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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Newspaper Reading Habits among Library Users: A study of Raja Mahendra Pratap Library, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut

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ABSTRACT

Newspapers remain an indispensable source of information, current affairs, and general awareness, playing a pivotal role in shaping public opinion and fostering intellectual growth within academic communities. The present study is an empirical effort to investigate the newspaper reading habits among active library users at the Raja Mahendra Pratap Library, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut. The primary purpose of the study is to evaluate how regular library visitors engage with daily newspapers, determining their frequency of reading and preferred language options (e.g., Hindi vs. English). Using a descriptive survey research design, data was gathered through a structured questionnaire distributed to library users across various departments and academic levels. The key parameters examined include the duration of time devoted daily to reading, primary motives behind reading, and specific columns or sections of interest. The study highlights distinct user trends regarding time allocation, reading priorities (such as competitive examination preparation, current affairs, or general entertainment), and preferences for specific newspaper sections like editorial columns, national news, sports, and educational features. Ultimately, these findings offer valuable insights for university librarians to optimize serial subscriptions.

KEYWORDS

• Newspaper • Reading Habits • Library users • Choices

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INTRODUCTION

A newspaper is a scheduled periodical publication containing timely information, opinions, and feature articles on local, national, and global current events. Defined by periodicity, currency, publicity, and universality, newspapers serve as an essential medium for public awareness and intellectual growth. The present study is an empirical effort to investigate newspaper reading habits among active library users at the Raja Mahendra Pratap Library, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut. The primary purpose is to determine how regular library visitors engage with daily newspapers, their frequency of reading, and their preferred language options (e.g., Hindi vs. English).

Significance of the Study

Developing a comprehensive understanding of socioeconomic and political dynamics is vital for students poised to drive national growth. As daily newspapers remain a primary medium for acquiring such knowledge, analyzing students' reading behaviors is essential. This empirical investigation examines newspaper reading patterns among active users at the Raja Mahendra Pratap Library, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut. The primary objective is to assess how students utilize newspapers as learning tools, focusing on reading frequency, language choice (e.g., Hindi vs. English), and underlying motives.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study are:

1. To determine how regular respondents read newspapers
2. To know the choice of language for reading newspapers
3. To know the time being devoted by respondents for reading newspapers
4. To determine the purpose of reading newspapers
5. To determine the ways through which they obtain newspaper for reading
6. To know the different areas of interest of respondents in newspaper
7. To determine the students dominant motives in reading newspapers
8. To determine the media mostly preferred by the respondents

METHODOLOGY

Primary data were collected using a well-structured questionnaire. The data were collected from Library users of Raja Mahendra Pratap Library of Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut. Random sampling method isused to collect the data. 150 questionnaires were distributed among these students, 115 filled questionnaires were collected and processed.

Review of Literature

Sahu, Harish Kumar (2017). Sahu study Examined that thought a questionnaire based survey, newspaper reading habits among undergraduate and postgraduate students of SoS in Library and Information Science, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh has been studied. Newspaper is also a very important source of information for all the news of daily events and happenings of the world. A total number of 55 questionnaires were administrated to the students, and 52 were received where the response rate was 94.54%; these are used for the analysis. It was discovered from the analysis that majority of the respondents read newspapers daily.

Kaur, Jasminal (2018). Kaur study foretell that Newspapers are one of the most powerful medium of acquiring knowledge and current information on day to day basis. Newspapers are considered as mirror of the society as they reflect true picture of what is happening around us. Due to technological advancement, readers are shifting from traditional media to online media for news consumption. So, newspaper companies are experimenting to increase their circulation as well as readership. The purpose of this article is to provide overview of reading habits and customer satisfaction towards newspapers. For this study, 24 research papers are reviewed. It is observed that young people are less keen to read newspapers and prefer to read news online. So, print media organizations have to provide high quality content with topics/article/news/editorials/ supplements specifically for young people.

