

The liking for reading of the members in the defensive forces

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Reading is an essential process for a person to develop a skillful mental growth. People use reading to fulfill various demands. Some do reading as a hobby. Some read to collect facts and improve their knowledge. Some read to get rid of the loneliness. The great statement "Reading Maketh a Full man" defines the validity of reading.

The habit of reading does not depend on the age, the profession, the race, the educational level and the religion. But the time devotion for reading can be varied.

Members of the defensive forces are one of the most essential professional groups for a country. Their dignity has gone up in our country according to the present war circumstance.

The defensive section of a country consists of four major groups. They are, The Army, The Navy, The Air force and The Police. They have to secure the lives of citizens and the uniformity of the country. To fulfill their duties they must have sufficient knowledge about facts and information. Reading is a main source to gather facts and improve the knowledge.

This study has been done only with the members of the Sri Lanka Army. The members in Panagoda, Panadura and Boyagane army brigades were used for this study.

The aims of the study are as follows.

1. The standard of reading.
2. The usage of the libraries.
3. Aims of reading.
4. Needs about reading and information.

The study was done with a questionnaire. 20 were given to a selected sample each camp. Finally 60 data sheets were received, from the various ranks of the detachments. According to the analysis it was clearly seen that most of the members are engaged in reading. Most of them are fond of reading news papers than other printed medias. It was found that most of the members use their libraries for their reading and information needs. The difficulties they put forward are as follows:

1. The language difficulties.
2. Lack of reading materials.
3. Lack of time for reading.

At the end of the study the following solutions were given to overcome these difficulties.

1. Supply of multi-lingual reading materials.
2. Supply books and other reading materials according to their needs and subjects.
3. Working time of the libraries should be extended.
4. Training on reading.

Key words: Reading, Armed forces, Reading habit, Information, Sri Lanka