

## **An Examination of the Reading Practices and Library Use of Engineering College Students in the Tiruvallur District of Tamilnadu State**

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### **Abstract**

The ability to read is vital to human existence. One of the most vital life skills and a fundamental educational tool is reading. It's the process of comprehending and learning things in order to advance oneself. The primary objectives of the library are to encourage a love of reading and reading among its patrons. It is at the core of lifetime learning and self-education. This study evaluated the reading habits and library use of engineering college students in the Tiruvallur district of Tamilnadu state.

*Keywords:* Reading, Reading Habits, Library Use, Engineering College.

### **Introduction**

Although it's a fundamental tool of education, reading is an art of understanding written materials. Although reading is a fundamental educational tool, it is also an art form including the interpretation of written words and printed instruments. It is a crucial instrument for the maturation of mental and personality traits. This behavior is vital for a person's healthy intellectual development and is essential to achieving linguistic

proficiency. In recent years, there has been a growing focus on two aspects of reading: reading and reading habits. Reading may be an exciting path to self-discovery and a way to gain a deeper understanding of one's own experiences. Reading is an essential life skill and a fundamental educational tool. A crucial component of the idea of lifelong learning is reading habits. Reading allows people to gain experiences that broaden their perspectives and help them recognize, develop, and deepen their own her curiosity and develop a more profound comprehension of the universe. Reading gives people experiences that help them broaden their perspectives, discover, develop, and deepen their interests, as well as gain a deeper understanding of the world, other people, and themselves. The foundation of self-education and lifelong learning is reading comprehension. Reading is a crucial subject that is not only enjoyable but also essential; it is the foundational instrument of education.

### **Review of Related Literature**

In 2014, Acheaw, M.O. and Larson, A.G. conducted research on reading habits and how they affect Koforidua Polytechnic students' academic performance. 62.5 percent of respondents in this poll said they liked to read novels or fiction, 62.0 percent of students said they read lecture notes when they visit the library, and 25.0% said they read textbooks. According to the majority of respondents, reading habits affect academic achievement.

Baladhandayutham, A. and Suji, S. (2014) examine the reading preferences of Madurai-based engineering college students. Most students visit the library every day; nearly one-third of respondents say that librarians encouraged them to develop a reading habit; and 68.92% of respondents said that the library is a suitable place to read. The writers end by saying that libraries are knowledge repositories and that it is the responsibility of librarians to encourage people to use their resources.

Vandenhoeck, T. (2013) studied the habits of university students who read on screens, involving 630 individuals. The majority of respondents, or 74% of respondents, preferred reading on paper, according to the author's findings. Less than 30% of students read articles, although more than 60% of respondents preferred print articles.

The reading habits of library and information science students at Annamalai University in India were observed by Thanuskodi, S. (2011). 79.53% of the respondents in this study, who make up the majority, expressed interest in regularly reading LIS course materials. Twenty percent of LIS students never read non-fiction, comic books, poetry, or novels, while students spend a greater percentage of their time reading (77.48%). Students generally responded by saying that their work frequently got in the way of their reading and studying.

### **Research Objective**

- To ascertain the reading preferences of Thiruvallur District engineering college students to distribution of gender wise respondents
- To know the purpose for reading by the students
- To investigate the various resources that kids utilize during their library visit
- To determine how satisfied people are with the resources that are provided overall
- To ascertain the issues that students encounter when reading at the library

### **Methodology**

Data is gathered via a questionnaire-based survey approach. The data is gathered using the random sample method for this reason. Undergraduate (BE) and Post graduate (M.E) students from engineering schools affiliated to Anna University in the Tiruvallur district make up the sample. Only five of the 37 colleges affiliated with Anna University are engineering institutes that I have chosen. Of the five engineering colleges that were

chosen, 60 students were chosen for the research sample; hence, the sample size is 300.

The colleges listed below have been chosen for the research.

