

All game for video game consoles

They get equal patronage from school kids and youngsters



ENJOYABLE: Gaming fever is fast catching on with people of different age groups. — PHOTO: S.THANTHONI

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CHENNAI: Looking for a good gift for your friend's or relative's child, go for video game consoles. Chances are you will be greeted with broader smiles.

Transcending age and gender, these consoles are catching everyone's fancy.

With holidays fast approaching, shops dealing in video games have a reason to cheer. "April and May are important months in terms of sale for us. Most kids save their pocket money and buy a few basic video games, while some even go for higher versions. This year, sales has been encouraging from January, with our prime customers being the working men," says Moosa, proprietor of

Moosa Game Store, on Anna Salai.

High-end consoles like Sony's Playstation and Microsoft's Xbox get hold of their due takers during this season, even as they receive equal patronage from school kids and youngsters.

While games like Street Fighter and Batman designed for the kids are fast moving, a few other horror and sci-fi games such as Grand Theft Auto, Fallout 3 and Fable remain the popular picks from retail shelves.

"There is just too much of games and I tailor our budget to make sure I get at least one each week. The game collection I have has crossed 70," says Ravindran Ramani. The 40-year-old working in a software concern is a proud own-

er of Playstation 3, which he shares with his 12-year-old son during weekends.

"We have a larger customer base and the demographic profile of gamers is interesting. It seems to attract people of all ages and young working professionals in particular," says Jayesh Kumar, proprietor of Media Video Madras, a gaming shop on Anna Salai.

The prices of gaming software, which were expensive a couple of years ago, have come down and now the prices start from Rs.500.

However, Charunyanath, an ardent gamer, says the consoles are prohibitively expensive.

"We only hope the cost gets slashed with time. Till then, online games will remain our favourites."