

**STUDENTS' READING HABITS IN 1 AB SCHOOLS OF
DEHIOWITA EDUCATIONAL ZONE, SRI LANKA.**



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**A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF EDUCATION
(EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT)
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES
MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY
2011**

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to study the reading habits of grade 10 students in 1AB schools of Dehiowita education zone, Sri Lanka and to identify what the relationships are between the related factors and students' reading habits. The population consisted of a total of 847 students while 275 students were selected for the sample by using multi stage random sampling. The grade 10 students of 1AB schools were chosen as informants. Data collections were conducted through 275 questionnaires and 12 individual interviews with key informants.

The study found that there was no relationship between students' gender, family income level, reading environment, library service and library resources, and students reading habits. There were relationships between students' hobbies, literacy skills for both first language (Sinhalese) and second language (English), parents' educational level, parents' support, school activities, teaching learning methods, library activities, and students' reading habits.

It is recommended that schools conduct reading promoting activities to introduce fun and leisure reading, cultivate a reading culture, and maintaining a well organized and resourced library. Furthermore it is recommended that parents support their children by being a model, providing reading materials and, mostly by creating a reading environment at home. Development of reading habits as a lifelong competency and lifelong learning tool is needed as a nation.

KEY WORDS: READING HABITS/1AB SCHOOLS/SRI LANKA

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