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The influence of the internet on the reading habits of undergraduate students from a government arts and commerce college in Banaskantha district was analyzed in this study

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Abstract
Reading serves as a powerful tool for deepening self-awareness and can be a transformative journey toward personal growth. This study aims to explore the reading habits of students enrolled in government arts and commerce colleges in the Banaskantha District, with a particular focus on assessing the inspiration of internet usage on these habits. A total of 150 students were selected through random sampling to participate in the survey. The findings shed light on students' reading preferences, frequency of reading, favored types of literature, factors shaping their reading behavior, and the extent to which digital media and ICT tools impact their reading patterns.

Keywords: Internet age, information technology, library usage, online resources, reading behavior, reading habit

1. Introductions

Reading is among the most enduring practices in human civilization, with no true substitute offering the same depth of engagement and intellectual enrichment. Throughout history, it has been a defining passion for many influential figures, serving as a vital tool for self-improvement, critical thinking, and lifelong learning. In today's media landscape, books continue to play a crucial role, complementing and interacting meaningfully with other forms of information. Libraries, as repositories of human knowledge and cultural heritage, remain invaluable resources. In the face of rapid technological advancements, they must adapt strategically to preserve their relevance and effectively address emerging challenges.

The concept of reading holds significant relevance for libraries, particularly within academic institutions, as they serve as key sources of diverse informational resources. Several factors influence an individual's reading habits, including educational background, the purpose and preferences of the reader, as well as the type, cost, and accessibility of reading materials. With the rise of digital technology, the internet now offers a dynamic platform for accessing a wide range of literary content in electronic formats, further shaping modern reading behaviors. Digital materials and information that approach the Internet are currently being read all day, finding unprinted information.

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2. Summary of the literature: The literature review is based on previous research conducted by various authors. The focus was in this section to check the literature published in various well-known national and international journal articles. The study employed an expressive survey design using an organized questionnaire to gather data. A total of 440 doctoral students from the faculties of Arts, Science, and Commerce were selected for participation. Findings revealed that a majority of the respondents were female (61.6%) and predominantly from rural backgrounds (72.3%). The survey indicated that most students preferred reading at home on a daily basis (69.5%), followed by reading in classrooms (51.1%). Additionally, 32.3% of students believed that printed books were more costly compared to online resources. The results also showed frequent internet usage among students, primarily to support their academic activities. Based on these findings, the study recommends that universities enhance access to ICT facilities for all doctoral students to better support their research and learning needs.

In addition, ICT-based learning programs for students must be implemented. This study uses a research approach that uses mixed methods to collect data. There is growing concern among adults regarding the impact of social media platforms on students' reading practices. Despite these concerns, social media remains a popular medium among youth for sharing and exchanging information—whether beneficial or otherwise (Dike *et al.* 2013 and Saodah Wok *et al.* 2012) [7, 8]. The reading practices play a crucial role in academic achievement, as they directly impact comprehension and exam performance. Students exhibit diverse reading patterns, which in turn contribute to varying academic outcomes (Owusu-Acheaw, 2014) [9].

Hussain *et al.* (2021) [10] observed about the fact the majority of pupils utilize common networking platforms to enhance their reading practices, a portion of the student population perceives these platforms as unhelpful. Similarly, Rafiq *et al.* (2019) [11] emphasized the dual effect of social media on reading behavior, noting both beneficial and adverse effects. Although social media was found to positively influence reading engagement, it was also identified as a source of distraction, particularly during examination periods. There was a great disagreement between men and women in relation to the specific effects of social media.

3. Research Goals
The main research goals are as follows:
- To explore the reading preferences and interests of students.
- To examine the purposes for which undergraduate students utilize library resources.
- To assess the amount of time undergraduate students spend in the library.
- To determine the frequency of library visits between undergraduate students.
- To evaluate the influence of the internet and ICT media on students' reading practices.

4. Research Methodology
Regarding this survey questionnaire, according to Random, 150 students were prepared and distributed in basic courses in several capabilities of the Arts and Commerce College in Palanpur.

