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Use of Reference Sources by the Secondary School Students: A Case Study Of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Narimedu, Madurai, Tamilnadu

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ABSTRACT

'Information Literacy' is the chanting mantra of present day school library resource centres. The ability and efficiency of the students in finding, evaluating and using relevant information has become the most sought after primary skill of 21st century School learning process. Hence, we need to evaluate the information searching behavior of students with regard to different kinds of materials they use to get valid information. The present study is on the use of reference sources in the library among students of class 9th and 10th of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Narimedu, Madurai, Tamilnadu.

Keywords: Reference sources, Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, Yearbooks, Search engines

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INTRODUCTION

“Reading makes a full man” says Francis Bacon. In this information society, the person who is well equipped with the latest and diverse range of information is called the richest person. We get information through the various sources. The study “ use of reference sources among the students of 9th and 10th of KV Narimedu, Madurai” gives an idea about the role of reference books in supplementing and complementing the existing knowledge of the children both to meet their scholarly and co-scholarly information needs.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Oyedum (2005) defined reference books/ sources as books designed by the arrangement and treatment of its subject matter to be consulted for definite items of information rather than to be read consecutively. American Library Association glossary of library and information science defined reference books as those books whose use is restricted to the library. While Obiora (2004) defined reference books/materials as the publications –book and non- book materials consulted only within the library for specific facts or a subjects. Conclusively, Ifafesobi (2005) defined reference materials/ sources as information in the library, regardless of their formats, whether in print or non- print relevant format can be used to provide relevant answers to divergent information needs of the library users

According to Elmer E. Ramuson and Biosciences Libraries (2009), reference sources such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, almanacs, atlases etc are research tools that can help in writing a paper and project. The materials provide answers to specific questioning such as brief facts, statistics and technical instructions; provide background information, or direct one to additional sources. There are direct reference sources like abstract, index and bibliographies and source reference material such as dictionaries, yearbooks, encyclopedias, handbooks etc.

On the use of reference sources by undergraduates, Ademodi (2004); Onifade and Sowole (2011) discovered that encyclopedias 53 (29%) and dictionaries 32 (18%); dictionaries 72 (21.1%) and encyclopaedias 66(19.3%) are mostly being used among the undergraduates in Adekunle Ajasin

University, Akungba-Akoko and Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta respectively. Furthermore, Onifade and Sowole (2011) found out that majority of the respondents in their study do not know the difference between reference services and sources.

Okeke, Oghenetga and Nwabu(2013) undertook a research on students' attitude towards the use of reference and information services (RIS) in academic libraries Nigeria. Specific purposes include determining the electronic reference available for reference librarians to render effective and efficient services to users, types of reference materials in use in academic libraries in Nigeria and find out problems that hinder effective reference and information services. The work is limited to four academic libraries in Anambra State namely Nnamdi Azikiwe University- Awka, Anambra State University- Uli, Federal Polytechnic -Oko, And Madonna University-Okija-Anambra State. The population of the study is fifty users, each from institution. A survey method was used. Findings show that students do not make proper use of reference services and sources due to stocked obsolete materials and inexperienced staff in this section. Recommendations include making available enough fund, trained staff, user education programme for students and the provision of e-library for use by students.

Objective of the User Study

To find out the role of reference books and its use among the students of class-9th 10th of KV Narimedu, Madurai and to assess the effectiveness of the reference sources in improving the reading habits of the children.

- a) To know the awareness of the respondents on the meaning and nature of reference sources
- b) To know the knowledge of the respondents on the use of dictionaries, yearbooks and search engines to get required information and
- c) To identify the level of satisfaction of the respondents on the existing reference sources - both print and online resources.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Data Collection

The whole group went to the KV Narimedu, Madurai and collected the data from the classes-IXA and X A. The questionnaires were distributed to the students and asked to fill them. The students returned the questionnaires after giving their information.

Sample Size

50 students were taken as sample size to get the data from class-9th and 10th of KV Narimedu, Madurai.

