Changing Educational Comprehension, Assessment of the Transition Process from Library to Internet and Turkey as A Specimen

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Abstract: There are different ways to acquire knowledge in the present educational system. This system aims to improve student's research abilities, and is not concerned on the place where the knowledge is acquired, but the way it is acquired. This present educational system is basically centered in instructing the student in the class and telling him to make some researches on the topics given instead of just teaching that actually requires student's passive learning. This method has brought the lack of library use. With the student centered active learning that gives strong emphasis on research it was expected that libraries would win back its former sign finance. Never the less this time libraries face another threat: internet.
In this research we will examine the extent changes in and change of research process. While libraries became out of fashion day by day, we will assess how internet preferred for efficiency could affect using public survey we will try to reach changes in acquiring knowledge and changing roles of teacher\instructor and student in the context of educational institutions.

Keywords: Education, Turkish education, book, teacher, library, internet.

Introduction

The child who, due to various reasons, has to survive in a small environment, will be probably learned everything about that environment in a certain period of time due to the environmental limitations. Whereas world of the kid possess some other worlds as well. There are billions of people living on the earth which s/he does not familiar with, so many other living creatures that s/he does not know and various fellow beings who present personal characteristics dissimilar to the ones around, wait him/her somewhere. The child will get to know much more things throughout the life and this information will not be given by the environment s/he exists but by the books s/he will read. "Children books are the sources which exemplify the answers to the problems occur lifetime and reactions to them with the artist point of view. This source makes them perceive that people may have different attributes and introduce distinctive types of life and human relations. It expands the life circle and makes them meet numerous feeling and idea models." (Sever, 2007: 47). So with such reasons if the child manages to transform a reading action to a habit, s/he; enlarges existing life area, starts get the know himself/herself, can distinguish similarities and differences between him/her and the other people.

The child, who has the tendency of being shaped, may build equality between himself/herself and the character of the book s/he reads. S/He may consider the feelings, ideas and behavior for certain events of some characters as if him/her and conclude common inferences. Thus when s/he adopts various sides of all imitated characters, such an individual comes out who also constitutes contradictions inside, tries to know and become himself/herself and presents in the evolution stage. In the course of time, child forms the personality when s/he gets over all of those differences and attains the required maturity. Actions of those characters which conforms children's reality and supports their entrepreneurship, make way for similar reactions and behavior models on children. So this process gives the possibility to access a group of important phase for the personality development such as making them to know themselves, to believe that they are important and to respect others.

Sever (2007: 49) shares same ideas on this subject: It says, "Children books are the tools which have important effects on children's personality development. This effects which starts from the very beginning of childhood period, continue till the end of primary education. The most decisive factor for those effects to be appropriate for the purpose is to support and unite children with books suitable for personal characters of children."

Problematic Situation

In the existing era of information and technology, shared method of the outstanding education approaches, instead of changing learner's behavior, provide the opportunity to control their behavior by using the way of perceiving and modeling. There is a probability instead of order; preference instead of obligation. Day by day renovation of technology which forces human intelligence obligates society to lots of modifications and people to innovation. This obligation does not cause a gap between 50 years before and today but 5 years before and today.

So it would be wrong to expect the books not to change which read by children who, together with the mentioned wind of change, face a change in everything including their interest areas, expectations from the life, school life, textbooks, models, aims, food and drinks they have, and cultural structure of the their society. In this manner, world children classics such as Heidi, Pollyanna, Pinocchio, Gulliver's Travels, From the Earth to the Moon, are chosen less compared to past. It is possible to explain this reason with the decrease of the events in those books that can reach with the children's imagination. Because trip to moon is not a fantasy for them anymore, Pinocchio is an ordinary hero whose nose is getting longer when he lies, Gulliver is a traveler who runs into strange people in a world many different nations live in, Heidi and Pollyanna are the girls who walk around countryside, graze lambs in a village life, pick up flowers from the garden of their house, eating fruit, climbing trees, so they are extremely opposed to nowadays children.

Books children read is not only thing that have been changing. Places where they read those books and resources that they refer to get information about the book are also share a portion from this change pie. "Libraries lose their former importance and have been replaced by Internet libraries" is the opinion that composes problem question of this research.

