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## Newspaper Reading Habits among Public University Undergraduates in Afghanistan

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### Abstract

Reading is the main part of education. Newspaper reading habit is considered a very useful activity for the students, as it increases their knowledge and information. This study is designed to measure the newspaper reading habits among the undergraduates in Afghanistan universities as well as their favourite content. A quantitative approach was used to collect the data of the study. As for this purpose, 420 questionnaires were distributed among the undergraduates in 12 public universities of the country. Subsequently, SPSS software was applied to analyse the gathered data. The results showed that the newspaper reading habit among the undergraduate students is very low. Most of them read newspaper sometimes in a typical week. They spent a very less amount of time in the reading newspaper. The undergraduates read a newspaper to satisfy their personal and social integrative needs. The findings of the study will be very helpful for both students and newspapers organizations to inculcate the habits of reading newspaper in society. Inculcating the habits of reading newspaper in the society will create knowing persons that have the ability to adapt to the changes and lead the society towards developments.

**Keywords:** Reading habit, Newspaper, Undergraduate

### 1. Introduction

Reading is a better way of improving a person's knowledge and it may be exiting journey towards self-discovery. Reading transfers experiences to the persons so it may increase one's perspectives, recognizes and deepen his or her interest and gain deeper understanding of the world (Krishnamurthy and Anwari, 2015). The habit of reading can be developed by reading newspaper. A newspaper is a wonder of modern science, as it transfers news and views of home and world to us (Majumder and Hasan, 2013). It is an advantageous medium for students (Banu and Aboobacker, 2018), since it is full of information in different subjects. Regularly reading newspaper is considered a good habit. It is perceived that the students who read newspapers on a regular basis are more proficient and aware about the events that happen near or far away than the students who do not read (Elmadwi,

2014). Reading on a regular basis relies on habit. It is necessary for newspapers to create a reading habit, since such a habit provides the strongest motivation to keep on reading regularly (Wolswinkel, 2008).

Reading newspaper is a very necessary part of education, as it increases student's general knowledge and information (Krishnamurthy and Anwari, 2015; Nagashetti and Kenchakkanavar, 2015). It causes students to be a good and useful person for themselves and their society (Swaminathan, 2017). It also helps students to receive current information, increase their knowledge as well as to improve their thinking, observation and communication skills. Newspaper provides information on career opportunities, scholarships and institutions of higher learning (Banu and Aboobacker, 2018). In addition, Veerabasavaiah and Amaravathi (2018) described newspaper role very powerfully in the society as it shapes public opinions and effects on the government policies and decision. In democratic society, it plays a considerable role in protecting the rights of people. It is a bridge between people and government. They are much essential for self-development. Newspapers can also provide a forum for readers and writers to echo their ideas and opinions on different issues (Krishnamurthy and Awari, 2015). Students will read newspapers that best suit their reading purposes. They also read newspaper to increase their information on political and social issues as well as to be abreast of news of the country and abroad (Krishnamurthy and Anwari, 2015; Mushtaq and Benraghda, 2018). Based on the argument above, the newspaper is a very advantageous tool for the students. However, the habit of reading newspaper among the undergraduates appeared rarely. In addition, there is a lack of studies concerning the habits of reading newspaper among the students, especially in Afghanistan. Most of the previous studies performed in other countries which have many educational, cultural, political, social and religious dissimilarities with Afghanistan. Due to that reason, this study is designed to measure newspaper reading habits of the undergraduates throughout the country. This study may be the first study designed to find the habits and purposes of reading newspaper among the undergraduates.

### **1.1 Background of the study**

Printing presses, which have been around in Afghanistan for a century, have gone through many ups-and-downs over the past three decades. Each regime had forced its own views on press publishing. During one period, there were many publications and at another time there were none. Publishing depends on the choices made by each of the presidents (Rahin, 2008; Rawan, 2002). Afghanistan's first printed magazine is Shamsulnihar Kabul, which was published firstly in 1876 (Rahin, 2008). Thus far, a printed newspaper has a lower audience throughout the country (Medley, 2010). Nonetheless, after the sanction of the new media law in 2001, the number of printed newspapers has significantly increased (Cary, 2012). Unfortunately, by the passing of time, some of these publications discontinued printing since the readers were minimal. Even though there are around 800 publications in Afghanistan, the readership is very low (Cary, 2012).

