PART - II

FINDINGS AT A GLANCE
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1. SUBJECTS STUDIED AT SCHOOL:

There is not much difference in the syllabus of various categories of schools covered in the study. Only the English Medium Schools are having wider syllabus than others. Hindi, English, Mathematics, History, Geography and General Science are the common subjects in the syllabus of all the urban and rural schools. General Science in the upper classes has split into Physical Science and Physical Science. Hindi is studied by all the students of all schools excepting a small fraction of student population in the English Medium Schools. It is only the English Medium Schools which have various other subjects studied by their students. These are General Knowledge, Social Studies, Economics/Civics, Home Science. All the students except those in rural primary schools have provision for Sports/Physical Education. The more students of Class VI, VII and VIII of Government Schools and English Medium Schools are having Moral Science in their syllabus compared to the students in rural sponsored and other categories of schools.
2. SUBJECTS EVOKING HIGH READING INTEREST:

The findings of the study indicate considerable difference in the level of interest of students reading in different categories of schools. There is a round interest among the students in English Medium and Government Schools. Their interest in various subjects or more or less evenly distributed. On the other hand, the students in other schools stated Hindi as their most interesting subject followed by Sanskrit. Moral Science and Physical Science being the new subjects from Class IV onwards, also registered considerable interest of the students of these classes. Mathematics is liked more by boys than Girls, its overall appeal to the entire student population being limited to less than half. English has been rated as a subject evoking high reading interest by about one-third of the total students reading in schools other than English Medium and Government Schools where the students have higher interest in it. Most of the boys find Sports/Physical Education and most of the girls find Home Science very interesting.

3. SUBJECTS WHICH ARE LEAST LIKED:

English is the least liked subject among the Primary and Sponsored School students in urban and rural areas. In the English Medium Schools, the
interest on various subjects or evenly distributed and this hardly reflects any serious lack of interest in any specific subject. Mathematics in Class IV to VII in rural and urban sponsored schools is a subject which generate least interest among the students. The other subject with limited appeal is Geography. In Government Schools both in Kanpur and in districts least liked subject is also difficult to determine. As stated earlier, an alround interest is perceptible among the students towards different subjects in the syllabus in the Government and English Medium Schools.

4. INCIDENCE OF READING BOOKS OTHER THAN THOSE PRESCRIBED BY THE SCHOOL AUTHORITIES TO SUPPLEMENT READING OF SCHOOL SUBJECTS

Incidence of reading books other than those prescribed by the school is almost nil in the lower classes. This however, gradually increases in higher classes. The reading of such book is also not extensive among the students. Only a limited number of students consult such books. All the students of IV and almost all the students of Class V do not read books on any subject to supplement reading from prescribed book. Among the students of Class VI to
VIII, who consult supplementary books, most of them consult such books for Hindi, English, Mathematics, History, Geography, Moral Science and Physical Science.

5. READING INTEREST AREAS, IF ANY, OTHER THAN SUBJECTS STUDIED AT SCHOOL:

Stories, Fairy tales, Comics, Adventures and Detective stories are the areas of higher interest beyond the school subjects among most of the school students. Sports and Cinema also attract a significant number of students of higher classes. Sports publications are liked mostly by the boys, while Cinema publications attract the girls more. Travelogues, Historical stories and to some extent Biography have been found to be liked by some students of higher classes. These books are mostly read in Hindi by the students except in English Medium Schools where they read in English. Poems, Fairy tales, Romance, Mythological/religious books, Science fiction etc. are popular with a very few children reading in such Schools.

6. READERS OF PICTORAL MATERIALS SUCH AS COMICS:

Comics are the most attractive reading material outside school subjects. Almost all the students of all types of schools in rural and urban Uttar Pradesh are fond of reading comics.
7. NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE READING:

Reading newspaper is wider in the urban areas than in the rural areas. The urban students have regular exposure to newspapers. Most of the rural and urban primary school students do not read newspaper. A very few, who read, do so occasionally. The rural sponsored school students also have the similar propensity. In urban sponsored schools, however, most of the students are newspaper readers among whom a considerable number read regularly. Almost all the students of Government Schools and English Medium Schools are newspaper readers with varying frequencies ranging from rarely to regularly. Most of them, however, are regular readers. Except the students of English Medium Schools, the others read newspapers mostly in Hindi. The English Medium students read it in English and or in Hindi.

Magazine reading is common among almost all the students of English Medium Schools. The next in order is Government Schools in Kanpur and districts in this regard. The study could locate only a limited number of students of rural and urban primary schools possessing such habit. In the urban and
rural sponsored schools, number of magazine readers gradually increases in ascending order from lower to higher class. Among these readers a very few are however, regular readers. In English Medium Schools almost all the students are magazine readers. In such schools, most of the magazine readers of Class-IV and V are occasional, while most of the magazine readers of Class VI, VII, VIII read these regularly. Regular magazine readers in Government Schools are not that high. Most of them are occasional readers.

