

## **Reading Habits of Women P.G Students at Government Science College: Bangalore**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This study explores the women PG students reading behavior at Govt. Science College, Bangalore. A self administered questionnaire was used for collecting data from the respondents. The results revealed that 72% of the respondents opined that their self interest is the inspiration for reading books. Majority of the respondents reading books to acquire information and to be an informative person. The findings also show that 72% of the respondents opined that mobile internet and using social media reduces the reading habit. 67% felt that they are comfort in using electronic devices to read online information.*

**Key words:** PG students, Reading habits, Government Science College, Bangalore

### **Introduction**

A good book is considered panacea for mental agony one suffers during day-to-day life. With the technological advancements in the satellite era, reading habit is said to have taken a beating, or it seems. But that is not the case as reading had never been a habit of common people. What seems to have changed over the years is the taste of youngsters who are more inclined to light readings with the plot they identify themselves with than the one loaded with philosophical anecdotes. Again, it depends on their taste.

### **Government Science college, Bangalore**

The Government Science College is born out of the visionary foresight of the erstwhile Maharaja (King) of Mysore, His Highness Shri Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar on the 1st of April 1921 as an intermediate college. GSC has been dedicated to quality education and to preparing students for leadership in diverse walks of life while at the same time being tempered by social concern, empathy and visionary leadership across two centuries. Owing to its scope and pace of change, post-2000 will go down in the history of GSC as the period of its most spectacular expansion and quality enhancement. The introduction of PG courses, research programs, with three successive NAAC accreditations of B++ ,A and “A+” followed by CPE status in 2009 and 2015 and more recently- the autonomous status are some of the milestones of the last decade.

### **Knowledge Centre at Govt. Science College**

Knowledge Center for accessibility developed on modern lines as a prominent Learning Resource Center. The Library has made sincere efforts to assure an environment for intellectual inquiry by providing user focused services to obtain and evaluate scholarly

information and knowledge available in main formats and strives to create new knowledge to increase understanding and develop wisdom. To keep pace with time and expectations of users, the library has facilities with 30 computers for browsing the internet, e-learning packages, and full text e-resources.

### **Review of Literature**

Kamalipour, Robinson & Nortman (1998) study revealed that students spend 45.05% of their working hours per week attending to both electronic and print media for study and leisure reading activities.

Chittaranjan Panigrahi (1998) conducted a study on reading habits, information needs and information seeking behavior of the working women of Steel city, Rourkela. The study shows that 28% of them working women read for 1-2 hours a week, while 11% read for less than an hour, 21% of the respondents read for more than 6 hours a week in their respective subject fields or specialization.

Abdul karim & Hasan Ameila (2007) study understand the reading habits and attitudes of the Bachelor of IT students and the Bachelor of Arts students from the International Islamic university Malaysia. The study found that majority of the students read newspaper every day. Parlette, Melanie (2010) examined the reading habits and experiences of first-year undergraduate students at Dalhousie University and the University of King's College in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. This study suggests that reading for pleasure is a well-established habit amongst many first-year undergraduate students.

Natter (2010) reported the problems and suggestions to improve reading habits of college students in Tamilnadu. Respondents expressed that they are improving their reading habit using the facilities in the library.

Thankousdi (2011) conducted a study on reading habits among library and information science students of Annamalai University. The result of the study indicated that majority of the LIS students (79.53 %) are interested in reading LIS course material frequently, (46.19 %) of the students never read LIS journals. The study reveals that in a library there should be adequate reading area and related facilities to accelerate reading habits.

Baladhandayutham & Suji (2014) study analyze the reading habit among the students of engineering colleges in Madurai district. The findings revealed that more than half of the students spent an hour for reading and 88.92% of the students have news paper reading.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The study was carried out with the following objectives for the better understanding of PG Students reading behavior.

- To know the frequency of library visit and the purpose of reading
- To identify the people inspire for the book reading
- To examine the preferred language for book reading
- To determine the best time for reading for the women PG students
- To get the opinions on the impact of using internet and social media on reading

## Scope and Limitations of the Study

Studies have been carried out to document the reading habits of the users in different PG disciplines. The present study is limited to Reading habits of women P.G students of Govt. Science College, Bangalore city, Karnataka.

