

Improving Reading Facilities and Habits among School Students in Digital Era

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Abstract:

Digitization has attracted a lot of people to shift from traditional books to digital reading. Readers and libraries are switching to e-library, digital library, video-audio, CD-ROM databases, open access content, etc. Smart reader can connect to new people and new information through mobile phones and social media. New forms of reading media have changed the way users use traditional libraries. Students are reading on social media apps installed on mobile phones and teachers are teaching on digital media such as LCD projector, computer, calculator, laptop, etc. Considering the importance of reading today's declining trend of reading habits of the students primarily due to excessive use of social media is the great cause of the concern

Keywords: Reading Habits, Reading Facilities, Pleasure Reading, Digital Reading, etc.

Introduction:

We are living in digitally connected smart cities and societies. Due to the influence of internet and social networking sites readers and libraries are changing reading style every day. Most of the readers prefer smartphones and computer screens to physical books. Libraries started providing smartphones based services which are available 24x7, users can access and use them at their convenience without any physical barrier. Readers are using e-resources on smartphones, laptops, desktop at anywhere. Digital library and e-library provide e-services to the readers and library networks also offer e-databases, open access content and free e-resources to the smart readers and libraries.

Reading in Digital Era:

Libraries are changing day by day with the age of information technology. India is the second largest country where more than one billion people use smartphones. They are using smart phones for various purposes beyond merely talking and texting. Nowadays smartphones have computer like apps. Students are reading on social media apps installed on mobile phones and teachers are teaching on digital media such as LCD projector, computer, calculator, laptop, , CD-ROM, e-devices, etc. most of the readers are using e-resources for e.g. E-books, e-articles, e-journals, e-theses, e-project, etc. that can be accessed from anywhere, through e-devices and use anytime like 24x7. It is easy to search and carry specific information on mobile phones. It is equally easy to share thoughts, search new references, access digital collection, and attend e- conferences, e-workshops, and webinars on mobile phones and computers

Reading Habits:

With the many enhancements to mobile devices, multimedia websites, e-books, interactive graphics, and social media, there's no question that the nature of reading has changed during the past decade. But has the way reading is taught in elementary schools changed as well? And what should teachers be doing to get students ready for the realities of modern reading? For now, there's no consensus on exactly how digital skills should be incorporated into literacy instruction. Practitioners have few guidelines, and many are simply adapting their lessons as they see fit. But many literacy experts do agree on at least one thing: that all students should be learning with a mix of print and digital texts—even the very youngest.

Reading Facilities and Habits:

Reading provokes thinking, imagination, judgemental, evaluative and problem solving attitude. So, reading is very important for acquiring and transforming knowledge and hence reading culture may be considered as an academic activity which increases skill in reading strategies. Considering the importance of reading today's declining trend of reading habits of the students primarily due to excessive use of social media is the great cause of the concern. Thus, there is a shift and students are no longer reading to that extent which they are

supposed to. This non-productive use of the social media for the sole purpose of entertainment compromises creativity and may lead to behavioural and attitudinal problems as compared to visiting and reading from a library which enriches intellectual abilities, develops mind and personality, providing insights into human problems ultimately leading to solutions. Thus, reading helps mould person's character and is a stimulating agent for building oneself. Readers and libraries are switching to e-library, digital library, video-audio, CD-ROM databases, open access resources, etc. as it is easy to access and multitasking is available. The innovation of the writing and printing has transformed the lives of smart readers and libraries.

Improving Readers Style:

Nowadays a great reading benefit of electronic text is that digital content can be read by a machine. Future reading materials will include electronic data bases, optical high density disc storage of full text articles, digital image master etc. now multimedia technologies made possible to manipulate and integrate the data from large types of sources and text on a single hardware platform. Current generation's readers use Facebook, Whatsapp, Twitter, Instagram, Linkedin, Pinterest, Snapchat or Myplace to communicate and socialize with friends. They read materials on the internet for school and for leisure and they prefer internet for their information needs more often than traditional reference materials. Today, any readers like teachers, librarians, parents and child with computer access can easily browse and select books from a number of digital collections.

Reading in Changing Society:

Reading is the passion of the greatest personalities of all time. Humans have been reading since ages and thus words of knowledge have been passed on from generations to generation. Today the emergence of the internet has created an extraordinary change in all spheres of the society. People nowadays tend to rely more on electronic based resources than paper based resources. The changing stage of readers or reading and its fate in the digitalised world is one of the core issues in the contemporary debates about the future of culture. The passion of reading printed material and primarily books as the most valuable cultural medium and the main source of knowledge are being questioned in the age of the internet. Reading as gateway to the world of fantasy has been challenged by powerful audio-visual media. Is the pleasure

of reading as a creative process involving imagination and self-cognition disappearing and being replaced by the quick exchange of impression and images on social media?

Smart Readers:

Smart readers use e-devices that enable automated monitoring of the quality and productivity. Smart reader can connect to new people and new information through mobile phones and social media. New forms of reading media have changed the way users use traditional libraries. New media includes e-books, various software applications, databases, and use of computer, mobile phones and other reading devices e. g. Kindle. These forms are easy to carry and can store several books while also having access to reading materials online, these forms of digital devices have been used by people helped in changing reading culture over the past few years. For a book in physical form to be read it had to be carried along which would also take some space. Now with the advent of digital products, users can search pin pointed information in one go. It is easy to search, highlight and save important point. This has attracted a lot of people to shift from traditional books to digital reading. Another aspect is social media which has drawn huge number of people to use its platforms and has becomes a new way for readers to spend time while connecting with people and organization at distant places. It is cutting the time people spend on reading. Also audio books are drawing a lot of attention and many users are switching to audio books because it is easy to listen while multitasking.

Improving Reading of School Students in Digital Era:

With the explosion of Facebook, Instagram, and other social media applications, students are actually engaging more with written language than ever before. While this should be a success of sorts, the reading they do does not always push critical reading skills or challenges its readers with new vocabulary. In high school, close reading and text complexity have become the new currency by which reading programs and instruction are being measured, and if students in the digital age are to meet this requirement; they need more than digital libraries. Educators need to see the benefits that technology can bring to teaching reading and how forcing a child to sit and read a novel is archaic. Some examples of ways that the digital can be incorporated into teaching reading like use of online dictionaries and vocabulary lists to help learn new words, hyperlinking complex words and phrases with videos, and other

explanatory resources, use of e-readers and other devices made for e-books, using quizzes and fun, interactive games to test vocab retention and content basics.

Conclusion:

Digital Media platforms are beneficial for enhancing reading habits of school children if used judiciously as they are easily available, accessible, cheap and free of physical barriers.

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