### **1.2 Problem statement**

The habit of reading newspaper among the young generation has decreased since decades ago, globally (Hooke, 2012). Many newspaper organizations suffer from the percentage of the decreased number of readers so far. Despite the struggle of researchers to solve the issue from different viewpoints, there has been no solution to curb the problem. In addition, Cary (2012) stated about the poor habit of reading newspaper in Afghanistan and said that newspapers have yet to find an established position in the country. However, the study did not indicate concerning the habit (frequency and time) of reading newspaper among the students as well as purposes of reading

newspaper among them. So this study will figure out the issue specifically among the undergraduates. Therefore, this study investigates the habits and purposes of reading newspaper among the undergraduates in Afghanistan public universities.

### **1.3 Research Objectives**

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To identify the habits of reading newspaper among the undergraduates.
2. To determine the undergraduates' dominant purposes in reading newspaper.

### **1.4 Research Questions**

This study looks to find the answer to the following questions:

1. What is the habit of reading newspaper among the undergraduates?
2. What are the undergraduates' dominant purposes in reading newspaper?

### **1.5 Significance of the study**

This study is considered very useful for the scholars, researchers, students, media owners and society. As it paves the way for them to understand the habits and purposes of reading newspaper among the undergraduates in the country. Because this is maybe the first study conducted on the habits of reading newspaper among the undergraduates. It will also create new literature for the researcher who are interested to media research in Afghanistan. This study could be beneficial for newspaper publishers to fulfil readers' needs by releasing content according to the choices of their target audiences. This could result in giving new stories in a certain order of preference readers.

In addition, the people of Afghanistan need cooperation in every field to reconstruct the country. It will measure newspaper readership as a key tool for enhancing knowledge and information and encourage them to read a newspaper in order to move their society towards development and reconstruction.

### **1.6 Limitations of the study**

The findings of this investigation are limited to undergraduates of 12 public universities such as Alberoni, Bamyaa, Badakhshan, Balkh, Parwan, Takhar, Khost, Faryab, Kandahar, Kabul, Nangarhar and Herat Universities which are located in four main parts of the country. In addition, the findings in this study are confined to one type of media that is the printed newspaper. In short, this study is limited in examining the habits and motives of reading newspaper among the undergraduates in the country. In this study, the term habit refers to the frequency and time that students spend in the reading newspaper.

## **2. Literature Review**

### **2.1 Habits of reading newspaper among students**

Newspapers are one of the reading materials that have responsibility for building reading habits, which is seen to be essential for the different levels of the students (Elmadwi, 2014). Wolswinkel (2008) indicated that reading on a regular basis relies on habit. It was suggested that it is necessary for newspapers to create a reading habit since such a habit provides the strongest motivation to keep on reading regularly. Newspaper reading is described as a very good habit for the students as it puts a positive effect on the students reading habit i.e. heightens their knowledge and information. The term habit of reading newspaper mostly measured by frequency and time.

The frequency and time spend in reading newspaper among students is differed significantly in consideration to the country. It is observed that strong in some developing Asian countries as compared to developed countries (Hooke, 2012). Swaminathan (2017) found that most of the college students read a newspaper daily in India. Heman (2003) in his survey among the school students in Hong Kong revealed that the habits of reading newspaper among the students are good. The study also indicated that a majority (82.5%) of students having newspaper reading habits while only 17.5% of them had not. According to Kumar et al. (2011), the vast majority of the undergraduates in India read newspapers more frequently. Casero-Ripolles (2012) in Spain described that the young people who read the press everyday account for 28.8% of the total, while 4.5% of them stated never read a newspaper. In addition, Lewis (2008) carried out a study among the undergraduates in the United States of America (USA). The results of the study showed that approximately half of all respondents (48 %) read the print version of a newspaper at either the campus or another place at least three or four days per week, while 20 per cent of them said never or seldom read any paper. Another survey study reported that newspaper reading habit among college students is low. The majority of them sometimes read newspapers (Banu & Aboobacker, 2018). Moreover, Kwong et al. (2005) administered their study among the undergraduates in University Teknologi MARA (UiTM) in Malaysia. They found that most (53.6%) of the Malaysian university students read newspaper sometimes in a week, while just around ten per cent of them read the newspaper daily. Previous studies reported that the length of time spend in a reading newspaper is differed in countries considerably. Swaminathan (2017), Veerabasavaiah and Amaravathi (2018) in India found slightly more than half of the respondents (52.87%) read the newspaper one hour daily. Banu and Aboobacker also (2018) had the same findings. While Krishnamurthy and Awari (2015) asserted that most of the students read the newspaper less than an hour per day. Elmadwi (2014) performed a study among the university students in Bangladesh. The outcomes of the study also showed that the habits of reading newspaper among the students are high. Most of the university students in Bangladesh spent one to two hours per day reading a newspaper. However, the habits of reading newspaper among Malaysian university students reported very poorly (Kwong et al., 2005). It was also discovered that most (41.4%) of students spent 15 to 20 minutes in reading newspapers. While only five percent of them spent more than an hour reading the paper. Another research performed by Wilson (2007) in the USA stated that college students spent less time in reading newspaper. It was reported that the majority of college students in the USA spent 15 to 30 minutes per day on the days they read the newspaper.

