

## Understanding the Reading Strategy and Library Usage among Faculty Members of Government Engineering college, Bharuch: An Analytical Study

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**Abstract** - *The present study was carried out understanding the reading strategy and library usage among faculty members of Government Engineering college, Bharuch,. This study evaluates the 76% are 'Male' 50% of the faculties were in age of 30-40 Years, 85% of the respondents are representing 'Assistant Professor'. It observed that the faculty members are always prefer to read "Subject Books", highest respondents' purpose of reading is 'For research purpose (seminar/conference/Journal Publication)' most of the respondents spent less than one hour for reading . Majority of the respondents fully satisfied the availability of reading materials in Central library.*

**Keywords:** Reading interest; Information needs; Educational Growth; academic libraries; Faculty Members; Science & Technology.

### Introduction

Reading is an art of interpreting printed and written words and it is a essential instrument of education. Reading is especially vital in education and additionally for unhindered scholarly development of a person. Reading habits are well-planned and ponder example of study which has achieved a form of consistency with respect to personnel toward understanding academic subjects. Reading is action oriented ability. It includes the mechanics of the brain and the combination of different organs previously comprehension occurs. Reading loads the mind with new software (Satija, 2002). The person who peruses well has a method for augmenting mental horizons and for multiplying opportunities of success. Reading is an indispensable factor influencing scholarly and emotional development. Sir Richard Steele has consistently quoted, "Reading is to the mind what exercise is to body". Reading is a standout amongst the most key parts of the learning process and is viewed as a catalyst for life-long learning and scholarly growth. The decrease in reading habits and interests "has been attributed to the failure of educational instructions in schools to cultivate permanent interest in students to read" (Abeyrathna, 2004).

Smith and Robinson (1980) defined reading as "an active attempt on the part of reader to understand writer's message". Reading is basically an intellectual movement and its

practice is impacted by numerous factors like home environment, subject foundation, age and so on. Reading helps in the determination of individual need and the achievement of mental development and independence of thoughts. Devrajan (1979) defined “reading is an art of interpreting printed and written words”. It is a fundamental tool of education and one of the most important abilities in regular day to day existence. Habit is a psychological aspect and is created during a course of time as a part of identity of a person.

Rahman (1959) is in his view on account of “Reading for pleasure” mentioned that absence of appreciation and comprehension of good books and inability to get delight from a habit of reading underlines the issue of educational growth.

## **Review of Literature**

Ismail Olatunji Adeyemi (2020) found that there was significant improvement in the reading habit of Nigerians during the lockdown. It was revealed that most Nigerians used phone to read during the lockdown. It was shown that more than half of the respondents had challenges in reading during the lockdown, which include cost of resources, non-availability of resources, lack of motivation, and heavy usage of social media. Bünyamin Celik (2019) According to the results of the study; students’ use of the university library and reading habits were found to be high (strong habits). On the other hand, he was concluded that students’ newspaper reading habits were lower than those of reading books. Soubhagya S. Arali (2018) his study makes to ascertain the reading interest of women, the influence of information communication technology on their reading habits and role of public libraries in the promotion of women’s reading habits in India as well worldwide. D.S.Mahipal (2017) The study finds that majority of the library users read every day. Their purpose of reading in the library is to update their knowledge. 30% of the library users visit library once a week. Majority of the respondents visit public library to read newspapers. Merga (2017) added that reading is a form of entertainment which arouses imagination and thoughts. This implies that reading offers hybrid benefits of information and entertainment in a period that both are essential. Kushmeeta Chettri & Rout (2013) These studies have found that students who achieved high scores on reading assessments, among other indicators of literacy learning, appeared to have high intrinsic motivation to read, and often chose to read on a regular basis outside of school. Thanuskodi (2011) from his study, he concluded that LIS students need to improve their reading habits. It will be beneficial to have a record of their reading habits in order to make predictions about their academic success in the study. In a library there should be adequate reading area and related facilities to accelerate reading habits. There are still barriers in creating a reading environment that will inculcate good reading habits in LIS students

## **Objectives of the study**

The main objectives of the study are

- To study the types of reading materials preferred to read
- To analyse the Purpose of reading strategy of faculty members
- To examine the time spending to read in central library by the respondents
- To find out the different information expected by the faculty members in central library
- To ascertain the opinion of reading material availability in Library

## Methodology

The present study aims to examine the reading habits of faculty members. The questionnaire method was adopted for the present study to collect the necessary data, keeping in view the objectives of the study. Random sampling techniques were used. Total 91 questionnaires were distributed among all the teaching faculty members of Government Engineering college, Bharuch Gujarat. 91 questionnaires were filled back. The rate of response is 100%. The collected data has been analyzed. Statistic techniques were used simple statistics techniques, Number, percentages, Mean, Standard deviation were used.

