

Newspaper Reading Habits of University Students: A Case Study of Chaudhary Charan Singh University, India

Introduction

Newspapers help to improve reading habits, knowledge, and awareness. They can be part of good study habits for students in any area of specialization. India is a developing country with many ethnic communities who wish to live together. Efforts to solve cultural adaptation problems should be multi-dimensional and long term. Reading and library use habits have an important role in building the multicultural structure in a country. According to Stadler (1980), reading;

- Will develop the source of word of children in both mother language and householder language.
- Will contribute the thinking in both languages.
- Will raise the communication in both languages.
- Will help the children to learn the rules of behaviour and life style of householder country.

Library use can have these functions in cultural adaptation:

- To develop the intercultural understanding and relationships.
- To facilitate the intercultural passing.
- To increase the cultural diversity.
- To provide social integration.
- To give an educational support to language development. (Mylopoulos 1985)

Review of the Literature

Begum and Ramesh (1991) investigated factors inhibiting public library use. They analyzed responses gathered from the users of the central library, Mysore, India. Somsong (1999) looked at reading habit promotion in ASEAN libraries. Factors limiting reading habits were discussed, along with the role of local institutes or organizations in helping libraries promote reading. Bndaka (2007) explored the use of newspaper articles to develop students' reading skills in senior high school. Arulraj and Viji (2008) found that more male staff members at a professional college than female.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to discover:

- The first language of the students.
- The language in which mostly students read newspapers.
- How much time is spent reading newspapers.
- Sources of newspapers.
- Which newspapers are read most by students.
- Which sections of newspapers are read most by students.
- The types of news read.

Methodology

A questionnaire and personal interviews were used for data collection. A total of 350 questionnaires were administered and 341 filled in questionnaires were obtained from the users.

A major objective for the study was to included all primary clientele. The user populations were

Data Analysis and Interpretation

The collected data are organized and tabulated by using statistical method, table and percentage.

Findings

- The majority of students read newspapers in Hindi or English language.
- The majority of time spent reading newspapers is one to two hours daily.
- The majority of the students read newspapers to get information and improve their general knowledge.
- The main sources of newspapers are individual subscription, followed by the university library and student hostels.
- The most popular Hindi and English newspapers among the university students are Danik Jagran and The Times of India.
- Students prefer to read editorial sections, followed by sports and politics..

Conclusion and Recommendations

Library users read newspaper to get the latest information about what is happening around. Newspapers are responsible for creating and generating reading habits among university students. Newspapers are essential for university students, but due to the enormous explosion of information published in the form of newspapers in different languages in particular, it is impossible for libraries to subscribe all that are published at the national and international levels. Under these circumstances the best way of serving the users is by proper display of newspapers and notifying users about new information related to education. In library there should be adequate newspapers to accelerate reading habits. This study helps librarians understand the importance of newspapers and improve the services related to newspapers.

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