

Changing Digital Landscape in **SMART Environment**

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Use of Computer and Internet Among Students of Degree Colleges: An Empirical Study

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ABSTRACT

The present study aims at exploring the growing use of computer and internet among students of degree colleges of Kurukshetra and Yamuna Nagar District of the state of Haryana. Two hundred and fifty questionnaires were distributed among the humanities, commerce and science students, out of which 217 responded. The result shows that most of the respondents have their personal computers or laptops and they use internet quite frequently. Google is the most preferred search engine among most of the respondents. Most of them opine time consumption emerges a formidable impediment in the use of internet. Findings reveal that 52.1% of the respondents use internet for educational purpose.

Keywords: computer, internet, students' skills

■ INTRODUCTION

Information Technology has revolutionized our society over the last two decades in relation to processing and dissemination of relevant information. The computer and internet competencies are paramount importance for success in the world especially in the field of education. IT based computer can be used for educating nurses, students, patients or care givers (Arbabisarjou, 2010). Computer literacy has been defined as "an understanding of computer characteristics, capabilities and applications, as well as an ability to implement this knowledge in the skillful, productive use of computer applications suitable to individual roles in society" (Simonson, Mauere, Montay-Toradi & Whitaker, 1987, P233). (Caverly and Peterson 2012, p.291) indicated that, today, Computer technology is integrated into almost every aspect of learning in higher education: textbooks are available in with CD-ROMs and electronic forms, are also used to assign home work being assigned through website apart from holding examinations online.

■ OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the present study are as follows:-

- To ascertain the level of the usage and awareness about computer and internet among students.
- To evaluate the frequency, time spent and the purpose of the use computer.
- To study the purpose of internet usage.
- To determine the problems faced by the students in the course of the use of internet.
- To gauge the knowledge of computer applications.
- To find out the search engine most preferred by the students.

■ SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study was limited to the computer and internet skills by science, arts and commerce students of degree colleges of Kurukshetra and Yamuna Nagar Districts of the state of Haryana. It focuses assessing on the familiarity of students with computer and internet in present time.

■ RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For the present study, a structured questionnaire was designed to collect data regarding computer and internet skills among the students of degree colleges. To obtain necessary data, a total of 250 questionnaires were distributed among the students. Out of 250 questionnaires, 217 were returned having been completed by the students. The collected data have been analyzed by SPSS.

■ LITERATURE REVIEW

A number of studies have already been carried out related to the use of computer and internet by the students. The present study is also an endeavor to explore the field further to augment the available data to arrive at more comprehensive and credible results. Some of the major studies are as follows:-

Robabi, Hassan (2015) studied the computer literacy among students of Zahedan University of medical sciences and found that 77.1% had personal computer and they had not appropriate familiarity with computer literacy skills. Jali.P.K. (2014) studied the knowledge and attitude about computer and internet usage among dental students in western Rajasthan, India. The study reveals that computer knowledge was observed to be good among dental students. Shabana, Tabusum (2014) studied the digital literacy awareness among arts and science college students in Tiruvallur district. The results shows that majority of the students are average in computer literacy. It shows that 91.57% of male students use of audio materials. The majority of the students make use of internet, search engines, e-mail, and multimedia. The result also shows that low usage and lack of awareness about the digital resources. Waingankar, Prasad (2013) in a survey of an assessment of computer literacy among students of a private medical college in Navi Mumbai. The study reveals that all of the students used either desktop or laptop. 35.7% respondents regularly visited cyber café and 25.8% respondents visiting e-library of the college.

N, Parvathamna and Pattar, Danappa (2013) highlights the digital literacy among students community in Management institute in Davanagere district, Karnataka state. Results show that 73.33% respondents have their own internet connectivity. Majority of them agree that information is easily available on internet. Only 22.96% of the respondents are aware of the online database in 'Capitaline' and 'Indiastat'. Kozina, Goran (2012) investigated computer literacy among Croatia students. The purpose of the study to support in planning the higher education development. It has been found that students rated more highly basic computer skills, using internet browsers and using e-mail. Loan, Fayaz Ahmad (2011) studied the internet use by rural and urban college students and found that majority of the students were frequent users of the internet at commercial cyber cafés for getting information followed by education and communication. Most of the students used Google search engine. The widely faced problem was information overload. Jones, Steve (2009) conducted a study and found that internet use had predictably

increased among college students and they continue to be early adopters of new internet tools and applications. Jones, Steve (2002) conducted a survey and found that 85% of college students own their computer and 79% students agree that internet use has had a positive impact on their academic experience.

■ DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

Table 1 Gender wise response

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	112	51.6%
Female	105	48.4%
Total	217	100.0%

Table 1 shows gender wise distribution of respondents, revealing 51.6% respondents being males and 48.4% females. The suggests that no perceptible gender based difference has been made by the researchers.

Table 2 Having own computer or not?

Gender	Yes	No	Total
Male	75	37	112
	67.0%	33.0%	100.0%
Female	72	33	105
	68.6%	31.4%	100.0%
Total	147	70	217
	67.7%	32.3%	100.0%

A question related to owing of personal computer was addressed to the respondent, which elicited the response that 67.7% respondents have their own personal computer while 32.3% do not have. In this respect also females can't be said to be lagging behind.

