

Reading Habits and Internet Usage among Post – Graduate Students – A Case Study of Sri Gvg Visalakshi College for Women, (Autonomous)” Udumalpet

***Dr.K.Kaliammal**

*Associate Professor of Economics, Sri G.V.G Visalakshi College for Women (Autonomous)
Udumalpet

Abstract

Reading has been the passion of the greatest personalities of all times. Humans have been reading since ages and thus words of knowledge have been passed on through generations. The reading habit influences in the promotion of one’s personal development in particular and social progress in general. Regular and systematic reading sharpens the intellect, refines the emotions, elevates tastes and provides perspectives for one’s living; and thereby prepares a person for an effective participation in the social, religious, cultural and political life. Reading fires the imagination of the person. It adds new sight to eyes and new wisdom to mind. People nowadays tend to rely more on computer – based resources (such as writing emails, sending free e-cards, watching online videos, transmitting instant messages and photos by Yahoo or MSN Messengers exchanging information in online chat room or discussion area) than paper based resources (such as writing letters, sending cards and post cards, reading newspapers, magazines, novels and sending pictures by emails. Rapidly and continuously changing as new technologies for information and communication repeatedly appear and new environments for exploring these technologies are continuously crafted by users.

In fact “The internet becomes as important part of college students lives. Not only for this studies and daily sootiness but as a tool for getting to know other people and the rest of the world. Therefore an attempt is made to study the Reading Habits and Internet Usage Among Post – Graduate Students – A Case Study of Sri GVG Visalakshi College For Women, (Autonomous)” Udumalpet.

Keywords: Reading Habits, Internet, Internet Usage, Paper based resources, and Technologies.

Introduction

“A dumb person becomes a communicator and a lame climbs mountains of knowledge through reading”

Reading has been the passion of the greatest personalities of all times. Humans have been reading since ages and thus words of knowledge have been passed on through generations. The reading habit influences in the promotion of one’s personal development in particular and social progress in general. Regular and systematic reading sharpens the intellect, refines the emotions, elevates tastes and provides perspectives for one’s living; and thereby prepares a person for an effective participation in the social, religious, cultural and political life. Reading fires the imagination of the person. It adds new sight to eyes and new wisdom to mind.

Internet usage in India

The internet usage continues to grow at a steady pace, with the overall internet using population in Urban India reaching 30.32 million a growth of 28% from April 2006 to April 2007 according to the “India Online 2007” study from just consult. Of the 30.32 million urban internet users, 25.17 million (83%) log on at least once a month; the balance of 5.15 million (17%) are occasional users according to the study. The penetration of the internet among urban Indian stands at 9% now assuming the total urban population at 3.36 million.

Use of Internet in Higher Education

Internet has its wide application in the field of higher education. In case of research, internet helps an individual to have access to unlimited information and is exposed to a wider spectrum of ideas and concepts. A researcher can conduct research in collaboration with his or her counterparts from other countries. For the internet facility, the research data showing, analysis and interpretation has improved to great extent. Review of important relevant literature related to the problem under study is almost a magnum opus. This manual search is laborious and time consuming. One line search on internet has made retrieval of information possible for the research. It helps in buying and browsing electronic journals, research reports and books. Internet can be reach the researchers with latest information available and thus prevents overlapping of the research.

Statement of the Problem

People nowadays tend to rely more on computer – based resources (such as writing emails, sending free e-cards, watching online videos, transmitting instant messages and photos by Yahoo or MSN Messengers exchanging information in online chat room or discussion area) than paper based resources (such as writing letters, sending cards and post cards, reading newspapers, magazines, novels and sending pictures by emails. Rapidly and continuously changing as new technologies for information and communication repeatedly appear and new environments for exploring these technologies are continuously crafted by users.

In fact “The internet becomes as important part of college students lives. Not only for this studies and daily sootiness but as a tool for getting to know other people and the rest of the world. Therefore an attempt is made to study the Reading Habits and Internet Usage Among Post – Graduate Students – A Case Study of Sri GVG Visalakshi College For Women, (Autonomous)” Udumalpet.

