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***Children's reading habits: A study of Lahore city.* Unpublished M.Phil. thesis, University of the Punjab, Lahore, 2011. [Abstract]**

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Reading habit (RH) can be defined as engaging oneself regularly in reading books, magazines etc. available in print or electronic format, to derive pleasure that is both blissful and addictive. It is contrary to force reading that aims to achieve academic purposes. It is intrinsic rather than extrinsic. RH usually develops during childhood as it appears to flourish in primary school years. The present study aimed to investigate: (a) the current status (problems, choices, attitudes towards reading and motivation behind reading) of RHs of children, and (b) librarian's/library's role in developing RH.

Survey method based on self-administered questionnaire was used to collect data from 150 students of grade one to grade five. Six schools, in which mostly middle class students get enrolled, were surveyed. To gather additional information personal discussions were conducted with librarians, key publishers and a Punjab Government's high official from the primary education wing.

The findings suggest that even in the age of rapid information exchange, children of the targeted population prefer to read locally published printed material in English. Children like to read story books with the main purpose of improving their language skills. Respondents were found to be motivated towards reading short stories or that reading material which better suited to their interests. Children prefer to read on topics like adventure, animals and scientific information. TV and playing games on computer and internet were found to be the most preferred leisure pastimes. School libraries were the main source for getting reading material. Familiarity of children with public libraries was alarmingly lower.

On the basis of its findings, this study offers some suggestions for parents, teacher/librarian, library schools, publishers and for the Education Department of the Punjab Government.