Table 3 Use of internet

Gender	Yes	No	Total
Male	112	0	112
	100.0%	.0%	100.0%
Female	102	3	105
	97.1%	2.9%	100.0%
Total	214	3	217
	98.6%	1.4%	100.0%

Table 3 depicts that majority of the respondents (98.6%) use internet, male students being 100% and females students 97.1%.

Table 4 Purpose of using internet

Gender	Educational purpose	Social networking	Hobby pursuits	Entertainment	Others	Total
Male	52	12	18	12	18	112
	46.4%	10.7%	16.1%	10.7%	16.1%	100.0%
Female	61	11	8	14	11	105
	58.1%	10.5%	7.6%	13.3%	10.5%	100.0%
Total	113	23	26	26	29	217
	52.1%	10.6%	12.0%	12.0%	13.4%	100.0%

Table 4 reveals that majority of the respondents i.e. 52.1% use internet for educational purpose,

While the number of those using internet for recreation and hobby pursuits are mere 12%.

Table 5 Frequency of use of computer or internet

Gender	Below 1 hours	2-3 hours	3-4 hours	More than 4 hours	Total
Male	23	31	18	40	112
	20.5%	27.7%	16.1%	35.7%	100.0%
Female	34	34	17	20	105
	32.4%	32.4%	16.2%	19.0%	100.0%
Total	57	65	35	60	217
	26.3%	30.0%	16.1%	27.6%	100.0%

To find out the frequency of the use of computer or internet by students four categories were formed: below 1 hour, 2-3 hours, 3-4 hours and more than 4 hours. Table 5 shows that 26.3% respondents using computer or internet fall in the categories of below 1 hour, 30.0% in the categories of 2-3 hours, while 16.0% respondents account for below 3-4 hours and 27.6% respondents are highly computer savvy, using it for more than 4 hours a week.

Table 6 Place of access of internet

Gender	Library	Home	Cybercafé	Others	Total
Male	4	74	3	31	112
	3.6%	66.1%	2.7%	27.7%	100.0%
Female	19	71	7	8	105
	18.1%	67.6%	6.7%	7.6%	100.0%
Total	23	145	10	39	217
	10.6%	66.8%	4.6%	18.0%	100.0%

Table 6 indicates that majority of the respondents i.e. 66.8 % respondents prefer having access to the internet at home while only 10.6 % of the respondents of which females being predominant approach library to have access internet.

Table 7 Preference for search engine

Gender	Yahoo	Google	Alta vista	Ask.com	Others	Total
Male	2	94	1	8	7	112
	1.8%	83.9%	.9%	7.1%	6.2%	100.0%
Female	6	73	1	22	3	105
	5.7%	69.5%	1.0%	21.0%	2.9%	100.0%
Total	8	167	2	30	10	217
	3.7%	77.0%	.9%	13.8%	4.6%	100.0%

The Information on internet is searched by using various search engines. Table 7 presents the responses as to which of the preference of the search engines are preferred more by the students. The table represents that high percentage of the respondents i.e. 77.0% prefers Google, 13.8%, Ask.com and only 3.7% using yahoo. It can be safely concluded that Google still maintain its supremacy in this regard.

Undeniable users come up against a number of problems to the course of using internet. In order to ascertain the problems more frequently faced by the respondents, a question in this regard was formulated and the results obtained are enumerated below.

Table 8 Problem faced while using internet

Gender	Time consuming	Unwanted information	Connectivity problem	Poor readability	Total
Male	60	14	27	11	112
	53.6%	12.5%	24.1%	9.8%	100.0%
Female	28	16	36	25	105
	26.7%	15.2%	34.3%	23.8%	100.0%
Total	88	30	63	36	217
	40.6%	13.8%	29.0%	16.6%	100.0%

The table 8 make it abundantly clear that 40.6% respondents regard too much consumption of the time as a major problem. Male students feel more bothered about this problem, which could presumably attributed to poor bandwidth. However 29.0% respondents find connectivity a major problem and 16.6% respondents consider poor readability a major problem.

■ FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- Majority of the respondents i.e 67.7% have their own PC.
- There is only slight variation in terms of gender in the number of respondents, 51.6% being males and 48% females.
- An over whelming majority of the respondents i.e. 98.6% use the internet.
- A majority of the respondents 52.1% use internet for educational purpose but only as few as 12.0% use the internet for hobby purpose and entertainment.
- A sizeable number of the users 66.8% access internet at home followed by 18.0%.using at other places.

- It could be safely inferred that most of the users used the internet for 2-3 hours (30.0%).
- It has also observed that the percentage of those who use Google search engine is as high as 77.0% which Ask.com is used only 13.8%.

■ CONCLUSION

Internet is a revolutionary information technological tool in processing and dissemination of request and relevant information. The use of internet is enhancing our efficiency and capability in providing right information to the right person at the right time. The world seems to have shrunk in to a global village. Internet is indispensably required for every institution of higher learning. It is very satisfying that growing awareness among the students of degree college of Haryana regarding the use of internet and computer is quite conspicuous as per the finding of the study.

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