

CHAPTER III
READING HABITS

Introduction :

3.1 For the realisation of individuality and for the success of Parliamentary democracy, people are, among other freedoms, granted and guaranteed freedom of speech and expression. It also includes freedom of propagation of ideas and that freedom is secured by the freedom of circulation. Liberty of circulation is as essential to that freedom as the liberty of publication. This is supremely availed of by parties whose first and foremost aspiration is victory at the elections. They operate ceaselessly to win the political allegiance of the mass of men and women. They impart " political lessons " untiringly and sell " big lies " repeatedly by exploiting all the devices of propaganda. In order to judge independently public affairs, citizen ought, among other things, to peruse newspapers, periodicals and political literature. This naturally will enable him to choose the government he desires.

3.2 In this chapter, I am concerned with a reading of newspapers, periodicals (both independent), party organs and literature, and political literature. This will not only reveal the knowledge of public affairs of students but also spotlight their political inclinations. Henceforth, every question is viewed according to faculty, sex, caste, and place of origin. However, it must be stated here that the percentages faculty and caste-wise could not be shown technically in the subsequent tables.

Newspapers

3.3. Among the principal agencies of instruction in public affairs - political parties, books, periodicals, schools, clubs churches, the motion pictures, radio and hearsay - the newspaper is the most important feature of our civilization. It is the most widely disseminated single agent of instruction in the modern world. It performs its functions of reporting news and providing a forum for discussion and for the clarification of public opinion necessary in a democracy.

3.4 Table No. 15 gives the distribution of the sample according to faculty and sex. Newspapers mean daily newspapers here. It is very gratifying that out of 761 males, 99.08 % and of the 150 females, 99.33 % read newspapers. This at once proves beyond a shadow of doubt that the student community is informed of public affairs and day-to-day occurrences. It is obvious that reading of newspapers has nothing to do with sex. Thus, it could be concluded that almost all males and females are equally familiar with public affairs and daily happenings.

3.5 A glance at the table conveys that reading habits of males and females are not anyway influenced by faculty. All the same, it may be mentioned that cent per cent of males of Commerce, Law, and Agriculture faculties read newspapers, while cent per cent of females of all faculties, except Arts faculty, peruse newspapers. Generally, it is believed that the Arts graduates are the people in what could be called the corridors of opinion, and hence it is a pity that the percentage of reading of newspapers from Arts faculty does not come to centper cent. On the whole, it may be said that males and females of

every faculty are conversant with public affairs and day-to-day occurrences.

3.6 Table No. 16 gives the distribution of the sample according to caste and place of origin. Out of 439 rural students, 99.09 % and of the 472 urban students, 99.15 % read newspapers. It is worth noting that almost centper cent students from rural and urban places read newspapers. How revealing it is that rural students do not lag behind urban students in their habit of reading of newspapers. It is explicit that rurality does not hinder students from reading of newspapers. It may be said in conclusion that almost all students from urban and rural places are acquainted with public affairs and day-today happenings.

3.7 A perusal of the table displays distinctly that the reading habits of urban and rural students are not governed by their caste. Almost centper cent students of every caste from urban and rural places read newspapers. This willy-nilly drives one to generalise that students of every caste from urban and rural places are apprised of public affairs and day-to-day occurrences.

Columns of Newspapers

3.8 " The publishing of newspapers has become big business." The Key problem in their business is to maintain, if not to increase, circulation. The publisher must hold his readers because he is dependent on their patronage. He has to gauge his public and give it what it wants or can be persuaded to want. Therefore, besides public affairs, every conceivable domestic and social interest is catered to. A knowledge alone

of a number of students reading or not reading newspapers would certainly be not enough for our purpose. We have to inquire into what columns exactly of newspapers students are interested in. I have presented ^{sixteen} fifteen types of columns to students : films, dacoities and kidnappings, love-affairs, advertisements and public notices, cartoons, crosswords, accidents, sports, religious, scientific, educational, economic, editorial, and political, ^{and other.} This was calculated to catch them unawares so that while they were filling all the columns their political interest would automatically be revealed. While considering the interest of students in the columns mentioned above, I have to restrict myself to the consideration of a few columns for the sake of brevity : scientific, educational, economic, political, editorial, films and sports. This self-imposed restriction, I should hope, does not have adverse effect upon the results.

3.9 Table Nos. 17 and 18 deal with the interest in the columns of newspapers according to sex. I have considered below students' interest in the columns of newspapers in the descending order of percentages. How crystal clear it is that 72.54 % of the 724 males reading newspapers are interested in political news. This is a highest percentage of males taking interest in the columns of newspapers, while 59.63 % of the 149 females reading newspapers have interest in political matters. It is explicit that females do not take as much interest in political tidings as males. On the whole, it is assertable that a large number of students are primarily and principally interested in matters political. It may, therefore, be generalised that they do & keep themselves abreast of political affairs.

