

STUDENTS ATTITUDES TOWARD THE ACCESS OF INTERNET IN ACADEMIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The Internet is a storehouse of knowledge. General Knowledge is an essential part of education. The Internet is the best means for acquiring know-how. The students can learn very interesting things by accessing the internet. The access to Internet is very useful for the students to develop their innovation capability in their subject and knowledge of the world. The Internet can give us a clear idea of the current events of the country and the world. The Internet also brings out the plans and policies of the corporations and the government. The Internet is the best medium of advertisement concerning business, trade and industry in all over the world. This paper deals with the internet accessing habits and attitude in the electronic environment by the students of Mother Teresa Women's University, Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu, India.

KEYWORDS: *Internet, Electronic environment, Internet Accessing Habits and Attitude*

Article History

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INTRODUCTION

The use of the Internet in the educational environment has enabled easy access to many resources, and information sharing has therefore significantly increased and can be used in any location and at any time. Though technology of this is efficient, this study evaluation of use of proportion of the desired results in student achievement is difficult to determine. Hence, much research has been conducted over time to understand the reason for this situation. Since adolescents, especially, some university students sometimes use the Internet for reasons other than educational (they explore the funny view of the Internet). The effect of the Internet on education is, hence, relatively limited.

In this study, efficiency and effectiveness of access to resources on the Internet, rather than an examination of Internet use is investigated. In addition, we have sought to identify the impacts of Internet resources used by university students in their project, and determine the effects of the internet that is observed during project elicitation phase. Internet use, especially in education, has been investigated for some time, and many different studies exist in the literature about that subject. In the study of D'Esposito and Gardner (1999), Internet usage trends of the university students and college student perceptions of the Internet and a traditional library were presented. This study showed that when university students have the opportunity to use internet resources, almost all of them prefer to use these, rather than classical libraries

for their studies, but when the information source satisfaction in research needs is considered, the students' trends are in the direction of using both. In addition, Cheung and Huang (2005) emphasized the effects of the Internet as an effective teaching tool in university education and proposed that many university teachers publish their course materials via the internet.

So, in this era, teachers and students can carry forward their work on the Internet in ways that are similar to and tightly intertwined with the traditional ways that they learn, teach and study in libraries, classrooms, laboratories, seminars, conferences, etc. The Internet can provide access to essentially unlimited resources of information, which is otherwise not conventionally obtainable through other means. But the Internet with its advantages, make the way for the developing countries to access information at a very low cost.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Pramod et al (2014) in his article, "Knowledge and attitude about computer and internet usage among dental students in Western Rajasthan, India," says that the Internet is a useful tool to update the knowledge. The study consists of a self-administered close-ended questionnaire survey. Most (95.3%) of the students responded to have a computer-based learning program in the curriculum. Computer knowledge was observed to be good among dental students. Kumar & Kaur (2005) in his "Internet and its use in the Engineering Colleges of Punjab, India: A Case Study" was to analyze the use of the Internet and related issues among the teachers and students of engineering colleges of Punjab, India. The result of the survey has provided information about the benefits of the Internet over conventional documents. It was found that the Internet had become a vital instrument for teaching, research and learning process of these respondents. Some suggestions have been set forth to make the service more beneficial for the academic community of the engineering colleges under study. Asemi (2005) has studied the "Information searching habits of Internet users: A case study on the Medical Sciences University of Isfahan, Iran". The study shows that all the respondents were using the Internet frequently because all faculties were provided Internet connection. It was revealed that the researchers of the university were getting quality information through the Internet. Because the university library had provided access to various databases and online journals for all the students and staff. Hanauer et al. (2004) surveyed a diverse community college to assess the use of the Internet by the students for health-related information in his article entitled "Internet use among community college students: Implications for designing healthcare interventions". The survey showed that although all the students surveyed had free Internet access through their community college, yet only 97% of the students reported having access to the Internet. Aravind et.al (2017) in his "Use of the Internet by The Faculty Members of G.T.N. Arts College, Dindigul District A Study" explained the use of Internet by the Faculty members of G.T.N. Arts College, Dindigul District. Internet has grown up as the most popular and effective information tools of present age. High quality of information is stored in libraries. The internet provides technologies that are about to meet these challenges and required the right information.

OBJECTIVES

The following objectives are evolved for the purpose of the present study:

- Preference of e-resources for information gathering.
- To find out the purpose of accessing the internet.
- To find out the students' attitude towards using the internet for learning.

