

Newspaper Reading Habit among Nurses: An Analytical Study

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Abstract - Like other habits, reading habit also develops during the course of time by an individual. Newspapers helps to gain knowledge, improve reading habit and awareness. It plays a vital role in disseminating information concerning the latest trends and happening on the national and the international events. This paper discussed the newspaper reading habit among nurses working in government hospitals in Thiruvananthapuram district. A total of 180 questionnaires were distributed randomly among selected nurses and 139 filled in questionnaires were received showing overall response rate of 77.2%. It was discovered that the majority of the respondents read newspapers daily.

Key Words: Newspaper Reading Habits, Nurses, Government Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram.

1.INTRODUCTION

Newspapers have become an essential part of the modern life. A morning without the daily newspaper is unimaginable for some people. They reflect and report the trends and happenings from all over the world. The people who read the newspaper continuously are well aware of global and local issues. Newspapers help to improve the reading habits, knowledge and communication skill and social awareness. Reading has a vital role to setup the multicultural structure in our country. Like any other habits, reading also develops during the course of time. Newspapers not only update us, they even coach us and facilitate us, persuade us to figure our attitude on significant matters.

2.REVIEW OF LITERATURE

For literature review for the present study, the investigator searched the LISA Plus (Library and Information Science Abstracts) database, Pub Med, Emerald and Shodh Ganga. The reviews are as follows.

Sivakumar.N and Tamilselvan.N (2015) in their study 'Newspaper reading habits of College students' explores the use of newspapers among the students at Kalaingar

Karunanidhi Institute of Technology Library, Coimbatore. They found that majority of the respondents read newspapers daily. Favourite newspapers among the students are from English and Tamil language. Findings also show that students spent reading newspapers one or two hours daily.

Praveen Patel, Devendra Patel & Haresh Patel (2014) conducted a study 'Reading Habits of Newspapers in Pharmacy college: An analytical study'. Out of 301 respondents, 50.17% under graduate students, 13.62% post graduate students and 6.98% faculty members spent less than 30 minutes per day to read newspaper. Pharmacy professionals spent 30 minutes to 1 hour to read newspapers.

Akanda, et.al(2013) surveyed 'Reading Habits of students in Social Sciences and Arts: a case study of Rajshahi University was found the World Wide Web has grown in popularity and use in recent years Majority of them browse the web for reading purposes. Young people preferred Cyber Cafes as they are affordable and comfortable. Majority of the students indicated that they use the internet only for one hour a day.

Armstron.M L and Gessner.B A(1991) conducted a national survey of 1406 registered nurses (RNs) at 44 sites in 25 states and the District of Columbia to determine what type of occupation related and general literature they read, what time they devote to reading, their purposes for reading, and the uses of reading materials. The survey found that they read more general than professional literature. They use libraries on a limited basis. Clinical Journals, Clinical books and health related newsletters are the top nursing reading materials.

Skinner.K and Miller B (1989) conducted a study "Journal Reading habits of Registered nurses to determine their use of current nursing periodicals". Ninety three percent of the RNs felt that information in journals helps them in their practice and 68% subscribed to professional nursing journals. Articles of clinical interest were the most widely read sections, and the most frequent reason given for not reading was lack of time.

3.OBJECTIVES

Following were the objectives of the study-

1. To identify the first language of users.
2. To find out the language in which mostly nurses read newspapers.
3. To know how much time are spend for reading newspapers.
4. To find out the choice of newspapers.
5. To investigate which sections of newspapers are read most by nurses.
6. To identify the purpose of reading newspapers

4.METHODOLOGY

The study used Questionnaire based survey method .A well structured questionnaire was designed and distributed to the randomly selected nurses working in various Government hospitals in Thiruvananthapuram district. A total of 180 questionnaires were distributed among nurses and 139 filled in questionnaires were obtained from the respondents. The response rate is 77.2%.Data collected were analysed using simple percentage technique.

