

IMPACT OF TELEVISION ON READING HABIT OF HIGHSCHOOL STUDENTS IN KOTTAYAM TOWN, KERALA: A STUDY

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Abstract: - Analysis of data collected from 12 schools ie, one government, ten aided and one unaided recognized schools from Kottayam town .The total population of these schools were 5043. Since the population under study was larger in number, sampling technique was used. In order to avoid sampling errors, random sampling technique was used.508 questionnaires were distributed among students in 8th, 9th and 10th classes in these schools. All questionnaires were duly filled up the students were collected. The major factors influencing the reading habit of high school students are watching television, watching and playing videos and games, visitors, household activities etc. Most of them have poor reading habit. School libraries get only fourth preference for getting information. The study shows that Television is Influencing the reading habit of high school students in Kottayam town. The study reveals that the students are watching television 2-3 hours daily. For improving the reading habit one important suggestion is that need for well established library .Library period shall be allotted in the curriculum and the service of full time librarian is very essential in school libraries. School library should possess a separate attracting building with attractive furniture to lure the children and motivate them for reading. Teachers and parents should encourage them to read some good newspapers, magazines etc and parents should be some control over the programmes watched by the students.

Keywords: Reading habit, Television, highschool students, questionnaire method

Reading is the gateway of knowledge and wisdom. It is one of the most effective means of systematic development of language and the personality of a person. According to Francis

Bacon reading makes the full man¹.The ability to read is a foundation for success and growth. Reading can be an exciting voyage of self discovery. In any civilized society it is almost

impossible for an adult to get through the day without reading. Each and every development of a thing, either man or country, information is essential and reading is one of the means through which it is obtained.

Reading is a creative activity and is involved deeply with all phases of life. It is a major educational concern. The problem of learning to read is universal while the basis of the problem may vary from individual to individual and from group to group. Poor reading ability has generally been discussed dyslexia. It is a medical term signifying the inability to learn to read. The habit of reading has to be developed early in life, and books not only provide a lifelong source of good entertainment but can also lead the child to better directions. According to Ramanayya 'The book occupies a central position in the process of education and bringing up new generation'².

Relevance of the study

Television is becoming almost a universal phenomenon. It is the most powerful media attracted by the people especially the children. It is generally observed that the people are getting habituated to television viewing in every nook and corner of Indian cities. Through this media several programmes are coming up which have a lot of positive and negative influence on the people. These educational programmes are one of the major developments of this media. Though reading is one of the most effective process of conscious learning and enhancing one's knowledge, television has encroached to certain extent the reading habit of individuals. This study

attempts to find out the influence of television on reading habit of high school students.

Objectives of the study

The main objectives of the study are

1. To find out the factors influencing the reading habit of High school students
2. To assess information gathering behavior of students
3. To assess the impact of Television on reading habit of high school students.
4. To make suggestions for improvement of reading habit among high school students

Scope and limitations of the study

At present there are 2585 high schools under 31 educational districts in kerala. Because of the larger population this study is confined to kottayam town only. There are total 90 high schools in kottayam educational district. Among these schools, 12 schools were selected for the investigation. This study is included only the students of standard VIII, IX and X because of the limitation by the level of students. It has considered only those students having the age range of 13 or above (limitation by age)

Methodology

For the purpose of the study questionnaire method was used. Data was collected from 12 schools, i.e., 1 government, 10 aided and 1 aided recognized schools. The total population of these school were 5043. Since the population under study was larger in number sampling technique was used. 508 questionnaires was distributed and collected from viiith, ixth and xth classes of 12 schools.

Sample population

Sl.no	Name of the school	Number of students			
		8	9	10	Total
1	B.M.G High school	23	25	21	69
2	C.M.S College high school	20	20	17	57
3	Govt. model high school	2	3	4	9
4	Holy family high school	6	7	6	19
5	M.D seminary high school	24	24	24	72
6	M.T seminary higher secondary school	39	37	35	111
7	NSS High school	3	3	3	9
8	SH mount high school	6	6	3	15
9	st.Annes high school	18	16	13	47
10	St.joseph high school	19	18	17	54
11	St.Thomas high school	10	10	8	28
12	Vidyadhiraja vidyabhavan	6	7	5	18
	Total	176	176	156	508

