Original Article

Comparison of Home Reading Habits of the Students of Arts and Science Stream at Higher Secondary Level

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ABSTRACT

Present research was aimed to find out reading habit of students at higher secondary level in Mathura (India). Three hundred students of higher secondary level from ten schools were selected for study and administered questionnaire to find out their responses on various items related to diagnosis of their home reading habits. It can be conclude on the basis of comparison of two observations that textbooks and magazines reading habit at home was similar in students of two streams at higher secondary level whereas, students of science stream had better fiction and nonfiction materials, newspapers and on Internet reading habit at home at this level.
Keywords: Arts, Fiction, Higher secondary, Mathura, Newspapers, Nonfiction, Students, Study habit

INTRODUCTION

Abeyrathna and Zainab, (2004) reported that the students study regularly outside school hours. This is mainly confined to textbooks and mainly carried out for the purpose of acquiring knowledge. The library is used mainly to study or do homework rather than to borrow items to read at leisure. Most students indicated positive attitude towards the library for providing them with the facility to carry out their study or meet friends, but hardly use the services the library provides. Agnihotri, (2012) advocated that the students should be helped to be acquainted with the vocational implications of various school subjects. Carol, (1977) suggested a procedure for using the think-aloud technique in the classroom. Reading habit, skill, and attitude were found to result substantial incremental validity in predicting academic performance (Crede and Kuncel, 2008). Reading habit and skill measures improve prediction of academic performance more than any other non-cognitive individual difference variable examined to date and should be regarded as the third pillar of academic success. Need for achievement and reading habits have been found to be the significant variables, which contributes to better performances in the pupils (Parveen, 2011). Dixit, (2011) found a positive correlation between the readiness towards the use of meta-cognition and academic achievement.

The objectives of present investigation were to find out the reading habit of the students at higher secondary level in Mathura District (India).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Three hundred students of higher secondary level from ten schools were selected for the study and administered questionnaire to find out their responses on various items related to diagnosis of their home reading habits. The results were statistically analysed using suitable model (Snedecor and Cochran, 1994).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Arts stream:

The observations with regard to the home reading habit of the students of arts stream are presented in the table 1. It can be revealed on the basis of these observations that Mostly students of arts stream at higher secondary level had a good home reading habit. About 21 per cent students were reading textbooks for 4 days per week, 20, 25 and 21 per cent students were reading fiction, nonfiction materials and magazines two days per week and 19 and 21 per cent students were reading at least one day per week, respectively. Only 7, 14, 14, 6, 13 and 15 per cent students were not reading textbooks, fiction, non-fiction materials, magazines newspapers and Internet at home. The major reason for this type of habit was the fact that a huge number of students under study were from rural and remote area where fiction and nonfiction materials magazines, newspapers and Internet facilities were not available. About 9, 4, 4,

7, 6 and 5 per cent students were reading textbooks, fiction and nonfiction materials, magazines, newspapers and Internet daily. Most of them were coming from the urban area where those facilities were available.

Days per week	Textbooks	Fiction	Non-fiction	Magazines	News papers	INTERNET
0	7	14	14	6	13	15
1	5	16	21	16	_19_	_21_
2	8	_20_	_25_	_21_	15	19
3	19	18	13	17	15	18
4	_21_	12	9	14	13	9
5	17	10	9	11	11	7
6	14	6	5	8	8	6
7	9	4	4	7	6	5

Table 1: Home Reading Habit of Higher Secondary Students of Arts Stream (%)

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Science stream:
The observations with regard to the home reading habit of the students of science stream are presented in the table 2. It can be revealed on the basis of these observations that Mostly students of science stream at higher secondary level had a good home reading habit. About 21 per cent students were reading textbooks for 4 days per week, 20, 25, 17 and 22 per cent students were reading fiction and nonfiction materials, news papers and on Internet for 3 days per week and 20 per cent students were reading magazines 2 days per week, respectively. Only 8, 12, 9, 7, 13 and 10 per cent students were not reading textbooks, fiction, non-fiction materials, magazines newspapers and Internet at home. The major reason for this type of habit was the fact that a huge number of students under study were from rural and remote area where fiction, nonfiction material magazines, newspapers and Internet facilities were not available. About 8, 5, 4, 7, 7 and 6 per cent students were reading textbooks, fiction and nonfiction materials, magazines, newspapers and Internet daily. Most of them were coming from the urban area where those facilities were available.

Days per week	Textbooks	Fiction	Non-fiction	Magazines	News papers	INTERNET
0	8	12	9	7	13	10
1	9	18	14	15	14	18
2	16	16	21	_20_	15	19
3	20	_20_	_25_	17	_17_	_22_
4	_21_	12	13	15	13	10
5	10	10	9	10	11	9
6	8	7	5	9	10	7
7	8	5	4	7	7	6

Table 2: Home Reading Habit of Higher Secondary Students of Science Stream (%)

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CONCLUSION

It can be conclude on the basis of comparison of two observations that textbooks and magazines reading habit at home was similar in the students of two streams at higher secondary level whereas, the students of science stream had better fiction and nonfiction materials, newspapers and on Internet reading habit at home at this level.

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