5.DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1: First language of users

Sl. No.	Language	Respondents	%
1.	Malayalam	128	92%
2	English	11	7.91%

Table 1 Shows that most of the respondents first language is Malayalam

Table 2: Preferred Languages

Sl. No.	Languages	Respondents	%
1.	Malayalam	117	84.17%
2.	English	22	15.82%
3.	Hindi	-	-

The data presented in table 2 shows the preferred language among nurses in reading newspapers.117 i.e. 84.17% respondents prefer Malayalam language and remaining 22(15.82%) prefer English language. None of the respondents has shown preference for using Hindi language.

Table 3: Time spend for reading newspapers

Sl. No.	Time Spent	Respondents	%
1.	Less than One Hour	103	74.10%
2.	1 to 2 Hours	29	20.86%
3.	More than 2 Hours	7	5.03%

Table 3. Indicates the time spend for reading newspapers among nurses.103 i.e. 74.10% respondents spend less than one hour for reading newspapers.29 i.e. 20.86% respondents spend 1 to 2 hours for reading newspapers and only 7 i.e. 5.03% respondents spend more than 2 hours for reading newspapers.

Table 4: Choice of newspapers

Sl. No.	Name of Newspaper	Respondents	%
1.	The New Indian Express	19	13.66%
2.	The Hindu	4	2.87%
3.	Deccan Chronicle	6	4.31%
4.	The Times of India	7	5.03%
5.	Malayala Manorama	56	40.28%
6.	Kerala Kaumudi	16	11.51%
7.	Mathrubhumi	23	16.54%
8.	Deshabhimani	8	5.75%

Above Table 4 shows the choice of newspaper among nurses. Maximum of respondents 56(40.28%) mentioned their first choice is Malayala Manorama and it is in the first position. And 23(16.54%) mentioned Mathrubhumi as second choice. 19(13.66%) respondents mentioned the New Indian Express as their third choice. It clearly shows the Malayalam newspapers are most preferred when compared to English language newspapers.

Table 5: Choice of Topics in Newspapers

Sl. No.	Newspaper Section	Respondents	%
1.	Politics and Social	8	5.75%
2.	Classified/Job	42	30.21%
3.	Sensational News	31	22.3%
4.	Editorial Pages	27	19.42%
5.	Life Style	14	10.07%
6.	Cinema News	4	2.87%
7.	Book Reviews	11	7.91%
8.	Sports	2	1.43%

Table 5 shows that 42(30.21%) of respondents prefer classifieds job sections in newspapers. Nearly 31(22.3%) respondents preferred sensational news. 27(19.42%) respondents preferred editorial pages, 14(10.07%) respondents prefer life style sections in newspaper. Only 8(5.75%) respondents prefer political and social topics.

Table 6: Purpose of Reading Newspaper

Sl. No.	Purpose	Responses	%
1.	To get up-to date information	53	38.12%
2.	To know the social activities	29	20.86%
3.	To improve general Knowledge	42	30.21%
4.	It is a hobby	6	4.31%
5.	As usual task of the day	9	6.47%

Table 6 shows the purpose of reading newspaper among nurses. 53(38.125) respondents read newspaper to get up to date information, 42(30.21%) respondents read it for improving their general knowledge. 29(20.86%) respondents purpose of reading newspaper is to know the social activities. For 6(4.31%) respondents it is a hobby and finally 9(6.47%) respondents read newspapers as an usual task of the day.

6.FINDINGS

- Majority of respondents read newspaper in Malayalam or English language.
- Majority of the respondents spent less than one hour for reading newspaper.
- Only 11 (7.91%) of the respondents mentioned that they prefer book review in newspapers.

- Majority of the respondents read newspapers to get up to date information.
- Most popular Malayalam and English newspapers mentioned by respondents were Malayala Manorama and The New Indian Express respectively.

7.CONCLUSION

Reading habit is changing and reading materials are evolving into new formats and new means of accessing reading materials. We live in a rapid changing world, where both the number and types of written materials are increasing and growing numbers of people are expected to use these materials in a new and sometimes more complex ways. So identifying the habit of reading newspapers can indeed be beneficial in the longer term.

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