

# Role of Students in the Library: An Empirical Study

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**Abstract:** *The current study aimed at testing the hypothesis that there would be no significant differences between boy and girl students reading in class IX and X in visiting at the library. Out of 78 schools 25 schools were selected through stratified random sampling and in these 25 schools there were 1250 students out of which 500 students reading in class IX and X were selected as subjects of the study through stratified sampling. A self-developed questionnaire was used in relation to the variables on two-point scale as "Yes" or "No". The data were analysed through Chi-square test and percentage etc. The results revealed that the majority of the students (79.2%) read in the library, while a small proportion of them (20.8%) did not read in the library, in which girls (56.0%) read more than boys (23.2%) but the difference in reading between girls and boys was insignificant at  $\geq 0.05$  level, thereby supporting the hypothesis. In case of frequency of reading in the library, 33.8 percent girls read in the library daily as against 14.4 percent boys did so. Girl students (6.0%) read frequently, while 0.8 percent boys read frequently; 15.6 percent girls read sometimes as against 8.0 percent amongst boys. Girl students (0.6%) read very often and no boy students (0.0%) read very often. The difference was, however, insignificant at  $\geq 0.05$  levels. Hence, the hypothesis was supported.*

**Keywords:** Boys, Class IX and X, Girls, Library, Reading, Students

## 1. Introduction

Learning is the obligation of students. They should develop the habit of study in their youth time. In youth days men's minds are in a formative stage. Good habits should be formed in the period of youths. So, young people should promote the habit of study. Habit is a part of our character. Once habits formed in youth days cannot be changed during the period of life. Further, in old age no habit can be formed. A young man is not capable of deciding what to do and what not to do. He requires a guide. Unless properly guided he will be tempted to read sensational and exciting works of literature which are harmful. Again, he may aimlessly read useless writings. So it is desired that students and young people should take advice from experienced elders. Study is a great hobby. A serious student is interested in study if once he begins patiently. Such a student forgets cares and anxieties of life and spend his time in an enjoyable atmosphere along with the great men of the times gone. One should not read anything and everything aimlessly. There must be an aim of study. The goal of study, as known to all, is to earn knowledge. To acquire knowledge we should read and think. Study should be regular. Irregular and aimless study will serve no purpose. It will merely tax the brain of the reader. So single-mindedly one should make his studies in order to be rewarded. As a result, we can shape our character and destiny in future with our habit of study formed in our youth under proper guidance. We should have the habit of visiting to library. By reading books we can enhance our knowledge a lot. Library is thus a place of acquiring knowledge. In his essay, "The Habit of Reading", Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the ex-President of India depicts the utility of reading books in detail. We are not fully aware of how much our minds are moulded by the books we read, especially in youths. Nowadays, we can acquire knowledge from the radio, cinema, newspaper, television, computer but the knowledge we acquire from books is much superior to that from these mechanised instructions. As we all aware of that fact that human individual is degraded by nature. We may raise the quality of human beings by reading literature. Reading of classics broadens our mind and outlook. Great books foster the psychological health of the reader. We are

given moral contentment by them. We should read such books as to elevate our self. The goal of human life is spiritual fulfilment. The books which give us joy are good books. Joy is spiritual fulfilment. It is more lasting than pleasure. As we know that study habit and academic achievement are closely related. That is why study habit should be formed from the early stages by making students visit at the library. The present study attempted to move in this direction that students should have reading habit in the library as a role played by them. Several studies had been conducted in relation to this problem. The study conducted by **Ogunniyi et al (2011)** found that school library should be operated by professional librarian. There was no internet access in most school libraries, and thus denied the students' access to vast information resources on the net. There was no library hour on the school time table; the school opened by 8:00 am and closed 2; pm; and the school library opening hours is the same with that of the school. **Dent (2006)** reported that a study conducted by **Lance (2000)** indicated that middle level class that used school library had 18 percent higher achievement tests scores than their counterparts without a school library. Another study conducted by **Michael Jato et al (2014)** found that irregular use of school libraries by the students was one of the factors for poor scores in test and examinations.

## 2. Objective of the study

The present study aimed at testing the following null hypothesis.

## 3. Hypothesis

There is no significant difference between boy and girl students reading in class IX and X in visiting at the library.

## 4. Method

The cross-sectional approach under the descriptive study was adopted in the current investigation. There were 78 private High Schools in Imphal East, District, Manipur, 25

schools were selected from 78 schools and there were 1250 students in these 25 schools. Out of 1250 students, 500 (40%) students were selected through stratified random sampling as sample of the study with 20 students from each school with a minimum of 10 students from each class IX and X. A self-developed questionnaire was used with two point scale in this study.

### 5. Results & Discussion

HO. There is no significant difference between boy and girl students reading in class IX and X in visiting at the library.

Q. Do you read in the library?  
Yes/ No

If yes, how often?  
Sometimes (b) Very often (c) Frequently (d) daily.

Table 1: Reading in the library

Crosstab					
		No	Yes	Total	
Gender	Female	Count	74	280	354
		Expected Count	73.6	280.4	354
		% of Total	14.80%	56.00%	70.80%
	Male	Count	30	116	146
		Expected Count	30.4	115.6	146
		% of Total	6.00%	23.20%	29.20%
Total		Count	104	396	500
		Expected Count	104	396	500
		% of Total	20.80%	79.20%	100.00%

Chi-Square Tests					
	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.008 <sup>a</sup>	1	.929		

If yes, how often?

Table 2

Crosstab								
		No	Sometimes	Frequently	Very Often	Daily	Total	
Gender	Female	Count	74	78	30	3	169	354
		Expected Count	73.6	83.5	24.1	2.1	170.6	354.0
		% of Total	14.8%	15.6%	6.0%	0.6%	33.8%	70.8%
	Male	Count	30	40	4	0	72	146
		Expected Count	30.4	34.5	9.9	.9	70.4	146.0
		% of Total	6.0%	8.0%	0.8%	0.0%	14.4%	29.2%
Total		Count	104	118	34	3	241	500
		Expected Count	104.0	118.0	34.0	3.0	241.0	500.0
		% of Total	20.8%	23.6%	6.8%	0.6%	48.2%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	7.556 <sup>a</sup>	4	.109

The results revealed that the majority of the students (79.2%) read in the library, while a small proportion of them (20.8%) did not read in the library, in which girls (56.0%) read more than boys (23.2%) but the difference in reading between girls and boys was insignificant at  $\geq 0.05$  level, thereby supporting the hypothesis

In case offrequency of reading in the library, 33.8 percent girls read in the library **daily** as against 14.4 percent boys did so. Girl students (6.0%) read **frequently**, while 0.8 percent boys read frequently; 15.6 percent girls read **sometimes** as against 8.0 percent amongst boys. Girl students(0.6%) read **very often** and no boy students (0.0%) read very often. The difference was, however, insignificant at  $\geq 0.05$  levels. Hence, the hypothesis was supported.

### 6. Conclusion

The majority of students read in the library and this is highly encouraging. The school authorities must create an environment of visiting at the library where students can comfortably read. The library must be an attractive one. Modern facilities like ICT, Internet, computer etc. should be made available to all. The compulsory period of library should be added in every school. Professional librarian must

be appointed so as to guide students. Incentives may be provided to those students who visit library regularly. The school authority must guide students for visiting at the book fair organized by state government or any other agencies from time to time.

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