Ambika, M. (2018) Ambika study Empirical that reading is a way to improve knowledge of one's own experiences and it may be an exciting journey to discovery. Reading transfers experiences to the individual in order that the reader might expand one's horizons, recognize, enlarge, and exaggerate his or her

interest and gain deeper understanding of the globe. Newspaper is also an important source of information for all and brings news of daily happenings of the world. In this study, an attempt has been made to study the newspaper reading habits among postgraduate students of Periyar University, Tamil Nadu.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents Based on Course of Study

Particulars	Category	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Course of Study	UG	67	58.26
	PG	48	41.74
	Total	**115**	**100**

Table 1 the table shows the distribution of respondents based on their course of study. Out of 115 respondents, 67 (58.26%) belong to the UG category. While 48 (41.74%) belong to the PG category. The data indicate that the majority of respondents are undergraduate students from a significant portion of the study.

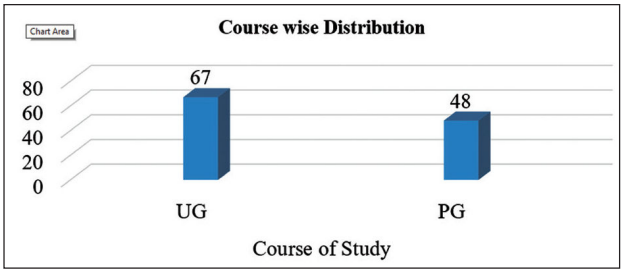


Table 2: Prefered Section of the Newspapers

Preferred Section of the Newspapers	Response	Frequency	Percentage %
Local News	Yes	80	69
	No	35	31
National News	Yes	100	86
	No	15	14
International News	Yes	95	82
	No	20	18
Political News	Yes	79	68
	No	36	32
Educational News	Yes	94	81
	No	21	19
Cartoons and comics	Yes	49	42
	No	66	58
Puzzles and crossword	Yes	62	53
	No	53	47
Entertainment and Cinema	Yes	52	45
	No	63	55
Sports News	Yes	93	80
	No	22	20
Other news	Yes	54	46
	No	61	54

The table shows that presents the respondents preferred newspaper section for regular reading. The finding indicate that a majority of respondents preferred national news (86% yes; 14% No) followed by international news (82% yes; 18% No) and educational news (81% yes; 19% No). Sports news was also highly preferred, with 80% respondents answering Yes and 20% No. Similarly, 69% respondents showed interest in Local News, while 31% did not prefer it. Political news was preferred by 68% respondents, whereas 32% answers negatively. In contrast section such as cartoons and comics (42% Yes, 58% No) and other news (46% Yes, 54% No) entertainment and cinema (45% Yes 55% No).

Table 3: Purpose of Reading Newspapers

Purpose of / Reasons for Reading	Response	Frequency	%
Reading is a useful habit for lifelong learning	Yes	70	60
	No	45	40
Reading is a good personal pleasure and enjoyment	Yes	75	65
	No	40	35
Reading helps to become more knowledgeable and improves overall personality	Yes	65	56
	No	50	44
Reading helps to compete with others	Yes	80	70
	No	35	30
Reading Helps to Improve Communication Skills and Vocabulary	Yes	95	82
	No	20	18

Table shows the reasons and purposes for reading newspapers among the respondents. The data reveals that a majority of respondents believe reading is helpful in many aspects of life. About (60%) respondents agreed that reading is a useful habit lifelong learning, while (40%) disagreed. Similarly, (65%) respondents considered reading a source of personal pleasure and enjoyment, whereas (35%) did not agree. Moreover, (56%) respondents stated that reading improves knowledge and overall personality development. A large number of respondents (70%) believed that reading

helps them compete with others. The highest percentage (82%) agreed that reading improves communication skills and vocabulary, while only (18%) disagreed.

Table 4: Source of getting the newspapers for reading?

