

STUDY OF READING HABITS OF B.ED. STUDENTS DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

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Abstract

Whole world was stopped due to COVID-19 Pandemic in April-May 2020. Students were not attending colleges, many of them started various ventures they never or less often did before. One of this is reading. As a B.Ed. student, they were reading since their schooling. Many B.Ed. students read text books or material relation to their education. Besides educational reading, now they got time and opportunity to read other literature also. So, an obvious question came in mind that, whether B.Ed. students started reading newly in lockdown? An online survey B.Ed students was conducted. After analysing the data, it was concluded that there was not any significant change in reading habit of B.Ed. students in COVID-19 Lockdown. More than half of the B.Ed. students themselves agreed that they missed an opportunity to read more in the COVID-19 Lockdown.



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Introduction

The early signs of pandemic of this century was started in March 2020 in Wuhan, China. China warned the spreading of this COVID-19 virus human to human and World Health Organization also warned the globe about this deadly virus. Soon, within two months' various countries in the globe started to declare complete lockdown even then lakhs of people got infected and thousands are died also. It was very dangerous situation across the globe. The Whole globe was stopped and get stagnated. All the offices, business, educational institutions were closed and a huge population was asked to stay at homes. This situation was initially seeming very uncommon. But gradually, various activities started to carried out in a virtual mode. People started to boost up their friends, relatives and neighbours. People became conscious about their own, their own likings and hobbies. Students were not attending colleges, many of them started various ventures they never or less often did before. One of this is reading. As a B.Ed. student, they were reading since their schooling. Many B.Ed. students read text books or material relation to their education. Besides educational reading, now they got time and opportunity to read other literature also. So, an obvious question came in mind that, whether B.Ed. students

started reading newly in lockdown? Did they broaden their time span of reading during lockdown? Did they shifted to digital reading from printed one? This paper tries to find out whether B.Ed. students have changed their reading habits during COVID-19 lockdown.

Literature Review:

Many surveys were conducted to understanding the changing reading habits of various types of users during COVID-19 Lockdown. Users were ranging from School Students to Professions. A NGO in Canada i.e. BookNet surveyed Canadian users and found that 58% respondents reported that they read more in the lockdown than during normal life. However only 33% Canadian readers preferred digital reading. Watson, Amy also surveyed US adults and found the same results that is increasing in reading among adults. Parikh et.al (2020) also surveyed various library users (volunteers) to understand their reading habit. They reported that the users had taken keen interest to switch over to reading eBooks and 70% of student users and 53% of faculty users are reading more e-content especially books/magazines/research papers. In 2020 The READ-COGvid survey was designed by the Spanish and Italian teams. They also find the increase in reading hours in lockdown as compared to normal life. Ketchell (2020) also reported that there is a changes in types of readings also. People are turning towards other non-popular literature during this pandemic.

Objectives:

1. To compare the time spend by B.Ed. students for reading during normal life and COVID-19 Lockdown.
2. To enlist the categories of books B.Ed. students read during normal life and COVID-19 Lockdown.
3. To know the forms of Books used by B.Ed. students during normal life and COVID-19 Lockdown.
4. To check change in reading variety of literature by B.Ed. students during normal life and COVID-19 Lockdown.

Scope and Limitation

The present study was intended to study the perspectives of B.Ed. students admitted in Adarsha Comprehensive College of Education and Research, Pune04.

Methodology

The present research was a descriptive research. A survey method was used. A questionnaire containing closed ended questions was distributed through Google Form. A questionnaire was

distributed to 92 students of Adarsha Comprehensive College of Education and Research, Pune04. 52 Questionnaire were received from students in a stipulated time. The data is analysed by using % and presented in Tabular and Graphical Form.

Data Analysis

To know whether B.Ed. students are interested in reading the question was asked to know whether they are interested in reading. The responses show that 96.2% students are interested in reading normally.

