

Reading Habits and Information Seeking Behavior: A Study of Women Teachers in Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the Influence of Library Information Resources among the women teachers in Nellore District. The survey adopted a survey design, and data were collected from the respondents using a questionnaire. The investigator adapted purpose sampling method for collecting data from the respondents. Available teachers at the time of distribution were taken as the sample for this study. The population for this study is exclusively women teachers in women's colleges. The target population of this study is literates, so the investigator adopted the questionnaire method for the collection of required data from the respondents. The major findings of the study are as follows: The majority of faculty members have the habit of visiting the library on college working days. The majority of the respondents visit the library to read newspapers. Although the purpose of the visit varies from one to another, it gives necessary information to the authorities about the documents and the type of information that the library users are interested.

KEYWORDS: Users, Reading habits, Habit of visiting library, Frequency, Purpose.

1. INTRODUCTION

In today's context, when we look at the role of the libraries we are confronted with the new challenges, a new reality which has arisen because of the advent of the "rapid changes in the knowledge base"⁹. The library is regarded as a place where scholars come to make use of it and get materials and information for use. It enables the scholar's access to the library even without coming to it. Therefore it becomes necessary for the institution to redesign its internal systems and tools to make them more sophisticated as well as user friendly. In the present era of information technology, the library and information professionals have to be updated in the use of new technologies from time to time in order to run library services promptly.

Reading is the act of acquiring knowledge. It is a basic tool of education and one of the important skills in day to day life. Now a day, people are living in the era of electronic media of communication. Reading helps them to improve vocabulary, achieve better comprehension and an all-round development of the individual. "Reading is a habit"⁵. Reading is a skill once you get booked to reading. The time spent on a reading book will become your

favorite activity like any other skill.,- Reading habit can also be improved. There are no hard and fast rules to improve reading habits. Every Reader has his/her own way to improve these habits.

1.1 Objectives

The following are the specific objectives of the study:

1. To know the frequency of visiting library among the women teachers
2. To know the elements of Reading Habits among the women teachers
3. To study the purpose of reading according to the designation, qualification, status among women teachers.
4. To know the category and the nature of the users.

1.2. Scope and Limitations

This study is confined to the women teachers in women colleges in Nellore Dist, Andhra Pradesh. The survey is confined to the expressed views of teachers regarding their reading habits.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Atakli(2000) described the views of classroom teachers on the reading habits in Turkey. The study was stated that more than half of the teachers (50.5%) do not read professional publications much. Only 7.6% of them read such publications. The study was also showed that 68.9% of the teachers could not access to publication,12.7% of teachers have no time to read,8.8% of teachers could not buy the publications because of their high prices, and 7.8% of teachers do not have reading habit. The results of the study suggested that the teachers want to read the articles on classroom management, education methods and on classroom management , and education on such needs must be taken in to consideration. This is the duty of department of publications to implement the service of being publishing house.

Cabral&Tavares(2002) the opinion that the study concerning the students reading habits reflects that students read for academic purposes(97.8%), almost as much as they use reading as a hobby(97.2%).

Elif Aslanturk (2011) compared reading interests and habits of prospective elementary school teachers and elementary school teachers. In this study, percentage distribution, mean, standard deviation and minimum and maximum values of the data were calculated. χ^2 analyses and ANOVA (F -, t - tests) were applied and correlations coefficients were calculated. According to results of the study, reading interests of both female prospective elementary school teachers and elementary school teachers were higher than those of males. In addition, the results of study indicate that reading interests and reading habits of the participants were at medium level. It was observed that prospective elementary school teachers and elementary school teachers prefer reading newspapers, various journals, humors, arts, culture and science books the most. The results were also shown that prospective elementary school teachers read 1.9 books and 2.2 journals per month and elementary school teachers read 1.5 books and 2.1 journals per month. According to the prospective elementary school teachers, it was due to high costs of the books, not having enough time and being tired. It was observed that there was a significant correlation between the number of books and journals being read per month and the number of books possessed.

Julio cesar Galicia Gaona(2011) described the relationship between reading habits, use of the university library and the academic performance of psychology students. With regard to the history of reading habits, 41% of respondents reported, that they never or almost never read books during their younger age. While only 20.6% of the respondents reported that they did between often and frequently. The study was also revealed that 75.4% of respondents reported devoting five hours a week to reading books for class, and 24.7% of the respondents reported devoting from 7to11 hours. While 48%, 12% and 20% of the respondents said that they spend 3hours a week or more reading books, newspapers, and magazines, respectively. Regarding the frequency of the motivation of family environment for reading, 39% of the respondents reported that books are brought at home often or very often, and 51.7% of the respondents said that they are often or very often recommend books at home. In a globalized world, the reorganization of the library must adopt both, technology as well as social and cultural patterns, in order to encourage reading skills over the time period spent as a university student. This integration facilitates both the educational development (academic performance), professional and cultural life of an individual as much as the progress in educational programs of nations.