Sources of Newspapers	Respondents	%
Book Shop	0	0
Friends	2	1.73
Home	36	31.30
Library	30	26.08
Private Circulating Library	10	8.69
Any Other Sources	37	32.17
Total	115	100

The above table shows the different sources from where respondents get newspaper for reading. It is observed that the highest number of respondents, 37 (32.17%) obtain newspaper from other sources. Home is also major source, with 36 respondents (31.30%) reading newspaper at home. Library is another important source, used by 30 respondents (26.08%). A small number of respondents, 10 (8.69%), use private circulating libraries for newspaper reading. Only 2 respondents (1.73%) get newspaper from friends, while no respondents reported book shops as a source.

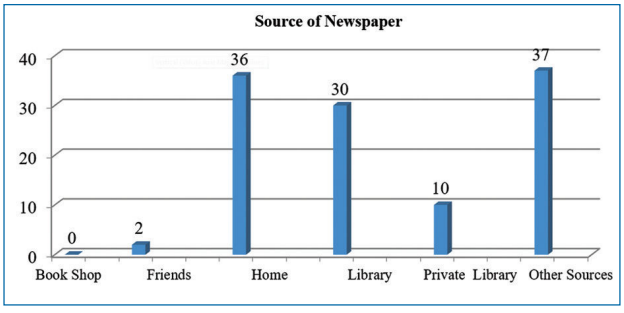


Table 5: How often you buy newspaper?

Buying Newspaper	Respondents	Percentage %
Frequently	38	33
Sometimes	38	33
Rarely	22	19
Never	17	15
Total	**115**	**100**

The table shows how often respondents buy newspapers. It is observed that an equal number of respondents, 38 (33%) buy newspapers frequently and sometimes. A smaller group of respondents, 22 (19%), reported that they rarely buy newspapers. On the other hand, 17 respondents (15%) stated that they never buy newspapers.

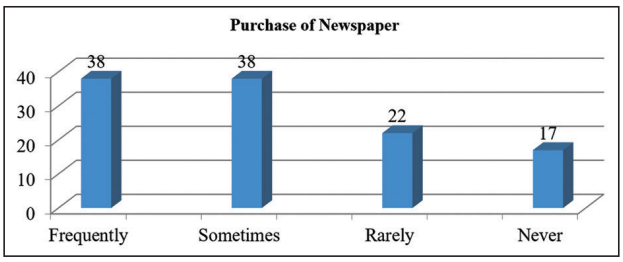


Table 6: Time spent by Respondent Reading Newspaper

Time Spent by Respondent	Respondents	Percentage %
Less than 1 hour	69	60
More than 3 hours	4	4
2-3 hours	14	12
1-2 hours	28	24
Total	115	100

The above data shows the time spent by respondents in reading newspaper. A majority of respondents, 69 (60%), spend less than one hour reading newspapers. About 28 respondents (24%) spend 1-2 hours on newspaper reading. Further, 14 respondents (12%) spend 2-3 hours reading newspapers. Only 4 respondents (4%) spend more than 3 hours on newspaper reading. Overall, the study reveals that most respondents spend less than one hour reading newspapers regularly.

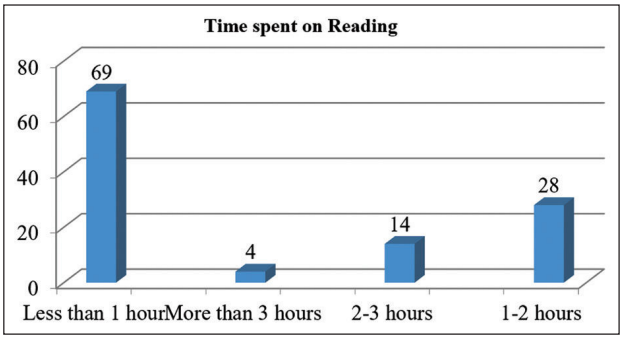


Table 7: Most Convenient and preferred time to read

Most Convenient of Reading	Respondents	Percentage %
Early Morning	63	55
During Breakfast	15	13
While traveling	3	3
Evening	5	4
During free hours	29	25
Before going to bed	0	0
Total	**115**	**100**

The data shows the most convenient and preferred time for reading among the respondents. A majority of respondents, 63 (55%) prefer reading in the early morning indicating that morning time is considered most suitable for reading activities. About 29 respondents (25%) prefer reading during their free hours. Further, 15 respondents (13%) read during breakfast time. Only 5 respondents (4%) prefer reading in the evening, while 3 respondents (3%) read while traveling. No respondents preferred reading before going to bed. Overall, the study reveals that early morning is the most preferred time for reading among the respondents.