About time spent by B.Ed.. students in reading the questions were asked for comparing the time spent normally and during lockdown. The responses are compared in following Chart Number 1.

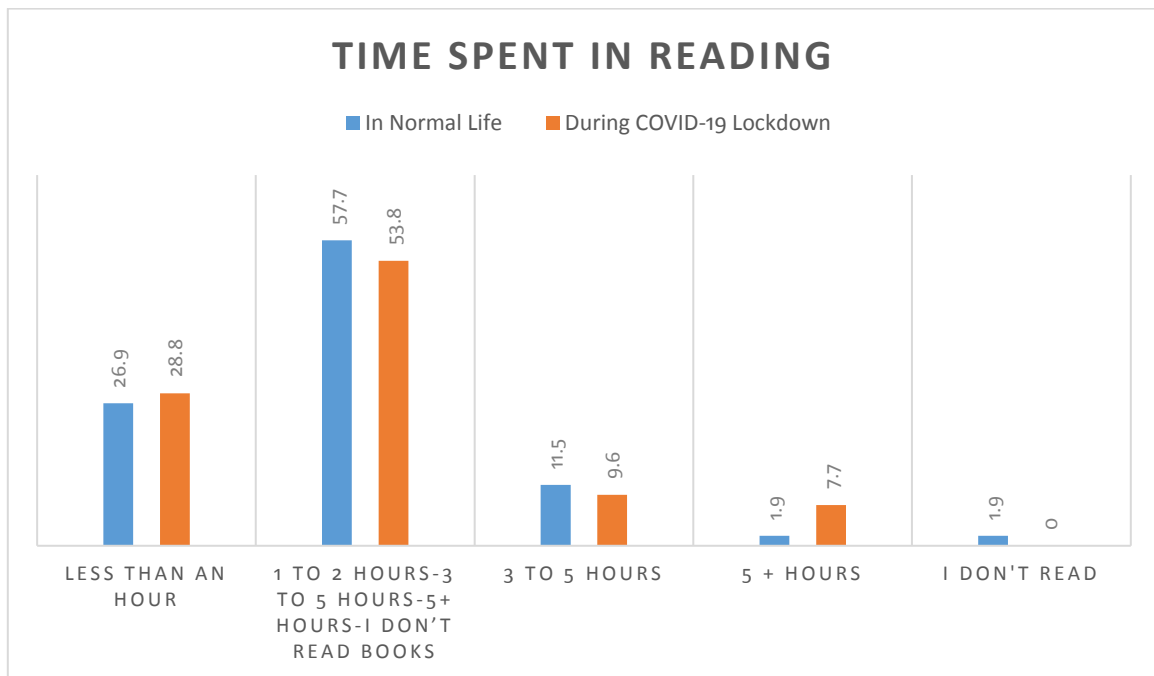


Chart No.1: Time Spent by B.Ed. Students in reading

From above Chart it could be stated that, there is not much significant difference in time spent in reading during normal life and COVID-19 Lockdown. In fact, in categories, less than an hour , 1-2 hours and 3-5 hours the number is decreased but the in 4th categories i.e. 5+ hours around 6% increase is seen. Before lockdown 1.9 % students were non readers who converted into readers during lockdown.

To find out the categories of reading materi B.Ed. students used to read in normal life and during COVID-19 lockdown they were asked a question, “Which type of reading material do

you prefer to read during COVID-19 Lockdown? The responses of B.Ed. students are represented in following Chart No. 2

