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READING HABITS OF FACULTY MEMBERS: A CASE STUDY OF PVP COLLEGE PATODA



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Abstract: The present study on reading habits of faculty members is based on a user survey carried out at Padmabhushan Vasant Dada Patil College of Patoda. Factors affecting the reading habits, average time spent in library, sources used in library, etc. were studied.

Keywords: Psychologically, library, Reading Habits, information scientists.

INTRODUCTION:

Reading is primarily an intellectual activity and reading habit is a sort of attribute of human being. Like other habits, the habit of reading in an individual develops during the course of time. Psychologically, habit is product of learning; however reading is an art of interpreting the printed tools and written words. It is important for the professional staff of a library to know about the reading habits and information needs of the clientele being served.

Reading habit has been an area of active interest among the librarians and information scientists. It results from the recognition of some need perceived by the user, who as a consequence makes demand upon formal system such as libraries, information centers, or other persons in order to satisfy the perceived need.

Benefits of Reading

The impact of reading in people's lives is extraordinarily widespread. A reader can learn new skills, can be introduced to new facts, he can gain more knowledge about the whole world and he can be stimulated to both thought and emotion. Reading has the unique power of transforming readers. It is sometimes said, "We are what we read". Abraham Lincoln said, "The things I want to know are in books. My friend is the man who will get a book read". Francis Bacon therefore, rightly said, "Reading makes a full man".

OBJECTIVES

The following were the specific objectives of the study:

- 1.To identify the kind of literature being read by the faculty members;
- 2.To study the influence of subject background on the reading habits of faculty members;
- 3.To study the frequency and extent of the use of the library by the faculty members;
- 4.To find out the adequacy or otherwise of the library collection;

- 5.To find out whether the manpower is well equipped to provide the services to the faculty members; and
- 6.To identify the barriers which keep away the members from reading and using the information?

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Smith and Robinson defined reading as "an active attempt on the part of reader to understand a writer's message". Reading is primarily an intellectual activity and its practice is influenced by many factors like home environment, subject background, age, status, etc. Reading helps in the resolution of personal need and in the attainment of mental maturity and independence of thoughts. Devarajan defines reading as an art of interpreting printed and written words. It is a tool of education and one of the most important skills in everyday life.

Habit is a psychological aspect and is developed during a course of time as a part of personality of an individual. Rahman in his report on "Reading for Pleasure" mentioned that lack of appreciation and understanding of good books and the failure to derive pleasure from a habit of reading underlines the problem of educational growth.

William S. Gray indicates that reading influences the extent and accuracy of information as well as attitude, moral belief, judgement, and action of the reader. The reading habit has one of the most powerful lasting influence in promotion of one's personal development in particular and social in general. Herman emphasized that status, age, group, sex and information needs of the library users influence reading habit. It is lack of appreciation and understanding of good books and failure to derive pleasure from the habit of reading that affects educational growth. The factors affecting the reading habits are: nature of the reader, needs of a reader, nature of information required, educational qualifications of a reader, cost of reading material and way of interaction of users and information.

Bryan relates the reading habits in relation to the library and mentions that the librarian's task is to find the

right book for the right reader at the right time. A librarian must know his books, he must know his readers and he must know that effect will be produced by bringing the two together.

The present article is a questionnaire based study of the reading habits of faculty members in PVP College of Patoda. In order to carry out the study, a questionnaire was designed for the faculty members of PVP College of Patoda. The reading habit of faculty with respect to their professional requirements, their educational qualifications, psychological needs etc. have been studied.

METHODOLOGY

For the purpose of the study a questionnaire was designed and distributed among the respondents. The study was limited to find the reading habit of faculty members in PVP College of Patoda affilated to BAMU Aurangabad. The data analysis and interpretation is based on a sample of 41 randomly selected respondents out of three categories viz., Professors, Asso.Prof, Asst. Prof. The Branches in PVP College include Art's, Science and Commerce.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1- Branch wise distribution of faculty members

Branch	Professors	Asso.Prof.	Asst. Prof.	Total	%
Arts	1	3	14	18	56.25
Science	-	-	11	11	34.375
Commerce	-	-	3	3	09.375
Total	1	3	28	32	100

Out of the sample polulation of 41, only 32 (80.49%) members responded. Largested number (56.25%) responded from the Arts branch and smallest number of (9.375%) respondents was from Commerce branch.