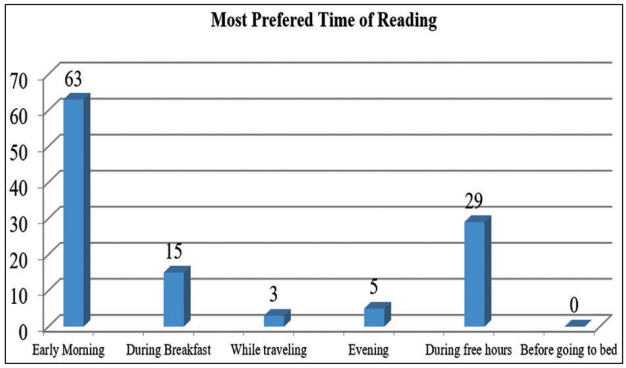


Table 8: Convenient Places of Reading

Place of Reading	Respondents	Percentage %
Home	75	64
Department	8	10
Central Library	20	17
Public Library	4	3
While Travel	2	1
Any Other	6	5
Total	**115**	**100**

The collected data show the convenient places of reading preferred by the respondents. A majority of respondents, 75(64%) prefer reading at home because of comfort and convenience. The central Library is the second preferred place with 20 respondents (17%). About 8 respondents (10%) prefer reading in their department. Public Library is preferred by 4 respondents (3%) while only 2 respondents (1%) read during travel. Further, 6 respondents (5%) use other places for reading. Overall the study indicates that home is the most preferred and convenient place for reading the respondents.

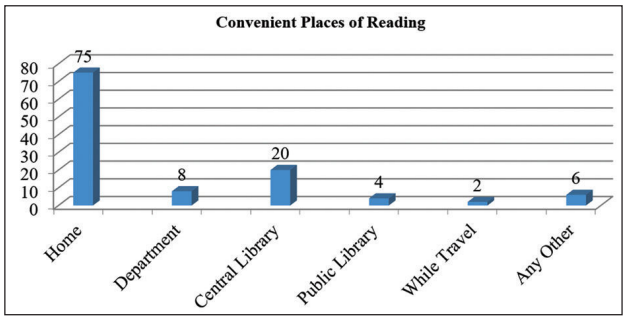


Table 9: Encouragement and suggestions to read newspaper

Encouragement	Respondents	Percentage %
Parents	81	71
Teachers	20	17
Friends	5	4
Librarian	1	1
Others	8	6.95
Total	**115**	**100**

Table 9 the table shows who encourages and gives suggestion to read newspapers among the respondents. A majority of respondents, 81 (71%), stated that their parents encourage them to read newspaper, indicating the important role of family in the developing reading habits. About 20 respondents (17%) are encouraged by teachers.

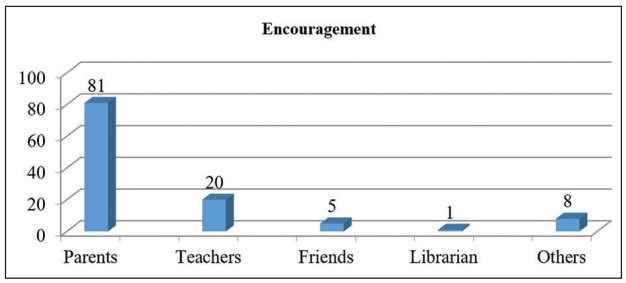


Table 10: Favourite format

Favourite Reading Format	Respondents	Percentage %
Traditional Print Format	42	36.52
Digital /Electronic Format	12	10.43
Both	61	53.04
Total	**115**	**100**

This table shows the favourite reading format preferred by the respondents. It is observed that the majority of respondents 61 (53.04%) prefer both traditional print and digital / electronic formats for reading. Traditional print format alone is preferred by 42 respondents (36.52%). Only 12 respondents (10.43%) prefer the digital or electronic format exclusively.

