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An Experimental Study on Habits of Reading Skills among First Year Engineering Students in Coimbatore District

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ABSTRACT

Reading opens the gate way to an ever increasing find for of information about oneself and his surroundings. Reading is essential for national integration and international understanding too. This article finds about the students engineering college habits on reading skills. Then the article shows that the students of engineering are having reading habit which is differentiated according to their area of interest, students reading style and mode of education in school. It helps them to understand and appreciate the common achievements. The unique contribution is made by the people nation towards the advancement of human culture and civilization and the joys and sufferings shared by the whole human societies. Through reading, it is possible to build sound values and arrive at means and methods for creative living in this machine age. Therefore they would develop their reading skills through reading style, rectifying their problem while reading, method of reading area of interest and taking notes.

Keywords: Reading habit, students reading style, method for reading, difficulty while reading, area of interest in reading and note taking.

INTRODUCTION

Reading is a symbolic behaviour wherein we employ the visual symbol to represent the auditory symbol leading to higher order mental activity. In other words, it is essentially decoding of written symbol on a page and attending meaning to them.

READING SKILL

Language, when used for communication, is a tool. We must remember that handling of any tool requires a certain skill. The inborn ability to use a language that all human beings posse, has to be developed and sharpened through practice. When we say that someone is a good user of language, we mean that he is able to use language effectively for all his communicative needs, in all kind of situations that he posses all communication skills or language skills. These skills are: listening, speaking, reading, and writing (LSRW). Of all these four skills, the essential skill for the second language learners is the reading skill.

To develop competence in receiving and sending information we need to acquire language skills such as a listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The ability to read and comprehended effectively is an essential skill. It can be acquired and developed with intelligent, consistent and continuous effort like any other skill.

AIM OF THE ARTICLE

This article is to aim for developing reading skill and sub skills among first year engineering college in Coimbatore.

- To enlarge the interest of reading in students day to day lives.
- To solve the difficulties for them in reading.
- To expand reading skills through note taking.

READING HABITS OF THE STUDENTS

Though engineering students are very busiest students in their work which is relevant of science and technology, data has been collected from them for developing reading skills. The following data shows about students reading habit, students reading style, method for reading, difficulty while reading, area of interest in reading and note taking.

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DO YOU HAVE HABIT OF READING?

			Do you have habit of reading?				Total
			Yes	Sometimes	No	Always	
Gender	Male	Count	9	15	1	2	27
		% within gender	33.3%	55.6%	3.7%	7.4%	100%
	Female	Count	4	9	0	0	13
		% within gender	30.8%	69.2%	0%	0%	100%
Total		Count	13	24	1	2	40
		% within gender	32.5%	60%	2.5%	5%	100%

Interpretation:

The above table, that shows about the percentage of students reading habit. 33.3% of male students and 30.8% of female students are having reading habit from yes. 55.6% of male students 69.2% of female students are having reading habit from sometime. 3.7% of male students and 0% of female students are not having reading habit from no. 7.4% of male students and 0% of female students are having reading habit from always.

HOW LONG DO STUDENTS READ PER DAY?

			How long do students read per day?					Total
			5 min - 15 min	16 min - 30 min	31min- 60 min	60 min and above	No	
Gender	Male	Count	8	5	3	10	1	27
		% within gender	29.6%	18.5%	11.1%	37%	3.7%	100%
	Female	Count	2	0	3	7	1	13
		% within gender	15.4%	0%	23.1%	53.8%	7.7%	100%
Total		Count	10	5	6	17	2	40
		% within gender	25%	12.5%	15%	42.5%	5%	100%

Interpretation:

The above table shows about how long students read per day. It is found that 29.6% of male students and 15.4% female students are reading per day from five minutes to fifteen minutes. 18.5% of male students and 0% female students are reading per day from sixteen minutes to thirty minutes. 11.1% of male students and 23.1% female students are reading per day from thirty one minutes to sixty minutes. 37% of male students and 53.8% female students are reading per day for sixty minutes and more than sixty minutes. 3.7% of male students and 7.7% of female students are not reading per day for even one minute.

STUDENTS READING STYLE

			Students Reading style			Total
			Mind reading	Louder reading	Both	
Gender	Male	Count	13	1	13	27
		% within gender	48.1%	3.7%	48.1%	100%
	Female	Count	7	2	4	13
		% within gender	53.8%	15.4%	30.8%	100%
Total		Count	20	3	17	40
		% within gender	50%	7.5%	42.5%	100%

Interpretation:

The above table shows about students reading style. It is found that 48.1% of male students are having mind reading style which is lower than 53.8% of female students are having mind reading style. It is clarified that 3.7% of male students are having mind reading style which is lower than 15.4% of female students are having louder reading style. It

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is illustrated that 48.1% of male students are having both mind and louder reading style which is higher than 30.8% of female students are having both mind and louder reading style.