## **2.2 Purposes of reading newspaper**

According to Bankole and Babalola (2011), different groups of people read newspapers for several reasons. The variety of specific information wanted by students from newspapers consist of information on politics/governments, sporting events, entertainment, health matters, world affairs and their academic activities. Reading newspapers helps students to get fruitful information on various subjects such as social-political, business issues, sports, entertainment, art, culture, music and education (Elmadwi, 2014). Katz et al. (1973) illustrated that students read the newspaper to satisfy their cognitive, affective, social, personal and escapism needs. Cognitive needs are described as the tendency to gain information and education so as to increase the understanding of the information given. An effective need is a need to be entertained and enjoyed. Social needs involve the processes of developing and maintaining a social relationship with other individuals. Personal needs refer to the development of identity, personality, and the urge to achieve self-esteem. The need to release one's emotions (escapism) refers to the needs to release tension and the needs to overcome loneliness.

The students read the newspaper to improve their knowledge and information (Banu and Aboobacker, 2018; Veerabasavaiah and Amaravathi, 2018). The students inclined to read the education section in the newspaper that creates a positive impact on their academic performance and career building. As most of the postgraduate students said that read newspaper to improve their language and communication skills (Krishnamurthy and Anwari, 2015). In addition, the majority of the college students in Tamil Nadu of India read the newspaper to get news and improve their general knowledge and information respectively (Swaminathan, 2017; Krishnamurthy and Anwari, 2015). They also read the newspaper to get political and social issues as well as sport news (Krishnamurthy and Anwari, 2015).

The outcome of another study performed by Hayati et al. (2012) showed that teenagers were not really interested to read the newspaper. Because the newspaper is still lacking in term of issuing materials that could meet the cognitive needs of the readers, particularly teenagers, although the newspaper content is full of different issues. The study also noted that the newspapers' contents are basically information which informs readers, but it is not capable to create reader understanding. It is suggested that the information should be described at length so that it could assist the teenagers to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the information given after reading it. When improvement occurs, there will be no question of teenagers turn their interest to the medium so as to gratify their cognitive needs.

Bankole's (2002) study carried out among the undergraduates in Nigeria revealed that newspapers are very important sources of information for students. It was also found that university students read newspaper in Nigeria to fulfil their daily information needs. A majority of the students read newspapers to obtain information about the politics, health, academic and culture.

### **3. Methodology**

The quantitative research approach was used as the method of the study. As asserted by Tashakori and Teddlie (2009), in a quantitative method, the researcher gathers, interprets, and analyses diverse forms of numerical data. This method is used because it helped the researcher to collect plenty of data from the respondents studying in different universities of the country.

#### **3.1 Participants**

The respondents of the study are male and female undergraduates of Afghanistan universities. These respondents were randomly selected from 12 public universities of Afghanistan such as Alberoni, Badakhshan, Balkh, Bamyaan, Faryab, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Nangarhar, Parwan and Takhar Universities. Each of these universities located in different parts of the country i.e. Balkh University is located in the north, while Nangarhar University is in the east and Herat is in the west, so they could be considered representatives of all country. The researcher sent 50 questionnaires for each provincial universities and the returnees were about 40. However, for Kabul University, which is in the capital and there are much more students than the other universities, 75 questionnaires administered among the students. Overall, 420 complete and accurate questionnaires from 12 universities gathered. In this study, the balance of male and female students are not the same (Female:110; Male:310). Because in Afghanistan universities the number of female students are less as compared to the males.

