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Internet usage of college going students

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Abstract

Internet services have become very popular in India, since its launch in the year 1995. As the access to internet at home, schools and higher education institutions has been increasing globally and at present in Indian context also, parents often worried about the impact of internet usage on well-being of adolescents. There are many myths and fads related to amount of time students are spending in internet usage and type of programmes they are watching especially during teen age. Therefore, there is a need to assess internet usage of college going students. Multi-stage stratified random sampling technique was used to select students and data was collected through a schedule. The results revealed that 77% of the sample students were using internet. Comparatively boys were using internet more than girls. Comparatively 18 years age groups students were spending more time on internet than 16 year and 17 years. Students studying professional colleges were using internet more than student who were studying in intermediate and Degree colleges.

Keywords: Internet usage, adolescents, sampling technique

Introduction

Internet has become the backbone of the modern education system. The Internet access is a phenomenon that is increasing rapidly and more people are among the internet users each day. Internet is everywhere, at home, school, University, etc. The number of internet users has been increasing across the globe and also in Indian context. According to the statistics, the highest number of internet users is the youth.

Internet use is spreading rapidly into daily life, and directly affecting people's ideas and behavior. Internet has an impact in many areas including the higher education system. Internet heralded the development and implementation of new and innovative teaching strategies in higher education institutions. Internet use has become a way of life for the majority of higher education students all around the world. For most college students the Internet is a functional tool, one that has greatly changed the way they interact with others and with information as they go about their studies. They use computers to accomplish a wide range of academic tasks. Many students prepare course assignments, make study notes, tutor themselves with specialized multimedia, and process data for research projects. Most exchange emails with faculty, peers, and remote experts.

Internet is regarded as a largely pro-social, interactive, and information-driven medium and its use has sky rocketed and affected everyone's life, specifically, adolescents and young adults, a generation for whom the line between online and real world interaction is practically non-existent and the existence of addictive internet use may exert detrimental effects on their lives. At the same time parents and educators are also worried about negative impact of excess of internet usage on teen agers' wellbeing. To assess the amount of Time College students have been spending in internet, type of programmes they are browsing, the present study was conducted with the following objectives

Objectives

1. To find out the internet usage time of sample students according to age
2. To find out the internet usage of sample students according to gender.
3. To assess the internet usage of students according to birth order.
4. To assess the internet usage of students studying intermediate and under graduation course.
5. To assess the above objectives, the following null hypotheses were framed

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Hypotheses

- Students did not differ significantly in their internet usage time according to their age
- Students did not differ significantly in their internet usage time according to their gender
- Students did not differ significantly in their internet usage time according to birth order.

Methodology

The study sample were 160 college going adolescents (80 boys and 80 girls). Multi-stage stratified random sampling techniques was used to collect the data. In the first stage two intermediate colleges, two B.Sc., B.Com. Degree colleges and two colleges offering professional degree course were identified randomly. In the second stage 20 students from each college (10 boys and 10 girls) were identified using systematic random sampling technique. Thus, 40 student from Junior intermediate, 40 from senior intermediate course, 40 student from normal degree course (B.com and B.Sc.) 40 students from professional degree courses (B. tech and B. Pharmacy) constituted the sample.

Variables:

- Gender.
- Age.
- Birth Order.
- Type of Course.

To measure the above variables the following tools were used.

Tools used for the study

1. General Information Schedule
2. Internet Usage Schedule (Developed by Investigator)

General Information Schedule: General information schedule was used to find out personal and demographic information about students, and their parents like name of the student , sex, birth order, age, family income, type of family, educational status of parents and occupational etc.,

Internet Usage Schedule: The internet usage schedule consists of information related to time spent by students in internet use obtained through 3 days recall method; type of programmes browsed, type of equipment used for internet browsing, place of using internet, time spent in game etc.

Data collection

The investigator personally visited the colleges and obtained permission to interview the students. After obtaining necessary permission from the head of the institute, the students were identified using Multi stratified random sample technique. All students were administered with general information schedule, then collected data according to internet usage schedule. The data collected from 160 students were analyzed according to the hypothesis framed.

