

Reading means to look at and understand the meaning of written or printed words or symbols. Reading is a unique human activity that is characterized by the translation of symbols or letters into words and sentences that communicate information and mean something to the reader. The reader seeks to understand the meaning of a written text; evaluates its significance and uses what he or she has read to enhance his or her knowledge, effectiveness or pleasure. Voluntary reading is important not just for personal uses and life-long education, but even for learning in schools. It requires a lot of reading to become a fluent reader. In its broad meaning therefore, Ogbonna (2014) states that reading literally refers to the ability to recognize and understand characters or speak words that may be printed or written on paper and other format of recording human knowledge. The ability to read and write is called literacy, while a person unable to read is said to be illiterate.

According to the world book Encyclopedia (1993), culture is a term used by a social scientist for a people whole way of life. Therefore, developing a reading culture fosters a love for reading and a habit of reading among learners. Habit is a tendency to repeat an act again and again. Habits are regularly repeated behavior that requires little or no thought and is rather than innate. The habit of reading can only be cultivated through constant, regular and reading of information resources by children and adults for acquiring knowledge which will be applied practically for development. Reading culture involves when an individual habitually and regularly read books and other information materials that are necessarily require him or her to advance in his profession or career. Becoming a skilled adaptive reader enhances the chances of success at school and beyond. Reading is for life. Anybody who cannot read finds it difficult in solving the problem of everyday needs. It is believed that people who read always find the solutions to the mysteries of life.

Strategies for developing reading culture

The first characteristics of an early reading environment are the availability of books and the regular modeling of reading. Mum (Dame) C.J. Mbakwe the founder of Creative Model International Schools, Iyiowa Odekpe has equipped the school library in her bid to promote reading culture in this great institution. She also emphasized that the best way of promoting reading habits is by providing varieties of reading materials that will stimulate desires in the learners to read for pleasure and usefulness.

Indeed it was indicated that for learners to be encouraged to read they should be allowed to choose the pictures in them, to read for contexts, to have a classroom library and to read for contexts, to have the teacher read to their hearing, once learners are exposed to different practices of regular reading. Through such activities learners are likely to become more exposed and are encouraged to develop a culture in reading.

Use of the Library as a Tool for Developing Reading Culture.

Library is an integral part of an instruction as it contains books, publications, and journals, which foster a deep inbuilt desire in students to do extra reading and research on the topics discussed in the class. Apart from satiating pedagogical perceptions and perspectives for academic prowess, a library in an educational institution also meets the Creative needs of students. Library is the store house of knowledge. A school library exhibits positive impact on the academic achievement of the students. Since the environment at the school library is peaceful, students can study at the library without any disturbances. Student can develop their literary skills by reading rare books of literature. A school library promotes building a knowledge-driven community for the future.

Benefits of a reading culture to an ind