



UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**EXPLORING THE READING HABITS OF PRIMARY
SCHOOL TEACHERS IN SK ST. THERESA AND SK
LUMBA KUDA PADUNGAN**

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ABSTRACTS

This study was carried out to explore the reading habits of Primary School Teachers at two primary schools in Padungan, Kuching, Sarawak. A total number of 46 respondents were asked to respond to the questionnaires aimed at gauging their reading habits. The objectives of this study were to ascertain the types of reading materials that the school teachers in these two schools often read. It is also aimed at determining the factors that prevent teachers from indulging themselves in reading. A convenient sampling technique was employed to conduct this survey. The findings showed that teachers seldom read for pleasure. Their reading were limited to school text books and the local news papers. Even magazines were not favoured. It was also found that although the teachers had the desire to read as a hobby, other factors such as family commitments and work load were deterrent factors

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Reading is the basis for all of today's knowledge. The importance of reading amongst Malaysians from all walks of life have caught the attention of many, including the policy makers in the Ministry of Education. This has prompted the authority concerned to conduct at least two National Literacy Surveys. According to the first National Literacy Survey which was conducted in 1982, it was revealed that an average Malaysian read a mere page or two a year. If the findings are to be taken seriously, it means that most Malaysian do not read at all. However, in 1996, another survey was conducted by the National Library, it was stated that the average Malaysians read only two books a year. The findings of the latter survey revealed that there was an improvement when compared to the previous survey. The findings of these two studies were rather obscure because we are unaware of the samples or the population of the study. On top of that, the findings in no way indicated the reading habits of Malaysian teachers.

In another vein, the Sunday Star newspaper (8th August, 1999: 2) reported that the poor reading habits amongst Malaysians public was common knowledge. This official survey gave a jolt when the education sector and many opined that something ought to be done fast to alleviate the problem as Malaysia poised itself to be a center of excellence in education. After the

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction

This chapter is divided into three main parts. In the first part the discussion is centered on the definitions of reading habits and its key concepts. The theories of reading habits will be looked at in the second part. The discussions on reading habits amongst school teachers will be deliberated in more detail in the final part of the chapter.

2.2. Definitions of Reading Habits

There is a vast literature that discusses the definitions of reading habits and its key concepts. To get a better understanding of the definition of reading habits a review on some of the literature is deemed necessary. However, before any attempt to define reading habits, it is important to understand the meaning of these two words - reading and habits. The Oxford English Dictionary defines reading as "action of a person who reads". Reading is further defined by Williams (1984) as a process in which a reader looks at a text and understands what has been written. To him, reading does not mean that one needs to understand everything one reads. This is because people read for different reasons or purposes. The way one reads or the reading