

## Impact of Information Technology during Covid-19 Pandemic and changing Reading Culture: Assessing Reading Habits of Students

Dr. Neeta A. Kene

Librarian

Shriram Kala Mahila Mahavidyalaya,  
Dhamangaon(Rly). Dist. Amaravati.444709

### Abstract

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the reading culture has changed to a great extent and the way students read also changed. The author has decided to study the changes in the reading culture of students due to the use of modern technology. In the present study it was investigated how the reading style of the students has changed. Information was collected from college female students through a questionnaire and the information was analyzed. Based on the analyzed information, it was noticed that the reading tendency of female students has decreased due to the use of electronic devices.

### Introduction

Reading creates creativity; children come up with new ideas. This is their mental growths. On TV, the conflict between good and evil tendencies is shown through cartoons, but there is no scope for imagination. Reading develops that ability. Two things influence our life the most, one is our friends and the other is books. Where there is reading there are thoughts and these thoughts also help us to set and achieve our goals. Knowledge comes from books and wealth comes from knowledge. Reading expands our world of emotions and experiences. We can have all the experiences of the world at home and live many lives in one life.

The world has been experiencing unprecedented circumstances due to Covid-19 first identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019, and has then turned into an ongoing pandemic worldwide affecting the socio-cultural practices adversely. The impacts of this calamity have penetrated into every aspect of life almost everywhere in the world. This pandemic situation with unheard of complications has made people focus on aspects of life and the world anew. The educational system initially faced an unprecedented disruption and adopted new directions for mostly relocating residence, rearranging social interactions, forming companionship, restructuring

mode of instructions etc. According to **Mental Floss (2020)** when most of the world went into lockdown at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, many people found themselves with a lot of extra free time. Some people used that time to bake bread, make crafts, or play video games. For the bibliophiles of the world, quarantine was the perfect chance to burn through their pile of books to read. The impact of reading habits on an Indian university's faculty members has been analyzed recently **Vyas and Tandel, (2020)**. The study findings show that the university faculty members read every day in both print and electronics. The results also show that most of the respondents read only one to three hours a day. Nonetheless, the study's findings also show that some of the respondents' reading hours dropped to less than an hour per day. Most academics have also been found to read from phones. **Tyagi, Gaur and Sharma (2020)** reveals that whatever was available on the Website, most of the respondents spent time reading books at home, supplemented by the decision to read online news regarding Covid-19. The study also finds that the probability of satisfaction is five times higher for people reading books than no reading at all.

In the Covid-19 pandemic, Information technology has been widely used and has changed the way of learning and teaching. This automatically influenced the way students learn and study and of course the way of reading also changed. Hence the author has chosen this topic to study the effect of information technology on the reading culture of students.

### Objectives

1. To study the time spent on reading before covid-19 pandemic.
2. To study the time spent on reading during covid-19 pandemic.
3. To study time spent with electronic devices in a day.
4. To study the changing reading style of the students.

### Scope

For this study, the author has decided to study the reading culture of the students of Shriram Kala Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Dhamangaon Rly. Dist. Amaravati. This college is established in the year 1999-2000. The college is affiliated to Sant Gadge Baba Amaravati University Amaravati and having single faculty that is Art. Author selected the two years 2020-21 to 2021-22 for the present study. During this year's total 530 female students admitted in college. The college offers

undergraduate and postgraduate education in Marathi. English, English Literature, Marathi, Marathi Literature, Home Economics Geography, Political Science, Sociology subjects are taught to Under graduate students.

### Methodology

For the present study the author has adopted questionnaire method for data collection. Questionnaire in the form of Google form and through email was distributed to 300 female students out of 530 students. Based on the questionnaire distributed to 300 students, the data was analyzed and the results were obtained.

### Analysis of Data

Reading develops a person's intellect. Reading not only makes a person progress but also helps in the mental and intellectual growth of a person by entertaining him. So reading is an effective medium. But the reading style has been greatly influenced by the Covid-19 pandemic. To study author distributed 300 questionnaires through email and in the form of Google form out of total 280(93.33%) questionnaires duly filled collected by the students.

### Time spent on reading before covid-19 pandemic

A study was conducted on time spent on reading before covid-19 pandemic covid-19 pandemic. Details of this are given in Table 1.