Sulentric-Dowell (2006) examined the relationship between literacy experiences, reading attitudes and behaviors of elementary pre-service teachers and their ability to help students solve mathematics word problem. The students stated that the older they became, the less time they spent in leisure and informational reading. Most students stated that the rigor of academic requirements and involvements in rigor of academic requirements and involvements in extra-curricular events limited the amount of time that could be devoted to pleasure reading. The instructional reading data also suggested that instructional reading practices might have also framed the adult reading habits of these students. Data also revealed that these pre-service teachers as a whole did not devote time to reading. While study participants claimed that reading is important and display positive attitudes toward reading, their teaching practices and habits indicated otherwise.

3. METHODOLOGY

Colleges which are exclusively for women's in the Nellore district are classified in to three types; Govt, Govt.-aided, and private colleges. The Govt. colleges are owned and run by the Govt, where as Govt.- aided are owned by private organizations or individuals, but the operations are controlled by the Govt. Private un aided colleges have Govt. control only in academics. The population for this study is exclusively women teachers in women colleges. The target population of this study is literates, so that the investigator adopted the questionnaire method for the collection of required data from the respondents. The questionnaire was distributed to 506 students out of which only 403 responded. The collected data was tabulated and then analyzed. The distribution of questionnaire based on simple random sampling method.

4. DATA ANALYSIS

This section deals with the analysis and interpretation of data pertaining to 36 women colleges of Nellore district, andhrapradesh with the help of a questionnaire. The purpose of this study was to investigate the reading habits among women teachers.

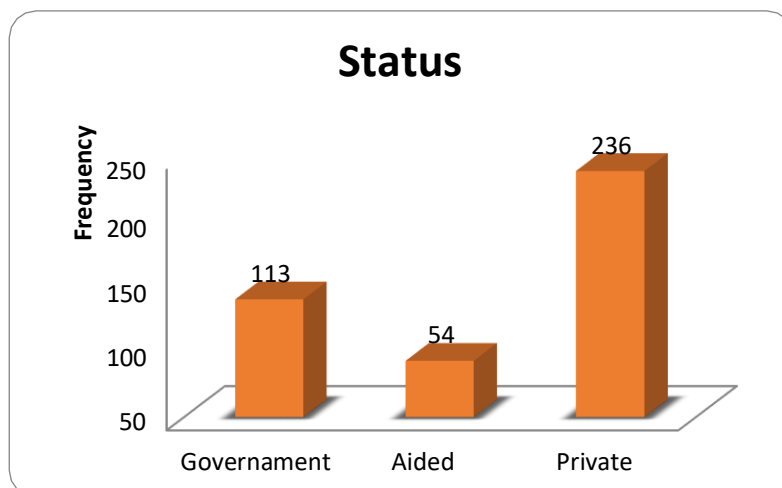
Distribution of respondents- Organization wise

The distribution of respondents according to the organization is shown in Figure- 4.1

Figure-4.1. Distribution of respondents- Organization wise

Figure- 4.1- gives the detailed representation of colleges in Nellore district. In our data, 236(58.6%) private colleges, 113(28%) government colleges and 54(13.4%) aided colleges.

It can be concluded that the private colleges are more in number, when compared to aided colleges in the district.



Distribution of respondents-Designation wise

The distribution of respondents according to the designation of the women teachers working in the women colleges is shown in Table 4-1. The data presented against to their designation.

Table-4.1. Distribution of respondents-Designation wise

Designation	Frequency	Percent
Associate Professor	5	1.2
Assistant Professor	13	3.2
Senior lecturer	102	25.3
Junior Lecturer	258	64.0
Nursing Tutor	25	6.2
Total	403	100.0

Table 4.1 shows the different categories of users in all women colleges; designation wise analysis among 403 samples we observed : 258(64%) junior lectures, 102 (25.3%) senior lectures,25(6.2%) nursing tutors, 13(3.2%) assistant professors, and 5(1.2%) associate professors.

It can be inferred that majority of the faculty members according to the above data in the table can say that there are high number of junior and senior lectures in Nellore district. The data analysis shows that majority in the sample (64%) are junior lectures, while associate professors (1.2%) are very less. It represents the present status of senior faculty in the educational institutions. It can be observed that the appointment of the faculty made regularly whenever there is vacant. Hence, the immediate cadres are fall vacant only the junior staff remains large in number.