Research Objective

This study gives point to the dimensions of changing process of research. An identification to the situation concerning the internet which is very widely used since it serves ease of research possibilities and saves lots of time and the way it wrapped the world of children and youth and where libraries has lost their old popularity. Libraries are not the only one that has changed the role and lost their former importance. Concretizing the dimensions of this change which is valid for school and teachers as well by using a small survey study and by doing so reaching quantitative data, take part in the objective of this research.

Constraints

1. Research is limited with; fifty three students in 6th grade from the second stage of primary education in Turkey and,
2. Two primary schools in Istanbul which are depended on Ministry of Education.

Methodology

Combing research methodology is used in this study. Combing research; measures many variables and lots of answers given to same questions, checks more than one hypothesis out, makes chronological conclusions about the behaviors, experiences or characteristics of the past. (Neuman, 2006: 400) Within the framework of this methodology a survey made among the certain students in determined primary schools and answers of the survey are commentated with the help of SPSS software.

Collecting the Data

In this research, original data is acquired with combing document method and document analysis together with collecting the surveys carried out to students. "Combing document is defined as collecting data by analyzing existing records and documents. Addressed to certain purpose, combing document contains the process of taking notes, finding and reading sources." (Karasar, 2000: 183). "Document study contains analysis of the written materials which includes information about the finding or findings of research area." (Yıldırım ve Şimşek, 1999: 140). Data, acquired by the survey study, is construed.
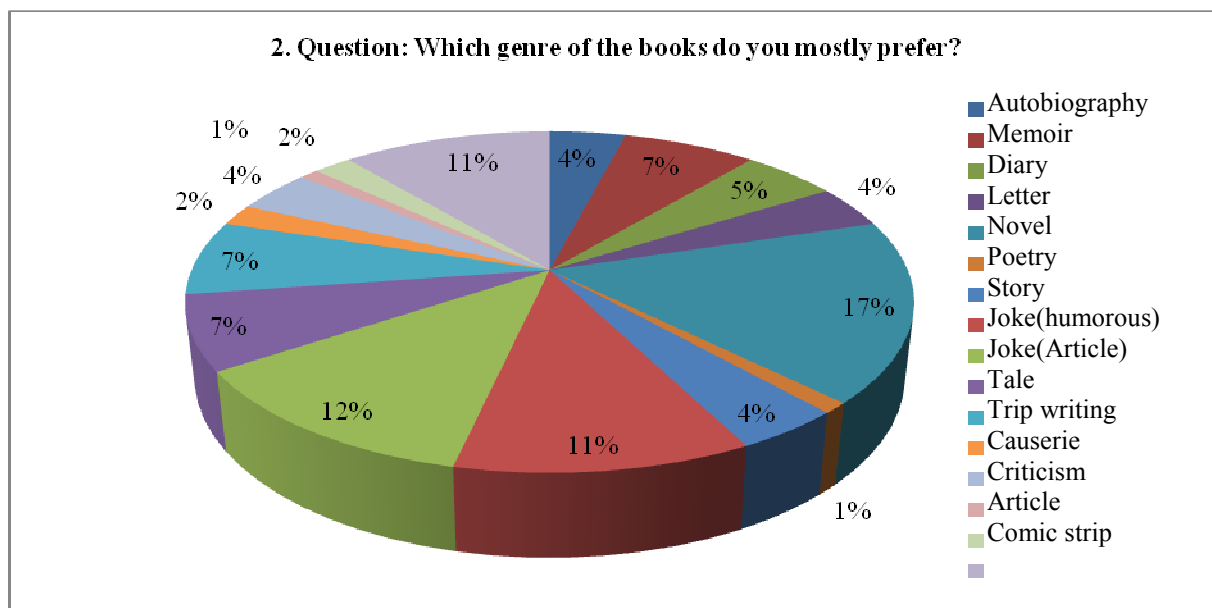
Universe of Researches and Exemplification

