area”. The collected data is organized and tabulated by using statistical method tables and percentage. This chapter deals with the analysis and interpretation of the data, which have been collected through questionnaire, interview and observation. A total of 100 questionnaires were distributed in college libraries of Kalgachia area, (i.e. I distributed the entire questionnaire in the college libraries among Kalgachia area.). But only 85 questionnaires were returned. The investigator has selected the entire received questionnaire for analysis of data.

Frequency of Reading:

College name	Frequency	No. of responses	Percentage
Nabajyoti college	Everyday	7	35
	Sometime	6	30
	Rarely	5	25
	Not clear	2	10
G.K Arabic College	Everyday	4	28.58
	Sometime	5	35.71
	Rarely	3	21.42
	Not clear	2	14.29
B.B College	Everyday	6	37.5
	Sometime	6	37.5
	Rarely	3	18.75
	Not clear	1	6.25
Lokpriya Girls College	Everyday	9	50
	Sometime	7	38
	Rarely	2	11.11
	Not clear	0	0

Language preference:

College name	Language	No. of responses	Percentage
Nabajyoti College	Assamese	10	50
	English	7	35
	Hindi	1	5
	Other language	2	10
	Assamese	6	43
	English	2	14.29

G. K Arabic college	Hindi	0	0
	Other language	6	43
B.B College	Assamese	9	56.5
	English	5	31.25
	Hindi	0	0
	Other language	2	12.5
Ataur Rahman College of Education	Assamese	8	47.05
	English	8	47.05
	Hindi	0	0
	Other language	1	5.89
Lokpriya Girl's College	Assamese	12	66.66
	English	4	23.52
	Hindi	0	0
	Other language	2	11.77

Purpose to read a book:

College name	Purpose	No. of responses	percentage
Nabajyoti College	Gain knowledge	11	55
	Prepare for the examination	5	25
	Well informed	2	10
	Fun	2	10
G.K College	Gain knowledge	6	42.85
	Prepare for the examination	4	28.58
	Well informed	2	14.29
	Fun	2	14.29
B.B College	Gain knowledge	6	37.5
	Prepare for the examination	7	43.75
	Well informed	2	12.5
	Fun	1	6.26

Ataur Rahman College of Education	Gain knowledge	9	52.94
	Prepare for the examination	4	23.52
	Well informed	3	17.64
	Fun	1	5.89
Lokpriya Girls College	Gain knowledge	5	27.78
	Prepare for the examination	8	44.44
	Well informed	2	16.67
	Fun	3	16.67

Use of Newspaper:

College Name	Everyday	No. of responses	Percentage
Nabajyoti college	Yes	8	40
	No	4	20
	Not regularly	8	40
G.K Arabic college	Yes	6	42.85
	No	4	28.58
	Not regularly	7	50
B.B college	Yes	5	31.25
	No	5	31.25
	Not regularly	6	37.5
Lokpriya Girls College	Yes	5	27.78
	No	6	33.33
	Not regularly	7	38.89

Library collection:

College name	Collection	No. of responses	Percentage
Nabajyoti College	Excellent	2	10
	Good	12	60
	Average	6	30
	Poor	0	0
G.K Arabic College	Excellent	0	0
	Good	4	28.58
	Average	6	42.85
	Poor	5	35.71
B.B College	Excellent	0	8
	Good	4	25
	Average	5	31.25
	Poor	8	43.75
Ataur Rahman College of Education	Excellent	0	0
	Good	2	11.77
	Average	7	41.17
	Poor	8	47.05
Lokpriya Girls College	Excellent	0	0
	Good	2	11.11
	Average	1	5.55
	Poor	15	89.33

Types of literature consulted:

College name	Types of literature	No. of responses	Percentage
Nabjyoti College	Fiction	5	25
	Non-fiction	4	20
	Both	11	55
G.K Arabic	Fiction	3	21.42
	Non-fiction	4	28.58

College	Both	7	50
B.B College	Fiction	3	19.10
	Non-fiction	4	18.78
	Both	9	65.25
Ataur Rahman College of Education	Fiction	4	23.52
	Non-fiction	5	29.41
	Both	8	47.05
Lokpriya Girls College	Fiction	4	22.22
	Non-fiction	3	17
	Both	11	61.11

Use of Internet:

College name	Use	No. of responses	Percentage
Nabajyoti college	Yes	15	75
	No	5	25
G.K Arabic college	Yes	0	0
	No	14	64.29
B.B college	Yes	0	0
	No	16	64.28
Ataur Rahman college of education	Yes	0	
	No		
Lokpria girls college	Yes	0	
	No		

Findings, Suggestion and Conclusion: Following are the some findings reveals by the study:-

1. The finding reveals that majority of respondents i.e. 60% read books for the purpose of gaining knowledge.

2. The study reveals that maximum number of respondents i.e.52 (61.18%) think that they enjoy reading.
3. The study finds out that majority of respondents prefer i.e. 60% documents in Assamease language.
4. The study finds that a good number of respondents i.e. 38.11% spend 30 minutes to 1hours reading per day. Because students rarely get more than 1 hour to stay in the library according to class time table.
5. The finding of the study also suggest that majority of respondents i.e. 45(52.94%) visit library every day, some of them at least to read newspapers.
6. The study also finds that the maximum number of respondents i.e. 133 (51.16%) do not read newspaper regularly.

Suggestions:

1. In this area most of the colleges are non-granted so, this libraries are not developed there is no such kind of facilities So if the governments provided some fiancé then the libraries will be developed, otherwise this types of libraries are never developed.
2. The Kalgachia area college libraries must make an endeavor to improve its collection.
3. The staff of the libraries should be given proper training particularly related IT so that they can understand the needs of users such as resources, digital library etc.
4. Most of the colleges are not provided the internet service, internet is the most importance service in the library so, and if the libraries are not provided internet service then we never thought that the libraries are developed.
5. All colleges followed close access system. It is not helpful for students if open-access system is followed then students will be able to select books from the library with their willingness, at will directly help the reading habits of the students.
6. We know that the almost all students are coming from rural areas. They all suffer from poor condition. So it is difficult for buying all Books/ journals/periodicals etc. for them, which was very necessary for students. Therefore, if college library will help students then this will be a fine service for them. So college library must be strong one.
7. Seminars, group discussion, lectures should be arranged from time for attracting students for their reading habits.

These are some of the suggestions which were made by the students for all improvement of college library facilities to increase the reading habits of the students.

Conclusion: Library is the most important organ for developing reading habits of college students, but there are some factors which inferences in developing reading habits are:

family background, Social Background, plays an important role in any developing to any habit. Generally, a person belongs to a good family or society he/she will be good. But in case of Kalgachia area here maximum students are belongs to poor family and here society is less literate.

So, in this area most of the students are found illiterate/ neoliterate who are always fighting for their daily livelihood. In such situation, how these parents can think of forming reading habit of their children. Moreover sufficient number of libraries are not available in nearby area where they can send their wards for study and reading there, the well-equipped public libraries, especially village limits, are felt very much. If there have been good village limits, in nearby areas, the children could have been motivated for reading books.

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