Educational news interest 69.68 % of males and 64.99 % of females. This is very much in consonance with their profession. This is a clear indication how students are susceptible to things educational. It may be said that they are very much education minded. However, it may be said of females that they have less interest in educational news than males. A high percentage of males (62.66 %) and females (52.78 %) entertaining scientific news is symbolic of the fact that student community is responsive to the scientific advancements. It means scientific age is dawning upon the student community. It is obvious that females are not as much science minded as males. Sport news engages the attention of a high percentage of males (61.10 %) and females (67.00 %) It is heartening that a high percentage of students has, besides bookish things, interest in sports. It is plain that females are more sport-minded than males. Film news captivates a large number of clientele, as 71.02 % of females and 57.28 % of males read it. So a large number of students are fascinated by film news. It is evident that females are more charmed by film news than males. This is a highest percentage for females taking interest in various columns of newspapers. The dry economic matters find more favour with males (40.69 %) than with females (24.79 %). It is surely disappointing that students do not take much interest in economical news when the five year plans are launched to ameliorate the social and economic lot of our people, and eventually to bridge the gap between the haves and have-nots. Further, it may be stated that economic news should not be ignored by students because most of the problems have both economic and political bearing. Most of the

times, political decisions are governed by economic considerations and vice versa. Newspaper leaders are read by 40.69 % of males and 28.14 % of females. Though these percentages are comparatively small, it may be pleaded in defence of non-readers that editorials are not written objectively. " It is charged that the press has become the willing tool of the powerful business interests. Editorial policy, it is claimed, is governed by the business interests and associations of the publishers". Consequently, leaders are written only to take a line that is not critical of them. As a result of this, patrons divert their attention more to other columns than to leaders, as is revealed above.

It may be observed in the end that a highest percentage of males (72.54 %) is interested in political news, while 71.02 % of females are allured by film news. This at once discloses the wide disparity between the tastes of males and females. This bears out that females do not as much relish political matters as males. It is only in respect of film and sport news that the percentages of females are higher than the percentages of males. It obviously means that " social entertainments " appeal more to females than to males.

Reasons For Not Reading Newspapers.

3.10 When a thumping majority of the students reads newspapers, the reasons for not reading them deserve our consideration. I have provided eight reasons to students : no liking, financial difficulties, no facilities for reading, short of time, friends not reading, elders not allowing, prejudicial news in newspapers and other. It must be stated

here that these reasons are not shown in the table.

3.11 Out of 7 male non-readers, 6 grumble that there are no facilities made available to them for reading newspapers. Thus, it is inferable that these males would have been readers of newspapers, had they no difficulties in getting them. One male non-reader reports that he has aversion for reading newspapers. He seems to be a peculiar case. The female non-reader says that she is short of time. It means that had she enough leisure, she would have been a reader.

Periodicals

3.12 Like newspapers, periodicals are a good instrument of education in the modern world. Generally, almost all of them give instruction in political affairs. They are considered separately because they are not newsy like newspapers and the information furnished in them is better " digested " and thought out than in newspapers. Periodicals mean weeklies, fortnightlies, monthlies, quarterlies, miscellanies, etc.

3.13 Table No. 19 gives the distribution of the sample according to sex and faculty. It is encouraging to note that out of 761 males, 93.96 % and of the 150 females, 96.67 % read periodicals. This shows that the near centper cent of students take interest in reading periodicals and thereby acquaint themselves with the thoughtful matters therein. A high percentage of females is indicative of the fact that they are more fond of periodicals than males. It is indubitable that the reading of periodicals has nothing to do with sex. It may be mentioned, by the by, that the percentages of males and females reading

newspapers are little more than the percentages of males and females reading periodicals. It obviously means that newspapers are read more by students than periodicals.

3.14 A facultywise consideration of the sample shows that the reading habits of males and females are not in any way governed by faculty. However, it may be said that a lowest percentage of males and females is from Science faculty. It signifies that Science students are not as much fond of periodicals as students of other faculties. It is, further, perceptible that the percentages of females from every faculty are higher than the percentages of males from every faculty.

3.15 Table No. 20 gives the distribution of the sample according to caste and place of origin. Out of 439 rural students, 92.71 % and of the 472 urban students, 95.95 % read periodicals. It is unequivocal that almost all students from urban and rural places are familiar with the thoughtful matters in periodicals. All the same, it is observable that the percentage of ~~rurban~~ students. is higher than the percentage of rural students. It means periodicals are more popular with urban students than with rural students. In the end, it may be generalised that the reading habits of students are not markedly influenced by their place of origin.

3.16 A castewise consideration of the sample reveals that almost all students of every caste from rural and urban places read periodicals. This is very much heartening that students of every caste from rural and urban places are conversant with the thought^{ful} information in periodicals. Therefore, it is inferable that the reading habits of students are not anyway

influenced by their caste.

Columns of Periodicals

3.17 Periodicals too have become a commercial undertaking, a seller of a commodity or service, and they prepare their waves according to their estimate of the market. In so far as they try to influence market demand, they are guided like any other business by considerations of profit. This is realised by catering to various types of information that attract a large number of patrons. An information exclusively about a number of students reading or not reading periodicals would not be much helpful unless students' interest in various columns of periodicals is examined. I have offered thirteen types of information to students: films, love-stories, advertisements, ~~and public notices~~, cartoons, cross-words, detective stories, religious, scientific, economic, social, educational^②, political^①, and other. An ample option is presented to ensnare students off the guard as far as their interest in political matter is concerned. While treating the above mentioned items, I have confined myself to few of them for the sake of sheer convenience : film, scientific, economic, social, political and educational. Such self-willed restriction, I hope, would not affect the results injuriously.

