CHAPTER - FIRST
INTRODUCTION

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1.1 INTRODUCTION:

When a man gets a glimpse of additional knowledge or wisdom, instinctly he wants to preserve and spread it. In the very spreading lies a means of preserving the knowledge. A long, long time ago, this imparting knowledge as a perpetuation of possession was achieved by verbal discourses and lectures for years together, in the absence of the medium of writing material. Later on, however as more advances were made by man in understanding the nature of things around him, he found out various means in preserving it together, in the absence of the medium of writing material. More so it was the only reliable source for all the benefit by 'ones mans' experiments and to transforms the printed page from abstract symbols into meanings which carry great personal significance, reading books, becomes and remains a source of personal satisfaction for which there is no substitute. Reading is recognized as an important media of learning that helps in the development of the process of thinking.

Thinking and facilitates in solving of problems in different areas of human concern. The technique of reading is the base for proper thinking and required discrimination. It gives the ability for reasoning, judging and evaluating, and thus helps in the solution of the problems of individuals as well as that of the society. Reading is responsible for the creation and retention of human relationship.
Werstein has therefore defined reading as "social phenomenon as well as individual activity and the most subtle type of learning in order that its effective impact on human life may carve roads in all areas in which principles and ideas are involved.

The mechanics of reading has been systematically observed during the past century and specific knowledge has been gained about the nature of the process of reading. It has been observed that a man instinctively desires to preserve and to spread knowledge or wisdom gained by him.

At one stage it was a man to man phenomenon. The imparting of knowledge was done by verbal discussion and the benefit of written material was not available. The knowledge of Guru thus spread in the orbit of his Shishyas only and not beyond, knowledge and wisdom played within a very narrow compass. The necessity to spread knowledge was actively felt and the system of "Guru-Shishya" was felt inadequate. Necessity, the mother of invention, did give birth to books, the means for the carriage of the knowledge to lend beyond the gravity of the Guru and soon knowledge was imparted without the need of personal contact and verbalization. Books, the treasury, which preserved with care the wealth of knowledge and distributed the same without any diminution loss or distortion, became a powerful media of transformation of one man’s experience, knowledge, labour and hard work to millions, who dwelled like princes and enjoyed the wealth that reached them through the books and gained knowledge of adventures and other aspects, which knowledge was acquired by hard labour and years of toil by the writers of the books,
With the invention of the books and the use of the books the concept of reading developed, creating a relationship between the ideas of the writers and the brain of the reader. Ralph C. Staiger writes that "reading is usually considered a solitary activity the personal nature of the act lies in the interaction between the ideas of the writer and the brain of the reader."

Thus by reading the wealth of knowledge accumulated by the writer was bestowed upon the reader the order that he may enrich himself and makes additions to his knowledge, so that he, the reader, may be able to achieve his goal "_. Reading can thus be characterized as receiving communication and obtaining meanings from the printed words. Reading is a key to the wealth of experience that links people in a way that is not limited by distance of or time. According to Richard Bamberger, reading is a process, a social phenomenon and as an educative influence is of major interest and concern to parent’s philosophers and educationists. The seed of reading is sown with the development of the power of speech and understanding in the child. This seed sprouts out into a young tree in the primary class which develops and grows, spreading its branches and twigs with the ascent in the educational system. Reading is therefore the first of the three r, s. It is first because we must learn to read in order to read thoroughly. Since learning becomes difficult or complex with the advancement of the education career, it can only be simplified with the help of proper reading. Also helps to develop one self intellectually and spiritually and helps to encourage learning. Simplifies it and makes it progressive.
Reading is as essential aspect in the existence of our complex system of society and for retention of social ties and relationship. Reading helps not only to connect the two poles but also acts as a link between the past and the present. The link between the past and the present is retained with the help of books which are considered as channels of knowledge from generation to generation, helping in passing of the intellectual achievement from one corner of the world to another and from one generation to another generation. It is on this foundation atone of the experience of yesterday that the castle of today is built with the help of the books which act as cornet to the intellectual and emotional life of today. Books are therefore reservoirs which feed our intellectual slowly and steadily and help us to advance further towards success in life and to achieve our goal by making the utmost use of the gift of nature and its bounties.

The lack of the reading habit among undergraduates was experienced by the researcher The researcher considered it expedient to carry out a survey of the reading interest of undergraduate students of different college affiliated to Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University. They were observed using the library facilities mostly during the examination period of their college course programmers this use of the library for a short period which will result in keeping away the readers from the books for a long period . It is felt that college students should be motivated read widely and also effectively so as to help them in their self development.