According to Karasar(2000) there are two universes. One of them is general universe and the other one is working universe. General universe is the completion of the units of research conclusions that are to be generalized. So any object, fact, event and all of the individuals exist in the scope of any research is defined as universe. (Yazıcıoğlu ve Erdoğan, 2004: 31). Working universe of the researcher is composed of a set which is selected from universe according to certain rules and of which researcher study on it. So exemplification is a set that is studied and has an ability to represent the universe. The working universe of this study is determined according to purposive modeling which is one of the beside-probability modeling types. In purposive modeling which is also called as judgment modeling, researcher uses his/her decision on who will be selected and takes who are most appropriate for the purpose of the research into exemplification set (Balcı, 2005:90). So in purposive exemplification; exemplification set is selected by separating the units representing characteristics of which information is purposed to get inside of the main mass. In this manner 6th grade students refer to universe and 53 students from the 6th grades refer to the sample of this research.
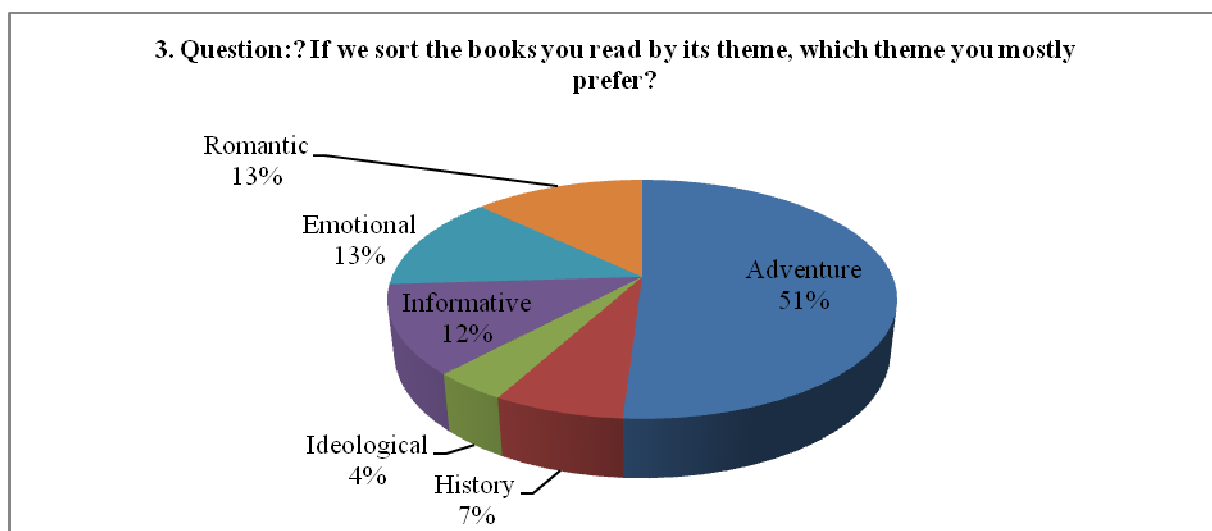
Findings and Comments

Tables are generated according to the information acquired from the survey carried out to the 6th grade students from two primary schools in Istanbul. There are 14 questions in total. The scope of the questions contain what kind of books that students read, with which frequency they read, whether they are encouraged to read or not, from where they buy the books, whether they go to library or not, if not why is it so etc. Answers to the questions are not so different than the expectations. There are some precautions that should be taken before it is late and it shows some new executions may be done. Questions are as follows;
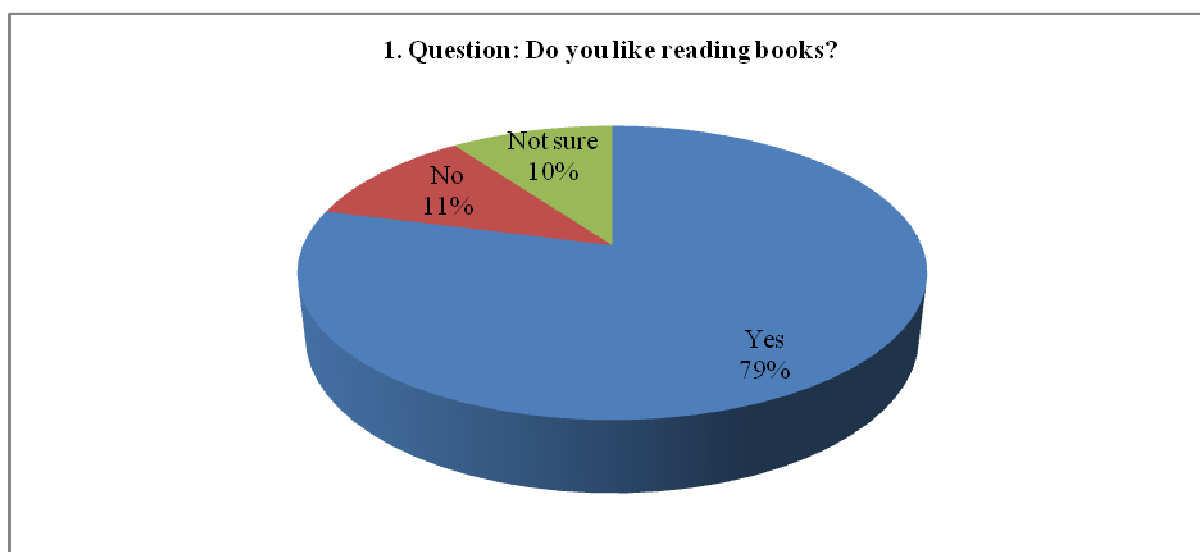
%79 of the students state that they like reading. %11 percent of them says that they do not; while %10 of them who are hesitant can be counted in the dislike group. So it is possible to conclude that %21 of the students do not read with enthusiasm. It is quite pleasing that this portion is not very high.

