

Review Article

Analysing the Reading Preferences and Degree of Reading Enjoyment of B Ed Students

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A B S T R A C T

Reading fosters the development of intellectual abilities such as vocabulary, comprehension, critical thinking, and problem-solving techniques. Establishing a reading culture or habit is essential for promoting academic, intellectual, and personal development as well as lifelong learning. Children who read a lot can do better academically because it helps them build strong writing and reading comprehension abilities as well as a comprehensive understanding of many different areas. Investigating the reading choices and habits of student teachers enrolled in their second year of a bachelor's degree in education is the goal of this study. Technology has the potential to foster a culture of reading as well. The study's participants still have solid reading habits and a favourable attitude toward reading activities despite the advancement of media, technology, and other things that affect their preferences and reading habits.

Keywords: E-readers, Audiobooks, Reading Apps, Reading challenges, Reading communities. Reading Analytics, Personalization Tools

Introduction

People can learn continuously throughout their lives via reading, which exposes them to new ideas and concepts in a variety of subject areas. Reading is therefore a vital component of lifelong learning. However, because they might not discover the books they're looking for, pupils struggle to locate the library's collection. As a result, instead of purchasing books, they frequently read texts from the internet and occasionally read books in electronic format (e-books). These results are consistent with earlier research by Abidin (2010) and Noor (2011). According to the earlier research, participants favour online resources and electronic media. Since students may obtain the needed literature online much more easily and simply than they can seek for it in a library, the phenomenon has gained greater traction.

Review of Literature

Allen et al. (1986) ¹ found that a student's reading habits are related to their gender, age, educational background, academic accomplishment, and professional growth. In 1991 Blackwood, C. et al. ² conducted a study that looked at the leisure reading habits of 333 seniors at a small, public liberal arts university in the US. The findings showed that children spend about 2.5 hours per week reading for enjoyment during the school year and a little more over the holidays. The majority of them were reading newspapers for pleasure. Dick, A. L (2012) ³ highlighted the significance of promoting a reading culture for several reasons, including the fact that reading exposes people to new ideas, information, and perspectives that may increase their knowledge and understanding of the world. Reading improves cognitive

skills like vocabulary, comprehension, and memory recall. Additionally, it enhances analytical and critical thinking abilities, which are vital for success in the classroom and in the workplace.

The reading habits of library users are impacted by their status, age, group, sex, and information needs, according to Herman (1972).⁴ Lack of awareness and comprehension of good texts, as well as a failure to appreciate the reading habit, have an impact on educational growth. A reader's expectations, the type of information they need, their educational background, the price of reading materials, and the interaction between users and information are some of the elements that affect their reading habits. On average, students spend seven to nine hours per week reading (Karim & Hasan, 2007)⁵ Despite the fact that many students would rather read for three to five hours each week, Kaur and Thiyagarajah (1999)⁶ discovered that 69.8% of them read literary works, 28.6% read newspapers, and 25.4% read novels during this period.

Lang (2012)⁷ looked into what makes reading communities cohesive in a variety of contexts, such as "Book Clubs, Prisons, Networks of Zinesters", state-funded initiatives that encourage civic participation, and online discussion boards where people can trade books they've read. Furthermore, demographic criteria including ethnicity, income, and employment status have little predictive value for reading habits, whereas the reader's gender only slightly influences their reading habits and opinions, according to Mikulecky's (1979)⁸ research. These researchers have demonstrated a relationship between reading habits and age, gender, educational background, professional development, and academic success. Ali, K., Petit, J., and Cong, L. (2021).⁹ The experiment's findings showed that participants were more likely to use profanity in their comments when their viewpoints were wholly at odds with the news story's argument and when there were few negative comments on the article. The study's findings have shown how the attitudes, reading preferences, and usage patterns of academic library users have evolved. The availability of digital media may account for the diverse reading habits of Malaysians (Samsuddin & Yanti, 2021)¹⁰, Sultana, R. (2022)¹¹ addresses this subject in the context of Northanger Abbey and examines the significance of reading books and the knowledge they impart to the fictional world. A few advantages of social media sites and reading groups for promoting reading habits are listed by Witter, M. (2013).¹²

Objectives of the study

- To understand the significance of sources for stories or poems in their previous lives, as well as the "Reasons why I love reading."
- To investigate students' knowledge of e-books, audiobooks, and the distinctions between reading

print and digital books.