3.18 Table Nos. 21 and 22 are concerned with the interest in various types of information furnished in periodicals according to sex. I have considered below the interest of students in the types of information in the descending order of percentages. Out of 715 males and of the 145 females reading periodicals, 66.73 % and 51.03 % respectively take interest in

political matters. This clearly indicates that a large number of students are familiarised with the thoughtful political information. It is a matter of great happiness that they have rightly taken to serious study of political matters. It must, further, be stated that a large number of students read political news in newspapers; and political matters in periodicals. This evinces the foremost interest of students in political affairs. But it has got to be said that females do not have as much interest in political matters as males. How commendable it is that 65.05 % of males and 58.61 % of females relish educational matters. It means they do not remain content with educational news in newspapers. Hence, a large number of them take to serious exposition of educational matters in periodicals. It is evidently perceptible that educational matters fail to charm as many females as males. It is a matter of pride that 61.70 % of males and 53.10 % of females read scientific information from periodicals. This demonstrates their undying quest for scientific matters. This, further, implies how students are attracted towards science. All the same, it must be mentioned that females have less interest in scientific matters than males. This may be attributed to their temperament. Societal information holds the attention of 54.98% of males and 50.34 % of females. This may be deemed as a manifestation of the fact that student community is concerned with societal issues. Thus, its interest in societal matters is praiseworthy. It is explicit that females are not as much concerned with societal problems as males. As regards filmy information it may be stated that a highest percentage of females (62.75 %) and comparatively small percentage of males

(50.50 %) are fascinated by it. It is plain that more than half of the students are attracted towards filmy news and information. This is a proof of their interest in filmy things. Females have obviously more interest in filmy matters than males. This highlights their interest in things filmy. It is quite astounding that economic matters could appeal to 37.91 % of males and 17.93 % of females. This spotlights oncemore students' less interest in matters economic. This is especially true of females. This is indeed regrettable. On the whole, it can be inferred confidently that the percentages of males and females reading various types of information are sufficiently high except for economic matters. But it can also be said in the same breath that the percentages of males are consistently higher, except for filmy information, than the percentages of females. It obviously means that males have more interest in various items of information in periodicals than females.

Reasons For Not Reading Periodicals

3.19 It is quite pertinent to examine the reasons that have motivated 5.91 % of males and 3.33 % of females not to read periodicals. I have offered seven reasons to students: no liking, financial difficulties, facilities not made available for reading, short of time, friends not reading, elders not allowing, and other. It must be stated that these reasons are not shown in the table.

3.20 Out of 46 male non-readers, 39.13 % have expressed their aversion for reading periodicals. It must be noted that 43.48 % of them are handicapped from reading because of the shortage of time. About 22.00 % of them remonstrate that there

are no facilities made available to them for reading. It is unfortunate that 10.87 % of them suffer on account of economic difficulties. There are 13.04 % of males who are gullible enough to state that they are not readers because their friends are not.

Of the 5 female non-readers, 40.00 % have distaste for reading periodicals. It is observable that 40.00 of them are short of time. Thus, they are unable to read. Economic difficulties come in the way of 20.00 % of them. It is convincing that a large number of males and females have dislike for reading periodicals. But in respect of others, it can be said that they would have been readers, had they not suffered from the difficulties stated above.

Party Newspapers and Literature

3.21 The first and foremost aspiration of competing parties is to seize the sovereign power by drawing the electorate together into majorities. Consequently, they endeavour to attract and organise voters to produce a majority in the legislature. They strive and struggle, minute in and out, to mobilize public opinion in their favour. They indefatigably clamour to convince the sovereign electors that only their programme will unfailingly ameliorate their lot. " Every fact adduced goes to show that the party is right. Argument is mixed with facts and figures, the weak points of the opposition are paraded and ridiculed or denounced, while one's own promises are proclaimed as both desirable and possible." Among many methods adopted by parties to "swing" over blocks of voters, party newspapers and literature are most powerful and effective. Therefore, the reading of party newspapers and literature becomes inevitably significant. It may

enable citizen to intelligently know which party will eventually deliver the goods. It may also seep out their political predilections.

Party Newspapers

3.22 In the light of above position, it must be stated that " the most widely read newspapers in the countries are owned and directed by what may be broadly called the 'capitalist' class ". Parties, therefore, organise themselves to guard their interests and ideals against the most persistent opposition of the 'capitalist' press. Newspapers are most often avowed or unavowed tool of a particular party and their affiliations are commonly known to the people.

