



International Journal of Research in Academic World



Received: 12/March/2025

IJRAW: 2025; 4(4):303-308

Accepted: 22/April/2025

Impact of Newspaper Reading Habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers

*¹Bhavana Kadam

*¹Librarian, Department of Library, Guru Nanak College of Education and Research, University of Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

Abstract

The good aspect of the newspaper is that it is current, fresh and latest information in the hands of the public. But when it comes to the college students especially the ones who are currently pursuing B.Ed. degree courses, their reading habits become diverse and vivid. Many of them not even prefer to read the print copy and read only the digital or online news. Common reading motivations include general knowledge, exam preparation and staying updated on current affairs, though some students also read for education or career opportunities. While a significant portion of students reads newspapers occasionally or usually, specific reading frequencies vary. The present study is done on the student-teachers doing their B.Ed. course in Guru Nanak College of Education & Research. A rating scale method of data collection was used. It includes structured, closed-ended questions with predefined response options (e.g., numbers, words like "satisfied/dissatisfied" or "agree/disagree") to quantify subjective opinions, behaviors or attitudes, turning feelings into measurable data for the research. The findings suggests that most of the B.Ed. student-teachers daily read English newspapers, their areas of interests are in education and general knowledge and majority of the students prefer library as place to read the newspapers. The study also identifies the impact of newspaper reading habits on the various aspects of student's academic and overall performances.

Keywords: Newspapers, Reading Habits, Impact, B.Ed. Students, Current Affairs, General Knowledge.

1. Introduction

Reading is not just a Habit but it's the Doorway to a child's world of Discovery. Reading Habits for college students is very crucial for academic success. It improves language and communication skills of students by exposing students to new words and sentence structures, improving their overall language skills and developing better writing skills. Reading can be a relaxing activity that helps manage stress, improve focus and promote overall mental health. By experiencing different perspectives and emotions through stories, students can develop empathy towards others. Reading also fosters imagination and creativity of the students. Stories and literature can transport students to different worlds, sparking their imagination and creativity.

Newspaper Reading is a simple practice of reading or going through the headlines given in the newspaper for that particular day. The newspaper may be in print or digital format to stay informed about current events, improve vocabulary and enhance critical thinking skills. It offers numerous benefits, including staying up-to-date on local and global issues, understanding diverse perspectives and providing material for lifelong learning. To read effectively, it's helpful to read actively, develop opinions on articles and take notes on new vocabulary, facts and idioms. It is advisable to read atleast the main headlines and not the entire article to keep in contact with the world and the surroundings. Students generally don't develop a habit of reading newspapers but

there are multiple other audiences who engrave in the daily dosages of newspapers. There are certain people looking for entertainment news or any particular movie screenings information, there are certain people to search for sports breaking news, certain people have interest in political dramas, certain people enjoy reading updates about the gold or silver prizes or weather update, certain people search for new job openings available in their area of interests and many other fields to aspire for.

2. Literature Review

(Kumar *et al.*, 2011) ^[3] have done their research to study Reading habits and Library usage of Chaudhary Charan Singh University (formerly, Meerut University) Library. They had found out that majority of students read newspapers in Hindi or English language. The majority of time spent reading newspapers is one to two hours daily. The majority of the students read newspapers to get information and improve their general knowledge. The most popular Hindi and English newspapers among the university students are Danik Jagran and The Times of India.

Akanda & Haque (2013) ^[6] have conducted their research on Rajshahi University students. This study reveals that, both Bengali and English newspapers are frequently read by the graduate students. Various socio-cultural, administrative and environmental problems act as barriers for the students to inculcate the newspaper reading habit.

Majumder & Hasan (2013)^[10] have conducted the study in World University of Bangladesh. The majority of the respondents read newspaper in Bangla. Most of the respondents are from male group. Students prefer to read less than one hour for the newspaper. Self-subscription is the main source of newspaper. Most of the respondents read mainly Daily Prothom Alo and Daily Star. Most of the respondents prefer to read sports and entertainment news. The main purpose of reading newspaper is to improve general knowledge of respondents.

Sudha Rani (2014)^[9] have done her research to study the newspaper reading habits of post graduate students of Vikram Simhapuri University College Library, Nellore. Findings were such that the students were well versed with the benefits of reading newspaper on a daily basis. Their preferred languages were English and Telugu. Their main focus of reading was employment/education section and to increase their general knowledge. Many of the students were reading the newspapers in the electronic format also.