- To discover the relationships between students' basic knowledge and internet.
- To analyze the factors limiting access to the internet.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher has employed a well-structured questionnaire for collecting the data from the Students of Mother Teresa Women’s University, Kodaikanal, Tamilnadu, India. A total number of 180 questionnaires were distributed and only 172 (95.55%) responses received. While selecting a sample, random sampling method has been adopted.

DATA ANALYSIS

Out of 172 respondents, 109 (63.37%) were below 20 years and 63 (36.63%) were 21 and above. It is clear that this study got more respondents from below 20 years of age. This study does not offer an encouraging finding, because nearly one third of the respondents (151, 87.79%) access the internet every day. On the other hand, the number of students (4.07%) who access the library once in a week and 14 (8.14%) goes to accesses the internet at least twice in a week. Accessing the Internet has come to be considered an essential activity in our cultural development, selective aspects of its approval or rejection by students at different academic levels might well be a matter of value to students of personality development. The reveals that 48.84% majority respondents spent 1 – 2 hours per day accessing the internet followed by 30.23% which are less than 1 hour and 20.39% more than 2 hours accessing the internet daily

Table 1: Preference of E-Resources / Serv Ice Provider Information through the Internet

| Accessing | Age | | Total (%) | |
|-------------------------------|----------|--------------|-----------|--------|
| | Below 20 | 21 and Above | | |
| Facebook, Twitter, and others | 94 | 59 | 153 | 88.95% |
| YouTube | 78 | 49 | 127 | 73.84% |
| Website | 64 | 51 | 115 | 66.86% |
| E Journal | 64 | 43 | 107 | 62.21% |
| Electronic Database | 47 | 39 | 86 | 50.00% |
| Online Education (MOOC) | 42 | 43 | 85 | 49.42% |
| Updating News | 29 | 54 | 83 | 48.26% |
| Email | 32 | 43 | 75 | 43.60% |
| Other Internet Sources | 33 | 42 | 75 | 43.60% |
| E Book | 42 | 31 | 73 | 42.44% |
| Internet Video call | 45 | 21 | 66 | 38.37% |

Source: Primary Data

Table 1 shows that the highest number of 153 (88.95%) respondents prefer Facebook, Twitter, and others for the purpose of gathering day to day activities followed by 127 (73.84%) YouTube, 115 (66.86%) Website, 107 (62.21%) E. Journal and followed by Electronic Database, Online Education, Updating News, Email, Other internet Sources, E-Book. The lowest portion i.e. 66 (38.37%) of the respondents prefer the Internet Video Call

Table 2: Purpose of Accessing the Internet

| Purpose | Age | | Total (%) | |
|---|----------|--------------|-----------|--------|
| | Below 20 | 21 and Above | | |
| For entertainment | 99 | 61 | 160 | 93.02% |
| To broaden the horizon of the general knowledge | 91 | 57 | 148 | 86.05% |
| For educational purpose | 74 | 61 | 135 | 78.49% |
| To get the subject information | 87 | 42 | 129 | 75.00% |

| To pass the time | 47 | 54 | 101 | 58.72% |
|---|----|----|-----|--------|
| To improve the status of the society | 57 | 31 | 88 | 51.16% |
| To keep abreast with the present happenings of all over the world | 49 | 27 | 76 | 44.19% |
| For online payment | 51 | 24 | 75 | 43.60% |
| Others | 38 | 21 | 59 | 34.30% |
| For searching new jobs | 41 | 14 | 55 | 31.98% |
| As the usual task of the day | 34 | 12 | 46 | 26.74% |

Source: Primary data

The Internet is a vital source of information in enlightened societies; providing the most recent information to users. Internet serves to different categories of users for various purposes. Respondents were asked about the various purpose of accessing the Internet. Table 2 expresses that majority 160 (93.02%) number of the respondents access internet "for entertainment", while the second largest 148 (86.05%) respondents access internet "to broaden the horizon of general knowledge" and 135 (78.49%) respondents access for educational purpose while 129 (75.00%) "To get the subject information". The least number of respondents i.e. 46 (26.74%) use internet for "as usual task of the day".

STUDENTS' ATTITUDE TOWARDS INTERNET FOR LEARNING

There are statements measuring students' attitudes toward using the Internet for learning. For statement, the responses were coded from 1 for "strongly disagree" to 5 for "strongly agree". Thus, the scores for each student on the statements range from 1 to 5. Scores from Strongly Disagree and Disagree, Neutral and Agree and strongly agree were classified as having "negative", "neutral", and "positive" attitudes toward using the Internet for learning purposes. Most of the students had positive attitudes toward using Internet for learning.

