

A Study of Knowledge Gaining Attitude of the Students of Seethalakshmi Ramaswami College, Trichirappalli, Tamil Nadu

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Abstract– The study examines the reading habits and experiences of Seethalakshmi Ramaswami College Students, Trichirappalli, Tamil Nadu. It is one of the much admired women's Arts and Science College in Tamil Nadu. A questionnaire was prepared and distributed to the Students of Arts and Science. The prospects of education particularly in vocational and applied fields have undergone vast expansion. During the past few decades the concept of education and mode of their applications have undergone significant changes. With an exponential rate of growth of knowledge i.e. information, the field of library and information science has become more complex and challenging. By inculcating News Paper reading awareness among the students it helps to develop appropriate attitudes, skills and personality traits.

Keywords: College Students, News Paper Reading, Reading Habit

I. INTRODUCTION

Education is a process of lending one out of ignorance and which exposes the individual to the light of knowledge. It plays crucial role in economic and social development and a step towards modernization. As a key factor in manpower creation, it supplies the requisite number and quality of persons needed to handle various tasks. The academic function of the college library in India is aptly described by Prof.D.S.Kothari in the Education Commission Report (1964-66). The library should provide library facilities and services necessary for success of all formal programmes of instruction, open the door to the wide world of books that lies beyond the boundaries of one's own field of qualification and bring books, students and scholars together under conditions which encourage reading for pleasure, self-discovery, personal growth and the sharpening of intellectual curiosity. The staff should be able to convert the library into an intellectual workshop and should along with teachers be in a position to teach with books.

Students often read newspapers for various reasons. Newspapers are a great teaching resource. New papers are

doing a great role in what is going on in our state, country or in the world. Critical reading ability at grade level is an expected skill for regular education students. Using the newspaper as a vehicle to teach serious reading skills in timely news articles will make the content more applicable to the students. By reading news paper the students can able to locate articles of interest and readability. The students can apply skimming skills, contextual reading skills, vocabulary development and comprehension skills. The students will apply higher level thinking skills making connections to their own lives, to other subject areas.

II. SCOPE AND COVERAGE

The study covers the following aspects

1. It investigates the information needs and reading interest of exclusively the students of one college.
2. It covers the students of Seethalakshmi Ramaswami (Autonomous) College, Trichy.
3. It considers only those students of 18 to 21 years.

III. ABOUT THE INSTITUTION

Seethalakshmi Ramaswami College was founded by Padmabhushan Sri. N. Ramaswami Ayyar in 1951. It is situated on the banks of river Cauvery in the historical city of Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu. It is one of the most popular women's colleges of Tamil Nadu and it is managed by Sri. R. Panchapakesan, the able and illustrious son of revered founder Padmabhushan Sri. N. Ramaswami Ayyar. Over the period of six decades, the college was able to scale greater and greater heights and rise to the present status as a multi faculty institution with 14 UG courses, nine PG courses and seven M.Phil., and three Ph.D. programmes under Government Aided stream and eight U.G. courses, five P.G. courses, under self-financing stream for women by promoting quality and excellence in higher education due to the sustained efforts and dedicated leadership given by the College Management Committee.

IV. AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The following objectives are framed for this study.

1. To identify the students fathers' occupation.
2. To identify the knowledge gaining attitude by reading newspaper.
3. To know the periodicity of reading.
4. To indicate the causes of reading.
5. To observe the reading place of students in their house.
6. To measure the other habits while reading.

The students of Seethalakshmi Ramaswami (Autonomous) College at Trichy are taken as samples. Out of the population the sample taken was 100.

V. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

TABLE I PARENT'S OCCUPATION

S.No.	Fathers Occupation	Science Students	Arts Students
1	Government servant	22	12
2	Farmer	16	18
3	Private	20	8
4	Business	1	3

This Table I shows the student's fathers occupation. It shows that most of the government servants' daughters are studying in science discipline (22 students). And the Business persons' daughters are very least in science discipline (one student). Most of the students studying in arts discipline (18 students) are from farmer family.

CHI - SQUARE TEST

Sl.No.	Observed Value (O)	Expected Value (E)	(O-E)	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
1	22	20.06	1.94	3.8	0.19
2	16	20.06	-4.06	16.5	0.82
3	20	16.52	3.48	12.1	0.73
4	1	2.42	-1.42	2.0	0.83
5	12	13.94	-1.94	3.8	0.27
6	18	13.94	4.06	16.5	1.18
7	8	11.48	-3.48	12.1	1.05
8	3	1.58	1.42	2.0	1.28
					6.35

$$\chi^2 = \sum (O-E)^2 / E = 6.35$$

Tabulated value of χ^2 for (4-1) x (2-1) = 3 df at 5% level of significance is 7.815 and calculated value of χ^2 is < tabulated value. Therefore accept null hypothesis that is science students and arts students reading habit independent of their father's occupation.

The Fig.1 shows most of the science students are reading news paper daily. That is 50 science students are reading news paper daily and only 30 arts students have this habit.

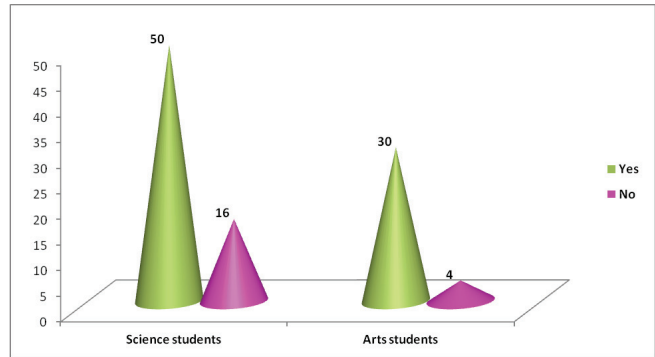


Fig.1 Frequency of Reading Newspaper

This table shows that arts students are reading both the Tamil and English news papers. They are 28 students but they are least in reading only Tamil news papers. And the maximum number of science students (16 students) reading only Tamil news paper.

