

## Study Habits Of Undergraduate Students

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### Abstract

This study attempts to find out perception on study habits of undergraduate students and analyze relationship between study habits and academic performance and various other factors that affects study habits. It is generally believed that a student learns effective study habits in school. So college students are generally assumed to have effective study habits, but, the environment of school and college are very different and need of effective study habits is even more at college level as compared to school. So, this paper consists of details about why effective study habits are needed at college level and effective study habits that a college student must have in order to learn and eventually score better. Also, we conducted a survey in Rajdhani College, Delhi University to analyze study habits of students.

**Keywords:** Study Habits, Effective Study Habits

### I. Introduction

Many educators explore the fact that a number of students have not learnt well in high school and elementary grades. Because of this, students now seem to know less and apply knowledge, despite the availability of the study materials. Likewise, students do not know how to think and study properly and effectively. Only few teachers gave much attention to the improvement of these skills. To this effect, many students were able to proceed to the higher level of instruction without developing the habit of scheduling their study time. Thus, many talents and potentialities remain underdeveloped due to less attention given to their academic and personal growth.

There are various factors that affect the students' academic achievement. Amongst these factors are some activities called study habits which the students gained, preferred and like to do for learning at and out of school [2]. Findings of the study of Oluwatimilehin and Owoyele[3] revealed that of all the study habits' subscales, 'teacher consultation' was most influential while the 'time allocation' exercise, concentration, no taking reading and assignments were regarded as less integral to

students' academic performances. Therefore, regular counseling services to train students on study skills strategies were advocated in order to boost their study habit and enhance their academic achievement.

Few things affect a student's performance as much as the development of productive study skills. Study skills encourage areas such as work attitudes, time management, homework strategies and test-taking skills. Many study skills are taught in the classroom, but others can only be addressed at home. This study focuses on the study habits of undergraduate students and the various factors that affect the study habits. In the further sections various poor study habits of students have been described and the various effective study habits that a student must follow in order to gain an increase in learning and hence his/her grades.

The last section discusses the analysis of survey conducted by us on Study Habits of Undergraduate students at Rajdhani College, Delhi University.

## **II. What are study habits?**

Study Habits are the regular tendencies and practices that one depicts during the process of gaining information through learning. In simple terms study habits are the habits when one study. A person with poor study habits will not be able to learn properly. It is generally believed that a student learns effective study habits in school [7]. So college students are generally assumed to have effective study habits. But the environment of school and college are very different and need of effective study habits is even more at college level as compared to school.

## **III. Why effective study habits in college?**

There are four major reasons so as to why teachers should focus helping their students in developing effective study habits. The very first reason is that despite of availability of good study materials and the best instructors, instructors often find students have not learned well. The Second reason is that many students do not know how to think and study properly. Thus there is a great need to inculcate good study habits in students either by the instructor by motivating them or students themselves by self regulating them. The third one being that many talents remain underdeveloped due to less attention given to their academic and personal growth. The last one states that there has been marked decline in average weekly study time for college students. The study time has reduced to almost half i.e from 24 hrs in 1961 to 14 hrs per week now[4].

## **IV. Benefits Of Effective Study Habits**

There are several benefits of effective study habits. The very first thing that matters to students is "MARKS" in examination. Students with effective study habits often score good percentage in their examinations. Secondly effective study habits results in longer retention of concepts. Moreover students can spend their time more

productively and efficiently. Not only this, students felt positive about themselves and their abilities.

## V. Poor Study Habits

The various poor study habits of students are:

It is student's notion to cover the easiest assignments first and keep the tougher ones for the last ultimately resulting in insufficient time left to complete the later assignments.

Studying around loud noise or in distraction resulting in lower level of concentration.

Studying in a cluttered environment.

Letting your thoughts wander. Studying in a distracted environment allows wandering of thoughts here and there.

"A tired mind is a slow mind". So studying when tired or hungry makes the mind slow.

Sometimes students simply copy the assignment and thus not reflecting on the meaning of the assignment.

Staying up late to study.

Students sometimes just cram the material instead of understanding the concepts thus affecting long term understanding of concepts.

## VI. Effective Study Habits

The various effective study habits[10] have been listed below:

### **Alternate your study places:**

Although some people swear by the library, cognitive scientists suggest that alternating study spaces is a more effective way to retain information, according to the *New York Times*. Memory is colored by location, and changing your study locales increases the likelihood of remembering what you've learned.

### **Actively engage your brain:**

Students should keep on actively engage their brain either by taking down notes or practicing questions side by side. It has been proved that people retain 75% of the information when they write while they read.