Classes Chosen / Target Audience

25 students of IX A and 25 students of XA

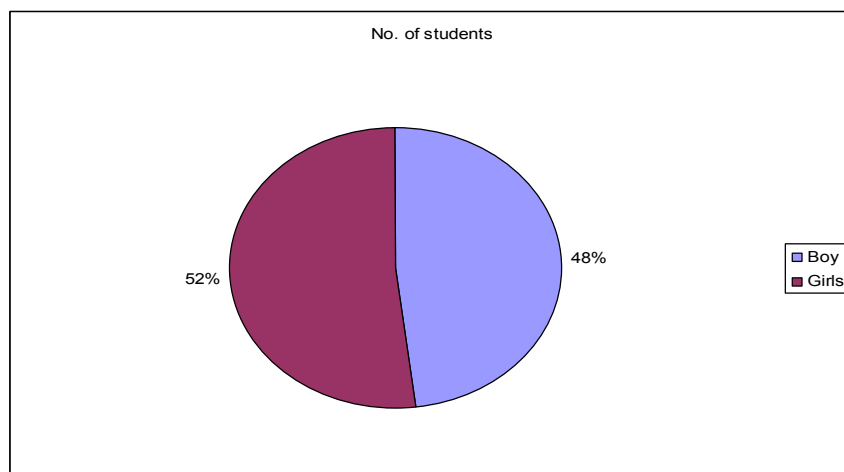
Methodology

Questionnaire method is used for study. Sixteen questions to the definition, type and use of reference sources were prepared.

Data analysis and Interpretation

1. Gender-wise distribution of students

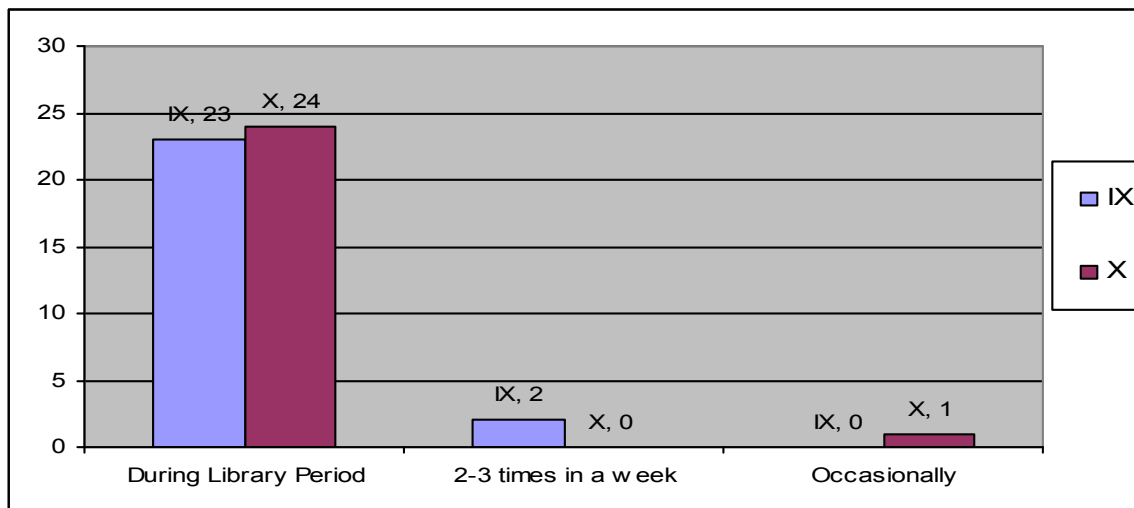
Gender of Students	No. of students
Boy	24
Girls	26



Out of 50 students, 24 students are boys (48%) and 26 students (52%) are girls.