"Reading provides experience through which the individual may expand his horizon, identify, extend an intensify his interest and gain
deeper understanding of himself, of other human beings and of the (Strang - 1982)

Richard Bamberger in the preface to his work "Promoting the Reading Habit", writes that, "the ability to read has long been recognized as essential to personal fulfillment and there is now a growing acceptance that a country's social and economic progress depends in larger measure on its people having access to the indispensable knowledge conveyed by the printed words."

There can be no utilization or proper use of the treasure of knowledge by a simple art of reading unless the habit of reading is developed with all sincerity and earnestness. The habit of reading is absolutely necessary to do justice to the kill of reading acquired through education, with the help of teachers, parents, philosophers and educationists. This habit is of fundamental importance in the intellectual growth of learning as it develops an appreciation and taste for quality literature and cultivates the art of acquisition of knowledge. Like all habits, reading habit is also acquired and all persons responsible for the development of an individual regard it as the most desirable habit which has got a prominent and positive impact as an individual and which is responsible for the development of the individual. Child is the father of the nation and an individual is a concise of a society, reading habit of an individual is therefore responsible for the development of society at large and for building up a true and perfect nation. Reading habit has therefore got its own effect. Inevitably in a country's total progress, both the social and the
economic causes may find its roots firm only when its citizens have an
easy access to quality reading materials.

The battier of illiteracy and ignorance can be successfully
removed with the knowledge of reading but can be successfully
removed with the knowledge of reading but can be permanently
availed with the habit of reading. Removing the barrier of illiteracy,
and instilling the reading habit and providing and adequate supply of
books – these are linked objectives which go to the heart of much of
what UNESCO Meeks to accomplish. In order that the reading habit
may remain alive it is absolutely necessary that the individual is able
to teach his hands to his choice books. “A reader can become
discouraged and loose his habits of reading if books attune to his taste
are not easily accessible.”

All the authorities on reading and the habits of reading have
canvassed for keeping the enthusiasms and the crave for reading fresh
and alive. In order to see that the urge of reading remains evergreen, it
is absolutely necessary that an overflowing a stream of books is
within the reach of reader in order to enable him to quenoh his thirst
by getting a book of his choice. This had made it necessary for the
evolution, existence and continuance of a concept of the library.

Reading is one of the most important for self – development.
Increasing knowledge, Growing self-insight and developing self-
conscience reading is one of the habit
Which has a positive influence on an individual and building of nation. This research work is extended to reading interest among the students of degree course of Marathwada region.

1.2 IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY:

Reading is many things to many people –

'It is the telescope, because through it we can look at the distant stars and speculate about life on them. It is a microscope, because through it not only examine the chromosomes and the atoms, but also infer through minute particles that even the finest lenses can reveal. It is a never ending wide screen film on which the human pageant passes in review. It is still the only known time machine that can recreate the events of the past and open up vistar. Inspite of the competing mass-media, reading in our space age is increasingly important. As our society continues to change to a technological one, more and more types of employment are requiring skill in reading. It was only in recent decades when technological and economic development made continuous demands on the intellectual collaboration of a majority of people, did an awareness arise as to how the 'Right to read' could be made reality for all Reading research has thrown a new light on the significance of the reading, not only with regard to the needs of the society but also for the individual. 'Right to read' also means 'Right to develop once intellectual and spiritual capacities, the right to learn and progress. Therefore it is very important to find out the reading interest of the first year degree course students because it provides experience through which an
individual may expand his horizons, identify, extend and intensify his interest and gain deeper understanding of himself of other human beings and of the world.

1.3 USEFULNESS TO THE SOCIETY:

The present world requires that reading contribute to the ability to think – i.e. to comprehend and to solve day to day problems. Gray and Rogers have presented a carefully compiled list of purposes for reading which suggests that the habit of using reading is based upon real human needs. (p.273-4.Ref.7) (Variations in motivation for reading may occur in various cultures throughout the world, but this list of purposes provides a useful foundation): ‘- as a ritual, or from force of habit; ‘- from a sense of duty; ‘- merely to, fill in or kill time;’ ‘- from a sense of duty; ‘- merely to, fill in or kill time;’ ‘- to know and understand, current happenings; ‘- for immediate personal satisfaction or value; ‘- to meet practical demands of daily living; ‘- to further avocational interests’; ‘- to carry on and promote professional or vocational interests’; ‘- to meet personal – social demands (good citizenship);’‘- for self-development, or improvement, including extension of cultural background;’ ‘- to satisfy strictly intellectual demands;’ and ‘- to satisfy spiritual needs’.