- To investigate how students behave when reading, including the books they purchase, the genres they like to read, and if they prefer classic or contemporary literature.

Tools for Developing Reading Habits/Culture

Advancement of technology is not just a tool to transform the work culture but also to develop the reading habits or culture among human beings. Some of the tools which help to develop reading habits are shown below.

1. E-readers and Audible Books

These devices are great tools for developing a love of reading. E-readers make reading more convenient because of their portability and large bookshop capacity. Particularly for people who prefer digital forms or have visual or auditory impairments, e-readers and audiobooks provide a number of advantages for fostering reading habits: Convenience, personalisation, affordability, accessibility, and engagement are the first five factors. Audiobooks and e-readers offer a number of benefits for developing reading habits, including affordability, personalisation, accessibility, usability, and engagement. These benefits make it easier for people to fit reading into their daily schedules, regardless of their opinions or level of expertise.

2. Reading Apps

A variety of reading applications are available to support the development of reading habits. Reading exercises and activities are available on apps like "Duolingo, Elevate, and Lumosity", which can enhance vocabulary, comprehension, and reading abilities. Apps that provide book summaries and analysis, such as "Blinkist" and "BookRags", can aid readers in better comprehending complex works. Readers may be inspired to explore different genres and develop new interests as a result of this diversity, ultimately leading to a more well-rounded reading habit.

3. Reading Analytics and Personalisation Tools

By using reading analytics and personalisation tools, users can identify areas for improvement and gain insight into their reading habits and preferences. Apps like "Blinkist" and "Lumosity" offer personalised reading recommendations based on users' reading preferences and previous books. With the use of these tools, users may also establish customised reading goals and track their reading development.

4. Reading Association

According to the College Reading Association (1985), reading objectives should be developed, and readers' reading length and speed should be monitored. Users can monitor their reading progress with the aid of technological aids. This

feature makes it easier to establish consistent reading habits and helps people stay inspired and accountable for their reading habits. By using reading analytics, users may obtain comprehensive information on their reading habits, including the genres they enjoy, the times of day they read the most, and the kind of books they frequently put down. Furthermore, a number of reading analytics and personalisation tools provide social elements that let users talk about books they've read or are presently reading with other readers. Discussion boards and reading clubs are two examples of these features.

5. Reading Communities and Social Media Platforms

By enabling users to discuss and share book-related ideas, social media and reading groups can help users connect with other readers. Websites such as Goodreads, Book Riot, and Reddit offer reading challenges, book clubs, and discussion boards. With the help of these tools, users can foster a reading community and develop a love of reading that goes beyond simple enjoyment. By using their reading interests, users can also discover new authors and books in these groups.

Advantages of social media and reading communities for fostering a love of reading: Witter, M. (2013)¹² listed a few advantages of social media and reading communities for fostering a love of reading. These are listed below.

- a. **Access to a vast array of books:** Reader groups and social media networks offer a vast array of books, encompassing classics, new releases, and niche genres. Because of this diversity, readers can experiment with numerous writers and genres to find books that suit their interests and tastes.
- b. **Recommendations and Reviews:** Through reading groups and social media platforms, which offer recommendations and reviews from other readers, users can discover new authors and books they might not have otherwise discovered. Since these recommendations are usually founded on widely held reading beliefs, they are more pertinent and customised.
- c. **Discussion and interaction:** Reading groups and social media platforms offer venues for dialogue and discussion about books and reading-related topics. Readers can develop their critical thinking skills, gain a deeper comprehension of the books they read, and connect with other readers who share their interests through this interaction.
- d. **Accountability and motivation:** By means of reading goals, challenges, and book clubs,
- e. **Reading groups and social networking sites:** offer accountability and inspiration. By encouraging readers to read more frequently and to set reasonable reading objectives, these programmes can assist readers in forming a regular reading habit.
- f. **Exposure to a range of viewpoints:** Reading clubs and social media platforms expose readers to a range of opinions and experiences through discussions and book recommendations. This experience broadens readers' viewpoints, develops their sensitivity, and helps them get a greater understanding of the world.
- g. **Reading Challenges:** Reading challenges are an entertaining and engaging way to develop reading habits. Apps like "Goodreads, Beanstack, and Reading Challenges" encourage users to read more books, set reading goals, and track their progress through challenges. These challenges can help users discover new authors and genres, expand their reading horizons, and fall in love with reading. Reading challenges can help people develop a reading habit by motivating them to read frequently.