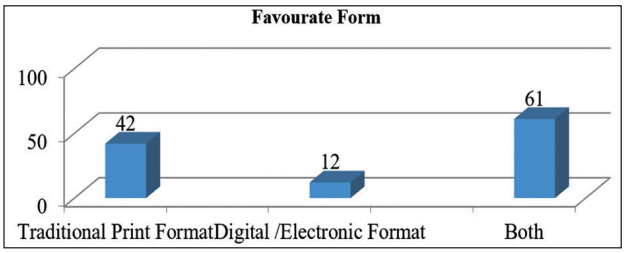


Table 11: Improvements in Reading by the use of digital form

Digital Form	Respondents	Percentage %
Yes	90	78.26
No	11	9.56
Not Sure	14	12.17
Total	**115**	**100**

The data shows the respondents opinion regarding improvement in reading through the use of digital forms. It is observed that a majority of respondents, 90 (78.26%) believe that digital forms improve reading habits and accessibility. Only 11 respondents (9.56%) disagreed with this statement. Meanwhile, 14 respondents (12.17%) were not sure about the impact of digital forms on reading improvement.

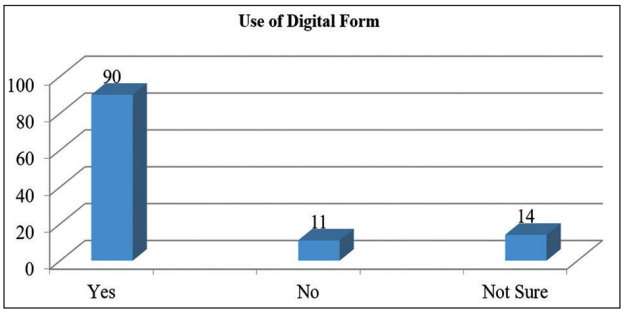


Table 12: Visit to University Library?

Visit to University Library	Respondents	Percentage %
Almost every day	29	25.21
Once or twice a day	46	40
Once or twice a month	40	34.79
Never go to the Library	0	0
Total	**115**	**100**

This table shows that the majority of respondents, 46 (40%) visit the university library once or twice a day. About 29 respondents (25.21%) reported visiting the library almost every day. Meanwhile 40 respondents (34.79%) visit the library once or twice a month. None of the respondents report never visiting the library.

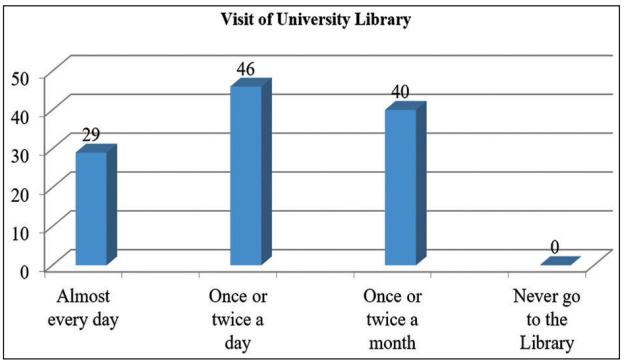


Table 13: Librarian Motivation

Librarian Motivation	Respondents	Percentage %
Yes	85	73.92
No	15	13.04
Sometimes	15	13.04
Total	**115**	**100**

The data shows that the motivation level of Librarians among the respondents. The majority of respondents, 85 (73.92%) stated that librarians are motivated in their work. On the other hand, 15 respondents are not motivated, while another 15 respondents (13.04%) reported that Librarians are only some time motivated.