3.23 Table Nos. 23 and 24 are devoted to the reading of party newspapers according to sex and faculty. Out of 761 males, 77.27 % and of the 150 females, 43.33 % read party newspapers. This means a large number of students, especially males, are familiarised with party ideals, programmes and views on current issues. This is indeed commendable because these students have interest in party politics. It is clearly perceptible that a high percentage of males has taken to the reading of party newspapers than that of females. Therefore, it is safe to maintain that males have more interest in party politics than females, and hence it is arguable that males are more conversant with party ideals and programmes than females.

3.24 It is very interesting and instructive to note that of the readers of party newspapers, some are readers of newspapers of one party only, and others of more than one party. This phenomenon merits careful treatment because it will display the

political affiliations of students. Out of 588 males and of the 65 females reading party newspapers, 24.32 % and 63.08 % read newspapers of one party respectively, while 75.68 % of males and 36.92 % of females peruse newspapers of more than one party. It is obvious that a large number of females remain content with the reading of newspapers of one party. This indicates their loyalty to a party of their choice, and hence they do not bother to know the positions of other parties. On the other hand, a large number of males deserve our compliments as they read newspapers of more than one party. This obviously signifies that they acquaint themselves with ideals, and programmes, etc. of more than one party. This may naturally befriended them to view the party politics most objectively. It follows from this that a large number of males not only comprehend the positions of parties but also are quite competent to choose in between the rightist, centralist and leftist parties. In the end, it may be concluded that females are not as much qualified to understand party affairs as males.

3.25 A detailed breakdown of the tables further shows the partywise clientele from males and females. Such treatment will demonstrate the political inclinations of students and discover the popularity of parties. I have considered below the percentages of males and females in the descending order. Out of 143 males and of the 41 females reading newspapers of one party, a highest percentage of males (63.63 %) and females (82.93 %) peruses newspapers of Congress party. This distinctly discloses the fact that Congress party is the most popular party among students. However, it is observable that it is not as much popular among males as among females. Next to Congress party,

Samiti slightly fares well, especially among males, as 10.48 % of males read newspapers of Samiti. Only 4.89 % of females peruse them. This immediately reveals that students give response to burning issues of the day. It means, further, they are fully alive to their political surroundings. Rest of the parties have so few readers from males and females that any treatment is unwarranted. At the same time, it is necessary to point out that not a single male cares to read the newspapers of Hindu Mahasabha and Lal Nishan Gat, while Socialist party, Jan Sangh, Hindu Mahasabha, Republican party, Swatantra party, Lal Nishan Gat and Muslim League do not have female readers. All this means these parties are not popular among males and females. In the end, it would be in the fitness of things to generalise that a largest number of males (72.03 %) read newspapers of centralist parties: Congress party, P.S.P. and Socialist party; while 13.28 % of male readers are attracted towards newspapers of leftist parties: Communist party, Republican party and Peasants and workers party. Rightist parties -- Jan Sangh, Swatantra Party, and Muslim League -- have 4.20 % male readers. In respect of females, it may be said that centralist parties -- Congress party and P.S.P. -- have the largest number of female readers (85.37 %); while leftist parties -- Communist party and Peasants and workers party -- have 9.76 % of female readers. But rightist parties do not have female readers. Thus, it broadly becomes clear that centralist parties are most popular among males and females, and next to them, leftist parties occupy the place. Rightist parties fare very badly.

3.26 4 facultywise consideration of the sample shows that a

large number of males from every faculty and comparatively small number of females from every faculty read party newspapers. It follows from this that faculty does not govern the reading habits of students. However, it would be enlightening to closely study the facultywise figures. I have considered below the percentages of male and female readers in the descending order. A highest percentage of male readers (94.74 %) is from Law faculty, and Post-graduate classes have 86.84 % of male readers. These high percentages may be ascribed to their awareness and interest to know party affairs. It obviously signifies that males of Law faculty and of Post-graduate classes are more familiarised with party ideals and programmes than males of other faculties. A comparatively low percentage of males hails from Agriculture faculty. This may be attributed to their age, as all of them are students of first year B.Sc. Agriculture. In the same breath, it may be pointed out that the percentage of male readers from Science faculty (69.57 %) is also comparatively small. This may be imputed to their moderate interest in party affairs.

3.27 In respect of female readers, attention is mainly paid to females of Arts and Science faculties, as their number is sufficiently large. However, general observation reveals that females, in large number, from every faculty read party newspapers. It means they know party ideals and programmes, and they are not totally indifferent towards party affairs. But it must be stated here that females from every faculty do not have as much interest in party affairs as males from every faculty. It is indeed surprising that the percentage of female readers from Science faculty (54.84 %) is more than the percentage of

female readers (39.45 %) from Arts faculty. It is incomprehensible that only 20.00 % of females of Commerce faculty read party newspapers. A female of Agriculture faculty is reader of party newspapers. It is noteworthy that 75.00 % of females of Post-graduate classes are patrons of party newspapers. It is heartening that highly educated females have interest in party affairs.

3.28 Table No. 25 gives the distribution of the sample according to caste and place of origin. Out of 439 rural students, 79.27 % and of the 472 urban students, 64.62 % are readers of party newspapers. It goes without saying that rural students have more interest in party politics than urban students. It is also inferable that rural students are better informed about party ideals and programmes than urban students. This is certainly a new development that politics is drifting towards rural areas.