1. SKR engineering college
2. Sree sashtra college of engineering and technology
3. TJS engineering college
4. Jaya engineering college
5. PMR engineering college

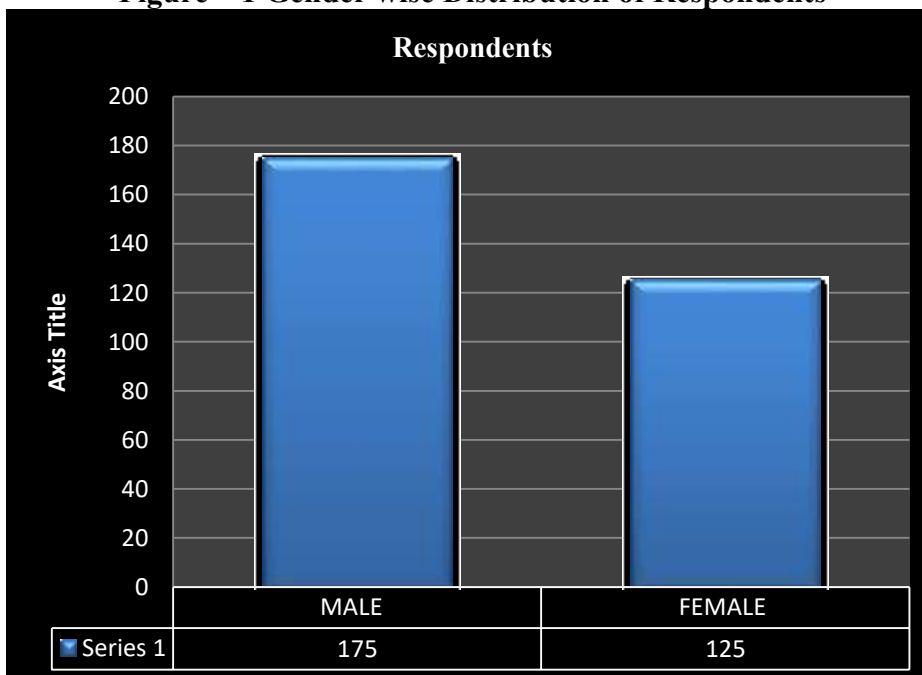
#### **Distribution of Respondents Gender-wise**

**Table-1: Gender wise Distribution of Respondents**

Sl. No	Gender	No. of. Respondents	Percentage (N)
1	Male	175	58.33%
2	Female	125	41.67%

Table-1 shows that 58.33 % of the respondents are from male respondents and the remaining 41.67% are female respondents. The above table-1 represents the number of male respondents is more than the number of female respondents

