

Awareness of book reading habit among college students

Twinkle Francis, V. Vishnu Priya*, R. Gayathri

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Reading is an important skill that an individual acquires from childhood through their learning skills. It is very crucial to have a well-developed reading habit when you are students as it shapes the identity and personality of the individual. The activity of reading starts during childhood and persists throughout school and college. In the current generation of advanced science and technology, one does not only stick to book reading but also involves in digital learning and newer innovations. This has aroused a requirement to spread awareness regarding book reading habits of students from a different college. **Materials and Methods:** This study adopted a survey method among students of different colleges to discuss book reading habits of students. **Results and Conclusion:** Students should be made aware of the traditional book reading habits to incorporate it into their daily life, thereby reducing screen time and provide better goal planning skills..

KEY WORDS: Awareness, Book-reading habit, Technology

INTRODUCTION

Reading is one of the main language skills and it is taught and practiced since an early age. After learning how to read as the main skill, students are also taught by parents and teachers to make reading a habit which will develop a rich language, better personality, academic performance, self-confidence, and knowledge in many of the other aspects.^[1] When it comes to an individual, reading becomes a very important element in creating their personality. These days reading books, newspapers, magazines, or any other materials are helpful and important in building a sustainable reading habit.^[2] However, it is crucially important to have a well-developed book reading habit when you are a student. Various researches also show the issue that more reading means better academic performance, even though that depends on other factors too.^[3,4] The activity of reading of an individual, which commences with the beginning of school age and continues throughout their lifetime, is the basic tool of learning. Acquiring knowledge through reading is crucial for the learning process of a dental student.^[5,6] Reading in clinical practice

is important as it relates to the ongoing clinical competencies. Medical students encounter a huge number of subjects and information with which they require proper time to plan and prepare to remember the various facts and methods that seem difficult.^[7,8] In the world like today, where knowledge is increasing rapidly and science and technology put on constant changes to human life, it is observed that humans constantly need to improve themselves in both their professional and social lives.^[9,10] The most marked problems facing medical students is time management and study habits. Understanding the reading habit of medical students provides an insight into their actual reading habits.^[11,12] The aim of this study is to give a general picture of the reading habits of university students in different colleges.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The methodology adopted in this study was a survey-based questionnaire. A survey was prepared using Google forms and was distributed among 100 students of different colleges. It consisted of 17 questions where two are data about the name and age, while the rest are specific close-ended questions relating to their childhood reading habits and their foundation. The total number of students who took part in the survey is 100, and the questionnaire was distributed to them online, following random

Access this article online

Website: jprsolutions.info

ISSN: 0975-7619

Department of Biochemistry, Saveetha Dental College and Hospitals, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Saveetha University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

***Corresponding author:** V. Vishnu Priya, Department of Biochemistry, Saveetha Dental College and Hospitals, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Saveetha University, 162, Poonamallee High Road, Chennai - 600 077, Tamil Nadu, India. E-mail: drvishnupriyav@gmail.com

Received on: 02-07-2019; Revised on: 04-08-2019; Accepted on: 07-11-2019

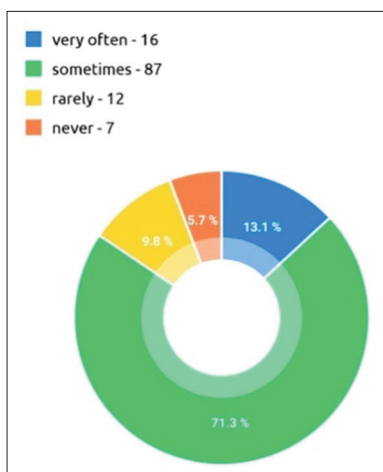


Figure 1: How often do you read books now?

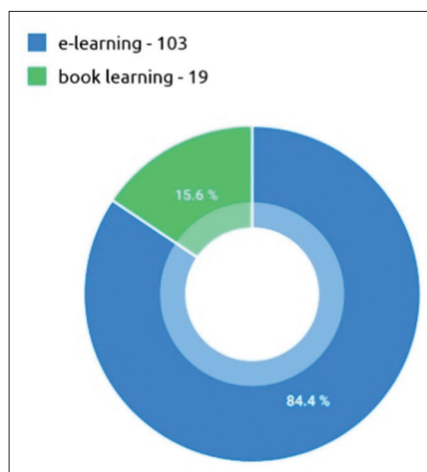


Figure 3: Do you prefer the new innovation of inculcating learning in schools based on e-books or the same traditional book learning method?

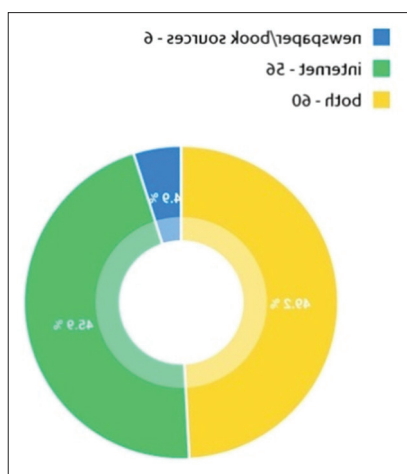


Figure 2: Do you learn new things and get information from newspaper/book sources or on the internet?

