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Decline of Reading Habits Among Youth: Causes and Solutions

Outline:

While reading has plethora of benefits, youth have understated the significance of reading due to excessive reliance on technology, Poor educational upbringing, and predominate language barriers, thus highlighting the need of prompt actions to preserve this promising asset.

1. Introduction

2. Understanding Paramount Significance of Reading in Shaping the world

3. Highlighting Pernicious Causes that Undermine the Habit of Reading Among Youth

3.1. Lack of interest of individuals, due to Poor educational upbringing
Case Study: Culture of rote memorization and copy pasting in Pakistan

3.2. Excessive reliance on advanced technological means to get latest happenings undermine reading habits

case study: Reel's revolution
and short content

3.3. Pervasive language dilemma
Poses serious threats to the
reading culture

case study: English and ~~urdu~~
literature in Pakistan
and language illiteracy

3.4. Absence of reading culture
among elders in families greatly
impacting youth's habits

case study: Reading culture in
Japanese families

3.5. Fragility in role played by
mainstream media to promote
healthy habits

case study: Meaningful talkshows
and programmes on ~~book~~
reading

3.6. Unhealthy reading cultures in
universities and colleges

case study: Notes providing and
taking pictures dilemma

3.7. Dearth of libraries to make
access possible to quality
readings

case study: Pakistan's library status

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4. Demonstrating Practical Steps to curb the Decline of Reading Habit

4.1. Ensuring easy access to quality books through Libraries

4.2. Promoting reading cultures among youth through universities and colleges

4.3. Inculcating reading habits in youth through family and culture

4.4. Elevating role of media to glorify reading as a precious asset

4.5. Eradicating language barriers by promoting regional languages

5. Conclusion

It is popularly asserts that today's avid reader would be a tomorrow's leader. This, of course, proves that reading has immense potential to improve one's character, personality, and intellect. Similarly, educational well-being endorses national growth, progress, and prosperity by refining people's thoughts and elevating consciousness. In this regard, youth's interest in reading has immense potential. However, in today's world, reading habit has been sidelined due to various precarious issues, including widespread language barrier, and absence of reading culture among families. Similarly, reading has also been curtailed due to paucity of reading environment nationwide and technological dependency. These challenges are obvious and evident, proving that ensuring easy access to libraries, promoting local languages, and enhancing role of mainstream media are some of the robust, inclusive, and sustainable ways to hinder the decline of reading among youth. While reading has plethora of benefits, youth have understated the significance of reading due to the excessive reliance on technology, and poor educational

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upbringing, thus highlighting the need of swift actions to preserve the reading habits among youth.

Before delving into details, it is wise to explore the vast corridors of Potential Promises habit of reading and educational activities provide to improve, mend, and elevate Statue of one's character, intellect, and personality. History bears the witness that well educated Societies have always excelled the world by easing sufferings of others by inventing, discovering, and providing nuance understanding of the world. This is just because of their habits to decipher the hidden truths in texts and words. For instance, Code of the Babylon has provided the world a new understanding of the criminal treatment. This demonstrates the Paramount understanding of habit to read. Similarly, medical discoveries, technological advancement, and space exploration all require knowledge, which can be acquired through reading. Hence, the habit of reading quality text can transform the world.

Reading habit faces decline among youth in Pakistan due to poor educational upbringing, which halts one's interest in reading. It is pervasive in Pakistan's educational landscape to memorize content and reproduce during examination without proper understanding the concept and context of information. As a result, students ignore paying heed to the focused reading and understanding the texts. For instance, rote memorization and copy paste culture in educational institutions in Pakistan dim the interest of students in reading in their early educational experiences. This ultimately leads youth to complete alienation from reading and books' love. Thus, individual agency and educational conundrum play a decisive role in diminishing reading habits among youth.

In today's modern and technologically sophisticated world, plenty of advanced means provide required information through audio notes and reels, causing decline in reading habits. The love for book reading hinges on one's interest and time to open a book to read. In these times, people do not have enough time to devote to book reading. Instead, they

rely on easily accessible means to get desired content. This has greatly reduced human creativity, inclination, and interest, for book reading. For instance, book reviews in short reels, and audio reviews of books have made people addict to these technology. It clearly manifests, that burgeoning technologies are increasingly becoming a double-edged sword, causing individuals to excessively depend on them for their even simpler tasks.

Furthermore, divergence in languages and communication issues have also exacerbated the reading habits to decline. It is pretty obvious that the majority of the content present in Urdu or English language. However, majority of the population lack the resources to have command over any of the given languages. For example, people in KPK hardly manage to speak or read Urdu or English literature. Similarly, other regions also face this menace. Therefore, it depicts that not other factors alone but this contrast in language has also helped reading habits to decline nationwide.