**Figure – 1 Gender wise Distribution of Respondents**

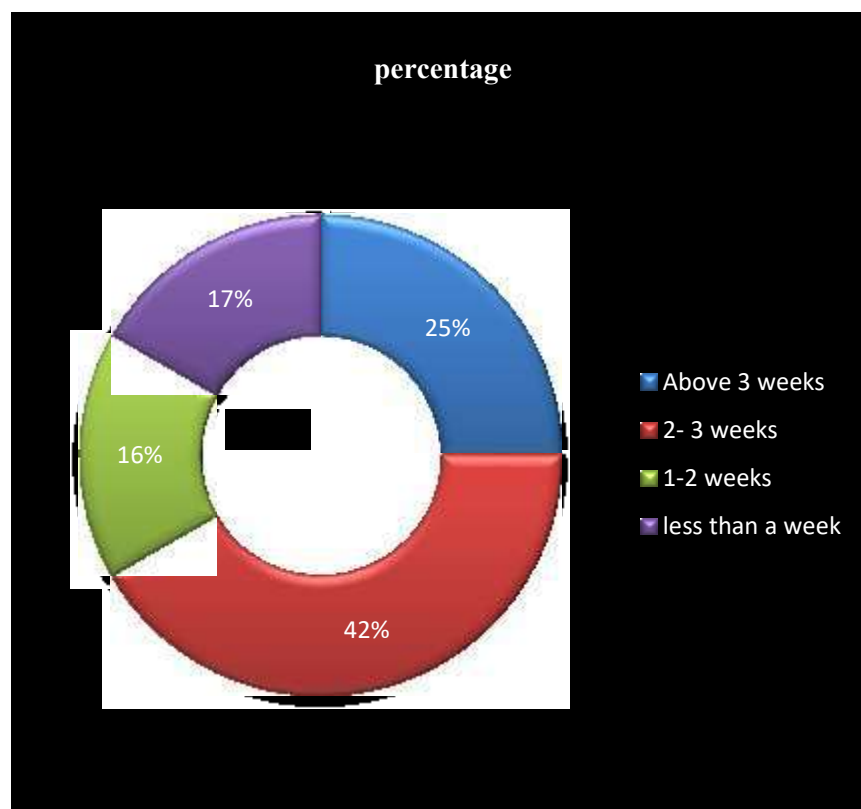


**Table-2: Frequency of Reading by the students in a month**

Questions	No . of. Respondents	Percentage (N)
More than 3 weeks in a month	75	25%
2-3 weeks in a month	125	41.68%
1-2 weeks in a month	50	16.66%
Less than a week in a month	50	16.66%

According to Table 2, 41.68% of respondents read for two to three weeks each month, whereas 25% of respondents read for more than three weeks, 16.66% read for one to two weeks, and 16.66% read for less than one week.

**Figure - 2 : Frequency of Reading by the students in a month**

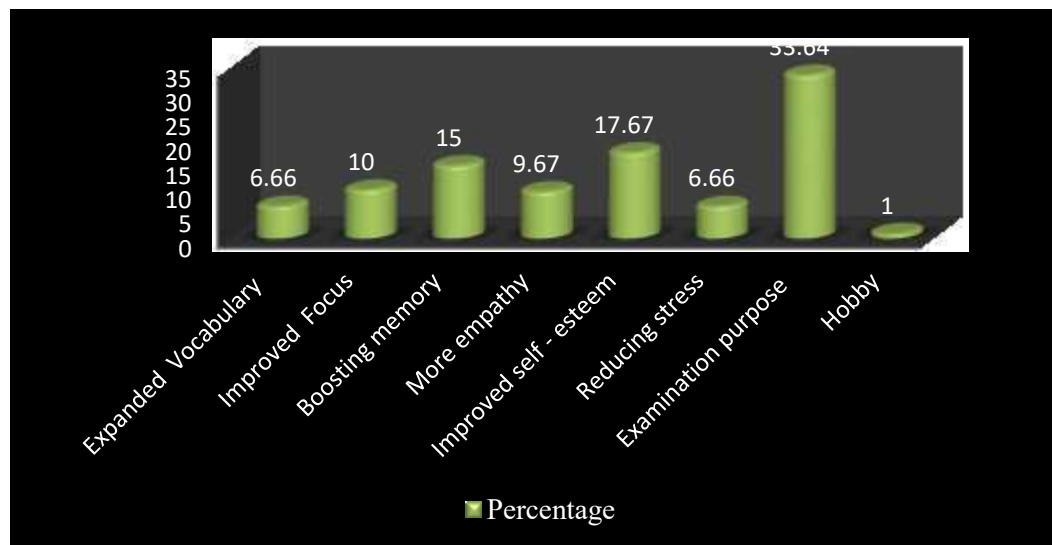


**Table-3: Purpose of reading by the students**

Opinion	No . of. Respondents	Percentage (N)
Expanded Vocabulary	20	6.66%
Improved Focus	30	10%
Boosting memory	45	15%
More empathy	29	9.67%
Improved self - esteem	53	17.67%
Reducing stress	20	6.66%
Examination purpose	100	33.34%
Hobby	03	1%

Based on Table - 3, students exhibit a reading habit with the largest percentage of reading for exam purposes. 33.34%, then 17.67% and 15% to improve memory10% increased concentration, 9.67% increased empathy, 6.66% aids in vocabulary growth, 6.66% promotes relaxation, and 1% serves as a hobby