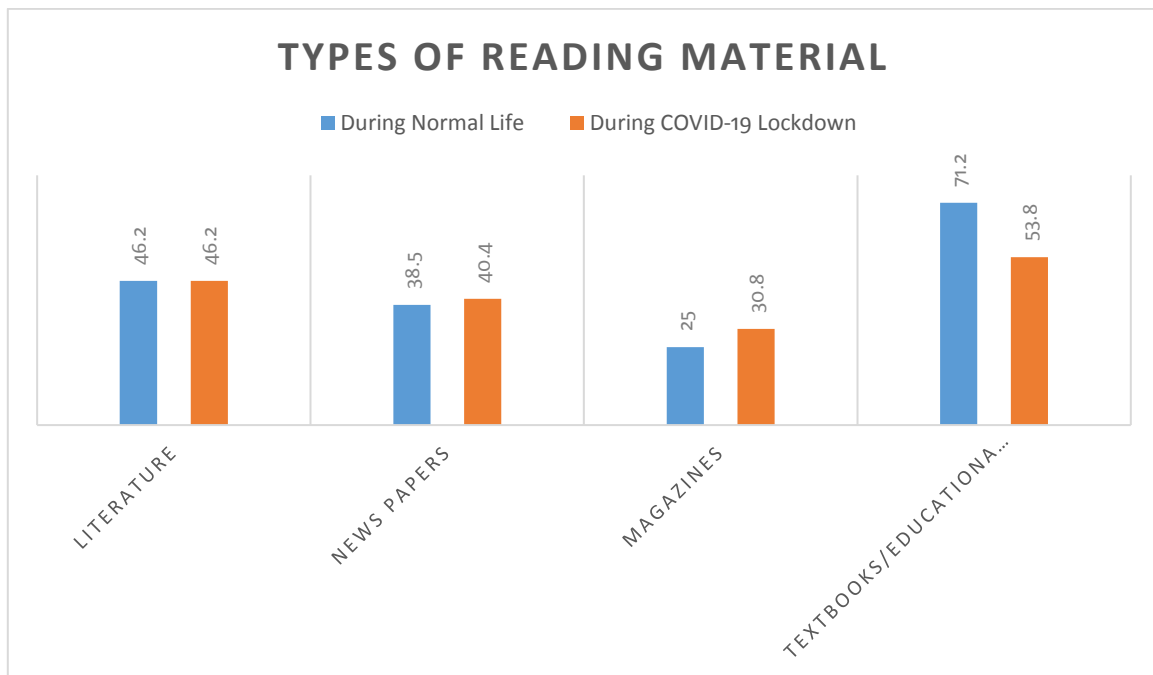


Chart No. 2: Types of Reading Material read by B.Ed.. Students

From above Chart No. 2 it could be seen that around 17% B.Ed.. students shifted to newspapers and magazines from textbooks/educational books. This shift may be due to knowing the current news / articles about pandemic which were published in newspapers and magazines. There is no change in number of B.Ed.. students who used to read literature in both the duration.

Next question was asked with the intention to know whether there is any change in the types of literature they read during normal life and COVID-19 lockdown. The responses are represented in following Chart No. 3