As Coady (2016) so eloquently stated, creating and meeting reading goals through challenges can inspire individuals to continue expanding their reading habits by giving them more self-assurance in their reading abilities. It usually entails reading books on particular topics or themes, which can lead to fresh perspectives, fresh insights, and personal growth. A sense of accomplishment and fulfilment from finishing reading challenges might encourage people to keep trying new books and strengthen their reading habits.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Gender analysis is the systematic study of how men and women interact socially, politically, and economically. 12.8% of male students and 87.2% of female students participated in this survey. Indeed, it is well known that women and girls read more than men and boys. This is evident from both the frequency of reading and the expressed enjoyment of reading. According to research, females are more likely than boys to consider reading a favourite activity and to read for extended periods of time. There is a gender gap in reading habits across a variety of age groups and countries.

It's critical to understand why people read. This self-awareness can encourage you to read more, which enhances these emotional and cognitive advantages, improves your comprehension of the outside world and other people, and offers a useful kind of escape and enjoyment. By choosing what they read in class, talking about books with their classmates, using social media to read more, and having access to a range of school libraries, students can learn this. There are several factors that contribute to becoming a lifelong reader, as shown by the survey results in Table No. 2 above. Teachers must consider these variables while applying different reading tactics in the classroom because there are many different ways that people are motivated to read.

Table 1. Present status of a students who copies, other sources

Sr. No.	Respondents (Gender)	No. & Percentage
1	Female	12.8%
2	Male	87.2%

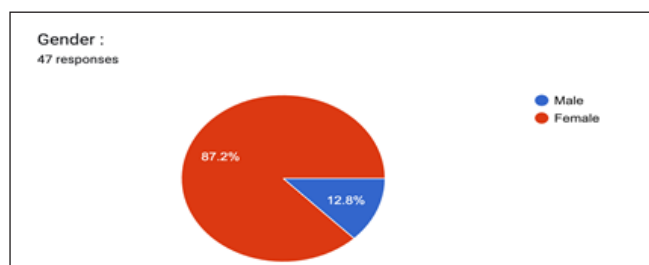


Figure 1. Response given by Students (Gender-wise Distribution)

Table 2. Reasons why I love reading

Sr. No.	Reasons why I love reading	No. & Percentage
1	Books are good adviser	29 (61.7%)
2	Books make you smarter	26 (55.3%)
3	Books will always be there	24 (51.1%)
4	Develops empathy	25 (53.2%)
5	Reading brings life	29 (61.7%)
6	Reading challenges your perspective	36 (76.6%)
7	Reading helps you to forget	19 (40.4%)
8	Reading strengthens worldview	31 (66%)
9	Reduces stress	29 (61.7%)

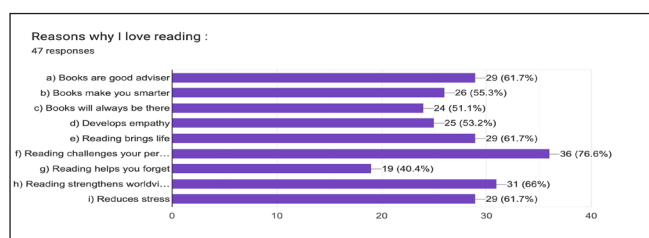


Figure 2. Reasons why I love reading

Children love to hear stories about their elders from their own early years, which enables them to envision a traditional great-uncle or grandma that they have never met. Researchers found that when parents shared family memories, children tended to view their family as stronger and displayed lower levels of self-esteem.