2. How often do you visit your library?

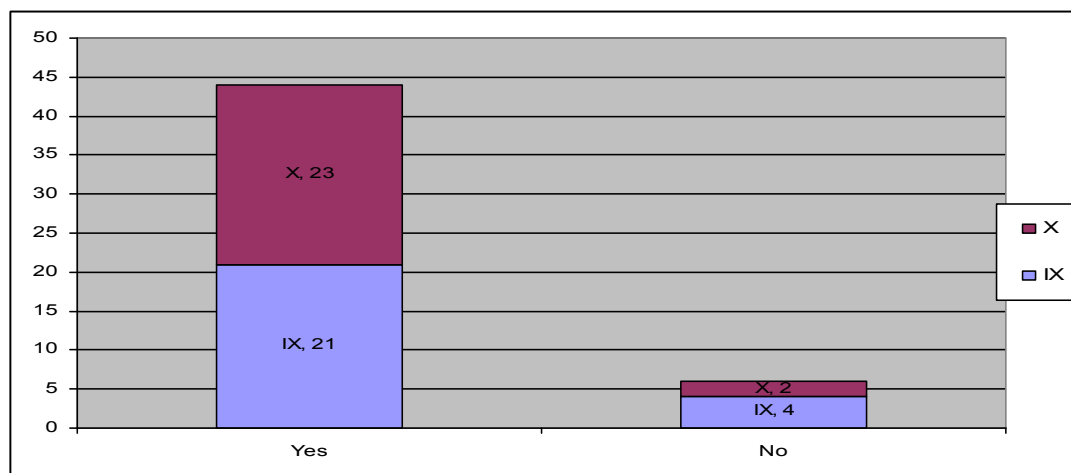
Class	During Library Period	2-3 times in a week	Occasionally
IX	23	2	00
X	24	00	1



Students were asked questions about how often they visit the library, 47 students replied that they visit the library during library period, only 3 students visit the library in other periods.

3. What do you mean by reference books ?

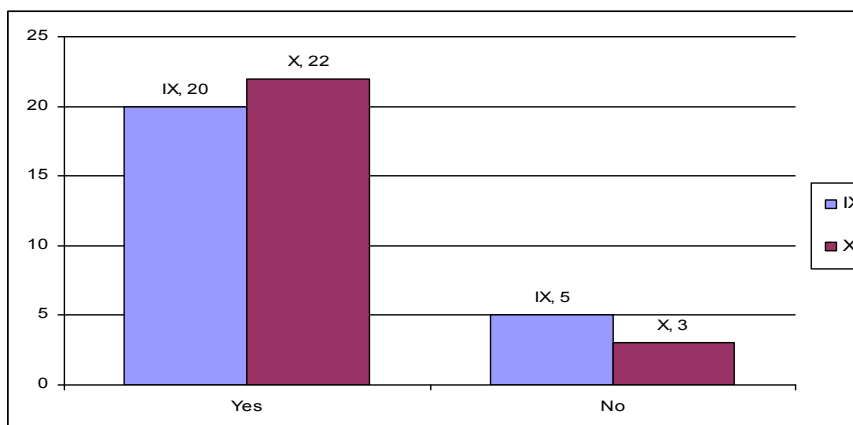
Class	Yes	No
IX	21	04
X	23	02



Out of 50 students, 44 know about the reference books and only 6 students have no idea about the reference books.

4. Write the names of any two reference books ?

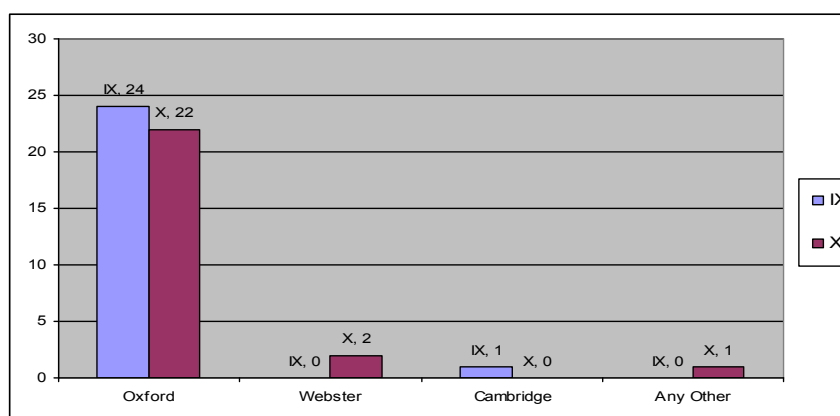
Class	Yes	No
IX	20	05
X	22	03



Students were asked to write down the names of any two reference books, 42 respondents wrote the names of reference books and only 06 students were unable to write the name of any reference book.