Krishnamurthy & Awari (2015)^[2] have performed this study as an attempt to study the newspaper reading habits among post-graduate students of Karnataka University, Dharwad. Findings in their study showed that majority of the students read Kanada language newspapers, most of them read the print version rather than online, preference is on education and career related information followed by entertainment and sports. Many of the students prioritize reading newspapers on a daily basis to become updated with the current affairs.

Nagashetti & Kenchakkanavar (2015)^[4] have conducted their research to show that the students have different purposes to read newspaper. Most of the respondents (47.22%) are spent two to three hours for reading newspapers in a day and majority of students (55.09%) are preferred Kannada language newspapers. Most of the respondents are preferred political/social issues (40.27%) and sports news (24.53%) section. Most of respondents are getting benefits through current awareness (52.33%) and education purpose (43.05%) they are preferred. Majority (52.33%) of respondents are highly satisfied and most (34.25%) of the respondents satisfied to reading newspapers. 'Reading habit is an interconnected with the whole learning

Edegoh, Ezech & Samson (2015)^[7] have conducted this study to find the newspaper reading habits of students of Anambra state in Nigeria. Findings were as follows that most of the youths in the Anambra state did not buy any newspaper but depend on newspaper stands or public library or borrow from their friends or relatives to read any particular news. Many of them depend on mobile phone to read any news. Poverty and unemployment is a huge matter in this region which affects the youths from buying the newspapers.

Ismail (2018)^[8] have done this study. The researcher had studied the extent of online newspaper reading habits by Nigerians university undergraduate students. Findings showed that the Nigerian students are internet savvy and read most of news online. Males were more into online reading than the females, Vanguard was the most famous online newspaper followed by Daily Trust. Main obstacle while online newspaper reading was listed as network problem followed by absence of electric power.

Gaur, Saini & Kumar (2018)^[11] have done their research to analyze the newspaper reading habits of the degree college students of Haryana. The researchers concluded that majority of the students are regular readers of the newspapers, male students are more interested than female ones, Punjab Kesari newspaper is read almost daily by most of the students

followed by Tribune and then Dainik Jagran newspaper. Many students are attracted to online newspaper reading as well. Majority of the students face the problem of high prices of the newspapers while many of them feel time limitation as their reason for not reading the newspapers.

Gaur (2018)^[11] has done a very systematic study on newspaper reading habits among students and had found an adequate amount of respondents to the study and stated that students do indulge in the reading practice but the scenario is different for different students.

Sharma & Saini (2019)^[5] have done the study in Kurukshetra University Library. The students read the newspapers to get information about current affairs, jobs, sports and business. Majority of respondents read newspapers in Hindi language. Most read newspapers by the students are Punjab Kesari and Dainik Bhaskar. E-newspaper is very less popular among the students. More than 56 percent of respondents use mobile click for important advertisement in the newspapers, it really save the paper and easy to consult. 54 percent respondents are habitual of reading newspaper and they read newspaper daily but they are not able to spend much time due to burden of college study.

SGIS (2024)^[1] mentioned that reading newspapers on a daily basis is a very good tool to keep people up to date on current events and also to increase critical thinking skills and improve language and communication skills. Online newspaper reading offers benefits like instant updates and global access, which are more convenient and often cheaper than physical papers. It enhances knowledge, improves vocabulary and provides interactive features like links to more information to the students.

3. Scope & Limitations

The present study is limited to B.Ed. student-teachers of Guru Nanak College of Education & Research, Mumbai studying the professional degree course and dealing with the subject of newspaper reading habits. Other B.Ed. colleges in Mumbai are not included in this study. Respondents belong to the academic year 2024-2025. The present study does not include other Teacher Education courses such as Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed), Master of Education (M.Ed.) or Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCEd.) etc. The study was restricted to English medium. Other medium student-teacher is excluded from the study.

4. Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study are mentioned below:

- To study the Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Gender
- To study the Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Age
- To study the Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Time
- To study the Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Purpose
- To study the Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Preferred language for reading

5. Research Methodology

The present study was designed as a descriptive study.

Sample: The present sample consisted of 40 student-teachers of Guru Nanak College of Education & Research. Convenience sampling technique was used. It is used because

respondents are easily available, research costs are low and results are immediate.

Tools: A rating scale was used to collect data about the newspaper reading habits of the B.Ed. student-teachers. Respondents are presented with a statement or question and a set of scaled response options. Predetermined anchors: These options are often accompanied by descriptive anchors to

clarify what each point on the scale represents (e.g., "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree"). Personal datasheet prepared by the researcher which covers age, gender, purpose and time spent for reading the newspaper.