2. Question: Which genre of the books do you mostly prefer?

- Autobiography
- Memoir
- Diary
- Letter
- Novel
- Poetry
- Story
- Joke(humorous)
- Joke(Article)
- Tale
- Trip writing
- Causerie
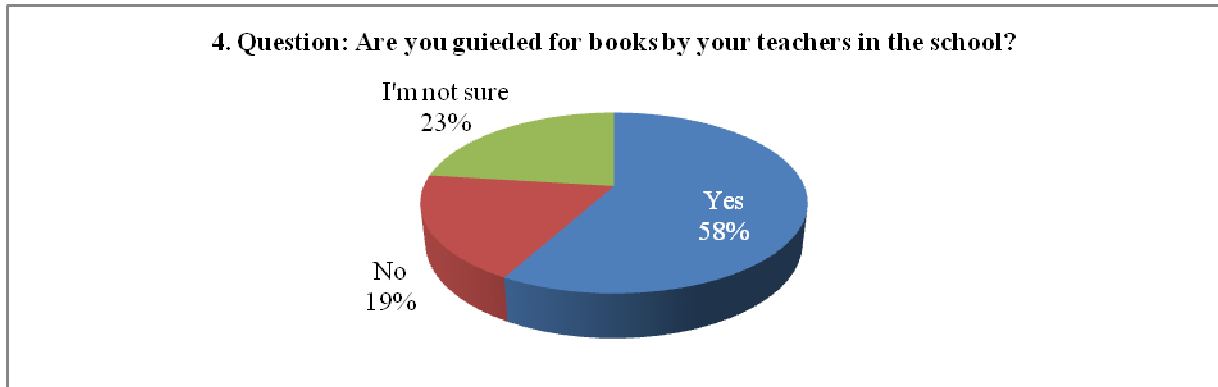- Criticism
- Article
- Comic strip

Students are asked to choose which genre of the book that they mostly like. It is seen that novel is the most read one. Humorous jokes come after novel. Story and comic strip follows it. Minimal interest goes to criticism, essay, article and trip writing. If it is put in order novel %17; humorous jokes %12; story, comic strip %11; newspaper text, tale, memoir %7; dairy %5; poetry, causerie, letter, autobiography %4; article, trip writing %2; criticism, essay %2. The values are quite engrossing for 6th grade students, 12 years-old group who are in the progress of a rapid development. Genres which would contribute for them in an educational and instructional level are the least interested ones. 6th grade students have not passed to grown-up position yet and this might have been an important factor for this result.

3. Question:? If we sort the books you read by its theme, which theme you mostly prefer?

- Romantic 13%
- Emotional 13%
- Informative 12%
- Ideological 4%
- History 7%
- Adventure 51%

The table appears in this question is an expected table for the 6th grade students. It is very natural that they have tendency to adventure books. Since survey does not ask gender of the student, it is not possible to conclude which gender has more tendencies on which genres. However researches indicate that; generally girls in those ages choose emotional and romantic books while boys use their choice on adventure books (Yalçın; Aytaş, 2002).