5. Which dictionary do you prefer to find out the meaning of difficult words?

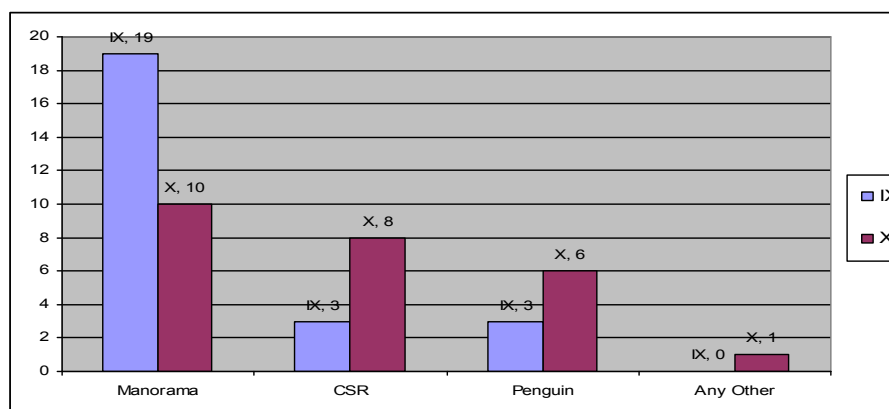
Class	Oxford	Webster	Cambridge	Any Other
IX	24	00	01	00
X	22	01	00	01



46 students like to use Oxford Dictionary and only 04 students suggested the name of other dictionaries.

6. Which one of the following is more popular year book according to you?

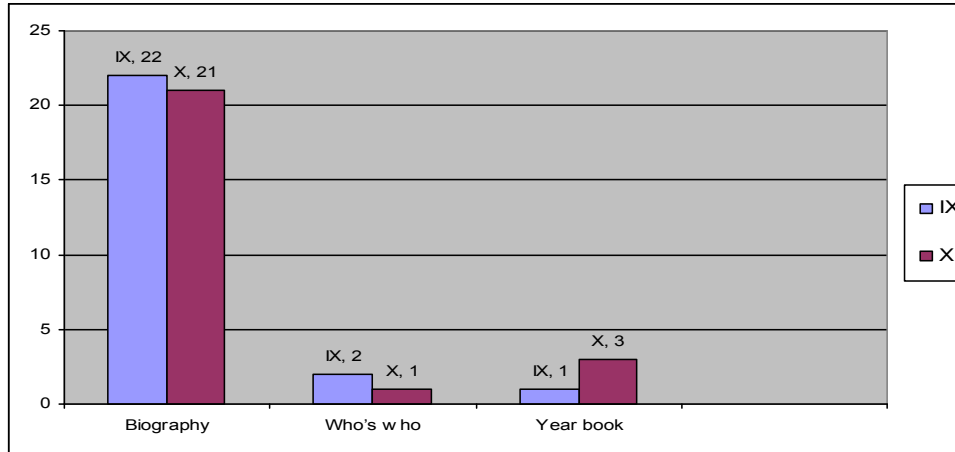
Class	Manorama	CSR	Penguin	Any Other
IX	19	03	03	00
X	10	08	06	01



29 students chosen Manorama yearbook, 11 students go for CSR, 09 students like to use penguin year book and only 01 student go for other year book.

7. The reference book you would use when you want to prepare a write-up on Dr.S. Radhakrishnanan ?

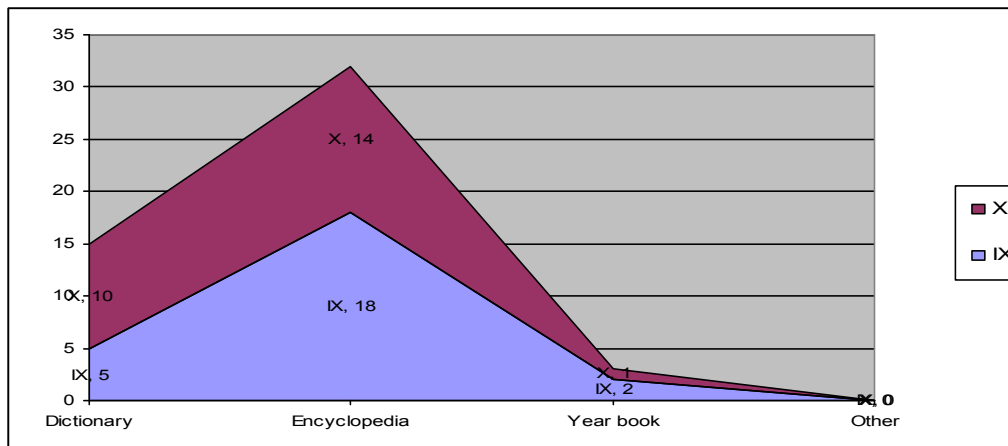
Class	Biography	Who's who	Year book
IX	22	02	01
X	21	01	03