1.4 NEED OF THE STUDY:

“Reading is a way to find out as much or as little as case to know or learn about something and the more reading the more learning“.
The students are in need of getting the guidance for creating interest in reading as the facilities provided by the colleges regarding library and books are not sufficient. As a result, they are not attracted towards reading books, they are not knowing the importance of books other, international language literature, reference books, other reading materials to take notes from the materials read and its role in shaping their personality. Reading plays an important role in education. It forms the basic tool for achieving proficiency in all schools subjects. In higher education, English is the medium of instruction. Reading is important to the child even though he may give the impression of lack of concern. The students of Marathi medium school, though pass their S.S.C examination with high percentage of marks found even difficult to pass Higher School Certificate examination. The sudden change of medium of instruction is the major reason. Even after completing B.A. or M.A. they are afraid to appear Public Service Commission's Examinations which are held in English. They are afraid to join army, navy, air force, after taking degree. The reason is English Language. They are afraid to join the courses which are held in English. High Executive's post becomes a day dream.

Even after getting a good job in a good company conversation in English becomes difficult. Lack of appreciation for English literature, dramas, movies, poems, keeps the person away from the group – which is well accustomed to English language. English language and lack of its proper knowledge becomes the cause of individual unhappiness and loss of opportunity to self realization.
1.5 FORMULATION AND THE STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

Considering the need and significance of the study, the researcher decided to carry on the study, titled as - A study of the Reading Interest of the First Year Degree Course English Students in Colleges Affiliated with Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, as what are the causes and how to improve the present position.

1.6 OPERATIONAL DEFINATION OF THE IMPORTANT TERMS:

• **Study:** A study means personal efforts to gain knowledge and reading Interest of F.Y degree English students

• **Reading Interest:** Behavioural aspect demonstrating students inclination towards reading.

• **F.Y degree course:** The course prescribed for F.Y pertaining to Arts, Science and Commerce faculty seeking education within the jurisdiction of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad.

• **English students:** Those students who are having English as one of the subject, particularly one of the optional subject at F.Y B.A degree in the said University.

• **Affiliated Colleges:** Colleges which are working within the jurisdiction of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad.
• **Aurangabad city**: It is situated in the Godavari valleys 19 degree to 20 degree latitude and 74 degree to 76 degree longitude. It is a historical important place.

1.7 **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE IDENTIFIED PROBLEM**: 

Reading is important as it challenges the reader's thought and influence his attitude and interest although the extent to which he is influenced. However it depends on his previous experiences which can be enriched by developing reading interest. Reading plays a major role in the daily life of the student.

1.8 **ASSUMPTIONS**: 

1) Teacher guides the students to make use of reference books.

2) Good readers have lots of benefit when they are living in the society.

3) Reading habits those inculcated from the childhood it remains life-long.

4) Media influence affects the people and make them less attracted towards reading activity.

5) Reading gives an Eternal feeling of happiness.

1.9 **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**: 

1) To find out the general interest of F.Y degree course English students in terms of varied reading materials.

2) To find out the accessibility of reading materials.
3) To find out the major factors that hinder the reading interest.

4) To find out the different activities they carry out in the leisure time.

5) To provide the suggestions to create reading interest amongst the students.

Hypothesis is used only in experimental method when we have find out solution of the problem or guess/tentative answer of the problem and as this research has been done by making use of survey method only their question raise with the help of survey, their answer are to be found, they may be positive or negative, with the help of them we can conclude and generalized and just describe the present condition.

1.10 Research Questions:

1) Whether the non-availability and inaccessibility influence the reading interest of F.Y degree course English students?

2) Is there possibility to make the reading material accessible?

3) Does the teachers and the library could motivate the students to overcome from the Hindrance?

4) What measures to be adopted for the fruitful way in leisure time including reading Interest?
1.11 SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE PROBLEM:

1) The present study is concerned with only reading interest. i.e. particular aspects are covered, textual reading, daily reading, readings for writing, readings for entertainment, parents/teachers and school, library facility.

2) Due to time bound programme the researcher has delimited the sample size to 20% of 4500 i.e. 900.

3) The study is limited to sample of 14 colleges out of 120 colleges of Marathwada Region.