Table 3: Students Attitudes Toward Internet For Learning

| Age | Level of Opinion | | | | | Total |
|--------------|------------------|--------|---------|----------|-------------------|---------|
| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | |
| Below 20 | 57 | 24 | 18 | 9 | 1 | 109 |
| | 33.14% | 13.95% | 10.47% | 5.23% | 0.58% | 63.37% |
| 21 and Above | 17 | 12 | 20 | 10 | 4 | 63 |
| | 9.88% | 6.98% | 11.63% | 5.81% | 2.33% | 36.63% |
| Total | 74 | 36 | 38 | 19 | 5 | 172 |
| | 43.02% | 20.93% | 22.09% | 11.05% | 2.91% | 100.00% |

Source: Primary Data

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN STUDENTS' BASIC KNOWLEDGE AND INTERNET

There are statements measuring students' basic knowledge about the Internet. For statement, the responses were coded 1 for "strongly disagree" to 5 for "strongly agree". Thus, the scores for each student on the statements range from 1 to 5. Scores from Strongly Disagree and Disagree, Neutral and Agree and strongly agree are used. Most of the students had good basic knowledge of the Internet. Students who were better acquainted with the Internet had more positive attitudes toward the use of the Internet

Table 4: Basic knowledge about the Internet

| Age | Level of Opinion | | | | | Total |
|--------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|
| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | |
| Below 20 | 43 | 32 | 14 | 14 | 6 | 109 |
| | 25.00% | 18.60% | 8.14% | 8.14% | 3.49% | 63.37% |
| 21 and Above | 24 | 14 | 12 | 13 | 0 | 63 |
| | 13.95% | 8.14% | 6.98% | 7.56% | 0.00% | 36.63% |
| Total | 67 | 46 | 26 | 27 | 6 | 172 |
| | 38.95% | 26.74% | 15.12% | 15.70% | 3.49% | 100.00% |

Source: Primary Data

FACTORS LIMITING ACCESS TO THE INTERNET

Table 5: Factors Limiting access to the Internet

| Limiting Factors | Age | | Total |
|--|----------|--------------|---------------|
| | Below 20 | 21 and Above | |
| | % | % | % |
| Unavailability of needed Internet Resources and Services | 48.00% | 20.05% | 68.05% |
| Lack of Time | 26.09% | 16.12% | 42.21% |
| Access Restrictions | 14.27% | 24.00% | 38.27% |
| Unaware of Available Electronic Resources and Services | 22.13% | 15.02% | 37.15% |
| Hard to find on Website | 14.14% | 11.08% | 25.22% |
| Lack of Instructions | 11.15% | 7.10% | 18.25% |
| Other | 3.00% | 2.00% | 5.00% |

Source: Primary Data

A question in this area delves into how the access of Internet services and resources might be limited; respondents were again allowed to select all options that applied. Table 7 illustrates that the most common limiting factor was the unavailability of needed Internet resources and services; 68.05 per cent selected this option. Other limiting factors in descending order were lack of time (42.21%), access restrictions (38.27%), unawareness of available resources or services (37.15%), hard to locate on the library website (25.22%), lack of instructions (18.25%) and other Limiting Factors (5.00%).

FINDINGS

- It is clear that this study got more respondents from the age of below 20.
- The highest numbers (88.95%) of respondents prefer Face book, Twitter, and others for the purpose of gathering information.
- Expresses that majority (93.02%) number of the respondents use internet for entertainment.
- Most of the students had good basic knowledge of the Internet.
- Most of the students had positive attitudes toward using the Internet for learning.
- Nearly half of the respondents are of the opinion that unavailability of needed internet resources and services is the factor limiting access to the internet.

CONCLUSIONS

Internet accessing also improves the communication skills and creative faculties and help the users achieve an unbiased and informative worldview. Therefore, the Internet is considered essential for students. This study reveals that the internet

is frequently accessed by the students of Mother Teresa Women's University, Kodaikanal, Tamilnadu, India and they prefer international and national web site for the purpose of keeping abreast of the updating event in different parts of the world. The study also indicates that, in spite of their interest in internet accessing, students are prevented from internet accessing because of various socio-cultural, administrative, subject information, e-book, e-journal and environmental problems. According to the results of this study, students prefer electronic media over print media in seeking information.

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