Statistical Technique: The collected data are analyzed through simple percentage.

6. Data Analysis and Interpretation:

i). To Study the Impact of Newspaper Reading Habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the Basis of Gender.

The following table 1 shows the Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Gender.

Table 1: Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Gender.

S. No.	Gender	No. of Students	Percentage
1	Male	7	17.5%
2	Female	33	82.5%
3	Total	40	100%

Table 1 shows Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Gender. Majority 33(82.5%) of students are female and 11(73.33%) are male.

This shows that female students have more Impact of Newspaper Reading habits than male student-teachers.

The following Fig 1 shows the Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Gender.

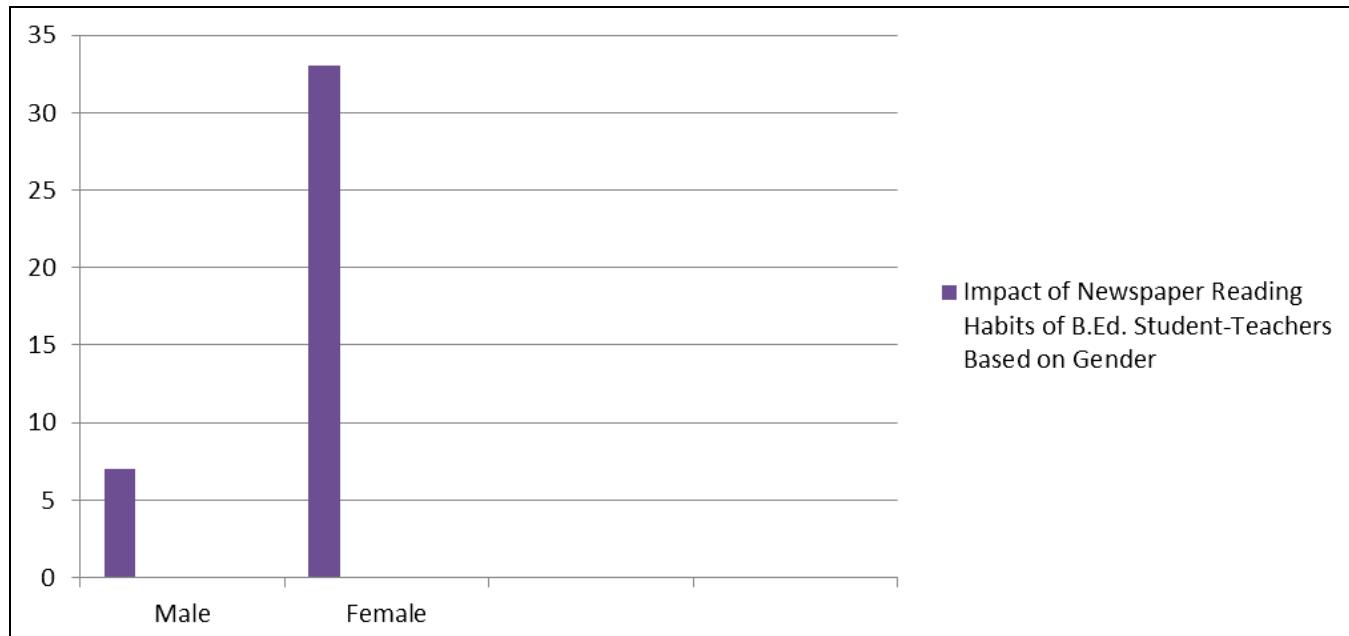


Fig 1: Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Gender.

ii). To Study the Impact of Newspaper Reading Habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the Basis of Age.

The following table 2 shows the Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Age.

Table 2: Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Age.

S. No.	Age	No. of students	Percentage
1	18-20	1	2.5%
2	21-25	25	62.5%
3	Above 25	14	35%
	Total	40	100%

Table 2 shows Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of age where majority of the students 25(62.5%) are at the age between 21-25 age

group, followed by 14(35%) at the age above 25years and least 1(2.5%) at the age group of 18-20.

The following Fig 2 shows the Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Age.