According to students, the mother tells stories or poetry

to the child 70.2% of the time, followed by the instructor 48.9%, the father, and the grandmother 34%, as shown in Fig. No. 3 above. Youngsters who hear stories can learn important values, be exposed to new ideas, and hone their creative thinking abilities. Storytelling also helps children develop their emotional intelligence. Knowing why people read is important. Your psychological and cognitive benefits can be increased by reading more, which is made possible by this self-awareness.

The reading experiences offered by printed books and e-books differ. Physical books provide a tactile experience with the weight and smell of paper, while e-books offer portability and customization options like font size adjustments. E-books make searching and annotating them easy, but traditional books may help with focus and recall. Fig. No. 4 shows that while 12.8% of students detected no difference at all, 87.2% of students noticed variations between reading books in print and digital formats. However, research suggests that when it comes to

Table 3. when you were a child, you listened more stories or poems from

Sr. No.	Listened more stories or poems from	No. & Percentage
1	Mother	33 (70.2%)
2	Father	16 (34%)
3	Grandmother	16 (34%)
4	Grandfather	6 (12.8%)
5	Relative	5 (10.6%)
6	Brother	2 (4.3%)
7	Sister	1 (2.1%)
8	Friend	11 (23.4%)
9	Teacher	23 (48.9%)
10	None	2 (4.3%)
11	Uncle	1 (2.1%)
12	Others	1 (2.1%)

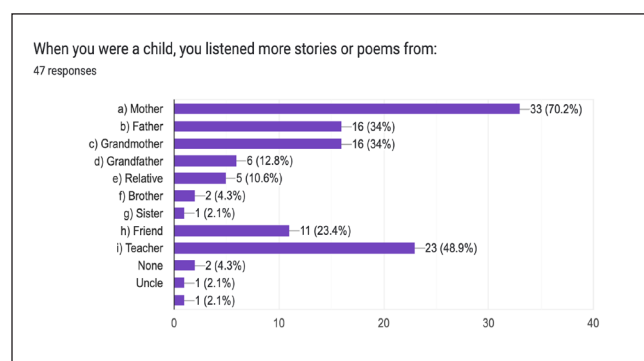
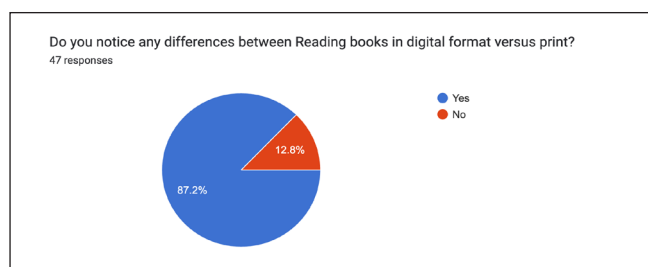


Figure 3. when you were a child, you listened more stories or poems from

Table 4. Differences between Reading books in Digital format versus Print

Sr. No.	Response	No. & Percentage
1	Yes	41 (12.8%)
2	No	6 (87.2%)

**Figure 4. Do you notice any differences between Reading books in Digital format versus Print?**

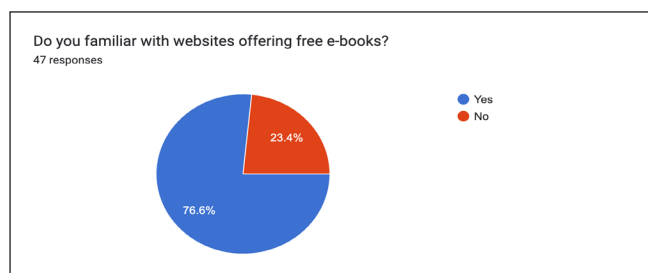
reading for learning, reading from paper is a better choice.

E-books are free on a number of websites. With their extensive collections of classics and other works in the public domain, Project Gutenberg, Open Library, and Internet Archive are a few well-liked choices. Additionally, a variety of free e-books are offered by numerous online shops such as Amazon and Kobo, and you may be able to check out free e-books from your local library. According to Fig. No. 5, 76.6% of students, they are aware of websites that provide free e-books.