#### **3.2 Instruments and data analysis**

A survey questionnaire was administered among the students in order to find the habits of reading newspaper as well as to identify their purposes of reading newspapers. The items were adapted from Wilson’s (2007) PhD thesis questionnaire that was done in the United States of America (USA). The study was conducted on habits of reading newspaper among the college students in the USA. In addition, the SPSS software, specifically, the descriptive tests were employed to analyse the survey data. Subsequently, the analysed data showed in the forms of tables.

**4. Findings**

The results of the study derived from the survey questionnaires which were distributed among 420 participants in 12 public universities of Afghanistan located in the four part of the country. Each questionnaire consists of demographic information and questions related to newspaper reading habit and purpose of reading newspaper. The questionnaire consists of 20 Lickert Scale and multiple choices items. Each item, for instance, consists of completely agree to completely disagree. The scales range from 1 to 5, as for completely agree was given (5), while for completely disagree was assigned (1), and for the rest of scales within two above scales, given values were 4, 3, and 2. Moreover, in order to check the reliability of the questionnaire, all questions were entered into the SPSS. The Cronbach’s Alpha of all items was .717, which shows a reliable questionnaire.

**4.1 Gender of the respondents**

Table 1 shows the gender of the participants. From 420 participants participated in this study the majority (73.8%) of them were male, while 135(26.2%) were female.

**Table 1** Gender of respondents

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Male	310	73.8
Female	110	26.2
Total	420	100.0

**4.2 Ages of respondents**

Table 2 shows that the majority (63.6%) of the students took part in the study are 21-25 years, and 139 (33.1%) them are 18-20 years. The largest groups of students 267(63.6%) comprised of those in the age groups of 21-25 years. The smallest group of respondents 14 (3.3%) was 25 and above.

**Table 2** Ages of respondents

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
18- 20	139	33.1
21-25	267	63.6
25-above	14	3.3
Total	420	100.0

#### **4.3 Studying year of respondents**

Table 3 depicts education years of respondents. According to the table, from 420 respondents, 181 (43.1%) were third year students and 132 (31.4%) were fourth year students. In addition, 94(22.4%) were second year students, while 13 (3.1%) were first year students.

**Table 3** Study years of respondents

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
First year	13	3.1
Second year	94	22.4
Third year	181	43.1
Forth year	132	31.4
Total	420	100.0

#### **4.4 Habits of reading newspaper among the undergraduates in Afghanistan**

The undergraduates were asked in a typical week how often they read a newspaper from always to never on five point Likert scale. A majority (52.4%) of them read newspaper sometimes in a typical week. Almost two fifths (29%) of them reported that they rarely read a newspaper in a week. From all of them, 8.1% read a newspaper regularly in a typical week, while 10.5 percent of them never read a newspaper in a typical week. Most (42.6%)of the undergraduates spend less than 15 minutes in reading the paper on the days read newspaper in comparison with 35.7 percent read newspaper 15 to 30 minutes and 9.3 percent spend one hour per day. Just above three percent of Afghanistan undergraduates spend one hour and half in reading the newspaper on the days they read newspaper Table 4.

**Table 4** Newspaper reading habits of the undergraduates in Afghanistan

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Always	34	8.1
Sometimes	220	52.4
Rarely	122	29.0
Never	44	10.5
<b>Time spend in reading newspaper</b>		
No I never read newspaper	39	9.3
Less than 15 minutes	179	42.6
15 to 30 minutes	150	35.7
30 minutes to one hour	39	9.3
One hour to 1.5 hours	13	3.1
Total	420	100.0

#### **4.5 Habits of reading newspaper in consideration to the universities**

As mentioned above, there were 420 questionnaires received from 12 public universities throughout the country. For understanding the habits of reading newspaper among them deeply, each university's newspaper reading habit is described separately. As shown in Table 5, the habits of a reading newspaper among Bamyaan university students is high as compared to other universities students, as most of them (51.6%) read newspaper always. In this university, above two thirds (64.5%) of the students spend 15 to 30 minutes reading newspaper. While, (37.9%) and (20%) in Nangarhar and Faryaab Universities respectively never read the newspaper. In the meantime, in Qandahar university, none of the students read newspaper always, while 72 percent of them read newspaper sometimes in a typical week and on the days they read a newspaper 44 percent of them spend 15 to 30 minutes in reading the paper. In Sheikh Zayed University, about 73.1 percent of the students read newspaper sometimes in a week and they spend 15 to 30 minutes in reading newspaper on the days they read the paper. Moreover, in Kabul University, 44 percent of the undergraduates read newspaper sometimes in a week and (45.3%) spend less than 15 minutes and (9.3%) of them spend one hour to 1.5 hours in a reading newspaper on the days they read the newspaper. Additionally, about forty percent (40.9%) of Balkh and (40%) of Herat students read newspaper rarely. Fifty percent of the undergraduates in Balkh and (40%) in Herat and Qandahar spend less than 15 minutes in a reading newspaper on the days they read the newspaper. From among 12 universities of Afghanistan, (20%) in Herat, (19.3%) in Alberoni and (4%) in Qandahar said never read a newspaper. In comparison to Bamyaan University, in which the majority of students read the newspaper all the time.