Table 2- Qualification of faculty members

Qualification	Professors	Asso.Prof.	Asst. Prof.	Total	%
Ph.D.	1	3	14	18	56.25
M.Phill.	-	-	9	9	28.125
SET/SLET	-	-	2	2	6.25
MASTER'S DEGREE	-	-	3	3	9.375
	1	3	28	32	100

Eighteen (56.25%) faculty members have a Ph.D.; Nine (28.125%) have a M.PhiLL, while Three (9.375%) have a Master's Degree. Out of these Two (6.25%) have cleared their NET/SLET.

Table 3- Libraries meeting the general and technical need of faculty members

Source Library	Professors	Asso.Prof.	Asst. Prof.	Total	%
meeting technical & general information needs					
College library	1	3	24	28	66.67
Outside library	-	-	2	2	4.77
Personal library	-	1	3	4	9.52
Departmental library	-	1	7	8	19.04
Total	1	5	36	42	100

In 66.67% cases, the college library is able to fulfil the information requirement of faculty members. The departments of the faculty members (19.04%) are also having a good collection of information sources in their discipline.

Table 4- Frequency of the library visits

Frequency of library visits	Professors	Asso.Prof.	Asst. Prof.	Total	%
Fortnightly	-	-	2	2	6.25
Weekly	-	1	8	9	28.12
Almost daily	1	2	15	15	56.25
More than once in a day	-	-	3	3	9.38
Total	1	3	28	32	100

(56.25%) of the faculty members were able to visit the library every day. However, majority of the faculty members (28.12%) visit the library once a week. 9.38% of the faculty members visit the library more than once day and 6.25% of the faculty members visit the library once in a fortnight.

Table 5- Reason(s) for not using the library frequently

Reason for not consulting the library very frequently	Professors	Asso.Prof.	Asst. Prof.	Total	%
Shortage of time	1	2	7	10	50
Non-availability of material	-	-	-	-	-
Poor services of library	-	-	1	1	05
Any other reasons	-	1	8	9	45
Total	1	3	16	20	100

In majority of the cases 50% of the faculty members are not able to visit the library frequently due to their teaching assignments and research work. Howerer, in 45% cases, any other reason. A small population 5% of faculty members blamed the poor services of library for their infrequent visit.

Table 6- Sources of scientific and technical information

Source of scientific & technical information	Professors	Asso.Prof.	Asst. Prof.	Total	%
Journals	1	-	20	21	51
Conferens	-	2	5	7	17
Discussion	-	-	6	6	15
Other sources	-	1	6	7	17
Total	1	3	37	41	100

Journals were main source of S&T information for majority of the respondents (51%). However, conferences were another useful source of information. Personal discussions (15%) and other conventional and non-conventional sources (17%) were also useful. The non-conventional sources of information included the micro-fiche, online databases, electronic databases, etc.

Table 7- purpose of reading

Purpose of reading	Professors	Asso.Prof.	Asst. Prof.	Total	%
To meet teaching and research requirments	-	3	16	19	51
For recreation	-	-	4	4	11
To be knowledge	1	-	13	14	38
Total	1	3	33	37	100

Maximum number of faculty members 51% read for meeting their proffessionals obligations of teaching & research. The second largest category of the faculty members 38% were reading to keep themselves up to date in their field. It was found that 11% were reading for the sake of recreation.

Table 8- Material for general reading

General reading material	Professors	Asso.Prof.	Asst. Prof.	Total	%
Fiction	-	-	4	4	10
Non-fiction	-	-	3	3	7
Newspaper/magazine	1	2	25	28	68
Others	-	1	5	6	15
Total	1	3	37	41	100

General reading is a clear indication of reading as a habit as it is not being done out of the compulsio. Newapaper & Magazine are the most (68%) preferred general reading material of faculty members.

Table 9- Opinion about the library services and collection

Opinion about the library services and collection	Professors	Asso.Prof.	Asst. Prof.	Total	%
Excellent	-	2	2	4	12.50
Good	1	-	22	23	71.88
Average	-	-	5	5	15.62
Not satisfactory	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	2	29	32	100

Majority of the faculty members graded the services and collection of library as good (71.88%) and 15.62% rated the services as average. Only 12.50% rated the services as excellent.

CONCLUSION

The present study on the reading habits of the faculty at the PVP College Patoda shows that the college library and department library are the major source of information. It is also seen that majority of faculty members visit the library almost daily and shortage of time is a major reason for not visiting the library more frequently. The study also shows that the most important purpose of the reading by the faculty members is to meet the teaching and research requirements.

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