3.29 A castewise consideration of the sample shows that the reading habits of students are not at all governed by their caste. A considerably high percentage of students of every caste from rural and urban places reads party newspapers. This is also a welcome change that students of every caste are in the know of party affairs. It is, further, obvious that politics is not the monopoly of one caste only, but a grazing ground for all. It must be placed on record that a Neo Buddhist student does not read party newspapers. It is observable that the percentages of students of every caste from rural areas are almost consistently higher than the percentages of students of every caste from urban areas. It would not be out of place to mention in particular that the percentages of rural and urban Marathas are higher

than the percentages of rural and urban Brahmins and others. It means Brahmins and others do not have as much interest in party affairs as Marathas.

Reasons For Reading Party Newspapers

3.30 It would be quite instructive and revealing to probe the reasons that prompt students to read party newspapers. Table No. 26 gives the distribution of the reasons for the reading of newspapers according to sex. I have provided eleven reasons to students: ^{gelling} free of charge, liking, forced by party, compelled by elders, forced by friends, persuaded by party, persuaded by elders, persuaded by friends, facilities made available for reading, other newspapers not available, and other. I have considered below the percentages of males and females indicating reasons for reading in the descending order.

3.31 Out of 588 male readers and of the 65 female readers, a highest percentage of males (91.51 %) and females (86.13 %) read party newspapers out of liking. How heartening it is that a large number of students have interest in party affairs, as is revealed above. In a bid to win over voters, parties offer the facilities to readers for reading newspapers. Such facilities are availed of by 42.01 % of males and 44.60 % of females. Had the facilities not been made available to these students, they would not have been readers. It is plain that the motive force behind the reading of party newspapers is the personal liking, and secondly the availability of facilities attracts the readers. A meagre number of students have mentioned other reasons: free of charge, force by party, compelled by elders, forced by friends, persuaded by party, persuaded by elders,



persuaded by friends, other newspapers not available, and other. Though these reasons do not detain us any longer, it must be placed on record that compulsion by parties, elders, and friends should be despised strongly in the name of democracy.

Reasons For Not Reading Party Newspapers

3.32 It is indispensable to learn why some students do not peruse party newspapers, as a large number of them do. Table No. 27 gives the reasons for not reading of party newspapers according to sex. I have offered ten reasons to students: elders not permitting, no liking, ^{short} no time, fear of being branded as a partyman, prejudicial views of party newspapers, not getting free of charge, no facilities made available for reading, friends not reading, economic difficulties, and other. I have considered below the percentages of males and females indicating reasons for not reading in the descending order.

3.33 Out of 173 male non-readers and of the 85 female non-readers, a highest percentage of males (61.27 %) and females (47.04 %) does not read because of their aversion for party newspapers. It obviously means that these students do not like party affairs, hence they have developed nausea for party newspapers. This is more true of males than of females. How right 27.74 % of males and 42.34 % of females when they say that they do not read party newspapers because of the prejudicial views expressed therein. This immediately reveals that party newspapers are partial, and therefore, they do not wish to associate themselves with them. It is unfortunate that 13.29 % of males and 9.41 % of females cannot read for want of facilities. It is evident that given facilities, these students would be

readers of party newspapers. Rest of the reasons mentioned by a few students do not deserve any consideration.

Party Literature

3.34 " Party literature is broadly of two kinds that destined mainly for candidates and workers, and that to be broadcast among the electorate." However, I have not made any distinction between the two. Party literature includes pamphlets upon special topics, a periodical, sets of speaker's notes, booklets full of ' points ' or ' shot and shell ', leaflets and the ' address to the electors ' or professions de foi etc. The mass of literature is immense and its chief feature is that it is inveterately dogmatic, and maintains that the party is right.

3.35 Table Nos. 28 and 29 give the distribution of the sample according to sex and faculty. Out of 761 males, 54.61 % and of the 150 females, 37.33 % peruse party literature. It is praiseworthy that more than half of the males read party literature, while the number of female readers is comparatively small. It evidently means they are well informed about party ideals, programmes, and views on current problems. This is largely true of males. All the same, it must be mentioned that a comparatively small number of female readers should not be underrated but appreciated in view of the surroundings in which they grow. It is indeed commendable that females, though not considerably large in number, take to the reading of party literature. It follows from this that they do not want to keep aloof from party politics; as they are also sovereign electors. In conclusion, it must be observed that the percentages of males

and females reading party literature are lower than the percentage of males and females reading newspapers, periodicals and party newspapers. This may be attributed to the fact that " In every country, printed news and opinion, attractively written and produced, are purchasable at an exceedingly cheap rate, so that few people go a single day without reading a newspaper or conversing with somebody who has. It is the most widely disseminated single agent of instruction in the modern world: "