### **Take Tests:**

As much as we may hate tests, the *New York Times* reports that formal evaluations not only affirm knowledge but enhance it. Consistent testing can help us relearn and recall information, and it pays off when preparing for final exams.

**Sleep:**

A tired mind is a slow mind. Students should take enough sleep and watch the CGPA rise.

**Don't categorize yourself:**

Students should not categorize themselves as auditory or visual learners or as left brained and right brained thinkers. According to the *New York Times*, research has shown that these distinctions are largely erroneous. It is more important to figure out which study strategies work for you than to worry about where you lie on the learning spectrum[10].

**Go to class:**

Students should go to class regularly .It is often seen that students usually miss their classes either due to the disinterest in the subject or due to disliking for the instructor. But the research says that students retain 25% of the information they hear.

**Manage your time:**

The only thing worse than having a deadline is missing a deadline. Students should stay organized, cut down on procrastination and their work load will feel much more manageable[10].

**VII. Need For Instructor's Motivation**

There are many students who do not follow ideal study habits. High achieving students tend to self regulate more automatically than low achieving students and lower achievers tend to self-regulate more if they are motivated to learn course material , either out of interest or for their major[9].So instructor need to motivate students to follow effective study habits.

**VIII. How Can An Instructor Help**

Some of the ways in which instructor can help students learn effective study habits are:

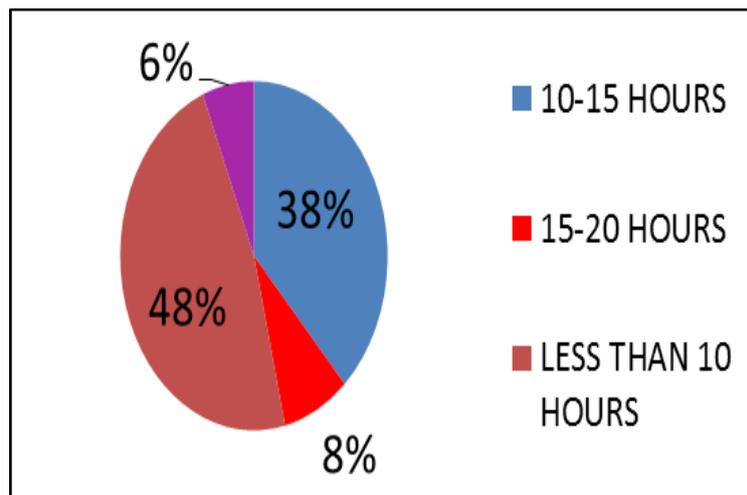
- **Set Clear Learning Objectives:** Instructor should set clear learning objectives so that students can clearly know what is expected of them.
- **Regular Assignments and Emphasize Outlines:** Instructor should give assignments regularly in order to test how much students have understood a particular concept.
- **Quiz students frequently:** Instructor should take frequent quizzes for better testing of the student's concepts. Consistent tests help students relearn and recall information and thus preparing them for the final exams as well

- **Starting each class with a short quiz or recap:** Instructors should give a brief recap of what was done in the previous class to maintain the flow of the concept as well as to refresh students with the previous concepts.
- **Tie feedback to key concepts:** This "postmortem" analysis helps students see what they should restudy[9].
- **Attendance :** Giving a slight weightage to attendance can help students not only attend their classes regularly but also making themselves regular and punctual.
- **Counseling Sessions:** Instructors can help students by taking certain counseling sessions which may include discussions on problems faced by students and overcoming them.

### IX. Survey Results And Analysis On Study Habits Of Rajdhani College Students

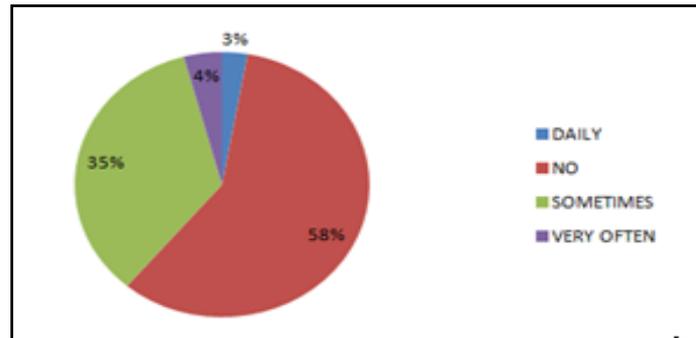
A survey was conducted to study about the study habits of Undergraduate students at Rajdhani College. A total of 129 students participated in the survey with students from first year, second year and third year in different courses.

