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## Tiny tots prefer TV watching than reading books

By A Staff Reporter

Students of the primary level education are more interested in TV watching than reading non-text books, according to a sample survey conducted by the National Book Centre of Bangladesh in co-operation with "Grantha Suridh Samities".

The sample survey was conducted over 728 students reading in Class II to Class V in the capital city, district towns, and rural areas in the month of September last. Of the students surveyed, 57.42 per cent were males and 42.58 per cent females.

The survey shows that 66.62 per cent students are more or less regular TV watchers while 49.18 per cent of the students have the habit of reading non-text books, that too irregularly.

The percentage of regular TV watchers for a period of an hour is 27.63, for two hours 17.53, for more than two hours 16.49. The percentage of irregular TV viewers is 36.49.

The reason for poor reading habit of non-text books among the primary level students, the survey reveals include (a) non-availability of books from libraries; (b) indifference of the parents to induce reading habit among their children. Though most of the parents are educated, they hardly read books and magazines at home, the survey shows.

The survey shows that about 86.54 per cent of fathers and 75 of mothers of the students

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## Tiny tots

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surveyed are literate. However, only 23.09 per cent of them read literary books at home.

The students who read non-text books are also casual readers. 36.03 per cent of the students who read non-text books reported that they had read non-text books about a month ago.

The role of libraries in growing reading habits among the students is very much disappointing, the survey said. Only 15.08 per cent of the students who read non-text books collect books from libraries. The main sources of receiving non-text books are parents, nearest relatives or presentations.

The survey shows that 79.40 per cent of the students do not discourage their children to read non-text books. But 67.17 per cent of the parents do not buy any non-text book for their children.

The survey reveals that though parents and relatives do not buy non-text books for students, they tell them (students) stories. Parents and relatives tell interesting stories to about 72 per cent of the students surveyed.

Newspapers are bought in the houses of the 45.33 students surveyed. 30.08 per cent of the students read newspapers.