3.36 A close perusal of the above percentages of males and females reading party literature shows that out of 408 male readers and of the 56 female readers, 23.68 % and 39.29 % read literature of one party, while 71.32 % of males and 60.71 % of females peruse literature of more than one party. It is plain that the percentages of males and females perusing literature of one party are lower than the percentages of males and females reading literature of more than one party. It is inferable that the loyalty of comparatively small percentage of students seems to be definitized, hence they could be deemed as the followers of one party. They appear to be influenced so much by the ideals and programmes of one party that they do not care to learn the positions of other parties. These are, I believe, the cases of indoctrination by party, or it may be attributed to their blind faith in one party. This is largely true of females. How encouraging it is to note that a high percentage of males and females does not remain content with a reading of the literature of one party but obviously familiarises itself with the literature of more than one party. It is superfluous to state that these students are acquainted with the positions of parties and could objectively view the party politics. Surely, they could be very

much unbiased in their understanding of party politics. These students may be considered as cases of conscientious readers keeping abreast of positions of parties. It is clear that males are more informed about the positions of parties than females.

3.37 A detailed break-down of the tables, further, displays the number of students perusing the literature of one party. I have considered below the percentages of males and females in the descending order. Out of 117 males and of the 22 females reading the new literature of one party, a highest percentage of males (50.42 %) and females (54.54 %) reads the literature of Congress party. This at once discloses how Congress party is most popular party among students. This reveals its grip upon students. However, it must be made clear that Congress party is more popular among females than males. It is a matter of education to note that next to Congress party, Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti finds favour with 17.94 % of male readers and 22.72 % of female readers. It goes without saying that the demand for Samyukta Maharashtra State could attract this number of readers. It follows from this that students are very much alive to the burning problems of the day. It means they are certainly not the passive spectators but take active interest in current issues. Evidently, Samiti is more popular among females than males. It is noticeable that the literature of Socialist party, Swatantra party and Muslim League is not perused by a single male. Similarly, the literature of Communist party, Hindu Mahasabha, Republican party, Peasants and workers party, Swatantra party and Muslim League is not read by females. All this is indicative of the esteem in which these parties are held by students. Rest of the parties have so little clientele

from males and females that any treatment would be undesirable. On the whole, it may be observed that except Congress party and to some extent, Samiti; other parties are almost ostracised by males and females. This development is lamentable from the point of view democracy, because other parties deplorably fail to attract considerable following and thereby are incompetent to eventually provide responsible opposition to the party in power. In the end, it may be said that a highest percentage of males (58.11 %) and females (63.54 %) reads the literature of centralist parties: Congress party, P.S.P. and Socialist party. Leftist parties -- Communist party, Republican party, Peasants and workers party, Lal Nishan Gat -- occupy second place; as 18.67 % of males and 4.5 % of females read their literature. Rightist parties -- Jan Sangh and Hindu Mahasabha -- attract 4.26 % of male readers and 9.00 % of female readers.

3.38 A facultywise treatment of the sample reveals that a large number of males and comparatively small number of females from every faculty read party literature. It is understandable that faculty does not in any way affect the reading habits of students. All the same, it would be quite useful to study the position facultywise. I have considered below the percentages of male and female readers in the descending order. A highest percentage of male readers (63.16 %) is from Law faculty; and Post-graduate classes have the same percentage of male readers. These high percentages are symbolic of their awareness to know party politics. It may also be imputed to their liking for party affairs. This development should be rightly understood and appreciated because those prosecuting higher education are evincing interest in party politics. It is obvious that they

not keeping themselves ignorant of party ideals and programmes. It can be concluded that males of Law faculty and of Post-graduate classes are more familiarised with the positions of parties than males of other faculties. A comparatively low percentage of male readers (43.87 %) ^{is} ~~are~~ from Science faculty. This may be taken as demonstrative of their moderate interest in party affairs. A glance at the tables shows that the percentages of males from every faculty are higher than the percentages of females from every faculty, excepting the percentage for Agriculture faculty. Thus, males of every faculty has more interest in party affairs than females of every faculty.

3.39 In respect of female readers, attention is paid mainly to females of Arts and Science faculties, as their number is sufficiently large. All the same, it is perceptible that females from every faculty read party literature. The percentage of females of Arts faculty (37.61 %) is higher than the percentage of females of Science faculty. It is inferable that females of Science faculty do not have as much interest in party affairs as of Arts faculty. It is noteworthy that 40.00 % of females of Commerce faculty, centper cent ~~of~~ females of Agriculture faculty and 50.00 % of females of Post-graduate classes are readers of party literature. On the whole, it is observable that those prosecuting higher education have interest in party affairs, and especially the percentage of females of Post-graduate classes should be recorded.

3.40 Table No. 30 gives the distribution of the sample according to place of origin and caste. Out of 439 rural students, 55.12 % and of the 472 urban students, 47.03 % read party literature. It is plain that rural students excel urban

students in their reading of party literature. It is inferable that rural students are more informed about party programmes and ideologies than urban students. It means urban students do not have as much interest in party politics as rural students. Thus, the shift of party politics from urban areas to rural places should be noted.