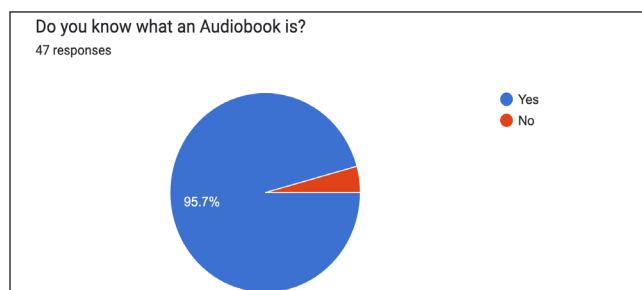
According to Fig. No. 6, 95.7% of students said they understood what an audiobook was, whereas 4.3% said they were unaware of it. A recording of a book or other written material being read aloud is called an audiobook. In essence, it's a "talking book" that lets you hear the content read aloud rather than reading it. Shorter, abbreviated

Table 5. Familiarity with websites offering Free e-books

Sr. No.	Respondents	No. & Percentage
1	Yes	36 (23.4%)
2	No	11(76.6%)

**Figure 5. Do You familiar with websites offering Free e-books****Table 6. Knowing what an audiobook is**

Sr. No.	Respondents	No. & Percentage
1	No	2 (4.3%)
2	Yes	45(95.7%)

**Figure 6. Do you know what an audiobook is?**

versions of the text or longer, unabridged versions can be found in audiobooks.

According to Fig. No. 7, 40.4% of students stated they had no experience using audiobooks, whereas 59.6% of students indicated they had. By enabling multitasking and adding interest to normally passive pursuits, audiobooks provide a flexible method to appreciate literature. Compared to traditional reading, some people find them distracting or have trouble remembering information, while others find them immersive and an excellent way to absorb stories.

The decision between classic and contemporary literature depends on one's reading objectives and personal preferences. Each has advantages and disadvantages. According to Fig. No. 8, 57.4% of students said they favour modern books, while 42.6% said they prefer classics. The classics give you perspective. You will be able to view your own world through new eyes because of the creative work needed to engage vividly with such a remote period and location. While modern literature frequently speak to current challenges and experiences, classics expose readers

Table 7. Have experiences with audiobooks?

Sr. No.	Respondents	No. & Percentage
1	No	19 (40.4%)
2	Yes	28(59.6%)

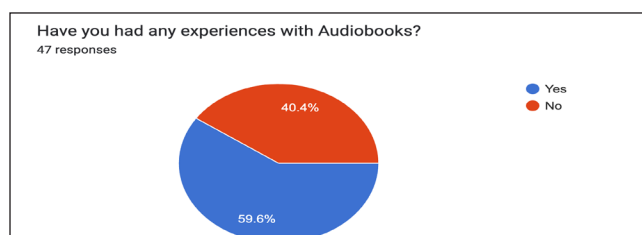
**Figure 7. Have you had any experiences with audiobooks?**

Table 8. Preference for Classics or Modern books?

Sr. No.	Preference	No. & Percentage
1	Classics Books	19 (42.6%)
2	Modern books	28(57.4%)

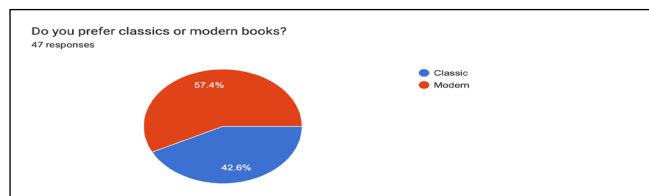


Figure 8. Do you prefer Classics or Modern books?

to timeless themes, sophisticated language, and historical background. To have a well-rounded literary experience, a reader should ideally investigate both.

Every reader has various needs when it comes to a “good” book, but because reading (and creating) is so enjoyable, there is thankfully a wide variety. In addition to providing countless opportunities for exploration, camaraderie, and enlightenment, fiction also provides solace and sanctuary. Regardless of genre, fiction books are essential for comprehending society and fostering personal growth. They are beneficial for people of all ages because they develop empathy, widen perspectives, and improve cognitive abilities. Students enjoy reading books, as shown by the share of Type of Fiction in Table No. 9 and Figure No. 9. Fiction’s primary goal is to inspire and amuse its audience.