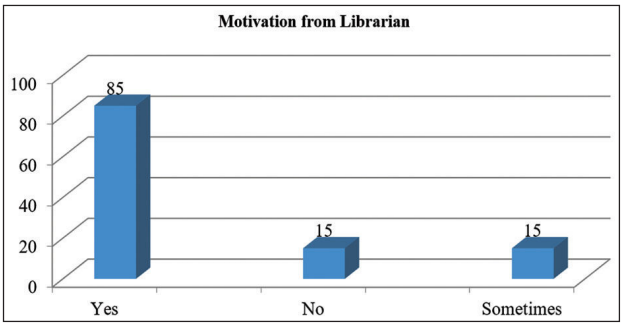


Table 14: Teachers Motivation

Teachers Motivation	Respondents	Percentage %
Yes	100	86.95
No	5	4.41
Sometimes	10	8.64
Total	**115**	**100**

The collected data reveals the motivation level of teachers among the respondents. A large majority of respondents, 100 (86.95%) stated that Teachers are motivated in their work. Only 5 respondents (4.41%) expressed that teachers are not motivated, while 10 respondents (8.64%) reported that teachers are sometimes motivated.

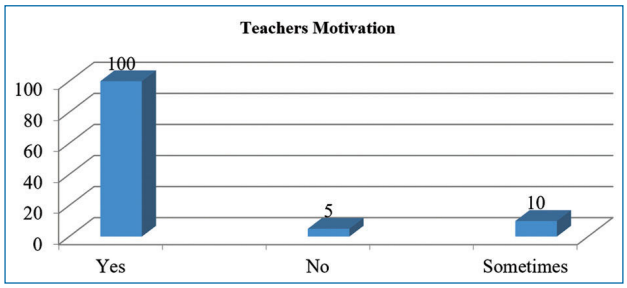


Table 15: Facilities in the Library Motivate You to Utilize the Library

Facilities motivation	Respondents	%
Cordial Environment	32	27.82
Seating Comforts	10	8.69
Helpful Staff	30	26
Goods Books/ Resources Collection	40	34.84
Systematic Arrangement of Books	0	0
Any Other	3	2.65
Total	**115**	**100**

The table shows that presents the facilities in the Library that motivate users to utilize the library services. The highest number of respondents, 40 (34.84%) stated that good books and resource collections motivation them to use the Library. This was followed by cordial environment with 32 respondents (27.82%) and helpful staff with 30 respondents (26%) seating comforts motivated 10 respondents (8.69%), while 3 respondents (2.65%) mentioned other factors.

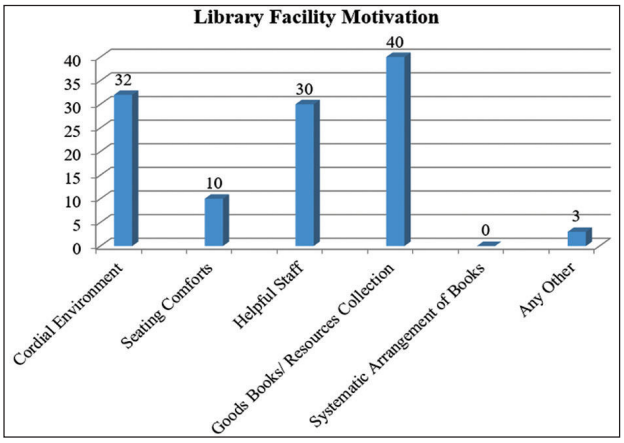
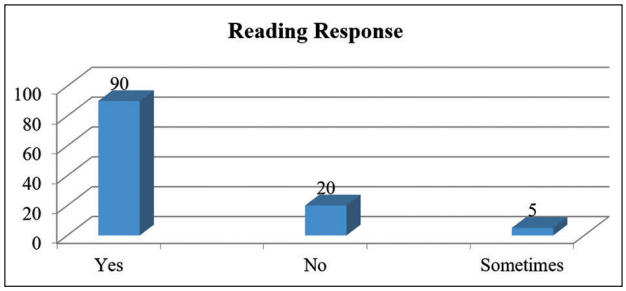


Table 16: Reading of Newspapers Regularly

Read Newspaper Regularly	Respondents	Percentage %
Yes	90	78
No	20	18
Sometimes	5	4
Total	**115**	**100**

The table shows that the habit of reading newspaper regularly among the respondents. A majority of respondents, 90(78%) stated that they read newspapers regularly. On the other hand, 20 respondents (18%) reported that they do not read newspapers regularly, while 5 respondents (4%) stated that they read newspapers only sometimes.