## Scope and Limitations of the Study

The present study attempts to know the present reading strategy and library usage of faculty members Government Engineering college, Bharuch, have been considered for the study. The scope of the study is confined to Engineering and Technology faculty members.

## Data Analysis and Interpretations

### Demography details of the respondents

**Table -1: Gender wise Respondents**

Demography details	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	69	75.82
Female	22	24.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Age</b>		
Below 29 Years	24	26.37
30-40 Years	46	50.55
41-51Years	17	18.68
Years 52 and Above	4	4.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Designation</b>		
Professor	3	3.30
Associate Professor	5	5.49
Assistant Professor	83	91.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>100</b>

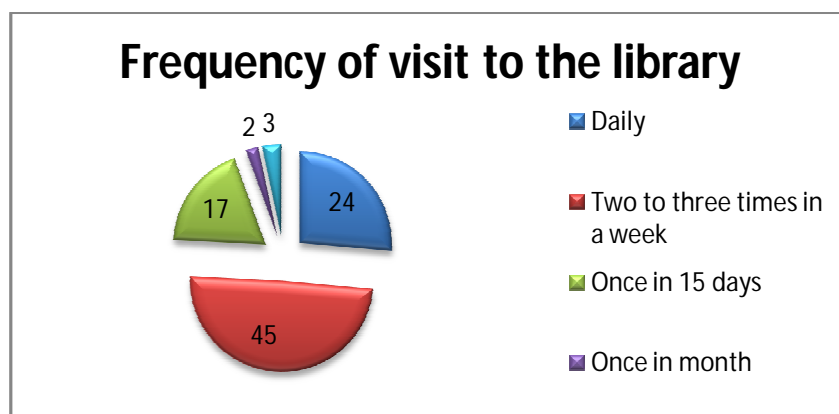
The table-1 depicts that total 91 questionnaire were distributed to the target respondents out of which all the filled questionnaire were returned back and the rate of response is 100%. It may be seen from the table that a majority of the respondents numbering 69(75.82%) are 'Male' and the remaining 22(24.18%) are 'Female'. The age wise break up of respondents, it can be seen from the table-1, that the respondents in the age group of 30 - 40 Years of age range representing 46 (50.55%), followed by the age group of below 29 Years age range representing 24 (26.40%).of respondents. Most of the respondents are in 30 – 40 years.

The respondents have different designation. The Designation wise distribution of faculty members in College under study is shown in the table -1. It is observed from the table that

nearly 83 (91.21%) of the respondents are designated as ‘Assistant Professor’, whereas and Associate Professor 5(5.49%) and 3 Professor of the respondents.

**Table – 2 : Frequency of visit to the library**

Frequency	Response	Percentage
Daily	24	26.37
Two to three times in a week	45	49.45
Once in 15 days	17	18.68
Once in month	2	2.20
Occasionally	3	3.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>100</b>



*Figure.1: Frequency of visit to the library*

The frequencies of the visit to the library are one index to judge the utilization of the library resources. Table 2 and figure 1 shows that 26.37% of them almost visit the library daily, followed by 49.45% of the respondents visit the library two to three times in a week,, 18.68% of them visits once in 15 days. Only a small percentage of user visit the library once in month (2.20%) and occasionally (3.30%).

**Table - 3 : Type of reading material prefer to read**

Reading Materials	Always	Sometime	Often	Never	I Don't Know
To read Subject Books	47(51.65)	18(19.78)	11(12.09)	8(8.79)	7(7.69)
To read Journals	25(27.47)	37(40.66)	12(13.19)	5(5.49)	12(13.19)
To read News papers	56(61.54)	16(17.58)	10(10.99)	7(7.69)	2(2.20)
To read Magazines	19(20.88)	43(47.25)	23(25.27)	2(2.20)	4(4.40)
To read General Knowledge Books	28(30.77)	49(53.85)	11(12.09)	2(2.20)	1(1.10)
To read competitive Exams books	50(54.95)	10(10.99)	27(29.67)	3(3.30)	1(1.10)
To read Novel /fiction/Story books	6(6.59)	17(18.68)	9(9.89)	45(49.45)	14(15.38)
To read Religious books	12(13.19)	41(45.05)	16(17.58)	16(17.58)	6(6.59)
MEAN	30.38	28.88	14.88	11.00	5.88
STDEV	18.57	15.11	6.66	14.48	4.94
Coefficient Variation	61.13	52.32	44.76	131.64	84.01