Data analysis and interpretation

Table 1 Time spent for reading

Sl. no		At home								At library							
		8	%	9	%	10	%	TOTAL	%	8	%	9	%	10	%	Total	%
1	Less than 1hr	89	50.57	70	39.77	30	19.23	189	37.204	88	51.76	69	40.83	29	19.20	186	37.96
2	1-2 hr	55	31.25	60	34.09	35	22.44	150	29.53	54	31.76	58	34.32	34	22.52	146	29.79
3	2-3hr	20	11.36	30	17.045	39	25.28	89	17.52	18	10.59	29	17.16	38	25.16	85	17.35
4	3-4hr	9	5.14	12	6.82	41	26.28	62	12.204	7	4.12	11	6.508	40	26.49	58	11.84
5	4-5hr	3	1.705	3	1.705	8	5.13	14	2.76	3	1.76	2	1.18	7	4.64	12	2.45
6	More than 5hr	-	-	1	0.57	3	1.92	4	0.79	-	-	-	-	3	1.99	3	0.61
	TOTAL	176	100	176	100	156	100	508	100	170	99.99	169	99.99	151	100	490	100

The table shows that the students spent more time at home for reading than at library.

Table 2 Reading habit by form of documents

Here the respondents were asked to indicate their reading habit by form of documents. The table shows the correlations worked for different variables ie, textbooks, periodicals, newspaper files, magazines,comics, storybooks and journals

Distribution of students according to reading habit by form of documents

Reading habit of Text books

Sl.no	Form of document	Category of division							
		8	%	9	%	10	%	Total	%
	Text book	176	100	176	100	156	100	508	100
	Total	176	100	176	100	156	100	508	100

Reading habit of periodicals

Sl.no	Form of document	Category of division							
		8	%	9	%	10	%	Total	%
	periodicals	8	4.55	10	5.68	12	7.692	30	5.905
	Total	176	100	176	100	156	100	508	100

Reading habit of newspapers

Sl.no	Form of document	Category of division							
		8	%	9	%	10	%	Total	%
	Newspapers	173	98.29	174	98.86	155	99.35	502	98.82
	Total	176	100	176	100	156	100	508	100

Reading habit of magazines

Sl.no	Form of document	Category of division							
		8	%	9	%	10	%	Total	%
		122	69.32	134	76.14	148	94.87	404	79.53
	Total	176	100	176	100	156	100	508	100

Reading habit of comics

Sl.no	Form of document	Category of division							
		8	%	9	%	10	%	Total	%
	comic	174	98.86	174	98.86	154	99.35	502	98.82
	Total	176	100	176	176	156	100	508	100

Reading habit of story books

Sl.no	Form of document	Category of division							
		8	%	9	%	10	%	Total	%
1	Story books	136	77.27	148	84.09	149	95.51	433	85.24
	Total	176	100	176	100	156	100	508	100

Reading habit of journals

Sl.no	Form of document	Category of division							
		8	%	9	%	10	%	Total	%
1	journals	6	3.409	8	4.55	11	7.05	25	4.921
	Total	176	100	176	100	156	100	508	100

The questionnaire focuses on the use of different documents by students for analysis the following types of documents are identified ie text books, periodicals,newspapers, magazines, comics and journals. Use among the various types of documents text books occupies the highest position, securing a percentage of 100.out of 508 respondents 502 were give interest to newspapers. After text books children’s were give interest to newspapers and comics .journals occupies the least position.

Table3 Time spent for watching TV

SL.NO	Time spent	Category of division							
		8	%	9	%	10	%	Total	%
1	Lessthan1hour	22	12.5	31	17.61	20	12.82	73	14.37
2	1-2 hour	62	35.22	62	35.22	65	41.67	189	37.205
3	2-3 hour	88	50	79	44.89	70	44.87	237	46.653
4	3-4 hour	2	1.14	2	1.14	1	0.64	5	0.984
5	4-5 hour	2	1.14	2	1.14	-	-	5	0.79
6	More than 5 hour	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	176	100	176	100	100	100	508	99.99

Most of the students are watching TV in 2-3 hour ie,46.653% and 37.205% are watching 1-2 hour,14.37 % are watching less than 1 hour,0.984% are watching 3-4 hour and the minority of the students are watching 4-5 hour and none of them are watching more than five hour