8. PARTICULAR FEATURES OF INTEREST IN NEWSPAPER & MAGAZINE:

The children's page, Comic series, Stories, Sports and Quiz are most popular interest - generating subject in Newspaper. Among the few rural and urban primary school students reading newspaper children's page, sports and cartoons are popular. Among students of all other types of schools, such interest is common in children's page, stories and cartoons, sports and quiz while the boys are more interested in sports, the interest of girls are in Cinema specifically from Class VI to VII. Such interest develops in ascending order from class to class.
As far as magazine reading is concern the topics which generate high interest are short stories, rhymes, quiz and to some extent sports and cinema. Editorial, Reviews, Articles etc. recorded almost nil popularity among the children.

9. USE OF SCHOOL/PUBLIC LIBRARY:

Library facility both in Rural and Urban Primary Schools, is almost nil. Out of a total of 21 Primary Schools visited for the study, only one Rural School is having such facility. Only a few primary students are occasionally/rarely visit a local library in rural area. In urban areas, however, local libraries are in use by two-thirds of the primary students. They visit such libraries occasionally/rarely. Almost all the students of rural sponsored schools and most of the students of higher classes of the urban sponsored school are users of school libraries. Some of them are regular and while a large number of them are occasional users. 20% of the students reading in Rural sponsored schools do not visit any library at all. The Government Schools and English Medium Schools are better equipped with library facilities which attract the students to visit. Almost all the
Government School Students and most of the English Medium School students are users of the school libraries rather than local libraries. 25% of the English Medium School students recorded apathies towards using libraries. Thus, the propensity to visit libraries is highest among the Government School students than students of any other type of schools.

10. TYPES OF BOOKS BORROWED FROM SCHOOL/ PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

It is established that the most interesting subject/topics with the school children are Adventure, Detectives, Fables, Stories and Quiz. Naturally, keeping aside the prescribed books, the students borrow these types of books and magazines both from the Public and School libraries. Many students get the chance to go through such books borrowed by other senior members of their family.

11. GUIDANCE ON READING MATERIALS:

The parents/guardians play the most active role for student's in deciding reading materials. Surprisingly, it is found that most of the rural primary school students decide themselves on their
reading materials. This helps to draw a conclusion that the Father/Guardians in the rural areas are to some extent reluctant in this regard when their wards are in Primary School stage. It may, also be due to the fact that the lower education of the guardians makes them to think that reading books other than school books may be harmful to their ward in the primary stage. This findings, though, based on spontaneous response may not be objective. All other school students are dependent on others in this respect. Besides parents/guardians, teachers in a large number of cases, and friends/relatives and others in a lesser degree influence the student's decision. The findings in this regard appear to be essentially subjective.

12. AVERAGE TIME SPENT ON A DAY READING SCHOOL BOOKS AND OTHER BOOKS:

The student in the primary classes normally spend 2-3 hours in reading school books. The duration of reading books prescribed in the syllabus varies between 3-5 hours in higher classes. Looking at the number of hours spent per day on school and other books/magazines, the study finding is that the rural primary school students on the average spend
four (4) hours per day, the urban primary school student six (6) hours per day, the rural and urban sponsored school students five (5) hours per day, Government school students in Kanpur and districts five (5) hours per day and English Medium School students six (6) hours per day. Boys of urban primary schools in the area of population more than 20,000 and of rural and urban sponsored schools are found to spend more time than the girls. On the other hand, in Kanpur, Government School girls appear to be more studious. In general, the students of higher classes should have spent more time but it has been found that rural sponsored school students of higher classes spend lesser hours with their books. This may be due to their partial occupation with domestic work as more than half of the students of such schools stated that frequently they are disturbed for domestic work. Q.8.3). Excepting the district Government School students, the others, specially the English Medium School students are found to spent fluctuating number of hours from lower classes to higher classes. The District Government school students of higher classes however, are found to spend more hours. Their may be various factors which affected the
findings, the objectivity of which is subject to further verification. This however, was not within the scope of the study.

13. READING TIMES:

The reading time is fully dependent on the shift of the schools. However, both the morning and day scholars prefer to spend more time in the evening. The students of morning schools spend some time in the afternoon and the day students spend about 2 hours in the morning. Books other than those prescribed by the school are read either in the afternoon or in the night. Very few students read other books in the morning. The students of rural-primary schools and a large number of students of rural and urban sponsored schools are found to spend more time in the morning. A large number of students of urban and rural primary schools are found to spend considerable amount of time in the afternoon. Other school students spend their times reading school books in the evening/night. In reading other books, on the whole, the students of rural and urban sponsored schools and the students of English Medium Schools spend much more time.
14. EXPOSURE TO RADIO/TV:

There is a very small number of houses of urban students contacted in the study. Most of the students having facility for viewing TV expressed that they do not have any fixed budget of time for viewing. They view according to their convenience. TV access however, is available more among the students in English Medium Schools followed by the Government Schools in Kanpur.

A large number of the students who keep a provision for listening to Radio while budgeting their time, expressed that they earmark 61-90 minutes per day for it and about an equal number of student do not have any fixed duration. Only a few students keep more than 90 minutes per day for Radio listening.

15. INTEREST IN CULTURAL PROGRAMME:

Students interest in Cultural programme is worth mentioning. More than half of the students stated that they visit cultural programmes now and then. Quite a sizeable number of students also took part in cultural programmes during the preceeding one year of the study. Visiting cultural programmes and participation is more among the urban students. By type of schools, more interest is perceptable among the students of Government Schools and English Medium Schools than others.