In a similar fashion, Pakistani families intrinsically fail to incorporate reading legacy or culture. A toddler imitates or mocks the elders around. Similarly, a youth follows the footsteps of the elders. It clearly delineates decline in reading habits starts from families and expands nationally.

In this regard, Japan's reading culture among elders amid leisure exemplifies the importance of well-educated guardians to set the tone for the latter. Such a case proves that reading has become outdated in Pakistan as parenting prioritises social media over books.

Additionally, role of social media to promote reading and its associated promises has also caused the decline. In Pakistan, it has been a common practice to utilize media resources to influence perspectives of the common populace to win in an election. It has never materialized to spread consciousness about books and reading benefits. For instance, in Pakistan 24/7, media only promotes political agendas and narratives through headlines and talk shows. This suggests that media has also ignored the significance of reading.

Adding more, universities and colleges promote rote-memorization rather than healthy reading skills. It is a widely accepted phenomenon in Pakistan that these institutions are a mean to earn a degree but not knowledge. There are myriad of financial and administrative challenges that greatly hamper positive role of the educational institutions. It is popular among students to ask for ready-made notes from colleagues or teachers instead of reading books. Similarly, teachers also promote easy ways to impart rote learning. This situation has created a vicious cycle that has paralysed educational growth and effectiveness.

Besides, paucity of libraries and peaceful reading atmosphere have also contributed to curtail reading habits. A reader hones for a separate and serene place to absorb new ideas and findings. However, Pakistan lacks such places to ensure imparting a healthy precedence. Therefore, people fail to grasp context of the content amid unhealthy reading ambience. Unfortunately, Pakistan has five major libraries for public. This showcases that reading has not only face threats at individual level but

also at collective sphere. Hence, dwindling role of government to provide apt places for reading also contribute in extinction of reading habits.

Here are some of the practical steps to ensure protection and preservation of reading habit.

By ensuring easy access to quality knowledge through libraries can help promote reading habits. This can be done by establishing libraries in colleges, universities, and mosques. There is also need of promoting public libraries. For this, government has to prioritize education by investing in the educational activities nationally. Similarly, Provincial governments can also play their part by promoting similar pattern at provincial level. A lesson can be learn from the Scandinavian States for promoting public libraries to support vulnerable sections of society. This manifests that establishment of suitable places for reading can revive, restore, and rejuvenate reading habits among youth.

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The constructive role of local educational institutions can play a decisive role in promoting reading habits. It must be included in the charter of the institutions to make students to read quality books during the academic years. It can also be done through integrating a reading week to celebrate reading in colleges and universities just like sports week. This will elevate the interest and passion of students to seriously indulge in healthy habit of book reading. Thus, role of educational institutions in improving reading habit is inevitable.

In a similar fashion, families and local cultures can act as a tool to promote reading habits in Pakistan. As families and cultures prepare an individual to survive by shaping his/her personality, they can also prompt them to adopt reading as a legacy. Culture through a process called acculturation enhances human capabilities to survive by guiding their generational values. In a similar way, families and cultures stand as a cornerstone to allow reading to become a cultural norm and family's legacy.

The role of mainstream and social media have the potential to spread awareness about books and benefits of reading. The use of social media is so pervasive today. It is quite easy to influence people around through meaningful talks and discussions about reading habits. By promoting success stories of avid reader, it is viable to entrench publically. In Pakistan, the role of media has been restricted to only political narrative building. However, positive role of media can be enhanced to protect reading habits to decline. Therefore, it is pertinent to promote robust use of media.

By promoting local and regional languages can endorse the reading habit to thrive. The prevalence of alien languages and the English dilemma promote inequality and disappointment when students fail to grasp ideas, as Pakistan's education has failed to bridge gaps between national and global languages. Similarly, pervasive English content adds fuel to the fire. For instance, in Pakistan students fail to present or express thoughts in English even after spending 14 to 16 years in educational

institutions. Therefore, it is essentially imperative to bridge gap between languages and promote languages in various regions of Pakistan to help netizens to become able to read quality content in different language. For this, translation, vocabulary help, and guide books can also assist youth to maintain reading habits.

In essence, reading breeds leaders. It is crystal clear that great nations have dominated the world through education, knowledge, and intellect rather than wars. However, developing nations like Pakistan face pressing challenges in the realms of education. Today, declining reading habits due to generative tools, audio reviews, poor educational upbringing, and lack of reading culture among families has posed serious threats to the progress and prosperity of Pakistan. As poor reading habits or absence of culture to read have detrimental consequences for national stature. Therefore, state's role in streamlining media's effective use, establishment of public libraries, and promotion of local languages along with the bridging English and Urdu gap is indispensable. It is obvious that without proper knowledge and

understanding no state dares to thrive. As Nelson Mandela - a revered politician and famous writer - poignantly asserts, ~~that~~ "Education is a weapon which you can use to change the world." This profound revelation underscores the importance of education, reading, and knowledge.

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