➢ Girls are interested in works with dependence and self-sacrifice theme, books and magazines which posses an artistic value while boys prefer works based on abstract and emotional thoughts, actual events in the newspaper and sports articles.

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- ➢ Tendency to opposite sex and interest to art works increase in this period where gender distinction is strictly set down.
- ➢ They start interested in researches and research articles about sport, entertainment, science and nature
- ➢ They like novels, movies and stories which contains secrecy. They see themselves in the books they read.

4. Question: Are you guieded for books by your teachers in the school?

I'm not sure
23%

Yes
58%

No
19%

There are %19 portion of the students who are considered as guided by their teachers at school. If we add students who are not sure into this value, it makes %42 and which cannot be considered as insufficient. Teachers, where new curriculum gives more weight to reading in comparison the previous curriculums, are seen as unsuccessful.

5. Question: Do you think that you gain something when you read?

No
7%

Not sure
6%

Yes
87%
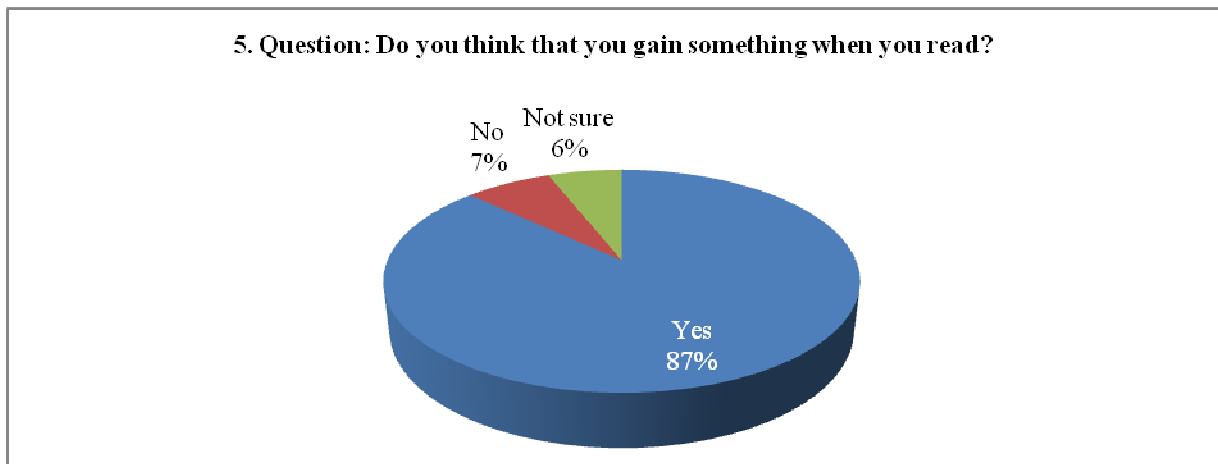
Although it is pleasing that the percentage of students who thinks that reading is useful is %87, portion of the not-sure students with %13, should not be ignored.

6. Question: What is your way of reading books?

I borrow
32%

I buy
68%

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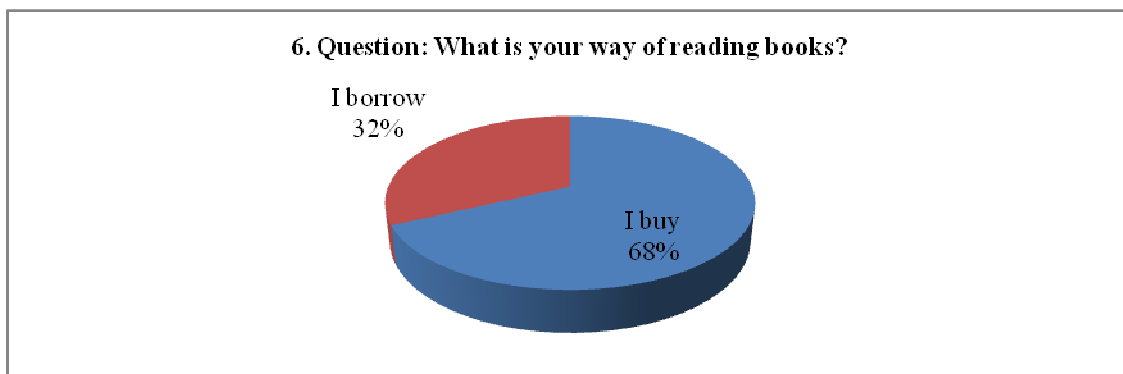
Portion who says I buy to read book has more weight. %68 of the students chooses buying while %32 of them prefers borrowing. This percentage confirms the 12th question of the survey which concludes that the portion of the borrowing from library.