Scope of the Study

The scope of the study helps to understand reading habit and internet use of Post Graduate Students. Finding of the study may also help to governments to formulating policies programmes for the welfare of the students. . This can help other researchers to take up further research work on reading habit and internet usage among students.

Objectives of the Study

1. To understand the reading habits and internet usage among Post Graduate Students
2. To study the purpose of Reading and Internet usage among Post Graduate Students
3. To know the frequency of reading and internet usage among Post Graduate Students
4. To indentify the factors that prevents the students from reading habit.

Methodology

The present study titled “Reading habits and Internet Usage among Post Graduate Students – A Case Study of Sri GVG Visalakshi College for Women, Udumalpet” has adopted the following methodology.

Nature of Research Design

The study aims to trace the Reading habits and internet usage among the post graduate students. The research design is thus descriptive and explanatory.

Selection of the Area

Sri GVG Visalakshi College for Women, Udumalpet was selected for the study as per the feasibility of the researcher and the availability of the sample population.

Selection of the Sample

A sample of 204 post-Graduate students from the Departments of Arts, (Economics, History and Literature) Science, (Physics, Mathematics, and Computer Science) and commerce. 20 percent of each stream has been taken from Arts, Science, and Commerce as samples for the study.

Methods of Data Collection

The study is based on primary data. The data has been collected using a questionnaire covering the reading habits, time used, and purpose for reading and access for internet usage.

Tools of Analysis

The data collected are tabulated and analyzed with reference to the objective of study. Statistical techniques like percentage are used for analysis and interpretation.

Limitations of the Study

The study is confined to Sri GVG Visalakshi College for Women, the results and final implications of this study have to be generalized with caution.

Review of Literature

Manojkumar Thakur et.al (2014) in his study on “reading in Digital Age – A Case Study on “Reading in Digital Age” A study of reading habits among student of Nesswadia College of Commerce, Pune” Attempt to ascertain the reading habit among students and their preferences to the source of Information of Nesswadia College of commerce, Pune. It can be conclude that reading in the second popular habits among students. They not only read fiction books but also Current Affairs. Students are given preference to search internet rather than books.

Abdul Karim et al. (2007) conducted a study entitled “Reading habits and attitude in the digital age”. The main aim of this study is to know the reading habits and attitude of the Bachelor of IT students and the Bachelor of Arts students from the International Islamic University, Malaysia. . This study is based on a survey approach. The data has been collected from a sample of 400, out of which 127 responses were received. . The IT students rely more on websites than any other source and they use electronic resources more than the Arts – based students.

Analysis and Interpretation

The results presented in all the tables in this chapter were estimated from the primary data collected from respondents.

Course Wise Distribution of Respondents

The courses pursued by the respondents are presented in the following table.

Table 1

Course Wise Distribution of Respondents

Stream	Major	Total Strength	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Arts	Economics	27	6	10
	History	20	4	7
	Literature	34	8	13
Science	Mathematics	67	14	23
	Physics	20	4	7
	Computer Science	36	8	13
Commerce	Commerce	75	16	27
	Total	279	60	100

Table 1 shows the course wise distribution of Respondents. Out of the 7 Post Graduate Departments, 10 percent of the respondents are from Economics, 7 percent are from History, 13 percent are from Literature, 23 percent are from Mathematics, 7 percent are from Physics, 13 percent from Computer Science & 29 percent are from commerce.

Purpose of Library Visit

Life without reading is like a vacuum. In these times of completion reading is an effective tool to move ahead, ultimately knowledge is power. It leads a man from ignorance to light. It is necessary that today's children should be in touch with library.

Table 2

Purpose of Library Visit

S.No	Purpose of Library Visit	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Specific Subject of Study	31	52
2.	To Borrow Library Material	9	15
3.	To Copy Reading	14	23
4.	To Read Newspaper	6	10
	Total	60	100

The majority of 52 percent of the respondents visit library for reading on specific subjects of study.

Frequency of Library Visit

Library plays an important role in preserving a society's cultural heritage. It ranks as a universal service institution. Library is today, houses not only books but also have a wide variety of other materials that inform, education and entertain.