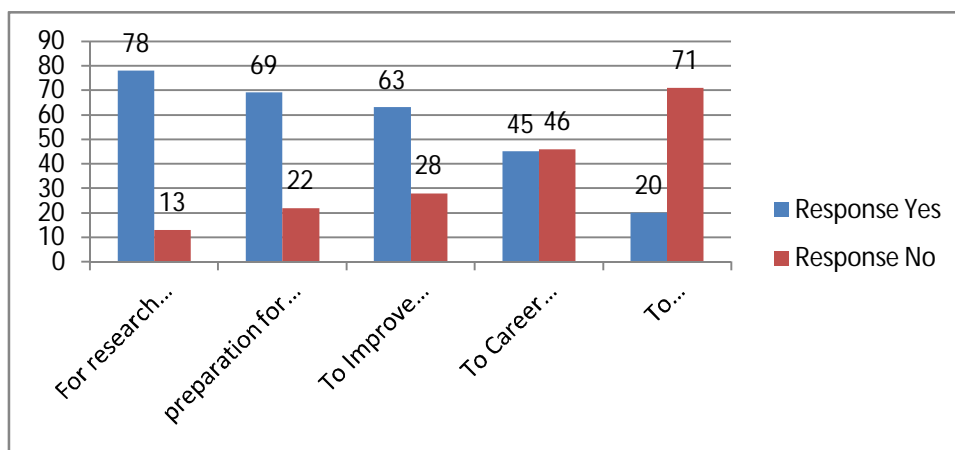
The table-3 also depicts that the faculty members prefer the types of reading materials. It can be observed from the table 47(51.65%) of respondents of ‘Always’ type of reading materials with ‘To read Subject Books’, followed by 37(40.66%) of respondents of ‘Sometime’, which type of materials with ‘To read Journals’, about 56(61.54%)of respondents of always which type of reading materials ‘To read News papers’, 43((47.25%)of respondents sometimes

which type of reading materials with ‘To read Magazines’, 49(53.85%) of respondents some times which type of reading materials with ‘To read General Knowledge Books’, nearly 50(54.95%)of respondents of always ‘To read competitive Exams books’, 45((49..45%) of respondents of never which type of reading materials To read ‘Novel /fiction/Story books’, Finlay, 41(45.05%) of respondents of faculty members who can say sometimes which type of reading materials ‘To read Religious books’. of different types of reading materials habits. Highest mean values of 30.38 and SD being 18.57 while always reading habits and 61.13 coefficient variation.

**Table - 4 : Purpose of reading library material**

Purpose	Response	
	Yes	No
For research purpose (seminar/conference/Journal Publication)	78(85.71)	13(14.29)
preparation for lecture	69(75.82)	22(24.18)
To Improve knowledge	63(69.23)	28(30.77)
To Career developments	45(49.45)	46(50.55)
To Entertainment/recreation	20(21.98)	71(78.02)
MEAN	55	36
STDEV	22.99	22.99
Coefficient Variation	41.8	63.86

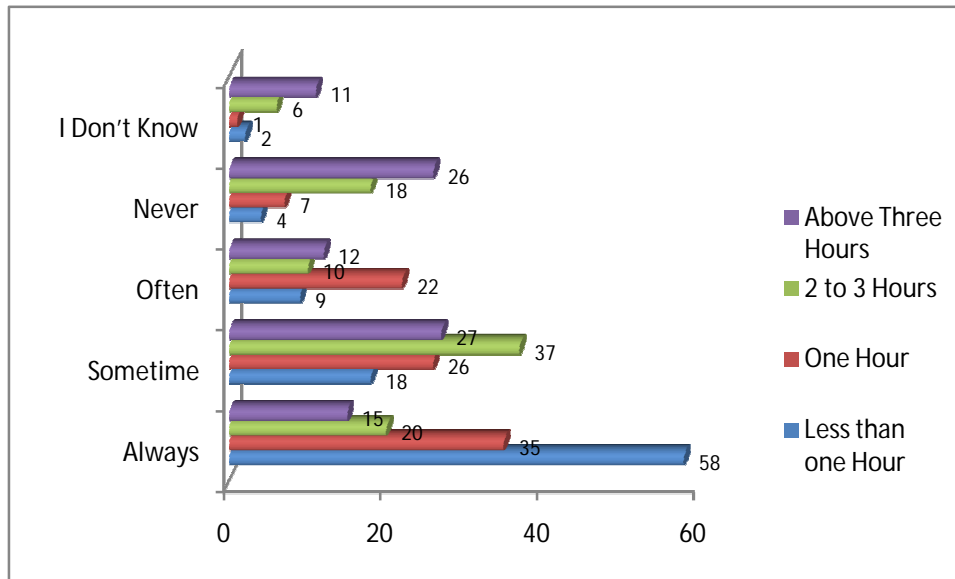
Purpose of reading library material have been summarized .It can be observed from the Table-4 and figure 2 that 78(85.71%) of highest respondents are purpose of reading ‘For research purpose(seminar/conference/Journal Publication)’, followed by 69 (75.82%) of respondents are purpose of reading habits ‘preparation for lecture’, 63(69.23%) of respondents purpose of reading ‘Improve knowledge, 45(49.45%) of respondents are purpose of reading habits ‘To Career developments’, and only 20(21.98%) of faculty members of respondents .are purpose of reading habits ‘To Entertainment/recreation.