5. Data analysis
Frequency of the College Library visit

Table 1: Frequency of library visit

Frequency	Number	Percentage
Almost Daily	55	36.67
Once a week	31	20.67
Twice a week	51	34
Occasionally	13	8.66
Total No	150	100

The table 1 and chart 1 show that approximately 55 (36.67%) of students visit the college library daily basis, 51 (34%) students visit the library two times a week, 31 (20.67%) students visit the library once a week, while only 13 (8.66%) students visit the library occasionally. It may analyzed that daily users get highest number followed by twice a week.
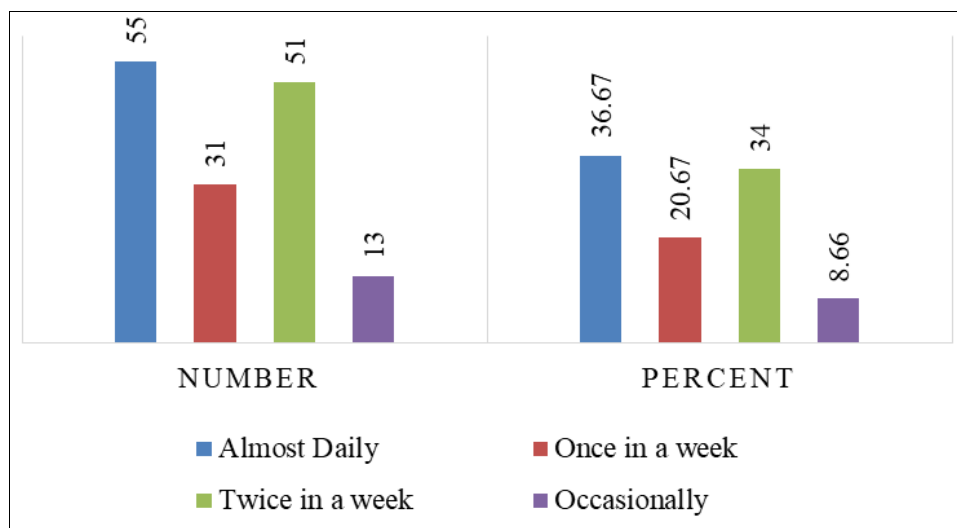

Chart 1: Frequency of library visit

Weekly Duration of Library Usage

Table 2: Number of Hours Spent in Library

Time	Number	Percent
1 to 5 hours	35	23.34%
5 to 10 hours	57	38%
10 to 15 hours	36	24%
More than 15 hours	22	14.66%
Total No	150	100%

Table 2 and Chart 2 status of weekly usage of library, 57 (38%) students consumed 5 to 10 hours per week, 36 (24%) students consumed 10 to 15 hours per week, 35 (23.34%) students consumed 1 to 5 hours per week, while 22 (14.66%) students consumed more than 15 hours per week in the library.
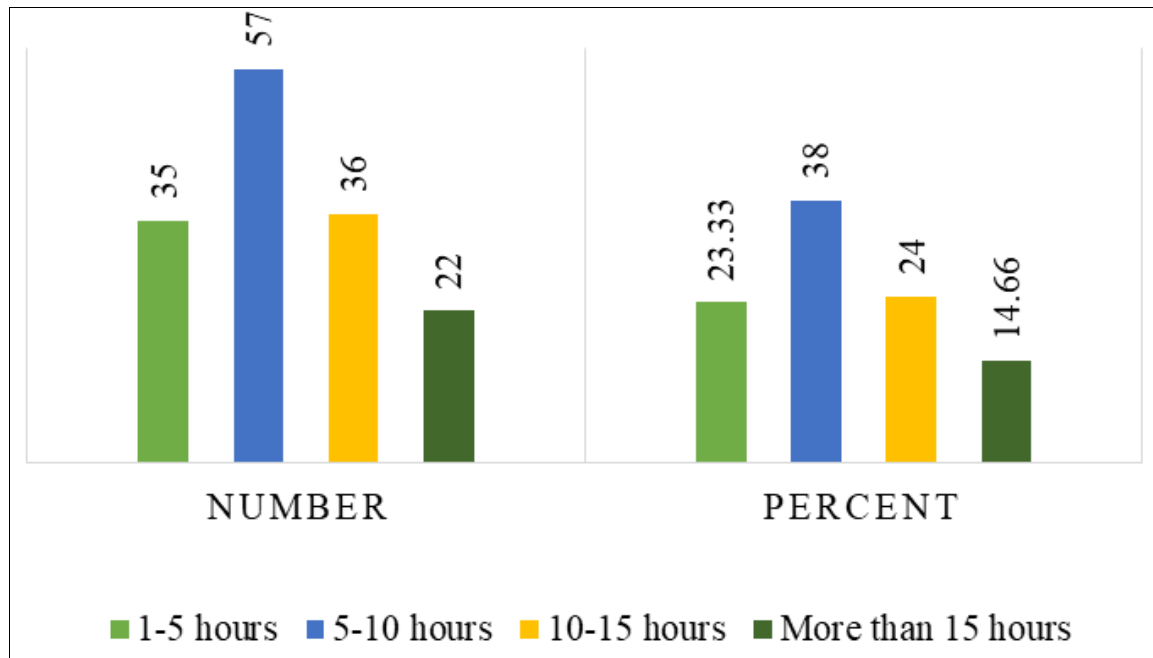

