A Study on the Relationship between Socio Economic Status and Reading Habit of undergraduate students of Kerala.

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Abstract

Socio economic status means the position of an individual in a social structure. This social structure is maintained by a socio economic scale, which is associated with some social and economic factors. These factors affect the reading habit of the student and it causes the gain or loss of academic achievement. The absence of regular and systematic reading is not only beneficial for academic achievement but also for a valuable life.

Key Words

Socio economic status, Reading habit, Regular reading, Systematic reading

Introduction

The socio economic status of an individual is determined by a combination of social and economic factors such as income, education, employment, community, safety and social support.

Socio economic status simply meant the position of an individual in a society. Socio-economic status factors affect the academic performance of the student. Family plays an important role in the education of their children. So all the factors related to their family influencesthe academic performance of children.

Reading is a fundamental measure of education. Regular and systematicreading regulate the intellectual capacity of the student. The practice of Regular reading leads to reading habit and systematic reading helps to develop intellectual ability of the student.

In this study the researcher focused on the relationship between the socio economic condition of a student and reading habit. Socio-economic conditions influence the reading and other academic activities of children. Income is one of the main factor in socio economic status. The financial condition of the family affects the academic activities of the child. The occupation of parents is also having an influence in the study habits and achievement.

Reading habit is an effective academic activity and is very helpful to the students for their academic growth.

Objectives

To find out the relation between socio economic condition of family and reading habits of students.

Hypothesis

There is a significant relation between socio economic status of family and reading habit of students.

Procedure and findings

Survey method is used for collecting data. A sample of 300 under graduate students from various colleges from Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam districts were selected for the study using stratified sampling techniques. The data collected from the students were analyzed using appropriate statistical techniques and interpreted accordingly.

"Analysis of data means studying the tabulated material in order to determine the inherent facts for meanings. It involves breaking down of existing complex factors into simpler parts and putting the parts together in new arrangements for the purpose of interpretations". (Sukhia et at 1983) interpretations is the critical examinations of the result of one's analysis in the light of all the limitation gathering.

To find out the degree of relationship between Socio –Economic Status and Reading Habit the researcher using Pearson's product moment coefficient of correlation for the total sample and the relevant subsamples of the study.

Break up of Final sample

Gender		Locale		Institution	
Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
98	202	105	195	143	157
Total =300		**Total = 300**		**Total = 300**	

Correlation table showing the relationship between socio economic status and reading habit.

Variables correlated	Whole	Boys	Girls	Urban	Rural
Socio economic status and reading habit	0.57**	0.53**`	0.60**	0.52**	0.65**

** denotes significant at 0.01 level.

The value set for significance at 0.01 level.

i.   For whole sample 0.1282

ii.   For boys 0.1797

iii.   For girls 0.1828

iv.   For urban sample 0.1751

v.   For rural sample 0.1881

The coefficient of correlation obtained is 0.57 for the whole sample, 0.53 for boys, 0.60 for girls, 0.52 for urban sample, 0.65 for rural samples. All these are greater than the values set for significance at 0.01 level. So the coefficient of correlation for the whole sample and for the sub samples are denoted 0.01 significance.

So these are the interpretations of the study.

i.   There is considerable relationship between socio economic status and reading habit.

ii.   For all samples the coefficient of correlation obtained are significant at 0.01 level.

iii.   All the obtained co-efficient are positive showing that any increase in the socio economic condition of the family influence positively to develop reading habit.

iv.   Socio economic status of family influence the student to develop regular reading and systematic reading.

All these denote that socio economic status of the family has a determining influence in reading habit of undergraduate students in Kerala. The social and financial status of the family has a great effect in the reading aptitude of its members. As a result of this study it can be expressed in such a way that the socio economic condition of a family plays a significant role in maintaining regular and systematic reading culture in the home and society.

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