Distribution of respondents - Subjects wise

The distribution of respondents according to the subject wise is shown in Table-4. 2. The data shows the subject wise classification of faculty.

Table- 4.2. Distribution of respondents - Subjects wise

Subjects	Frequency	Percent
Languages	67	16.6
Arts	49	12.1
Science	252	62.5
Professionals	35	8.6
TOTAL	403	100

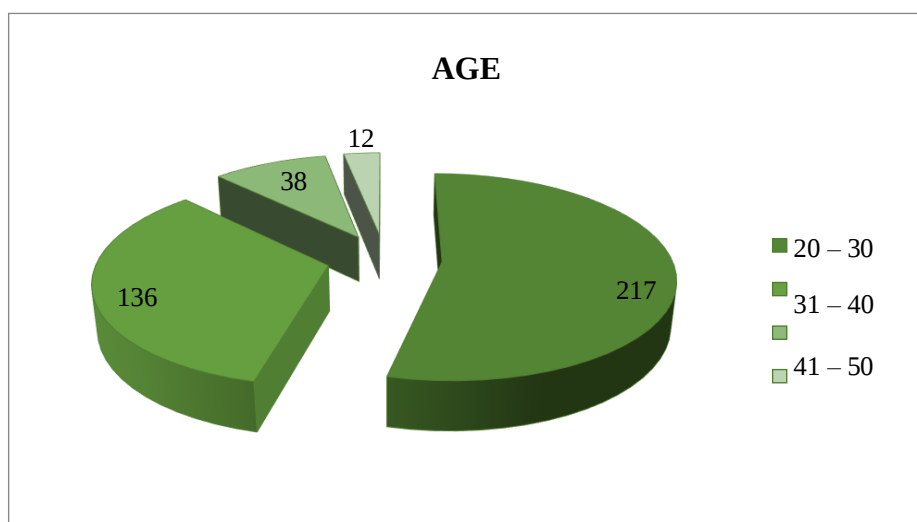
It is evident from Table-4.2 shows that the majority of the respondents are science subjects 252(62.5%) followed by languages 67 (16.6%) and arts subjects 49(12.1%) and the remaining of the respondents are 35(8.6%) professionals. It can be observed from the above Table that the distributions of respondents subject –wise, a high number of the respondents are from science subjects. On the basis of the data analysis that majority science faculty are working in women colleges. It shows the present trend in science subjects are popular in the present scenario.

Distribution of respondents- Age- wise

The distribution of respondents according to their age-wise is shown in Figure-4.-2. The faculties working in different colleges are grouped on the bases of their age group to understand the demography of faculty.

Figure-4.2. Distribution of respondents-Age Wise

The data in Figure4.-2 shows that age wise distribution of respondents. Depending upon the age of the respondents,



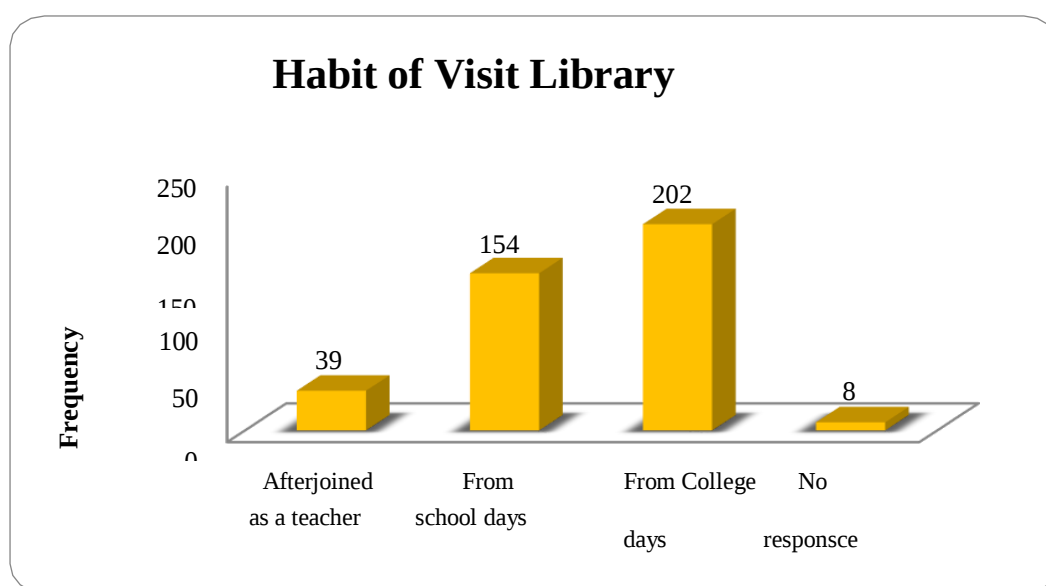
the total respondents are divided in to four groups, group-1 is 20- 30years, group-2 is 31-40 years, group-3 is 41-50 years, and group-4 is 51-above. The important age group of the teachers in the sample is 20-30 years and it constitutes 217(53.8%) a very big group. The women teachers who are in the age group of 31-40 years constitute 136(33.7%) claiming second position in the sample, the faculty who in 41-50 years constitute 38(9.4%) and the remaining12 (3%) are in 51 above faculty in age group.