Chart 2: Number of Hours Spent in Library

5.3 Usage Pattern for Various Reading Materials

Table 3: Usage Patter

Reading Materials	Percent
Text Book	26%
Fiction Books	12%
Motivational Books	5%
Biography / Autobiography	7%
Magazine / Journals	19%
Newspapers	24%
Others	7%

The table 3 and chart 3 show the status of usage pattern for the mostly used reading materials, 26% student mostly use text books, followed by 24% used newspapers, 19% students mostly like to use magazine and journals, 12% students mostly like to use fiction books, biography and autobiography used by 7% students same as 7% students are using other materials, while only 5% students are using motivational books. Usage of reading materials is depend on user's preferences, it may vary users wise.
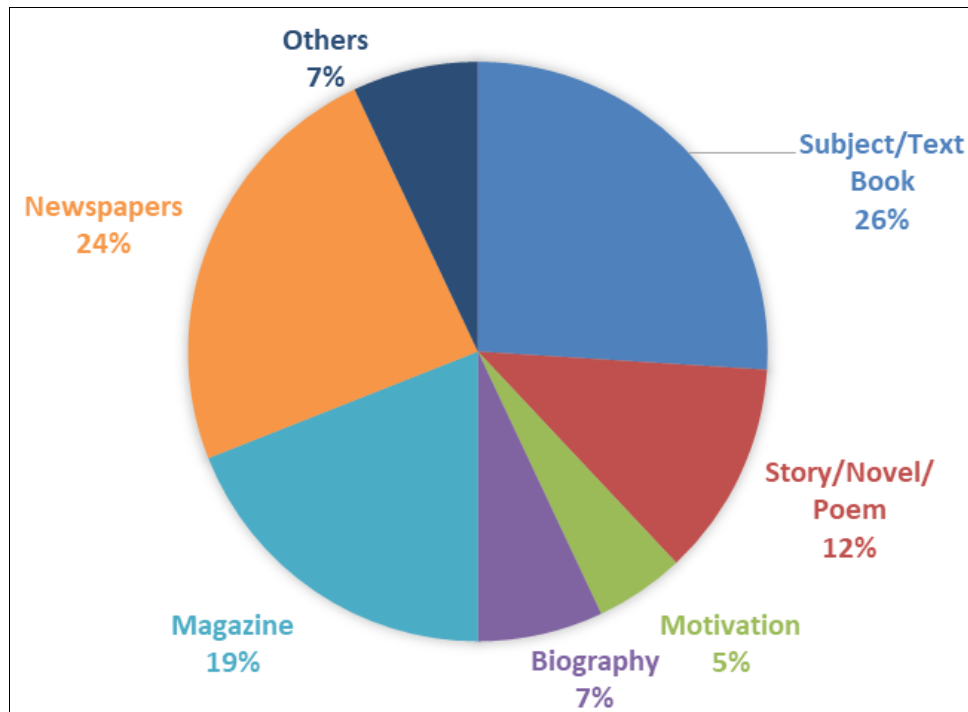
Chart 3: Usage Patter

5.4 Weekly Duration of Internet Usage

Table 4: Internet Usage

Usage	Percent
3 to 5 hours a week	37%
5 to 10 hours a week	34%
More than 10 hours	14%
Less than 3 Hours	15%

