

Identifying School Based Activities for Reading Habit Improvement of School Children: With Special Reference to Homagama Divisional Secretariat

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Reading is a very important activity for the success of every human being and it will be a help for better performance. Society should realize that “reading maketh a full man”. Every social being should read and be aware of latest development taking place in present society. Libraries are meant to upgrade the citizens of a democratic state. Therefore, reading, Libraries and social being are inseparable. According to that, school based reading activities should be implemented. Our education system should provide student centered education for our children. Students are busy with their private class lessons in addition to school activities. Therefore, librarians and relevant authorities should pay their attention to improve reading habits among students. Reading is an essential way in the development of students’ life. It will assist the students to learn new things, self-expressions creativity etc. However, technology has become a part of every human life and changed their lifestyle with smart phones, social networks etc. This paper attempts to introduce some activities to cultivate reading habits among school children. It will be helpful to create future Leaders, Educators, Scientist, Lawyers and other useful professions. Webster dictionary defines the apprehend meaning of some things printed or written.

The objective of this study is to identify activities for reading habit improvement and to study problems and obstacles faced by them. The research method used in this study is survey design. Questionnaires were distributed among school librarians. Interviews and observations were also helpful for this study. The sample was five selected school libraries in the Homagama educational zone.

School librarians know that reading is very essential for school children. School libraries provide some activates to cultivate reading habits among school children. Students’ first preference of reading materials was printed books. Librarians have some obstacles such as lack of finance, lack of free time duration for reading habit activities, lack of administrative support and lack of organizing skills.

The study suggests that the activities such as library orientation talks, readers club, creative activates, inter school library reading competition, story hours, book corner will be effective in this connection. Time is also a very important factor to be considered. Better library buildings and good library environment also should be there in schools. Students and parents should be encouraged to maintain a small collection of books at their houses. Necessary training program should be provided for school library staff members too.

Key words: *School library, Reading habit, School librarian, Activities for reading improvement*