

Cost-effectiveness of Printed Books and E-Books

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ABSTRACT

Growing up in an age of technology has its advantages and disadvantages. The world is becoming more productive due to these advances; however, the addition of technology can at times overshadow the processes of the past, which is also somewhat the same in the case of books but before going into the depth of this, it is important to understand all about "BOOKS". A printed book is a book in its material form, which contains text, images, graphs, etc. printed or typed on paper. On the other hand, an e-book is defined as the electronic form of the conventional printed paperback, formatted as a file, which is readable with the help of an eReader device or on an application. A printed book can be easily shared with friends, acquaintances, and relatives. As well as it can also be resold after use. On the contrary, in the case of a paid eBook, only one account can be used to access the books, which automatically limits its shared usage, as for sharing you have to share your login credentials with that person.

Keywords: Printed books, E-books, Technology, Paperback, E-Reader.

INTRODUCTION

Printed books are typically composed of many pages; made up of papyrus, parchment, or paper. They are bonded together and protected by a cover. Printed books are also referred to as physical books. When a book is available over a digital format, it is known as an eBook. It consists of text, graphics, tables, etc. which is easily readable on flat-panel or touch screen devices, such as laptops, desktop computers,

tablets, mobile or eBook readers. When someone talks about the book 'available', they mean the book offered, stored, distributed, and read in electronic form. E-books and printed books are both expensive at different levels. Amazon is the dominant online bookseller which was forced by the major book publishers to increase their e-book prices, raising prices by an average of \$5 per e-book over time.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted through the online survey by an online questionnaire which was used as a data collection tool. It is mainly a descriptive study to present the current cost-effectiveness of books in terms of statistical values. The method of collecting the data for this study was done by Google forms. The study was conducted in a state i.e. Uttar Pradesh and a union territory i.e. Delhi keeping in mind their good educational and

economical background. The total sample size was 120 which were equally distributed according to the gender in boys and girls. Dependent and independent variables such as age and educational qualification were used. Printed books and e-books preferred by students according to their cost-effectiveness are discussed in terms of gender variables. Statistical tools like frequency, percentage, and chi-square were also used.

RESULTS

Table: 1 Distribution of respondents as per their preference of cost effectiveness of printed books

S. No.	Cost effectiveness of Printed Books	Boys		Girls		Total	
		Frequency	per cent	Frequency	per cent	Frequency	per cent
1.	No	25	41.7	22	36.7	47	39.2
2.	Yes	35	58.3	38	63.3	73	60.8
	Total	60	100.0	60	100.0	120	100.0
	χ^2	0.315				p>0.05	

Table 1 indicates the distribution of respondents according to their preference of cost effectiveness of printed books. 58.3 per cent of boys and 63.3 per cent of girls found printed books cost effective followed by 41.7

per cent of boys and 36.7 per cent of girls who did not found printed books cost effective. The observed value of chi-square (0.315) was non-significant at 5 per cent significance level.

Table: 2 Distribution of respondents as per their preference of cost effectiveness of e-books

S. No.	Cost effectiveness of E-Books	Boys		Girls		Total	
		Frequency	per cent	Frequency	per cent	Frequency	per cent
1.	No	16	26.7	26	43.3	42	35.0
2.	Yes	44	73.3	34	56.7	78	65.0
	Total	60	100.0	60	100.0	120	100.0
	χ^2	3.976*				P<0.05	

(*Significant at 5% level of Significance)

Table 2 indicates the distribution of respondents according to their preference of cost effectiveness of e-books. 73.3 per cent of boys and 56.7 per cent of girls found e-books cost effective followed by 26.7 per cent of boys and 43.3 per cent of girls who did not

found e-books cost effective. The observed value of chi-square (3.976*) was significant at 5 per cent level of significance. Hence, cost effectiveness of e-books was significantly associated with gender.

Table: 3 Distribution of respondents as per their book preference for the same price

S. No.	Book Preference for the same price	Boys		Girls		Total	
		Frequency	per cent	Frequency	per cent	Frequency	per cent
1.	Printed Books	40	66.7	51	85.0	91	75.8
2.	E – Books	15	25.0	7	11.7	22	18.4
	None	5	8.3	2	3.3	7	5.8
	Total	60	100.0	60	100.0	120	100.0
	χ^2	5.502*				P<0.05	

(*Significant at 5% level of Significance)

Table 3 ensures the distribution of respondents as per their preference of books for the same price. 66.7 per cent of boys and 85.0 per cent of girls chose printed books while 25.0 per cent of boys and 11.7 per cent of girls chose e-books whereas 8.3 per cent of boys and 3.3 per cent of girls chose none of any books for the same price. The observed value of chi-square (5.502*) was significant at 5 per cent level of significance. Hence, preference of books for the same price is significantly associated with the gender.

CONCLUSION

There are various reasons for preferring either printed books or e-books as per their cost-effectiveness. Everyone has their own reasons to choose a book. As per the results from the above table, printed books were found cost effective by both boys and girls. E-books were also found to be cost-effective by both boys and girls. But when they were given a choice to buy a book for the same price both boys and girls preferred to buy printed books over e-books. There could be many factors like budget-friendly printed books and expensive e-reading devices due to which they preferred printed books over e-books for the same price.

RECOMMENDATION

- (1) The prices of the books should be kept low so that it is easily affordable for an average or below average students.
- (2) Improvement of internet speed and providing cheaper or even free internet packages to the students when situations like the covid-19 pandemic arise.
- (3) It is important to put e-books on a highly accessible, familiar research platform.

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