## [Importance of Reading Activity in Education](http://www.veecos.net/2.0/article/importance-reading-activity-education)

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The purpose of education is to reach a state where the educatee can be free in his thinking and his action but in an accepted manner in accordance with his worldview. To reach this state the educational system should be evaluated from time to time to think out the box and produce creative techniques that may help give sufficient answers in an age characterised by complicated issues. Among these approached issues is how to motivate students to learn, and can reading activity be one of the useful ways to achieve this goal?

Reading and literacy:

Reading activity is one of the most important ways of learning, as it is connected with literacy and civilizational development as well, "since 2008, a growing number of developing countries are assessing the reading skills of pupils in the early grades of primary school" (UNISCO). This is to show how important is this activity on personal achievement as well as on society as a whole, and any ignorance of this vital activity especially in the early ages means many learning problems, "pupils who are not able to read do not have the prerequisite skills for successful learning in later grades" (UNISCO).

Meaning of reading:

First, reading activity is "a complex cognitive process of decoding symbols in order to construct or derive meaning (reading comprehension). It is a means of language acquisition, of communication, and of sharing information and ideas" (Wikipedia). “Reading is an activity with a purpose. A person may read in order to gain information or verify existing knowledge, or in order to critique a writer's ideas or writing style. A person may also read for enjoyment, or to enhance knowledge of the language being read. The purpose(s) for reading guide the reader's selection of texts” (NCLRC).

Love begets good deeds:

Reading activity motivates students to learn, as it is based on love not on compulsory. This activity gives students the chance to choose what they love to read, which means that there is an inner motive to do the activity. Thus, the teacher can use this activity to make a student study harder even in the subjects he may hate. The experience of the private school (Scientific School, Algeria) shows how passionate are the pupils of primary school towards the 20 minutes devoted to reading. In a discussion with the director about this subject, he said: “we had bought series of books from Algeria International Book-fair to use it as rewards during the year, but all books are used for reading and pupils are asking for more new books”. This experience is a new attempt for this school to reform the fade relation between the book and the student in the age of technology. Furthermore, the motivated learners do different activities of learning such as interactive learning that allow "Engaged readers (to) exchange ideas and interpretations of text with peers. Their devotion to readings spans across time, transfers to a variety of genre, and culminates in valued learning outcomes” (Kamil et al). Then, it is highly recommended for teachers as well as parents to be creative in using different genre of education to transmit knowledge at ease not on a sort of obligation rules.

Reading helps equality??

In addition, reading activity motivates learning because it gives equal chance for everybody, regardless of the cognitive abilities, and this can be achieved by “silently reading”. Since this activity usually gives time to individual to work alone, then it is a good chance for every pupil to understand and participate; either by answering teacher’s questions or simply by asking what they could not understand. The silently reading is “the most appropriate option in such cases as all students are encouraged to read at a pace that is comfortable to them” (benefitof.net). Thus, when a student is given time to read carefully he will be able to quickly grasp the meaning of the text and consequently a better understanding (benefitof.net). This activity has shown great results on students’ performance, it is “According to studies in the educational field, students who were given time to silently read and understand their topics had far better grades than other students” (benefitof.net).

Reading outcome, confident personality:

Another benefit from reading activity is that it helps build confident personality. Books are an accumulative register of experiences, started thousands of years ago, with different circumstances and different personalities, as the invention of writing dates back to fourth millennium BC (Wikipedia). This accumulation feeds the reader with strong opinions and solid decisions, thus enabling him to stand firm on such experiences to say his word. The confidence is built upon knowing oneself, as “insight into himself is the first consideration, for only if he comes to understand his own uniqueness will he be able to understand others. Reading carries him, it is hoped, quickly beyond himself and into the lives of others. … the handicapped child finds that other human beings have been handicapped and have overcome the burden” (Jenkins). Thus, reading can help create a virtuous life and widen leaners’ experience (Jenkins).

Reading effects on teachers as well:

In addition to the effects of reading on the learner himself, it is beneficial for teachers as well. Giving time for students to read may work as a diagnostic task for teachers to assess students’ abilities and weaknesses, this task enables teachers to discover problems of pronunciation, problems of hearing, problems of seeing, and problems of Dyslexia. It is the teacher’s role “Since children receive classification as good or poor readers for different causes (…) to know each child well enough to analyse those causes and give any necessary help” (Chapman). In addition, this activity can help teacher know more about the environment the learner lives in and the difficulties he is facing as “Emotional upsets can account for difficulty in reading in an otherwise intelligent child. . . . Situations that make the child feel insecure such as family quarrels, rivalries, with brothers and sisters, and difficulties in social relationships may result in specific reading difficulty without at the same time developing some kind of emotional disturbance” (Anonymous).

Convinced??

To sum up, reading activity is not an ordinary task done in school or at home, but is an effective way for learning. Learning in its broad meaning is “how to live”. Learning without love, equality, and confidence is not granted. However, those values can still be achieved in the presence of a wise teacher or parent.

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