**Table 5** The Newspaper reading habits of the undergraduates in terms of universities

Frequency of reading newspaper in typical week												
	Kabul	Alberoni	Badakhshan	Takhar	Herat	Bamyaan	Parwan	Nangarhar	Sheikh Zayed	Faryab	Qandahar	Balkh
Percentage												
Always	17.3	3.5	2.7	2.9	6.7	51.6	13.3	17.2	7.7	8.3		9.1
Sometimes	44.0	56.1	56.8	55.9	33.3	38.7	50.0	62.1	73.1	41.7	72.0	40.9
Rarely	32.0	21.1	37.8	29.4	40.0	9.7	26.7	17.2	15.4	25.0	24.0	40.9
Never	6.0	19.3	2.7	11.8	20.0	0	6.7	3.4	3.8	25.0	4.0	9.1
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Type spent in reading newspaper per day												
No I never read newspaper	8.0	12.3	10.8	8.8	16.7	3.2	10.0	37.9	7.7	20.8	4.0	9.1
Less than 15 minutes	45.3	52.6	27.0	58.8	40.0	2.90	46.7	48.3	30.8	41.7	40.0	50.0
15 to 30 minutes	30.7	24.6	48.6	17.6	33.3	64.5	33.3	10.3	42.3	29.2	44.0	27.3
30 minutes to an hour	6,7	7.0	10.0	11.8	6.7	3.2	10.0	3.4	19.2	8.3	12.0	13.6
One to one hour and half	9.3	3.5	2.7	2.9	3.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

#### 4.6 Purposes of reading newspaper

In order to find the purposes of reading newspaper among the undergraduates in Afghanistan, the students were asked to identify their dominant purposes in the reading newspaper. Table 6 shows the mean and standard deviation for each questionnaire item. Item 1 concerning the personal needs obtained the highest mean ( $M=4.10$ ,  $SD=.76$ ). This result shows most of the students read the newspaper to satisfy their personal needs. While, least of them ( $M=2.78$ ,  $SD= 1.12$ ) interested to read the newspaper for relaxation and releasing tensions. In addition, item 3 and 4 pertaining to social integrative and cognitive needs obtained second and third higher means with ( $M=3.98$ ,  $SD= .84$ ) and ( $M=3.95$ ,  $SD= .73$ ) respectively. This finding illustrate the students' satisfaction in the reading newspaper for their social integrative and cognitive needs.

**Table 6** Purposes of reading newspaper among undergraduates in Afghanistan

No.	Purposes of reading newspaper	Mean	St. Deviation
1	Cognitive needs	3.95	.73
2	Affective needs	3.24	.80
3	Social integrative needs	3.98	.84
4	Personal needs	4.10	.76
5	Tension release needs	2.78	1.12

## 5. Discussions

The discussion of the study is made on two themes of the study which are habits and purposes of reading newspaper among students.

### 5.1 newspaper reading habit

According to the results obtained thorough questionnaires from among 420 respondents of 12 universities of Afghanistan, the habits of reading newspaper among the undergraduates are poor. The results of survey data showed that the students hardly ever read newspaper. The frequency of reading newspaper among the undergraduate appeared very low. A considerable number of students read newspapers only sometimes in a typical week. It shows a scarcity of reading newspaper among the students. The finding of the current study on the low readership of newspaper among the undergraduates in Al-Beroni University of Afghanistan is similar with the findings of some previous studies results carried out in developed countries such as the United States of America and Europe. A survey conducted by Wilson (2007) in the United States reported that the habits of reading a printed newspaper among the college students were very poor. The study also illustrated that a small number of the college students read printed newspapers once in a typical week. The majority of the college students preferred to read online newspapers. In another study that was conducted by Casero-Ripoles (2012) among the young generation in Spain, it was illustrated that almost a third (28.8%) of young people in Spain read the press every day. The poor reading habits of newspaper among the students may have a negative effect on their personal and professional live. Since poor reading habit cause them to lose much more information available in the newspaper (Heman, 2003). However, the findings in this study stood in contrast to findings of some studies carried out in developing countries in Asia. Kumar et al. (2011) conducted their study among the university students in India, and Heman's (2003) study was performed in China among the school students. The results of both studies revealed that the habits of reading newspaper among the students in India and China are good. These studies also found that a considerable number of students in India and Hong Kong read newspaper. In addition, Rajpar et al. (2010) administered their study among university students in Pakistan. It was found that the habits of newspaper reading among the students are strong. A large number (77.33%) of university students read newspaper.