It can be observed from the table that there is a significant difference between age groups. A high percentage of the 20-30 years are majority age- group among the women teachers.

Habit of visiting libraries since the education level wise

The distribution of respondents according to the habit of visiting libraries is shown in Figure 4.3. Libraries are popularly known as a place to read books and periodicals. Respondents are visiting libraries since at very young age and it may be a habit of many. Habit is an activity in which some thing is created or constructed for the purpose of fun. Habits are different from person to person. It helps readers to spend times easily and get the pleasure. In the order to know the habit of visiting library, a question has been put to the users. The responses given by them are shown in Table 4. -3.

Figure-4.3. Habit of visiting library since the education level



It is observed from Figure 4.3 that most of the respondents 202(50.1%) are habituated to visiting the library on college days followed by 154(38.2%) on school days only, 39(9.7%) responded as after joining as faculty regarding the habit of visiting library.

Hence, it can be observed that there is a significant difference between opinions on the habit of visiting libraries. The analysis leads to conclude that majority of faculty are in the habit of visiting library after joining in the college for higher education.

Visiting library in their organization

Table 4.3 indicates visiting library of their colleges. In every library, users are an important factor and based on which library services and resources are developed. Library is a service institution. Visit of library depends upon forms and media of resources, nature of organization and timely helpfulness from the library staff to users. Today's library is abundant with information or knowledge. Faculty members require considerable amount of information for their various academic purposes. To know the habit of visiting library in organization in which they are working and by that to estimate the reading habit the data was presented in the following table.

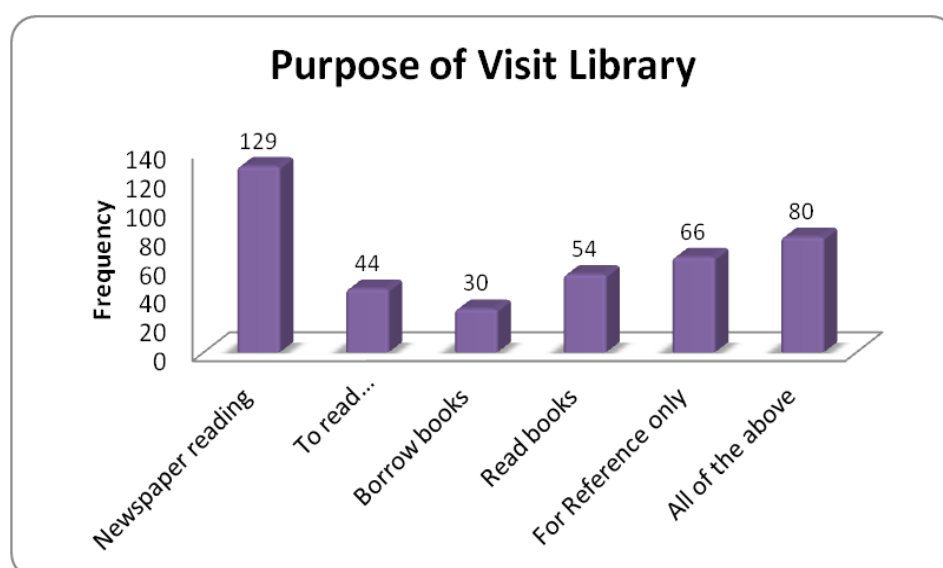
Table 4.3. Visit in their organization

Visit library	Frequency	Percent
Yes	395	98.01
No	8	1.99
Total	403	100.00

It is evident from Table 4.3 that most of the respondents 395(98%) visit library, while the remaining 8(2.0%) replied that they do not visit library of the institution, when they are working. It may be concluded that most of the respondents visit library for the information for academic purpose. Hence, it can be concluded that most all the faculty members are having the habit visiting library of their organization where they are working.