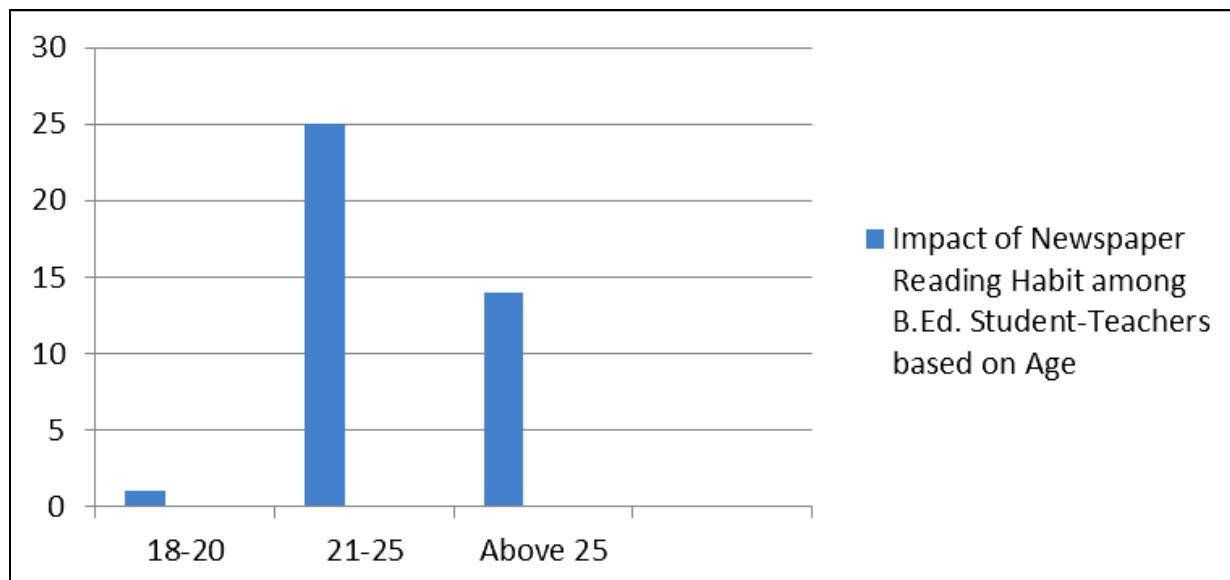


Fig 2: Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Age.

iii). To Study the Impact of Newspaper Reading Habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the Basis of Time Spent on Newspaper Reading.

The following table 3 shows the Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Time Spent on Newspaper Reading.

Table 3: Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Time Spent on Newspaper Reading.

S. No.	Time Spent	No. of Students	Percentage
1	Less than 1 hour	10	25%
2	1 to 2 hours	21	52.5%
3	2 to 3 hours	5	12.5%
4	More than 3 hours	4	10%
	Total	40	100%

Table 3 shows the Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Time Spent on Newspaper Reading majority of the students 21(52.5%) spent 1 to 2 hours in reading the newspapers followed by 10(25%) of students read for less than 1 hour, then 5(12.5%) of students read the newspaper for 2 to 3 hours and at last only

4(10%) of students read the newspaper for more than 3 hours. This shows that students have the habit of reading the newspaper but only for a certain period of time.

The following Fig 3 shows the Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Time Spent on Newspaper Reading.