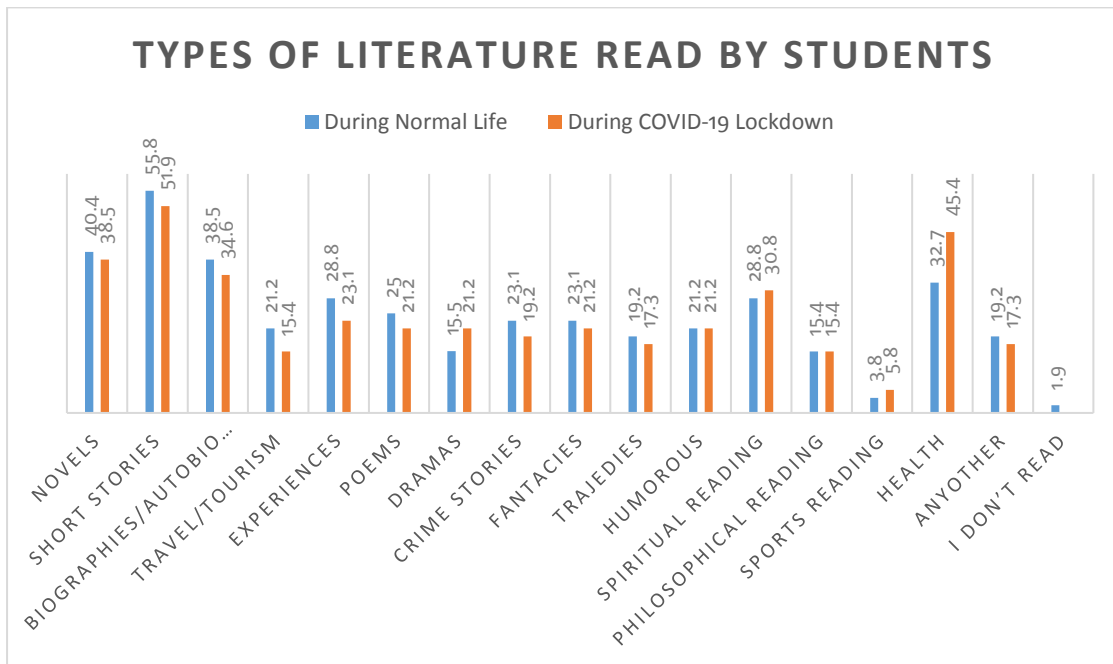
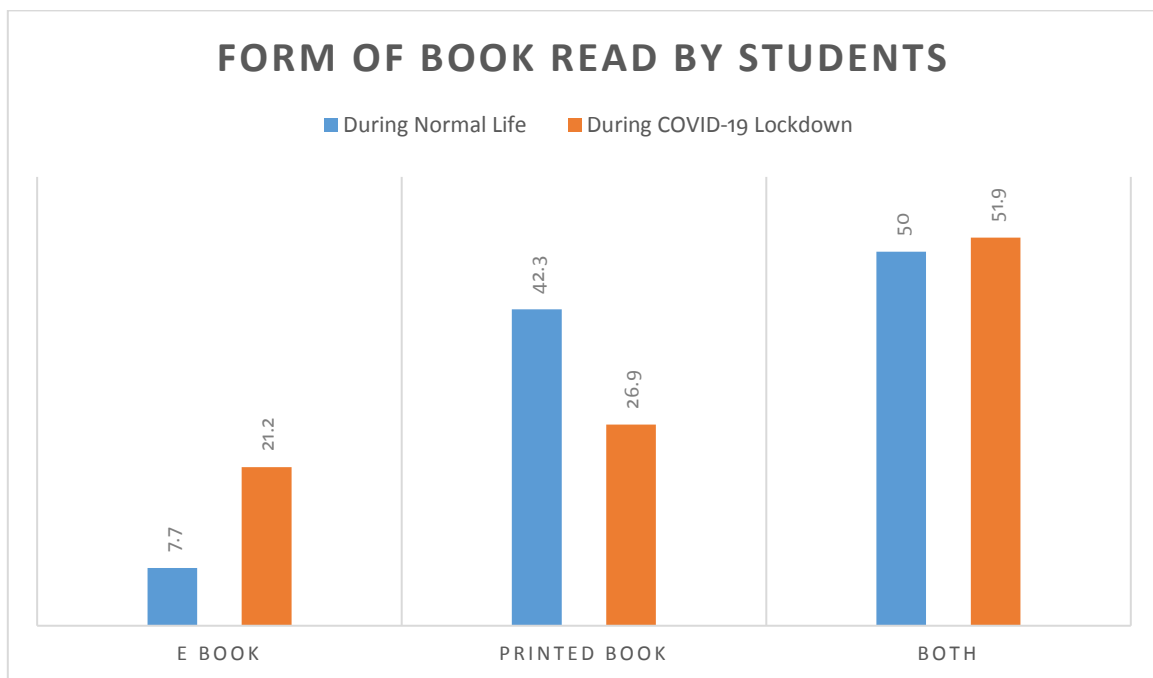


Chart No. 3: Types of Literature read by Students

From above Chart No. 3 it could be seen that the percentage of students (45.4%) reading literature related to health is increased during COVID-19 Lockdown than normal life (32.7%) followed by spiritual literature by 2%. This increase may be due to need of caution to be taken from health point of view during COVID-19 pandemic. Percentage of students reading philosophical literature and humorous is remained same i.e. 15.4 and 21.2 respectively. It could also be seen as non-readers i.e. 1.7% in normal life were converted in readers during COVID-19 lockdown.