Purpose of visit library

The distribution of respondents according to the purpose of visiting college library is shown in figure 4.4 .There are a number of purposes for visiting library. Among the various group of respondents, feel that they need for information. The purpose of visiting varies from one to another. The purpose of visit gives necessary information to the authorities about the documents and the type of information that the library users are interested in. The purpose of visiting library by the users is centered on various academic activities that may vary from burrowing books to access e- resources.

Figure 4.4. Purpose of visiting library

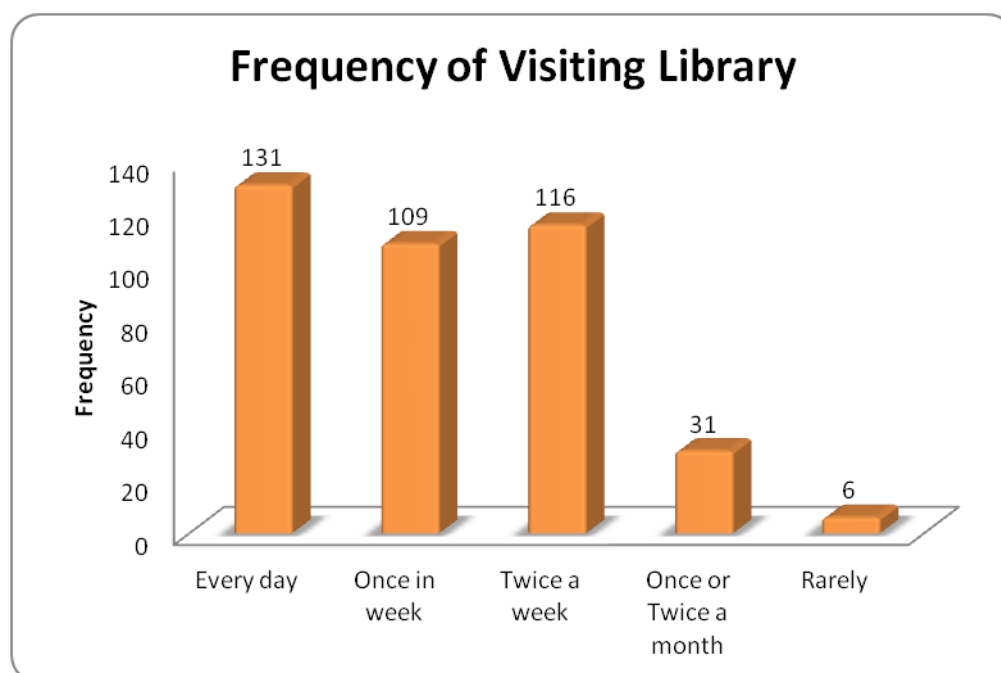
It is evident from the data in Figure 4.4 that 129(32.0%) of the respondents visiting the library with the reason to read newspapers followed by 66 (16.4%) for reference books, 54(13.4%) read books, 44(10.9%) to read periodicals/magazines and 80(19.9%) of the respondents replied that for all the purposes of visiting the library.

It can be inferred that most of the respondents opined that the purpose of visit to the library is to read newspapers and seek necessary information. At the same time, there are some users visits the library to read reference books and text books.

Frequency of visiting the college library

The distribution of respondents according to their frequency of visiting the college library is shown in Figure 4.5. Library and information centers are being housed with rich wealth of knowledge. Frequency of library visit is influenced by many factors such as library location, working hours, infrastructure facilities, availability of resources, and attitudes of the library professionals towards the users etc. Time spent in the library by the users was examined to understand how far they were utilizing various resources and services offered by the library. It can be observed from the table that periodicity of visiting libraries reflects the use pattern; frequency of visiting the library shows the need. Reading pattern in library differs from reader to reader.

Figure -4.5. Frequency of visiting College library



It is evident from the above Figure 4.5 that out of 403 respondents, 131(32.5%) of the respondents visit library every day followed by 116(28.8%) twice a week and 109(27.0%) once in a week, 31(7.7%) once or twice in a month, 10(2.5%) of the respondents are not responded, and the remaining of them 6(1.5%) replied rarely visit the college library.

It may be inferred that most of the respondents visit library every day, whereas fluctuations are observed amongst faculty visiting once in a week and once or twice in a month. The finding shows that there are variations among faculty from different disciplines with regard to visiting library. Hence, it can be concluded that majority users visiting every day to seek information from the library.

Designation wise reasons for reading

The reading habit may differ based on hierarchy in the cadre they are working. The distribution of respondents is made according to their designation.