Results & Discussion

The data collected was scored and coding was given for preparing to statistical analysis. In the next step the data was subjected to analysis by using relevant statistical techniques and tabulated

Table 1: Distribution of Sample According Gender and Usage of Internet

S.no	Variable	Boys		Girls		Total	%	
		Number	%	Number	%			
1	Usage of internet	Yes	71	44.37	53	33.10	124	77
		No	9	5.63	27	16.90	36	33
	Total		80	50	80	50	160	100

From table -1, it is evident that majority of the sample students (77.4%) were using internet. Among those who were

Using internet 44.37 per cent of boys were using internet 33.10 per cent of girls were using internet.

Table 2: Mean Internet Usage Time Behaviour of Sample According to Gender

S.NO	Variables	Internet Usage Time (Minutes)		t/f value
		Mean	S.D	
	Gender			2.895 P<0.05*
1	Boys (N=71)	61.34	41.217	
2	Girls (N=53)	39.70	41.138	

Table- 2 shows mean internet usage time of sample according gender. From the table it is clear that comparatively boys were spending more time in internet than girls (mean =61.34, S.D =41.217) the t-value was significant at 0.05 level. These results are in line with the studies of Pardhasaradhi and Varsha Goel (2015), who also reported that internet usage patterns of male adolescents is quite higher than that of their female counter parts. It indicates that male adolescents are more addicted to internet than girls.

Table 3: Mean Internet Usage Time of Sample According to Age

S.NO	Variables	Internet Usage Time	t/f values
	Age	Mean	S.D
1	16 years	22.17	6.497
2	17years	27.77	5.544
3	18 years	64.94	4.646

14.728**
P<0.000

Table-3 shows the age wise distribution of sample according to internet usage time. When compared to younger students, students in the age group of 18 years were spending more time on internet (mean=64.94, S.D= 46.46). The f-value was 14.728 which was significant at 0.001 level.

Table 4: Mean Internet Usage Time of Sample students according to Birth Order

S.No	Variables	Internet usage time(minutes)		t/f values
	Birth order	Mean	S.D	1.484 P<.222 (Not significant)
1	1 st born	48.44	41.996	
2	2 nd born	48.94	43.408	
3	3 rd born	49.50	22.572	
4	Single child	70.85	44.036	

Table-4 shows mean internet usage time of sample according to birth order. From the table it is clearly known that comparatively single children were spending more (mean =70.85, S.D= 44.036) than first, 2nd and 3rd born children. However, the t-value was not significant.

Table 5: Mean Internet Usage Time of Sample according to Type of Course studied

S. No	Type of course	Internet Usage time in minutes		f-value
		Mean	S.D	
1	Intermediate first year	32.06	26.572	9.973** p< 0.001
2	Second year Intermediate	62.00	11.916	
3	Degree	37.33	28.646	
4	B. pharmacy	70.90	43.459	
5	B. Tech	86.15	40.710	
Total		57.41	41.163	

** Significant at 0.001 level

Table-5 shows that students differed significantly in internet usage time when the type of course they studying was considered. From table it is known that B.Tech students were spending more time in internet browsing (Mean= 86.15 and S.D=40.710) than student studying other courses. As the education level of students increased the internet usage time also seemed to be more.

Major Findings of the Study

- 77 % of sample of students were using Internet.
- Comparatively boys were spending more time on internet browsing than girls.
- Comparatively 18 years group were spending more time than 16 and 17 years age group.
- Comparatively single children were spending more time on internet browsing.
- Students studying in Professional degree were spending more time on internet when compared intermediate and ordinal degree course.

Conclusions

- 77 per cent of sample of students were using Internet.
- Comparatively boys were spending more time on internet browsing than girls.
- Comparatively students studying in higher studies were using internet for more time than those studying in Intermediate course.
- Comparatively single children were spending more time on internet browsing.
- Professional degree students were spent more time on internet when compared intermediate and ordinary degree courses.

Implications

Adolescent have been using internet mainly to maintain social interactions through social media like *Facebook*, *G-mail*, *twitter* etc. which provide multiple daily opportunities for connecting with friends , classmates, and family members. Generally parents and teachers believe that adolescent have been spending a lot of time in internet browsing. The result of present study showed that on an average college going were spending one hour per day, the results help to eliminate myths and fads related to adolescent internet browsing.

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