Table 4 factors which hinders reading

Sl.no	Factors	Category of division							
		8	%	9	%	10	%	Total	%
1	Mobile phones	22	12.5	20	11.36	7	4.49	49	9.645

2	Watching television	95	53.98	92	52.27	80	51.28	267	52.56
3	Radio & other sounds	5	2.84	5	2.84	2	1.28	12	2.36
4	Tuition	36	20.45	40	22.73	42	26.92	118	23.23
5	Homework	15	8.52	15	8.52	20	12.82	50	9.84
6	visitors	-	-	2	1.14	-	-	2	0.39
7	Household activities	3	1.704	2	1.14	3	1.92	8	1.575
8	others	-	-	-	-	2	1.28	2	0.39
	Total	176	99.99	176	100	156	99.99	508	99.99

The figure shows that watching TV becomes the major impediment of the respondents from continuous reading ie,267(52.56%).The other factors influences the respondents from continuous reading are mobile phones ie.,49(9.645),radio and other sound disturbances is 12(2.36%).tuition 23.23% ,home work 9.84% visitors 0.39% household activities 1.575% and others 0.39%

TABLE5 Approach to source of information

The question was based on respondents approach to different source of information. The table shows the correlations worked for different variables viz school library, other library, teachers ,parents and friends

Sl.no	sources	Category of division							
		8	%	9	%	10	%	Total	%
1	School library	4	2.273	6	3.40	9	5.77	19	3.740
2	Other library	-	-	1	0.57	2	1.28	3	0.590
3	Teacher	128	72.73	122	69.32	95	60.89	345	67.91
4	parents	22	12.5	23	13.07	25	16.03	71	13.78
5	friends	22	12.5	24	13.64	25	16.03	70	13.98
	Total	176	100	176	100	156	100	508	100

This table reveals that the respondents prefer their teachers for their information needs ie,345(67.91%). 71(13.78%) of the students prefer their parents ,70(13.78%) of the students prefer their friends,19 (3.74%) prefer school libraries and 3(0.59%)of them prefer other libraries.

Table6 Opinion on impact of television on reading habit

Sl.no	opinion	Category of division							
		8	%	9	%	10	%	TOTAL	%
1	Influence of television	95	53.98	92	52.27	80	51.28	267	52.56
2	Not influence	81	46.02	84	47.73	76	48.72	241	47.44
	Total	176	100	176	100	156	100	508	100

The study reveals that television is influenced on the reading habit ie,267(52.56%) and241 ie,(47.44%) of the students opined that television is not influenced on their reading habit

Table7 Spending of time after school hours

Si.no	opinion	Category of division							
		8	%	9	%	10	%	Total	%
1	Watching TV	106	60.23	100	56.82	95	60.89	301	59.252
2	Playing games	16	9.09	8	4.55	4	2.56	28	5.511
3	Reading books	22	12.5	30	17.04	27	17.31	79	15.552
4	Watching mobile phones	32	18.88	38	21.59	30	19.23	100	19.685
	Total	176	100	176	100	156	99.99	508	100

The study shows that most of the students were watching TV after school hours

Finding and suggestions

The major factors influencing the reading habit of high school students are playing games, watching television, watching mobile phones, tuition, homework, visitors,household activities etc. Majority of the students approach their teachers for information requirements .The study has revealed there is a considerable degree of impact of television on reading habit of high school students .A large portion of the time available for reading is at present is utilized for watching TV. If some measures are not adopted for improving the reading habit jointly by the parents and teachers, in future it may result in the production of a generation having less interest in reading .Both the parents and teachers have the moral responsibility to inculcate the habit of reading among students.

Suggestions are as follows

1. Regulate TV viewing habits
2. Regulate self viewing
- 3 Encourage children to develop interest in other activities other than TV viewing
- 4 Government should give more attention to provide educative and information programmes for children
- 5 Create interest in reading books by providing with picture books
6. The new books purchased for the school library should be well circulated
 Among the children as they always prefer to read new books to old ones.
7. Media must be cautious about the programmes they telecast with due
 Consideration of the needs of the family members giving importance to
 Children viewing habits

8. Teachers and parents should encourage them to read some good newspapers,

magazines etc.

9. Parents should have some control over the programmes watched by the

Students. They encourage their children to see only the worth seeing and

Valuable programmes presented by TV channels

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