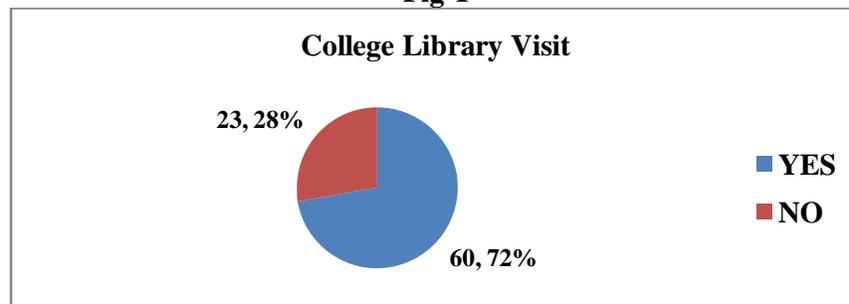
## Methodology

The study is carried out to explore the women PG students reading behavior at Govt. Science College, Bangalore. The population of PG students comprises the departments of Zoology, Mathematics, Bio Technology, Chemistry, Botany, Physics, and Microbiology only. The investigator selected only PG women students for the study. To collect the data from the respondents a structured questionnaire was prepared based on the objectives of the study, and the investigator personally distributed the questionnaires and receives the response from the eighty three students. The responses received from the students to the questions are presented in the form of tables and figures, analyzed by using a simple method of percentage calculation.

## Analysis and Discussion

### Response on College Library Visit

Fig-1



College library is not only a place for getting required books for the academic needs of the students. It is a place to facilitate for reading. The students turnout to the library for spending their leisure time to find a book for reading is depends on the reading room facilities like good lighting, ventilation, comfortable furniture etc.,. It is evident from fig-1 that majority 60 (72%) of the respondents visit the college library frequently. Rest 23 (28%) did not visit the library frequently.

Fig-2

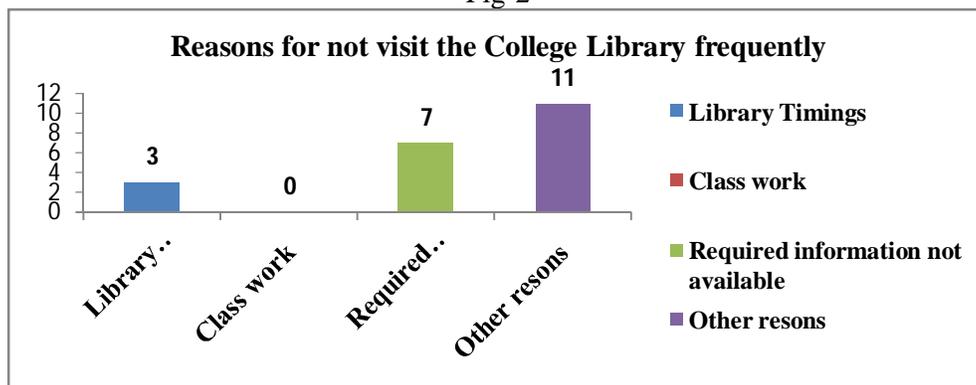


Fig-2 explains the data relating to the reasons those prevent the respondents not visit the library frequently. Majority 11(47.82%) respond that other reasons which are not concerned to library, followed by 7(25%) opined that required information is not available to their needs.

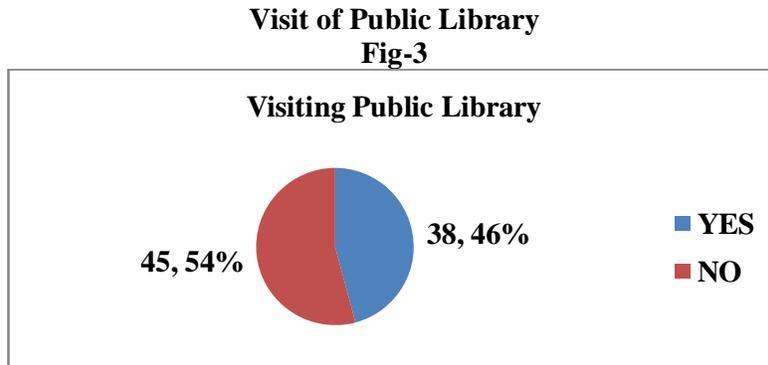


Fig-3 indicates the data concerned to student's visit of any public library other than their college library. It is clear from fig-3 that majority 45 (54%) of the respondents are not visit the public library for any information. Whereas 38(46%) opined that they visit other public libraries if they need any information.