**7. Question: Dou you check newly issued books frequently?**
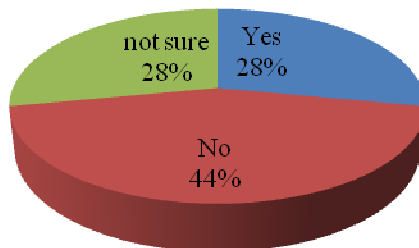
%44 of the student stated that they are not interested in newly issued books. One of the reasons for that would be the campaign of Ministry of Education in which 100 classics are purposed to be read by students. This case is due to the fact that recommended books have the priority in comparison to newly issued ones.

8. Question: Are you influenced by anthing or any body in book selection?
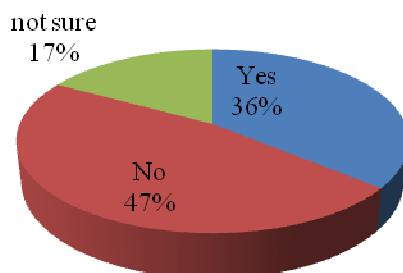
%47 of the students does not think that they are influenced by something in their book selection. Getting influenced by something is expected condition for the students in this age group whereas it is seen that a high percentage think that they are not influenced by something.


**9. Question: By whom you are mostly influenced in book selection?**
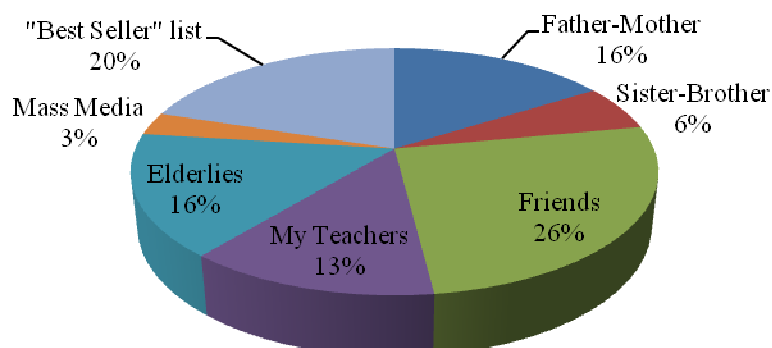
Students who state that they are affected in book selection accept that they are influenced mostly by their friends. It is an engrossing result that teacher's effect is only %13 while "Best Seller" list which is not created with objective approach is %20.
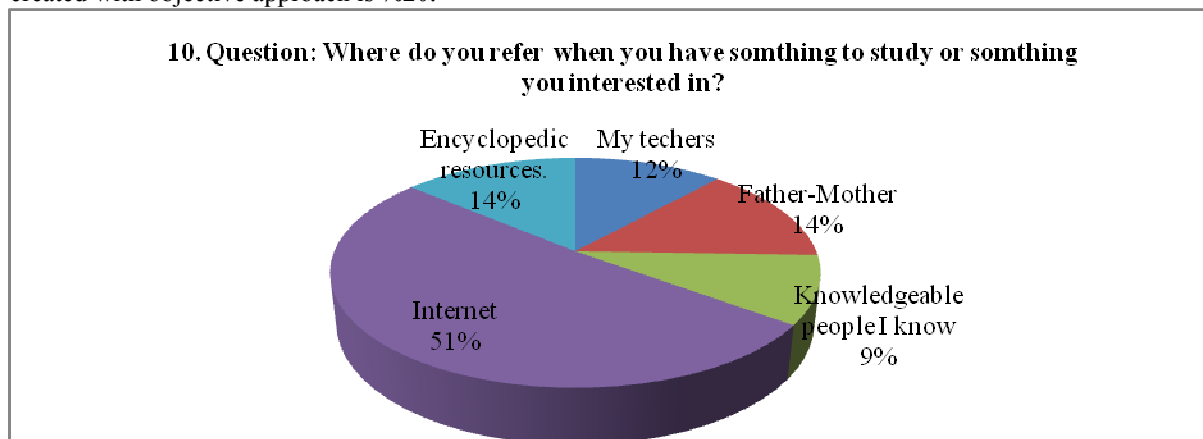
The purpose of this question is to identify which sources students refer when they study. The outcome is expected and should be carefully evaluated.
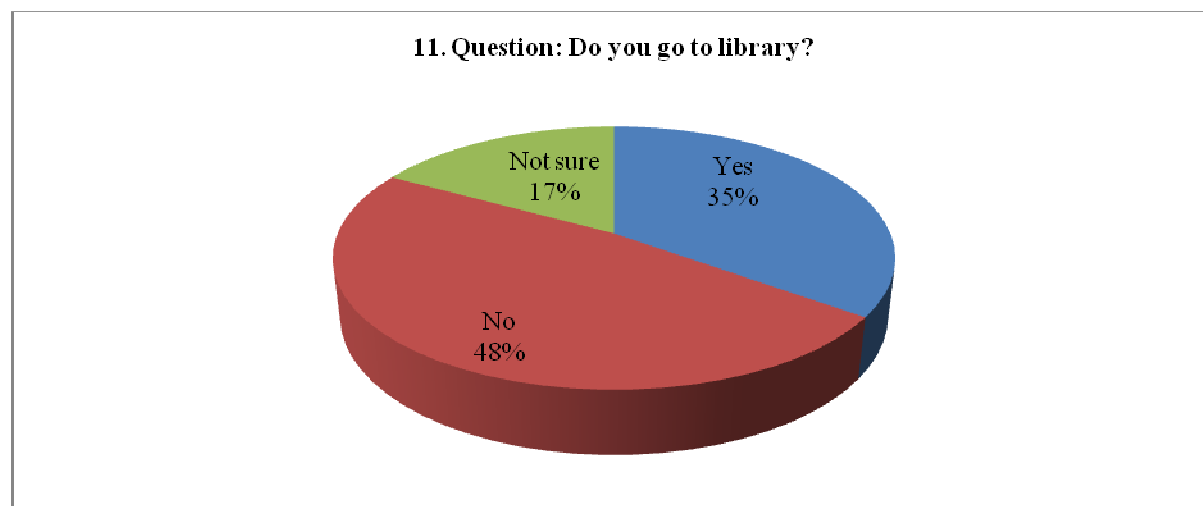
Percentage of the students who do not go to library is %48 and percentage of the ones who go is %35. The outcome for the reason of the students who go and who do not is more interesting.