In this study it was found that the undergraduates' students in Afghanistan Universities spent less amount of time in reading the paper. Based on the results of the quantitative data, majority of the undergraduates spend less than 15 minutes in reading newspaper on the days they read the paper. This result implies that the habit of reading newspaper among the students in Afghanistan is poor. So, this finding of the current study does not support the previous researches findings conducted on the same topic. Kumar et al. (2011) carried out their study in India,

and Elmadwi's (2014) study was performed in Bangladesh. These two studies were conducted among the university students in India and Bangladesh countries. Both of the studies' findings revealed that the habits of reading newspaper among the university students in India and Bangladesh are strong. A considerable number of Indian and Bangladeshi university students read newspaper for one until two hours daily. The findings of this study about the spending of less time by students in reading newspaper also revealed a contradiction to Wilson's (2007) study. It was reported that the majority of college students in the USA spent 15 to 30 minutes per day on the days they read newspaper, which is less than the time spent by the respondents in the current study.

## **5.2 Purposes of reading newspaper**

This section discusses dominant purposes of reading newspaper among the undergraduates in Afghanistan. Results of the quantitative data analysis showed that all the five categories of the students' purposes in reading newspaper obtained different ranges of means. This implies that the all five needs namely cognitive, affective, social integrative, personal integrative and tension release come into the interest of the students, but not with the same level. Out of the five categories, only personal needs obtained highest mean score. This result implies that the undergraduates read newspaper to elevate their self-confidence. Reading for purpose of elevating self-esteem helps them to appear as aware persons among their peers. Build their characters and personalities and get many successes. It may assist them to debate in a gathering or deliver speech confidently and without stress. It is also assumed that newspaper-reading raises their confidence during a conversation with friends or speaking activity in a classroom. The findings observed in this study mirror those of a previous study that was conducted by Kippax and Murray (1985) among the college students in Australia. The study noted that the college students read newspapers that could help them to uplift their self-confidence. In other words, the college students read newspaper to gratify their personal needs. However, in this study affective needs and tension release needs obtained lowest mean scores respectively after they were analysed descriptively. This result illustrates that the students are less likely to read newspaper for purpose of entertainments and or removing boredom. It indicates that the students in this study have paid very little attention towards reading for purpose of entertainments and passing time. While, they treat newspaper as an informational tool rather than amusement. This finding is in agreement with Wilson's (2007) findings which showed that the college students paid less attention toward reading entertainments. Entertainments were students' second motive in reading newspaper. The result of this study is also in alignment with the findings of Wolswinkel (2008) conducted a study in the Netherlands. The study found that the Dutch youth paid very little attention toward reading entertainments issues. While, the foremost motive in reading newspaper among the Dutch youth was to gratify their surveillance needs. They mostly read to increase their knowledge and information. However, as stated earlier most of the students in this study read newspaper to uplift their self-confidence and information rather than entertainments issues.

## **6. Conclusion**

In conclusion, the habit of reading newspaper among the undergraduates appeared poor considerably. They read the newspaper sometimes in a week. Less than minutes per day were allocated for the reading newspaper on the days they read a newspaper. From among 12 public universities, Bamyaaan University students showed higher habits of reading newspaper in comparison to other universities students. In addition, a great number of undergraduates were much more interested to read for the purpose of their personal, social integrative and

cognitive needs. Accordingly, reading the newspaper for the purpose of acquiring knowledge and information leave a positive effect on the students' characters; as they grow as knowing and creative persons. Subsequently, it effectively leads them towards academic and professional future (Benraghda & Radzuan 2018).

### **Conflict of Interest**

All three authors declare that they have no any conflict of interest with any one or any organization.

Ethical approval: This manuscript does not include any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

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