

**STUDENT AND READING: A PROJECT TO PROMOTE READING
FOR PLEASURE AND INFORMATION**

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA SARAWAK
KAMPUS MUKAH**

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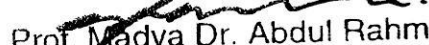
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ABSTRACT

This research on a reading project, Free Volunteer and Extensive Reading aims to develop and promote a lifelong reading habit and reading for pleasure and information in the University level beginning with the Pre- Commerce students during their foundation course at UiTM Kampus Mukah. As reading is crucial for the success of academic tasks, it is aimed to help the Pre-Commerce students to be prepared for the the university education and finally to meet the challenges of the new millenium. The finding of this project is a number of programmes used in the pre-commerce session to be integrated in the reading skills unit. These programmes are designed based on the principle of interest, affordability and the time given for the English course, that is BEL 040. Ethnographic inquiry research methodology was conducted to analyze the findings and the results were generally favourable although there were a few weaknesses. The results also showed increased students' motivation, reader independence and confidence. This suggests and strengthens the case for a comprehensive reading programme to be integrated in the course.

UiTM Cawangan Sarawak Kampus Mukah

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Tears must be shed – by tender little creatures liable to so many accidents and diseases;

Tears must be shed – by eager little creatures so often refused desired toys;

Tears must be shed – by affectionate little creatures, forced to part from a charming playmate;

But tears need not be shed – by little creatures, ignorant and playful though they be, while learning to read

-Reading Without Tears, Preface, p.vii

1.0 Introduction

Every year, Malaysia declares the month of June as the “month of the reader” to highlight the importance of reading. During this month, the Malaysian Government organizes a series of reading campaigns and numerous measures are taken to create a nation of readers. Why is there an emphasis on the need to read? The focus now is not only to read in Bahasa Malaysia but also in English. To read in English is and always be an important skill. This is because, English is the lingua franca of the world’s communication and information.

This research was motivated by complaints of little or no reading among university students. There is a need to inquire into this problems the country is facing with the university students. Policymakers increasingly demand that schools use research as the basis of instructional practice in reading. They want teachers to use methods and