

EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF READING HABITS ON ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN PRAKASAM DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The present study has been designed to study the Reading Habits of Students on their Academic Performance of Secondary Schools Level in Prakasam District. Various Indian and foreign studies were reviewed. Descriptive Survey method has been used in this study. The sample consists of 200 students studying in secondary schools of Prakasam district. The investigator used stratified random sampling technique for selecting the sample. Questionnaire was constructed for the Students to find out the opinions on the Reading Habits of Students on their Academic Performance of Secondary Schools Level in Prakasam District. The data were analyzed using various statistical methods like mean, SD, 't' test and F-test were the statistical techniques used. The score obtained by different groups are compared across the variables like gender, medium, class, management, locality, parental qualification and parental income. The results are discussed in light of previous research studied; suggestions and Recommendations for further research were also suggested.

Key Words: Reading Habits and Academic Performance

1. INTRODUCTION

Reading Habits:

The term study is usually associated with reading and reference work. This is a very narrow point of view, it excluding the study, which is related to the solution of problems arising in daily life. When an electric cooking stove stops working the housewife tries to study the extent of damage done to the appliance. It may be a mere question of finding the wire or a change of the coil. After this study she makes up her mind as to what precocity needs to be done. Defined in broader terms, study implies an investigation for mastery of facts, ideas or procedures which are not known at all or are partly known to the individual when an individual begins to study he starts with the purpose of learning or mastering all that he can about the particular idea situation or the procedures. In school learning the method of study is related to the method of teaching. If the teacher is a textbook teacher and follows the text of the book closely than it is all right for the student to follow the writer of the book rather than anything else. In this case there is the danger of memorizing that text book which amounts to rote memory, on the other hand if the teacher is the type that stimulates problem solving, critical evaluation and relating of knowledge, the student will plan his study in a different manner. The failure rate at various examinations has many other reasons but one of the major causes of this is the poor or ineffective study habits. Students who usually fail are the ones who could not evolve definite procedure of study, which could be linked with the purpose of their study. Study requires energy in the sense that the student has to put definite effort in studying and spend considerable mental energy while studying. Because of the effort involved, the students usually dislike study. For this they may need help of the teacher in form of stimulation there and providing appropriate motivation to study.

Need and significance of the study:

Now a days a large percentage of school pupils could not come out successful in their courses due to lack of proper educational guidance and planning. Most of the students waste their study time doing that is hardly helpful and neglected to do what is really helpful. The formation of good study habits to gather with the acquisition of proper attitudes is essential for effective study. We know that some students with high intellectual ability do well. But most of our students lack of good and effective methods of study. While studying they are not follow a systematic procedure. There is uncalculated wastage energy and time among Indian students. As Dr. Stoddord said, it is true that wastage of talent and not shortage of talent is the tragedy of modern times. Many problems confronting teachers and advisers are concerned with students educational adjustment the students are handicapped by this lack of good study habits. If teachers, parents and others help the students for the development of proper study habits then only the students may come successfully in their courses. As most students need help in learning how to study effectively on of the guidance responsibilities of the schools is to aid pupils in this field. Due to above reasons the investigator very interested to know the Reading Competency in English of the 8th Class Pupils in relation to study Habits and Self Confidence".

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the Reading Habits of Students on their Academic Performance of Secondary Schools Level in Prakasam District.
2. To study the significant difference among the perceptions of students based on their demographic variables i.e., gender, medium, class, management, locality, parental qualification and parental income towards Reading Habits of Students on their Academic Performance of Secondary Schools Level in Prakasam District.

Hypotheses of the present study

1. There is no significant difference between the perceptions of male and female category students towards Reading Habits of Students on their Academic Performance of Secondary Schools Level in Prakasam District.
2. There is no significant difference among the perceptions of students based on their class towards Reading Habits of Students on their Academic Performance of Secondary Schools Level in Prakasam District.
3. There is no significant difference among the perceptions of students based on their medium of instruction towards Reading Habits of Students on their Academic Performance of Secondary Schools Level in Prakasam District.
4. There is no significant difference among the perceptions of students based on their school management towards Reading Habits of Students on their Academic Performance of Secondary Schools Level in Prakasam District.
5. There is no significant difference among the perceptions of students based on their locality towards Reading Habits of Students on their Academic Performance of Secondary Schools Level in Prakasam District.
6. There is no significant difference among the perceptions of students based on their parental qualification towards Impact of Class Room Practice on Secondary School Students in Prakasam district.
7. There is no significant difference among the perceptions of students based on their parental income towards Impact of Class Room Practice on Secondary School Students in Prakasam district.

3. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Ahmad and Goswami (2013) to compare the home reading habits of the students of Arts and Science Stream at Higher Secondary Level in Mathura and it was found that there is a similarity in the reading of textbooks and magazines at home for both the students of Arts and Science streams, but further it was also found that science students read more fiction and non-fiction materials, newspapers and the internet resources than the Arts students.

Anish and Joseph (2017) conducted a study on reading habits of higher secondary school students in Malabar, India and they found that the reading habit of the students under study was not satisfactory because majority of them read one or less than one book per month and that they spent even less than 2 hours per week for reading books other than textbooks. Further, it was also found that they do not use reference books like encyclopedias, yearbooks, atlases and subject dictionaries; in fact, they use only the language dictionaries.