43 out of 50 opted to use biographies and other 07 students opted for other reference books.

8. Which reference book do you use frequently?

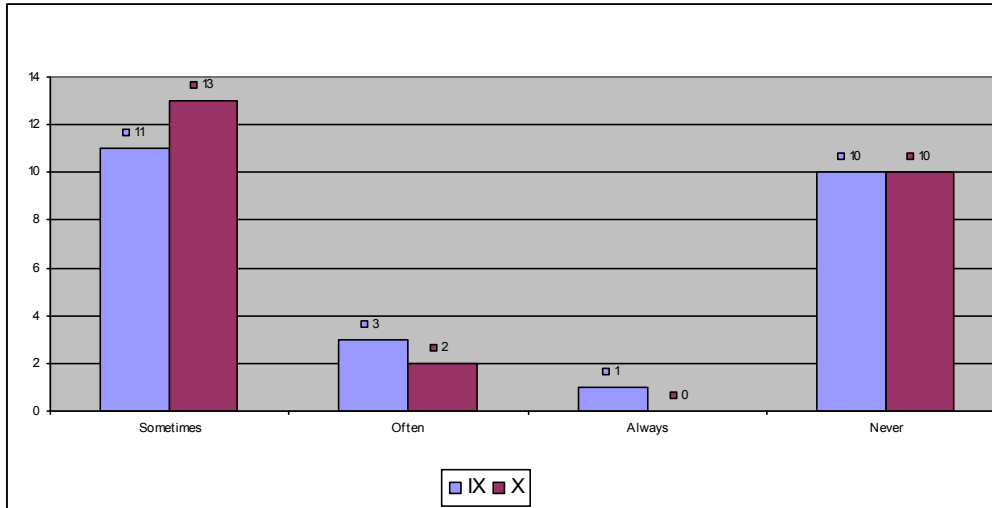
Class	Dictionary	Encyclopedia	Year book	Other
IX	05	18	02	00
X	10	14	01	00



Out of 50 students, 15 students want to use dictionary, 32 students were in favor of encyclopedia and 03 students for year book.

9. Do you take assistance from librarian for finding reference sources?

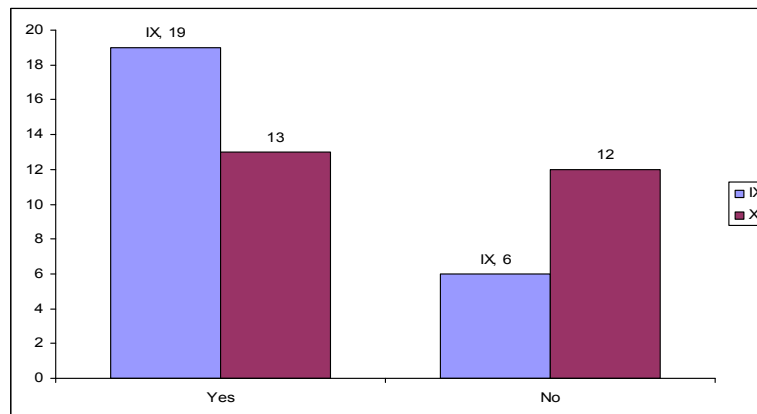
Class	Sometimes	Often	Always	Never
IX	11	03	01	10
X	13	02	00	10



24 students sometimes take assistance from librarian in order to find out information about reference sources, 05 students often take assistance, 20 students never take assistance and only 01 student like to take assistance always.