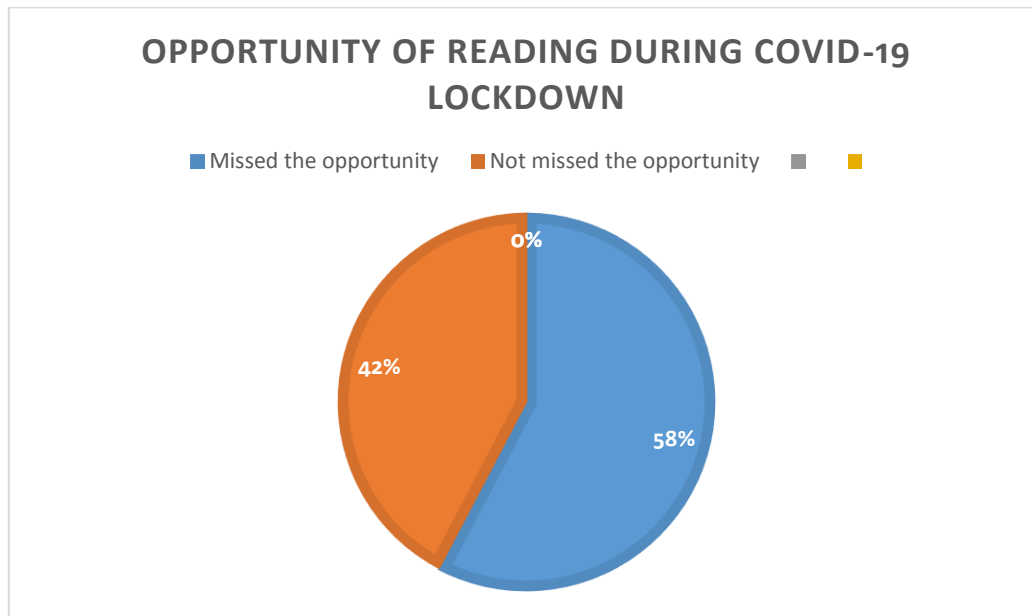
To check whether there is any difference in reading printed and digital books during normal and COVID-19 Lockdown they were asked what did you prefer to read a printed book or eBook? The responses given by students are represented in following Chart No. 4.



Chat No. 4: Form of Books read by B.Ed.. Students

From above Chart No. 4, it could be noticed that the percentage of students reading e books is significantly increased during COVID-19 lockdown as compared to printed book which was obvious. However, it could also be stated that in normal life students prefer printed books over e books or both simultaneously.

The lockdown situation could be a good opportunity for B.Ed.. students to read more than a normal life. To check whether they missed this opportunity they were asked a question Do you feel that you have missed an opportunity to read as many as books during Covid 19 lockdown? The responses of students are represented in following Chart No. 5.



From above Chart No. 5, we can say that more than half of the B.Ed.. students i.e. 58% feel that they missed an opportunity to read as many as books during COVID-19 lockdown? They could have read more or variety of literature during this lockdown.

Conclusion

Though COVID-19 pandemic was a challenging situation for all of us, we were also having many opportunities to go ahead in our personal life. Up to some extent few non-readers were converted into readers. B.Ed. students spent their time in reading academic/educational literature. However, there was an increase in reading health literature also. However, it concluded that there was no any significant change in reading habits of B.Ed. students except using e books instead of printed books. Overall it could be said that B.Ed. students missed an opportunity to read more in this COVID-19 lockdown.

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