Books have the power to transport us to new locations and introduce us to unforgettable personalities. Every great book has a writer who brings the text to life. Everybody has at least one author whose writings influence, amuse, or inspire them. Although there isn’t a single “favourite

Table 9. Type of Fiction, you preferred to love to read books

Sr. No.	Type of Fiction preferred	No. & Percentage
1	Autobiographies	16 (34%)
2	Crime-Fiction Novels	21 (44.7%)
3	Epics	12 (25.5%)
4	Fairy Tales	16 (34%)
5	Fantasy	30 (63.8%)
6	Folktales	15 (31.9%)
7	Historical Fiction	14 (29.8%)
8	Legends	10 (21.3%)
9	Mystery	28 (59.6%)

10	Mythology	10 (21.3%)
11	Science Fiction Books	10 (21.3%)
12	Short Stories	33 (70.2%)

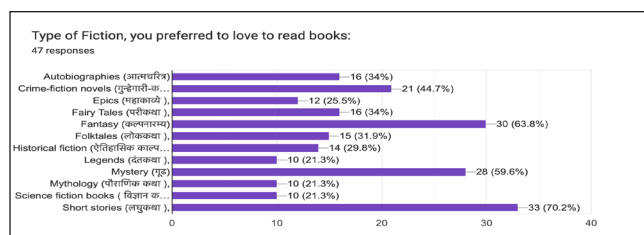


Figure 9. Type of Fiction, you preferred to love to read books

Table 10. Who is your favourite author

Sr. No.	Favourite Author	No. & Percentage
1	Sudha Murthy	3 (7.9%)
2	Paulo Coelho	2 (5.3%)
3	R.K. Narayan	2 (5.3%)
4	(Amish Tripathi, Ruskin Bond, Ruskin Bond, Jane Austen, Khaled Hosseini, J.K. Rowling, Williams Shakespeare, Ashwin Sanghi, Enid Blyton, Colleen Hoover, Stephen Hawking, Stephen King, etc.	40 (81.5%)

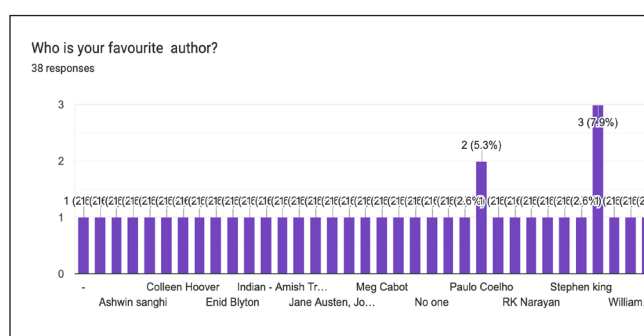


Figure 10. Who is your favourite author

author” because it depends on personal preference, as shown in Fig. No. 10 above, some authors are commonly mentioned as favorites because of their enduring influence on literature.

Conclusion

As the 21st century dawns, readers have a multitude of choices for communicating with each other, accessing texts, and comprehending what they are reading, through new technologies. Technology has completely changed how we

read, making it easier to access, more interactive, and more comfortable. Students showed a stronger comprehension of how stories and poetry are influenced by cultural backgrounds, personal experiences, and imagination in this analysis. They were able to recognize and explain the inspiration and underlying ideas of particular pieces. The advantages and drawbacks of various reading formats were better understood by the students. The majority of students were able to articulate their preferences and identify between print books, audiobooks, and e-books with confidence. Students' reading interests, sentiments regarding classic versus current literature, and genre preferences were all revealed by this poll. Strong enthusiasm in reading-related activities was demonstrated by the high student participation rates. Among the ways that reading habits can be fostered are the technological innovations mentioned above. These technological developments have made reading simpler, more accessible, and more engaging. It provides novel and engaging ways to engage with reading. As technology advances, we can anticipate even more creative reading experiences in the future.

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