As indicated in Table 4 and Chart 4, 37% of students reported using the internet for 3 to 5 hours per week, while 34% of postgraduate students accessed it for 5 to 10 hours weekly. Additionally, 14% of students consumed more than 10 hours online each week, whereas 15% used the internet for less than 3 hours during the same period.
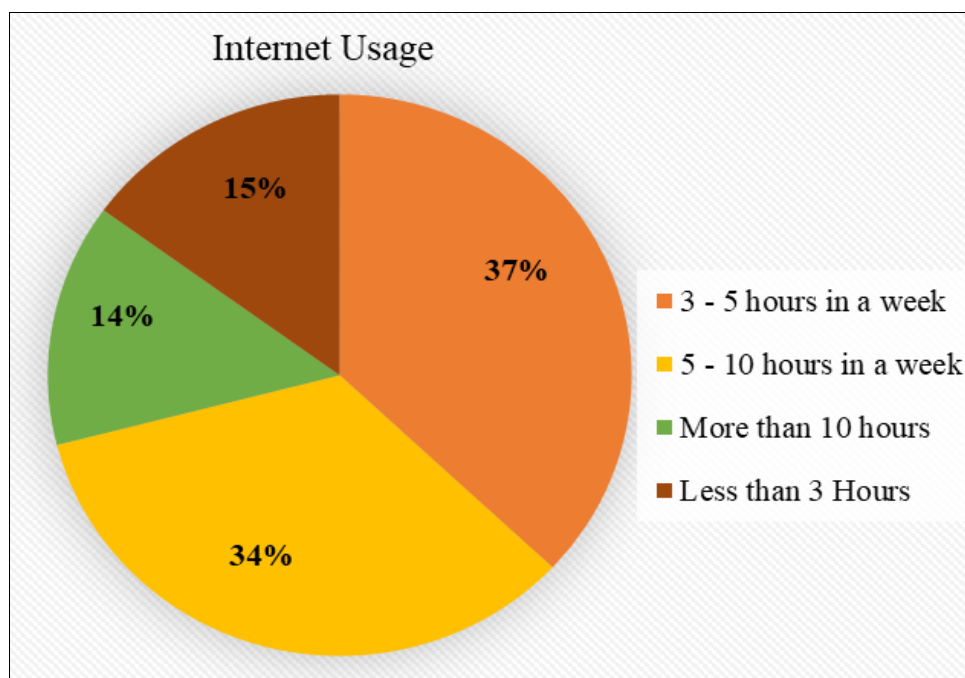
Chart 4: Internet Usage

5.5 Distribution of Internet Usage according to Information Sources

Table 5: Internet Usage according to Information Sources

Information Sources	Percentage
E-Books	24%
Educational Video / YouTube Videos	45%
e-Newspapers	18%
Employment News	9%
Other online information sources	4%

Table 5 and chart 5 show the status of internet usage according to information sources, 45% students use internet for YouTube/Video, with 24% students use internet for eBooks/PDF and 18% students use internet for E-Newspapers, 9% students use internet for employment news, while 4% students use internet for other online information sources.
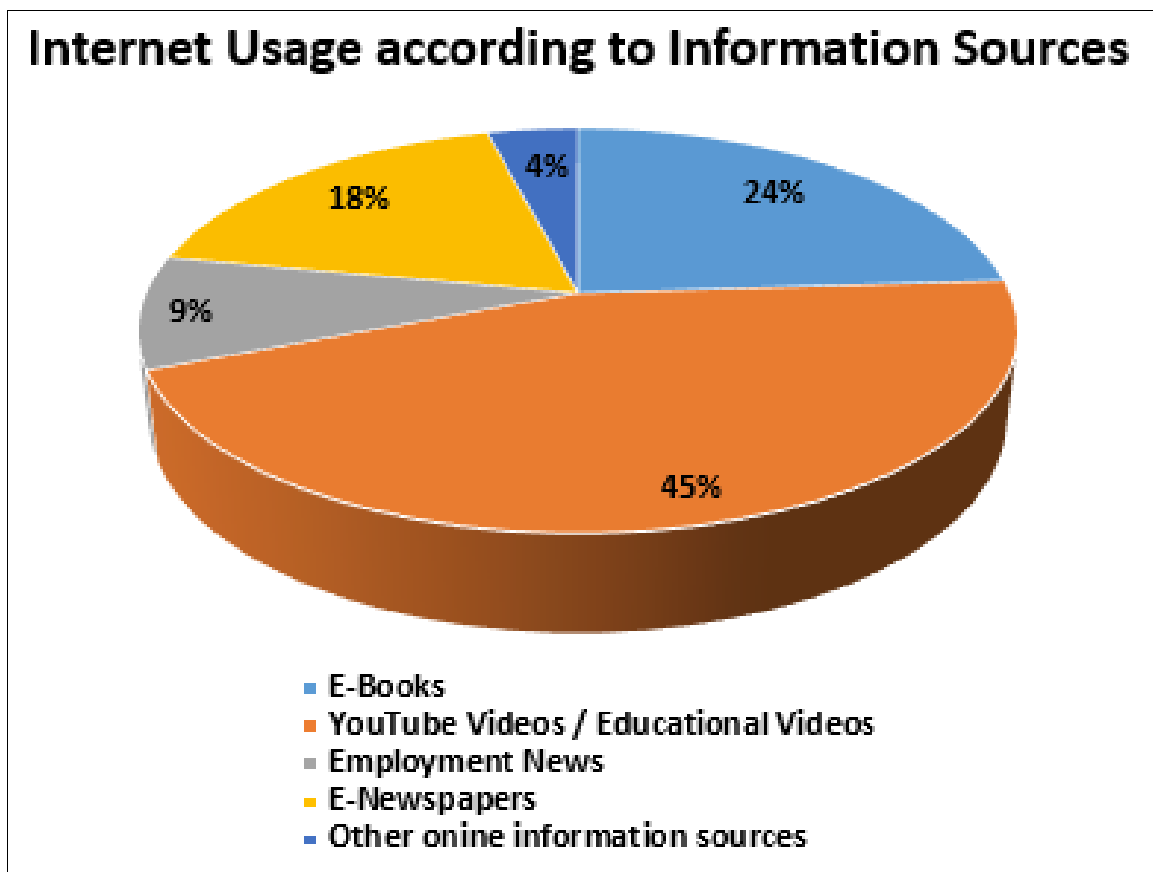