**Table 1: Time spent on reading before covid-19 pandemic**

S.N	Time Spent on Reading	No Of Respondent	Percentage
1	1-2 Hours	90	32.14
2	2-3 Hours	112	40
3	3-4 Hours	38	12.5
4	More than 4 hours	40	14.28

Table-1 showsthat time spent on reading before Covid-19 pandemic. 40(14.28%) respondents spend more than 4 hours in reading before COVID-19 pandemic, 112(40%) spend 3-4 hours, only 90(32.14%) read 1-2 hours.

### Time spent on reading during covid-19 pandemic

The School, colleges, libraries were closed, so the students were facing many difficulties in reading and studying. Due to the online education system, students spend most of their time on mobiles and other devices. Due to this, there was also a change in the way students reading. Students started spending maximum time on mobiles and other devices. Therefore, during times of crisis, people find themselves faced with lifestyle changes. Table 2 indicated that how much time spent by students on reading during Covid 19 pandemic.

**Table 2: Time spent on reading during covid-19 pandemic**

S.N	Time Spent on Reading	No Of Respondent	Percentage
1	1-2 Hours	150	32.14
2	2-3 Hours	10	40
3	3-4 Hours	15	12.5
4	More than 4 hours	05	14.28

As libraries and colleges were closed during pandemic students spent their time on reading books only through online and study material available in their home hence time spent during pandemic is sought for and it shows that 53.57% of the respondents spent 1-2 hours in reading while 1% respondents spent more than 4 hours in reading. It is indicated that students spent their maximum time on mobile and other devices.

### Time spent with electronic devices in a day

The covid-19 virus has completely changed the work culture around the world, at the same time a new trend of online education has started to teach students during the corona virus. Online classes were started from college to school students. Even the exams were conducted online. All schools and colleges started teaching students through digital platforms. Hence Students started spending more time on mobiles and other devices. The table 3 presented that studied how much time students spend on mobile and other devices.

Table-3 shows the time spent with electronic devices for different purposes in a day. 50% of the respondents spend more than 4 hour while 19.640% spend 3-4hours, 21.42% spend 2-3 hours and 8.0% students spend 1-2 hours spend on electronic devices.

**Table 3:Time spent with electronic devices in a day.**

S.N	Time Spent on Reading	No Of Respondents	Percentage
1	1-2 Hours	25	8
2	2-3 Hours	60	21.42
3	3-4 Hours	55	19.64
4	More than 4 hours	140	50

Table-3 shows the time spent with electronic devices for different purposes in a day. 50% of the respondents spend more than 4 hour while 19.640% spend 3-4hours, 21.42% spend 2-3 hours and 8.0% students spend 1-2 hours spend on electronic devices.

### **The changing reading style of the students**

The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically transformed people's lives worldwide. Some have suggested that electronic devices have become even more essential during the COVID-19 pandemic to foster and strengthen social connections and overall well-being. Hence it influences the reading and learning style of the students. Students spent their maximum time on online instead of offline. They prefer to read novels, study materials, news papers on electronic devices as compare to print version. Table 4 predicted the changing reading style of the students.

### **The changing reading style of the students**

S.N	Reading Equipment	No Of Respondent	Percentage
2	Smartphone	185	66.07
1	Printed Resources	40	14.18
3	Computer	37	13.21
4	Laptop	13	4.64
5	Tablet	5	1.7

Table 4 shows that Electronic devices used for reading ,Smartphone 185(66.07%) Computer 37(13.21)% Laptop 13(4.64%) Tablet 5 (1.7%)Printed resources 40(14.18%). It is indicated that Smartphone users increased after pandemic as compare to other sources.

## Conclusion

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought about a radical change in the education system. Online education system was used to facilitate education to the students. So, naturally, electronic devices started to be used in a big way and the use of electronic devices has changed the reading habits of students. Students' reading time decreased and more time was spent on mobile phones or other devices. As interest in reading books has decreased, students are more inclined towards online sources. This study finds a decrease in the habit of the students in reading books and spending time in reading during pandemic. Hence along with awareness and access, extrinsic and intrinsic motivations for reading could be there from teachers, parents and guardians.

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