

## **F-12 : THE STATUS OF SCIENCE READERSHIP IN SRI LANKA**

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A cross sectional study was done to obtain information on Science Communication in Sri Lanka. Information was collected from randomly selected 1000 individuals with the age ranging from 10-60 years.

The age groups concerned were 10-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50 and 51- 60 years and a questionnaire was circulated among them. The study revealed that there was no significant difference of the interest in science reading in the selected age groups.

The major source of science literature for all age groups as detected in this study was newspapers, rather than magazines. It was also shown that most common popular disciplines for all age groups were Medical sciences, Psychology and Environmental science. According to the current study, medical science was the first choice for all age groups.

Another finding of the study was that there was a marked increase in reading science articles on the subject of Space in the first age group. But there was no corresponding increase in the other four age groups.

The disciplines of Biotechnology, Geology and Behavioral Science appear to be the fields of least interest for all five age groups in general.

The decline in the readership of articles other than those that are generally popular may perhaps be due to paucity of articles in such fields.

It is a general belief that the comparatively older age groups have a tendency to avoid reading science articles. Contrarily the current study showed that all age groups tested here had the same level of interest in this aspect.

It is hoped that the findings in this study would be useful in Popularisation of Science.

----- ON RESEARCH OUTPUT