**Purpose of Reading books**

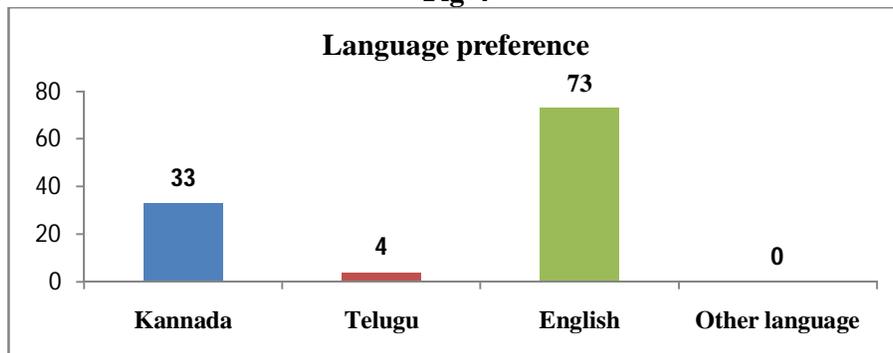
**Table-1**

S.No	Purpose	Total	Percentage
1	To pass Exams	31	37.34
2	To spend leisure time	04	4.81
3	To improve GK	16	19.27
4	To be informative	38	46.98

Reading books by the students definitely some purpose oriented. Table-1 shows that majority 38 (46.98%) of the respondents opined that they read books for the purpose of to be informative, followed by 31(37.34%) to pass the examination, 16(19.27%) to improve General knowledge.

**Language preference in Reading books**

**Fig-4**



Books available in any public, academic and even in special libraries are in different languages and in different subjects. Information is generated from various languages. To meet the information needs of their clientele libraries are provide the appropriate language books. Fig-4 depicts that the preference of language for reading books. It is clear that

majority 73(87.95%) of the respondents preferred to read English medium books, followed by 33(39.75%) opined that they prefer Kannada, only 4 (4.81%) for Telugu books.

### Inspiration of Reading Books

Table-2

S.No	Inspirers	Total	Percentage
1	Family members	10	12.04
2	Teachers	17	20.48
3	Friends	2	2.40
4	Self Interest	60	72.28
5	Librarian	5	6.02

Reading is an intellectual activity. It requires interest; inspiration as well as instigate Table-2 explains the inspirers of book reading. It shows that majority of the respondents 60 (72.28%) opined that their self interest is the prime motive to read books, followed by their teachers 17(20.48%). It shows that teachers can make some impact on the students reading.

### Best time to read Books

Table-3

S.No	Best time to Read books	Total	Percentage
1	Morning	40	48.19
2	Afternoon	10	12.04
3	Evening	18	21.68
4	Night	11	13.25

Reading is one type of mental exercise. It requires noise less surroundings, less disturbance in a calm and pleasant place motivate to read books. Table-3 shows the preferred time for reading. It is clear from the data that nearly half of the respondents 40(48.19%) opined morning is the best time for reading, followed by 18(21.68%) in the evening, 11 (13.25%) in night.

