

# Usage of Newspapers for Enhancing Reading Skills Among Secondary School Students

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## *ABSTRACT*

This study investigates usage of newspapers towards the development of secondary school students' reading skill. Information can be regarded as indispensable factor for promoting the development of a society and also an essential part of nation's resources. It is evident that information is the raw materials for making decision, creating knowledge and fuelling the modern organization. The quality of life, to a great extent depends on the quantum, quality and accessibility of information available to users. In the present world, information is a valuable commodity flowing through the various media such as: radio, television, magazine, newspaper. Newspaper reading improves writing & reading skills of secondary school students as many difficult words come while reading a passage that might confuse a reader. Making a habit of reading newspaper daily increases the chances of better reading with good vocabulary among secondary school students.

**Keywords:** *Newspaper, Reading Skills, Secondary School Students.*

## **Introduction**

News develops every day. The beauty of the newspaper in the classroom is that it is also fresh each day. It comes to you with the latest news and information and, unlike other media, comes beautifully written with lots of detail. Stories unfold as reporters unearth more information to reconstruct what happened. There is truly no better record of the world's happenings than a newspaper.

For teachers the newspaper offers a special attraction. It has been called the living textbook and it lives up to that name. The newspaper can

be used to enhance skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, math, social studies and science. Critical thinking is the natural outgrowth of using a newspaper to learn. Unlike textbooks, which are several years outdated by the time they get into students' hands, the newspaper comes alive with information. The newspaper expands the curriculum with an unlimited amount of information to use as background for learning activities.

These activities will help students improve their skills in reading and writing. These skills are among the ones they will practice: how to find the

main idea, how to increase vocabulary, how to compare readings, how to form sentences, how to ask a good question and how to write a great summary. They will employ many critical thinking skills as they are required to interact with the authentic material found in the newspaper.

Nothing is more important towards achieving academic excellence than being a good reader. Also, it is said that readers are leaders hence the need to attain and acquire reading skills at a very tender age is required. Reading is basic to learning and it is hoped that if student learn to read, they will read to learn. It is one of life's greatest pleasures that open the door to culture, knowledge and independence. This is true as information contains in newspapers and magazines have tremendous impact on perception, socialization and transformation of people that border to read them. Through reading individual knowledge base is enhanced, intellect sharpened and misconception wear away.

### **Objectives**

1. To identify the purpose of secondary school students of reading newspaper.
2. To identify the benefits of reading newspaper among secondary school students.
3. To implement the benefits of reading newspaper in day to day life of students.

### **Literature Review**

Information can be regarded as indispensable factor for promoting the development of a society and also an essential part of nation's resources. It is evident that information is the raw materials for making decision, creating knowledge and fuelling the modern organization. The quality of life, to a great extent depends on the quantum, quality and accessibility of information available

to users. In the present world, information is a valuable commodity flowing through the various media such as: radio, television, magazine, newspaper, Internet. In recent time, undergraduates rely heavily on print materials such as textbooks, notebooks and newspapers for information because they help to create and improve reading habits/ culture, knowledge, and awareness. Reading is a way of making meaning from printed or written materials which requires the reader to be an active participant. Several scholars have looked at reading at different levels. Reading according to Fatimayin and Lawal (2010), connotes the ability to read well not only English language and literature texts, but also newspapers, magazines, journals, periodicals, etc. Reading enlightens the mind, makes the intellect sharper and makes an individual travel far without motion (Braunger & Lewis, 2006). In addition, reading has been accepted as an interactive process, a communication process, an active process and a meaning inducing process. In other words, habits are a disposition to behave or do something in a particular way. They are patterns of behavior which manifest with regularity in what one does and how it is done. Habits when formed in relation to reading manifest in how, what and when one reads. Helping students learn to read, learn to love reading and read to learn may turn out to be among other things the panacea for rebranding the Nigerian education system (Fatimatin, 2012). Reading is generally accepted as a way of acquiring new information and new knowledge. It is not only to increase knowledge but also to build maturity and widen awareness of contemporary issues (Kim & Anderson, 2011). Reading culture in the other hand is the process of building up positive reading attitude among students and children over a period of time. When an individual habitually and regularly read books and other information materials that are

not necessarily required for him to advance in his profession or career, he is said to have a reading culture (Gbadamosi, 2007). Reading culture in essence therefore is the kind of culture that imbibes reading and studying as the basis of growth and development. It is the type that sees continuous and dedicated reading of information resources by pupils, children, students and adults for knowledge acquisition, which will be applied practically for development. Newspaper is a serial collection that comes daily into the library so as to inform and update library users on information about country and the world. It gives information about sports, health, education, advertisement, and stock market to mention but few. Newspaper medium has developed and overshadowed the radio and television as mass communication tool in terms of access, performance, concentration and even in terms of growth. A newspaper contains ephemeral information which becomes stale as the day passes by, but some newspaper are known to contain articles of research value and intelligent reviews (Strommen & Mates, 2004). Newspaper helps in creating reading habits and easily differentiates people who read and who do not. Reading can be referred to as the act of learning something. Newspaper can be termed to mean the power house of knowledge which provides knowledge of different kinds of segments in the society. It is moreover, important to all people from student to government officials. Reading builds and develops vocabulary skills as well as background knowledge that strengthens and boosts reading skills and increases the enjoyment of reading (Strommen & Mates, 2004).