**Figure -3 Purpose of reading by the students**

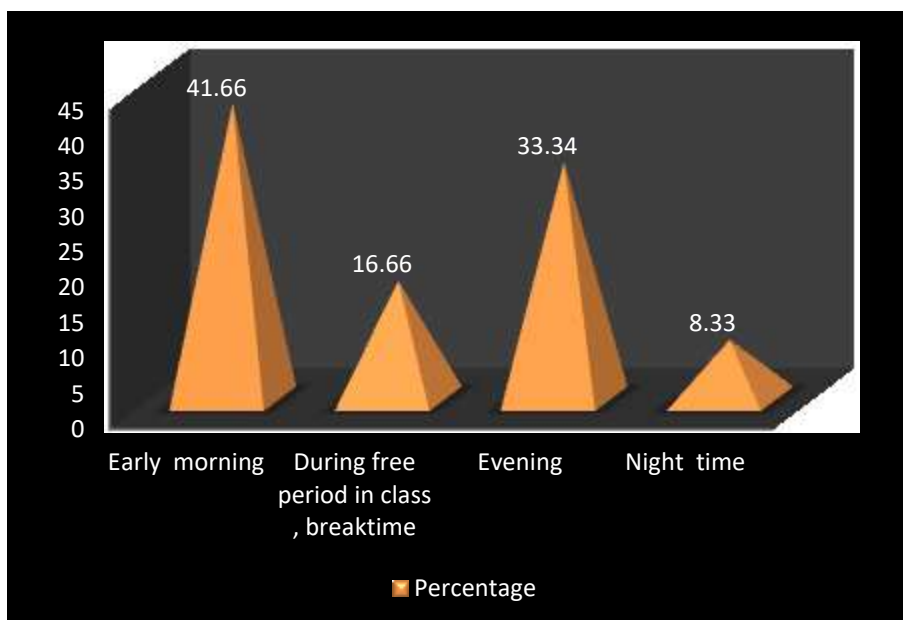


**Table-4 : Ideal reading time for students Reading**

Opinion	No . of. Respondents	Percentage (N)
Early morning	125	41.66%
During free period in class , breaktime	50	16.66%
Evening	100	33.34%
Night time	25	8.33%

From table 4, students indicate when they think is the best time to read. The largest percentage of students (41.66%) thinks it's best to read in the morning, followed by evening (33.34%), free period (16.66%), and night time (8.33%)

Figure – 4 Ideal reading time for students Reading

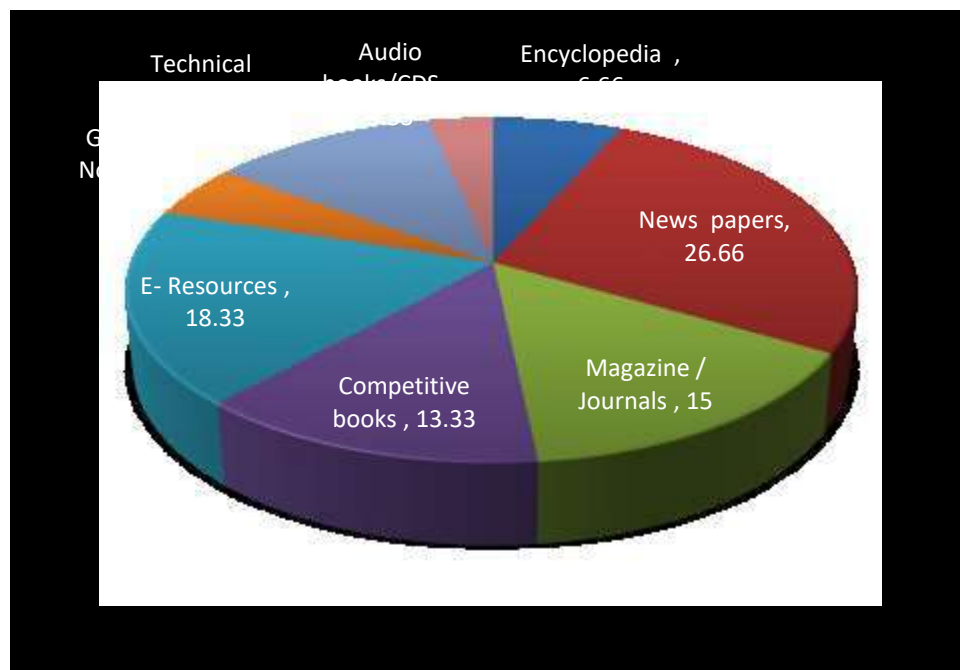


**Table-5 : Recommended reading materials in Library**

Reading items	No . of. Respondents	Percentage (N)
Encyclopedia	20	6.66%
News papers	80	26.66%
Magazine / Journals	45	15%
Competitive books	40	13.33%
E- Resources	55	18.33%
Graphic Novels	15	5%
Technical books	35	11.66%
Audio books/CDS	10	3.33%

According to Table -5 statistics, students' top preferences were a newspaper (26.66%), e-resources (18.33%), journals (15%), competitive books (13.33%), technical books (11.66%), encyclopedia (6.66%), novels (5%), and audio books (3.33%).