Table-4.4. Designation wise reasons for reading

Designation	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor	Senior lecturer	Junior Lecturer	Nursing Tutor	Total
Prepare for class work	2 (1.70%)	11 (9.20%)	19 (16.00%)	77 (64.70%)	10 (8.40%)	119 (29.53%)
Personal Development	2 (1.70%)	2 (1.70%)	34 (28.10%)	75 (62.00%)	8 (6.60%)	121 (30.02%)
Pleasure/Entertainment	1 (1.90%)	–	17 (31.50%)	33 (61.10%)	3 (5.60%)	54 (13.40%)
Reading Habit	–	–	19 (35.80%)	34 (64.20%)	–	53 (13.15%)
Gain GK	–	–	12 (30.00%)	24 (60.00%)	4 (10.00%)	40 (9.93%)
Language Development	–	–	–	13 (100.00%)	–	13 (3.23%)
Know Current Affairs	–	–	–	1 (100.00%)	–	1 (0.25%)
Teaching and Research Requirements	–	–	1 (50.00%)	1 (50.00%)	–	2 (0.50%)
Total	5 (1.20%)	13 (3.20%)	102 (25.30%)	258 (64.00%)	25 (6.20%)	403
Chi-square (p-value)	42.759 (0.037*)					

The Table 4.4 shows the reasons for reading habit of respondent's designation wise. It is observed that 5 (1.20%) Associate Professors, 13 (3.20%) Assistant Professors, 102 (25.30%) Senior Lectures, 258 (64%) Junior Lecturers, and 25 (6.20%) Nursing Tutors are spending their time to read for preparing class work 119(29.53%), personal development 121(30.02%), pleasure / entertainment 54(13.4%), to gain GK 40(9.93%), language development 13(3.23%), current affairs 1(0.25%) and teaching and research requirements 2(0.5%) for reading. It indicates that Senior and Junior lecturers are spending their time for reading for preparing for the class work and personal development.

The Chi-square test is applied, - to know the association of reasons for reading on the basis of their designation. It is observed that the designation and reasons are independent for reading. The chi-square result ($p = 0.037^*$), - indicates that there is significant difference among the faculty working in women colleges with regard to their reading habit. It can be concluded that irrespective of their designation there is a significant difference among the faculty members

Qualification wise reasons for reading

Figure-4.6 shows distribution of respondents according to their qualification for reading.