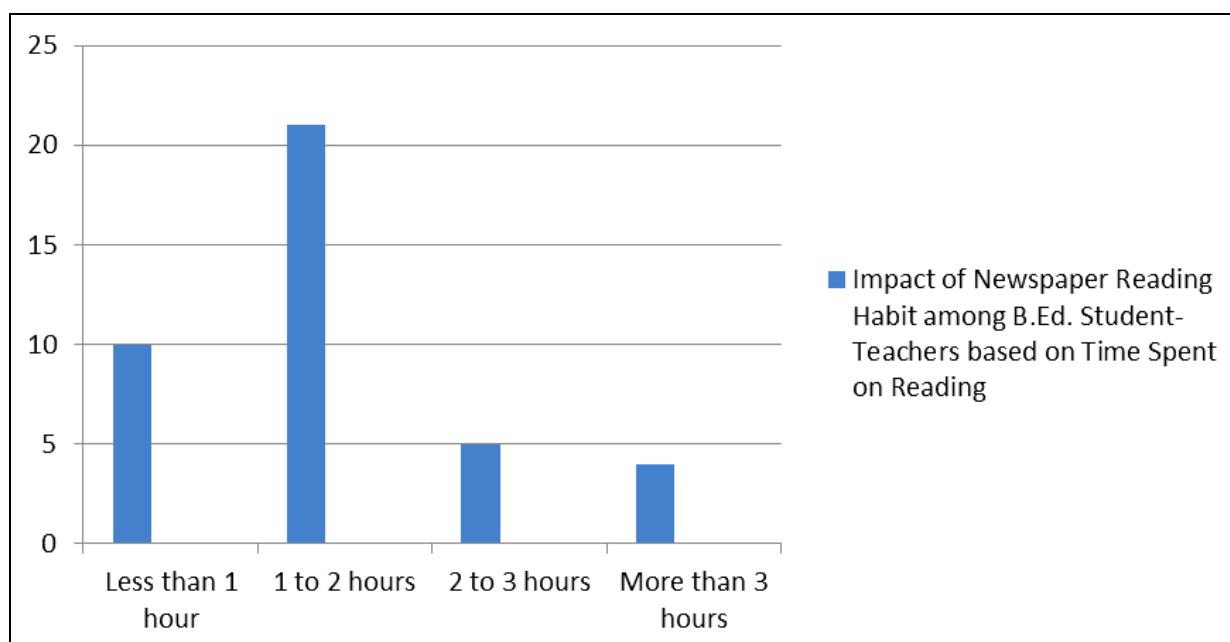


Fig 3: Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Time Spent on Newspaper Reading.

iv). To Study the Impact of Newspaper Reading Habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the Basis of Purposes of Reading the Newspaper.

The following table 4 shows the Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Purposes of reading the newspaper.

Table 4: Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Purposes of reading the newspaper:

Sr. no.	Purpose	No. of students (n=40)	Percentage
1	For general information	10	25%
2	To increase current awareness	18	45%
3	To improve vocabulary	9	22.5%
4	To relax	2	5%
5	Others	1	2.5%

Table 4 shows the Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Purposes of reading the newspaper where majority of the students 18(45%) read the newspaper to increase their current awareness followed by 10(25%) where students read the newspaper for general information only then 9(22.5%) of

students read them to improve their vocabulary and 2(5%) students read them just to relax and have some refreshing time.

The following Fig 4 shows the Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Purposes of reading the newspaper.

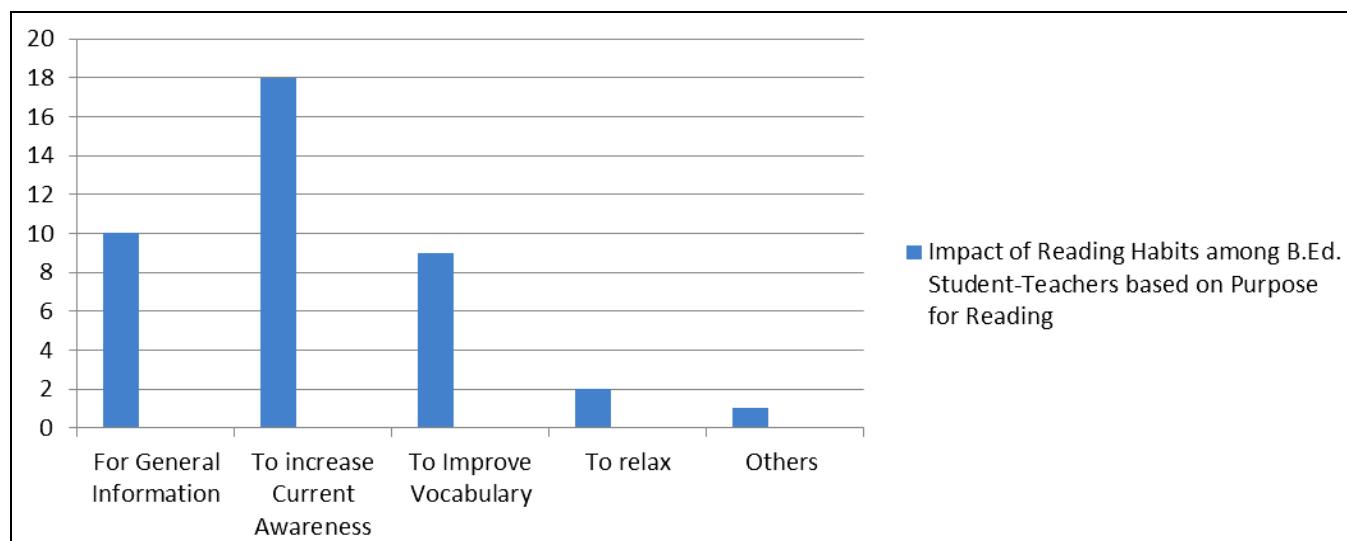


Fig 4: Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Purposes of reading the newspaper.

v). To Study the Impact of Newspaper Reading Habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the Basis of Preferred Language for Reading.