### Deciding Factors to read a book

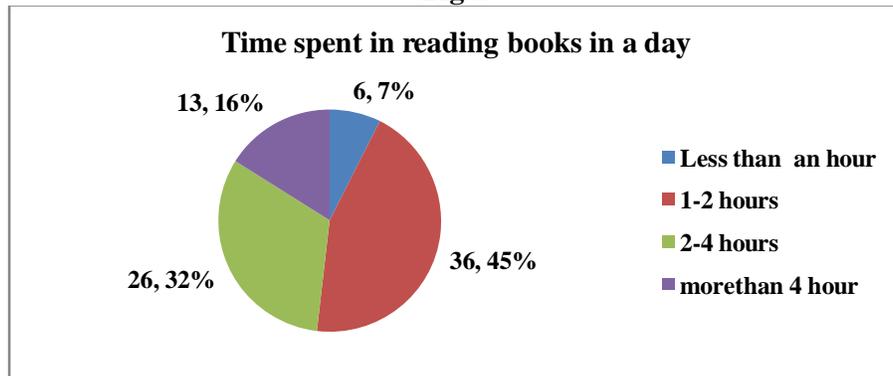
Table-4

S.No	Deciding factors to Read a book	Total	Percentage
1	Title	20	24.09
2	Author	27	32.53
3	Subject	37	44.57
4	Abstract	5	6.02

To read a book there are various factors stimulate us, like the title of the books, author, publisher, subject, brief abstract, preface etc., Table-4 gives the data relating to factors decides for book reading. It is clear that majority (44.57%) of the respondents opined that subject is the deciding factor to read a book, followed by author 27 (32.53%) , title 20 (24.09%).

**Time spent in reading books in a day**

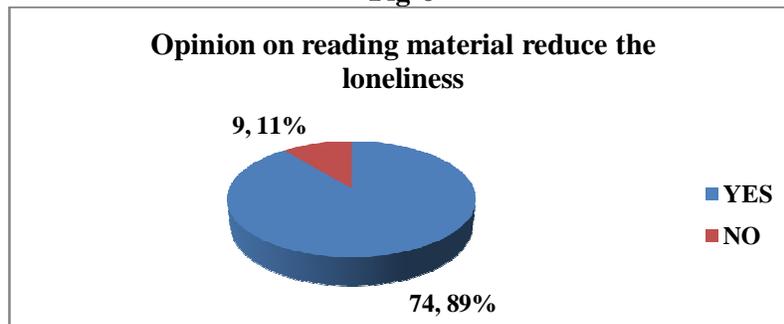
**Fig-5**



Now a day's college students are busy with watching television, videos, playing mobile games, chatting with friends through social media like Face book, whatsapp etc and they hardly find a time to read books. The Fig-5 represents the data relating to time spent by the students for book reading. It is clear from the above fig-5 that majority (45%) of the respondents spent 1-2 hours in a day for reading. 26(32%) for 2- 4 hours, 13(16%) more than four hours in a day.

**Opinion on reading material reduce the loneliness**

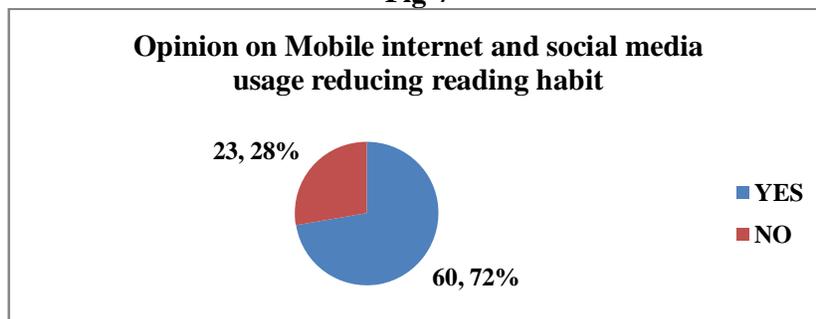
**Fig-6**



A good book is just like a friend. It makes the reader to feel comfort. Fig-6 depicts that majority 74 (89%) of the respondents opined that reading reduces their loneliness. Only 9 (11%) responded negatively.

**Opinion on Mobile internet and social media usage reducing reading habit**

**Fig-7**



The revolutionary changes in mobile phone technology gradually impact on every human being. Using smart phone, browsing internet, connecting social media, communicating with friends through messenger apps is a common phenomena for the college students .Fig-7 explains the impact of mobile internet and social media usage on reading habit. It is clearly shows that majority 60 (72%) of the respondents opined that internet and social media usage reduces the reading habit.