Design of the Study

The researcher followed the survey method of the descriptive research. For this investigation the questionnaire had been considered as a suitable tool for the collection of data. The questionnaire consisted of 40 statements as perceived by the Students.

Reliability and Validity: For the purpose of the present study the split- half method was adopted. The split-half reliability co-efficient for the Reading Habits of Students on their Academic Performance of Secondary Schools Level as perceived by students was 0.86 and for the validity of the scale it is based on the content and construct validity.

Administration of Tool: The tool was administered among students, necessary instructions were given in filling the tool. All the respondents followed the instructions and filled the tool by reading the all the items carefully.

Data Collection: The investigator personally visited the sampled schools and administered the tool among the sampled respondents. The data collected through questionnaire and Interview schedule were used for analytical purposes.

Statistical Techniques Used: The statistical techniques used mainly for analytical purposes were means, standard deviations were used To study the significant differences in between the socio-economic variables, 't'-test and 'F'-test (ANOVA) have been used by the investigator with the help of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

Table 1. Overall perceptions of students towards Reading Habits of Students on their Academic Performance of Secondary Schools Level of Prakasam District

N	Min.	Max.	Mean Percent	Mean	Std. Dev.
200	1	40	61.25	77.17	10.78

It is noticed that from Table 1 the perceptions of 8th class students shows positive response towards Reading Habits of Students on their Academic Performance of Secondary Schools Level of Prakasam District . The mean percent, mean and Standard Deviation are 61.25%, 77.17 and 10.78 respectively.

Table 2. Significant difference among the perceptions of students based on their demographic variables towards Reading Habits of Students on their Academic Performance of Secondary Schools Level of Prakasam District

Variable	Category		Mean	Std. Dev.	t/F-value	p-value
Gender	Boy	100	74.24	12.08	2.81**	0.00
	Girl	100	80.10	8.44		
Medium	Telugu	140	76.74	10.55	0.60 ^{NS}	0.46
	English	60	78.17	11.41		
Management	Government	60	85.50	10.20	19.77**	0.00
	Municipality	60	71.00	9.65		
	Private	80	75.55	9.80		
Locality	Urban	140	73.54	10.20	5.98**	0.00
	Rural	60	85.63	6.56		
Parental Qualification	Illiterate	20	74.81	9.20	2.19 ^{NS}	0.08
	Primary	24	75.13	10.02		
	Secondary	66	76.58	8.95		
	Inter	16	81.75	9.44		
	Degree & above	74	84.00	9.15		
Parental Income	Below Rs. 5000	54	75.48	9.60	0.45 ^{NS}	0.64
	Rs.5001 to 10000	80	77.78	10.40		
	Above Rs. 10000	66	77.82	8.50		

There is no significant difference between the perceptions of Students based on their medium, Parental Qualification and Parental Income towards Reading Habits of Students on their Academic Performance of Secondary Schools Level in Prakasam District. There is a significant difference among the perceptions of Students based on their gender towards Reading Habits of Students on their Academic Performance of Secondary Schools Level in Prakasam District and girl category Students perceived high than that of the rest.

There is a significant difference among the perceptions of Students based on their school management towards Reading Habits of Students on their Academic Performance of Secondary Schools Level in Prakasam District and Government school Students perceived high than that of the rest.

There is a significant difference among the perceptions of Students based on their locality towards Reading Habits of Students on their Academic Performance of Secondary Schools Level in Prakasam District and rural area Students perceived high than that of the rest.

4. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. There is no significant difference between the perceptions of Students based on their medium, Parental Qualification and Parental Income towards Reading Habits of Students on their Academic Performance of Secondary Schools Level in Prakasam District.
2. There is a significant difference among the perceptions of Students based on their gender towards Reading Habits of Students on their Academic Performance of Secondary Schools Level in Prakasam District and girl category Students perceived high than that of the rest.
3. There is a significant difference among the perceptions of Students based on their school management towards Reading Habits of Students on their Academic Performance of Secondary Schools Level in Prakasam District and Government school Students perceived high than that of the rest.
4. There is a significant difference among the perceptions of Students based on their locality towards Reading Habits of Students on their Academic Performance of Secondary Schools Level in Prakasam District and rural area Students perceived high than that of the rest.

5. SUGGESTIONS

The present investigation is majorly focused on the Reading Habits of Students on their Academic Performance of Secondary Schools Level. Study habits forms the very vital importance in the learning process. Hence, investigations may be taken up to study this aspect right from K.G. class to P.G. class to identify defective habits and to encourage good habits. The sponsoring institutions like Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyan, University Grants Commission, National Council for Teacher Education may provide financial assistance to the researchers to carryout their studies in this aspirants.

6. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. The Methods and strategies adopted by English language teachers at primary, upper primary and Secondary stages to develop English communication skills.
2. Difficulties faced by English language teachers in Teaching English to Telugu Medium students.
3. Influence of Mother tongue and local dialect in learning English.
4. Failure reason for school passed out of students in better communication in English.
5. Language clarity and correction in English teachers working in urban English medium schools to rural local language schools.
6. Effectiveness of Communication approach in English Language Teaching

7. REFERENCES

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