### **Benefits of Reading Newspaper for Students**

Reading newspaper is a very useful activity to start your day. This gives us a brief knowledge

into the real happenings in the country & around the world. For both children & adults, there are many useful columns like Political News, Tech News, *editorials*, *puzzle game*, etc.

There are several advantages of reading newspaper in our life which cannot be underestimated. Newspaper is a treasure house of information that increases its wealth every day before coming to our doorsteps. Every morning, we get to read newspaper with a cup of hot tea. With newspaper reading, we perpetually enhance our vocabulary, reading skills, knowledge & a lot more. Here are some benefits of reading newspaper for students:

#### **1. Strengthens reading & writing skills.**

These are the best source of providing **good reading ability** as it makes readers active learners. *Reading newspaper* is a healthy activity for every individual & especially for students. As the time passes, they get full command on reading and vocabulary.

**Newspaper reading** also improves writing & reading skills of an individual as many difficult words come while reading a passage that might confuse a reader. Making a habit of reading newspaper daily increases the chances of better reading with good vocabulary.

#### **2. Provides entertainment & sports news.**

A no. of sporting events is organized from time to time in the country & across the nations. One can get all information about the list of players, which game is going on currently, medals tally, players ranking, who won which medal, the winners & the competitors, etc. News about the economic condition of a country, games & sports, trade, commerce & entertainment can be gained from newspapers.

### **3. Best source of General knowledge.**

Knowledge coupled with a good expression sets a stage of success in any examination or competition in life. Students easily get course related information through newspapers about recent discoveries & latest inventions. These are a treasure love of information for students at the time of preparation of competitions, contests & quiz shows. With these, they can get unique ideas about what is going on at present & what is in trend nowadays.

### **4. Get up-to-date with politics.**

Man is a social animal. In order to live peacefully & comfortably in society, he needs to remain updated about what all is going on across the globe while sitting at a corner of house. **Reading newspaper** enables us to remain well-informed about anything. It will be easy for those who ready daily to their extent. Newspaper carries information about politics, sports, general affairs & lot more.

### **5. Useful ideas about researches & projects.**

In schools & colleges, students have to undergo a lot of researches & to deal with their school projects. And for this, they need to search for various ideas, creations & a better design. Thus, a newspaper is a handy source of getting multiple topics as almost recent searches are discussed in it. Not only ideas but news about many discoveries, launches & establishments are also published in newspapers there are really helpful in covering up projects.

### **6. Improves Vocabulary Skills.**

At one page of newspaper, there comes a section where so many useful games like Sudoku, puzzles, riddles, tongue twisters, etc are published. These types of mind games help in improving the vocabulary skills of children.

Daily **reading of newspapers** enhances the vocabulary of students as they learn different words from there. They can note them down with their meanings. As good vocabulary helps in writing good essays & assignments in examinations.

### **7. Makes them a Good Speaker.**

Students get information about various topics with the help of newspaper. They become a good orator which further helps in taking active part in debates, speeches & discussions. When a student possesses knowledge about different topics, he/she can be able to speak without any hesitation in front of others. This ultimately increases his/ her level of confidence.

**8. Newspaper reading as a habit** can be a tricky activity for those who don't know how to read. While thinking to learn a new language, there's no other better option than to take a help of newspaper as it comes in different languages in different cities according to the mother tongue of the people living there.

**9. Reading newspaper** daily is really a good habit that provides a great sense of educational value. It carries a lot of information about the happenings in the world, what all is going on in the country, town & nearby areas. In fact, we get all necessary-related information through the means of newspaper.

Therefore, these are the benefits of newspaper reading for secondary school students. So, students should make a habit of reading newspaper daily.

Newspapers contains vital information needed by the students to update them of what is happening in their country and other countries of the world as well as broaden their knowledge in their academic pursuit. It can be deduced from the study that students

from both university libraries read newspapers to sought and obtain information on academic, nutritional, education, politics and sport. More so, users need are met when they are satisfied with the information they are searching for, this study claim that students were very satisfied when reading guardian, punch and tribune newspapers, while the least students from both universities submitted they are not satisfied at all with on-line newspaper and financial standard.

### Conclusion:

This approach requires good infrastructure of ICT at Secondary School with smart class of mathematics, Internet connection, group interaction social media and training to teacher and taught for integration of ICT in teaching learning activities. Parents/guardian must be oriented with this approach so that their inertial attitude may be minimized and facilitate the learner sound learning environment at home. This approach will be highly significant in providing free space to learn mathematics with autonomy to learner and nurture their critical ability during pre-active phase of teaching. During proactive phase they will have an opportunity to express themselves in group discussion and sum up sessions. Aims of teaching mathematics can be substantially realized through this approach. However, it requires flexible educational administration and positive attitude toward ICT of both teachers and learners. This approach can resolve the educational implications of COVID-19 pandemic also.

### Recommendations

1. Newspaper should be available at little or no cost to the school students.
2. Fund should be made available to purchase newspaper that will interest the library users.

3. Personnel/ staff should be employed to the newspaper section of the library so as to attend to the users.
4. Students should be sensitized to use the newspaper section in the library.

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