As stated earlier that there is huge decline in average time spent by a college student in self study per week. Figure 1 also shows the same as majority of students spend less than 10 hours per week for self study.



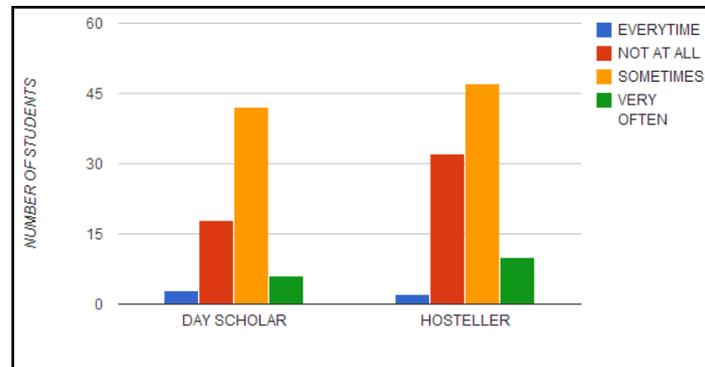
**Figure 1:** Majority spend less than 10 hours a week on self study

Majority of students don't revise their same day as can be seen in figure 2.



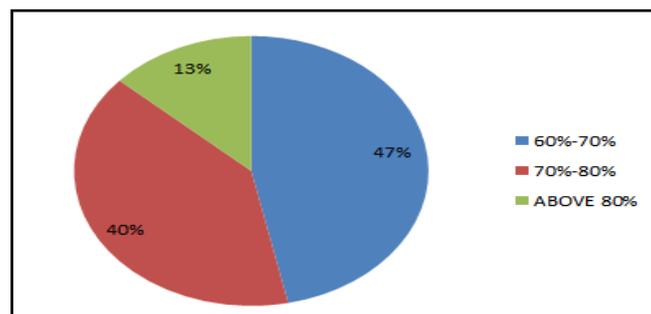
**Figure 2:** Majority don't revise lecture notes on the same day

Many students collaborate in the assignments even if they are marked as Individual assignments. Collaboration in individual assignments exists irrespective of whether a student is day scholar or hosteller. Figure 3 shows that majority of students sometimes collaborate in their individual assignments.



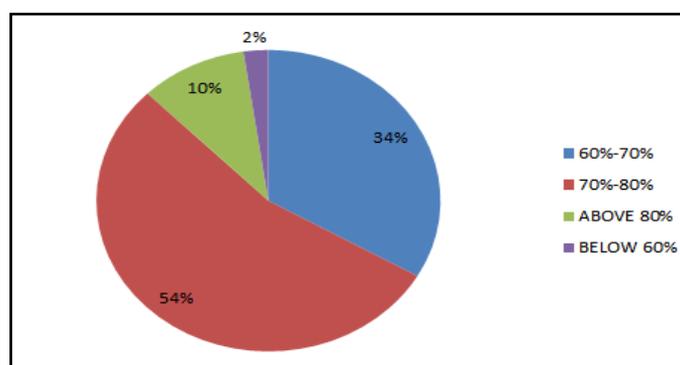
**Figure 3:** Collaboration exist irrespective of where student stays

There is a great difference in environment of school and college. It may happen that a student who was high scorer in school may not be able to score well in college. Change of environment affects as figure 5 shows that majority of first year students have low percentage marks in their first semester.



**Figure 4:** Majority of first year students have low percentage marks in their first semester

As clearly seen in figure 5, Majority of High percentage students ask questions frequently in class.



**Figure 5:** Majority of High percentage students ask questions frequently in class

## X. Conclusion And Future Work

Study habits of students in RAJDHANI COLLEGE, DELHI UNIVERSITY were assessed through a voluntary survey in order to determine how the study pattern differs with percentage marks scored by students, where they live and effect of change in environment. These data indicated that most of the students do not ideally follow effective study habits. The average time spent by the majority of students in self study per week is less. Majority of students don't revise their lecture same day. Students sometimes collaborate in the assignments even if they are marked as Individual. Change of environment affects the grades of the students that is why majority first year students have their first semester percentage is low. So, there is a need for the instructor to motivate the students to adapt effective study habits. Also, the low percentage scoring students need to be motivated more as compared to higher percentage scoring students. Probable reasons found out from survey for students getting lower percentage are that not sufficient time spent on self study, not revising lecture, missing classes, not asking doubts on when confused.

A deeper survey analysis will be done to discern the study habits of students in detail. Further we will be contrasting the survey results of students of RAJDHANI COLLEGE students with students of other universities to analyze the study patterns and identify the areas to work upon to improve the study habits of the students.

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