12. Question: What is your purpose?
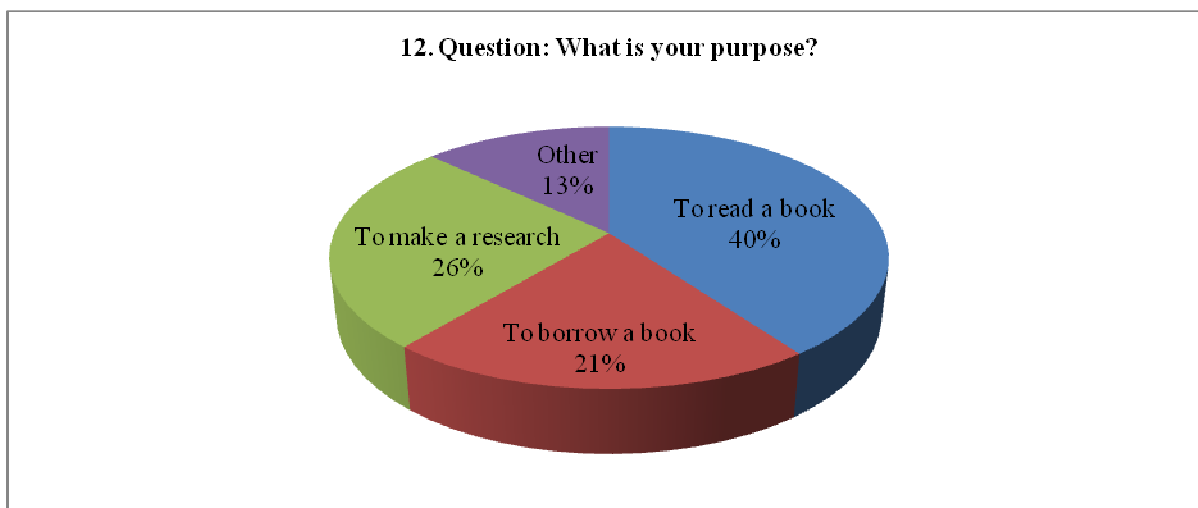
%40 of the students goes to read, %26 of them to make a research, %21 goes to borrow a book and %13 of them goes to do something else.