Figure 4.6 Qualification vs reasons for reading

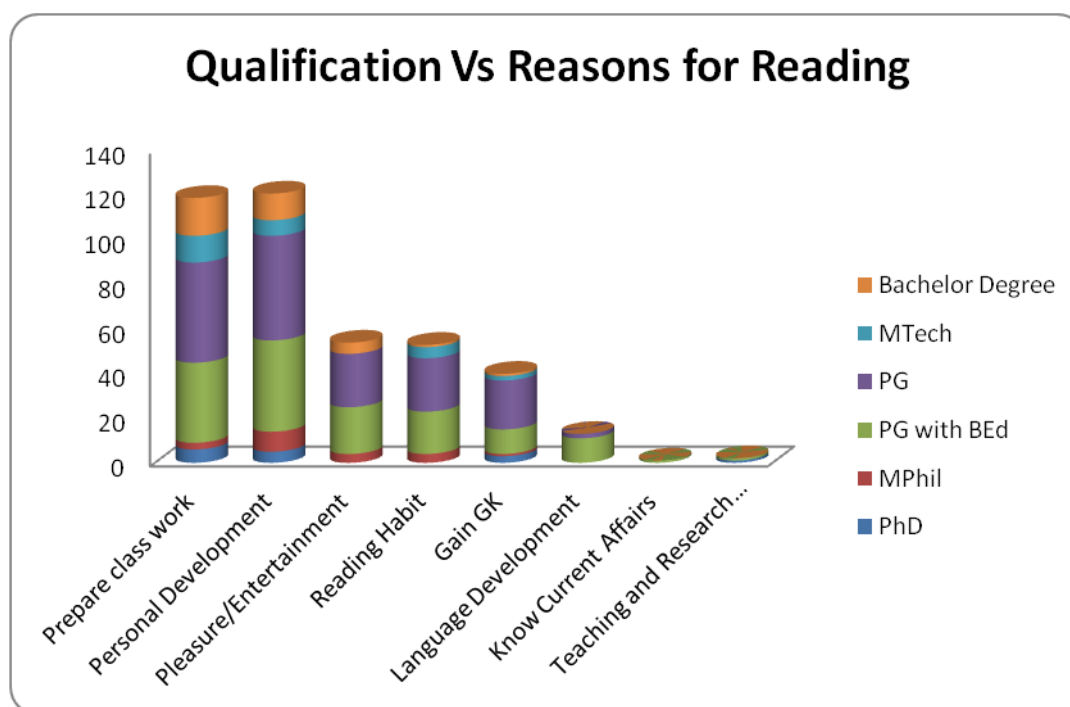


Figure-4.6 gives the reasons for reading of respondents, qualification wise. It is observed that 15 (3.7%) PhD, 21 (5.20%) M. Phil, 141 (35%) PG with B.Ed, 164 (40.7%) PG, 26 (6.5%) M.

Tech and 36 (8.9%) Bachelor Degree are spending their time to read for preparing classwork (29.53%), personal development 121(30.02%), pleasure / entertainment 54(13.4%), to gain general knowledge 40(9.93%), language development 13(3.23%), current affairs 1(0.25%) and teaching and research requirements 2(0.5%). It indicates that PG and PG with B. Ed people are

Spending their time for reading, and most of the persons are reading for preparing for the class work and personal development.

The Chi-square test is applied, and it is observed that qualification and reasons for reading are independent. The Chi-square result ($p = 0.006$ -*),-indicates that there is significant differences among the faculty working in women colleges with regard to their reading habit. It can be concluded that irrespective of their qualification there is a significant difference among the faculty members.

Status wise reasons for reading

Table-4.5 shows distribution of respondents according to the status wise reasons for reading.

Table -4.5. Status Vs Reasons for reading

Status	Government	Aided	Private	Total
Prepare class work	37 (31.10%)	12 (10.10%)	70 (58.80%)	119
Personal Development	26 (21.50%)	24 (19.80%)	71 (58.70%)	121
Pleasure/Entertainment	5 (9.30%)	9 (16.70%)	40 (74.10%)	54
Reading Habit	16 (30.20%)	7 (13.20%)	30 (56.60%)	53
Gain GK	15 (37.50%)	1 (2.50%)	24 (60.00%)	40
Language Development	12 (92.30%)	–	1 (7.70%)	13
Know Current Affairs	1 (100.00%)	–	–	1
Teaching and Research Requirements	1 (50.00%)	1 (50.00%)	–	2
Total	113 (28.00%)	54 (13.40%)	236 (58.60%)	403
Chi-square (<i>p</i> -value)	54.085 (0.000*)			

**p*<.05

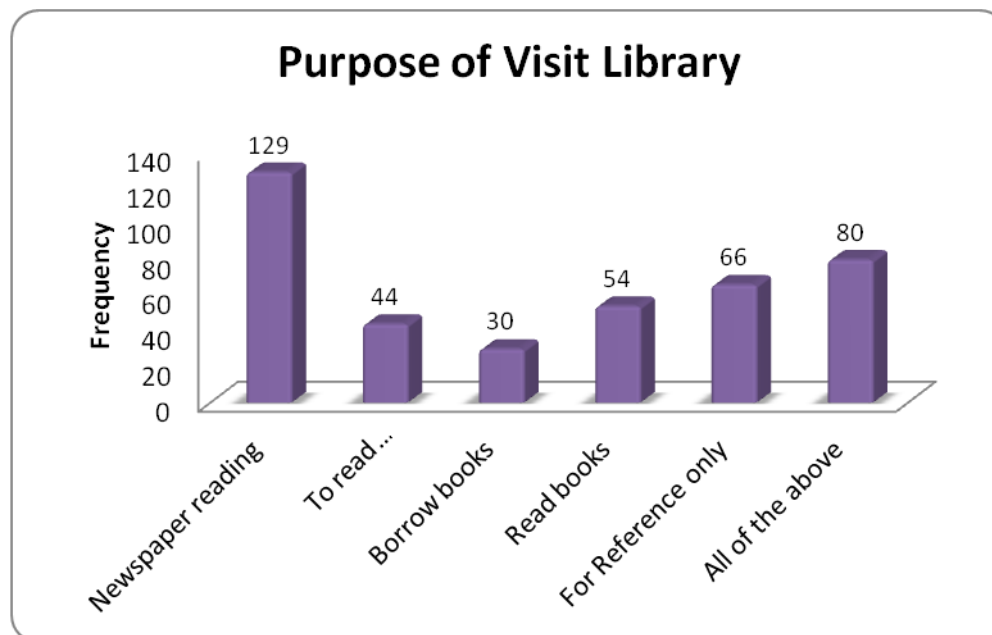
Table-4.5 gives the reasons for reading of respondent's status wise. It is observed that 113 (28%) Government, 54 (13.4%) Aided and 236 (58.6%) private college faculty are spending their time to read for preparing class work (29.53%), personal development 121(30.02%), pleasure / entertainment 54(13.4%), to gain GK 40(9.93%), language development 13(3.23%), current affairs 1(0.25%) and teaching and research requirements 2(0.5%). It indicates that government and private college lecturers are spending their time for reading and most of the persons are reading for preparing for the class and personal development.