The following table 5 shows the Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Preferred Language for reading.

Table 5: Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Preferred Language for reading.

Sr. No.	Language	No. of Students (n=40)	Percentage
1	English	34	85%
2	Marathi	3	7.5%
3	Hindi	2	5%
4	Others	1	2.5%

Table 5 shows the Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Preferred Language for reading where majority of the students 34(85%) read English language newspaper followed by 3(7.5%) read Marathi language then 2(5%) students read Hindi language

newspaper and the least students 1(2.5%) read different language newspaper.

The following Fig 5 shows the Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Preferred Language for reading.

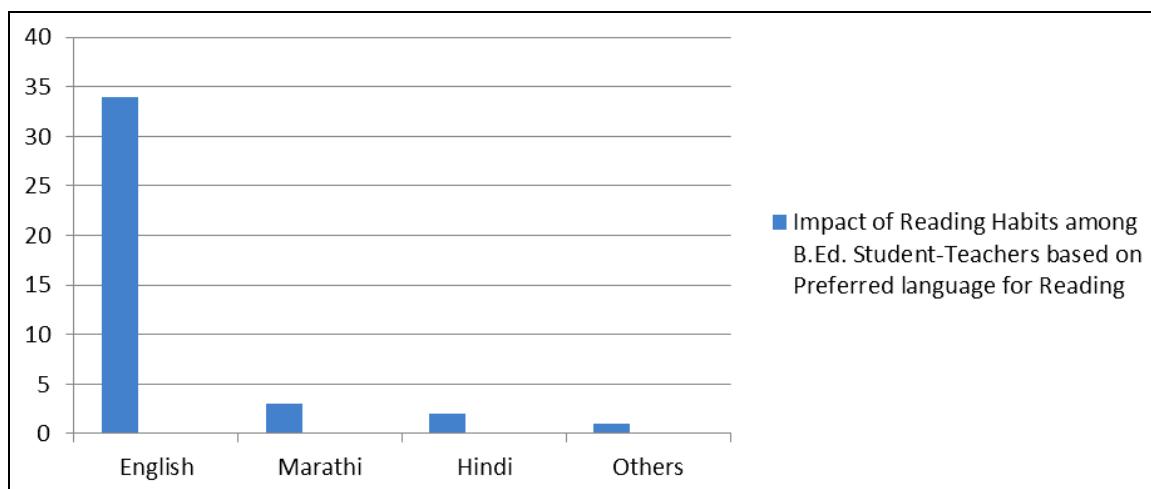


Fig 5: Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Preferred Language for reading.

7. Findings

The study revealed that majority of the students studying in this college were females than males and they all were aware of the newspapers in the college library. The study further revealed that Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Gender where majority 33(82.5%) of students are female and 11(73.33%) are male. Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of age where majority of the students 25(62.5%) are at the age between 21-25 age group, followed by 14(35%) at the age above 25years and least 1(2.5%) at the age group of 18-20. Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Time Spent on Newspaper Reading majority of the students 21(52.5%) spent 1 to 2 hours in reading the newspapers followed by 10(25%) of students read for less than 1 hour, then 5(12.5%) of students read the newspaper for 2 to 3 hours and at last only 4(10%) of students read the newspaper for more than 3 hours. This shows that students have the habit of reading the newspaper but only for a certain period of time. Impact of Newspaper Reading habits among B.Ed. Student-Teachers on the basis of Purposes of reading the newspaper where majority of the students 18(45%) read the newspaper to increase their current awareness followed by 10(25%) where students read the newspaper for general information only then 9(22.5%) of students read them to improve their vocabulary and 2(5%) students read them just to relax and have some refreshing time. Majority of the students 34(85%) read English language newspaper followed by 3(7.5%) read Marathi language then 2(5%) students read Hindi language newspaper and the least students 1(2.5%) read different language newspaper.

8. Conclusion

From the findings of the study, it is seen that majority of the students do actually indulge themselves in reading newspapers. Since these student-teachers are the future teachers hence their responsibility becomes major in promoting the newspaper reading habit among every students. Student-Teachers are responsible for guiding students to find quality sources, making the activity engaging and integrating it into the curriculum to build critical thinking and language skills, encourage students by discussing their own newspaper reading habits and showing them how to select relevant articles. Newspapers expose students to diverse vocabulary, enhanced general knowledge, develop critical thinking and

hence reading newspapers makes students active learners and can help them develop a habit of lifelong learning.

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