10. Are you satisfied with the reference services available in the library?

Class	Yes	No
IX	19	06
X	13	12

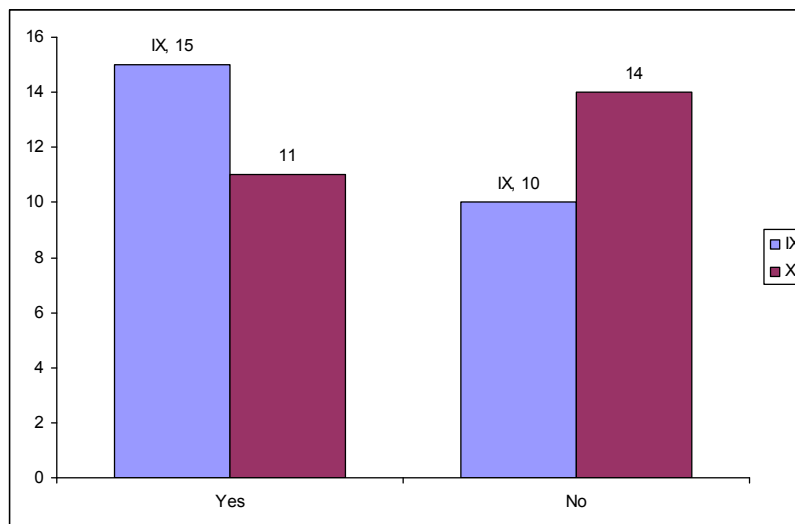


The graph shows that 32 students are satisfied with the reference service and remaining 18 students are not satisfied.

11. Do you like to get photocopy / Xerox copy of reference books in the library ?

Class	Yes	No
IX	15	10
X	11	14

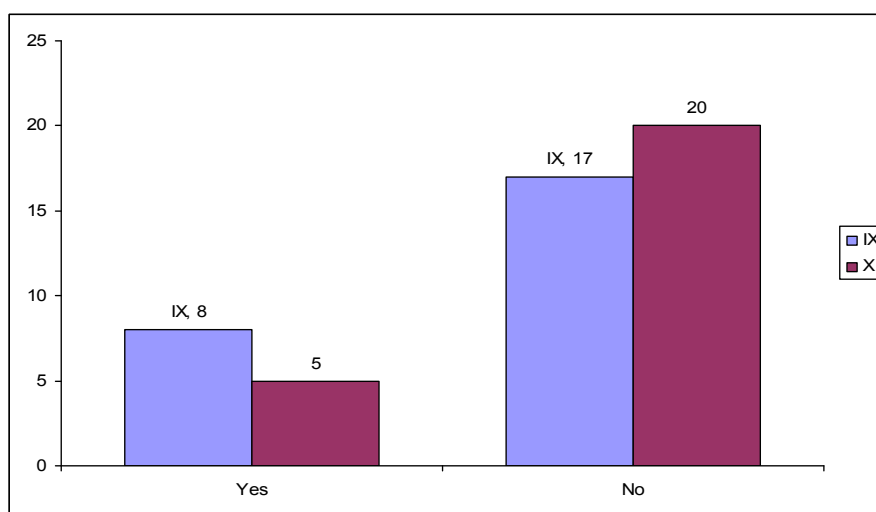
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26 students out of fifty, like to have photo copy service in the library and the remaining students don't need the same in the library.

