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READING CULTURE: THE SITUATION AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

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Abstract

This article examines the importance of reading culture in the intellectual and spiritual development of young people. In the era of rapidly developing information technologies, many young individuals spend a significant amount of their time on smartphones, the internet, and social media platforms. As a result, the habit of reading books is sometimes declining among youth. The article analyzes the role of reading in developing critical thinking, enriching vocabulary, and shaping worldview. It also discusses the main factors influencing young people's interest in books and suggests several ways to promote reading culture among the younger generation.

Keywords: Reading culture, youth, books, education, intellectual development, technology, knowledge, social media.

The Role of Books in Human Development

Books have always played an essential role in the development of human civilization. They serve as a source of knowledge, a means of transmitting cultural values, and a tool for preserving the intellectual heritage of society. Through books, people gain information about history, science, literature, and various aspects of human life.

A book is not only a source of information but also an important instrument that stimulates thinking and imagination. Reading allows individuals to explore new ideas, understand different perspectives, and broaden their knowledge. For young

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people in particular, reading plays a crucial role because their worldview and thinking abilities are actively developing during this stage of life.

The Impact of Reading on Youth Development

Regular reading significantly contributes to the intellectual growth of young people. Experts emphasize that individuals who read frequently tend to have stronger analytical skills and a broader vocabulary. Reading also improves communication skills and helps young people express their thoughts more clearly and effectively.

For example, students who read literary works often develop a richer vocabulary and better writing skills. They are able to express their ideas more confidently in discussions or academic writing. In addition, reading historical or scientific literature helps young people better understand social processes, scientific discoveries, and cultural traditions.

Another practical example can be seen in educational environments. Students who read additional materials beyond their textbooks usually perform better in their studies because they can analyze information more critically and understand complex topics more easily.

Modern Technology and the Challenges of Reading Culture

In recent years, rapid technological progress has significantly changed the lifestyle of young people. Smartphones, computers, and social media platforms have become an integral part of everyday life. While these technologies provide easy access to information, they can also reduce the time devoted to reading books.

Many young people spend several hours a day browsing social networks, watching short videos, or reading brief online posts. As a result, they often prefer short digital content rather than long and thoughtful texts such as books. This

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habit may negatively affect their ability to concentrate on complex ideas and deep analysis.

Another factor is the lack of guidance in selecting appropriate books. Some young people simply do not know which books might be interesting or useful for them. Without proper recommendations from teachers, parents, or libraries, they may lose motivation to develop a regular reading habit.

Ways to Promote Reading Culture Among Youth

Developing a strong reading culture among young people requires joint efforts from families, educational institutions, and society.

First, families should create a reading-friendly environment at home. When parents regularly read books, children are more likely to adopt the same habit.

Second, schools and universities should encourage students to read more literature by organizing reading clubs, book discussions, and literary events. Such activities make reading more engaging and interactive.

Third, book fairs, exhibitions, and cultural programs can attract young people's attention to literature. For example, competitions such as "The Best Young Reader" or school reading challenges can motivate students to read more books. Libraries and digital reading platforms can also play an important role by providing easy access to books and encouraging young people to explore different genres of literature.

Conclusion

In conclusion, reading culture plays a vital role in the intellectual and spiritual development of young people. Although modern technologies have changed the way information is consumed, books remain an irreplaceable source of deep knowledge and critical thinking. Therefore, it is essential to encourage reading habits among youth through family support, educational initiatives, and cultural

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activities. Strengthening reading culture will help create a knowledgeable, thoughtful, and intellectually developed generation.

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