Findings and Conclusion

The major findings derived from the analysis and interpretation of data collected from the respondents of Raja Mahendra Pratap Library, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut. The study examined newspaper reading habits among library users with reference to reading frequency, preferences, purpose, time spent, format preferences, and motivational factors influencing newspaper reading behavior. The findings are summarized according to the objectives of the study and followed by conclusions drawn from the overall analysis.

The important findings of the study are summarized below:

- Out of 115 respondents, 58.26% belonged to undergraduate courses, while 41.74% belonged to postgraduate courses. Thus, undergraduate students constituted the majority of respondents.
- The study found that newspaper reading is a regular habit among most respondents, as 78% reported reading newspapers regularly, while only 18% did not read regularly.
- Most respondents preferred reading newspapers in the early morning (55%), indicating that morning hours are considered the most convenient time for information consumption.
- Regarding duration of reading, the majority of respondents (60%) spent less than one hour daily on newspaper reading, suggesting that newspaper

reading is mostly a short-duration activity among students.

- Home emerged as the most preferred place for newspaper reading, as 64% respondents preferred reading newspapers at home, followed by the central library (17%).
- National news was the most preferred newspaper section among respondents (86%), followed by international news (82%), educational news (81%), and sports news (80%).
- Lower preference was observed for entertainment and cinema news (45%) and cartoons/comics (42%), indicating greater inclination towards information-oriented content.
- Hindi and regional newspaper preferences were indirectly reflected through the preference for local and educational content, suggesting that respondents prioritize accessible and relevant information.
- A significant proportion of respondents considered newspaper reading beneficial for improving communication skills and vocabulary (82%).
- About 70% respondents believed newspaper reading helps them remain competitive and informed in academic and social environments.
- Newspaper reading was also viewed as a source of personal pleasure and lifelong learning by a majority of respondents.
- Newspaper access through "other sources" (32.17%) and home subscriptions (31.30%) constituted the major channels of obtaining newspapers.
- Libraries also played an important role, as 26.08% respondents depended on library facilities for newspaper access.
- Newspaper purchase behavior revealed that 33% respondents purchased newspapers frequently and another 33% purchased sometimes, showing moderate dependency on purchased newspapers.
- More than half of the respondents (53.04%) preferred both print and digital formats for reading newspapers, indicating a hybrid reading pattern.
- A large majority (78.26%) believed digital forms improve reading habits and accessibility, reflecting growing acceptance of electronic information sources.
- Most respondents visited the university library regularly, with 40% visiting once or twice a day.
- Parents emerged as the strongest motivating factor for newspaper reading (71%), followed by teachers (17%).
- Teachers were perceived as highly motivating (86.95%), while librarians were also positively viewed by respondents.
- Good book and resource collections (34.84%) and cordial library environments (27.82%) were major factors encouraging library utilization.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that newspaper reading continues to occupy an important place in the information behavior of library users at Raja Mahendra Pratap Library, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut. Although digital information sources are rapidly expanding, respondents still maintain interest in traditional newspaper reading while simultaneously adopting electronic formats.

The findings indicate that respondents primarily use newspapers for academic enrichment, knowledge enhancement, vocabulary improvement, and staying updated with current affairs. Information-oriented sections such as national, international, educational, and sports news receive greater attention than entertainment-related content. The study further reveals that newspaper reading habits are influenced by family support, educational environment, and accessibility of information resources. Libraries continue to play a meaningful role in encouraging reading culture through resources, supportive staff, and conducive environments. The increasing preference for combined print and digital formats demonstrates a transition toward hybrid information consumption patterns among university students. Therefore, academic libraries should continue strengthening both traditional newspaper collections and digital access facilities to support users' changing information needs.

Overall, the study establishes that newspaper reading remains an important component of academic and personal development among library users and contributes significantly toward knowledge acquisition, awareness building, and lifelong learning habits.

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