12. Are you using Internet facilities in the library for collecting any information ?

Class	Yes	No
IX	08	17
X	05	20

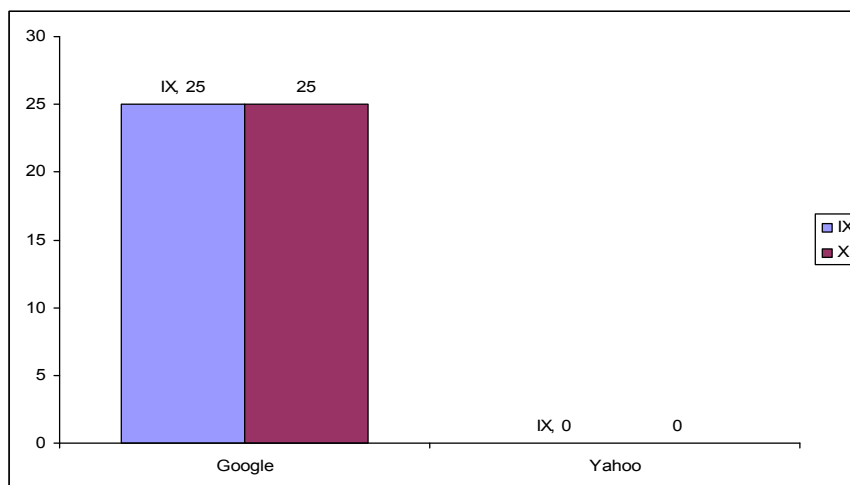


Out of 50, only 13 students use internet in the library, while 37 students are not interested.

13. Which Search engine do you prefer for finding reference information ?

Class	Google	Yahoo	Altavista	Others
IX	25	00	00	00
X	25	00	00	00

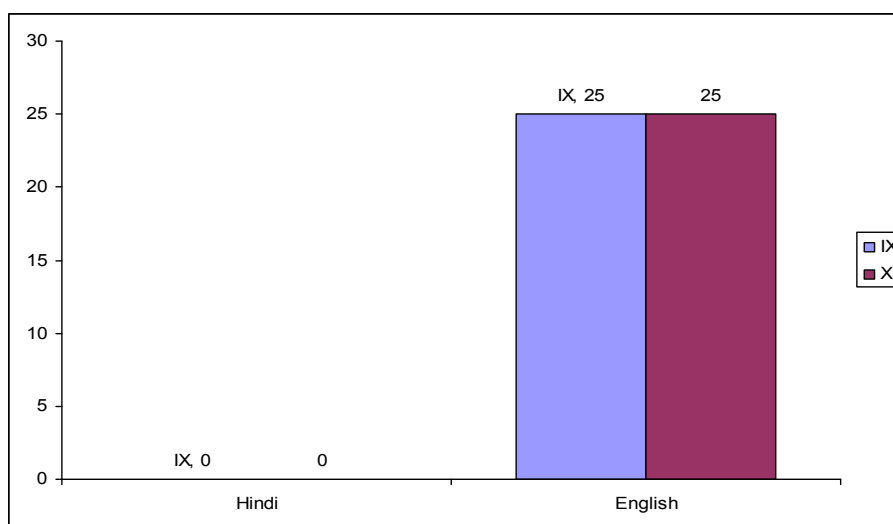
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Graph shows that 100% percent students are using Google search engine.

14. In which language do you prefer to get information ?

Class	Hindi	English	Others
IX	00	25	00
X	00	25	00

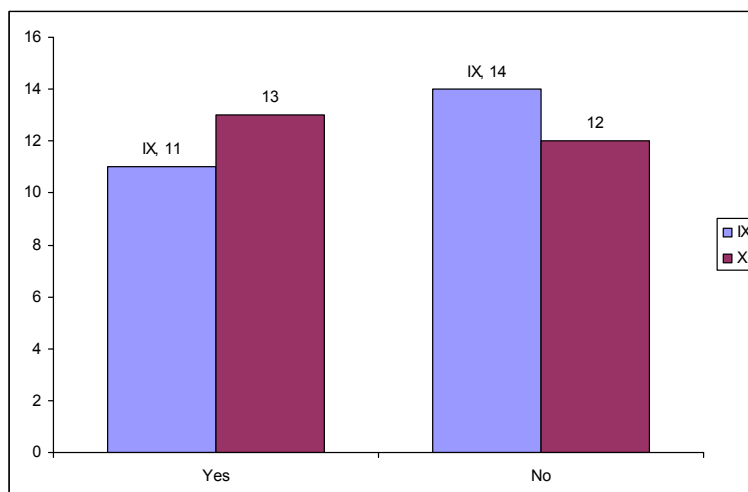


100% students are interested in English language while finding the information.