Among the students who goes to library and keeps %35 portion, the percentage of the students who says "rarely" when they are asked how frequent do they go to library is %78. %13 of this portion goes once in a month, %3 once in a week and %6 once in a week?

Afterwards students who do not go to library (%48) are asked why they do not and different answers came out. Following table occurs when those answers are grouped;

14. Soru: Could you explain the reason why don't you go to library?
1. I don't need it.
2. I make my researches on internet.
3. I read my books at home.
4. It is boring; I have some other things to do.
5. I think the atmosphere there is very boring.
6. I have internet and encyclopedia and internet.
7. There is no library in my neighborhood.
8. My family does not take me there.
9. There is no book I love in library.
10. There something called internet.
11. I cannot give an effort.
12. I have no time.

Findings

Results derived from the findings are as follows:

1. Reading is not given required importance. It is seen that the change in education curriculum which is made to encourage students to read more, there is more different results than expectation. The percentage of the students who do not love reading cannot ignorable. For the one who like reading is also another subject that should be given more importance.

2. Teachers cannot create expected positive influence on students. Teachers who should be one of the most effective one on students are very ineffective.

3. The percentage of "friend" influence on book selection is %26. The percentage of Mass media and "best seller" list is %23 in total. Interaction among the adolescent in those ages are very high. Media and communication tools also make contributions to this. So it would not be wrong if we add bigger portion of the friend influence on media. List which is not generated with objective point of view is something real in Turkey. Sometimes, books which perform negative examples of behavior for students, are chosen maybe just because it is on those lists. For instance; reading age of the "twilight" series which is not even recommended for secondary schools is descended to the first stage of the primary education. Those lists which are sometimes generated for commercial purpose should be evaluated carefully and checked before it harms the society. Here, the subject is not "twilight's" sale success but its possibility of negative contribution to children and teenager with age below 15.

4. It should not be forgotten that this study is carried out on small amount of students and this kind of studies never have %0 defect rate, so there may be some points ignored.

Proposal

1. In the existing era of information and technology, shared method of the outstanding education approaches, instead of changing learner's behavior, provide the opportunity to control their behavior by using the way of perceiving and modeling. There is a probability instead of order; preference instead of obligation. Day by day renovation of technology which forces human intelligence obligates society to lots of modifications and people to innovation. This obligation does not cause a gap between 50 years before and today but 5 years before and today. So it would be wrong to expect the books not to change which read by children who, together with the mentioned wind of change, face a change in everything including their interest areas, expectations from the life, school life, textbooks, models, aims, food and drinks they have, and cultural structure of the their society. However, despite the speed of this change, it is possible to canalize it to the positive direction. Hereby, fathers, mothers and teachers play very important roles. It is also an important factor that living environment canalize student to the same direction as well. Otherwise lack of one of them may transform the positive effect that is generated by the other in to negative direction.

2. It should not be so difficult to make libraries the preferable places for studying, researching and reading. It is so important that libraries and librarians face the transformation while this ideology is being told in schools. Smiling face personnel and friendly staff are the top among the things that has to be done.

3. Libraries should posses various works belong to Turkish and World literature and all books should be presented to everyone. Students who look for an answer should be welcomed and encouraged to ask more questions.

4. Libraries should be transformed into safe places where students can meet after school and families can let their children easily. For instance, cafeterias should welcome readers in some part of the library, internet should be accessed inside the library and promotions should be allowed if it is needed.

5. Changes stated above can make libraries which are now old fashion, a preferable places of the students. It should not be considered as use of internet need to be decreased during the process. Absolutely student should be served sources which are fast and reliable information banks. This can be managed by internet and can be managed by something else as well. Important thing is to contribute into the positive transformation of the library concept in our country.

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