

Reading Habit among School Children with Special Reference to Mihintale

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The school library service in the North Central Province deserves to be commended for its excellence when compared with the services rendered by some other libraries. School libraries are intended to be resource centres which provide informational requirements for students, teachers and academic staff. Currently the school library is considered as a learning resource centre. Moreover, the library is a specific resource centre that performs an invaluable service both in the teaching learning process, and in resource based learning.

The main objective of this research is to observe the reading habit of school children. In addition, this research attempts to make a reference evaluation on the usage of the library by school children. Three schools in the Mihintale educational zone were selected as a sample for this study. From each school 50 students in Grades 10 and 11 were selected and a questionnaire survey was conducted separately for students as well as teachers and librarians of these schools. Data were also gathered by a round table interview with Principals and Librarians.

The research reveals a poor knowledge among parents of the importance of nurturing the reading habit among school children. Most parents make children do household chores after school and the children do not have sufficient time to devote for reading. Furthermore, this research also shows a disparity of resource distribution and passive motivation of teachers towards cultivating the reading habit among students.