Figure -5 Recommended reading materials in Library



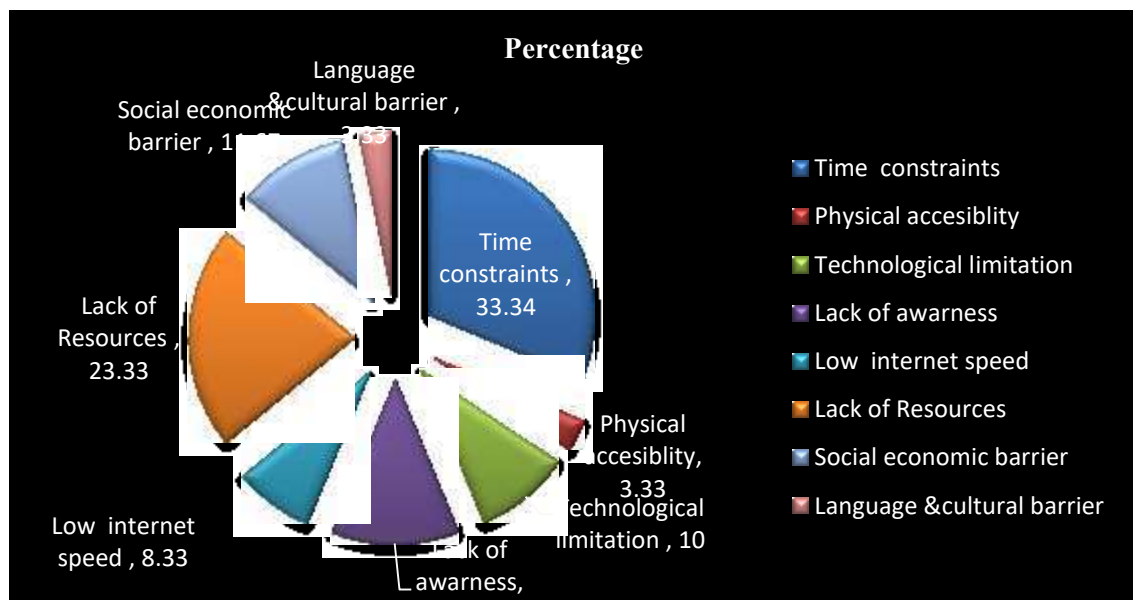


**Table- 6 : Challenges while reading inside the Library**

Challenges	No . of. Respondents	Percentage (N)
Time constraints	100	33.34%
Physical accesiblity	10	3.33%
Technological limitation	30	10%
Lack of awarness	40	13.33%
Low internet speed	25	8.33%
Lack of Resources	70	23.33%
Social economic barrier	35	11.67%
Language &cultural barrier	10	3.33%

The majority of students cited time barriers in the library as the reason for this, with 33.34% citing this as the most common response. Other common responses included lack of resources in the library, 23.33% citing this as a reason, 13.33% citing lack of awareness of the library's facilities, 11.67% citing social and economic barriers, 10% citing technological limitations, and 8.33% citing low internet connectivity.

Figure -6 Challenges while reading inside the Library



### **Major finding of the study**

- For reading purposes, the majority of respondents (41.68%) visit the library two to three times per month
- For the majority of engineering students (33.34%), reading in the library is mostly done to prepare for exams.
- The majority of students (41.66%) say they would rather read in the morning.
- The majority of students (26.66%) say they would rather read the news in the library.
- The majority of students (33.34%) mention that one of the biggest challenges in the library is time constraints.

### **Conclusion**

For students, reading is a fundamental instrument in education. In daily life, these talents are crucial. It guides their professional and skill development based on the age of the learner. A key component of the idea of lifelong learning is reading habits. Provide the library with enough amenities, such as furniture, lighting, etc., to ensure that patrons are satisfied. By using the library, librarians should inspire kids to form good reading habits. Because internet usage these days influences reading habits, library staff members must to give high-speed internet access in addition to increased assistance with online resources. It is possible for library professionals to have a big impact on patrons reading habit.

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