The Chi-square test is applied and it is observed that status wise and reasons of the respondents for reading independently. The Chi-square result ($p = 0.006$ *) indicates that there is significance difference among the faculty working in women colleges with regard to their reading habits. It can be concluded that irrespective of their status, there is a significant difference among the faculty members.

Purpose of visiting library

The distribution of respondents according to the purpose of visiting library is shown in figure 4.7. There are a number of purposes for visiting library. Among the various group of the respondents, feel that they need for information. The purpose of visiting libraries varies from one to another. The purpose of visiting libraries gives necessary information to the authorities about the documents and the type of information that the library users are interested in. The purpose of visiting library by the users is centered on various academic activities that may vary from borrowing books to access e- resources.

Figure-4.7 Purpose of visiting library



It is evident from the data in Figure-4.7 that 129(32.0%) of the respondents visiting the library with the reason to read newspapers followed by 66 (16.4%) for reference books, 54(13.4%) read books, 44(10.9%) to read periodicals/magazines and 80(19.9%) of the respondents replied that for all the purposes of visiting the library.

It can be inferred that most of the respondents opined that the purpose of visiting library is to read newspapers and seek necessary information. At the same time, there are some users visiting the library to read reference books and text books.

FINDINGS

It is observed that there are more number of junior lecturers among the women faculty in the Nellore district. The majority of women faculty members are in science discipline. Women teachers are in the habit of visiting library only in their college(s) or institutions depending on the availability of resources like magazines or latest edition of books. The women teachers are reading books for the personality development. It is observed that the women teachers are in the habit of reading the books, newspapers or journals only particular column of their interest. It is necessary for a person to keep them self up to date, so that those who have p to date knowledge do not leave them behind. Reading therefore is a tool in the hands of a person by which she can increase her knowledge to obtain new ideas. This study shows that reading gets serious attention any teachers.

- The distribution of respondents according to the organization, 236(58.6%) private colleges, 113(28%) government colleges and 54(13.4%) aided colleges. It can be concluded that the private colleges are more in number, when compared to aided colleges in the district.
- Majority in the sample population are belongs to designation 258(64%) junior lectures, 102 (25.3%) senior lectures, 25(6.2%) nursing tutors, 13(3.2%) assistant professors and 5(1.2%) associate professors.
- Majority in the sample population are belongs to science discipline. Hence, it may be attributed to science subjects' prioritized choice at present. It observed that the science faculty may have good reading habit.

- A high percentage of the respondents are 20-30 age group among the women teachers. There is a significant difference between age groups among the sample population.
- Reading habit and visiting library are independent variable. But can influence on others. Majority of faculty members are having the habit of visiting library on college working days.
- A high percentage of the respondents 395(98.0%) visit library of their organization/colleges. Visit of library depends upon information available forms and media resources, nature of organization and timely helpfulness from the library staff to users.
- Majority of the respondents 121(30.0%) read books for personality development and also to prepare class work. There is significant difference among the faculty members regarding the reading habit irrespective of their designation.
- There exists significant difference among the faculty members regarding to know the association of reasons for reading against qualification wise.
- There exists significant difference among the faculty members regarding, to know the association of reasons for reading against status wise.
- Majority 129(32.0%) of the respondents visiting the library to read newspapers. The purpose of visit varies from one to another. The purpose of visiting or users gives necessary information to the authorities about the documents and the type of information that the library users are interested.

CONCLUSION

It is observed that the private colleges are more in number, when compared to aided colleges in the district and the majority of the faculty members are junior and senior lectures. The maximum number of women teachers is from science subjects and they are in the age group of 20-30 years. There is a significant difference between opinions on the habit of visiting libraries. It is observed that the women teachers visit library for the need the information an academic purpose. They further revealed that the purpose of visit to the library to read newspapers which are having necessary information Reading habit and visiting library are independent variable. But can influence on others. Majority of faculty members are having the habit of visiting library on college working days.. In today's context, when we look at the role of the libraries we are confronted with the new challenges, a new reality which has arisen because of the advent of the rapid changes in the knowledge base.

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