**Reading online information (Books, Magazines / Journals)**

**Fig-8**

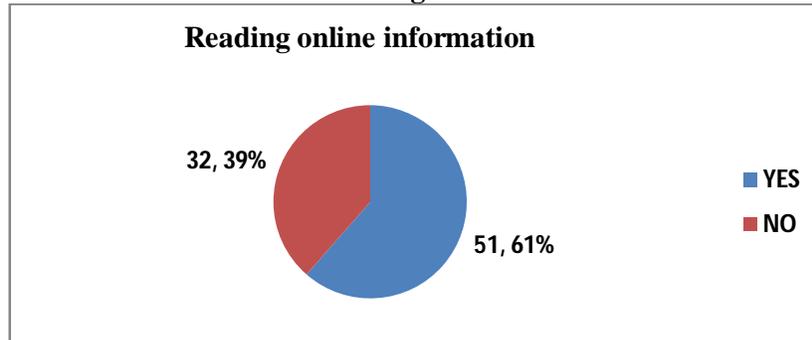


Fig-8 demonstrates the reading online information by the respondents. It is evident from the fig-8 that majority 51 (61%) of the respondents reading online information sources like i.e., e-books, e-journals, e-magazines.

**Comfort in reading online info using e- devices**

**Fig-9**

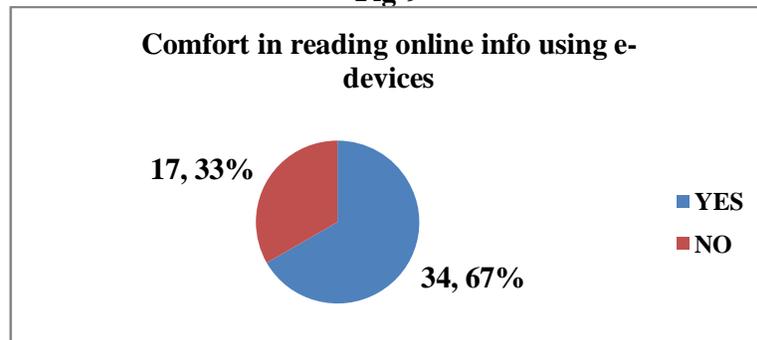


Fig-9 shows the data relating to comfort in using e- devices. It is clear that majority 34 (67%) of the respondents feels comfort to read online information using e- devices. 17 (33%) responded negatively.

**Findings**

- Majority (72%) of the respondents visit the college library frequently
- Majority of the respondents not visit the library due to various other reasons not concerned to the college library
- Majority (54%) of the respondents are not visit the public library for any information
- Majority (46.98%) of the respondents opined that they read books for the purpose of to be Informative.
- Majority (87.95%) of the respondents preferred to read English medium books.

- Majority of the respondents (72.28%) opined that their self interest is the prime motive to read Books.
- Majority (48.19%) of the respondent's opined morning is the best time for reading
- Majority (44.57%) of the respondent's subject is the deciding factor to read a book.
- Majority (45%) of the respondents spent 1-2 hours in a day for reading.
- Majority (89%) of the respondents opined that reading reduces their loneliness.
- Majority (72%) of the respondents opined that internet and social media usage reduces the
- Reading habit.
- Majority (61%) of the respondents reading online information sources like i.e., e-books, e-Journals, e-magazines etc.
- Majority (67%) of the respondents feel comfort to read online information using e-devices.

### **Suggestions**

1. Students should spend their leisure time for reading useful books for recreation and for to get information for various needs.
2. Parents, teachers, as well as librarians should encourage the students in making use of libraries from the school days.
3. To improve the general awareness and to get useful information for the day to day life, it is suggested that all the students should invariably read news papers, magazines and journals.
4. In order to increase reading interests among the students "Book display programs", "Celebration of book festivals "within the library can be held.

### **Conclusion:**

Academic libraries are the soul of the institutions which should not remain silent when students are not visiting and asking for reading materials. Let be it in print or electronic form, the first and foremost role of academic library is to procure it and make it available to the students. We need to anticipate the changing pattern of students' reading. This study shows that reading gets a serious attention among the women post graduate students of Govt. Science College, Bangalore. Most of the students got self motivated to reading than the motivation of their teachers or parents and also they visit the college library frequently. So that the librarian has an opportunity to inculcate reading habit by taking initiative and by way of organizing suitable programs to promote reading habits among the students.

### **Acknowledgement**

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