15. Are you able to get the required information immediately from your library ?

Class	Yes	No
IX	11	14
X	13	12

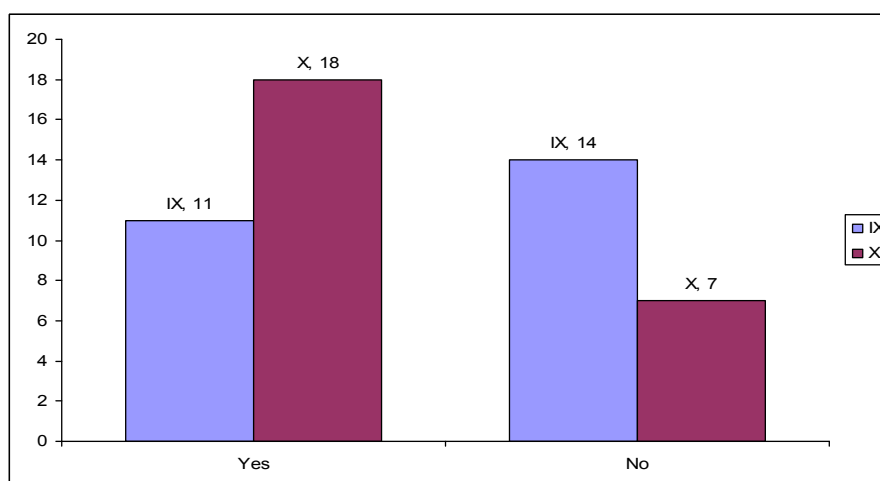
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Students are giving quite mixed response and 24 students are satisfied while remaining 26 are not satisfied.

16. Are you getting sufficient reference materials from the library ?.

Class	Yes	No
IX	11	14
X	18	07

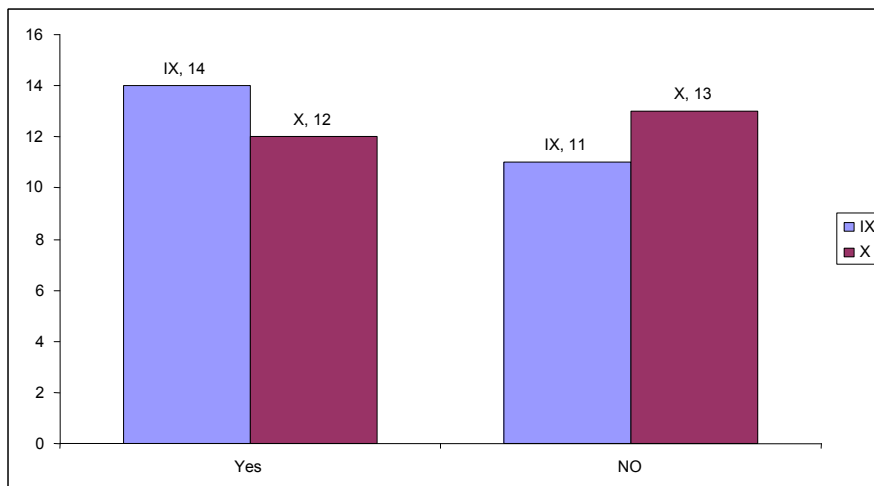


Class X students are more satisfied as compared to class IX. 39 students are satisfied with reference service where as 21 not satisfied.

17. Do you like to get help/ guide from librarian in finding the information from reference resources?

Class	Yes	NO
IX	14	11
X	12	13

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Out of 50 students 26 like to take librarian's help, while remaining 24 do not like to take help from librarian.

DISCUSSION

1. Maximum no. of students are familiar with library and reference services provided by library.
2. Most of the students are visited library during their library period only.
3. It was found that most of the students are familiar with reference book and types of the reference materials.
4. It was found that students mostly use reference sources like Dictionary, Encyclopedia and Year book.
5. Survey shows that 50% students need help while finding information from reference book.
6. 100% students are familiar with Internet access with the help of Google search engine.
7. Most of students are satisfied with library services provided by library.

CONCLUSION

It is really an encouraging facts that students of KV, Narimedu, Madurai are using reference book and they are familiar with modern sources like Internet. Sometimes, students need help to find out information from reference sources. Xerox facilities and more infrastructures for internet facilities should be made available in the library. Most of students are satisfied with reference sources available in the library and need the assistance of the librarian to find out the information. Necessary and timely information literacy classes should be conducted by the librarian to help the students use the reference sources available in the library to the maximum extent being able to dwell in this information explosion era smoothly and safely.

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