*Figure.2: Purpose of reading library material*

**Table – 5: Time Spent for reading**

Particulars	Always	Sometime	Often	Never	I Don't Know
Less than one Hour	58(63.74)	18(19.78)	9(9.89)	4(4.40)	2(2.20)
One Hour	35(38.46)	26(28.57)	22(24.18)	7(7.69)	1(1.10)
2 to 3 Hours	20(21.98)	37(40.66)	10(10.99)	18(19.78)	6(6.59)
Above Three Hours	15(16.48)	27(29.67)	12(13.19)	26(28.57)	11(12.09)
MEAN	32	27	13.25	13.75	5
STDEV	19.3	7.79	5.97	10.14	4.55
Coefficient Variation	60.31	28.85	45.06	73.75	91.00



*Figure.3 : Time Spent for reading*

The Table-5 and figure 3 also depicts that about time spent for reading in library. It can be observed from the above table that 8(63.74%) of the respondents always spent 'Less than one Hour', followed by 35(38.46%) of respondents of always time spent on 'One Hour', 37(40.66%) of respondents spent some times on '2 to 3 Hours' and only 27(29.67%) of respondents who can say always spent on Above Three Hours of reading habits daily.

**Table - 6 : Types of information refer while reading newspapers**

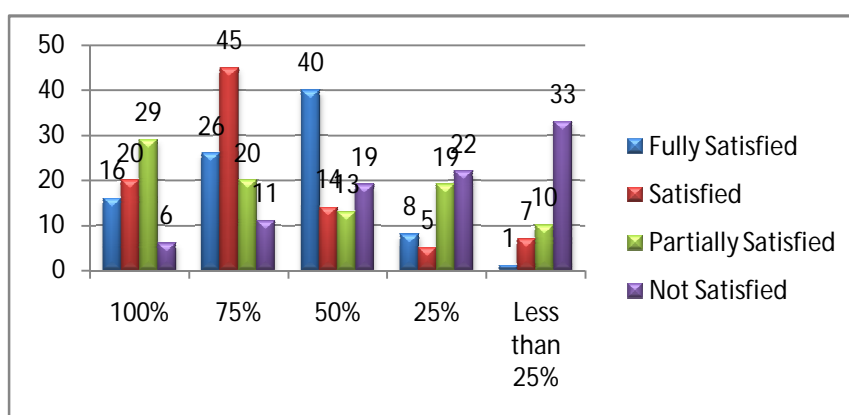
Particulars	Always	Sometime	Often	Never	I Don't Know
Sports news and analysis	11(12.09)	19(20.88)	52(57.14)	9(9.89)	0
Politics news	26(28.57)	13(14.29)	45(49.45)	5(5.49)	2(2.20)
Education and career opportunities	23(25.27)	28(30.77)	34(37.36)	2(2.20)	4(4.40)
Business and corporate news	17(18.68)	13(14.29)	25(27.47)	14(15.38)	22(24.18)
Entertainment/movie	20(21.98)	10(10.99)	58(63.74)	3(3.30)	0
MEAN	23.83	16.5	39	6.66	5
STDEV	12.02	6.41	15.15	4.41	8.46
Coefficient Variation	50.46	38.85	38.85	66.25	169.23

The table-6 also depicts that about types of information refer while reading Newspapers. It clearly noticed from the above table that 26(28.57%) of respondents of 'always reading habits of ' Regional /local news, followed by number 52(57.14%) of respondents often reading 'Sports news and analysis', 45(49.45%) of them prefer often while reading Newspapers 'Politics news', nearly number 34((37.36%) of respondents of 'often'

information refer while reading Newspapers ‘Education and career opportunities’, about 25(27.47%) of respondents and 58 (63.74%)of respondents read often on Business and corporate news and Entertainment/movie.. with the highest stdev value of 15.15 and CV being 169.23.