3.41 A castewise consideration of the sample indicates that the reading habits of students are ^{not} governed by their caste. A glimpse at the table conveys that a considerably large number of students of every caste from urban and rural places read party literature. It means students of every caste are familiarised with party ideals and programmes. Obviously, party politics is no longer the monopoly of a particular caste. All castes are taking interest in party affairs. Upon the close examination of the sample, it becomes evident that a Neo Buddhist student is not a reader of party politics. His is a peculiar case of non-response. Further, the percentages of Gujar, etc. students from rural as well as urban places are deplorably small (rural 14.29 % and urban 20.00 %). It is demonstrative of their moderate interest in party affairs. It may be mentioned, by the by, that the percentages of Marathas from rural and urban places are higher than the percentages of Brahmins and others from rural and urban areas. It may be concluded that Brahmins and others do not have as much interest in party politics as Marathas have. In the end, it may be pointed out that the percentages of Jain students from rural (62.5 %) and urban (58.82 %) places are higher ~~within~~ the percentages of students of other castes from urban and rural areas. It is symbolic of their ^{deep} ~~more~~ interest in party affairs.

Reasons For Reading Party Literature

3.42 A study of the reasons that induce students to read party literature would be quite revealing. Table No. 31 gives the account of the reasons for reading party literature according to sex. I have provided eleven reasons to students: ^{getting} free of charge, liking, compelled by party, porced by elders, forced by friends, persuaded by party, persuaded by elders, persuaded by friends, facilities ^{made} available for reading, other literature not available, and other. I have treated below the percentages of males and females indicating reasons for their reading in the descending order. It is quite gratifying that out of 408 males and of the 56 females reading party literature, a highest percentage of males (84.31 %) and of females (69.65 %) is enthused to read out of their liking for party literature. This at once uncovers their interest in party affairs. Facilities made available for reading are availed of by 33.09 % of males and 35.72 % of females. This is in keeping with the fact that parties in order to propagate their ideals and programmes make available their literature to public. It is explicit that other reasons encourage but a meagre percentage of readers. Hence, they are not treated here. All the same, it may be said that few students fall prey to the persuasion of party, friends and elders, while few of them are forced to read by party, friends and elders. Democracy believes in persuasion but certainly not in force. Therefore, compulsion of students to read is disdainful. In the end, it may be observed that ~~it may be observed that~~ it is sheer " Liking for party literature " and " availability of facilities " that are the real appetizer for reading.

Reasons For Not Reading Party Literature

3.43 A study of the reasons for reading party literature necessitates the consideration of reasons for not reading party literature. Table No. 32 deals with the reasons for not reading party literature according to sex. In all I have offered ten reasons to students: elders not allowing, no liking, ^{short} no time, fear of being branded as party man, fear of not getting government service in future, not getting free of charge, facilities not ^{made} ^{for reading} available, friends not reading, economic difficulties, and other. I have considered below the percentages of males and females indicating reasons for their not reading in the descending order. Out of 346 males and of the 94 females not reading party literature, a highest percentage of males (60.98 %) and females (74.26 %) does not read on account of its dislike for party literature. This may mean that these students do not have any interest in party politics. A high percentage of females indicates that they have less interest in party affairs than males. It may be noted with interest that 28.32 % of males and 10.89 % of females could not read for want of facilities made available for reading. It clearly implies that inspite of their desire to read party literature, they are incapacitated by the non-availability of facilities. There are 12.43 % of males and 0.99 % of females who have expressed their inability to read because of want of time. Had 6.36 % of males and 3.96 % of females been given party literature free of charge, they would have read it. It is surprising that 2.02 % of males and 0.99 % of females have stated that they do not read for their friends do not read. This implies that association has some effect on the reading habits of students. It must be recorded

that the conscientious elders of 2.60 % of males and 2.97 % of females do not permit them to read party literature. There are 3.47 % of career-minded males who are not readers because of the fear of not getting government service. It appears that the association with certain party mars the prospects of students. It is amusing to record that 4.91 % of males do not read for they are afraid of being branded as party-men. It means there are some parties which do not have the social sanction, otherwise there was no need to express the above fear. Sympathies may be extended to 6.36 % of males because they are handicapped from reading owing to economic difficulties. In the end, it must be observed that a highest percentage of students does not have liking for party literature. It has become abundantly clear that excepting the dislike of students for party literature, other difficulties stated by them are avoidable. Hence, it may be maintained that these students would have been readers had their difficulties been removed. This would have undoubtedly increased the number of readers of party literature.

Political Literature

3.44 A perusal of political literature is more important than the reading of newspapers, periodicals, party newspapers and literature. Newspapers are generally newsy and give prejudicial versions of events. They always take favourable stance on issues and defend it untiringly. Party newspapers and literature are essentially propagandist and, therefore, biased. Even when a reader reads newspapers and literature of more than one party, the basic knowledge to comprehend rightly not only party positions but also the nature of State, systems of government and status of individuals, is indispensable on the

part of every citizen. This will also help visualise the political propensities of students. Under the category "political literature" are comprised democracy, dictatorship, capitalism, socialism, communism, Gandhism, Sarvodaya philosophy, and other.

