



***A STUDY ABOUT READING HABIT AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS:
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MAIN LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF
KELANIYA***

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Reading is considered very important and essential for the overall development of a human being. However, with the advent of modern digital technologies, especially the growing popularity of social networking on the web, mobile phones, televisions, e- journals and other means of entertainment, the reading habit of the general public, especially the younger generation, is undergoing a decline. This is an exploratory study to investigate the reading habit of the students of Social Science and Humanities at the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka with the following objectives: To identify reading interest and habits of students in the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Kelaniya. To trace the major trends in the reading habits of those students. To assess the influence of the Internet, radio, television, and other mass media on the reading habits of those students. To put forward recommendations for the improvement of the reading habit of those students in particular and other people in general.

A structured questionnaire has been designed to collect data from the students. Due to time and other constraints it was necessary to limit the sample for 50 students in above two faculties. Students in the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of humanities are selected as the population of the study. The major findings of the survey summarized as follows:

The students read books and other materials with a sense of purpose and with specific targets, not aimlessly or for fun. Most students feel that they need to read because reading gives them a way to develop their life and to keep abreast of the changing times. This is indeed quite encouraging.

Reading materials, especially books, should be constant companions to all people, especially students. The majority of the students read books only for two to four hours a day. Most students surveyed have indicated that textbooks are the books of their choice, although a substantial number of students also like to read fictions and non-fictions.

Reading of newspapers requires less time. And newspapers give news and information on current affairs. That is why a large majority of the respondents read newspapers regularly. The World Wide Web has grown in popularity

and use in recent years. The respondents of this survey, like other young people, are regular users of the web. It is an encouraging sign that the majority of them browse the web for reading purposes.

Keywords: *Reading, Reading Habit, Literacy, Library, reading interest*