**Table - 7: Opinion about Reading Materials**

Opinion	100%	75%	50%	25%	Less than 25%
Fully Satisfied	16(17.58)	26(28.57)	40(43.96)	8(8.79)	1(1.10)
Satisfied	20(21.98)	45(49.45)	14(15.38)	5(5.49)	7(7.69)
Partially Satisfied	29(31.87)	20(21.98)	13(14.29)	19(20.88)	10(10.99)
Not Satisfied	6(6.59)	11(12.09)	19(20.88)	22(24.18)	33(36.26)
<b>MEAN</b>	17.75	25.5	21.5	13.5	12.75
<b>STDEV</b>	9.54	14.39	12.61	8.27	13.36
<b>Coefficient Variation</b>	53.72	56.42	58.65	61.23	104.77



*Figure.4: Opinion about Reading Materials*

The table-7 also figure 4 depicts that Opinion about Reading Materials. The analysis shows that, 40(43.96%) of respondents of ‘ 50%’ fully satisfied about reading materials followed by number 45(49.45%) of respondents of ‘75%’ of satisfied with reading materials , nearly 29(31.87%) of respondents of ‘100%’ of partially satisfied with reading materials and last but not least 33(36.26%) of less than 25% of not satisfied with opinion about reading materials.

There is no Significance relationship between Reading Materials and Users opinions chi-square = 17.5 , degrees of freedom = 12, probability = 0.132, alpha 0.05 less or to be considered hence, hypothesis is rejected.

**Table 8: Role of library for education**

Role of libraries in education	Yes (%)	No(%)
Provides authentic reference materials	56(61.54)	35(38.46)
Provides relevant and realistic information for research	63(69.23)	28(30.77)
Provides a conducive environment for studies	69(75.82)	22(24.18)
It is a repository of centuries of knowledge	83(91.21)	8(8.79)
Serves as a major source of information	70(76.92)	21(23.08)

The result in the table 8 shows that 61.54% of the respondents indicated that library provide authentic reference materials, 69.23 of them predicted that library provide relevant and realistic information for research, 75.82% for ‘provides a conducive environment for

studies', 91.21% of the response for it is a repository of centuries of knowledge and 76.92% of response for serves as a major source of information.

### **Major Findings**

- Majority of the respondents numbering 76% are 'Male' and the remaining 24 % are 'Female'.
- Most of the respondents are in the age group of 30 – 40 years.
- Most of 83 (91.21%) of the respondents are assistant professor.
- Majority of the faculty members visit the library regularly.
- About 56(61.54%) of respondents always prefer to read News paper in central library.
- 78(85.71%) of highest respondents are purpose of reading 'For research purpose (seminar/conference/Journal Publication).
- 58(63.74%) of the respondents always spent 'Less than one Hour'
- 46(50.55%) of respondents always prefer to read ' Regional /local news' in the news papers.
- 45(49.45%) of the respondents are 75% satisfied with reading materials available in central library.
- 83 (91.21%) thought that 'book reading' was the most effective method in developing reading skills.
- Most of the respondent (91%) thinks that library t is a repository of centuries of knowledge.

### **Expectations and Suggestions given by the faculty members**

- The timings of the library should be extended up to 7.00 P.M.
- Library should provide separate reading room for personal books 24\*7\*365 days . Books/Magazines should be increased for competitive examination related.
- Reading Material should be arranged in proper order for easy accessibility with proper table organizations.
- More and more reading language paper should be added.
- The library should provide for photocopy and printing facilities with free of cost i.e. Reference books, Dissertation/Theses etc.
- It is, therefore suggested that proper user education/library orientation Programmes should be provided for the users.

### **Conclusion**

The study revealed the respondents acknowledge the importance of reading and said reading helps them to express themselves better. Study reveals that to read newspapers, gets some information to prepare competitive examination, Library and Information Science Professionals can play a significant role in developing reading habits among its users. The library may increase few more number of latest editions of books, journals /magazines added to requirements of the users., It is, therefore suggested that proper user education/library orientation Programmes should be provided for the users.



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