3.45 Table Nos. 33 and 34 give the distribution of the sample according to faculty and sex. Out of 761 males, 73.2 % and of the 150 females, 48.7 % read political literature. How commendable it is that student community not only delights in reading newspapers, periodicals, party newspapers and literature. but also familiarises itself with political literature. It means students are not only acquainted with current events and party positions but also are in the know of thoughtful and thought provoking political literature. It is evident that a thumping majority of males has interest in political literature. Obviously, females have comparatively less interest in political literature. This may be attributed to their temperamental ~~nausea~~ for reading serious and stiff literature.

3.46 A detailed composition of the tables shows clientele each type of political literature attracts. I have treated below the percentages of males and females reading political literature in the descending order. Out of 558 males and of the 73 females perusing political literature, a highest percentage of males (92.29 %) and females (91.78 %) reads literature on democracy. This immediately reveals the top popularity of democracy among students. It may broadly be said that they have faith in and love for democracy. It is quite heartening that males and females are almost unanimous in their esteem of democracy. Although socialism is much talked of in India, it

could really round 42.29 % of male readers and 23.29 % of female readers. This patronage of readers is not in keeping with our protestations of socialism. The wind of socialism should pervade student world and be impressed upon that socialism is not antagonistic to democracy but can very well go hand in hand. Strenuous efforts would have to be made to popularise socialism among females whose percentage is smaller than that of males. Notwithstanding the dynamic appeal of communism to students and the untiring endeavours of communist parties to infiltrate among them, it could hook 34.59 % of male readers and 19.18 % of female readers. It is explicit that communism is more popular among males than females. Dictatorship has generally a hypnotic appeal to students but it has charmed 32.08 % of males and 36.99 % of female readers. A high percentage of females, I believe, is attributable to their inherent nature of dictating males. Capitalism, though denounced to hell, finds favour with 30.29 % of male readers and 19.18 % of female readers. It is plain that it is more popular among males than females. Despite attempts at the diffusion of Gandhism — once the dynamic and driving force during the national struggle for freedom,—and the grandiose tributes paid to it frequently by leaders, it could delight but few males (21.33 %) and females (17.81 %). Evidently, females do not have interest in Gandhism to the extent to which males have. Like Gandhism, Sarvodaya philosophy too does not receive hot response from readers, as 21.33 % of males and 28.77 % of females care to read it. Somehow or other, it is obliged more by females than males.

3.47 4. facultywise treatment of the sample indicates that

a high percentage of students from every faculty are readers of political literature. It means the reading habits of students are not influenced by their faculty. However, a close examination of the percentages shows that a smallest percentage of male readers (65.23 %) and female readers (45.16 %) is from Science faculty. This at once demonstrates their moderate interest in political literature.

3.48 Table No. 35 gives the distribution of the sample according to the place of origin and caste. Out of 439 rural students, 74.3 % and of the 472 urban students, 64.4 % peruse political literature. A high percentage of rural students is symbolic of their more interest in political literature than urban students. It is, therefore, inferable that rural students are more informed politically than urban students. This, further, implies that rural students not only take more interest in reading newspapers, periodicals, party newspapers and literature but also in serious political literature than urban students.

3.49 A caste-wise consideration of the sample shows a considerably high percentage of students of every caste from rural and urban places reading political literature. It means students of all castes have fairly good knowledge of politics. It follows from this that politics is not the preserve for a particular caste. It may, further, be said that the reading habits of students are not governed by their caste. A close observation of the table implies that the percentages of rural students from every caste are almost consistently higher than the percentages of urban students from every caste. The percentages of Marathas from rural and urban places are higher

than the percentages of Brahmins and others from rural and urban areas. This evinces that Marathas are more interested in political literature than Brahmins and others, and therefore, they have more political knowledge than the latter. In the end, it must be reported that a Neo Buddhist student is not a reader.

Reasons For Not Reading Political Literature

3.50 When a large number of students read political literature, it is pertinent to study why 26.8% of males and 51.3% of females do not peruse political literature. Table No. 26 is concerned with the reasons for not reading political literature according to sex. I have supplied eight reasons to students: not permitted by elders, no liking for political literature, short of time, not getting free of charge, facilities not ^{made} available for reading, financial difficulties, friends not reading, and other. I have considered below the percentages of males and females in the descending order.

3.51 Out of 203 male non-readers and of the 77 female non-readers, a highest percentage of males (59.60%) and females (75.34%) has clearly expressed their dislike for political literature. Obviously, this is more true of males than females. It is unfortunate that 32.02% of males and 11.69% of females cannot read, inspite of their desire, because of want of facilities made available to them; while 9.36% of males and 3.90% of females state that they do not peruse for they do not get political literature free of charge. Males are more in need of this charity than females. It is to be noted that 11.82% of males and 3.90% of females do

not have any time to read political literature. It is shocking that elders of 4.43 % of males do not permit them to read political literature. One can understand if the elders prohibit the reading of party newspapers and literature but certainly not the reading of political literature. Financial difficulties have come in the way of reading by 7.39 % of males; and a meagre percentage of males have nastily stated that it is not a reading because its friend is not. On the whole, it is observable that excepting the "dislike" of students for political literature; other difficulties mentioned by them are not insurmountable. It means had there been no such difficulties, these students would have been readers of political literature.