

Reading habits of school children: with special reference to Ampara District of Sri Lanka

SADCL Shyamali Suraweera¹

A Child always learns through the physical and human environment and interacting method. Therefore formal education is not the primary source of learning. The child centered education gives the great opportunity to develop students creativity and skills. So now there is a great emphasis on School Learning and Resource Center (SLRC) to gain information by self-exploration of the knowledge they get from the classroom. Because of that, teachers and educationalists try to develop reading habits among students in the school.

The main objective of the research is to identify the reading habits among school children. The other objectives are to identify the usage of the school libraries and Learning and Resource Centers and identify the barriers in reading.

The methodology of the research is the survey method. The data for the study was gathered from a selected sample of 150, year 11 school students using a structured questionnaire and interview.

Findings reveal that the reading habit of students was very poor. They did not have any habit in reading and enough time to read due to the farming, harvesting etc. School students are not encouraged by librarians. Low literacy rate of parents and their income have also affected students reading.

The need for a national programme to solve problem of the students in the rural areas, librarians training programs and lecture series to develop skills of school librarians are among the major suggestions of the study. Therefore, it is thought that this research will be helpful for the development of education as well as library and information sector in Sri Lanka.

Key words: Reading habits, School students, Ampara district, School Learning and Resource Center, Sri Lanka

¹Am/ Damana Koknahara Maha Vidyalaya, Ampara, Sri Lanka