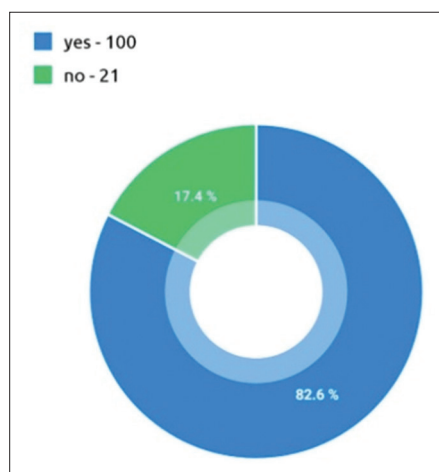


Figure 4: Do you spend more than 3 h of reading from e-books?

sampling. The aim was to compare and assess the usage of the newly introduced learning method “e-learning” and textbook learning method by students of the colleges. The responses were collected and the statistics were calculated using pie charts.

RESULTS

The results showed that 87.7% of students have loved to read from childhood which shows that their learning skills developed from book learning.

DISCUSSION

It is observed that 13.1% students read books very often these days [Figure 1]. About 45.9% of students acquire new information through internet sources and only 4.9% of students gather information from book sources [Figure 2]. About 84.4% of students preferred e-learning to be inculcated in schools [Figure 3]. About 82.6% of students spend more than 3 h learning from e-book sources than traditional book learning

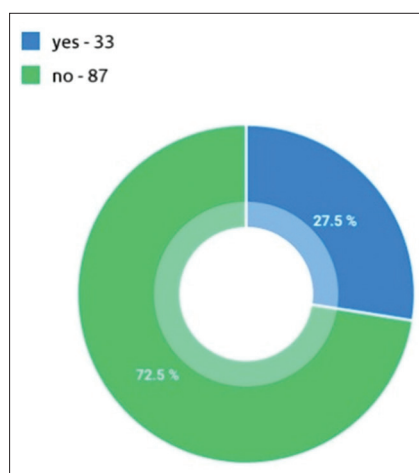


Figure 5: Do you think textbooks are a better source of information than e-book learning?

[Figure 4]. However, only 27.5% of the students think that textbooks are a better source of information than e-book learning [Figure 5].

CONCLUSION

This shows that the dental students have started acquiring more knowledge through technological advancements like e-books which is progressive both in terms of gaining information equal to that from textbooks as well as newer information from different fields of science. The only drawback would be the increased screen time the current generation is facing; however, with an advancing era of our generation, more students should be made aware of the traditional book reading habits to incorporate it into their daily life, thereby reducing screen time and provide better goal planning skills.

REFERENCES

1. Mona MS, Khalid FN. The reading habits of medical students at 220 medical college King Saud University. *J Taibah Univ Med Sci* 2009;4:115-22.
2. Pandian A. A Study on Readership Behaviour among Multi-ethnic, 197 Multi-lingual Malaysian Students. A Paper Presented at the 7th International Literacy and Education Research Network (LERN) Conference on Learning. Melbourne: RMIT University; 2000.
3. Gallik JD. Do they read for pleasure? Recreational reading habits of college students. *J Adolesc Adult Literacy* 1999;42:480.
4. Bloomfield L, Harris P, Hughes C. What do students want? The types of learning activities preferred by final year medical students. *Med Educ* 2003;37:110-8.
5. Schein M, Harry M, Lois S, William A. What American surgeons 226 read: A survey of a thousand Fellows of the American College of 227 Surgeons. *Curr Surg* 2000;57:252-8.
6. Van Der Hem-Stokroos HH, Scherpbier AJ, Van Der Vleuten CP, De Vries H, HaarMan HJ. How effective is 202 a clerkship as a learning environment? *Med Teach* 2001;23:599-604.
7. Leff B, Harper M. The reading habit of medicine clerks at one 223 medical school: Frequency, usefulness and difficulties. *Acad Med* 2006;81:489-94.
8. Akabuike IG, Asika IE. Reading habits of undergraduates and their academic performances. *Issues Perspect* 2012;6:246-57.
9. Quadri GO, Abomoge SO. A survey on internet use habits among undergraduate students in selected university libraries in Nigeria. *J Inf Knowl Manag* 2013;3:38-46.
10. Owusu-Acheaw M, Larson AG. Reading Habits among Students and its Effect on Academic Performance: A Study of Students of Koforidua Polytechnic University of Nebraska-Lincoln. *Library Philosophy and Practice*. Winneba, Ghana: University of Education; 2014.
11. Mokhtari K, Reichard CA, Gardner A. The impact of internet and television use on the reading habits and practices of college students. *J Adolesc Adult Lit* 2011;52:609-19.
12. Mokatsi R. Sharing Resources: How Library Networks can Help Education Goals. East Africa Book Development Association. A Research Paper Looking at Libraries in Developing World. AID International; 2005.

Source of support: Nil; Conflicts of interest: None Declared

Copyright of Drug Invention Today is the property of Journal of Pharmacy Research and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.