ANY SPECIFIC METHOD FOR READING

			Any specific method for reading					Total
			No	Laying Reading	Walking Reading	Silent reading	Others	
Gender	Male	Count	7	4	2	5	9	27
		% within gender	25.9%	14.8%	7.4%	18.5%	33.3%	100%
	Female	Count	5	1	4	2	1	13
		% within gender	38.5%	7.7%	30.8%	15.4%	7.7%	100%
Total		Count	12	5	6	7	10	40
		% within gender	30%	12.5%	15%	17.5%	25%	100%

Interpretation:
The following details are given in the table which is explained about students' specific reading method. It is discovered that 14.8% of male students have laying reading method which is higher than 7.7% of female students. It is made clear that 7.4% of male students have walking reading method which is lower than 30.8% of female students. It is shown that 18.5% of male students have silent reading method which is higher than 15.4% of female students. 33.3% of male students and 7.7% of female students are having other reading method. It is found that 25.9% of male students and 38.5% of female students are not having reading method.

DO STUDENTS FACE ANY DIFFICULTY WHILE READING?

			Students face any difficulty while reading				Total
			Yes	Sometimes	No	Always	
Gender	Male	Count	1	15	6	3	25
		% within gender	4%	60%	24%	12%	100%
	Female	Count	4	6	2	1	13
		% within gender	30.8%	46.2%	15.4%	7.7%	100%
Total		Count	5	21	8	4	38
		% within gender	13.2%	55.3%	21.1%	10.5%	100%

Interpretation:
The above table shows about whether the students face any difficulty while reading. It is brought out that 4% of male students face difficulties while reading lower than 30.8% of female students face it and 60% of male students face difficulties for sometimes while reading lower than 30.8% of female students face it. It is explained that 24% of male students and 15.4% female students are not having difficulties while reading and 12% of male students face difficulties always while reading higher than 7.7% of female students face it.

AREA OF INTEREST IN READING

S. No.	Area of interest in Reading		Gender		Total
			Male	Female	
1	Text & Story Books	Count	5	4	9
		% within	55.6%	44.4%	100.0%
2	News Papers, Cine & Sports	Count	9	3	12
		% within	75.0%	25.0%	100.0%
3	Application and Technology	Count	2	5	7
		% within	28.6%	71.4%	100.0%
4	Others	Count	5	1	6

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		% within	83.3%	16.7%	100.0%
5	No	Count	6	0	6
		% within	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	Total	Count	27	13	40
		% within	67.5%	32.5%	100.0%

Interpretation:
The table shows that the students are having interest for reading in different areas. So it is found that 55.6% of male students are having more interest in reading of text book and story books than 44.4% of female students are having interest in it. Then it is discovered that 75% of male students are having more interest in reading of newspaper, cinema and sports articles than 25% of female students are having interest in it. But it is said that71.4% of female students are having more interest in reading of technology (WhatsApp) than 28.6% of male students are having interest in it. It is found that 83.3% male students and 16.7% of female students are having interest in reading about others. Finally, it is disclosed that six students come as 100% of male students do not have interest in reading than 0% of female students are having interest in reading.

DO YOU HAVE READING ENVIRONMENTS?

			Do you have reading environments?		Total
			Yes	No	
Gender	Male	Count	18	9	27
		% within gender	66.7%	33.3%	100%
	Female	Count	10	3	13
		% within gender	76.9%	23.1%	100%
Total		Count	28	12	40
		% within gender	70%	30%	100%

Interpretation:
The table shows about whether the students are having reading environment. It is found that 66.7% of male students are having reading environment lesser than 76.9% of female students are having reading environment. It is brought out that 33.3% of male students are not having reading environment than 23.1% of female students are not having reading environment.

STUDENTS HAVE HABIT OF NOTE TAKING WHILE READING

			Do you have habit of note taking while reading?				Total
			Yes	Sometimes	No	Always	
Gender	Male	Count	5	9	12	1	27
		% within gender	18.5%	33.3%	44.4%	3.7%	100.0%
	Female	Count	3	4	6	0	13
		% within gender	23.1%	30.8%	46.2%	0.0%	100.0%
Total		Count	8	13	18	1	40
		% within gender	20.0%	32.5%	45.0%	2.5%	100.0%

Interpretation:
The above table displays about how much students are having habit for taking notes while reading. It is made clear that 18.5% of male students are having habit for taking notes while reading from yes lesser than 23.1% of female students. It is found out that 33.3% of male students are having habit for taking notes sometimes while reading higher than 30.8% of female students. It is brought out that 44.4% of male students and 46.2% of female students are not having habit for taking notes while reading. It is illustrated that 3.7% of male students are having habit for taking notes while reading always greater than 0% of female students.

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CONCLUSION

This article has been concluded with details of students reading habit, students reading style, method for reading, difficulty while reading, area of interest in reading and note taking. Therefore it is proved that first year engineering students have got the improvement and development on reading skills.

The generally accepted principle is that writing skill is based on reading skill. Reading helps the students acquire vocabulary, word usage, sentence construction, developing paragraph and organization of material. This ability helps them to write effectively. In this context, it is worth referring to the words of seventeenth-century genius, "On Reading" holds profound meaning: "Reading makes a full man, writing all exact man, and conferring (speaking) a ready man". We use language as a means for communication in terms of receiving and sending information.

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