Chart 5: Internet Usage according to Information Sources

5.6 Impact of Internet on Reading Habits

Table 6: Reading Habits

Description	Yes	No
Dependency on digital resources has significantly increase	71%	29%
Significance of traditional material has decreased	4 %	96%
Both sources are important	93%	7%

Table 6 and Chart 6 shows the status of reading habits, 71% students felt that dependency of digital resources is increasing, about 96% students felt that the significance of traditional materials has decreased. While 93% students believed that both online as well traditional information sources are important.
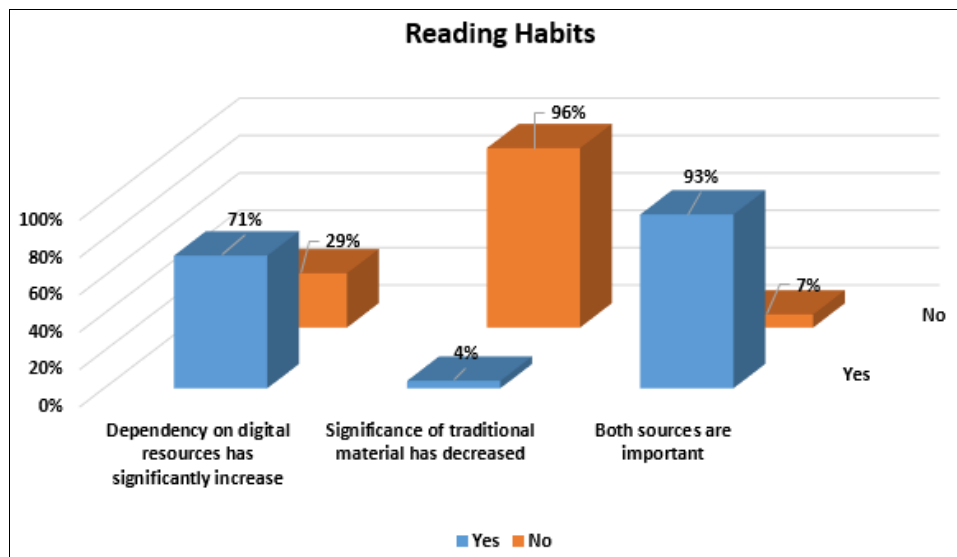
Chart 6: Reading Habits

6. Major Findings
1. **Regular Library Use among Students:** A significant proportion of students actively use the library, with 36.67% visiting daily and 34% visiting twice a week. This indicates a continued relevance of physical libraries in the academic lives of students, despite the rise of digital alternatives.
2. **Balanced Reading Preferences:** While digital content consumption is on the rise, 93% of students acknowledged the importance of both electronic and traditional reading materials, suggesting a blended preference for information access in the digital age.
3. **High Engagement with Internet for Educational Content:** The majority of students utilize the internet for academic support, with 45% using it for educational videos (e.g., YouTube) and 24% for accessing e-books. This reflects a shift toward digital learning tools as primary resources for study.
4. **Increased Dependency on Digital Resources:** A notable 71% of students reported an increased reliance on electronic materials, signaling a transformation in reading behavior due to the accessibility and convenience offered by digital platforms.
5. **Students Spend Considerable Time Online Weekly:** Internet usage patterns show that 71% of students spend between 3 to 10 hours online per week for academic purposes. This demonstrates the growing role of ICT and online media in shaping modern reading and study habits.

7. Out Come
The major findings of this study point out that, despite the growing popularity and advantages of digital and online resources, students continue to place significant trust in traditional print materials. Reading habits play a vital role in enhancing students' knowledge and keeping them informed about current developments. Therefore, it is essential for library professionals to take proactive measures to promote the use of traditional books and foster a culture of sustained reading among users. Also, to cultivate or enhance reading habits in the internet era, focus on making reading a deliberate and enjoyable activity. This involves setting aside dedicated time for reading, choosing engaging materials, and minimizing distractions. Utilizing digital tools for reading can also be beneficial.

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