Table 3

Frequency of Library Visit

S.No	Frequency of Library Visit	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Daily	25	42
2.	Once in a Week	13	22
3.	Twice a Week	16	27
4.	Occasionally	6	10
	Total	60	100

The majority of the students (i.e 42 percent) visit library daily.

Favorites Pass Time of the Respondents

As more time is spent to watching T.V programs, students have no extra reading habits or no time – which point out the need for education research.

Table 4

Favorites Pass Time of the Respondents

S.No	Favorites Pass Time	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Playing on Computer	9	15
2.	Sleeping	4	7
3.	Watching Television	33	55
4.	Reading Books	2	5
5.	Reading Newspaper	6	10
6	Browse Internet / Website	5	8
	Total	60	100

It is found that majority 55 percent of the respondents watching television is the favorite pass time.

Spending Time for Reading Books

“A book is a binding note between the past and future”. Man learns to become self – reliant if he is well read well informed about his community, culture, culture race. The school and the parents must collectively provide a rich environment, student should be encouraged to read continuously as a learning process to enhance and enrich their personality and their outlooks.

Table 5

Spending Time for Reading Books

S.No	Time Spent for Reading Books	Respondents	Percentage
1.	1 Hour	22	36
2.	2 Hours	31	52
3.	3 Hours	4	7
4.	More than 3 hours	3	5
	Total	60	100

Majority of 52 percent of the students spend 2 hours for reading per day.

Reading is a Pleasure

Reading is a creative activity and is involved deeply with all phases of life. Reading is highly enjoyable it helps to develop creativity and improve imagination.

Table 6

Reading is a Pleasure

S.No	Reading is a Pleasure	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Yes	46	77
2.	No	14	33
	Total	60	100

The Majority of the students (77 percent) take interest in reading because they want to gain knowledge.

Frequency of Reading

Regular and systematic reading sharpens the intellect refines the emotions, elevates tastes and provides perspectives for one’s living thereby prepares a person for an effective participation in the social, religious, cultural and political life.

Table7

Frequency of Reading

S.No	Frequency of Reading	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Everyday	36	60
2.	Sometimes	16	27
3.	Rarely	8	13
	Total	60	100

It is clear from the table that maximum number of respondents read every day to make them up to date.

Favourite Places for Reading

Reading fires the imagination of the person by adding new sight to eyes and new wisdom to mind reading loads the mind with new software (Satya 2002).

Table 8

Favourite Places for Reading

S.No	Places for Reading	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Home	14	23
2.	Library	35	58
3.	Classroom	11	19
	Total	60	100

The Majority 58 percent of the students report that favourite place of reading books is library.

Inculcating the Reading Habits

Reading is important one for everyone and it makes the all the ordinary persons to extraordinary superman. Hence reading habits is not avoidable one for all the person especially academicians.

Table 9

Inculcating the Reading Habits

S.No	Sources	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Parents	6	10
2.	Teachers	64	37
3.	Sisters	16	27
4.	Friends	4	7
	Total	60	100

The Table indicates that students develop reading habits mostly with the help of their teachers followed by sisters, parents and friends respectively.

Major Factors that prevent them from Reading Habits

The reading habit is on the decline, especially among the younger generation, for a variety of reasons.

Table 10

Major Factors that Prevent for Reading Habits

S.No	Obstacles to Reading	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Lack of Interest to Reading	22	36
2.	Unavailability of Books	9	15
3.	TV Programme	29	49
	Total	60	100

Table shows that 49 percent of the respondents mentioned T.V Programme as the main factor that prevent them from reading, followed by 36 percent believe that lack of reading materials that arouse their interest and 15 percent of the respondents mentioned unavailability of books.

Students Opinion about the Library Books

Table 11

Students Opinion about the Library Books

S.No	Opinion	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Excellent	39	65
2.	Good	14	23
3.	Average	7	12
	Total	60	100

Majority of the students 65 percent of them stated collection of books in the library is excellent.

Purpose of Using Internet

Browsing could be done for different purpose and education is important among them. The following table discusses the major purpose of use of internet among the respondents.