TABLE II READING HABIT OF NEWS PAPER

S.No.	Newspaper	Science Students	Arts Students
1	Tamil & English Newspaper Reading	20	28
2	English only	12	4
3	Tamil only	16	2

TABLE III T- TEST FOR READING HABIT OF NEWS PAPER

\bar{X}	$x-\bar{X}$	$(x-\bar{X})^2$	\bar{Y}	$Y-\bar{Y}$	$(Y-\bar{Y})^2$
20	4	16	28	16.6	277.55
12	-4	16	4	-7.3	53.73
16	0	0	2	-9.3	87.04
48		32	34		418.33

Let X - denote Science students
and Y - denote Arts students

$$= \bar{X} - \bar{Y} \sqrt{s^2 (1/n_1 + 1/n_2)} = 0.54$$

Tabulated t value at 5% level of significance for (3+3-2) = 4 d.f. is 2.776 and

calculated $|t| = .54$ which is less than 2.78. Therefore H_0 accepted at 5% level of significance that science and arts students reading habit do not differ significantly.

The below table shows that science students are mostly interested in reading scientific articles and the arts students are

showing interest in reading book reviews. Science students are very eager to know about the international news when compared to arts students. In other areas both disciplines have the same level of interest.

TABLE IV INTERESTED NEWS

S.No.	News Type	Science Students	Arts Students
1	Local news	4	4
2	International news	16	8
3	Scientific article	24	2
4	Literary news	4	8
5	Books Review	8	10
6	Sports column	2	2
7	Advertisement	2	2
8	Film world	2	2

TABLE V T-TEST FOR INTERESTED NEWS READ BY STUDENTS

S.No.	\bar{X}	$X-\bar{X}$	$(X-\bar{X})^2$	Y	Y-Y	$(Y-Y)^2$
1	4	-3.75	14.06	4	-0.75	0.56
2	16	8.25	68.06	8	3.25	10.56
3	24	16.25	264.06	2	-2.75	7.56
4	4	-3.75	14.06	8	3.25	10.56
5	8	0.25	0.06	10	5.25	27.56
6	2	-5.75	33.06	2	-2.75	7.56
7	2	-5.75	33.06	2	-2.75	7.56
8	2	-5.75	33.06	2	-2.75	7.56
	62	0	459.50	38	0	79.48

$$t = \frac{\bar{X} - \bar{Y}}{\sqrt{s^2(1/n_1 + 1/n_2)}} = 0.48$$

Tabulated t at 5% level of significance for (8+8-2) = 14 d.f is 2.15 and |t|=0.48 which is less than the tabulated value. Therefore, Hypothesis accepted at 5% level of significance that the science and arts students have the same taste of interest in reading news type.

The below table shows that both the science and arts students are reading books daily. The science students are 34 members and arts students are 30 members.

TABLE VI REGULARITY OF READING NEWS PAPER

S.No.	Periodicity of Reading	Science Students	Arts Students
1	Daily	34	30
2	2 days in a week	4	0
3	3 days in a week	0	2
4	4 days in a week	14	2
5	Occasionally	12	2

TABLE VII T-TEST FOR REGULARITY OF READING NEWS PAPER OF ARTS AND SCIENCE STUDENTS

X	$X - \bar{X}$	$(X - \bar{X})^2$	\bar{Y}	$Y - \bar{Y}$	$(Y - \bar{Y})^2$
34	21.2	449.44	30	22.8	519.84
4	-8.8	77.44	0	-7.2	51.84
0	-12.8	163.84	2	-5.2	27.04
14	1.2	1.44	2	-5.2	27.04
12	-0.8	0.64	2	-5.2	27.04
64	0	692.8	36	0	652.8

$$t = \frac{\bar{X} - \bar{Y}}{\sqrt{s^2(1/n_1 + 1/n_2)}} = 0.43$$

Tabulated t at 5% level of significance for (5+5-2) = 8 d.f is 2.306 and |t|=0.43 which is less than the tabulated value. Therefore, Hypothesis accepted at 5% level of significance that the periodicity of learning habit of arts and science students is independent.

VI. FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

Reading includes the whole personality and countless values. It is a door to all vocations. In this age of democracy reading has merged social values also.

Maximum numbers of science students are having the habit of reading newspaper daily when compared to arts students. Arts students have the habit of reading both the Tamil and English newspaper. Science students are mostly interested in reading scientific articles and arts students are interested in book reviews. Science students are very eager to know about the international news when compared to arts students. Science students are mostly searching information from internet. Both the students are reading books daily. Most of the students would like to have snacks while reading and drinking coffee/tea at the time of reading. The science students are very particular about their reading place. Most of them are reading in hall only. Both discipline students have the habit of underlying the books while reading. Most of the science students have the habit of writing while reading but only the minimum numbers of arts students have this habit.

The students can exposure to political information through activities like reading the newspaper. Students will use the word map template. The students would be allowed to choose their own newspaper articles, with certain requirements and stipulations. Students may be asked to read the newspaper article and summarize the contents.

VII. CONCLUSION

The objective of a good college library system will be achieved only by the specially qualified and trained librarians, and college teachers should join hands to help improve the conditions of the college libraries as far as practicable within the limited resources and other heavy odds.

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