Table 12*

Purpose of Using Internet

S.No	Purpose	Respondents	Percentage
1.	General Information	22	37
2.	Research Purposes	42	70
3.	Online Application Registration	35	58
4.	Assignment	60	100
5.	Chatting	20	33

*** Multiple Responses.**

It is found that 100 percent of the respondents using internet for submission of Assignments.

Place of Access to Internet

The respondent's access to Internet is depicted table 13

Table 13

Places to Access Internet

S.No	Places to Access	Respondents	Percentage
1.	At the Library	52	87
2.	At Computer Centers	40	
3.	Outside the College		67
4.	At the College Internet Centre	35	58
5.	At the Department	4	7
6	At Home	20	33

It is found that about 87 percent of the respondents used the net facilities available in the college campus either at the library or the college internet centre at the department.

Frequency use of Internet

Internet used by the respondents is presented in the following table.

Table 14

Length of Internet Use

S.No	Length of Internet Use	Respondents	Percentage
1.	1 Hour	30	50
2.	2 Hour	26	43
3.	Above 3 Hrs	4	7
	Total	60	100

It is observed that half of the percent of the respondents spent above 3 hrs per day.

Time of the Day for Internet Use

The time of the day for accessing the net in shown in the table.

Table 15

Time of the Day for Internet Use

S.No	Time of the Day	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Morning	4	7
2.	Evening	45	75
3.	Night	11	18
	Total	60	100

It is observed that the majority of the respondents 75 percent preferred time for accessing the internet at evenings, 18 percent of the respondents access the internet at night and 7 percent used internet in the morning time.

Reason for Internet Usage

The reason for which the internet is preferred is given in the table below.

Table 16

Reason for Internet Usage

S.No	Reasons for Preferring Internet	No of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Time saving	15	25
2.	Recent/Updated Information	35	58
3.	Easy accessibility	6	10
4.	Varied Information at a time	4	7
	Total	60	100

It is seen that provision of recent and updated information and time saving, were the main reasons for preferring internet.

Money Spent for Internet

Table 17 shows the amount of money spent per month for internet by the respondents.

Table 17

Money Spent for Internet

S.No	Money spent per month	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Below Rs 100	27	45
2.	Rs 101 to 200	18	30
3.	Rs 201 to 300	10	17
4.	Above Rs 300	5	8

It is found that a maximum number of respondents 45 percent spend less than Rs 100 per month for using internet.

Years of Internet Usage

Table 18 depicts the years of internet usage by the respondents

Table 18

Year of Internet Usage

S.No	Using Internet	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	1 to 2 years	36	60
2.	More than 6 months	10	17
3.	Between 3 to 6 months	6	10
4.	Less than 3 months	8	13
	Total	60	100

It is inferred that 60 percent respondents have been using internet for 1 to 2 years.

Suggestions

1. Parents, teachers, librarian can help and encourage students to read good books to increase their knowledge.
2. Good reading material can be provided both at home, during journeys and at college according to their age, considering their likes and dislikes to make them more interested in reading.
3. Educated parents should try to inculcate values in their children by reading, good story books, moral stories to help them develop good reasoning power and at the same time keep them abreast with the latest information.
4. Students enjoying watching T.V or operating computer to reading.

Conclusion

Reading is essential because it equips people with necessary knowledge and understanding, not only for building their own life but also for contributing positively in the socio-economic development of the nation.

References

1. Abdul Karim; Nor Shahriza & Amelia Hasan. (2007). Reading habits and attitude in the digital age. *The Electronic Library*. 25(3), 258-298.
2. Shri Krishna Mishra, Batri Yadav (2013) "A Study of the Library Reading Habits of Students of Senior Secondary Schools of Mandleshwar City" *Social Sciences and Humanities* ISSN L 2223 – 9553 Vol.4 Pg. NO. 119- 128.
3. Sarita Bhattacharjee (2015) "Reading Habits of the Students of Assam – A Case Study of the degree students of general colleges of Cachar District" *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science* Volume 20, Issue 3, Pg. No. 01 – 03.
4. Shabani, Ahmad, Naderikharaji, Fatemah and Abedi, Mohammad Reza (2011), Reading behavior in digital environments among higher education students; analysis of demographic factors in Iran. *Library Review*, 60(8)